



SUMMER 2019

This special added summer program will be held at a new location:

Wednesday, July 3, 2019, beginning at 7:00 PM

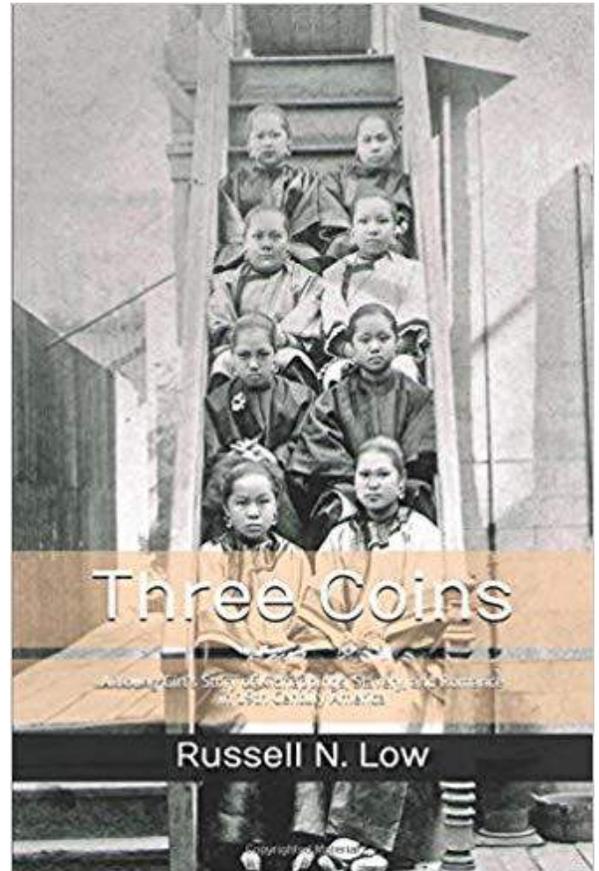
Shadow Park Clubhouse

19101 Alphington St.

Cerritos, CA 90703

Located 2.2 miles east from 605 Fwy & South St.

*Tell the guard you're here for the Clubhouse program.



Russell N. Low's *Three Coins: A Young Girls Story of Kidnapping, Slavery and Romance in 19th Century America*. His book will be available. See more of his work here: <http://www.russlow.com/>.

Special Added Summer Program: Russell Low

Low will start with the *Transcontinental Railroad* and then introduce some of the background story of *Three Coins: A Young Girls Story of Kidnapping, Slavery, and Romance in 19th Century America*. Please note that this event will be held at a new location this month.

Russell Low is the author of the *Three Coins: A Young Girls Story of Kidnapping, Slavery, and Romance in 19th Century America*, a new book based upon a true story that touches on the themes of human trafficking, immigration, cultural and racial discrimination, violence, and romance that are as relevant today as they were 140 years ago. For a special summer program,

Low has a background as a physician with a passion for discovery and storytelling. His discoveries in the medical field have changed the way that his colleagues world-wide practice medicine and image disease. Discovery of his own roots began 30 years ago through the stories of his parents and their siblings. Growing up in Central California, more American than Chinese, his connection to Chinese culture and history was limited and incomplete. Discovering the 1903 Hong family photograph among the belongings of 100 year-old Great-Uncle Kim sparked a decades-long search for the stories behind the photograph. These are the stories presented in *Three Coins*. In his searches, Russell came across a 130-year-old newspaper notice titled "Villainous-looking Chinese after a Chinese Girl." In the article, he recognized his great-grandparents' names, but the romantic drama it uncovered shook the core of his family's belief in who they are and how they came to be Americans. Russell frequently lectures on Chinese-American history, and his family's story has been featured on the History Channel, National Public Radio, Public Radio International, the Voice of America, the California State Railroad Museum, and the Smithsonian Museum of American History.

Russell lives with his wife Carolyn Hesse-Low, an avid and well-known plein air artist, in La Jolla, California where they raised their two sons Ryan and Robert.

Gordon Hom will be serving his popular turkey jook (rice porridge/congee/kanji/juk/lugaw).

Please RSVP to Gordon Hom: grdcn@yahoo.com, (562)865-5645 leave a message.



Mission Accomplished!

IN OCTOBER, A GENEROUS DONOR OFFERED A CHALLENGE MATCH OF \$50,000 FOR MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR TWO HOUSES IN CHINATOWN. SEVEN MONTHS LATER, WE HAVE REACHED OUR \$100,000 GOAL.

