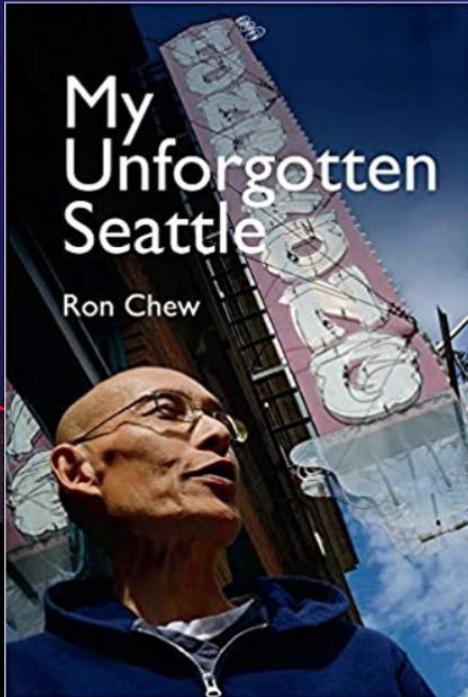


MARCH 2023



A Memoir by Ron Chew

Wednesday, March 1, 2023 7pm

Learn about Ron's life journey against a backdrop of chop suey restaurants and sewing factories. Ron tells of his awkward years as the child of Chinese immigrants and the discovery of his family's hidden past. He retraces the political awakening that led to his celebrated career as an editor of the *International Journal* and Executive Director of the Wing Luke Museum.

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

Our March Program Speaker



Ron Chew is principal of Chew Communications, a Seattle-based consulting firm which documents community history and helps museums and emerging non-profits cope with organizational growth.

Chew published his memoir, "My Unforgotten Seattle" in 2020. He is also the author of "Reflections of Seattle's Chinese Americans: The First 100 Years" (2003, 2013), and "Remembering Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes: The Legacy of Filipino American Labor Activism" (2010).

Chew is a lifelong Seattle resident. He graduated from Franklin High School and attended the University of Washington, where he majored in journalism.

In 2001, Chew was appointed to the National Council for the Humanities by President Bill Clinton. He was a recipient of the Ford Foundation's "Leadership for a Changing World" award and was named to the American Alliance of Museums "Centennial Honor Roll."

Chew served on The Seattle Public Library Foundation board of directors during the successful 1998 "Libraries for All" capital campaign, which raised over \$80 million to build a new central library and support 27 neighborhood branches. He currently serves as vice president of the Board of Trustees.



MARCH 2023

President's message

SPRING GREETINGS!

Yes, Spring 2023 will soon be here. We are just now easing out of the Chinese New Year period, which has presented some challenges in our region. The tragedy in Monterey Park reminded us that community peace and safety can't always be assured. Our Chinese American history, which we have been learning about and sharing since 1975, has been dotted with social and legal obstacles. On the positive side, many of the early obstacles have been overcome, much of it within the memory of most of our members. The City of Los Angeles has commenced a process to develop a memorial of the 1871 Anti-Chinese Massacre. The California state education guidelines include more ethnic studies curricula. On the horizon, though, are potential new threats, such as proposed alien land laws in some states, or tighter immigration restrictions. More locally, higher land use zoning for L.A. Chinatown could have major impacts on the social, economic, and physical structure of the community.

It is therefore important that we, as a public history organization, continue our mission of learning and teaching about our history, to understand the lessons of the past, which can guide us into the future. The ongoing work of the Five Chinatowns Project team inspires us, as we hope that by later this year, with the help of community writers and interns, we will be closer to our next book production. Already out, though, is our 2023 Gum Saan Journal, which contains a rich compilation of articles, by a group of authors who talk about their queer (gay-lesbian-bi) identity, an identity and community which has long been a part of Chinese American as well as Chinese history. Added to these articles, because we had room, is a special story about the life of Bing Get Yee, a pioneering life insurance broker in L.A. If you have paid your 2023 membership dues, this issue of the Gum Saan Journal will be delivered to you.

Eugene Moy

Annual Membership Renewal Reminder:

If you have already renewed your membership, thank you for your support. If you have not renewed or would like to join us, please fill out the membership form on page 6 and mail in your check, or click on the membership links on our website: <https://chssc.org/> to pay online.

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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.



MARCH 2023

Five Chinatowns Project Interns

The Five Chinatowns project is proud to host five UCLA interns enrolled in Asian American Studies 140XP, a community engagement course titled Power to People: Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Based Learning led and coordinated by Dr. Lily Anne Welty Tamai. Through this course, students gain knowledge of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in the greater Los Angeles region and the community-based organizations that serve them. In addition, student interns work to analyze the organization work in the context of broader movements and multiple approaches to social change. Interns will work under the leadership of CHSSC members William Gow and Linda Bentz.

Meet our Five Chinatowns Project interns:

Pilar Shen-Berro is currently enrolled in Asian American Studies 140XP.



Chloe Chuong (she/her) is a fourth-year at UCLA majoring in Public Affairs and Asian American Studies. Chloe is from the San Gabriel Valley and has a strong interest in Asian American communities and history.



Tiffany Ta is a 4th year Labor Studies major & Asian American Studies minor. She was born and raised in Los Angeles Chinatown.



Dillon Tran is a 4th year student at UCLA majoring in Asian American Studies. He is very excited to be interning for the CHSSC this quarter and hopes to help out his community more.



