

JUNE 2023

JUNE PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 7-8pm



Jessica Chew

During the 19th century, Jessica Chew's home village of Fow Shek, also known as Floating Stone Village in Guangdong Province, China, encouraged overseas travel. Jessica will be sharing with us the murals that emphasized the importance of "Reform for a New World" in her home village. She will also explore the Chew family's journey to America in 1865, when Bo Do Hong established his headquarters in Red Bluff, California.



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



President's message

Celebrating Our Heritage(s) and Planning Our Future

As you read this, there may still be a week or ten days left in May and time to catch activities for the last part of Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. May always starts with May 1st activities, marking folk traditions celebrating the return of spring, to the beginnings of worldwide labor and social movements. Many Chinese American family trajectories have been affected by the continuing political legacy of the May Fourth Movement in China. In L.A., May 6th is also the anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, for which there has been much analysis, discussion, and action taken to recognize the impacts of Exclusion in public agendas and in educational curricula. Many of us journeyed to Promontory Summit in Utah four years ago to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the driving of the Golden Spike on May 10, 1869 and the achievements of thousands of Chinese railroad workers. Closer to the present, the U.S. Supreme Court released its decision on *Brown v. Board of Education* on May 17, 1954, an important event in our civil rights history which impacted our local schools. We also honor our fallen veterans every May, a tradition for more than a century.

Of course, celebrating or mourning shouldn't be just an annual exercise. Our personal missions should be to learn from our history and to improve society and humankind. An upcoming discussion that I hope you can take in is a free virtual program on May 24th sponsored by AARP (May is also Older Americans Month!). Entitled *Our Voices Now: A Black and Asian Dialogue to Action*, it features our Paula Madison, board member of the Chinese American Museum and Coalition for a Better L.A., with two other speakers on a panel moderated by news anchor Richard Lui. Register at <https://local.aarp.org/aarp-event/our-voices-now-a-black-and-asian-dialogue-to-action-2kn9vw8lvzp.html>.

Lastly, one cannot overlook one of the most important days of the year, Mother's Day, on the second Sunday of May. Mothers nurture and guide us; I am who I am largely because of my mother. Unquestionably, May is the most important month of the year for us.

Eugene Moy

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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.



JUNE 2023

June Program

Jessica Chew will take us on a fascinating journey through the history of the last steamboat stop during the gold rush called the Head of Navigation in Red Bluff, California and the Chew family, one of five original families to settle there. Discover their lineage dating back to 827 and their historic landmarked home in Fow Shek, also known as Floating Stone Village, in Guangdong Province, China.

During the 19th century, Fow Shek encouraged overseas travel, and Jessica will be sharing with us the murals that emphasized the importance of "Reform for a New World" in their home village. She will also explore the Chew family's journey to America in 1865, when Bo Do Hong established his headquarters in Red Bluff, California.

Discover how one family member, Dr. Kenneth Kendall Chew, revolutionized Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, becoming the "Oyster King" in Seattle, leaving a lasting impact for future generations.



Jessica Chew is the founder of the Helen and Joe Chew Foundation and the only grandchild of Joe You Chew who is a Chinese American born in 1921. The Chew family immigrated to America in 1865 as herbalists' physicians and established their headquarters in Red Bluff, California serving not only the Chinese community working on the Gold Mountain, but all ethnicities, including whites. Jessica's great grandfather, Chew You, journeyed from 台山縣 浮石村 Fow Shek, aka Floating Stone Village, Guangdong Province, China to Los Angeles, California in 1881, before the Chinese Exclusion Act, and by 1900 invested concurrently in several different herbal family operated businesses first in Los Angeles, followed by San Francisco, Boston, Hong

Kong, and Canton, China. The Helen and Joe Chew Foundation was created in honor of Jessica's promise to her grandfather. Her goal for the Foundation is to share her family's loving memories of Red Bluff's Historic Chinatown while encouraging preservation of Asian American history and encouraging the pursuit of higher education.





