

NOVEMBER 2020

## November Monthly Meeting

Sarah Heffner, an archaeologist with the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Environmental Services, will be our speaker for our November program. Sarah received her doctorate in anthropology from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2012. Her dissertation explored the cross-cultural exchange of healthcare practices between Chinese and non-Chinese laborers at mining camps and urban sites in Nevada from 1860-1930. Over the past six years, she has been actively involved in the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project (CRRWNAP) that originated at Stanford University. Through her involvement with CRRWNAP, she has coauthored a book on Chinese railroad workers, written an article on Chinese railroad workers' healthcare practices



for the journal *Historical Archaeology*, and coauthored an essay of the health and well-being of Chinese railroad workers for an edited book entitled *The Chinese and the Iron Road*.

Sarah's presentation will focus on her most recent research: a collection of artifacts from one of the first excavations in California of a Chinese community, the 1969 Yreka Chinatown excavations. Prior to the construction of the I-5 corridor, archaeologists excavated 73 units and two trenches, identified nine features, and recovered over 13,000 artifacts. Artifacts include both Chinese (porcelain, medicine vials, eating utensils, coins, opium pipes) and non-Chinese (liquor bottles, patent medicine bottles, toys). Sarah plans on providing a brief history of Yreka's Chinese community, the excavations, and a discussion of what can be learned about Yreka's Chinese community through archival and artifactual research.

The presentation will be moderated by Kelly N. Fong. Kelly N. Fong is a fifth-generation Chinese American, historical archaeologist, and Asian American Studies scholar. She is currently a lecturer in the Asian American Studies Department at UCLA.

**CHSSC Meeting will be online on Zoom:**

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Program: 7:00 PM

To register, go to [chssc.org](http://chssc.org).



## **Support CHSSC and renew your membership now!**

2020 remained a year of activity for the Society despite the rigors of the Covid-19 pandemic. CHSSC continued, after a Spring hiatus, to deliver engaging monthly meetings via the internet, led the annual Golden Dragon Parade in Los Angeles Chinatown, offered a virtual Yosemite Pilgrimage in August, and began partnerships with the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West and UCLA's Asian American Center. In addition, several grants are allowing us to broaden our online presence, aiding in the digitizing of our archives, and revising our walking tour narratives. Before the pandemic, we continued to offer Chinatown tours, opened on Sundays for visitors and researchers, and continued to work with a team of archival interns at the National Archives branch in Riverside to both digitally archive more research materials and create research aids.

These activities are possible only because of the continued support of members and contributors. We face challenges as we continue to promulgate our mission without physically gathering. All our activities and programs are executed by volunteers. As Society members, I hope you take pride in all that we do to promote access to local and Chinese American history and advance the awareness of the contributions of pioneering Chinese Americans. I encourage you, your family and your friends, to renew your membership, or join our membership if not already a member. Please consider an additional donation to help us through this challenging year. We have been preserving and promoting our community's history since 1975. Join us as we enter our 46th year with your renewal and/or donation by using the form in this newsletter or the online form on our website <http://www.chssc.org>.

I thank you advance for your support!

Sincerely,  
Cindy Fong,  
Membership Chair

Cal Humanities has provided a generous grant to CHSSC to support our programs. Source funding is from the economic stabilization plan under the 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act via the NEH, the National Endowment for the Humanities.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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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 American community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.



Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California

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### 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.



New Membership

Renewal

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Membership levels:

Silver \$ 57.

100x100 Club \$100.

Diamond \$ 300.

Senior (60+) or student \$ 32.

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

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

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

*Please make checks payable to CHSSC.*

Check here if you would like the newsletter mailed to your home.

Check here if you would like the newsletter sent via email.

