

SEPTEMBER 2021

Chinatown Conversations: The Five Chinatowns: A Community History



William Gow, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Asian American Studies
Department
California State University
Sacramento



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Join us to find out about the newly established
CHSSC project to document the history of five historic
Chinese American neighborhoods in Los Angeles.
Presentation led by Dr. Will Gow & Dr. Kelly Fong.



Kelly N. Fong, Ph.D.
Lecturer
Asian American Studies
Department
University of California,
Los Angeles

Wed, Sept 1, 2021, 7pm

Moderated by Dr. Will Gow & Dr. Kelly Fong.
Free to attend. Program will be recorded.
RSVP via Eventbrite on the CHSSC website:
<https://chssc.org>



Chloe Chow
Stanford



Alyssa Hemler
UCLA



Josephine Ong
UCLA



Ashley Shan
Greenhill High



Riona Tait
U.C. Riverside

CHSSC Meeting will be online on Zoom:

Program: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM

To register, go to chssc.org



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President's Letter

On September 1st, CHSSC will welcome two new board members: Ricky and Grace Leo. Since no nominations to the board were received, the slate recommended by the board will be seated at the September board meeting. The Board of Directors will have two vacancies. I want to thank John Chan, who is leaving the board, for his years of service.

Although our Heritage and Visitors' Center remains closed to the general public, CHSSC has opened for researchers, our new collection manager, and interns. CHSSC has hosted two people interested in our collections. In July, University of Minnesota student Gengwu Wang, worked with our Sam Chang collection. Also, Phillip Cheung, a photographer working with the National Geographic, spent two days with our Chinese Railroad worker camp collections. In addition, Natalie Zhang, UCLA grad student in art history, came with questions regarding the marketing of Chinatown as represented by architecture, food offerings, personalities, and advertising. Ashanti Shih, a post doc fellow at Wellesley, sought background on the relationship between Old Chinatown, the L.A. River, and market gardening. Lastly, Tony Huang, a UCLA anthropology grad, has been volunteering time to help with archival sorting and assisting with a walking tour. I must give a special thank you to the volunteers who have opened up the buildings for these visitors: Linda Bentz, Eugene Moy, Cindy Fong.

To ready the Center for this partial opening, an anonymous donor paid for the houses to be cleaned. Two weeks later, a small group of board members met to begin the task of cleaning the archives.

Sadly, this summer has seen the passing of several people who have strong connections to CHSSC and the Chinatown community. It is heart-warming that so many people have chosen to honor their memory by donating to CHSSC.

Please join us for our Fall season of virtual programs.

Susan Dickson

Consider supporting CHSSC when you order on Amazon by using the link: <https://smile.amazon.com>. If you would like to change your existing charity, visit <https://smile.amazon.com/change> and search for Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Susan Dickson, President
Ricky Leo, Vice President
Gordon Hom, Vice President,
Programs
Cindy Fong, Secretary
Franklin Mah, Treasurer
Angelica Lancaster, Membership
Secretary

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Linda Bentz
Caitlin Bryant
Laureen Hom
Bak Jong
Grace Leo
Felicia Tabing
Howard Wang

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 Community History Internship Program

The CHSSC is excited to have five interns working us in our ten-week community history internship program. Our interns have been learning the basics of oral history methodology while getting hands-on practice doing community history. In the process, all participants are helping the CHSSC to document the history of the five Chinatowns of Los Angeles--Old Chinatown, New Chinatown, China City, City Market, and East Adams--in the period before the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act. Work includes clearing oral history transcripts for inclusion in the CHSSC archive; preparing edited versions of the oral history transcripts for possible publication on the CHSSC website or for inclusion in the CHSSC's future Five Chinatowns book project; and conducting oral history interviews with community elders. The internship will culminate in a presentation by the interns at our September monthly meeting. Mark your calendars!

This summer our interns are overseen by Dr. William Gow. Will is in his seventeenth year as a CHSSC volunteer. A former board member and long-time member of the CHSSC, he is excited to be starting a new position as an assistant professor in the Ethnic Studies Department at Sacramento State later this month.



Dr. William Gow is a former CHSSC vice president who has been a member since 2004. He co-produced CHSSC's *Revisiting East Adams* documentary and ran the CHSSC Chinatown Remembered project. He is currently an assistant professor of Asian American Studies at CSU Sacramento.



Dr. Kelly N. Fong is a lecturer in Asian American Studies at UCLA. She has been involved with CHSSC since 2005 where she served as a board member, membership secretary, and on various committees.

