

Summer 2015 CHCP PROGRESS

*Educating, Preserving, and Promoting
Chinese & Chinese American History and
Culture in the Santa Clara Valley*

Chinese American Historical Museum • 635 Phelan Avenue (Senter Road) • San Jose, CA 95112
P.O. Box 5366 • San Jose, CA 95150-5366 • <http://www.chcp.org> • Email: chcp.info@gmail.com

A Day of Recognition and Celebration

By Wesley K. Chan, DDS

May 17 was a beautiful spring day in the South Bay – light breezes and warm sun. This was a perfect day to recognize, honor, and celebrate the accomplishments of our dearly departed friend and mentor, Lillian Gong-Guy. Having the celebration at History Park San Jose was most appropriate, since History Park was like a second home to her. Lillian's passion, enthusiasm, and seemingly boundless energy for sharing history in general, and Chinese-American history in particular, affected and captivated all who came in contact with her – History Park staff, CHCP members, volunteers, and visitors to the Chinese American Historical Museum.

The day began early when CHCP Board members and other volunteers helped to set up the stage area in the Plaza, as well as set up the reception area for after the program. The Museum was checked over for the expected crowd that would come, after the program.



A Day of Recognition and Celebration (cont'd)

Pre-program entertainment was provided by the Chinese instrumental group “The Strings.” The musicians, teens and one parent, skillfully performed several pieces on their classical Chinese instruments: erhu, pipa, and gu jung. All of the instrumentalists go to high schools in the East Valley.

Alida Bray, CEO and President of HSJ, and Brenda Hee Wong, CHCP President, expressed words of welcome to the gathering of more than 120. They spoke of their close working relationships with Lillian, and about what an inspirational mentor she was for both of them.

The 2014–2015 CHCP Student Docents were also honored with certificates and gifts. The Docents honored were Katherine Kwong and Kelly Kwong, both of Milpitas High, who completed 25 hours assisting inside the Museum as docents and outside the Museum with children’s art activities during CHCP’s special event celebrations. The hard work and efforts of Student Docent Chair Teddy Sue was also acknowledged.

The first presentation of the Lillian Gong-Guy Memorial Scholarship Awards was next on the program, and was presided over by Scholarship Committee Co-chairs Allan Low and Debbie Gong-Guy. The scholarship winners were articulate, energetic, and full of passion to do great things in the world. The three scholarship winners were Evan Tang of St. Francis High, Kimberly Zai of Saratoga High, and Sydney Chiu of Archbishop Mitty High.

Dr. Barbara Voss from the Department of Archaeology, Stanford University, then spoke of how she got involved with the Market Street Chinatown research project because of Lillian Gong-Guy. She spoke of how the research project was able to move along so well because of the efforts of Lillian.



Yvonne Ching, Judy Wong, Mimi Chan (left side), Susan Lew Lee, Debbie Gong-Guy, Carol Fong



Emily Yue, Connie Young Yu, Debbie Gong-Guy, Leslie Masunaga, Mignon Gibson



Chinese instrumental group “The Strings.”

A Day of Recognition and Celebration (cont'd)

Two memorial benches in memory of Lillian were also dedicated for use at the Ng Shing Gung building. One is a wooden bench designed and built by Patrick Trieu, of Boy Scout Troop 164, Milpitas. This bench will be placed inside the first floor exhibit hall, near the timeline. The second bench, a marble bench presented by the 2014 and 2015 CHCP Board of Directors, will sit outside the Museum building, near the Heritage Wall and front Museum entrance. Both benches were accepted by Anita Kwock, CHCP Trustee, and Brenda Wong, CHCP President.

The final part of the day's program was the dedication of the Plaza, located in the middle of HSJ, which was the location of the day's program. Jack Frazer, HSJ Board President, and Alida Bray, HSJ CEO, announced the naming of the Plaza in honor of Lillian – the Lillian Gong-Guy Plaza. Debbie and Robert Gong-Guy, daughter and son of Lillian, unveiled a beautiful sign that spoke of the Memorial Plaza and the influence of Lillian on History San Jose. Debbie thanked HSJ for the honor they had bestowed upon her mother and their whole family.

