

May 2025

### *Rediscovering the Chew Family - A Global Legacy*



*Jessica Chew*

Jessica Chew returns with a captivating follow-up to her first presentation, diving even deeper into the extraordinary global legacy of the Chew family. During a recent journey to their ancestral village in 台山縣浮石村 Guangdong Province, China, Jessica uncovered a second tomb dedicated to Chew Yuen of Red Bluff and unearthed new evidence of the family's far-reaching migration history. She'll share never-before-seen photos and stories from Fow Shek (台山縣浮石村 Floating Stone Village), now a designated historic site by the Chinese government, where centuries-old murals encouraged villagers to seek opportunity abroad.

#### **WHEN:**

*Wednesday, May 14th*

#### **TIME:**

*7PM - 8PM*

#### **WHERE:**

*Zoom*



*RSVP via Eventbrite on CHSSC website: <https://chssc.org>*



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2025

## OUR PUBLIC HISTORY PURPOSE

As we approach our 50th anniversary celebration in November, we must constantly review our mission statement, to ponder on the activities we have undertaken over the years, and to consider new approaches that can guide our work and ensure our relevance for future generations. What have we learned, what impact have we had, what else can we do, to reinforce the importance of learning Chinese American history and Chinatown community history? How can we continue the legacy? That review will be an important part of the planning and presentation for our 50th anniversary event that is being headed by Vice President Robert Chong. Please mark down Saturday November 8 NOW for a celebratory event and a kickoff for our NEXT 50.

As a public history organization, our programs and products are available to all. We make our history accessible to the public, from broadcasting the words and images from monthly speakers, to research and writing for our printed publications and exhibitions, to sharing digital history on our content-deep website, to our volunteer docents giving guided Chinatown community tours, to our library and archives being used for research, to taking tours of historic places, roads, and trails. We proudly share our vision by maintaining our 1888 Shrine at Evergreen Cemetery and carry our flags and banner in the annual Lunar New Year Parade.

What emerges from all this? Our work reinforces the awareness that American history has been very diverse, that history education must necessarily reflect our diversity, that our nation has made progress because of early Chinese Americans and many other peoples. Our responsibility is to continue to define and refine that history. As a CHSSC member since 1976, I constantly am awestruck by all the efforts and support of our leaders, volunteers and donors toward our public history work. I'm on board for the NEXT 50.

Eugene Moy

## Board of Directors

### Officers

Eugene Moy, President  
Robert Chong, Vice President  
Susan Dickson, Secretary  
Steve Tom, Treasurer

### Members at Large

Albert Lowe  
Angela Lancaster  
David Castro  
Gordon Hom  
Isaac Chu  
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.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2025



Photos by Ricky Leo



Photos by Ricky Leo



The 2025 Los Angeles Golden Dragon Parade, after being postponed due to the Altadena and Pacific Palisades fires, took place on March 22. As usual, CHSSC proudly marched holding American flags through Chinatown. This year we were joined by members of the Yee Family Association, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, who carried their banner, and by the Chinatown Post 628, who rode in an antique fire engine. Bill and Margie Yee once again proudly carried our banner, assisted by their children and grandchildren.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2025



## April 5 Qing Ming

In 1990, the CHSSC learned of the declining condition of the 1888 Chinese cemetery shrine, located within a former city cemetery, now a portion of Evergreen Cemetery, in Boyle Heights. The CHSSC immediately took action to protect the site, raising funds to purchase the land, obtaining a grant to restore the structures, and securing official designation as a historic-cultural monument by the City of L.A. Over the years, we have conducted regular Qing Ming ceremonies at our shrine. This year, on a mild Saturday morning on April 5, a dozen dedicated CHSSC volunteers showed up at our shrine to clean the site of debris, sweep the headstones, place flowers and incense, and to pay respect to our early L.A. Chinese. Thanks to all who helped.

[photos by Donna Lee]



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2025

## 2025 Board Election

Per the CHSSC bylaws, the five officers are elected for one year terms. The president and vice president may serve two consecutive terms in the same office, after which a year must lapse before they can again serve in the same office. The other officers have no limits on consecutive terms. At-large board members serve for two year terms; there are no limits for consecutive terms served by at-large board members. Per the by-laws, the Board of Directors may have up to 17 members, including the five officers. At this time, we seek candidates for the Membership Secretary officer position and openings for four at-large director positions. As we have accomplished much over the years with a volunteer board, we hope that you, the readers of this announcement, may be inspired to join our highly motivated board of directors.