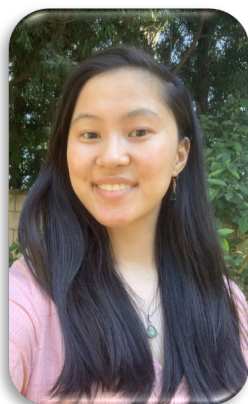


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CHSSC Interns



Chloe Chow is a third-year student at Stanford University majoring in Theater and Communication with a minor in Asian American Studies. Although she was born in sunny San Diego, she grew up outside of Seattle where she became well acquainted with the diverse communities of the Pacific Northwest. Chloe is extremely passionate about creating identity-conscious performance art with an emphasis on history and its social aesthetics. She currently serves as the Artistic Director of the Asian American Theater Project (AATP), a student organization elevating Asian American artists in the theater landscape. Beyond her work in the performance realm, Chloe loves writing, web design, crocheting, and spending time with her family.



Alyssa Hemler is a transfer, a fourth-year, and English and Asian American Studies Double Major at the University of California, Los Angeles. Born in Guangzhou, China, she grew up in Covina and Claremont after being adopted. Alyssa is incredibly interested in Asian and Asian American literature as well as Asian and Asian American representation in literature with a special interest in how it contributes to and affects the perception of these communities. Beyond academics, she is the Chief of Staff: Student Affairs for the USAC Transfer Student Representative's Office, an undergraduate student representative on the University Committee on Disability, and a Facilitator for UCLA's Student Engagement Workgroup. Outside of school, she enjoys visiting Asian American historical sites.



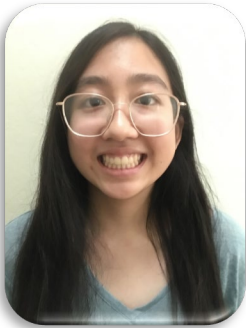
Josephine Ong (she/her/hers) is a Ph.D. student in Gender Studies at UCLA and a Chinese-Filipino activist-scholar that grew up in Guåhan/Guam. As a recent graduate of UCLA's Asian American Studies Masters program, Josephine published a Masters thesis about the Filipino revolutionary hero Apolinario Mabini's incarceration in Guåhan. Currently, Josephine is working on a project about Chamorro-Filipino feminist solidarities and activist histories that untangle global and carceral articulations of U.S. empire. With regards to her community work, Josephine has been an active member of Independent Guåhan's Research Committee and is a founding member of Filipinos for Guåhan.



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Ashley Shan is a rising high school senior at Greenhill School in Dallas, Texas. Through acquainting herself with Chinatowns all over the world, beginning with weekly visits to her local Chinatown and culminating in research conducted in New York City's Chinese enclave, she's developed a deep appreciation for exploring, preserving, and sharing the history that lies within such communities. She serves as her school's East Asian Affinity Group President, Student Culture Committee Founder and President, a member of the USA Debate team, a research assistant at the AAPI COVID-19 Project, as well as a recipient of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations. Ashley is interested in pursuing anthropology, sociology, and Asian American studies in the future, and enjoys photography and crocheting hats for her two cats in her spare time.



Riona Tsai is a second-year UC Riverside undergraduate student majoring in both Media & Cultural Studies and History. She was born and raised in the Bay Area and currently resides in Cupertino, where she lives with her family, including her parents and two brothers. She began interning for CHSSC in her first year at UCR during the spring quarter of 2021 and has been doing work on the City Market Chinatown, including going over different sources and cataloging data. Riona is very passionate about movies and film history, especially relating to old Golden Age Hollywood movies. Outside of school in her free time, she enjoys watching movies, reading, exploring places with friends, and watching Chinese movies with her dad. She also enjoys spending time volunteering at the American Cancer Discovery Shop and for the local San José Public Library.



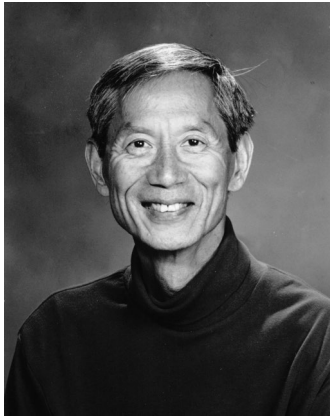
Amanda Galvez is currently pursuing her Master of Library & Information Science at San Jose State University through their online program, intersecting interests of special collections and rare books, academic instruction, and archives. She received her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and a Minor in Sustainability from California State University- Northridge, and has previously interned at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in the Photographic Services Department. She is passionate about community, the humanities, and preserving stories, histories, and culture. Aside from her studies, she works as a flower farmer and forest school educator.



