

OCTOBER 2021



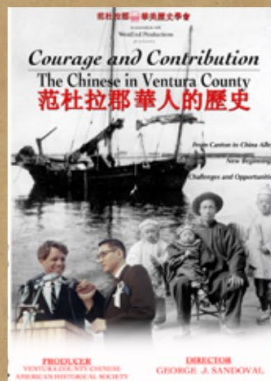
The Chinese in Ventura County

Join us for an informative discussion with Dr. George Yu, pulmonary specialist and president of the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society and learn about the history of the Chinese in Ventura County and his experiences in treating COVID 19 patients.



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

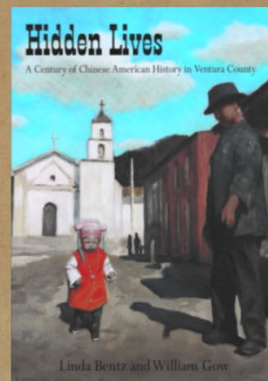
南加州華人歷史學會



Wed, Oct 6, 2021, 7pm

Free to attend.

**RSVP via Eventbrite
on the CHSSC website:
<https://chssc.org>**



CHSSC Meeting will be online on Zoom:
Program: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM
To register, go to chssc.org



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President's Letter

The focus of the September program was the exciting work being done by the five interns who worked with Will Gow and Kelly Fong. As an educational organization, providing opportunities for young people to learn about Chinese American history in Los Angeles is important. At the same time, their research is critical to our book project.

Although the Heritage and Visitors' Center remains closed to the public, our interns Justin Martin and Amanda Galvez work with our archives weekly as they complete their summer obligations. Tony Huang, a recent UCLA grad, has been volunteering at the center to help in multiple capacities.

Before the pandemic, CHSSC raised monies to make our buildings handicapped accessible, to upgrade our electrical, to install an HVAC system, and to have the houses painted. Our incremental progress includes having an architectural firm complete the drawings and a seismic upgrade that was completed within the past couple of weeks. Currently, we are waiting for the engineering company to finish the electrical and plumbing plans for the architect, who will submit the entire design set to the LA City Department of Building & Safety for plan check.

Susan Dickson

Support the ongoing research of the CHSSC. Become a sponsor of our youth internship program. Your donation will go directly to funding high school and college interns working on the society's Five Chinatowns project. This book documents the history of the Chinese American community in Los Angeles between 1875 and 1965.

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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.



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Our October Speaker, Dr. George Yu



Dr. George Yu moved to Ventura County in 1988 after completing his postgraduate medical training in Los Angeles. His specialization is in lung medicine. George is also the president of the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society (VCCAHS) which he cofounded in 2000.

He was introduced to the Ventura County Chinese American Association (VCCAA) when he was looking for a venue where his children could learn Chinese. Through the VCCAA, he met individuals who were interested in documenting and preserving the history of Chinese Americans in Ventura County.

Under his leadership, VCCAHS produced a documentary, *Courage and Contribution: The History of Chinese in Ventura County* as well as a book, *Hidden Lives: A Century of Chinese American History in Ventura County*, by Linda Bentz and Will Gow. In collaboration with the Ventura City Council, the Ventura China Alley Mural was completed in 2004 as the first memorial to honor the legacy of Chinese in Ventura County.

After seeing the first patient with COVID 19 in Ventura County in March, 2020, his focus has been on finding effective therapies to curb the pandemic.

CHSSC Receives Grant

CHSSC is excited to announce that the Louie Family Foundation has awarded us a grant to create an online exhibit that will focus on Grandview Gardens, a treasured restaurant that opened in L.A. Chinatown in 1940. Grandview Gardens was known for its old-style Cantonese dishes and contemporary setting. In 1991, after more than fifty years of operation, the restaurant closed its doors.

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) will document Grandview Gardens. Through photographs, deeds, maps, ephemera, menus, and oral histories, we will describe and illustrate the history of the establishment, its owners and importance to Chinatown. The centerpiece of the project will feature two large murals painted, specifically for Grandview Gardens, by renowned artist Tyrus Wong. The exhibit will showcase the murals, which were donated to CHSSC by Irvin Lai after Grandview Gardens closed. The murals are composed of a total of seventeen 2 ft. X 4 1/2 ft. panels. The murals were last displayed at Olvera Street in 1993 and have never been photographed.

The Society will collaborate with Kim Wong, Tyrus' daughter, who will provide photographs, narrative, and preliminary sketches of the murals. Ms. Wong will ensure the authenticity of the research, and the final product will honor her father and his artistic accomplishments. To share the project with the public, an interactive exhibit about Grandview Gardens will be uploaded to the CHSSC website.



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Meet Our Collections Manager

by Coryn Hardison



My name is Coryn Hardison, and I am proud to be working as CHSSC's new Collections Manager for our archives, physical library, and digital library. Since June, I have been working with CHSSC to help create standards and ensure better access to our collections. I recently graduated from UCLA's Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program, where I focused much of my research and hands-on experience cultivating my passion for community-based archives. This is why I am excited to continue my work at CHSSC and help preserve and share Chinese American history.

So far, a lot of my work has been involved with efforts to give our collections a greater online presence. This includes putting up finding aids of our collections on Online Archive of California so that researchers can get a better idea of what kinds of materials we have at the archives. We have also been working on creating digital exhibits, allowing us to share the rich histories within our collections with people beyond a physical space.