All the guests were then able to enjoy the fresh fruit, bundtinis and mini-pork buns on the reception tables. They were able to have fellowship with the many CHCP friends who had come to honor Lillian Gong-Guy, as well as to see how CHCP is continuing Lillian's legacy and vision through the Asian-American youth of today. Lillian truly believed in the CHCP motto – "History is for Living, Learning is for Life!"

As all the guests slowly drifted away from the Plaza, the afternoon breezes picked up in the Lillian Gong-Guy Plaza, swaying the branches and leaves. And the sun continued to shine brightly.



Teddy Sue, Student Docents Katherine Kwong and Kelly Kwong, Brenda Hee Wong



Patrick Trieu of Boy Scout Troop 164, Milpitas



Memorial bench

A Day of Recognition and Celebration (cont'd)



Judy Wong and Susan Lew Lee



Liz Chew, Wanda Ching, Al Chin



Families of Debbie Gong-Guy and Robert Gong-Guy



Debbie Gong-Guy, Sydney Chiu, Kimberly Zai, Evan Tang, Al Low



Elsie and Victor Wong

Upcoming Speaker Series Event

CHCP Speaker Series 2015 Presents:

The Chinese and the Iron Road

Stories by Descendants of Chinese Railroad Workers

Did you know that during the building of the Union Pacific section of the Transcontinental Railroad, 80% of the workforce were Chinese?



Photo: "Heading of east portal Tunnel No. 8"
Hart, Alfred A. LOC 2005682948

The history of the Chinese Railroad Workers was largely an untold story. 150 years ago in 1865, the Chinese first participated in the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. Their great achievement was in blasting through the Sierra Nevada Mountains and connecting San Francisco, CA to Promontory, Utah where the Golden Spike was driven in. Last year in 2014, The US Department of Labor recognized the Chinese Railroad Workers by inducting them into the Hall of Honor.

Now, CHCP is hosting a fascinating talk and slideshow about the history of the Chinese Railroad Workers. Speakers **Andrea Yee** and **Linn Lee** will share the collected history of their family and the Chinese contribution in building the Transcontinental Railroad.

The Chinese American Historical Museum will also be open 11-4 p.m

**Print or show this flyer on your mobile device at the History Park gate for complimentary admission.

July 19, 2015
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

The Firehouse
History Park San Jose
635 Phelan Ave.
San Jose, CA 95112

\$6 Parking

Visit www.chcp.org for more info.



Silicon Valley Reads 2015

By Brenda Hee Wong

Docents Brenda Hee Wong, Yvonne Ching, Allan Low, and Debbie Gong-Guy welcomed 140 guests to the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM) on February 22 for Silicon Valley Reads 2015, "Homeland and Home: The Immigrant Experience." The day featured hands-on history activities focusing on the immigrant experience. CHCP sponsored a story time reading/discussion of local Chinese author Belle Yang's book "Hannah is My Name."

During a visit by Cub Scout Pack 349, Den 8, San Jose, the second floor of the CAHM was photographed and described in a San Jose Mercury News article on February 23! The altar area glistened and John Lytle's paintings of

Woolen Mills Chinatown were prominent. Brenda was delighted to have Pack 349's adults and youth as a very attentive listening group. The boys engaged in a lively discussion about students new to America in their classrooms and what they and the newcomers can share and learn from each other. The San Jose Mercury photograph and article is a nice affirmation and commendation to CHCP and its ongoing activities to preserve, educate, and promote Chinese history, culture and experiences with the Silicon Valley community.



CHCP President Brenda Hee Wong with members of Cub Scout Pack 349, Den 8

Year of the Ram Lunar New Year Celebration

By Liz Chew

On a calm and warm March day, CHCP welcomed the Year of the Ram on March 15, 2015 at History San Jose. Over 200 guests, young and old, visited the Chinese American Historical Museum, participated in the children's cultural activities, and enjoyed a variety of cultural performances.

The Orchard School Asian Cultural Lion Dancers kicked off the day with the lions dancing accompanied by the drum and cymbals to ward off any bad spirits lurking about and bring in a good year for the Chinese American Historical Museum and History Park. Colorful Chinese cultural fan and ribbon dancers from Orchard Asian Cultural Dance Troupe wowed the audience with their choreographed dances. The Chinese American Abacus Association amazed the audience with their quick mental math answers. Performing beautiful Chinese as well as Western music, the Cadence Musicians displayed their talents and skills with traditional Chinese instruments. Marvelous Magician Binh tricked the audience with a few fancy moves along with volunteers from the audience.

