

JANUARY 2022

January Monthly Meeting

Connecting the Dots of a Chinese American Family



Lorraine Dong, Professor in the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University and President of the Square and Circle Club, will share the results of her 45-year journey to connect the dots of her family's history.

Wed, Jan 5, 2022, 7pm

Free to attend. RSVP via Eventbrite

on the CHSSC website:

<https://chssc.org>



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會



Lorraine Dong self-published her family's history in 1976 as a Christmas present only for the eyes of her family. Six years later, she wrote a narration for her brother, Arthur Dong, who was finishing his senior film project that was based on their mother's life. In 1984, that film, *Sewing Woman*, became the first Asian American film to be nominated for an Oscar®; it was in the category of Best Short Documentary.

It took another thirty-five years before Lorraine returned to her family history when the Square and Circle Club embarked on two service projects. One was to share their family histories for the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation's "Immigrant Voices" website. The other was to share their families' World War II veteran stories when Chinese American WWII veterans received the Congressional Gold Medal.

Lorraine Dong was born and raised in San Francisco Chinatown. She attended her local American and Chinese schools, including San Francisco State, until she ventured beyond to earn her PhD at the University of Washington in Seattle where she majored in Chinese language and literature. Lorraine's current research is Asian American children's literature, specifically picture books.

CHSSC Meeting will be online on Zoom:

Program: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7:00 PM

To register, go to chssc.org



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President's Letter

As we greet 2022, we must pause to remember those from our community who have died during the past year. Part of the CHSSC mission is to honor those who have been part of the fabric of America. To that end, our monthly newsletter profiles these members of the CHSSC family so that their stories will be preserved. Their friends and family members pay their respects by generously donating money to CHSSC in memory of those who have passed.

The first challenge of the new year involves CHSSC membership: attracting new members as well as encouraging renewals. I am often asked, "What is the difference between the levels of membership?" The basic level of membership is Silver. The Student and Senior levels are discounted memberships. The 100 X 100 membership and Diamond membership levels represent higher financial support of CHSSC. All members receive the annual *Gum Saan Journal* and the monthly newsletter. Membership is part of our outreach to the wider community. Please support CHSSC by joining or renewing now.

Another way to help CHSSC is by volunteering. As we find out from Linda Bentz's article this month, NARA needs your help with the Chinese immigration files. Personally, I don't know how to access the records in order to help them. If there are those among you who would be willing to learn how to help them, CHSSC would like to have a Zoom training session to teach everyone. Please contact CHSSC at info@chssc.org if you are interested. Our goal is to aid NARA make these immigration files accessible to everyone.

Susan Dickson

Please renew your membership to CHSSC or join us in 2022. We need your support to continue our efforts to pursue, preserve, and promote our Chinese and Chinese American history and heritage in Southern California.

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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.



Resisting Racism: We Are in This Together

By Susie Ling, Editor, Gum Saan Journal

2021 was the 150th commemoration of the Los Angeles Chinese Massacre, perhaps the most gruesome mass murders of California history. 2022 will be the fiftieth anniversary of Vincent Chin's murder in Detroit. One of the perpetrators, Ronald Ebens, is now 82 and living in Henderson, Nevada. And 2021 was the year we witnessed the anti-Asian hate surge including the Atlanta spa killings.

Gum Saan Journal 2022 is dedicated to decoding anti-Asian hate. It is not our fondest issue; it was forced upon us. We met the call by going to some of our community leaders and friends to help translate what is happening. In this issue, Florante Ibanez of FANHS (Filipino American National Historical Society) told of how he was a victim of a senseless smack while riding the Metro. Marshall Wong and Prince Bhojwani remind us that one of the worst anti-Asian hate surges was after 9-11 and targeting South Asians. Amy Wong and Ricky and Grace Leo tell about how they organized community rallies in the San Gabriel Valley (SGV) and in Ventura. Gay Yuen and the Chinese American Museum doubled their efforts to bring awareness to the 1871 Chinese Massacre.

Rick Eng of C.A.C.A. analyzed the impact of prejudicial phrases like "Wuhan virus" and "Kung Flu". Actually, I used to be very proud that my gonggong was from Wuhan, Hubei. Rick reminds us that Asians were previously blamed for "Asiatic cholera", "Asian flu", "Hong Kong flu", and even "Asian citrus psyllid or Huanglongbing (HLB)".

Thanks to the nudging from Professor Russell Leong, this issue – and all issues - of Gum Saan Journal are free and accessible on our website: gumsaanjournal.com. We want Atlanta to read this. We want youth to read this. Please help us spread the word.

