

# Winter 2015 Vol. 2 CHCP PROGRESS

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

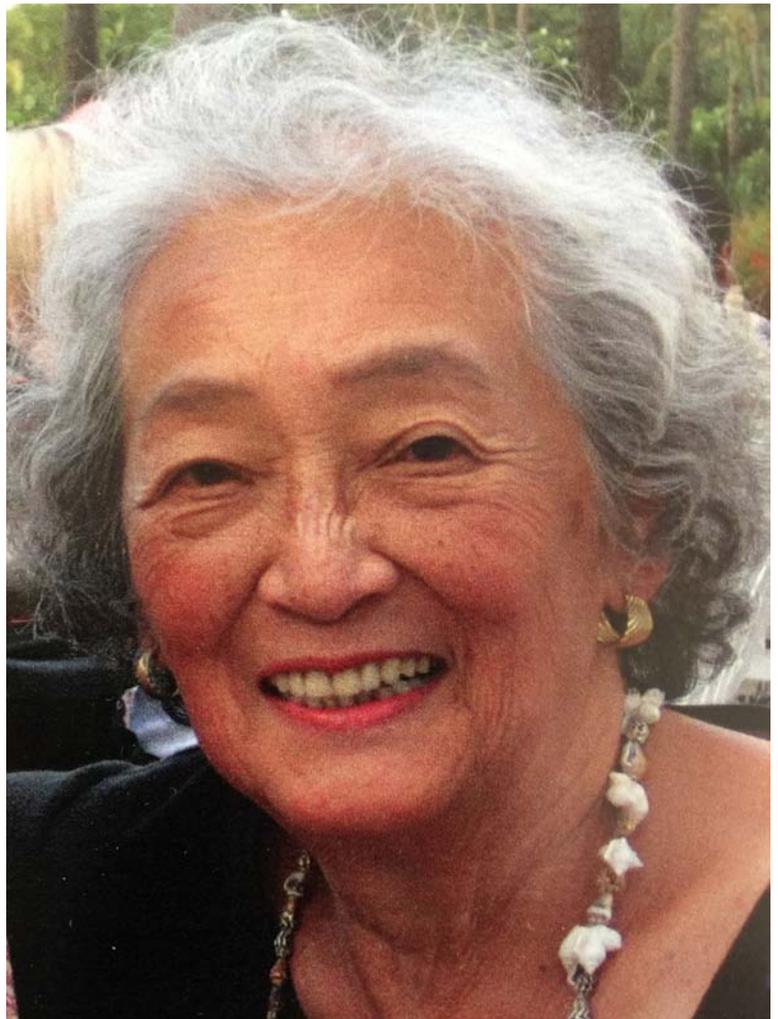
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## In Memoriam

Mildred H. Chin, 87, who was the loving center of her family in Palo Alto and who volunteered for the Christmas Bureau of Palo Alto and other community organizations, died of complications from lung cancer August 22, 2015. She battled Alzheimer's disease for ten years with a grace that enabled her to continue warming the hearts of those around her despite her illness.

Mildred devoted herself to her husband, Allan, and three children, all of whom still live in the area, allowing her to cherish her six grandchildren. Born in Hamilton, Ontario, she graduated from McMaster University and studied occupational therapy at Columbia University in New York. The family moved to Palo Alto in 1966, and she became an active member of the Stanford Area Chinese Club.

Mildred worked 12 years as supervisor of Attendance Accounting for the Palo Alto Unified School district. In her 8-year tenure as president of the Christmas Bureau, annual donations rose from \$27,000 for 350 residents in need to \$100,000 for



**Mildred Hoan Chin**  
August 19, 1928 – August 22, 2015

## Mildred Hoan Chin (cont'd)

almost 3,000 individuals. She also volunteered for years at the Allied Arts Guild in Menlo Park and the Palo Alto YWCA, and served as a founding member of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project in San Jose, which built a replica of a Chinese temple, Ng Shing Gung in Kelley Park's History Park, in 1991. Her creative talents extended to painting, knitting, cooking, and quilting. She loved to sew, knit, garden and play tennis and bridge.

Mildred enjoyed 58 years of marriage with Al, who survives her, along with her children and their spouses, Leslie Chin and Ralph King, Michael and Shirley Chin, and Neil Chin and Solly Catiis, and her grandchildren Jaline and Tucker King, Iris and Vincent Chin, and Logan and Cassandra Chin.

### A Memorial Tribute

By Emily Yue

A Celebration of Life for Mildred was held on Saturday, October 3, 2015 in the beautiful Redwood Grove at the Portola Valley Town Center, Portola Valley, CA. Friends and family gathered to share loving memories of this special lady.

*Special* is the word that comes to my mind whenever I think of Mil. We first met when Al and Mil joined CHCP and volunteered to work on the Ng Shing Gung project. Mil and I were co-chairs of the Exhibit Design Committee. What a joy to work with her! We were more partners than co-chairs of an outstanding committee including Connie Young Yu, Anita Kwock, Al Chin, Gloria Chun Hoo, Sarah Nunes and Nancy Valby. In the beginning, we literally started from scratch!

Working under the professional guidance of Daniel Quan, Exhibit Designer extraordinaire, we gathered old photos and newspaper articles in addition to interviews conducted of old timers who remembered the interior of the Ng Shing

Gung. Throughout the many long months of planning, Mil and Al were the source of encouragement and dedication. We became a single-minded team focused on presenting an interior design that chronicled a history of a Chinatown long gone but not forgotten! We believe we accomplished that goal!

Mil was also a long-time community volunteer in the Palo Alto area and gave of herself humbly and always "got the job done." She never wanted to be in the limelight! Mil always put Al and her family first and took great pride in their accomplishments. She always told me she was blessed with a loving family that brought her unlimited joy. So true!