Thanks to our many donors!

WE WILL NOW BE PREPARING FOR THE NEXT STEPS. STAY TUNED!



*Special thanks to...**

Munson Kwok & Suellen Cheng, *major donor*

Calvin Lee, *donor*

Sylvia Soo Hoo, *donor*

Phillip Tong, *donor*

Winston & Joanne Young, Young Engineering, *major donor*

*as of June 24, 2019

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Susan Dickson, President

Linda Bentz, Vice President

Felicia Tabing, Secretary

Teresa Chung, Treasurer

Gordon Hom, VP for Programs

Eugene W. Moy, Membership Secretary

MEMBERS AT LARGE

John Chan

Wendy Chung

Cindy Fong

Lauren Hom

Winifred Lew

Franklin Mah

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.



The Yard Sale was organized thanks to the Raffle and Silent Auction Committee. From left to right: Yvonne Chang, Sylvia Soo Hoo, Linda Bentz, Anna Gee, Mei Ong, and Marian Chew.

CHSSC First Yard Sale

The CHSSC hosted its first yard sale in decades. Below is from Sylvia Soo Hoo recounting the day and recognizing themembers that helped organize and manage the event.

Dear Hard working friends of CHSSC:

Just getting around to reading all the earlier emails AFTER RETURNING FROM TODAY'S YARD SALE! That was so much fun and the weather really cooperated with us with its cloudy, cool weather until a few hours of warm sunshine. The crowd of customers was well attended without any particular heavy rush of people. As usual, you probably got the early bird shoppers of pawn shop, antique seekers, etc. Just among our own members we had fun in our personal shopping and contributing to the good cause!!!

Thank you again, Anna, for being such a gracious hostess providing us with liquids, snacks, warm personality, and even a surprise luncheon treat. Not everyone has room in their garage to store these leftover items. I would vote for another sale in the near future and also be another willing helper....don't give away too much of the good stuff!!! It was a nice opportunity to renew and make new friends of our worthy organization. Looking forward to seeing you all again at the Fall meetings!

RECENT OUTREACH:

Chinatown walking tour, L.A. Leadership Academy, 6/13

CHSSC hosted 63 high school students from Lincoln Heights, who have been studying social, economic, and religious diversity of communities. The docent team of Linda Chong, Lauren Hom, Eugene Moy, and Iciar Rivera provided a fast-paced 2.5 hour urban hike that covered past and ongoing changes in Chinatown.

UPCOMING:

Lecture at CAM 1:00 PM Saturday, 7/27

Board member and archaeologist Linda Bentz will speak on Chinese abalone merchants and fisherman in 19th century Santa Barbara. Details and RSVP at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lecture-chinese-abalone-merchants-and-fishermen-in-19th-century-santa-barbara-tickets-60165315077>

Arcadia Library talk 2 PM Saturday, 8/17

Board member Eugene Moy will present a talk, Early Chinese in Arcadia (and beyond). Free registration at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/arcadia-history-lecture-early-chinese-in-arcadia-and-beyond-tickets-62283298021>

Congratulations to CHSSC board member Donald Loo on his recent marriage to Amy XiuQin Xu!

SEE YOU AT THE

CHSSC SUMMER PICNIC

August 24 • 11:30am-3:00pm
411 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Street parking and local garages located nearby

Admittance: \$5, or please bring a dish of food that feeds at least 8 people



Sept 8, 1957

is in this picture along with many other prominent Chinese-American business and professional persons and their wives. Many of the pictured are past and future CACA presidents. Dr. Thomas A. Wong (my personal physician at the time) was the current CACA Los Angeles Chapter President at the time of the dedication. Henry Kwok was president in 1960.

The lodge was designed by Eugene Choy, a prominent architect and CACA member. He was involved with many Chinatown projects, including remodeling of Castelar Elementary School and the Cathay Bank headquarters.

In the years following the dedication, the CACA Lodge was also used for social functions. Members celebrated both American and Chinese New Year's, with parties held right in the lodge. It is unknown where Lodge functions were held after eviction from

C.A.C.A. Lodge: A Brief History

By Tennyson Kwok

Recently, the CHSSC meetings have been held at the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Lodge, Los Angeles Chapter, locally known as the CACA Lodge. The CACA Los Angeles Chapter has been in existence

since 1912, originally occupying part of the second floor of the Garnier Building on Los Angeles Street (the present-day Chinese American Museum building). The present-day lodge property wasn't acquired, built, and dedicated until years later. Below is the lodge dedication photo, taken on September 8, 1957, which is also displayed at the Chinese American Museum. Many organizations also meet at the CACA Lodge, including the Chinese Family History Group of Southern California (CFHGSC).

