

MAY 2023

## Chinese Lives in Wyoming An overview of immigrant lives in Wyoming from 1868 to 1937 Wednesday, May 3, 2023



**Dudley Gardner**  
Professor Emeritus  
Western Wyoming  
Community College

Chinese immigrants from Toishan and elsewhere in Guangdong Province contributed much to the development of transportation, merchandising, and mining in southwestern Wyoming. The lives and contributions of the men and women from southern China will be discussed as will their overcoming being forcibly removed from Almy coal mines on September 2nd 1885. The ability of the immigrants to overcome the tragedy and form new communities in Wyoming that endured for decades will be a point of focus.



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



MAY 2023

## President's message

### Spring in Our Neighborhood

We've survived the rainy season at our CHSSC homes, and our contract archivists and interns have remained comfortable, thanks to the generous donation of heating and AC units by Winston and Joanne Young. Right now, with some landscape maintenance by Susan Sing, Gordon Hom, and Anita Lee, we're seeing colorful blooms. We're also hoping that our building plans to improve accessibility will soon be approved by the City, thanks to consultant help recommended by our Caitlin Bryant, and we can start getting contractor bids.

But importantly, every May we present nominations for CHSSC officers and board members, for election at our June meeting, who will lead us into our new fiscal year, which begins July 1. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will see a list of nominations for various positions, and you'll note that we have 17 names to fit the current maximum number of board members. But we invite more nominations "from the floor", which we will finalize and vote on in June.

One of our strengths for the past 48 years has been our high level of member and board involvement. I myself will step down this year to make way for a qualified and motivated board member, Ricky Leo, to step up, but will continue to be involved in our work. There is room for ALL members to be involved in our committee work in archives, I.T., finance and assets, historic research and recognition (Golden Spike Awards), programs, and outreach. If you are interested in being more involved, please let me know; we have lots of interesting work to do.

Lastly, one of the rewards of spending time at CHSSC is learning about the Chinatown community and how its people have always been getting involved. We know that our family associations have a tradition of helping, but I had the privilege at the end of March of seeing fifty members of the teen council at the Chinatown Library pack bags with groceries (trucked in by API Forward Movement, a non-profit led by younger people), and deliver them on foot to grateful elderly residents at six SRO (single room occupancy) hotel sites. This was meaningful to me, as my maternal grandfather and his brother lived in a room in an SRO in Chinatown, simple accommodations with a communal kitchen and restrooms down the hall. They had support from our family, but I know that many Chinatown residents today are barely surviving. So it's inspiring to see that many of our Chinatown youth are getting involved, and making new history.

Eugene Moy  
[ewmoy49@gmail.com](mailto:ewmoy49@gmail.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

Eugene Moy, President  
Ricky Leo, Vice President  
Susan Dickson, Vice President,  
Programs  
Laureen Hom, Secretary  
Franklin Mah, Treasurer  
Caitlin Bryant, Membership  
Secretary

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Linda Bentz  
Robert Chong  
Cindy Fong  
Gordon Hom  
Bak Jong  
Angela Lancaster  
Grace Leo  
Albert Lowe  
Felicia Tabing

## 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.



## May Program



Chinese immigrants from Toishan (Taishan) and elsewhere in Guangdong Province contributed much to the development of transportation, merchandising, and mining in southwestern Wyoming. Initially it was thought that these immigrants only worked on the railroad in 1869, but it is becoming increasingly obvious that in that year men from southern China operated laundries and entered the coal industry. The lives and contributions of the men and women from southern China will be discussed as will their overcoming being forcibly removed from Almy coal mines on September 2nd 1885. Significantly, Chinese grit and tenacity led them to persevere in reforming their communities after their removal from Almy and the attack on Chinatown in Rock Springs on the same day. These two tragic events cannot be overlooked, but the ability of the immigrants to overcome the tragedy and form new communities in Wyoming that endured for decades will be a point of focus.

**Dudley Gardner** is Professor Emeritus at Western Wyoming Community College (WWCC) and Principal Investigator for the Western Archaeological and Anthropological Research Institute (WAARI) in Rock Springs, Wyoming. He received his B.A. in English from Lee College, his M.A. in history from Colorado State University, and his Ph.D. in History from University of New Mexico. Dudley has extensive archaeology experience working on various projects as Project Manager, Crew Chief, and Crew Member in Wyoming, Tennessee, New Mexico, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, California, Utah, Colorado, Easter Island, Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand, Southern China, and Mongolia. He is currently working on the Yale University Tarvagatai Valley project in Mongolia and Burgastai Valley and is the Principal Investigator for projects in Wyoming, Colorado, New Zealand, Fiji and Montana. Dudley has extensive teaching experience and has published numerous books, government publications and articles.

## 2023-2024 CHSSC Board Nominations

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| President                | Ricky Leo  |
| Vice President           | Gordon Hom   |
| Vice President, Programs | Caitlin Bryant   |
| Secretary                | Susan Dickson  |
| Treasurer                | Franklin Mah   |
| Membership Secretary     | Lauren Hom   |
| Members-At-Large         | Linda Bentz, Calvin Cheng, Robert Chong, Cindy Fong, Annalise Harlow,<br>Bak Jong, Karen Jong, Angela Lancaster, Grace Leo, Albert Lowe,<br>Felicia Tabing |

*Additional nominations are welcome. Please email to President Eugene Moy at [ewmoy49@gmail.com](mailto:ewmoy49@gmail.com).*



MAY 2023

## Five Chinatowns at the Association of Asian American Studies Conference

By Yi-Shen Loo and Kelly Fong

On Saturday, April 8, the Five Chinatowns Project team presented at the Association of Asian American Studies conference Long Beach, CA. Our panel, “The Five Chinatowns of Los Angeles: An Intergenerational Community History,” featured 2022 Five Chinatowns summer interns Keilani Coquia, Annalise Harlow, Yi-Shen Loo, Vi Truong and Fion Zhen, and CHSSC President Eugene Moy. Dr. Will Gow, project co-director, moderated the roundtable. Our former interns discussed their experiences conducting oral history interviews with community elders and all of the panelists discussed the significance of doing community-based histories with organizations like CHSSC. The panelists also discussed the significance of intergenerational relationship building in organizations like CHSSC and how to reach wider audiences of young people - our future CHSSC leaders. The team also answered questions from the audience.