## Slate for 2025-2026 Board of Directors

### Officers

President, Eugene Moy (for second term)  
Vice President, Robert Chong (for second term)  
Secretary, Isaac Chu (new candidate)  
Treasurer, Anthony Miu (new candidate)  
Membership Secretary, open

**New at-large board candidate:** Susan Dickson

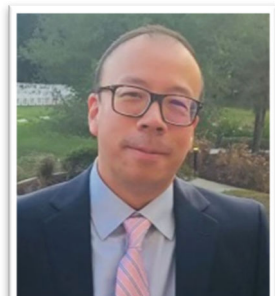
### Returning at-large board

Albert Lowe, Angela Lancaster, David Castro, Gordon Hom, Linda Bentz, Susie Ling  
Open positions: 4



## Secretary candidate Isaac T. Chu

Isaac is a first-generation Chinese American who immigrated from Taiwan to the SF Bay Area and grew up in the East Bay. Upon graduating high school Isaac went on to study History, Political Science and Economics at UCSD, then Law at Loyola. Thereafter, he worked as a school teacher before moving into small business management and consultancy. In recent years, Isaac has been building community with organizations in and around LA's Chinatown and the San Gabriel Valley, centering API and indigenous issues.



## Treasurer candidate Anthony Miu

Tony was born and raised in Chinatown L.A. He attended Castelar Elementary, Nightingale Junior High, and Belmont High School. He received his B.S. degree in Business Finance & Economics from California State University, L.A. After 33 years in Banking, specializing in credit underwriting, financial analysis, and portfolio management, he retired at the end of 2024 and is looking forward to traveling, and being more involved in the community.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2025



## Jessica Chew Program

Jessica will trace the Chew family's bold journeys from China to Mexico, Burma, and across the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries—all connected to the Bo Do Hong Company, the family's herbal medicine headquarters, in Red Bluff established circa 1865 with a network serving communities from San Francisco to Los Angeles to Boston. From this small Northern California town, the Chew family built what became the region's longest-running lineage of Chinese herbal physicians, with the last Chinese building that still stands today.

This story also hits close to home: Jessica is leading efforts to preserve the Chew Yuen Company building in Red Bluff—the birthplace of her grandfather and a key piece of Chinese

American history. Through personal discovery, historical storytelling, and community advocacy, this presentation weaves together the family's rich legacy of resilience, entrepreneurship, and cross-cultural impact. Don't miss this powerful continuation of a journey that spans continents, centuries, and generations.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

May 2025



## CHONG ART LEW

SEPTEMBER 9, 1938 – FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Chong Lew was born in Guangdong and came to the U.S. at age two with his mother and brother, fleeing the Japanese invasion and joining his father, Ward C. Lew, who had established a laundry business in Los Angeles. He grew up in the East Adams neighborhood, attended Belmont High, community college, and graduated from Cal State L.A. majoring in Biology with a minor in Industrial Studies. From there, he served in the Air Force Reserves as a lab technician in a medical unit while continuing to help his father at the laundries. Following up on his passion for photography and design, Chong then worked in advertising production for the Los Angeles Times for 20 years, before making a career change into real estate development and property management. In the meantime, he met and married Isobel Wong, originally from Canada.

While working and raising a family, Chong joined the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and served as a valuable member of our board of directors. He and his late wife Isobel were also active in church, as integral members of the Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Orange County where they moved in 1979. Chong is survived by brothers Gene and Mayne, son Jonathan (Audrey), daughter Allison, four grandchildren, and many cousins, nieces and nephews, and grandnieces and grandnephews. His family legacy was published in a chapter entitled *Son of a Laundryman*, in the CHSSC's book, *Bridging The Centuries, History of Chinese Americans in Southern California* (2001).

### Donations

Ellen Davis  
Ken and Dianna Klein  
Charles Kwon  
Winston and Joanne Young  
Cindy Fong

### In Honor of Kathryn Kwok's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Cindy Fujimoto

### In Memory of Dottie Schoon

Susan Dickson  
Mr. and Mrs. Rich Hing  
Nancy W. Chan Kwok  
Susan Schoon

### In Honor of Chong Lew

Raymond Lew  
Debra Wong  
Jenny Wong



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles CA 90012

### Community Events

#### Chinese American Museum programs

April 26 CAM Springfest 12-5 PM at El Pueblo Plaza. CHSSC will have info table.

May 15 6:30 PM CAM opening reception for new exhibition:

(Be) Spoken: Poems from Our Asian American Voices. Curated by Jason Chu. No RSVP req.

May 29 6:30 PM The March Fong Eu Story. In-person (Pico House) and online celebration of release new book about the groundbreaking diplomat and political icon. RSVP @ [camla.org/marchfongeu](http://camla.org/marchfongeu)

#### CHSSC programs

Every Sunday 2-6 PM Open house at our Heritage Center 411 Bernard Street. Exhibits, library, book shop, community historians.

Mid-September Yosemite Pilgrimage. Watch for announcement of exact dates and itinerary.