To help streamline these initiatives, I have also been working on creating and updating some of CHSSC's policies. As a collecting institution, we often have to confront several questions: How do we decide what to collect? How should we describe our materials? What rules should we have for people who want to come in and look at our collections? Creating standards to answer these questions helps us be consistent and better manage the intake and use of records in our archives.

Even though these are my main duties, my role as Collections Manager has also allowed me to help with other tasks according to CHSSC's needs. For example, I've had the opportunity to train and supervise two wonderful interns, communicate with patrons who want to see, and work with our collections, and serve as a liaison to other libraries and archives.

The ultimate goal of my work is to make sure that our collections are as accessible as possible to researchers, community members, or anyone else who has an interest in the histories that are held within CHSSC's archives. Greater access, especially online, makes it possible for more people to see and learn from our materials without the limitations of a physical space. Through these initiatives, we hope to build awareness of our important historical collections for new audiences.



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Summer Walking Tours

A group of LAUSD educational leaders organized by Andrea Purcell (left) took in a full Chinatown walking tour in July, led by board member Eugene Moy. Eugene also conducted tours in June for Kevin Chow and LAUSD educational administrators, and two tours in August, one for Cal Poly Pomona Professor Elaine Kwong and her Advanced Architecture Studio class, and another for Chinatown Service Center department managers.

National Geographic Photographer at CHSSC

Philip Cheung, photographer for National Geographic, is working on a project, *The Central Pacific*, which explores the history of Chinese migrant laborers employed at the Central Pacific Railroad (CPRR). He is photographing the 690 miles of track between Sacramento, California, and Promontory, Utah, so that he will have a complete portrait series of descendants of the Chinese railroad workers, and document historical artifacts in an effort to examine the contemporary landscape, revisit the railroad's history, and draw focus on the involvement of the Chinese migrant workers, whose contributions to the CPRR made possible the creation of The First Transcontinental Railroad.



Philip Cheung with our railroad collection



Clean Up Day

Caitlin Bryant, Cindy Fong, and Linda Bentz participated in a summer cleaning of our archives. Thanks for all your hard work.



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Happy Birthday, Margie Lew



Margie Lew celebrates her 100th birthday with 4 pounds of chocolate given by See's Candies. (September 17, 2021)

- CHSSC Charter Member
- First editor of the New 'N Notes
- First editor of the *Gum Saan Journal*
- First secretary of the CHSSC board

In Remembrance of Allen King Wong July 29, 1931-August 7, 2021



Allen King Wong with Frieda Ching Wong

CHSSC Charter Member Dr. Allen Wong recently passed following the death of his wife, Frieda, the previous year. Year after year, Allen and Frieda joined us at our monthly meetings at Castelar School. Allen often brought his camera, taking pictures of speakers as well as friends.

Allen, who was born in China, moved to San Francisco with his mother, before moving to Los Angeles when he was nearly 11. Every day he worked at his family grocery store in Compton while he attended LA Trade Tech, LACC, UCLA, and USC. Ultimately, Allen became a Board-Certified Orthodontist.

Allen and Frieda, who was from Seattle, met on one of her summer visits to Los Angeles and were married 6 months later. They enjoyed travel, dance, and raising their six children. Allen and Frieda were active members of the True Light Presbyterian Church.

Allen was committed to the community. Allen served as the President and the Youth Chairman of the San Gabriel Valley Chinese Cultural Association and President of the Chinatown Service Center.



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August / September Donations

In Memory of Evelyn Woo Chan

David and Susan Chan

Barbara Fleeman

William and Susan Hasegawa

Reiko and Vance Ikkanda

Louise Nagafuchi

Mae Quon

Sandy Shao and family

George Yee

In Memory of Dr. Allen Wong

Suellen Cheng Kwok and Munson Kwok

In Memory of John Jung

Anna Gee

Donation

Eleanor Wong Telamaque

Request for Information on East Adams

Dr. William Gow and Dr. Kelly Fong moderated the September program: “The Five Chinatowns: A Community History.” Five of our summer interns, Chloe Chow, Alyssa Hemler, Josephine Ong, Ashley Shan, and Riona Tsai, explained their participation in our Community History Internship Program. Their work is part of an on-going effort to research Chinese American history in Los Angeles.

Dr. Gow expressed the need for community help for our research into the five Chinatowns — Old Chinatown, New Chinatown, Chinatown, China City, City Market, and East Adams.

- Do you know someone who resided or worked in the China City, City Market, or the East Adams neighborhood prior to 1965 who would be willing to share their experiences in an interview?
- Do you have photos of life in the five Chinatowns that we could scan?
- Do you have a copy of the DVD made from the interviews conducted in Cerritos in October 2009 during the “Heritage of Faith Reunion” of people who had gone to the “True Light” historically was known as “Chinese Presbyterian Church”.

If you can help, please email us at info@chssc.org.



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 Events

The China Society of Southern California

Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Ink Dreams--Selections from the Fondation INK

Susanna Ferrell, the curator of the new LACMA exhibit "Ink Dreams--Selections from the Fondation INK" will Zoom guide us through this first presentation of works from the promised gift of the Fondation INK to LACMA. Stephen Little's talk last month included a short introduction to this gift of 400 art works and how LACMA was chosen as the recipient of the collection. It was like an enticing trailer to a blockbuster movie starring Susanna Ferrell who gave us a great performance in the Allure of Matter talk two years ago.

Here is the Zoom RSVP link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/91512345678>