The last years of Mil's life were difficult as Alzheimer's took over. However, she had wonderful compassionate care at The Gardens of The Sequoias-Portola Valley. Although she will be missed, she will live on in our memories and in our hearts.

# A Tribute in Memory of Dr. Roger S.C. Eng

By Teddy Sue

CHCP lost a long-time Director, friend, and supporter with the recent passing of Dr. Roger S.C. Eng. Both he and his wife Sylvia have been influential leaders on the Board of Directors for many years and have always been strong advocates for the growth and progress of this organization. His absence is deeply felt. Among his many contributions, we will miss his wisdom, friendship, courage, sense of humor, and enduring optimism.

Dr. Roger Eng, Sr. passed away on October 14, 2015 from cancer. He was born on November 20, 1936, in Seattle to 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 additional scholarship support, Roger graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from the University of Washington. At UW, he received a commission as a Distinguished Military ROTC Graduate to the U.S. Army Reserves.

Upon 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, Roger worked as a chemist for three and a half years with Dow Chemical Co.

Deciding to end his career as a chemist, Roger entered UCSF Dental School to become a Doctor of Dental Surgery. In the same year, he and Sylvia were married at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco.

Roger practiced dentistry in Sunnyvale and resided in Los Altos since the late 60's.



## Dr. Roger S.C. Eng

The First Chinese American Mayor  
of Silicon Valley

Together with his wife, Sylvia, he raised a family of four children, Roger, Jr. (Carol), Rocky (Monica), Sharisse Koelbel (Chris), Shanelle Peterson (Greg).

Along with his wife and four children, he is survived by eight grandchildren (Sydney, JT, Logan, Nick, Dexter, Mason, Scott and Henrik), one brother (Sam), three sisters (Daisy, Emma, and Alice), and numerous nieces and nephews.

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, President of the Sunnyvale Metro Lions Club, President of Peninsula Lodge of Chinese

## **Dr. Roger S.C. Eng (cont'd)**

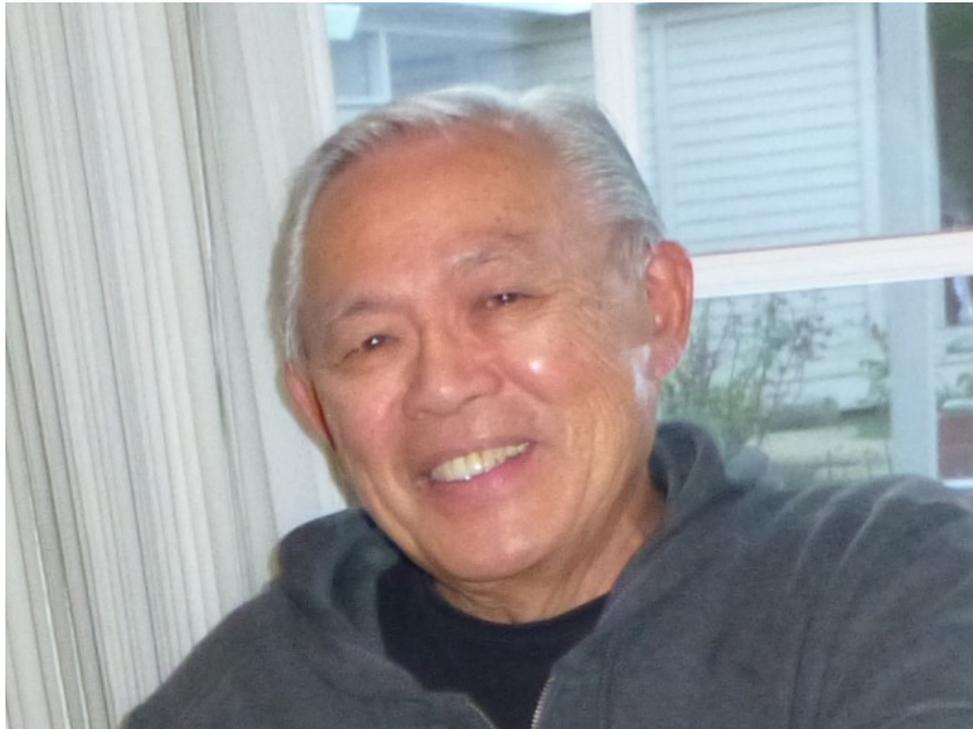
American Citizens Alliance, President of Chinese American Chamber of Commerce and President of Foon Hay Senior Golf Club. He was a Co-Founder of De Anza Bank in Sunnyvale (purchased by Citibank). Roger received a U.S. Presidential appointment to the National Advisory Dental Research Council of the National Institute of Health. He also served as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the UCSF School of Dentistry. At his death, Roger was on the Board of Directors of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project and was Co-Vice President (Bendigo, Australia) of Los Altos Sister Cities.

During Roger's almost half century in Los Altos, he served eight years on the Los Altos Planning Commission. He was elected to the Los Altos City Council and in 1981 became the

first and only Asian American Mayor of Los Altos and the first Chinese American Mayor in Silicon Valley (Santa Clara County). Roger was re-elected for a second term on the Los Altos City Council and became Mayor in 1986.

Roger enjoyed spending time with family and friends through golf trips and traveling the world. He never forgot his humble beginnings and his Seattle roots. Roger always believed in giving back to the community.

Donations in Roger's memory may be sent to: BSA Troop 254, c/o Tim Louie, Scout Master, Chinese Baptist Church, 5801 Beacon Avenue South, Seattle, Washington 98108. In the memo line please write: Dr. Roger S.C. Eng Memorial Fund.