Justin Martin is an independent archivist based in Los Angeles, California. He received a Bachelor's degree in Asian American Studies with a double-minor in Education and Labor Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. He has previously worked as a production assistant on the five-part documentary PBS series Asian Americans. He is passionate about archival ethics and its role in understanding how public and private archives can better care for sensitive and at-risk material. Justin is interested in pursuing a Master's in Library and Information Science in the future, and enjoys collecting fountain pens, embroidering, and repairing film cameras.



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In Remembrance of John Jung

Historian, Author, Lecturer, Friend

April 2, 1937 - July 26, 2021

By Jeff Jung

My father's path took him from Macon, Georgia to San Francisco and Berkeley, and from Chicago to Toronto and True Love, and thence to Orange Country where he dug in and stayed to the end, living his last moments just footsteps from the home that he was so fiercely determined to remain in. He devoted himself wholeheartedly to his University (California State University at Long Beach) and to the cause of education. He raised two children, found a new career in his 70's through his dedication to learning more about his mother and ancestry, and inspired countless people to realize that a life post-retirement can be productive and intellectually and socially fulfilling, showing people how to tell their own stories, and demonstrating just how much can be survived.



In Remembrance of Evelyn Woo Chan

January 4, 1929 – May 28, 2021

by Son Steven Chan

Evelyn was born in Southern California during the late 1920s to an migrant family of farm workers. Her generation endured great hardships and sacrifices in order to survive. She was very proud of her Chinese (Hoisan) heritage and traditions. Her love of our Chinese culture was passed on to her children and subsequent generations.

It is in that vein of Cultural Pride and appreciation of our Heritage that we want to support CHSSC's effort to preserve the stories of our people and chronicle the History—as we acknowledge those whose shoulders we stand upon and for whom, we have achieved the American Dream.

Both Evelyn and her late husband, Daniel Dongfour Chan, were actively involved in many activities of Los Angeles Chinatown, including the Guardsmen and spouses; the annual Chinatown Chinese New Year Celebrations, the Chinatown Library, and the Historical Society.

When Daniel passed 20 years ago, donations were also made to CHSSC as we are doing in loving memory of Evelyn.



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Donations

In Memory of Evelyn Woo Chan

Ms. Rayney Arnold

*Sheree Chan In loving memory of her mother,
Evelyn Woo Chan*

Steven and Suzanne Chan

William and Darlene Chin

Fredrick Daguiar

Keith and Lorraine Fudenna

Bruce and Pam Gilevich

Keith Greenwood

Dale and Deborah Ikeda

Sharon Inada & Mrs. Jean Inada

Anne Ito

Jennie Jing

Kathryn Kwok

Eleanor Lee

Benjamin C. Leung

Kwai Kong Leung family

The Low & Ishihara Families

Martin & Bonnie Mayeda;

Leonard & Jennifer Tjoakro;

Scott Mayeda &

Alice Huang; Edward Mayeda

Kendall and Lianne Marr

Eugene Moy

Tamara Wong Nishimoto

Miles Tatsumi

Leslie & Roosevelt Trammel & Family

In Memory of Evelyn Woo Chan

Norm and Kathy Wat

*The Woo family: Carol Lawson,
Chuck Woo, Linda Yoshioka, Nora Wong,
Judy Huffaker, and families*

Chris and Lonnie Woo

Mildred Woo; Craig and Lily and family

*Phillip & Holly Woo, Cynthia Woo,
and Jean F. Woo*

Edmond Yee

Frank and Katie Yan

In Memory of Eugene Hoy

Vicky and Eric Young

In Memory of John Jung

Susan Dickson

Lou Quan

Helen Quon

In Memory of Winifred Lee

Meredith W. Scott

In Memory of Eleanor Sue

Gregory Sue

In Memory of Edna Young

Darryl and Helen Quon

Donations

Judy Lee

Nelson and Chi-Min Wang



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

China Society of Southern California

Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. PDT

Art & Conversation: Qiu Anxiong in Legacies of Exchange

Join artist Qiu Anxiong and LACMA curator Susanna Ferrell as they discuss Qiu's poignant work *The Doubter* in the exhibition *Legacies of Exchange: Chinese Contemporary Art from the Yuz Foundation*. They will delve into ideas of reinterpretation and cross-cultural exchange in the artist's practice.

Qiu Anxiong was born in Chengdu, China, in 1972, and now lives and works in Shanghai. He graduated from Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts in 1994, later moving to Germany to study art at the University of Kassel's College of Art, graduating in 2003. He works across media, creating animation, painting, and installation alike, often centered around the relationships between humans, animals, and the environment. His pieces have been collected by major museums worldwide, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, MoMA, Kunst Haus Zurich, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, and the Hong Kong Museum of Art.

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dO6fU4SvT_ibsu6alWBrFw