Highlighting the celebration were a number of high school and CHCP volunteers manning the children's activities which included making lucky red envelopes with sweet treats, Chinese Lion-mask making, Chinese Horoscope and games, puzzles, and stories about the Lunar New Year. The Chinese American Abacus Association introduced a hands-on activity learning how to use the abacus and guests were able to make and take home their own abacus. What a fun day and great beginning for the Year of the Ram for CHCP and History San Jose!



Orchard Asian Cultural Dance Troupe
Lion Dancers



Orchard Asian Cultural Dance Troupe
Lion Dancers



Orchard Asian Cultural Dance Troupe
Lion Dancers

Year of the Ram Celebration (cont'd)



Orchard Asian Cultural Dance Troupe
Fan Dancers



Chinese abacus



Cadence Musicians Elin Chee, Sirina and
Sabina Law



Dragon mask-making



Magician Binh

Outreach

CHCP Outreach at Chi Am Circle's 50th Anniversary Event

By Anita Wong Kwock

President Brenda Hee Wong represented CHCP at the Saturday, March 21, 2015 Chi Am Circle's 50th Anniversary Luncheon Fashion Show at The Fairmont in San Jose. Brenda walked the catwalk like a "pro," making us proud as we cheered her on, modeling a casual outfit with hat and purse accessories.

Thank you to CHCP members: Allan T. Low, Anita Wong Kwock, Cynthia Chang, Debbie Gong-Guy, Zeny and Vincent Seid, and Willy, Brenda, and Megan Wong for buying a table and creating a fun time.



Debbie Gong-Guy, Brenda Hee Wong, Al Low, Anita Wong Kwock

Borrowing the "Golden Legacy" theme, the event was also a fundraiser for three causes, Asian-Americans for Community Involvement's Asian Women's Home shelter; the Nest, a Santa Clara County shelter operated by Freedom House; and Chi Am Circle's scholarship award program for Asian-American students.

Berryessa Chinese School/ ANCCS Academic Competition

By Ann Wong

There were over 1,000 people who came to the Berryessa Chinese School's (BCS) 35th Anniversary which doubled as the Association of Northern California Chinese Schools' Academic Competition, on March 29th, 2015 at Sierramont Middle School, San Jose. Advisory Board Members Celine Chan and Ann Wong were representatives for CHCP and introduced Ng Shing Gung to the visitors. Many of the booth's guests learned about CHCP for the first time and showed a lot of interest about Ng Shing Gung. The high school students who attended this event were excited to hear about the Lillian Gong-Guy Memorial Scholarship and wanted to learn more about Ng Shing Gung for a future school assignment and volunteering.



Celine Chan and Ann Wong

Outreach

Mother's Day Faire

By Brenda Hee Wong

CHCP was invited by World Journal newspaper reporter Wayne Leung to participate in their Annual Mother's Day Faire on May 9th at Cupertino's Memorial Park. Families walked about a multitude of Chinese themed booths such as Chinese food, health, clothing, accessories, cultural classes, orchid show, and cooking demos.

Director Brenda Hee Wong was present to share the mission of CHCP (to preserve, educate, and promote Chinese History and Culture) and introduce all to CHCP's beautiful Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM). Through Outreach events Brenda enjoys opportunities to make new friends for CHCP and CAHM. She was delighted to see several newly made friends the following week, on May 17, at the History Park for CHCP's Recognition and Dedication/Public Archaeology Day!



Brenda Hee Wong with visitors at the Annual Mother's Day Faire

The Li Family from Hong Kong were delighted as they listened to "The Strings," a Chinese instrumental group. They enjoyed the beauty of the CAHM, the park and the story of the early Chinese told in the museum. They had no awareness of Chinatowns in San Jose.

CHCP PROGRESS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

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Traveling Exhibit

CHCP Traveling Exhibit Displayed in Cupertino and Stanford

By Chris Jochim

“Pioneering the Valley: The Chinese American Cultural Legacy in Santa Clara Valley,” CHCP’s traveling exhibit, has been in demand this year. Thanks to our good relationships with partner organizations in Cupertino and Stanford, the exhibit has been on display for the last six months in two excellent locations.