Katie Wu is in her 4th year as an undergraduate at UCLA majoring in Bioengineering and minoring in Asian American Studies. She hopes to learn more about Asian American culture and history through the internship program with the CHSSC and bring these lessons and perspectives with her to the medical and biotechnology fields in the future.



MARCH 2023



Meet Our New Board Member

Albert Lowe previously worked with CHSSC as the Duty and Honor project archivist. Albert also participated in the family genealogy program, In Search of Roots, and was a researcher for Loni Ding's "Ancestors of the Americas." He is the co-founder of the Asian American magazine, SLANT, and has an advanced degree in Ethnic Studies from UCSD and a MLIS degree from UCLA. Albert's recent work is in the realm of low wage worker empowerment and affordable housing. He currently works as a strategic campaigner at the United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 770.

2023 Yosemite Pilgrimage Dates Set

CHSSC has been conducting a pilgrimage to Yosemite National Park since 2012 in order to discover and highlight the contributions of the Chinese in the development of the park. Our 2023 pilgrimage will be held on October 6th, 7th (arrive evening of Oct 5th, depart Oct 8th).

While the planning team finalizes the itinerary, make your lodging plans now. Eugene Moy has reserved 2 large rental homes in the Redwoods in Yosemite complex in Wawona, with room for 20-22 people, but we are also encouraging people to gather groups of friends and make their own reservations. Contact Eugene at ewmoy49@gmail.com to coordinate.

Learn about our 10th Annual Yosemite Sing Peak Pilgrimage in 2022 on our website: <https://chssc.org/>

10th Annual Yosemite Sing Peak Pilgrimage



10th Annual Yosemite Sing Peak Pilgrimage

Documenting our continuing efforts to recognize the Chinese contributions to Yosemite National Park

Ricky Leo
August 19, 2022



MARCH 2023

Los Angeles Chinatown Lunar New Year Parade

By Eugene Moy

For the first time since 1976, CHSSC did not march at the beginning of the Chinese New Year parade this year, due to the fact that we did not receive the parade invitation until two weeks before the parade and there was not time to prepare our flags, organize a marching unit, and coordinate with our Rotary International student groups. Nevertheless, our Sum Sum Chan brought a contingent of her friends, as she has done for many years, to view the parade and cheer the marchers, performers, and dignitaries from our Heritage Center porch on Bernard Street. In addition, board member Gordon Hom coordinated with the parade organizers, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, to loan our many American flags, on short notice, for the Chamber to decorate their venues. We hope to resume our proud tradition of being the lead unit in the parade next year!



2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

YOUR 2022 MEMBERSHIP HAS SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Launch of our digital library and redesigned website
 Content for our digital archives, including digitized interviews from the Southern California
 Chinese American Oral History Project (1978-1982)

Finding aids for our archives on the Online Archive of California
 On-line exhibits of Grandview Gardens Restaurant & Yosemite Pilgrimage
 Grants from Cathay Bank & Louie Family Foundation
 Andrew Mellon UCLA Intern



Summer intern research on “The Five Chinatowns” for our book with project partner UCLA
 Use of our Chinese language archives as a field school by three professors and their graduate students

YOUR 2023 MEMBERSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Virtual walking tour of Chinatown
 Begin renovation of our Chinatown Heritage Center
 Continue processing the Paul Chace library donated in November 2021. Our physical library has grown by 20%!
 Three archivists working on our physical and digital archives and our library
 Continuing partnership with Institute of California and the West
 Organize and launch the Southern California Oral History project



New Membership Renewal
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
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Mail to: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
 411 Bernard St
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Membership Levels
 Regular 57
 100x100 Club 100
 Supporter 300
 Senior (60+) or student 32
 Donation (tax deductible) _____
 TOTAL _____

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 Check here if you would like our newsletter mailed to your home.
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MARCH 2023

In Remembrance of May Lee Wong

May 1, 1924 - January 24, 2023



May Lee Wong, of Tustin CA, has passed. She was born, the next-to-youngest of ten siblings, in Long Beach CA where her father, Dr. Sue Pong (S.P.) Lee, was a renown herbalist. After the Long Beach earthquake, the family moved to Los Angeles, and May graduated from Manual Arts High School, and from USC (BS Cum Laude in Education), with a teaching credential in Physical Education. She married Bob Wong, a Canadian WWII veteran, in 1948, and had two children. The family eventually settled in Orange County.

Over the years, several of her sisters became CHSSC members. Alice Hom was a member before her sons Gilbert and Gordon joined. Other sisters Elsie Wong and Anne Lee Herr Anderson also became members. In the meantime, May and Bob have been generous supporters of the CHSSC, contributing toward a Chinese Family History fund, and toward our milestone Portraits of Pride publishing project.

May is survived by her youngest sister Anne, her children Stephen Wong and Debra Wong, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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

Donations for February

In Memory of Stanton Mu

Patty Mu

In Memory of Richard Lee

Peggy Young

In Memory of May Lee Wong

Cheryl Hata

John Morey

Gene Moy and Susan Sing

In Memory of Gilbert Hom

Lisa Pena

Dorothy Fue Wong

King Hung Cheung and Diane Tan

Donations

Winnie Lee

Anonymous

***\$5000 Grant from the David and Pearl
Louie Family Foundation***