

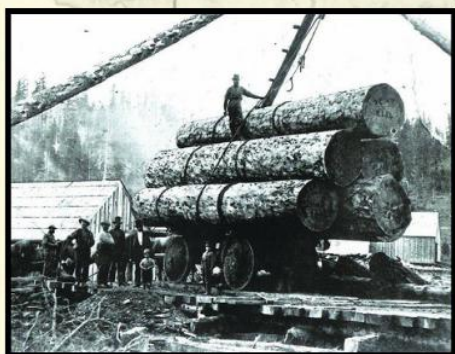
March 2025

History of the Chinese in Truckee, California

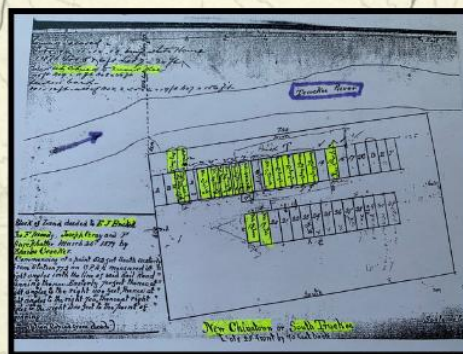
WESTERN RAILROADS, 1880

Professor Emeritus Sue Fawn Chung will trace the history of the Chinese in Truckee, California from their arrival due to mining, logging, and the building of the first transcontinental railroad (Central Pacific Railroad); their Chinatowns, their occupations and experiences; and the anti-Chinese movement that drove them out of Truckee, concluding with the recent recognition of their accomplishments by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada and other recognitions.

Wednesday, March 5, 2025, 7-8 PM
On Zoom



Professor Emeritus
Sue Fawn Chung



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

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



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

March 2025

MARCHING IN MARCH

Last month we noted in our Community Events calendar, based on early information, that both the Miss Chinatown Pageant and the Golden Dragon Parade had been cancelled, due to the area firestorms. However, we must now correct ourselves, as the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the sponsor of both events, has informed us that both events have been RESCHEDULED. The dates are now March 8 for the Pageant, and March 22 for the Parade. Please see Community Events listing for details. Our apologies to the Chamber for the prior incorrect information, but now, we have time to plan for ATTENDING BOTH, which showcase the best of our Chinese American community.

We, the CHSSC, have been participating in the Parade from our beginnings, thanks to the enthusiasm of our early leadership. For 2025, our 50th anniversary year, I want to show our continuing enthusiasm for promoting Chinese American history by asking you to join in our flag formation, which has always been the lead marching unit in the parade. Our members, plus a few community friends, will carry American flags, march the 1.0 mile parade route, and have time to see the rest of the parade. So if you would like to join us, please come to the starting point, at the corner of Hill and Ord, in front of the Chinatown Library, by 12:15 PM on Sat. March 22. Please wear red tops, dark bottoms.

Alternatively, at Parade time, you can assist the crew at our Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center at 411 Bernard Street. We will greet the public, watch the parade's terrific marching groups, lion dancers, and dignitaries. We have limited parking, and streets close before noon, so plan to arrive early.

Either way, we wish you a Happy New Year!
Eugene Moy

Board of Directors

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Eugene Moy, President
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Susan Dickson, Secretary
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Albert Lowe
Angela Lancaster
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Gordon Hom
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Laureen Hom
Linda Bentz
Susie Ling

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Inc. shall be:

- to advocate for a wider understanding of the significance of the role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in the history of Southern California;
- to bring together people with a mutual interest in the Southern California history of Chinese and Chinese Americans;
- to perform all the functions required to acquire, preserve, and communicate knowledge of this important history; and
- to promote a better appreciation of our rich multi-cultural society.



March 2025



The History of the Chinese in Truckee, CA

Truckee was an important railroad division point for the Central Pacific and when mining in the area diminished, the Chinese were recruited to work for the Central Pacific clearing land, grading, and, in some cases, laying tracks. Wood was needed for a variety of purposes, including railroad ties, train cars, crates, fuel for the steam engines, buildings, and community needs. At one point 70-80% of the woodcutters in the rich forested area of Truckee were Chinese. In 1870 407 Chinese lived in the town of 1,467 - 11 of them merchants, including the wealthy Fong Lee. At least 28 men owned property. Fires in 1871, 1873, 1875, 1878, 1881, and 1882 destroyed most or all of the buildings in Chinatown. As part of a larger movement, the Caucasian League tried to oust the Chinese in the 1876 Trout Creek Outrage. When the Chinese returned, they built their new Chinatown which lasted from 1878 to 1900 and had 700 plus residents, including an herbal doctor whose shop continued to 1930 and the building has been preserved and still stands. Anti-Chinese movements reached new heights in 1885-1886 and the leading newspaper editor of the Truckee Republican devised the 1886 Truckee Method of expelling the Chinese peacefully (as possible) by destroying their property, driving out the Chinese, boycotting Chinese business and firms employing Chinese, and doing whatever was necessary without killing anyone to get the Chinese out of town. A few managed to return, but most moved elsewhere and Fong Lee opened his new store in Oroville/Marysville becoming a prominent citizen and supporter of the Oroville Chinese Joss House/Temple. Today there remains one of the original three hundred charcoal kilns preserved in a residential community and the herbal store exterior and grounds. One of the Truckee State Park Rangers, Jeremy Lin, is Chinese American. This PowerPoint presentation will include a wide variety of sources: the Truckee-Donner and Nevada Historical Societies, various newspapers and library special collections, and the collections of various scholars and individuals.