My father, Henry Kwok, joined CACA in 1946 just after he proudly became a naturalized U.S. Citizen. He



The photo above is from the CACA Lodge 1967 New Years Party complete with a live band and dancing.

To the right is Richard Nixon at the CACA Lodge, when he was campaigning for Governor of California in 1962.



Dr. Thomas A. Wong Richard Nixon Henry Kwok
YC Hong

the Garnier Building in the early '50's by Caltrans for the 101 freeway until the dedication of the new lodge.

Also, as today, political candidates often visited the lodge in their quest for endorsements.

Until 1977, CACA members were all male, and I believe, were also only American-born Chinese. A CACA Woman's Auxiliary supported the many events that were held in the CACA Lodge. Since 1977, after women were accepted as full members of CACA, two LA CACA presidents have been women: Daisy Ma, Suellen Cheng. Of course, non-Chinese-American members have been accepted as well.



Gay Yuen (center) spoke to the CHSSC membership at the CACA Lodge about her upbringing, life, and the women who shaped it.

June Meeting Recap

By Felicia Lowe

Dr. Gay Yuen gave a fascinating talk about her own life story, highlighting how she came to the U.S. and the formation of the career with the support of the women in her family.

Gay pointed out how parts of her story were atypical of the times. For example Gay's grandfather first came to the U.S. to work, and prioritizing his daughter's education, made sure that money was sent back to educate her. This was Gay's mother, who in turn later submitted papers to come to the U.S., as a single woman. It took years for Gay's mother to get her papers, which she finally received after she fell in love with her father, and had Gay when she was 30 years old. Since Gay's mother had to come to the U.S. as a single woman in order to not change her papers, Gay was left behind in China to be raised by her grandmother. At this time, Gay's father moved to Hong Kong to work, and when the communists approached their village, Gay's grandmother strapped Gay to her back and walked to Hong Kong to meet her father. A funny anecdote was when Gay's mother finally was allowed to bring Gay and her father to the U.S.. Since she was considered single, she went back to China and married her father at the U.S. consulate. To explain the existence of her child, Gay, she explained she was illegitimate, which for the 1950's, is a pretty bold thing to say.

Gay then discussed her own life, how her experience of being slapped by a teacher at Castelar for speaking

Cantonese with a friend, inspired her to study Chinese in college, get a teaching credential, and get a job at Castelar when bilingual education was first being implemented. She also discussed a lot of self-hate she experienced in her younger years for being Chinese, as the T.V. images of families were different from her own, and being ashamed of the food she ate, which was not resolved until she did ethnic studies at UCLA. Gay's talk provided a different point of view of the Chinese immigrant story, and walked us through the key points of her life that shaped her path.

Photo Day

CHSSC hosted a photo day for members and guests to partake at. Photo from the day on page 6. By Susan Dickson

Identifying the people and places in our many photographs is a challenge. Sometimes it takes a collective effort to identify one person. On Friday, May 13th, Margie Lew, Cindy Fong, Sylvia SooHoo, and Susan Dickson met at CHSSC to work with the photos. They were joined by members Frankie Yan and Abe Ferrer. Each person brings new insights and remembrances during the process of identifying each photo. Hopefully, you can participate next time.

Condolences to Elizabeth Wong and siblings on the passing of their mother, Irena Chan Wong.

CHSSC also sends condolences to renowned local artist, Milton Quon, who passed at 105 years old.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

SUMMER 2019



Top photo (pictured on the left) The crew from Photo Day! Standing: Linda Bentz, Susan Dicson, Cindy Fong, Abe Ferrar, Frankie Yan. Seated: Margie Lew, Sylvia Soo Hoo.

Below: visitors and CHSSC members peruse the goods at the Yard Sale. There were a variety of items including jewelry, ceramics, and artwork.



Above from left to right: Peter Chun, Marian Chew, Linda Bentz, Anna Gee, Sylvia Soo Hoo, and Yvonne Chang give a thumbs up after the CHSSC Yard Sale in Alhambra.

Bottom photo: Gay Yuen spoke to a packed room about the matriarchs in her life and their journey from Hong Kong to the United States.