**Dr. Roger S.C. Eng**

November 20, 1936 – October 14, 2015

## Local World War I Hero Lau Sing Kee Remembered in Gratitude by Son Herbert and Family Members

By Brenda Hee Wong

On August 12, CHCP Directors Debbie Gong-Guy and Brenda Hee Wong were honored to welcome Dr. Herbert L. Kee, son of Lau Sing Kee, his wife Virginia, and his godchildren Jeffery Oing, Jenny Low, and Josephine Ho and their families at the Chinese American Historical Museum. Norman Bock of San Francisco, godson of Norman, elder son of Sing Kee, and his wife Kathy were also welcomed.

Lau Sing Kee had five children: two sons and three daughters. The family settled in New York. Younger son Herbert, age 84, resides in New York City's Chinatown and had a general family medical practice in Chinatown. Elder son Norman, age 86, also set up his law office in Chinatown. Eldest grandson Glenn Lau-Kee was the first Asian American elected as President of the New York State Bar Association.

Eldest daughter Margaret, married to Gilbert Marr, lives in Walnut Creek, California. They have two sons: Dr. Kendall Marr, a cardiologist with a practice in the Los Angeles area, and Dr. Clifford Marr, a pediatric surgeon who serves the Sacramento area.

Like Lau Sing Kee, his children and extended families have given continued community service even through retirement. Herbert and Virginia Kee were one of the founders of the Chinese-American Planning Council, one of the largest and most important Asian American non-profit social service organizations in the United States, providing services ranging from mental health to job employment skills. At the CPC 50th Anniversary gala, Virginia and her husband were recently honored for their Lifetime Achievement efforts of over 50 years.



Left to right: Norman Bock, Kathy Li, Jenny Low, Debbie Gong-Guy, Brenda Hee Wong, Matthew Low, Dr. Herbert L. Kee, Virginia Kee, Justice Jeffrey K. Oing, Kevin Oing, Josephine Ho, Laura Oing, Mary Hom Oing

## Lau Sing Kee (cont'd)

Norman Lau Kee assisted Chinese immigrants with their immigration and citizenship legal issues. Jenny Low is the Board Chair of CPC, while Josephine Ho is the Executive Director of the New Jersey Chinese American Chamber of Commerce and Jeffrey K. Oing is a sitting New York State Supreme Court Justice.

After touring the CAHM, responses from the youngest 4th generation family members Matthew Low, age 13, and Laura Oing, age 17, were very positive and heartwarming. Matthew said, "I gained information about my great grand uncle, his heroism in WWI, and how Chinese shrines were laid out." Laura stated, "I learned a lot about Chinese history in California. After learning about the richness of the culture and the resilience of the Chinese community, I have never felt prouder to be a Chinese American."

CHCP thanks the family of Lau Sing Kee for their generous donations to our Heritage Wall and Education Funds, general and Lillian Gong-Guy Scholarship, totaling \$1,500. Brenda and Debbie were humbled and grateful that their patriotic and courageous ancestor, Lau Sing Kee, was given a place of respect and honor through the CHCP/Chinese American Historical Museum exhibit.



Dr. Herbert L. Kee, Brenda Hee Wong, Debbie Gong-Guy



Dr. Herbert L. Kee, Virginia Kee

# Special Exhibition in Memory of 70th Anniversary of the Victory Over Japan

By Debbie Gong-Guy and Lee Liu Chin

In honor of the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Sino-Japanese War, the Silicon Valley Asian Art Center held a special exhibit “The Sacrifice Never Forgotten,” sponsored by the Regal Foundation from August 15 to September 2, 2015. Seventy years ago, the unconditional surrender of Japan to the Allies brought an end to over eight years of conflict. Although the Second World War officially ended on September 2, 1945, VJ Day, or Victory over Japan Day is August 15, when Japan announced it had accepted the Allied surrender terms.

On the afternoon of August 15, the exhibit kicked off with a series of three lectures. Colonel John Easterbrook gave the opening speech on “My Grandfather General Stilwell and the China Theatre.” Connie Young Yu, CHCP Advisor/Historian and the daughter of Captain John C. Young, gave the second lecture on “My Father and the Song Shan Battle.” Dr. Raymond Yeh, son of General Yeh, then spoke on “My Father General Yeh Pei-Kao and

the Teng Chong Battle.” Also present in the audience was Helen Huang, granddaughter of General Huang Hsing (黃興) who made some remarks in Chinese. Huang Hsing, along with Sun Yat-Sen, were revolution leaders. Huang was the first army commander-in-chief of the Republic of China.

In the exhibition, guests had the unique opportunity to view the American-Chinese Captain John C. Young’s diary and relics of the Song Shan Battle. Also on display were two Japanese swords submitted to the China Air Force at the ceremony of Japanese surrender in Taiwan, Chiang Kai-shek’s handwritten secret order, and calligraphy and handwritings of several generals.

The standing room only lectures were attended by several CHCP members including Cynthia Chang, Helina Chin, Lee Liu Chin, George Chin, Debbie Gong-Guy, Alex Lock, Brenda Wong, Dr. John Yu, and Emily and Mervin Yue.



Left to right: Jianhua Shu, Regal Foundation, Colonel John Easterbrook, Connie Young Yu, Helen Huang, and Lee Liu Chin

## Education

### John C. Young in China– Burma–India, World War II

By Connie Young Yu

John C. Young, my father, was a petroleum engineer working in Los Angeles when the U.S. declared war on Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. He was also a U.S. Army reserve officer, having been in ROTC while at Stanford University. He and my mother, Mary Lee Young, their three year-old daughter, Janey and a baby, me, lived with his parents in the peaceful town of Whittier, California.

Knowing he was soon to be called to active duty, my dad had plenty of cares and worries, but he was also elated. For ten long and horrible years, the Chinese had fought the Japanese imperialists — alone. His parents, along with many Chinese in America, raised funds for China relief efforts, and desperately wanted America to help their embattled homeland. Now it would happen at last.