From January 6 to April 10, the exhibit was featured at the Cupertino Historical Museum in the Quinlan Center on Stelling Road in Cupertino. With an invitation from Helene Davis and other members of the Cupertino Historical Society Board, the exhibit was set up in the center of the Cupertino Historical Museum for a three-month exhibition. On February 12, CHCP and CHS Board members gathered together to celebrate the event, along with interested members of the public. With wine, cheese, and other goodies, everyone had a great time.

On April 10, CHCP Secretary Chris Jochim moved the exhibit to the Stanford Archaeology Center with the help of Christina Hodge, Academic Curator & Collections Manager, Stanford University Archaeology Collections, and her assistant, Julie Hitchcock. The exhibition was planned by Professor Barbara Voss, CHCP’s great friend and partner in the study of the Market Street Chinatown and other aspects of the archaeology of Chinese American settlements in San Jose.



Chris Jochim, Christina Hodge, Julie Hitchcock



Directors of Cupertino Historical Society and CHCP

The exhibition of our traveling exhibit was planned to coincide with the international Symposium on the Origins of the Development of Urbanization of Early China from a Comparative Perspective, April 20–21. For this reason the exhibit was viewed by leading scholars of Chinese urban life in China and overseas as well as by others who visited the Stanford Archaeology Center during and after the conference. The exhibit will be at Stanford University well into July 2015.

Organizations and businesses interested in displaying the traveling exhibit can contact Chris Jochim.

2015 Speaker Series

Hidden History: Asians and Pacific Islanders in the U.S. Civil War

An Illustrated Talk by Ruthanne Lum McCunn

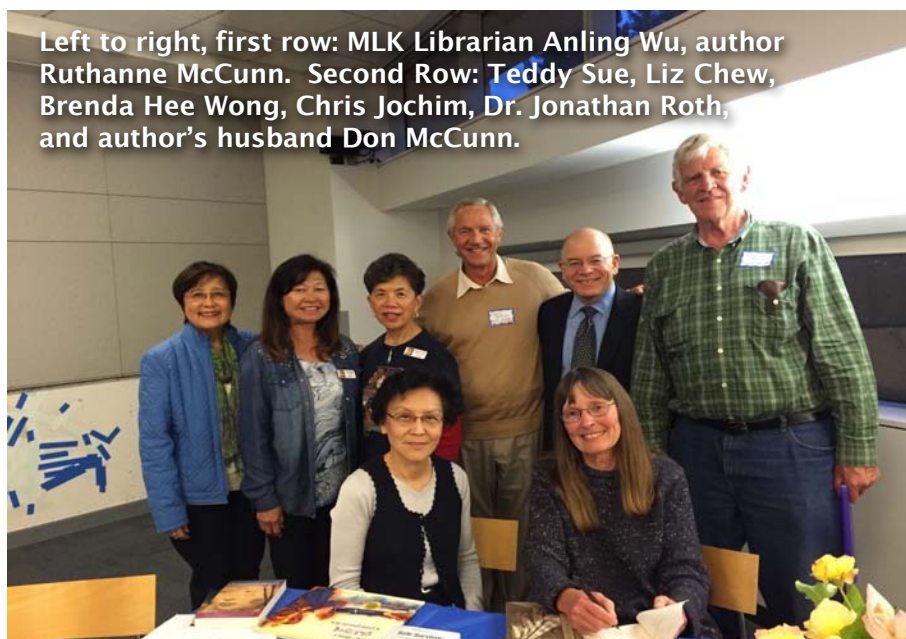
By Teddy Sue

CHCP, the San Jose State University Cultural Heritage Center and the Martin Luther King Jr. Library co-sponsored a Speaker Series on April 28, 2015 which featured Ruthanne Lum McCunn, a Eurasian of Chinese and Scottish descent whose books have won many awards. Best known for her bestselling "Thousand Pieces of Gold," she introduced her latest book "Chinese Yankee," which tells the story of Ah Yee Way who enrolled in the Union's Freedom Army and fought in the Civil War as Thomas Sylvanus. He represented only one of a handful of Asian and Pacific Islanders in the Confederate and Union Navies and Armies in their struggle to attain U.S. citizenship as Chinese veterans. McCunn's research into this important and virtually unknown chapter of the history of these soldiers was fascinating.