The National Archives Needs Our Help

By Linda Bentz



CHSSC has been in partnership with the National Archives Riverside branch (NARA) for several years to digitize Chinese Exclusion Act Case files. They are now seeking volunteers to help with another aspect of the project. NARA has compiled a list of individuals and they need help to determine if these people have passed away. Once the status of these individuals has been identified, their records may be open for research. If you are good with genealogy NARA would welcome your assistance. If you would like to participate in this project, please contact Linda Bentz at info@chssc.org.



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Congressional Gold Medal Presentation

On December 11th, fourteen families of Chinese American WWII veterans received bronze replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal at the C.A.C.A. Los Angeles Lodge. These veteran families had been among the over two hundred who had made reservations for the presentation ceremonies held over the Nov. 13-14 weekend at the First Chinese Baptist Church in Chinatown and at the VFW Museum of Military History in Simi Valley, but for last minute scheduling reasons were not able to attend. A "makeup" presentation session was scheduled at the headquarters of the Los Angeles Chinese American Citizens Alliance by coordinators Wenli Jen, Ryan Hopkins, and Marjorie Lee. Attending on Dec. 11 were three long time CHSSC members whose late husbands were all World War II veterans: Rose Marie Lee (John B. Lee, Army), Margie Lew (Albert Lew, Navy), and Joyce Mar (Wing Mar, Army). We salute and thank all veterans for their service to America.



Left to right: Lorraine (Lani) Yee, Rose Marie Lee, Captain Kelly Chan USN, Margie Lew, Joyce Mar



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Meet Our New Intern - Anne Olivares



Anne Olivares (she/her) is a Southern California native, born and raised in the Inland Empire. Anne worked in the custom artwork framing field for over a decade before completing her Bachelor of Arts in Art History at UCLA in 2020, and will complete her Masters in Library and Information Science at UCLA in 2022 with a focus in archiving. Anne, who is a part of the UCLA Community Archives / Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Internship Program for the 2021–2022, was hired to work with CHSSC. Anne aspires to work as an archivist in community-based and personal archives following graduation.

John Jung and Paul Chace Libraries

By Linda Bentz

We are pleased to announce that CHSSC is the recipient of two libraries from esteemed members John Jung and Paul Chace. The libraries contain books, magazines, journals, student papers, theses, and archaeological reports. Some of the books and journals are out of print or difficult to find. We are extremely grateful to John Jung's family and Paul Chace for donating these important libraries.

Interns are in the process of sorting, cataloging, and shelving the new libraries. All library materials at CHSSC are for reference use only. If you would like to visit our library, please contact Linda Bentz at info@chssc.org to make an appointment.



Volunteers who helped move the Paul Chace collection, left to right: Eugene Moy, Mary Moy, Howard Wang, Ricky Leo, Grace Leo, Susan Sing, Gordon Hom



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Rose Ping Wong Hom (1954-2021)



On November 21, 2021 CHSSC lost a member of our family, Rose Ping Wong Hom, spouse of Gordon Hom for 45 years. Rose was born In Los Angeles on March 28, 1954, to parents Jim Sheow Wong (US WWII veteran) and Chui King Wong, as were her 2 older brothers Martin and Wesley. She graduated from Montebello High School and USC School of Pharmacy.

She was a Director of Pharmacy for Cigna Health, Ross-Loos Medical Group, and Friendly Hills Medical Center and went on to retire as a Senior Director at United Heal Group. As an Asian American woman in upper professional management, she helped and encouraged many aspiring healthcare service professionals. When their sons, Kevin and Michael, were at Cerritos High School, Rose lent her invaluable organizational skills and “mom” skills to the marching band. In fact, the Hom kitchen

was known as a source of great generosity and deliciousness.

She especially enjoyed travelling to Japan, Hawaii, Disney World, Toronto, New Orleans, New York, Las Vegas, amongst other places. More importantly, Aunt Rose deeply treasured her family which blossomed to include 2 nephews, 3 nieces, 2 grandnephews, and 3 grandnieces. Her quiet compassion, intelligence, and spirit of community service will be missed by so many.

19th Century Chinese Shrine in Evergreen Cemetery

The floral wreath exhibited at the 150th anniversary commemoration of the 1871 Chinese Massacre held at the Chinese American Museum on October 24 was transported the next day to the shrine, owned and maintained by CHSSC, at Evergreen Cemetery in Boyle Heights.



The potter's field at Evergreen may have been the final resting place of some of the massacre victims.



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December Donations

In Memory of Eleanor Sue

Tennyson Kwok

In Memory of Mary Yee Kwok

Munson Kwok and Suellen Kwok

Sylvia Soo Hoo

Susan Dickson

In Memory of Elise (Elsie) Inase

Tennyson Kwok

Judy Sai

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Susie Ling

Family of Frieda & Allen Wong

Nancy Wong



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
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