After the Exclusion Law of 1882, Chinese in America were severely discriminated against and considered aliens ineligible for naturalization to U.S. citizenship. With the U.S. and China as allies, all that would change. Americans suddenly looked admiringly upon the brave, enduring Chinese. The Exclusion Law was repealed in 1943. The two countries were united in battling a common enemy, and there was respect and friendship between the peoples.

John's father, my grandfather, Young Soong Quong, came to America in 1881 as an 11-year old laborer. He joined the secret society of Sun Yat-sen, raising funds for the Revolution of 1911. He became a merchant in a general store, sent for his wife and raised two sons in Chinatown, San Jose, Ming (George), born in 1910, and John in 1912. Their parents instilled in them a deep loyalty to China and patriotism for America. The boys attended American public school all day, and then went to Chinese school. The parents struggled and sacrificed during the Depression to provide education for their children.

容兆珍少



The Sino-Japanese War that ended in August 1945 was the greatest patriotic war in the history of China. During the eight years of resistance against invasion, China suffered tremendous loss of life and devastating financial and economic hardship.

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the victory over Japan and it is a fitting time to share the story of a San Jose Chinatown native, who was part of the United States arm forces supporting and helping China to defend the Japanese invasion. Salute to our Chinese American Hero, Major John C. Young!

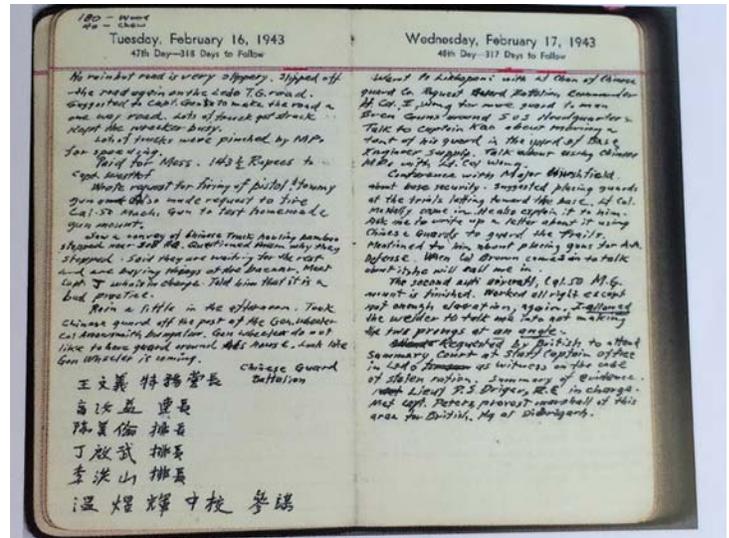
# John C. Young (cont'd)

Ming set his heart on being a pilot and went to aviation school in Texas. John attended Stanford to study engineering. Following the wishes of his father and what he believed was his destiny, Ming, the first Chinese in America with a transport license, went to China to train pilots for the Chinese Air Force. In 1937, two months before John received his graduate degree in petroleum engineering, Ming, at the age of 27, was killed when the plane he was piloting crashed on the side of a mountain 30 miles from Canton.

The mantle of his brother weighed heavily on him, but then, with America at war with Japan, John had his own destiny and purpose. My father gladly reported for duty, and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army February 19, 1942, and would be assigned to the China-Burma-India Theatre of Operations.

Arriving January, 1943 in Ramgarh India, the Allied training center, he was prepared to do his utmost, whatever duty demanded, but he was challenged and tested as never before or after. He was trained in ordnance, but his first assignment was to be base security officer and provost marshal. A few months later, he was in charge of air-dropping supplies to jungle outposts, sending pilots over the treacherous mountain range called "The Hump." He was then sent to Kunming, China, assigned to be a liaison officer. For the next two years, with the rank of captain, he covered the Yunnan and Kweichow provinces, training Chinese troops on the use of weapons and in charge of a unit issuing new equipment to the Chinese troops. He was a combat ordnance officer on the Burma Road and at the battle of Songshan, where he played a key role in the engineering of the explosive charges that blew up the top of the mountain that was enemy stronghold.

My father sent a letter to my mother with the sheet music for "Chi Lai", telling her to please teach their two little girls the Chinese anthem. He wrote, as always, that he was just fine, and not to worry and he was doing mundane things



“some where in China.” But in his diary he wrote vivid, detailed entries of his military assignments, names of people he served with, descriptions of villages and landscapes, where he was and what he saw and did. This was history, and he was in it.

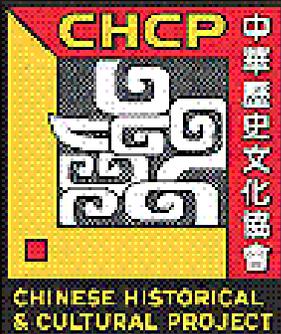
In June 1945 he was overdue for rotation and was sent back to the United States on leave. He was joyfully reunited with his family, but expecting to be sent overseas again. Then on August 15, Japan surrendered and the war was over.

My father returned to civilian life. In 1946 his son Alfred was born, and our family moved to San Francisco. My father became a soy sauce manufacturer, involved in importing and exporting and the restaurant business. He never spoke publicly about his wartime experiences, and only shared them with his family. He had received commendations for his exemplary service from both the U.S. and China but never spoke of his soldiering in glorious or heroic terms. He would tell his children repeatedly, “war is hell.”

My father would become a very successful businessman and respected community leader, but deep inside, he was proudest of what he did during the war. The China-Burma-India years were forever imbedded in his soul. What he experienced in the field of battle was part of world history. He had lived up to his father’s expectations, valiantly fulfilled his duty to his country America and served China with courage, honor and love.

## Upcoming Event

# CHCP Annual Membership Dinner



## Save the Date

Monday, January 25th

6:00 PM

China Stix Restaurant

2110 El Camino Real

Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Members,

Please join us in reflecting our activities over the past year and sharing our exciting plans for the new year!