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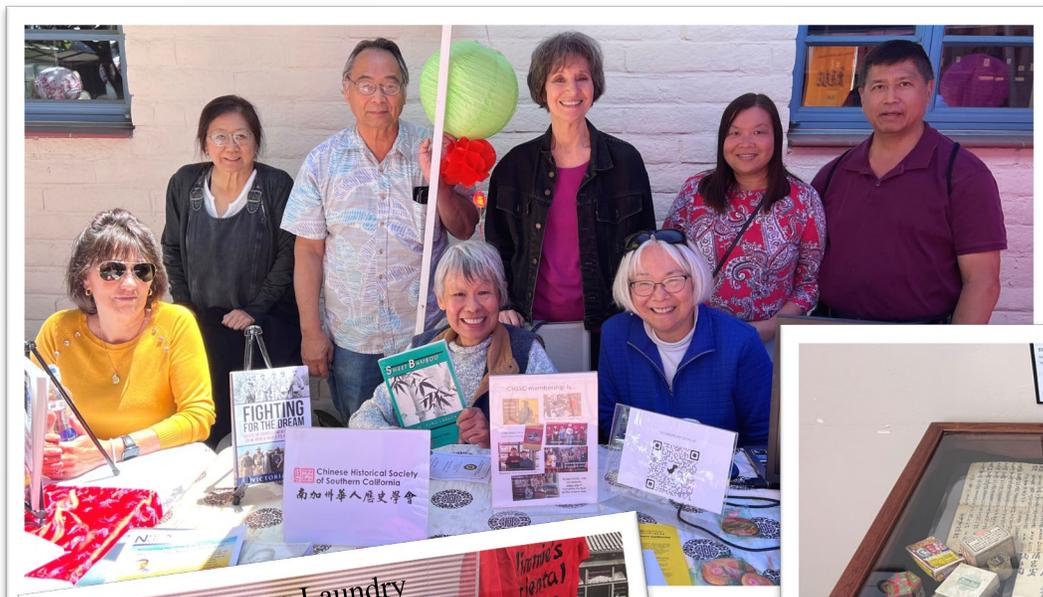
Asian American and Pacific Islander Exhibit in Santa Barbara

By Linda Bentz

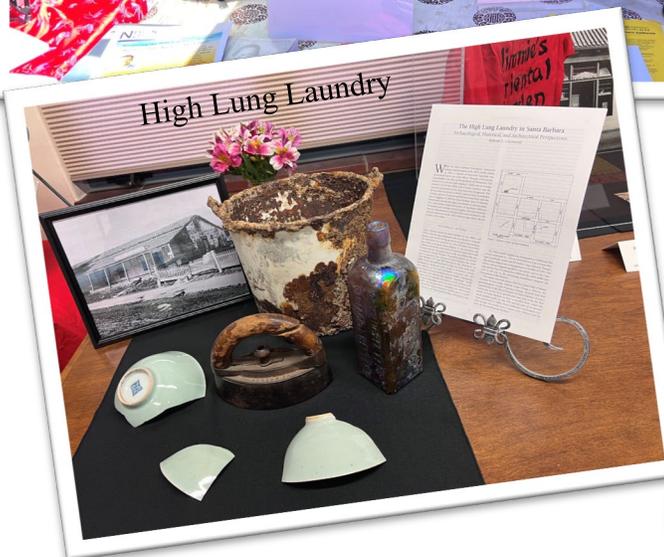
On May 7, 2023, the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society provided a journey of discovery for both the local Asian community and those interested in learning about their rich history in Santa Barbara. Visitors browsed through historical accounts, photos, and artifacts from local families.

CHSSC contributed artifacts from the Ella Yee Quan, the Duty & Honor, High Lung Laundry and Sam Chang Collections for the exhibit. A large contingent of board members attended the event to share information about the Society and network with other Asian organizations in Southern California.

The AAPI exhibit was the largest event ever organized by the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. After months of planning, conducting interviews with community members, creating biographies of local families and gathering artifacts, the exhibit drew twice the number of people then was expected. The event was a resounding success!



Attendees:
Seated L-R: Linda Bentz,
Susan Sing, Cindy Fong
Standing L-R: Anita Lee,
Gordon Hom, Susan Dickson,
Grace Leo, Ricky Leo
Missing: Eugene Moy





JUNE 2023

Matching Funds for the CHSSC Archives

By Linda Bentz

CHSSC has had an archive since the 1970s. Over time, the bankers' boxes of photographs, textiles, precious letters, phonograph albums, artifacts stored in the archives building have been slowly organized. Archivists, students and interns have created finding aids for the collections, which have been posted on the Online Archives of California.

In 2019, we launched an ambitious project to share our digital assets on our newly created digital archives. Here you can find information about WWII veterans, local notables from Los Angeles Chinatown, and translated letters from Lem Kay a local worker. Soon the Southern California Chinese American Oral History Project, conducted in partnership with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, will be uploaded to our Digital Archives. Patrons will be able to hear the voices of residents from Old Chinatown, City Market, East Adams, China City and New Chinatown from the comfort of their own home.