Dr. Jonathan Roth, Professor of Military History at San Jose State University, added interesting information to McCunn's research findings and his historical perspective was a valuable bonus.

Many thanks to Brenda Hee Wong, Willy Wong, Christian Jochim, Liz Fong Chew, Zeny Seid, Peter Young, Celine Chan and Teddy Sue who helped with evaluations, greeted guests, assisted at the author table, took pictures, and made sure everything went smoothly. A special recognition and appreciation goes to Anling Wu, librarian at the MLK Jr. Library, for her role in coordinating the event logistics and refreshments with CHCP.



Left to right, first row: MLK Librarian Anling Wu, author Ruthanne McCunn. Second Row: Teddy Sue, Liz Chew, Brenda Hee Wong, Chris Jochim, Dr. Jonathan Roth, and author's husband Don McCunn.

Chinese American Historical Museum

Museum Tour for Milpitas Senior Center

By Brenda Hee Wong

Twenty members of the Milpitas Senior Center had a delightful day at the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM) on May 7. The museum received many compliments of its exhibits and the "Home Base," Heinlinville video as Directors Yvonne Ching and Brenda Hee Wong welcomed the first visit for eighteen of the twenty visitors. One visitor of Chinese descent, raised in the Philippines, was excited to see in the school exhibit the same Chinese primer she used to learn Chinese characters as a child! Several visitors of Chinese descent shared celebrating at Red Egg parties in their homelands.

To supplement the visitors' Chinese experience, a delicious, hearty lunch was arranged by advisory member Celine Chan at Flourishing Gardens Chinese Restaurant. Brenda and Celine were delighted to present the tour as a Milpitas Senior Center sponsored field trip, advertised in their bimonthly newsletter and promoted through a bilingual informational flyer.

Prior to their CAHM visit, Milpitas seniors visited the beautiful Japanese Gardens of Kelley Park. Let CHCP know if we can host members of your community's senior or community centers!



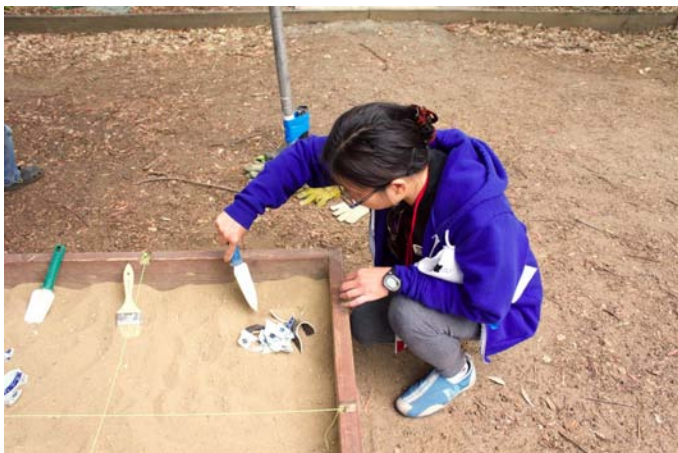
Public Archaeology Day

By Teresa Lau

May 17th was our first Public Archaeology Day event in 2015. It was brought together by Stanford University's Archaeology Department, History San Jose and CHCP. Stations had been set up to simulate a hands-on and fun educational experience of the different phases of archaeology research: Excavation, Screening, Identification and Reconstruction.

Children and their families spent a relaxed Sunday afternoon learning about San Jose history. They finished their trip in the Chinese American Historical Museum where they learned about the artifacts found in the Market Street Chinatown, bringing them closer to the history of our past. Everyone was awarded with a "Junior Archaeology" sticker on their activity passport.

Stanford University also took this opportunity to pass on the knowledge to HSJ and CHCP on how to conduct a public archaeology day which suits the park event schedule in the future.



Public Archaeology Day (cont'd)



Profile – Roger S. C. Eng, D.D.S.



Roger worked as a chemist for three and a half years with Dow Chemical Co. Deciding to end his chemist career, Roger entered UCSF Dental School to become a general dentist.