Our guest speaker is Dr. Michael Chang; Vice President of the Santa Clara County Board of Education, Chair of the Asian and Asian American Studies Department and Director of the Asian Pacific American Leadership Institute at De Anza College and former Mayor of Cupertino. He will address the progress of Chinese Americans in the Santa Clara Valley.

During this gathering members will also be participating in the election of new Board of Directors. We are also sharing exciting news regarding the progress of interactive technology for the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM) and kicking off the 25th anniversary of the CAHM.

See you there!

## Outreach

### Out to Dinner and a Movie with CHCP!

By Brenda Hee Wong

Saturday, September 19th fun started with mouthwatering entrees from Billy Berk's restaurant, followed by a short ten minute walk to downtown San Jose's Camera 3 for the screening of "Chinese Couplets" directed by Felicia Lowe.

A total of 25 CHCP members and guests attended the "Chinese Couplets" screening. CHCP members Brenda/Willy Wong, Jeff/Susan Lee, Debbie Gong-Guy, Gerrye/Calvin Wong, Chris Jochim, Peter Young, Shirley/Tony Tarantino, Rose/Bruce Tokagawa, Elyse/Gene Togioka, Gloria Hom and guests Verna Wong, Helen Yamauchi, and the June Young Stolan family thank Shirley and Peter for coordinating the superb dining and historically and culturally enlightening movie social.

Bay Area's own and San Jose State University graduate Felicia Lowe, one of Asian America's most distinguished godmothers of cinema, presented perhaps her most personal film with "Chinese Couplets," which made its world premiere at CAAMFest 2015, San Francisco. Lowe specializes in Chinese American documentaries with universal appeal, including works on San Francisco's Chinatown and Angel Island. With her latest, Lowe looks at her own mother — whom she calls "the hardest story for me to crack." Lowe deftly brings in history while weaving in a fascinating personal narrative, which brings her family discovery to Cuba and Hawaii. Through the tough conversations that take place in the film, a more complete history is told — on a personal level and for all Chinese Americans, about the painful and triumphant lives of all immigrants who come to the U.S.



CHCP President Brenda Hee Wong, Debbie Gong-Guy, Jeff Lee, Verna Wong, Lorry Lew White, Alycia Yee Litt, Donna Lew, Susan Lew Lee, Elyse Wong



Jeff Lee, Elyse Wong, Susan Lew Lee, Brenda Hee Wong, Debbie Gong-Guy, Director Felicia Lowe, Peter Young.

## Out to Dinner and a Movie with CHCP! (cont'd)

CHCP thanks the Center of Asian American Media (CAAM) and their staff Lin Kung and Ashlyn Perri for the privilege of being a repeat community co-presenter. CAAM provided CHCP publicity opportunities through the CAAM website, in theater acknowledgment, distribution of printed materials about CHCP/CAHM, as well as live in theater time for CHCP President Brenda Hee Wong to tell of CHCP's activities and "jewel," the Chinese American Historical Museum. CHCP moviegoers were also treated to a 33% group discount for their movie ticket. Savings meant more money for buttered popcorn!! Also can't beat free parking.



CHCP President Brenda Hee Wong

# CHCP PROGRESS NEWSLETTER

Winter 2015

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Gerrye Wong  
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Emily Yue

## Education

# 2015 Mid-Autumn Moon Festival at History San Jose

By Liz Chew

An eager crowd of over 300 guests descended upon the History San Jose Park on a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon on September 20th to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. This holiday is a time to reflect upon the bounty of the summer harvest, the fullness of the moon, and the myth of the immortal Moon Goddess, Chang O, who lives in the moon. The Moon Festival is often compared to a “Chinese Thanksgiving” because of its spirit of gratitude and its inclusion of abundant food including the popular moon cakes.

A diverse slate of entertainment and performances delighted the audiences throughout the festival. The Orchard School Lion Dancers greeted the excited guests as they entered the festival. Sponsored by CHCP, the fabulous Far East Dragon Lion Dancers kicked off the event. The charismatic Cadence Musicians, the outstanding Orchard School Lion, Ribbon, Fan, and Tinikling Dance Teams, the Amazing Chinese Abacus Association, and Moon Festival storytelling wowed the enthusiastic audiences. At the children’s activity area, the enthusiastic volunteers from CHCP, Milpitas High School Chinese Club, and Boy Scout Troop 468 served the happy, smiling children making lanterns and lion masks, learning Chinese brush painting and calligraphy, getting their faces painted and enjoying a variety of children’s games and puzzles depicting Chinese culture. The Chinese American Historical Museum greeted over 200 guests!



# Mid-Autumn Moon Festival (cont'd)

California Assemblyman Kansen Chu and his wife Daisy led the festival parade followed by the Orchard School Lion, Ribbon, and Fan dancers. Families and children holding colorful hand-decorated lanterns joined in as the parade wound through the streets of History Park. The Moon Goddess smiled upon History Park as the celebration of the Moon Festival ended with the last guests departing the park.



# Mid-Autumn Moon Festival (cont'd)



# Mid-Autumn Moon Festival (cont'd)



## Student Docent Program

### CHCP Proudly Presents Its Newest Class of Student Docents

By Teddy Sue

CHCP's Student Docent Program held its second training session on October 4, 2015 for seven students with two parents in attendance. The students included four from Milpitas High School: Isabel Li, Crystal Tran, Melody Tran, and Vivian Tsang. Sydney Koelbel attends Fremont High School, and Chloe Hong represents James Logan High School in Union City. Kevin Eung studies at De Anza College and follows in the footsteps of his older brother, Johnson, who currently docents for the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM). Mothers Christine Tran and Nhan Lu stayed for the training and learned along with their daughters. Parent Teams (parent and student docents) working and sharing together as interpreters in the museum leads to a wonderful bonding opportunity! We look forward to a time when Parent Teams will work together as interpreters in the museum.

