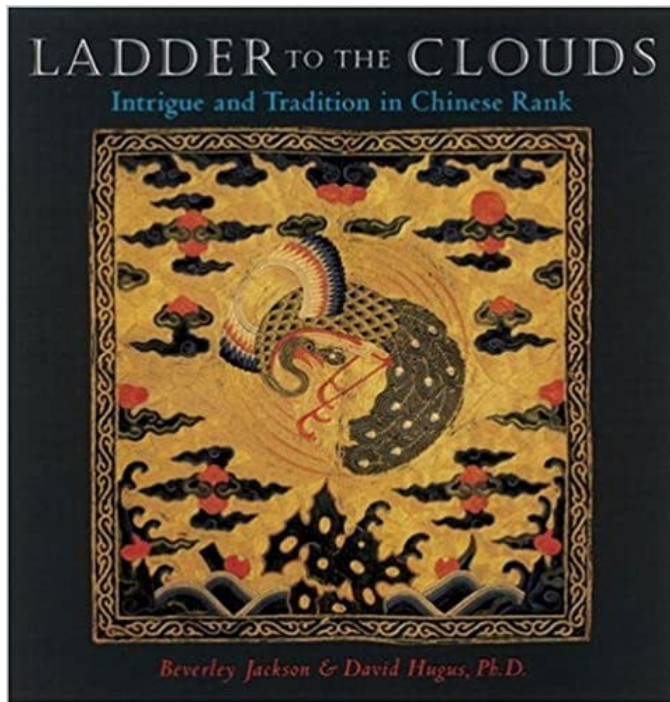


NOVEMBER 2021

November Monthly Meeting



David Hugus is an expert collector of Mandarin Squares. These are the rank badges used during the Ming and Qing Dynasties that prominently adorned Chinese robes of civil and military officials. He is the co-author with Beverly Jackson of the book, *Ladder to the Clouds*, which featured the examination process to enter Dynastic civil service and the rank badges themselves. He is also the author of a new book on Rank Badges that should be available in the coming months.

David will talk about the examination process which was the "Ladder to the Clouds" for centuries in China. By passing the exam anyone, not just the rich, could become a government official which was like achieving the "American Dream" only much better. It meant social and economic well-being. It was a society based on meritocracy. The Chinese diplomats who came to America had passed the exam. The early Chinese scholars who taught in American schools as well as any literate Chinese who came to America had studied the

same Chinese classics that were the basis for the exam. Even today in China and for Chinese in America the emphasis on education and passing exams such as the SAT are a legacy of the examination process of Dynastic China.

Is the examination process inherent in Chinese DNA or is a characteristic that makes Chinese Chinese?

This program is co-sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the China Society of Southern California.

CHSSC Meeting will be online on Zoom:

Program: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM

To register, go to chssc.org



President's Letter

What does success look like? A new museum in a former Chinese Laundry in Yosemite.

A little over nine years ago, Jack Shu, a California State Park superintendent, approached the CHSSC board with a proposal for us to have a pilgrimage to Yosemite once a year for 10 years in order to discover, make known, and honor the contributions of the Chinese in the development of Yosemite National Park. Although our focus has been the Chinese in Southern California, the board felt that our educational organization should pursue this goal. During the past nine years, CHSSC has networked with the National Park Service and the National Park Conservation Association in order to accomplish our goals.

The first article about our yearly pilgrimage, "The Place Where History Comes Back to Life" appeared in *Southwest: The Magazine* (September 2017). In 2018, CHSSC accepted a California proclamation from State Assemblyman Frank Bigelow on behalf of the Chinese who worked in Yosemite. In October 2020, Alison Singh Gee wrote about her experiences taking our Yosemite pilgrimage for AAA's *Westways* magazine: "Tracking the Tiger in Yosemite."

On October 1, 2021, thirty CHSSC supporters went to Yosemite for the museum opening. Although the NPS restricted the number of CHSSC members who could attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony, our presence was evident. In two different exhibit panels, CHSSC member photos were included and our efforts to honor Chinese American history were explained. Now thousands of people can view the history of the Chinese in Yosemite weekly.

CHSSC is a small organization who had a big vision. The Chinese Laundry museum will be open to the public Spring 2022.

Susan Dickson

Consider making a donation to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC). It will immediately provide support for general operations, education programs, for adults and children alike, and more. The success of our mission depends on gifts of all sizes. They are fully tax deductible and will go directly to the area of greatest need.

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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.



SUPPORT CHSSC by renewing your Membership now!

By Angela Lancaster, Membership Secretary

History comes ALIVE at the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California! For 47 years, the Society members have been faithfully preserving the many facets of distant and recent history of the Chinese in California.

Going into a second year of COVID lockdowns, the Society remained vibrant and engaging. Winter quarter university interns presented their detailed work documenting the Chinese community in Los Angeles. Their presentations collectively and individually included oral histories and Chinese Exclusion Act case files as well as WPA Neighborhood census data. Work continues through generous donors and grants as the Society strives to maintain and preserve its digital archives.

Kicking off spring, the March general meeting included a cornucopia of Chinatown Leaders from CAM (Chinese American Museum), Chinese American Citizen Alliance, and The China Society, to name a few. Knowledgeable activists, social workers and historians gave detailed overviews of past history and current dilemmas facing the community. Affordable, safe, clean housing, COVID vaccines, and racial biases were among the topics presented as discussed by the prestigious panel. Questions were solicited from the audience, making for excellent and lively discussion. Meetings are recorded and made available for viewing on YouTube in case you missed them.