About her experience, Yi-Shen said, “It was amazing to be able to meet everybody in person at Long Beach after being mostly virtual during the summer. I was really nervous to speak at the roundtable, but it was an incredible experience to have such an engaged audience and supportive peers and professors to guide us through it. The panel, and continuing on the Five Chinatowns project as Research Manager, has allowed me to reflect on and realize the importance of oral histories. They allow us a look into the richness in one’s lived experience, to be able to picture walking through China

City, smelling Nuts To You in City Market Chinatown, and getting gas at the CFO gas station in East Adams. I’m thrilled to continue working on this project and am learning so much every step of the way.”

The Five Chinatowns project team is extremely proud of our summer interns for representing CHSSC at this national professional conference and we look forward to continuing our intergenerational research and writing this summer. For more information about the project or details on how you can support this ongoing work, please reach out to Dr. Kelly Fong at [kelfong@ucla.edu](mailto:kelfong@ucla.edu).



MAY 2023

## CHSSC 2023 Ching Ming: Change of Plans

Less than two days before our scheduled Ching Ming event, the supervisor of the crematorium at Evergreen Cemetery called our president, Eugene Moy, to inform him that we would not be able to hold our celebration on the crematorium property due to the danger of a large fallen tree. Since we needed access to electricity and bathroom facilities, we decided to cancel the formal ceremony.

A small group of CHSSC members went to the shrine on Saturday, April 1 to clean the graves. We were met by 5 others who had not received notice of the cancellation. Mud covered the markers, and the shrine area had over 4 inches of standing water. After cleaning the graves, we placed a flower on all of the grave markers before lighting sticks incense and placing them before the memorial wall. Afterwards, seven of us went out to lunch at a local restaurant.





MAY 2023

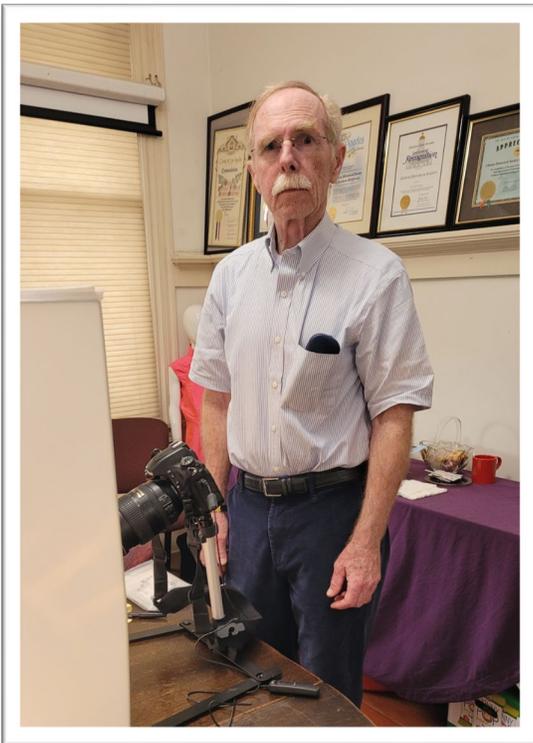
## 2023 Yosemite Pilgrimage Dates Set

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). A highlight of the pilgrimage will be a talk by Phil Sexton, who will discuss the role of the Chinese Railroad workers on Summit Tunnel and nearby sites.

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](mailto:ewmoy49@gmail.com) to coordinate.

## Visitors to CHSSC

**Bill Oudegeest**, Donner Summit Historical Society, photographing artifacts from our Chinese Railroad Workers' collection.



**Professor Anna Pegler Gordon**, Michigan State University, conducting research using our Duty & Honor collection.





MAY 2023

CHSSC will create an exhibit of our artifacts to display at this event. Come by and say hello!

*Santa Barbara  
Asian American &  
Pacific Islander Heritage,  
1870s-1970s*

**Exhibit Opening**  
**May 7, 12-4pm**  
**Free to the public**  
**Sahyun Library**  
**316 Castillo Street**  
**Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

Enjoy historical accounts of local families, plus  
booths from community organizations, genealogy  
research assistance, appetizers & more!

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
**805-884-9909, [www.sbgen.org](http://www.sbgen.org)**

SBCGS formed in 1972 to foster an interest in the study of family history through education, operation of a genealogy research library, and preservation of local genealogical records to enhance understanding of ourselves and our heritage. The Society offers genealogy education programs, and its genealogical research library collection includes over 19,000 volumes and a computer lab with access to 9 subscription websites. SBCGS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.



## 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

#### **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 May 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!

## Donations for April

### *In Memory of Gilbert Hom*

*Yvonne Chang*

*Elliot Lee*

*Judy Lee*

### *In Memory of May Lee Wong*

*Chong Lew*

*Barbara Mui*

### *Donations*

*Judy Lee*

*Shirley Chu and Dean Ng*

*Winston & Joanne Young*