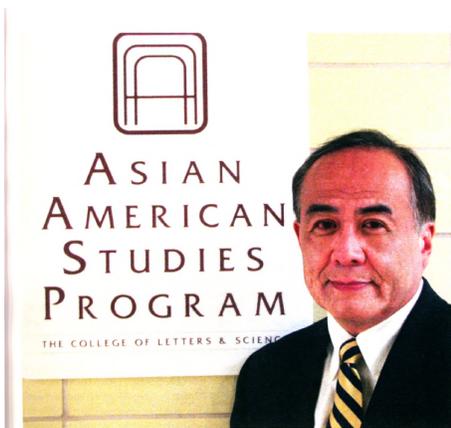


JANUARY 2021

## January Monthly Meeting:

### “Long Time Midwestn’: Recovering the Lost History of the Chinese American Midwest”



Victor Jew, a native of Los Angeles, teaches for the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where he offers courses such as “Asian Hollywood: Fads and Fears,” “Asian American Food Worlds,” and the “Introduction to Asian American Studies.” He graduated from UCLA and earned his Ph.D. in U.S. History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Victor Jew has published on Midwestern Asian American topics: he co-edited a volume of first-person accounts about being Asian American in the Midwest by Midwestern Asian Americans (*Asian Americans in Michigan* published by Wayne State University Press.)

Victor Jew has also published on Los Angeles Chinese American history, specifically two essays about the anti-Chinese massacre that happened in Los Angeles on October 24, 1871. These essays are “The Anti-Chinese Massacre of 1871 and Its Strange Career” published in *A Companion to Los Angeles* edited by William Deverell and a new interpretation of the 1871 massacre that appeared as “The Anti-Chinese Massacre in Los Angeles as a Reconstruction-era event” in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Urban History* edited by Timothy Gilfoyle.

His talk will explore the untaught and largely unknown history of Chinese America in the U.S. Midwest. Drawing upon a range of sources, this presentation will discuss the many dimensions that made Chinese America and Asian America in the Midwest from 1870 to the present. The large themes of Chinese American history played out in the Midwest (for example, Chinese Exclusion enforcement was active in Chicago, Detroit, and St. Louis) and one might assume that the Midwestern history simply replicated what happened on the West Coast, but Midwestern Chinese American history had its own shape and emphases. “Long Time Midwestn’” will discern the contours of that history and suggest ways to study further the past of Chinese America in the land that Abraham Lincoln called, “The Great Interior Region.”

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

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Program: 7:00 PM

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



## President's Letter

CHSSC has proved to be very resilient during this past year of change. Although the coronavirus forced us to close our Heritage and Visitors' Center and cancel our Golden Spike Awards dinner, we forged ahead. A California Humanities grant and a Cathay Bank grant allowed us to have interns to update our website, develop new outreach strategies, and continue working with the Chinese immigration files at the National Archives in Perris, California. CHSSC had a virtual Yosemite pilgrimage. In addition, a six-page article of our pilgrimage appeared in AAA's *Westways* magazine. In November Aquarium of the Pacific presented CHSSC its Heritage Award.

As 2020 ends, we look towards the future with optimism. Our first Zoom meeting in September was a triumph with over 200 learning about the Chinese railroad workers from Gordon Chang. Right away we realized that the viewers lived as far away as the East Coast. With this one event our outreach had immediately expanded. Unfortunately, some of our current members don't use Zoom. We hope to engage them by putting the recorded programs online. Another challenge is to extend our membership to those who are watching the programs.

As 2021 begins CHSSC will have a new media center. Originally, the plan was to have CHSSC be a destination for students, scholars, and community members who would come to use our extensive archives for research. Due to the pandemic, CHSSC has decided to make more of our archives available online so they will be accessible to all.

CHSSC will have many irons in the fire during 2021. With funds from the Society of Architectural Historians' grant, CHSSC will upgrade the Chinatown walking tour. Currently, members of CHSSC are working with ICW, the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West on their old Chinatown project. In addition, CHSSC is working with UCLA on writing a book about the five Chinatowns of Los Angeles. A grant from the Louie Foundation will allow us to have our first curated online exhibit. A big project is our upgrade of our facilities with moneys from the Capital Campaign. The completion of the architectural drawings is expected soon. Work should be started by summer.