Bio: Sue Fawn Chung was born in Los Angeles and attended some China Society meetings beginning in high school through college because of her interest in Chinese history and art history. She graduated from UCLA with honors, got her master's from Harvard University, and received her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, then began teaching Asian history, Chinese art history, and Asian American history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas until she retired in 2015. She has written numerous articles and four books on Chinese American history and is currently finishing a book manuscript on Chinese railroad labor contractors prior to 1920.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

March 2025



Full House at CHSSC. Board welcomes Rick Eng, Judy Lee, and Connie Vuong to plan for the 50th anniversary celebration



Past board member and treasurer Ben Nakayama with sons Kyle and Kenny at CHSSC



Willie Lew at CHSSC



Albert C. Lum, Arkansas native and founder of Southern California Chinese Lawyers Association (SCCLA) spoke about his memoir, "Stand Up and Be Counted", published by CHSSC, at Loyola Law School on Feb. 4. Questions and commentary were provided by SCCLA leaders Nadine Tan and Ryan Urban and by Eugene Moy



Gum Saan Journal

Have you read the latest *Gum Saan Journal* on "**Chinese in the Asian American Movement**"? In 1968, the pan-ethnic concept of "Asian American" was suggested by Professor Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee. Asian American studies courses followed at UCLA, Cal State Long Beach, Pasadena high schools, and elsewhere. Early organizations that made an impact included East West Players (1965), Asian American Tutorial Program at Castelar (1969), the Chinatown Service Center (1971), Friends of Chinatown Library (1970s), and CHSSC (1975). Interesting to note that according to the 1970 census, Los Angeles County had a population of 1.5% Japanese American and 0.6% Chinese American. The 2022 census shows the County at 4.9% of Chinese descent, 3.5% Filipino, 2.1% Korean, 1.0% Vietnamese and 1% Japanese.

This GSJ issue has insightful focus on the evolution of some fascinating activists:

Steve Louie - son of CHSSC's founders Paul and Emma Louie, joined the Asian American New Left and did union work

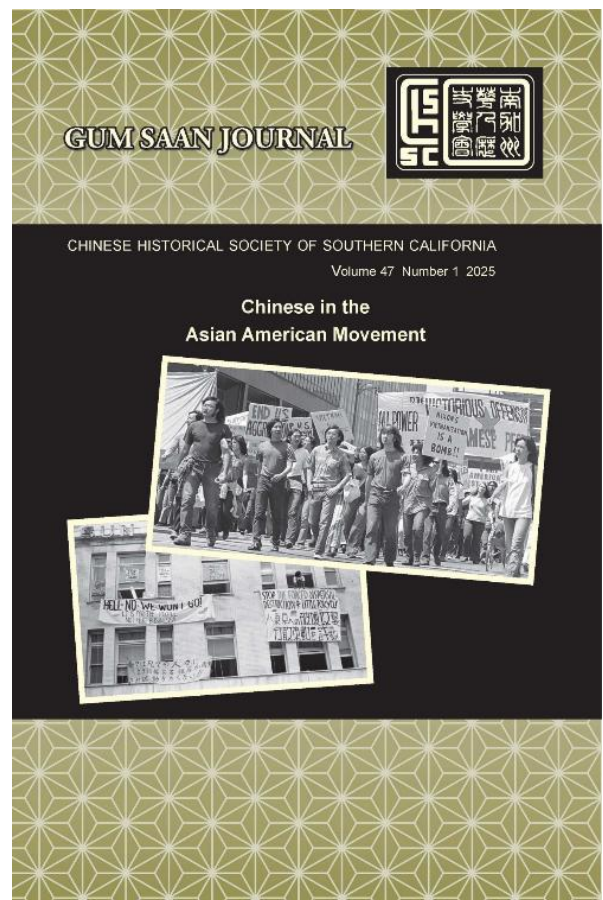
Eddie Wong - founder of Visual Communications, co-editor of *Roots*, and director of Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation

Dr. Kenyon Chan - started out in a grocery store in El Sobrante, became inaugural chair of Asian American studies at CSUN, and then Chancellor at University of Washington

Dr. Sam Chan - biracial kid from Sacramento, went to UCSD at same time as Angela Davis, then clinical psychologist active with Asian Pacific Planning Council

Judge Diane Tan (Ret.) – grew up in a South LA laundry, became an attorney, and now with Chinatown Community for Equitable Development (CCED) and Chinatown Community Coalition - Los Angeles (CCC-LA)

The goal of *Gum Saan Journal* has always been to promote knowledge and pride of our history. Please share amongst your social networks: gumsaanjournal.com.