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



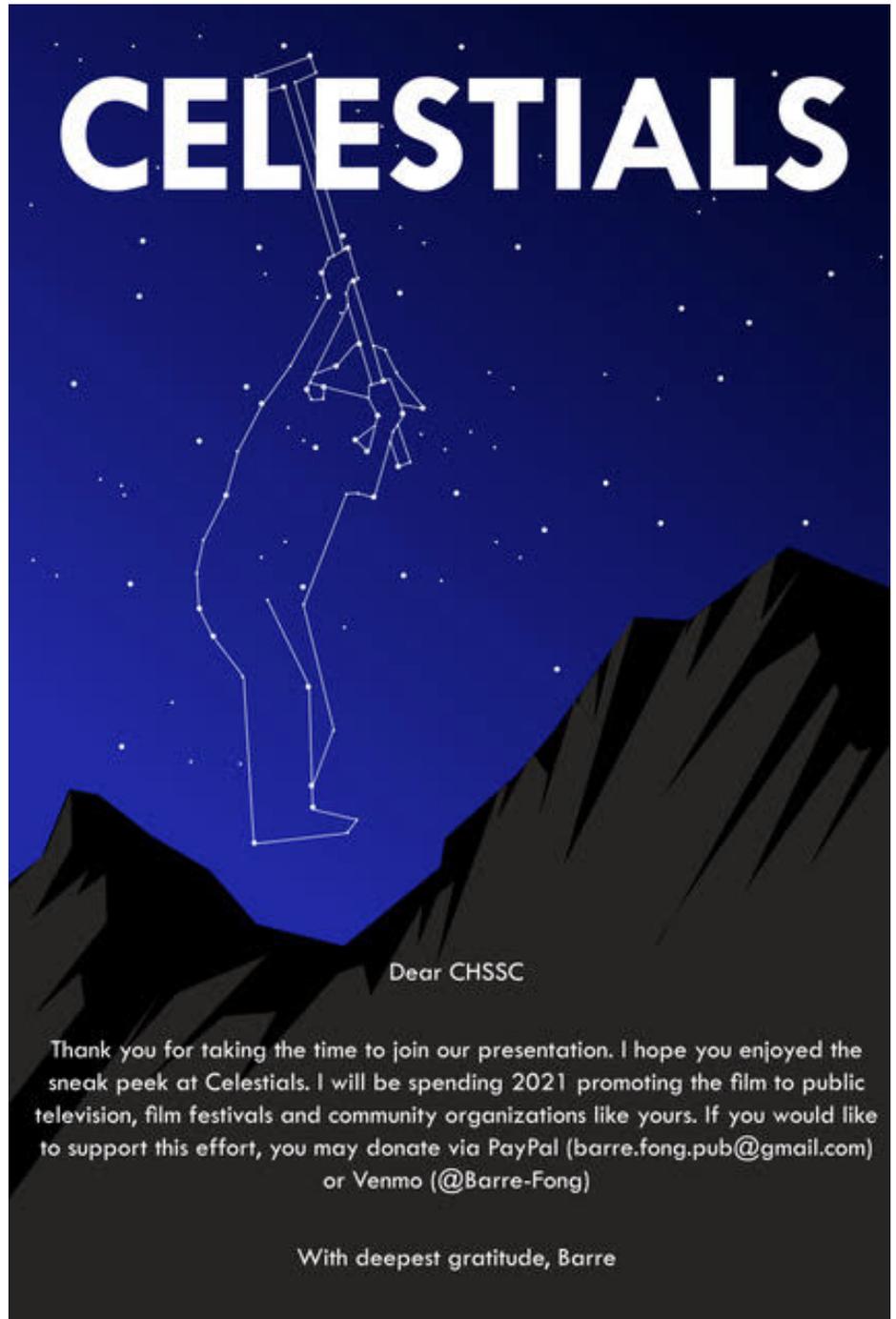
NOVEMBER 2020

## October Meeting

BY CINDY FONG

Filmmaker Barre Fong and archaeologist Laura W. Ng graced our webinar with an informational hour regarding descendants of Chinese railroad workers and research in the village of Cangdong in China's Pearl River Delta region. Both are involved with the Stanford Chinese Railroad Workers Project. Barre presented background on his interviews with railroad worker descendants and showed clips from his film. Laura recounted her experiences in the historical village of Cangdong, with an initial dig in Winter 2016 and excavation in 2017. The contemporary village currently has about 50 buildings and inhabitants. The historical area holds reinforced concrete buildings and mansions built in the 1920's-30's. Artifacts demonstrate the strong relationship between Chinese-American entrepreneurs and goods exported back to Chinese villages. Of special interest was a California medicinal bottle with an American apothecary label from Abietine Medicine Company in Oroville, CA. Data and reports are available online at [cangdong.stanford.edu](https://cangdong.stanford.edu).

The full length 56 minute video of "Making Ties: The Cangdong Village Project" can be viewed at <https://cangdong.stanford.edu/documentary-film>





NOVEMBER 2020

## **LA as Subject Grant**

Azatuhi Babayan is currently an L.A. as Subject Resident Archivist at USC and consults in her free time. While still early in her career, she has been learning about building relationships with community archives, workflows for co-creating metadata and organizational policy and how archival work can be integrated in activist spaces. She received her MLIS from UC Berkeley. Her work with the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California encompasses strategizing ways to organize and manage our digital assets ahead of the establishment of a multimedia library.



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## **Heritage Award from Aquarium of the Pacific**

Watch CHSSC president Susan Dickson accept the Heritage Award plaque from the Aquarium of the Pacific on behalf of CHSSC. Their yearly award is presented to an organization, cultural groups, or individual that actively promotes keeps alive or blends the cultures of Japan, China, Korea or the Philippines through education, art, or cultural outreach or meets the needs of this diverse community.

19th Annual Aquarium of the Pacific Autumn Festival

Live stream on Saturday, November 14th.

(The schedule will be posted on their webpage. Award presentation will be at 12:30 PM)

[https://www.aquariumofpacific.org/events/info/autumn\\_festival/](https://www.aquariumofpacific.org/events/info/autumn_festival/)

### **Major Donors**

Tom Family Trust

Eugene Moy and Susan Sing \$500

Marjorie Chun-Hoon \$1,000

Dr. Annie Chin Siu and the Siu family \$7,000

China Society of Southern California



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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

### Community Calendar

Are you sitting at home wanting to connect with the outside world? For three months the News 'N Notes has been suggesting that you check out our Community Events tab on the CHSSC website. Since we are an educational organization, CHSSC gets new notifications of up-coming webinars each week. These webinars, which are sponsored by organizations throughout the U.S., provide opportunities for people to learn about topics as varied as the relationship of the Jewish and Chinese people in the U.S. throughout our history.