One of the more “active” activities included the Yosemite Pilgrimage, which began several new partnerships with other historical entities. Unlike last year, this year members were able to gather and enjoy the trip and time with each other. Next year promises to be even better! The Society was also honored this year to assist in presenting the Congressional Gold Medals of Honor to living Chinese American World War II veterans and their families. Neglected for so many years, the Veterans’ faces told of their pride and happiness in receiving this award. So much work by so many made for a beautiful and moving ceremony.

Most recently, an extremely interesting and engaging regular monthly meeting was held October 6th. Dr. George Yu, pulmonary specialist and President of Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society, shared a wealth of history and contributions of the Chinese in Ventura. The Doctor shared the groundbreaking work he and his colleagues performed during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Yu’s great work continues. Our work as a Society continues as well. As your new Secretary of Membership, I urge you to join with us to ensure the continuation of all the wonderful work the Society members have done. You can do this by renewing your membership or starting a new membership for a family member. Please consider a Gift Membership to a friend. It is a gift that will enlarge and enrich their life!

We have a big year ahead of us with many opportunities for all to partake and enjoy our rich heritage. There will be new programs to enhance the current ones. The Year of the Tiger will be exciting and rewarding for us all! Please check out our website www.CHSSC.org for more information. You may start or renew your membership at the website.

Many thanks to all for your continued support. I look forward to seeing and meeting you in 2022!



NOVEMBER 2021

Annual Pilgrimage to Yosemite



Chinese Laundry Dedication at Wawona



YenYen Chan & Jack Shu at ribbon cutting

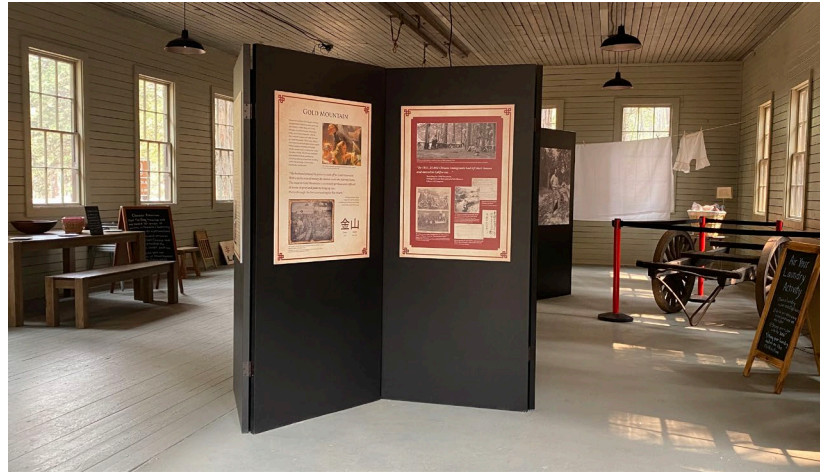


Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

NOVEMBER 2021



Principal donors Franklin & Sandra Yee





NOVEMBER 2021

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Chinese Massacre of 1871

If you had the opportunity to pass through Union Station in October, you would have seen a new temporary exhibition in the Historic Waiting Room named *Broken News* which recognized the 150th anniversary of the Chinese Massacre of 1871 in which 18 Angelenos of Chinese descent perished at the hands of an angry mob.

Broken News portrayed the deeply troubling vein of anti-Chinese sentiment in the local press in the 1800s that contributed to the massacre, which took place near Union Station.

Broken News was a co-presentation of the Chinese American Museum, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and Metro Art. The exhibit complemented other public programming on the lives lost in 1871.



El Pueblo Commission Vice President David Louie, Chinese American Museum Executive Director Michael Truong, Friends of the Chinese American Museum Board Chair Gay Q. Yuen, *Broken News* artist Adit Dhanushkodi, 1871 Steering Committee Programming co-Chair and cultural organizer Rosten Woo, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Board Member Eugene Moy and Board President Susan Dickson. Photo courtesy of the Chinese American Museum.



The Gum Saan Journal is On-line

gumsaanjournal.com

By Susie Ling

Yuanfen 缘分 or Fateful Coincidence

It is 1977. For the very first issue of Gum Saan Journal, President George Yee handwrote these words onto his yellow pad, “With the publication of this journal, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California moves another step forward.” Editor Margie Lew painstakingly typed up the feature article on Walter Lum, an early Chinese American journalist. This article was submitted by Mabel Lum Lew, Walter’s daughter.

Fast forward 44 years. Our 2021 issue of Gum Saan Journal was about another early Chinese American journalist, Charles Leong. This issue was in collaboration with Charles’ son, Russell Charles Leong. The big difference is that the 2021 GSJ was not pecked on typewriters and reproduced on mimeo machines, but compiled using cell phones, laptops, graphic software, and highspeed internet connections.

Professor Russell Leong wanted us to “move another step forward” and seeded the funds for a Gum Saan Journal website. It is now done. From day one, CHSSC wanted our loving pride of our history to be accessible. Now all 44 years of our continuous work is available to all. This is indeed “another step forward”.

FYI: already the Charles Leong issue and the World War II issue are being used as college assignments in Hong Kong and in Pasadena.

September / October Donations

In Memory of Eleanor Sue

Louie Family Foundation

In Memory of John Jung

Shirley Chu Ng and Dean Ng

In Memory of Evelyn Woo Chan

Louise Nagafuchi

In Memory of Allen King Wong and Frieda Wong

Mary Chang and family

Susan Dickson

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