Students (including our two mothers) arrived at the Fox Den Conference Room where the Orientation/Training started at 11:00 a.m. Brenda Hee Wong welcomed the students and had each one relate some aspect of his/her cultural history. Anita Kwock unfolded the background of CHCP and its relationship to History San Jose (HSJ) and told the story of the museum itself. Wendy Abelmann, Director of Education, History Park San Jose gave a short overview of HSJ and its affiliation with the CAHM and was excited to see the number of students willing to volunteer as docents for the museum. Wendy emphasized that docents are really interpreters of the museum to all visitors.

It was helpful for students to hear from past student docent, Sirina Law, our first student docent training graduate and from Johnson Eung who has been a docent for a number of years.



Left to right: Christine Tran (Crystal's mother), Brenda Hee Wong, Sydney Koelbel, Melody Tran, Isabel Li, Kevin Eung, Chloe Hong, Crystal Tran, Vivian Tsang, Nhan Lu (Chloe's mother), Teddy Sue  
Seated: Johnson Eung, Sirina Law

## Student Docents (cont'd)

Now a new father, Johnson has had to curtail his volunteer activities but fortunately for us, agreed graciously to come and tell his experience as a young docent.

After a pizza lunch and a question and answer period, Anita Kwock gave the student docent trainees an in-depth tour of the exhibits and historical artifacts in the museum. The students became familiar with the process of opening the museum and being helpful visitor guides, especially in the event of an emergency. They were better informed of the lives of the early Chinese in the Santa Clara Valley after seeing the video: "Home Base: A Chinatown Called Heinlenville." Training ended around 3:00 p.m.

CHCP is honored to partner with these seven aspiring youth as we strive to present ourselves and Chinese history and culture to the community. All seven young docents have Cantonese and/or Mandarin speaking skills ranging from conversational to proficient! All share a love for Asian culture through song, dance, art, drama and music. Come by the Chinese American Historical Museum and meet our new official Student Docents as they continue to sign up for assignments throughout the school year.

Special thanks go to Crystal Tran from Milpitas High School for volunteering to be the Student Docent Liaison. Crystal keeps track of Student Docent scheduled workdays, tracks hours, logs hours, and records the number of community service hours for each student docent volunteer. Crystal created her own spreadsheet on which to keep the data and has been so efficient and conscientious, that we owe her a big round of applause and recognition for her extra effort.



Anita Wong Kwock, chair of CAHM docents, and Wendy Abelmann, Director of Education, History Park, present History Park information



Past Student Docent Program member Sirina Law shares her experiences.

## Student Docents (cont'd)

We need to recognize the many CHCP members who help out and interact with our new student docents. Special thanks also go to Brenda Hee Wong whose persistent and constant efforts to inform the community allowed us to have the number of students who attended the training. My deep appreciation goes to Anita Kwock for not only being a master teacher but for preparing the CHCP training manual. Kudos to Lee Liu Chin for her willingness to talk to the students, to George Chin for picking the pizza up from Costco, to Al Low for his help and interaction with the students, to Theresa Lau for her support of the program and the students, to Yucaipa Kwock for taking pictures, and to Dr.

Wesley Chan, Liz Chew, Yvonne Ching, and Helina Chin for their support of all student volunteers. If I've left someone out, I truly apologize and will include them in the next newsletter.

Our next Student Docent Training will be held Sunday, December 20, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fox Den Conference Room (directly across the street from the museum). A simple lunch will be provided. Interested students can still apply by contacting Brenda Wong at [brenda.wong@chcp.org](mailto:brenda.wong@chcp.org) or me at [fandtsue@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fandtsue@sbcglobal.net). Student Docents make a difference!



# Chinese American Historical Museum

## Milpitas High School Book Club visits CAHM on October 16

By Brenda Hee Wong

CHCP president Brenda Hee Wong was ecstatic when she received a request for a tour of the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM) by the Milpitas High Book Club. She felt honored that two recently enrolled members of CHCP's Student Docent Program (SDP) encouraged their peers to spend their day off from school and travel to the CAHM to learn about Chinese culture and Chinese American history through its exhibit about its pioneers to San Jose, 1860's-1880's.

SDP docents Melody Tran and Isabel Li are also officers of the Book Club. Responses to the museum and its content were: "...artifacts from the Chinatowns were cool,...altar was made so well,...the carvings are very detailed and awe inspiring, the opera clothes were very beautiful and interesting to see the way they dressed,... learned a lot of information about the Chinese culture and was fascinated by it. Would love to come back,...museum experience was very interesting. The first floor gives a nice glimpse into the past, but the altar on the second floor is truly the piece de resistance. It is so easy to get lost looking at all the intricate carvings on the altar,...the Ship of Life is very unique..."

Keeping in mind that the teens were a book club, Brenda asked if they would like her to read a book to them. The group chose Oliver Chin's "Year of the Ox" book. After their tour and story time, the lively group brought lunch and stayed to discuss the club's own group novel. CHCP members should feel proud that they have indeed given today's youth a place to go that they feel is "amazing, interesting, educational and exciting." The experience surmounts anything they could experience from their smart phone!



President Brenda Hee Wong reading "Year of the Ox" to Milpitas High Book Club members.



# Chinese American Historical Museum

## Chinese American Historical Museum Welcomes Chi Am Circle on October 18

By Brenda Hee Wong

With much pride to share Chinese and Chinese American San Jose history with Chi Am Circle members, the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project Board of Directors set aside a day for a special tour of its Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM). Directors Teddy Sue and Brenda Hee Wong, along with Co-Founder Gerrye Wong, welcomed Chi Am members Wanda Ching, Jennie Hong, Frances Quon, Verna Wong, Wendy Zee, and Carolyn Jow and their guests, Deborah Leu Anderson, Alex Lock, Doreen Lew, and Irene Yeh to a no-host, traditional cart offerings of delicious dim sum lunch items at Flourishing Garden Restaurant, before leading all to History San Jose/CAHM to meet CHCP Director Anita Wong Kwock, Museum Docents' Chair.



