

APRIL 2022



The Qingming Festival and Respecting the Ancestors

From South China to the American West the tradition of respecting the ancestors was carried out during the Qingming (Bright and Clear) Festival during which time the ancestors are remembered, the tomb is swept, and food offerings are made.

**Join us in this presentation by
Professor Emerita Sue Fawn Chung**

Wednesday, Apr 6, 2022, 7pm

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

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



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Reflections from the President

Success is...

- Receiving two 2021 grants: Cathay Bank Foundation; Louie Family Foundation.
- Starting a *Gum Saan Journal* website that makes 45 years of journals available online.
- Hiring our first Collections Manager.
- Opening of a new exhibit in a former Chinese Laundry in Yosemite that focuses on the Chinese pioneers who helped develop Yosemite National Park (Fall 2021).
- Conducting a ten-week community history internship program that focused on the basics of oral history methodology while getting hands-on practice of doing community history. The five interns were overseen by Dr. William Gow of Sacramento State and Dr. Kelly N. Fong of UCLA. (summer 2021).
- Receiving 53 applications from all parts of the U.S. for the 2022 summer internship program. According to Dr. Gow, “it really shows that there is a demand for this type of internship—Asian American History/community engagement—and we are one of the only nonprofits nationally doing this.”
- Revamping our website to make our archives more available online.
- Receiving significant book donations for our research library from John Jung and Paul Chace.
- Receiving personal historical collections for our archives from Munson Kwok and Tom McDannold.

Researching Chinese American history and making it available to the public remains a focus of our organization. Many recent CHSSC Zoom programs can be viewed on our YouTube channel. Just type “CHSSC YouTube in your browser. Progress has been made these past 14 months through the sustained efforts of committed individuals with a shared vision.

Susan Dickson

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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 April Program

“The Qingming Festival and Respecting the Ancestors”

From South China to the American West the tradition of respecting the ancestors was carried out during the Qingming (Bright and Clear) Festival during which time the ancestors are remembered, the tomb is swept, and food offerings are made. The fourth century B.C. philosopher, Confucius, stressed the importance of performing the proper rituals. The preparation of the body for burial, the funeral procession, the burial itself, and the banquet were all part of the prescribed activities. Join us in this presentation by Professor Emerita Sue Fawn Chung on the Qingming Festival and respecting the ancestors from the distant past to the present on Wednesday, April 6th at 7 p.m. (PT).



Sue Fawn Chung was born, raised, and educated in Los Angeles. Her mother, Jane Chung, was an officer in the China Society of Southern California and her father, Walter Chung, was an early supporter of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. She received her doctorate from UC Berkeley in Asian History, Asian American History, and Chinese Art History. She taught for almost forty years at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She is currently writing a book on Chinese railroad labor contractors in the American West in the late 19th century.

Yenyen Chan Recognition



National Park Ranger, Yenyen Chan, was featured on the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) website as one of fourteen trailblazing women of the National Park service.

CHSSC has been working with NPCA to make the accomplishments of Chinese Americans in the development of Yosemite National Park known. She discussed this history in our February program.

February program link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSdIczl7SZo>

NPCA article honoring Yenyen:

<https://www.npca.org/articles/3077-trailblazers-women-who-broke-the-green-ceiling>



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CHSSC Digital Archives Presented to Donors

By Linda Bentz

The CHSSC Digital Archives was launched via our website the first week of March! To thank anonymous donors who made the Digital Archives a reality, a presentation was conducted at our Chinatown Heritage Center on March 3, 2022. CHSSC technology specialist Aaron Hernandez explained the technology for the servers used to power the system, and features of high-speed internet. Collection manager Coryn Hardison and digital archives specialist David Castro described software used to display the digital assets. Newly created digital exhibits were presented by interns Anne Olivares and Amanda Galvez.



Our digital kiosk was purchased as part of our new multimedia center at CHSSC.

CHSSC is extremely grateful to the Digital Archives donors. Their contributions help us to preserve and provide access to CHSSC digital collections. Our Digital Archives is available 24/7 and provides facilities and services to support research, teaching, learning, and scholarly communications across disciplines. Please visit the Digital Archives at chssc.org.