Roger opened a dental practice in Sunnyvale and established residency in Los Altos. He raised a family of four children with his wife, Sylvia.

During Roger's years as a dentist, he participated in many community services and organizations with highlights as follows: He was President of the Santa Clara County Dental Society, Founder of De Anza Bank in Sunnyvale (bought out by Citibank), President of the Sunnyvale Metro Lions Club and Peninsula Lodge of CACA. Also, Roger received a U.S. Presidential appointment to be a member of the National Advisory Dental Research Council of the National Institute of Dental Research (part of the National Institute of Health).

Roger was elected to the Los Altos City Council and became the first Chinese American Mayor in Santa Clara County in 1981. He was reelected to the City Council and became Mayor again in 1986.

Presently, Roger is retired from dentistry, but serves as a director for CHCP and is Co-Vice President of Los Altos Sister Cities.

Roger was born in Seattle of immigrant parents. He was the youngest of ten children. Throughout his childhood, he worked, as did many Chinese immigrant children, after school to assist the family and eventually to support his way through school.

With the scholarships that Roger received to go the University of Washington along with working after school, he was able to graduate with a B.S. in Chemistry. At UW, Roger received a commission as a distinguished military ROTC graduate to the U.S. Army Reserves.

After graduation from UW, Roger served six months in the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. He was released to active reserve for eight and a half years. Roger retired as a captain in the Medical Reserve Corps. Concurrently, during this time,

Profile – Helina Chin



Hello, my name is Helina Chin, CHCP 2015 Director. I joined this year and took on the role of PR and Outreach.

My pastimes include being healthy, lifting weights and being in the outdoors. I love animals and also volunteer on Sundays at the Children's Zoo at the San Francisco Zoo. When I do get the chance, I love traveling. My favorite thing about traveling, aside from learning about the history and culture of where I'm going, is exploring and discovering the great restaurants and cafes.

Milpitas High School is where I first began my journey in community service with current CHCP President Brenda Wong! She was advisor to the Chinese Club at the time. Afterwards I went on to UC Davis and earned a B.S. in Plant Biology and Minor in Art Studio. After working in a lab setting for a few years, I decided to further pursue art and graphic design, first at Santa Rosa Junior College, and then creating masters level work at the Science Illustration Program at Cal State Monterey Bay. An internship took me to Washington D.C. where I worked at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

For my career, I am a scientific illustrator and graphic designer. Many wonder what Science Illustration is: it is making beautiful and engaging artwork and design that supports science education and research. I will be joining the UC Museum of Paleontology at UC Berkeley as their Graphics Communication Specialist.

Growing up as a Chinese American in the Bay Area has provided me with a special perspective. There is so much history here in the Bay Area that is linked to my family and culture. As an artist, I spend a lot of time thinking about the balance between the ideas of legacy and the future and I think being Chinese American in this age is really about that. Serving on the Board for CHCP allows me to explore this idea further while contributing to the Chinese and Asian communities in the Bay Area.

Membership Application

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Zip Code _____
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Mobile Phone _____
E-mail Address _____

Membership Level

- Individual Membership - \$40
 Family Membership (2) - \$70
 Donation in Memory/Honor of

Mail Form & Check Payable to

CHCP - Membership
P.O. Box 5366
San Jose, CA 95150-5366

CHCP is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization
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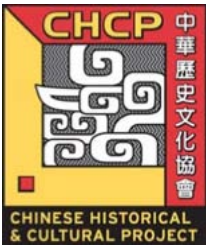
Membership Includes

- Complimentary Ticket(s) to the Annual Meeting
- Invitation to Speaker Series
- Invitation to Social Events
- Discounted Tickets to Cultural Events
- CHCP Progress Newsletter
- Email announcements of Chinese cultural and historical events

Join CHCP & Volunteer to Help

- › ___ Program Development
- › ___ Program Coordinator
- › ___ Docent for Museum
- › ___ Grant Writing
- › ___ Education Program
- › ___ Community Outreach
- › ___ Exhibit Enhancement
- › ___ Website
- › ___ Social Media
- › ___ Other

Monthly Board of Directors' meetings are open to CHCP members to attend. For the date, time and location, please refer to the calendar on the CHCP website.



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CHCP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1987