CHCP leaders Brenda Hee Wong, Teddy Sue, Anita Kwock and Gerrye Wong welcome Chi Am visitors to the museum

Tomato beef chow mein was a favorite and some were new to the steamed and baked versions of the egg yolk bun. Although Chi Am members' attendance was sparse for this scheduled Chi Am outing, a good time was had by all.



## Chi Am Circle (cont'd)

CHCP hopes that another scheduled tour and get together can be arranged next year so that many more Chi Am members who have never had the opportunity to visit the museum can learn more about the proud history of Chinese pioneers who settled in San Jose. Sharing this story with the children of Chi Am members would be a delight as well as hopefully stimulate an appreciation to support CHCP's mission to preserve, educate, and promote Chinese and Chinese American history and culture. It was a special joy to reminisce with CHCP Founding Members Frances Quon and Carolyn Jow.

Guests who came said the visit gave them a greater appreciation of the hardships and courage new Chinese immigrants faced in discriminatory times. Special group tours and visits can always be arranged by contacting CHCP president Brenda Hee Wong, [brenda.wong@chcp.org](mailto:brenda.wong@chcp.org) or Anita Wong Kwock, [awkwock@chcp.org](mailto:awkwock@chcp.org).



Tom Jow, Carolyn Jow, Wanda Ching, Alex Lock, Gerrye Wong, Brenda Hee Wong, Melanie Lew, Teddy Sue, John Lew, Doreen Lew, Jennie Hong, Tom Hong



Verna Wong, Frances Quon, Hamilton Yeh, Cecilia Mo, Irene Yeh, Brenda Hee Wong, Wendy Zee, Teddy Sue, Fillmore Sue, Pete Anderson, Deborah Leu Anderson



Founding members Frances Quon, Carolyn Jow, and co-founder Gerrye Wong.



# Chinese American Historical Museum

## Western Museum Association Conference

By Anita Wong Kwock

History San Jose hosted a fun, unique event for the Western Museum Association (WMA) Conference Monday, October 26, 2015, from 7:30 to 10:00 PM. The Chinese American Historical Museum in the 1888 replica of Ng Shing Gung building was staffed by the Executive Officers Brenda Hee Wong, Chris Jochim, Al Low, and Yvonne Ching, Director Debbie Gong-Guy, and Governing Trustee Anita Wong Kwock to talk with guests and provide a hand-out about Chinese inventions used in the Mini Maker's Faire. Monday evening some of the WMA conference attendees came to the History Park to see the BEST of HSJ and was very impressed with our museum.

Museum professionals attend this conference to learn about current topics and issues in the museum field, exchange ideas and best practices, and to come away energized about their profession. The conference was from October 24-27th.

## Education

### 2015 Haunt History Park

By Anita Wong Kwock

CHCP participated in the 2015 Haunt History Park, Saturday, October 31, from 11 AM to 3 PM with Debbie Gong-Guy, Director and Anita Wong Kwock, Governing Trustee as the leads, Student Docents Sydney Koelbel, Kevin Eung, Isabel Li, and Melody Tran.

Our table was set up in front of the Chinese American Historical Museum on the street adjacent from the Lillian Gong-Guy Plaza. We gave out information about Chinese Bats with three pages of puzzles to over 300 children and families along with Bat Bell Bracelets, Bat Flyers, Bat, Cat, and Spider card puppets, Bat color pencils, Bat rings, and Pumpkin stickers.

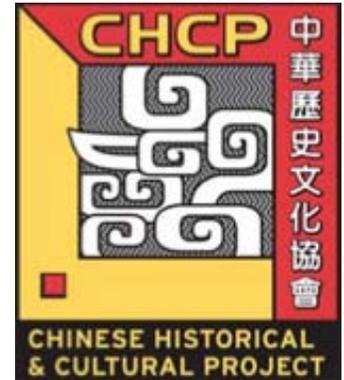


Student Docent Program members Kevin Eung, Isabel Li, Melody Tran, and Sydney Koelbel with trustee Anita Wong Kwock

# Membership Dues for 2016

Dear CHCP members:

Thank you for your support of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP). We are proud to have served the community for over 25 years and equally proud that the Chinese American Historical Museum (CAHM) has been the crowning jewel at History Park San Jose for 25 years. The Chinese American Historical Museum houses Ng Shing Gung, the replica of the last Chinese temple in San Jose circa 1888 and other treasured artifacts. The museum gives the Chinese community a sense of pride and focus. Cultural identity is just as important today as cultural diversity.



What have we done?

1. Increase in quality and quantity of outreach programs like speaker series (Ruthanne McCunn with “Chinese Yankee,” etc.) and promotion of the arts like CAAMFest’s” Chinese Couplets.”
2. Promotion of Chinese cultural events at History San Jose such as New Year’s Festival, Moon Festival, Heritage Days, Pacific Rim Days, dedication of Lillian Gong–Guy Plaza.
3. Keeping our docent training programs at the high school alive for Ng Shing Gung. We have established a Lillian Gong–Guy Memorial scholarship fund for high school seniors in Santa Clara Valley.
4. Membership and donations can now be accepted online at [www.mkt.com/CHCP](http://www.mkt.com/CHCP).
5. Credit card payments can now be accepted using Square (member must pay fees).
6. Kept our office expenses low, brochures, pamphlets, newsletters, promos.

The cost of keeping our culture alive and real for our children does not come free. We at CHCP work as volunteers and for the love of the culture.