SUMMER 2019



Above photo, from left to right: Congresswoman Judy Chu, Golden Spike honorees Elaine Woo, Frank Shyong, Helen Zia, Oliver Wang, Russell C. Leong, and CHSSC President Susan Dickson.

Woo is a former LA Times journalist and editor; Shyong currently writes for the LA Times on API relevant topics; Zia is an author and activist for Asian-Americans and LGBTQ communities; Wang reviews music for NPR and teaches at CSU, Long Beach; and Leong is the editor of Ameriasia Journal, a professor, and an award-winning author.



Above from left to right: co-emcee Susie Ling, Congresswoman Chu, Suellen Cheng, Marjorie Lee at the 2019 Golden Spike Awards

Right photo, from left to right: Golden Spike honoree, Leong, Ling, Lee, and Meg Thornton. Lee and Thornton are representing the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA.



EARLY CHINESE IN ARCADIA (AND BEYOND)

You know Arcadia was founded in 1903 but did you know that people of Chinese descent have been in the Arcadia area for almost 150 years? A presentation and discussion led by **EUGENE WONG MOY** and colleagues from the **CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** will provide a chronology of some of the important roles that early Chinese played in the development of the region, now one of the most dynamic areas economically, socially, and politically, in all of California.

Saturday, August 17, 2019

2:00-3:30 PM

All are welcome!



ARCADIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
CAY MORTENSON AUDITORIUM
20 W. DUARTE RD. ARCADIA, CA 91006 (626) 821-5569



Yosemite and Sing Peak Pilgrimage 2019 Program

July 12-14

Historic walking tours, hiking, and visiting Chinese pioneer sites

July 15-17

Backpacking to Sing Peak (for experienced hikers)

*Dates are dependent on weather and trail conditions. More details on the Community Calendar.

Thursday, July 11, 2019

Tent campsites for volunteers are available and some cabin reservations begin. Make sure you arrive well ahead of sunset. Campgrounds are not open for late arrivals. Late arrivals needing help can come to cabin 15B, The Legacy, in the Redwood Cabins off Chilnualna Falls Road, Wawona. (Contact Helen Quon regarding space in cabins, hyquon@gmail.com.)

Friday, July 12, 2019:

Yosemite Valley Historic Chinese Resident Area Walk, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm led by Ranger Yenyan Chan. Meet in front of the Visitor Center in Yosemite Valley. Park in the Day Use Parking Lot near Yosemite Village and either walk 5-10 minutes or take the free shuttle to the Visitor Center. Ranger Chan will lead us on a tour around Cooks Meadow and the Old Yosemite Village where many Chinese once lived and worked. It can be hot and crowded in Yosemite Valley during the summer. Come prepared with water, snacks, a sun hat. Arrive by 9:00 or 9:30 am, if possible, to see the Visitor Center and village area before the walk. If you are coming from Wawona, leave around 8:00 am.

Suggestion: Enjoy a picnic lunch after the walk or buy lunch at other facilities or eateries in the Valley.

Afternoon hike up to Inspiration Point, 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Starting at the **Bridalveil Fall Parking Lot** head west on the Wawona Road a short distance to the start of the trailhead. Hike on the old Wawona Road to Artist Point with an option to hike up to Inspiration Point. This is a moderately sloped uphill trail gaining 870' in 1.7 miles to one of the best views of Yosemite Valley along the historic stage wagon road built by Chinese workers. For the return route, some can take a short steep downhill trail to Tunnel View Parking if we leave a car there. There is also the option to continue further on a steep uphill trail to Inspiration Point. It's about a 5 miles hike going to Inspiration Point and back to Tunnel View Parking or 6 miles if hiking back to Bridalveil Fall. Bring a lot of water for this can be a difficult hike in the summer heat. Trail description available at: <https://www.hikingproject.com/trail/7007561/old-wawona-road>

Saturday July 13:

Visit the old Wawona Grove Washburn Road, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Meet at the South Entrance Parking, at the **Shuttle Bus Welcome Plaza to the Mariposa Grove**. The original old road built by Chinese connected visitors from the Big Tree Lodge, Wawona, to the Mariposa Grove. On this trip we will visit portions of the old road and talk about its importance.

Suggestion: Take in the giant sequoia grove after the historic walk. Having a picnic lunch in the area would also be nice before taking the shuttles back to your cars.