Since we started our archival efforts, people from all over the country have come to visit our collections. Professors, scholars, members of California historical societies have visited our collections and marveled at the rich materials contained in our archives. KCET found CHSSC online and they are also interested in our collections and stories. Eugene Moy and Susan Dickson will be interviewed for two PBS presentations that will be shown in January 2024.

Another exciting aspect of our archives is that they are a training ground for archival students. We currently have an Andrew W. Mellon grant recipient from UCLA who has been working with us since September to process our collections. Five graduate students from the Master of Library and Information Science Department are working with CHSSC to assess and inventory four archival collections. These students are being trained by our three contracted archivists.

We have made great progress, but there is so much more that needs to be completed. Every collection in the archives needs to be assessed, inventoried and properly preserved. We have only just begun to share our digital assets. Recently, an anonymous donor gifted \$30,000 to the CHSSC archives. **A challenge has been established to match this donation** so our archivists can complete the work to share our archives; both in person and digitally. Are you up for the challenge to share our archival assets and tell our important story of immigration, community building and deep cultural heritage?

Make your donation on our website, <https://chssc.org/donate/>. Click on Designated Project Donation and make sure you specify **CHSSC Archives Matching Challenge** in the comment box.





JUNE 2023

Behind the Scenes at CHSSC



Social Justice Humanitas
Academy (SJHA)
LAUSD Charter School in
San Fernando Valley
walking tour



Riverside Civil Rights
Tour with Save Our
Chinatown Committee



Executive Staff of
AAPI Equity Alliance



SJHA lunch at
Golden Dragon
Restaurant



JUNE 2023



In Memoriam – Gerald L. Shue

October 16, 1935 – March 21, 2022

CHSSC President 1978-1979

Gerald (Jerry) Shue was born in San Francisco, CA, but grew up with his family in Los Angeles. After graduating from North Hollywood High School, he joined the Air Force during the Korean conflict. Jerry proudly turned down a kitchen assignment, opting to load munitions onto airplanes. Returning home after serving four years overseas and stateside, he attended Los Angeles Trade Tech College, then started working at the CA Division of Highways (now Caltrans). While working downtown, Jerry became acquainted with community leaders like Paul Louie and Chuck Yee, and joined the organizers of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) in 1975. Jerry stepped up to serve as the 3rd president of CHSSC, from 1978 to 1979.

In addition to his years with the CHSSC, he helped create the Asian Pacific State Employees Association, which assisted state workers with career and educational opportunities and raising cultural awareness; he served as secretary and president of the Southern California Chapter of APSEA. In the meantime, Jerry also joined and became a leader with the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9902, enjoying not only the camaraderie of fellow veterans but also serving as post commander for four separate terms. In recognition of his service to community and nation, Jerry received a 2014 Golden Spike Award from CHSSC

Always active, Jerry passed on March 21 at the age of 87 after a period of declining health. We will miss his friendly, thoughtful, and supportive leadership, and his big smiling presence. He is survived by his wife Toni, and many nieces and nephews.

Donations for April / May

\$5000 Grant

Cathay Bank Foundation

In Memory of Albert Lew (Charter Member #92)

Margie Lew

Bobbie Leung

Donations

*L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee
(Giving Back Donation)*

Michael & Margaret Nicholson

Shirley Quan



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

Announcements

Asian Influence on Pasadena's Craftsman & Mid-Century Modern Homes

Kansha Pasadena and the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California will be co-sponsoring a two-and-a-half-hour bus tour on “Asian Architectural Influence on Pasadena’s Craftsman and Mid Century Modern Homes” on Sunday, June 4, 2023. This tour explores these, sometimes subtle, Chinese and Japanese architectural influences on thousands of Pasadena area homes, influences that have helped to shape our cityscape.

The bus tour begins at parking Lot I at Brookside Park (in front of the Brookside Aquatics Center) at 10:00 AM. 1001 Rose Bowl Drive, Pasadena, CA, 91103.

Cost of the 2.5 hour tour is \$25 per person, which includes stops at architectural landmarks and an illustrated narrative on the bus by architectural historian Dave Nufer and Kansei founder and cultural historian Bryan Takeda.. Register using the link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/asian-influence-on-pasadenas-craftsman-mid-century-modern-homes-tickets-630566169387>

For further information, please call Dave Nufer at (818) 404-2359.

Have you checked out our website lately?

We are constantly updating our website so that our research and digital archiving efforts are freely accessible. Use the link <https://chssc.org/> to register for our June program, read this newsletter and our Gum Saan Journal, access our digital archive, view our library collection and on-line exhibits, support us with your donation, and much more!