We need your continued support to help us on our journey forward.

Sincerely,  
Susan Dickson

## 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.



## **CHSSC Awarded New Grant**

In November CHSSC was awarded the Louie Family Foundation grant. The project proposal involved developing an online exhibit. The focus of our exhibit will be Y.C. Hong's office in New Chinatown where Tyrus Wong's painting of Confucius hangs behind Y.C.'s desk. The exhibit will explore the intersection of these two men's lives and their time in history.

### **The Louie Family Foundation**

BY DAVID LOUIE

The Louie Family Foundation was established by Pearl and David K. Louie. David owned China Travel Service on Broadway for almost 20 years. Pearl was a clerk typist at the Los Angeles City Hall. They believed it was important to give back to the community. Since their passing in 2002 and 2003, the Louie Family Foundation has supported organizations which provide important services and resources to the Los Angeles Chinatown community. The Foundation leadership is provided by their two sons (David W. Louie and Robert Louie), daughter (Elizabeth Chikuami) and three grandchildren (Brian Chikuami, Rachel Liao, Lindsay Louie).

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## **Report on LA as Subject Residency Program**

BY LINDA BENTZ

Since CHSSC has a variety of digital assets, CHSSC applied to participate in USC's LA as Subject Residency Program. Our application stated our main goal was to have a USC archivist help devise strategies for the organization and effective management of the Society's digital assets. Our project, which was funded, has been a collaborative effort between CHSSC and the USC resident archivist, Aza Babayan. As part of this project, Aza has been working with our archivist, Linda Bentz, and Aaron Hernandez, the technology specialist for PVPUSD, that we hired to set up the new multi-media library. Currently, Aza has been working with Aaron to set up a newly installed management system with a new folder structure for our new server.

These efforts to make our archives accessible to patrons and researchers will require an on-going effort. CHSSC wants users to be able to browse collections via tags, use visualization tools such as maps, and make oral histories more engaging and accessible. Although the grant was supposed to end on December 31, 2020, Aza is recommending that the deadline be extended due to the extended delays caused by COVID-19.



JANUARY 2021

## CHSSC Outreach

The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented some of the normal outreach activities that the CHSSC would be annually engaged in, such as Qing Ming at Evergreen Cemetery, and the History Day LA student competition, in the Spring, or the Archives Bazaar at the USC Doheny Library in October. Instead, our monthly programs have gone virtual, which have ironically drawn larger audiences than our in-person programs in Chinatown. Additionally, board member Eugene Moy has been invited to participate in several online presentations that shared L.A. Chinatown and Chinese American history:

- Metro began a Community Conversations series in June, focusing on neighborhoods in the L.A. area. Eugene led off with a “Why I Love Chinatown” presentation (see the full online presentation!): <https://thesource.metro.net/2020/08/05/community-conversations-stay-connected-while-learning-about-las-historic-neighborhoods/>. He provided some background on Chinatown’s history, some of its cultural institutions, and what some organizations such as the Chinatown Service Center have been doing to assist people through COVID challenges.
- In October, a local panel discussed a play by Lloyd Suh, *The Chinese Lady*, and Eugene participated in the commentary on the role of art in the interpretation of history. Listen to the entire 50 minute podcast at <https://artists-at-play-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes/the-chinese-lady-and-remembering-the-los-angeles-chinese-massacre>
- Also in October, a program organized by Debra Scacco of Compass Rose featured L.A. Public Library map librarian Glen Creason, who presented some of the historic L.A. maps in the LAPL collections. <https://www.facebook.com/lapubliclibrary/videos/345548946508369/>. Eugene Moy augmented the images with commentary, especially about early Chinatown sites and its forced relocation.
- In November, Eugene was the featured speaker for a program, *Chinese American Legacies of the Foothills and Valleys*, at which he shared some of the vital work provided by Chinese American workers and entrepreneurs in the development of the foothill and valley areas of southern California. <https://www.huntingtonwesterners.com/wwwhuntingtonwesterners.html>. (No recording available). Look for an updated presentation for the CHSSC; new research data is being found every week.



