



NOVEMBER 2019



## November's Monthly Meeting: Devin Fitzgerald

A specialist in western and East Asian book history and a bibliographer, Devin Fitzgerald is the Curator of Rare Books and the History of Printing at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is completing his Ph.D. in History and East Asian Languages at Harvard University. Devin was a 2015 Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Critical Bibliography and received additional training at both the University of Virginia and California Rare Book Schools. He regularly teaches both East Asian and European book history. He is currently working on a textbook to introduce the history of the Chinese book to non-specialist audiences.

## Chinese Printing in Early California: A Neglected History

Beginning in the 1860s, Chinese printers began publishing Chinese language texts in San Francisco. Their early newspapers and handbills are mostly lost to history, but they laid the foundation for an explosion of printed books, pamphlets, and other types of publications in California. Books like the 1880s *新增帖式簡要* (*Sān jāng tip sīk gāan yiu*) (*A newly Enhanced Summary of Letter Writing Forms*) proved a major success, and were even pirated and resold in China. In this talk, I will introduce the importance of the Chinese books and Chinese printers to the history of California. I will also explore some of the reasons why, despite their prolific output, there have been only minor attempts to approach California history through the perspective of Chinese print.

### CHSSC will be meeting at the CACA Lodge:

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

6:30PM (check-in and refreshments),

7:00PM to 9:00PM (program)

Chinese American Citizens Alliance LA Lodge (behind

Phoenix Bakery)

415 Bamboo Lane

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Parking available on the street (meters run until 8:00PM) and at Bamboo Plaza and Mandarin Plaza. For any questions, please contact [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org).



## Letter from the President

Now that fall is upon us, you should consider visiting CHSSC some Sunday. Whether you are interested in finding out more about Chinese American history, seeing the Drum and Bugle Corps exhibit, watching the interns in action, or hanging out with our many visitors, you are welcome. Please join our fun.

Now that we have raised the \$100,000 to upgrade our facilities, we have been searching for an architect or contractor to do the plans. The search for someone has taken longer than expected, but we are keeping our eye on our budget. Since we only have one interested party so far, I would like to reach out to the membership for recommendations of someone to do the plans. If you have someone in mind, let me know.

Sincerely,  
Susan Dickson  
President

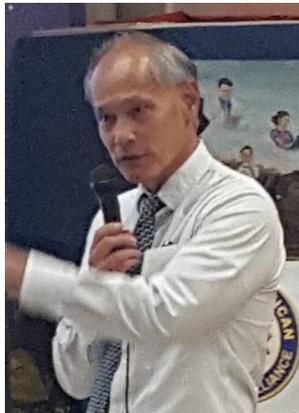
## October Meeting Recap

Our October speaker, Russell Low, discussed his book, *Three Coins*. Russell detailed his rich family story of triumph over hardship.

He discovered that two brothers in his father's family left a village in China and came to Sacramento to find jobs working on the railroad. As part of the dangerous railroad work, one of the brothers lost his right eye due to an explosion.

Ah Ying, his great grandmother was brought to America as a seven-year-old slave. After six years of enslavement where she was beaten and burned with a iron, Ah Ying was able to escape to Cameron House in San Francisco.

Russell outlined how these two major family stories positively impacted future generations. His family members have become prominent members of their communities.



**Thank you** to Winnie Lew, Ken Chan, Mei Ong, Donna Lee, and Anna Gee who provided the snacks and refreshments.

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### MISSION STATEMENT

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November 1975. The purposes of the Society are:

1. to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California;
2. to pursue, preserve, and communicate knowledge of this history; and
3. to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese-Americans community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.



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Insert: Nancy Zepeda, writer of this article. Above, from left to right: Karem Villa, Judy Hong, Vivian Pu, and Karolen Senanyan.

## Cal State Interns at CHSSC

*For the entirety of October, students from Cal State University have been coming to the CHSSC building to help digitize files from the National Archives and Records Administration. Nancy Zepeda, one of the interns, writes about the project.*

Class course AAAS 3730/CHDV 3730 is an intersecting diversity course that is offered for both Child Development major and Asian American Studies. Throughout the semester, students will master various skills to explain the developmental processes within Asian American families and communities in the social context. These skills will identify the processes of cultural/ethnic socialization, challenges, and adversities of Asian American individuals and families, students will be able to discuss the history of civic engagement and civic action within AAA communities and the local regions, interpret issues related to Asian and Asian American individuals, families, and communities. At the end of the semester students will assess the needs and challenges and design services in Asian and Asian American individuals and communities and design and organize culturally sensitive services based on needs assessment.