The dues for 2016 will be:

Individual membership	\$40	CHCP Membership/Donations
Family Membership	\$70	P.O. Box 5366
Checks payable to CHCP Membership		San Jose, CA 95150–5366

The Annual membership dinner will be held on January 25, 2016, 6:00PM at China Stix Restaurant. All will collect membership dues, dinner fees (\$35 for each non–member dinner guest), and donations accepting cash, check, or credit card (using Square – user responsible for associated fees). Memberships can also be renewed online at [www.mkt.com/CHCP](http://www.mkt.com/CHCP) or sent to the CHCP address. Donations to our Lillian Gong–Guy Scholarship Fund are always welcomed.

Please notify us of any change in the information we have on file, so that we can update our records and keep you informed (i.e. name, address, telephone no., email).

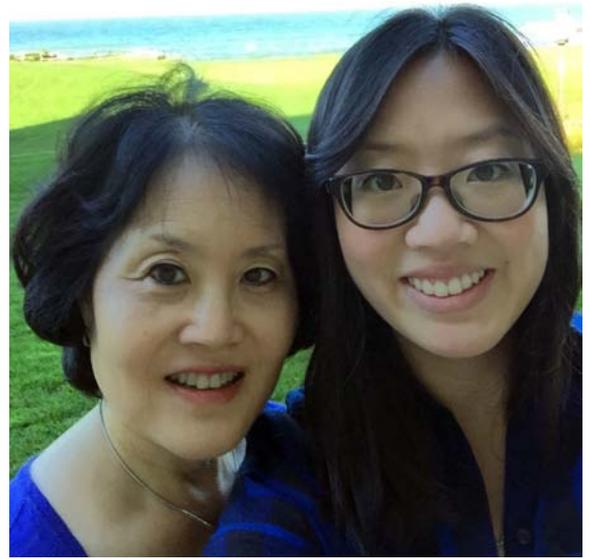
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT  
Yvonne Ching CHCP/VP

## Director Profile – Debbie Gong-Guy

Debbie Gong-Guy is an experienced business-woman with deep roots in Silicon Valley. She is the daughter of CHCP co-founder, the late Lillian Gong-Guy. In serving on the board this past year, Debbie has strived to carry on her mother's legacy.

She is proud of co-chairing the Lillian Gong-Guy Memorial Scholarship Fund (LGGMSF) committee with Allan Low. This year through the LGGMSF, CHCP awarded scholarships to three outstanding high school seniors. She also serves on the TEEC committee.

Debbie is a Stanford University graduate with degrees in Communications and Music. Prior to retiring in 2009, she had more than 25 years of experience in strategic planning, project leadership and vendor management. Her Board and Trustee experience includes the Junior League of San Jose, Saint Andrew's School, American Electronics Association Credit Union (now KeyPoint CU), and Saint Francis High School. She is very active in the community and has volunteered for the American Cancer



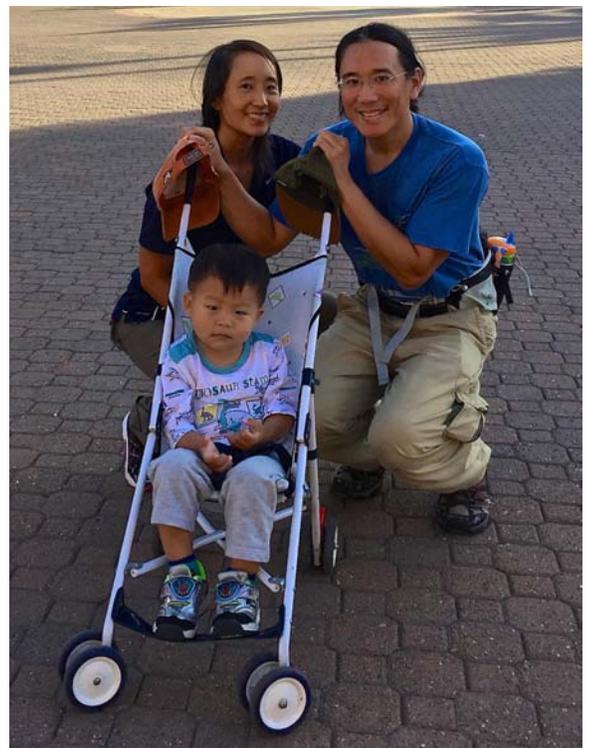
Society's Courageous Kids, National Charity League, and Valle Monte League. Her daughter Mimi works in Los Angeles. Debbie enjoys cooking, reading and going to the movies with friends.

## Advisory Profile – Rae Chang

Rae Chang is an artist and graphic designer based in the Bay Area. A graduate of U.C. Berkeley with degrees in Art and Anthropology, she worked as a designer at various Internet companies. Her fine art works include projects in drawing, sculpture, performance, and video. Trained in Chinese martial arts (wushu), from 2001–2006 she performed with the dance company Facing East Dance and Music, exploring the Asian female experience through modern dance.

With her husband Adam Tow, in 2009 she produced and directed “Autumn Gem,” a documentary feature on the Chinese revolutionary heroine Qiu Jin. The film has screened at over 120 venues worldwide. In 2012 they created the Autumn Gem iBOOK, a companion digital textbook.

Rae currently volunteers as an advisory member to CHCP, designing and editing the newsletter. She and Adam live in Santa Clara with their son Dash.



### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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  
Fed. Tax ID # 77-0156509

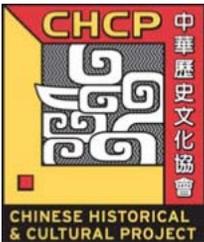
### Membership Includes

- 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.



P.O. BOX 5366  
SAN JOSE, CA  
95150-5366

[www.chcp.org](http://www.chcp.org) • [chcp.info@gmail.com](mailto:chcp.info@gmail.com)

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