Photos from the 2009 CHSSC Holiday Potluck



JANUARY 2021

## December Program Recap

BY SUSAN DICKSON

Our December program speaker, Tamara Venit-Shelton, an associate professor of history at Claremont McKenna College, discussed her research on the history of Chinese medicine in the United States that is detailed in her book: *Herbs and Roots: A History of Chinese Doctors in the American Medical Marketplace*.

Early Chinese immigrants were not allowed to be treated in hospitals in the U.S. so Chinese immigrant doctors from Guangdong Province of China, especially from Hoiping County were important to the community. While in China the doctors had one specialty, but in the U.S. the Chinese doctors diversified in order to treat a wide range of ailments. Practicing Chinese medicine was a family business.

After the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, Chinese doctors began to treat more non-Chinese patients. The advertisements in English newspapers indicate that the Chinese doctors pragmatically promoted themselves by using stereotypic images of the doctors. Due to the racism of the time that branded Chinese communities as unsafe and unsanitary, Chinese doctors moved to the White part of towns to practice medicine.

During the 1880s the American Medical Association tried to standardize professional medical practices and drive non-doctors out. The Chinese doctors, who were accused of practicing medicine without a license, stressed to the public the fact that they were using natural medicines and non-invasive procedures. At the time, the Chinese medicine appealed to those who distrusted science.

During the 1970s traditional Chinese medicine was rediscovered. Acupuncture became more accepted. Currently, Chinese medicines can be found on the shelves of American drugstores.

### Major Donors\*

Louie Family Foundation \$5,000

Gordon and Rose Hom \$3,000

Susan Dickson \$1,000

Munson Kwok and Suellen Cheng \$1,000

Eugene Moy \$1,000

### Donors\*

Helen Chan

Mary Jacobson: In celebration of Emmy Len Potter's Sweet Sixteen birthday

Angela Lancaster

Rose Marie Lee

Susan Lee

Susie Ling

Susan Sing

\*Donations are through 12/14/2020 due to the early holiday printing.

Sylvia SooHoo In Memory Of James SooHoo



JANUARY 2021



## Huntington Chinese Garden Expansion Program

BY CINDY FONG

November 23 brought an enlightening and detailed zoom presentation by Phillip Bloom, curator of the Chinese Garden at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Sponsored jointly by The China Society and CHSSC, Mr. Bloom regaled the audience with the history and development of the recently unveiled expansion. The master plan was approved in 2000, construction began in 2004, and the garden opened in 2008. An original goal was to highlight Chinese plants used in American gardens such as azalea, camellia, chrysanthemum, and peony. Using a well-curated power point presentation, Mr. Bloom showed us the original landscape, including a natural pond that existed in the planned garden area. With concrete foundations, steel framed buildings to meet seismic regulations, and plans taken from the 17<sup>th</sup> century Chinese garden manual “The Craft of Gardening,” the Huntington embarked on creating a Suzhou styled scholar’s garden.

Fifty-two Suzhou artisans were involved in executing the plans for the custom-made garden. The resulting Court of Assembled Worthies contains space for 200-300 to watch musical and theatrical offerings. The Flowery Brush Library doors depict the flowers associated with each month of the year. The Studio for Lodging the Mind is named from an essay in the Record of the Hall of Treasured Paintings by Su Shi (1037-1101). The Pavilion Encircled by Jade contains a new restaurant. Adjacent walls will screen 5-minute videos by Tang Qingnian of the four seasons based upon “Fragrant Rhythms: The Seasons of Liu Fang Yuen.” There are plans for a Chinese medicinal herb farm. The northwest sector of the garden contains the Jeweled Blossoms Slope, Verdant Microcosm, and Forest Fragrance Court. The Terrace of Shared Delights has capacity for 500. The Stargazing Tower gives a spectacular and commanding view of the garden below and Mt. Wilson in the distance.



**Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California**

**南加州華人歷史學會**

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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.



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Membership levels:

Silver \$ 57.

100x100 Club \$100.

Diamond \$ 300.

Senior (60+) or student \$ 32.

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**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.*

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



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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## Past CHSSC Holiday Potluck Photos