In the third week of the semester, the professor provided a list of previous organizations that students have worked before. After trying to reach and contact some organizations located in Little Tokyo and

Koreatown and not hearing from them, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) responded as a related non-profit organization within the city range that we were looking around to participate in.

The group of interns who at CHSSC is composed of 6 members from Cal State University of Los Angeles with various majors. Karem Villa, Judy Hong and myself are seniors majoring in Child Development. Annie Li is a junior majoring in accounting. Wei (Vivian) Pu is a senior majoring in public health and Karolen Senanyan is a senior in graphic design. Although at first we didn't have experience with digitalizing files, working with the Chinese American Society and NARA file, has given us the experience to further know and understand the Chinese History in addition to online lectures. I have currently concluded my project box of Nogales digital archives. My next project is to organize NAS multimedia with the help of my peer Karolen who is also working on digitalizing digital media from the society in while the rest of my peers are currently working on their Bakersfield box.



Above: San Francisco gathering participants. Bottom right photo: Susan speaks with some Archive Bazaar attendees.

## Outreach Events

*The CHSSC has been busy for the past few weeks; see what we've been up to!*

### **September 28, Initial gathering of Chinese Historical Societies and Museums (San Francisco)**

Chinese Historical Society of America board president Hoyt Zia called and chaired a historic meeting of Chinese historical societies and museums on September 28 to discuss the creation of a national network to share resources, information, exhibits, and programs that would “tell the innumerable stories of the Chinese American experience.”

By organizing, funding for projects that tell stories at a national level will be sought-out. Representatives from eight organizations attended: the Chinese Historical Society of America (based in San Francisco), the Chinese American Museum of L.A. (represented by Gay Yuen, Michael Truong, and Ed Lew), the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (Susan Dickson and Eugene Moy), the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, the Portland Chinatown Museum, the Chinese American Museum of Chicago, and the Museum of Chinese in America (based in New York City). Advisors Konrad Ng, Helen Zia, and Frank Wu provided informative and inspirational dialogue that led to the appointment of an enthusiastic steering committee that will follow up with recommendations for the network's structure, scope, purpose, and implementation strategies.

This initiative follows the July 30 introduction of H.R. 4132 by Representative Grace Meng in Congress, which proposed a “Commission to Study

the Potential Creation of a National Museum of Asian Pacific American History and Culture Act.” This commission would examine the feasibility of creating a national museum in D.C. that would include contributions of Asian Pacific Islander Americans in the American narrative.

### **October 12, Archives Bazaar (USC) (Biggest ever!)**

The CHSSC participated again at the annual archives fest at USC's Doheny Library. The organizers, Liza Posas from *L.A. as Subject*, reported record participation: over 90 libraries, archives, historical societies, and other institutions involved. Linda Bentz and Laurel Sardiñas prepared a display of items from our archives, and Old Chinatown images, arranged by intern Angela Li, ran continuously. Many thanks to the crew: Linda Bentz, Susan Dickson, Cindy Fong, Michael Kusuda, Hailey Loman, Albert and Ann Lowe, Eugene Moy, Helen Quon, and Felicia Tabing. Friends of Albert and Ann's and Rick Eng came to help break down, which was appreciated.





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Far left: the CHSSC display at MOCA. Linda Bentz collected a selection of artifacts to represent Southern Californian Chinese history. Insert, from left to right: Busaba Yip from the Wo Hing Museum and Cookhouse, Emily Jones from the Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum, and Eugene Moy on “New Directions in Public History” panel.

The CHSSC is now the custodian of those historical artifacts, along with a couple of other collections; we thus have perhaps one of the largest assemblages of Chinese American archaeology in the country, and we were proud to show off one small part of it. Linda also prepared photos and captions for the exhibit that illustrated some of CHSSC’s wide range of activities over the years.