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ICW tour of Chinatown

By Eugene Moy



Eugene Moy and William Deverell of USC and ICW discuss New Chinatown at CHSSC.

Institute of California and the West (ICW), which is a collaboration between USC and The Huntington Library, focuses on the history and culture of the American West. Nearly three years ago William Deverell of ICW contacted CHSSC to consult on their recent project about Old Chinatown. From the beginning, Dr. Deverell and his ICW colleagues recognized that the CHSSC would be a key resource to understanding the transition of the historic community from Old to New Chinatown.

Earlier this month members of the ICW team visited Chinatown to observe the connections between the businesses and families of Old Chinatown and New Chinatown. After an extensive interview with Eugene

Moy, the group toured Chinatown with Gene. The Peter Soo Hoo family met with the visitors at their business property on Hill Street.



Members of ICW, CHSSC interns, and Eugene Moy meet with the Peter Soo Hoo family in L.A. Chinatown during a walking tour.



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Tom McDannold Donates California Chinese Heritage Files

By Coryn Hardison

CHSSC Archives is grateful to Tom McDannold for his generous donation of files from his California Chinese Heritage website, <https://www.californiaschineseheritage.com>. Since these files have been donated to us in digitized form, we are excited to integrate them into our ongoing digital archives initiative.

This site offers a comprehensive look into over 1100 Chinese American historical places in California through a variety of media. Text-based descriptions detail the highlights of each place or community within each region of California, and which includes all 58 counties in the state. Maps provide geographic locations or coordinates to historical sites and community organizations, and its vast array of photographs allows us to see these same places captured over different periods of time.

We hope to both preserve and give access to these fascinating materials by creating an online exhibit that maps out each region and describes their histories. That way, researchers, community members, and all interested patrons can learn more about the breadth of Chinese American communities across California.

Thomas A. McDannold is a retired professor who taught geography and environmental sciences at Ventura College in Ventura CA. He served several terms on the CHSSC board of directors, including as president in 1991-1992. His book, *California's Chinese Heritage: A Legacy of Places*, was published in 2000.

Derek Chew, 2011 CHSSC Golden Spike Awardee

June 2, 1951 – January 14, 2022



Derek, better known as “Rick”, was born in Los Angeles and spent his childhood in Chinatown. He attended Castelar Elementary School and worked at K.G. Louie, his family’s store. K.G. Louie, one of the original businesses of New Chinatown, was opened in 1938 by his grandfather. After getting his AA in liberal arts from East Los Angeles Junior College, he was hired by Southern Pacific Railroad and became their first Chinese American engineer. In 1976, he became the first Chinese American fireman on the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

Rick was recognized by CHSSC at the 2011 Golden Spike Dinner Awards ceremony honoring Chinese American Pioneers. He inspired many because of his generosity, his sense of adventure, and his joy of life.



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Behind the Scenes at CHSSC in March



Yenyen Chan visited CHSSC to obtain objects from our archives for the exhibit in Yosemite.



Former president J.W. Wong aids our committee with the mailing of the March News 'N Notes during his visit.



Randel Urbauer, photographer, and Kim Wong, daughter of Tyrus, take the Tyrus Wong mural panels so that they can be professionally photographed for the up-coming online exhibit about Grandview Gardens Restaurant.

March Donations

In Memory of Doris Chow Yip

Dorothy Schoon

Vicki and Eric Young

Donations

Dean Ng and Shirley Chu Ng

Susan Go

Dolly Gee

Major Donors

Dennis Arguelles NPCA

Willard Wong, Superior Poultry

*Grace Toy: In appreciation of
"your wonderful programs,
often hosted by Eugene Moy."*



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Website: www.chssc.org

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Future Program Speakers

May 4, 2022 **Gordon H. Chang**, Olive H. Palmer Professor in Humanities and Professor of History,
Stanford University
Topic: A historical overview of “Anti-Asian Violence and America-China Relations”