Future Education/Interpretation of Chinese Americans in Wawona, 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm meet at the Old Grey Barn just east of the store and north of the Big Trees Hotel in Wawona. Walk around the old Chinese laundry building that the National Park Service is currently renovating so that it can be available for public use. Then walk around this lovely hotel that was so popular a 100 years ago in large part because of its wonderful Chinese chef and service workers.

Potluck at the Wawona Community Center on Chilnualna Falls Road about a mile from Wawona Road (main highway 41). The Center is on the right side near the school and before the Redwood Cabins. Set up at 5:00 pm, dinner 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. This year's theme is "Cooking Chinese Dishes without Chinese Ingredients." A hundred years ago Chinese Americans cooked Chinese food but had little or no spices, sauces or other goods associated with Chinese food. Pretend you want to have Chinese food but you are in a part of the county without a Chinese market or even an Asian food section in the market. For this potluck, bring something which can be called Chinese or Chinese American food but only use non-Chinese food, with the following exceptions: Soy Sauce (any brand); dried vegetables, any homemade sauce or pickled vegetable made from scratch; any homegrown Chinese vegetable; dofu, if it is homemade from whole beans. Two outdoor wok cooking stations will be made available an hour before the dinner for anyone who wants to fry or cook something quickly. The Community Center only has one small oven.

Sunday July 14:

Breakfast Discussion - the future of the Pilgrimage and Telling of the Stories of Chinese in Yosemite: 8:00 am to 10:00 am. Bring your leftovers and other breakfast foods to cabin # 15B (The Legacy) to share. Also bring your ideas for upcoming Pilgrimages or future projects and the promotion of information and events.

Seventh Annual Backpack trip to Sing Peak, July 15-17:

For experienced backpackers only. Contact Jack Shu, jkshu52@gmail.com, (619) 708-2050, or Yenyan Chan, Yenyan_Chan@nps.gov, regarding space on Wilderness Permits and trip itinerary. (limited number of spaces available)

Contact Helen Quon, hyquon@gmail.com, to make accommodations, or Eugene Moy, ewmoy49@gmail.com, for more information.



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

Please help us save paper and postage,
Email us to indicate your preference for an online newsletter at info@chssc.org

Community Calendar

Wednesday, July 12 - Monday, July 17, 2019 CHSSC Yosemite Trip

In 2013, we began our program of summer journeys to discover the wonders of Yosemite National Park. Join us this year. We will combine three days of programming to include ranger-led hikes, informative talks, and heritage planning discussions.

Experienced backpackers are invited to join the three-day hike to the top of 10,552' Sing Peak, named in honor of Tie Sing. Sing was a backcountry chef who catered the Mather Mountain Party which was instrumental in the eventual formation of the National Parks Service.

July 12-14—Historic walking tours, brief hikes, and visits to Chinese pioneer sites.

July 15-17—Hike to Sing Peak.

See www.chssc.org for up-to-date information. Contact info@chssc.org for more details.

Other contact information: Helen Quon regarding cabin arrangements (hyquon@gmail.com); Jack Shu (jkshu52@gmail.com), or Yenyen Chan (Yenyen.Chan@nps.com) regarding space on Wilderness Permits and the Sing Peak hike itinerary.

Sunday, July 14, 2019—2:30PM-3:30PM

Tang Qingnian Special Talk: *An Offering to Roots*

Visual artist Tang Qingnian demonstrates the art of Chinese calligraphy in a presentation in the Chinese Garden, and discusses his recent series of ink paintings, *An Offering to Roots*, with curator Phillip Bloom. Tang's paintings, which depict gnarled, barren trees—long a metaphor in Chinese art in Chinese art and literature for the vagaries of human life. Full-sized

reproductions of the scroll paintings are on view in a special installation. Tang Qingnian is the 2019 Cheng Family Foundation Artist-in-Residence at the Huntington. General admission.

His work will be exhibited June 22-September 23.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108

Saturday, July 2019—2:30PM

Chinese Music-Contemplative Intent: A Guqin Concert

Experience traditional Chinese music in an afternoon concert showcasing the guqin, a seven-string zither that is one of China's most ancient instruments. The performance will feature Jiazhen Zhao of the Central Conservator of Music in Beijing.

Admission is \$10, please reserve a ticket at: brownpapertickets.com/event/4238235.

The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108

Saturday, August 24, 2019—11:30AM-3:00PM

CHSSC Summer Picnic

Admittance: \$5, or please bring a dish of food that feeds eight people.

Parking available on the street or local garages.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
411-415 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012