Attending the opening week festivities, which included press interviews, were president Susan Dickson, past president Eugene Moy, Gene’s spouse Susan Sing, and CAM Executive Director Michael Truong. Eugene also participated with 10 other speakers at the October 18 symposium, representing the CHSSC, the Chinese American Museum of L.A., and the Save Our Chinatown Committee (Riverside), which all submitted items for display.

*The Gathering exhibition runs until March 22, 2020 with an accompanying exhibition, The Chinese Helped Build the Railroad, the Railroad Helped Build America. For further information, see the MOCA web site: [https://www.mocanyc.org/exhibitions/gathering\\_collecting\\_and\\_documenting\\_chinese\\_american\\_history](https://www.mocanyc.org/exhibitions/gathering_collecting_and_documenting_chinese_american_history)*

## **October 15-18, Opening of MOCA exhibition and symposium (New York)**

*Gathering: Collecting & Documenting Chinese American History* is an important new exhibition at the Museum of Chinese in America in New York City that presents an object, and an organizational history, from each of the 29 historical organizations and museums across the country that tell the Chinese American story.

CHSSC vice president and resident archaeologist Linda Bentz selected from our archives a polychrome porcelain teapot, decorated with flower, fruit, pheasant, and Buddha’s Hand motifs to be displayed. The teapot is one of thousands of artifacts recovered ca. 1987 from the archaeological excavations under Union Station for the Red Line tunnels by Metro.

## **October 19, Walking tour (Los Angeles)**

On a sunny Saturday, a group of 18 students from Loyola Marymount University (LMU) in Westchester enjoyed a visit to the Chinese American Museum, followed by a walking tour of Chinatown, both led by Eugene Moy. Coordinated by the Ethnic and Intercultural Services Department, students explored history, culture, urban change, and of course, food! After the group had finished the 3 hour tour and got on the bus, two students wanted to learn more, and stayed in Chinatown for 2 more hours with Eugene. We’re always happy to accommodate serious learners!



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

## 南加州華人歷史學會

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California  
411 Bernard Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
info@chssc.org • (323) 222-0856 • www.chssc.org



### Mission Statement

Established in 1975, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) unites people with a mutual interest in promoting the rich heritage of Chinese and Chinese American history. Our mission is to pursue, preserve and communicate the history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California.

### What We Do

- ◆ Conduct monthly meetings public presentations on Chinese American History.
- ◆ Sponsor and participate in symposiums, exhibits and conferences.
- ◆ Conduct Chinatown walking tours for students and public.
- ◆ Lead the annual Lunar New Year Golden Dragon Parade.

### Research and Publication

- ◆ Publication of multiple books by renown scholars
- ◆ The *Gum Saan Journal* is the Society's annual publication
- ◆ A significant research library
- ◆ Maintain an archive consisting of oral histories, archaeological collections, photographs and family histories.



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To join or renew your membership by credit card visit our website at [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org).

Membership levels:

Silver \$ 57.

Diamond \$ 300.

Senior (60+) or student \$ 32.

**Donation** (tax deductible) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to CHSSC.

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We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, tax ID 95-3155357

# *In memory of Dr. William Chun-Hoon*

*September 8, 1928-October 1, 2019*



*On October 1, 2019, Dr. William Chun-Hoon passed away. Bill was a member of the CHSSC and an recipient of the 2010 Golden Spike awards which honored Community Service Heroes. Please read this excerpt from the 2010 program:*

Dr. William Chun-Hoon's early years were in Honolulu, Hawaii where he was born, one of 15 children. His father had migrated to Hawaii from ChungShan, China in the late 1800s as a contract plantation laborer. Following high school, Bill received a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado, a master's from Columbia University, and a Ph.D from the Claremont Graduate University.

During the Korean war, he served for four years in the U.S. Air Force.

For some 50 years, Dr. Chun-Hoon was involved in education on various levels in the Los Angeles Unified School District and as a volunteer with the Chinatown Branch Library. In 1973, Dr. Chun-Hoon was the first Chinese American principal to be appointed in the LAUSD and assigned to Castelar School in Chinatown. As principal, he became actively involved in Chinatown's community affairs and established the school as a community center. He also partnered Castelar School with the Ad Hoc Committee for a Chinatown Library and the Los Angeles Board of Education. In 1977, the City Council and the Los Angeles Public Library

established a library branch in the Castelar School auditorium – the first location of the Chinatown library. He served on the board of directors of the Friends of Chinatown Library and served as its president for several terms.