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

March 2025



Grand Opening of the Fong Lun (Soo Hoo)
Association at 730 N. Hill Place

New Online Exhibit: Chinatown Associations: Anchors of the Community

Rowland Heights and Irvine may boast of the latest Sichuan eats or fusion cuisine, but L. A. Chinatown is always the 家鄉 jiexiang (home village) of Chinese Americans in the Southland. It is on Broadway and Hill, on Alpine, College, Bernard, and even Bamboo Lane where our history and legacy exude. On these streets, intermingled between offices, vegetable stands and mini malls

are the Associations that represent many decades, and sometimes over a century of leadership and service. Representing 27 of these family, district, and community associations is the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association 中華會館.

With supportive grants from the David and Pearl Louie Family Foundation and the Cathay Bank Foundation, CHSSC sent out a team to interview, transcribe, edit, translate, scan, and post “Chinatown Associations: Anchors of the Community”. Featured in this collection are the CCBA and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance along with the Eng Family, Fong Lun, Kong Chow, Lee On Dong, Lung Kong Tin Yee, and Wong Family associations. Munson Kwok guided the team to get a representative sample: some big (Wong), some young (Eng), some spiritual (Kong Chow). Suellen Cheng used her connects to pin down interviews with Peter Ng, Nowland Hong, Lanora Tom, Ernest Lee, Michael Cheung, Gary “Kwan” Jue, the SooHoo cousins, etc. Said Susan Dickson, “These associations started as mutual support for early immigrants. In the 1980s, they were helping refugees and other new immigrants settle in. Today, there may be less need for direct social services, but when the Monterey Park shooting happened and with the lack of affordable housing, you need that consolidated voice of leadership representing Chinatown and Chinese Americans.”

Our report concluded, “These firsthand narratives reveal how community leaders navigate changing demographics and generational attitudes, envision strategies for revitalization, and drive efforts to expand the inclusivity of associations towards women and youth. Beyond asserting the historical significance of these organizations, Chinatown Associations: Anchors of the Community explores the case for their continued relevance in supporting and shaping the communities of Los Angeles Chinatown.”

See the online exhibit, Chinatown Associations: Anchors of the Community, on our website:
<https://chssc.org/chinatown-associations-anchors-of-the-community/>



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

YOUR 2024 MEMBERSHIP HAS SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Virtual walking tour of Chinatown and walking tour training manual.

12th Annual Pilgrimage to Yosemite (heritage tour).

Where You Stand: Chinatown 1880-1939 exhibit at Union Station.

Three archivists working on our physical and digital archives and our library.

Organized and launched the online version of the Southern California Oral History project.

Summer intern research using 1950 census of the Old Chinatown area for our
"The Five Chinatowns" book project with partner UCLA Asian American Studies Center.



YOUR 2025 MEMBERSHIP WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

Renovation of our Chinatown Heritage Center.

Continue processing our archival and digital assets and uploading digital assets to the Online Archives of
California and Calisphere.

Continued community partner to UCLA

Continuing training of Library Science interns.

Safety and security of our information technology.

Continued documentation of Chinatown history.

Additional virtual and physical exhibits.



☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____
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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
☐ Hardcopy newsletter \$ 20

Donation (tax deductible) \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

To join or renew your membership by debit card, credit card,
or by using your PayPal account, visit our website at chssc.org.

We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, tax ID 95-3155357

Please make checks payable to CHSSC

☐ Check here if you would like our
newsletter sent via email.



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

In Memory of Dottie Schoon

Nancy Choy

Rudy and Jorja Frank

Gary and Stephanie Lee

In Memory of Dottie Schoon

Ron Lee

Joanna Schoon and Mark Kono

Community Events

Chamber's web link: <http://www.lachinesechamber.org/events>

62nd Annual Miss L.A. Chinatown Pageant March 8, 2025

L. A. Chinatown Firecracker events (Run/Walk, Bike Race, Paw'er Dog Walk) March 8-9

Annual Golden Dragon Parade March 22, 2025 Link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2025-126th-golden-dragon-parade-grandstand-tickets-march-22-2025-tickets-1123322831829> (spectators along route do not need tickets)