During his tenure in the LAUSD, he was appointed by Governor Jerry Brown to the California Community College Board of Governors, where he served for four years. He also served as LAPL Friends' representative on the Board of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles.

Since his retirement in 1992, Dr. Chun-Hoon devoted time to assist the Chinese Historical Society and Chinatown Central as a docent for schools visiting Chinatown. In addition, he contributed to several of CHSSC publications including three articles in "Bridging the Centuries," an issue of the Gum Saan Journal, and a biographical article of Clarence Lee in "Portraits of Pride II." He chaired the LAUSD United Way campaign in 1982 and served on the board of the Chinatown Business Improvement District for the past two years.

In 1983 and 1999, Bill was the Honorary Grand Marshal in Chinatown's Golden Dragon Parade; and in 2005, he was awarded the Dr. Dan Louie Jr. Lifetime Achievement Award by the Chinese American Museum.

Dr. Chun-Hoon is married to Marjorie Lee. They have two children and four grandchildren.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: info@chssc.org  
Website: www.chssc.org

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Email us to indicate your preference for an online newsletter at [info@chssc.org](mailto:info@chssc.org)

## Community Calendar

### Thursday, November 7, 2019—7:00PM-9:30PM **Forces of Change: The Persistence and Future of Los Angeles Chinatown**

Join us for a talk with Dr. Laureen Hom, Assistant Professor at Cal Poly Pomona examining the contemporary tensions of neighborhood change in Los Angeles Chinatown. Drawing from her ethnographic research, Dr. Hom will discuss the intersection of changes in the Chinese American Community and urban development trends in Los Angeles since the 1960s that have reshaped the neighborhood and what this means as the neighborhood's future is envisioned as an ethnic community space.

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/y2yt47y9> or email [rsvp@camla.org](mailto:rsvp@camla.org).

Pico House  
424 N. Main St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### November 9, 2019-January 12, 2020 **Moonlight Forest-Lantern Art Festival at the Los Angeles Arboretum, 2019**

Moonlight Forest Magical Lantern Art Festival is back by popular demand! The 2019 festival will be more spectacular than ever with dazzling new lanterns and interactive experiences. Step into the jaws of a humongous shark or dive under the sea with fantastic fish in Ocean Visions. Experience a winter wonderland in our new Polar Dreams display. Children will find bright circular swings and other interactive delights in Children's World. Visit with your family, friends, and holiday guests for a highly memorable evening.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/y5kobypv> for more details, and tickets.

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden  
301 North Baldwin Avenue  
Arcadia, CA 91007

### Wednesday, November 13, 2019—7:30PM-10:00PM **Hollywood Heritage and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association Present: *Hollywood Chinese: The Chinese in American Feature Films* by Arthur Dong**

Take an intimate look at the Chinese American role and influence in Hollywood, from some of the earliest films set in America's Chinatowns to the contemporary artists remaking the face of Hollywood. Author and filmmaker Arthur Dong will host a guided tour of Chinese American film history and will highlight the issues and challenges of Asian Americans navigating Hollywood. Book-signing to follow presentation.

Visit [brownpapertickets.com/event/4419436](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/4419436) for tickets.

Hollywood Heritage  
2100 N. Highland Ave.  
Hollywood, CA 90068

### Saturday, November 16, 2019—11:00AM-12:15Pm **Genealogy Garage: Beginning of Chinese American Genealogy**

Patricia Dung and Michael Ho of the Chinese Family History Group of Southern California will talk about some of the unique aspects of Chinese American genealogy research. Come learn about the jiāpǔ (家谱) (family genealogy books passed down hundreds of generations), the unique Chinese naming system, secret information on tombstones and more!

To RSVP: Call 213-228-7000, and ask for the History & Genealogy Dept.

Los Angeles Public Library, Central Library  
The Adult Literacy Center on Level 1: The "ERTC" Room  
630 W. Fifth St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90071