



The CHSA Bulletin is published multiple times throughout the year. To contribute articles about Chinese American community and historical news and events, please submit articles to [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org).

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time dated material

簡報

Bulletin  
CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM



## We deeply appreciate your support

At this time we would be extremely grateful if you would consider a gift to support our work in the upcoming year. 2014 is shaping up to be another remarkable journey with these exciting new initiatives:

- Chinatown Memories Oral History Project
- Continuing Collaboration with the Stanford Chinese Railroad Worker Project recovering the stories of descendants
- 2014 Collections Preservation Project
- Continuing our free Museum Admissions program
- 2014 Marketing and Communications initiative

Your participation would enable us to share the untold stories of Chinese in America with a broader international audience and ensure the place of our history within the American multicultural narrative.

**PLEASE RENEW OR PURCHASE A CHSA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

We also invite you to make a donation of \$1,000 / \$2,500 / \$5,000 or more. Employer-matches are especially welcome! All contributions are tax deductible (Federal tax ID #94-67122446). Contact us at (415) 391-1188.



# Bulletin 簡報

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM Winter 2014 | Vol. 50, No. 1

## Saluting CHSA's Founders: C. H. Kwock

*Final installment of the series highlighting our founders*

C.H. Kwock was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 24, 1920 to a merchant couple from Sekkei, Zhongsan as the first of nine children. His childhood was spent traveling back and forth between Hawaii and Hong Kong during 1926 to 1930. Through the British schools in Hong Kong, Kwock learned to speak both Chinese and English which proved to be an asset for him later in life. Eventually he settled in Hawaii during 1937 because of the second China-Japan war. Kwock had a two-year stint as a teacher in a school he built in the poor section of Kilauea, teaching twelve students how to read and write.

In 1947, Kwock moved to San Francisco to work with his sister Lily and her husband Dai Ming Lee, editor of *The Chinese World*. While working at *The Chinese World*, he eventually became an editor and public relations representative, writing editorials urging John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy to change legislation regarding Chinese immigration quotas. Throughout his career he met several famous people, most notably Albert Einstein, who gave him an autographed photo. Later on, he convinced Lyndon B. Johnson to be an honorary member of CHSA.

Kwock is also known for his translated poetry and childrens' books with Vincent McHugh such as *The Bull with*



White House photo. From *Bridging the Pacific* by Thomas W. Chinn, 1989. Two of CHSA's founding members C.H. Kwock (left) and H.K. Wong present former President Lyndon B. Johnson an honorary membership on August 2, 1964.

*Magic Eyes and Other Chinese Fables, Why I Live on the Mountain, and Old Friend From Far Away.*

Through his connections with *The Chinese World*, Kwock met H.K. Wong and Thomas Chinn. Chinn initially wanted Kwock to help him publish his writings in the English portion of *The Chinese World* but later asked Kwock to join the Chinese Historical Society of America, feeling that he would be a great asset to the organization. Kwock was hesitant, but Wong convinced him.

These initial meetings would take once a week or once a month in member's homes. They would often discuss the relevancy of Chinese America history to society, go on field trips and collect artifacts. Other than giving input and attending meetings, Kwock would publish stories about CHSA in *The Chinese World*.

Kwock is the last surviving founder, currently living in Oakland with his family. He is proud to have been a part of CHSA.

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2014

JAN 11, 11 AM-2:30 PM

#### Annual CHSA Membership Luncheon

The luncheon will be held at Hilton San Francisco Financial District. This year's theme is *Weaverville: Affirming Our Past*. More details on Page 2. Check out our website at [chsa.org](http://chsa.org) for ticket information.

FEB 13, 6-10PM

#### A Night at the Museum

Friends of Roots and the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) invite you to celebrate Chinese New Year. This happy hour event will feature refreshments, fresh beats, a professional photo booth, and a cash bar.

FEB 15, 11AM-4PM

#### CHSA Celebrates the Year of the Horse

Join the CHSA Museum before the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade for a full day of programs to welcome in the Year of the Horse. Usher in the New Year at CHSA with a full day of family activities including live music, gallery tours, exhibit premieres, live performances, and more!

Event details at [chsa.org/events](http://chsa.org/events). All events held at the CHSA Museum unless otherwise stated.

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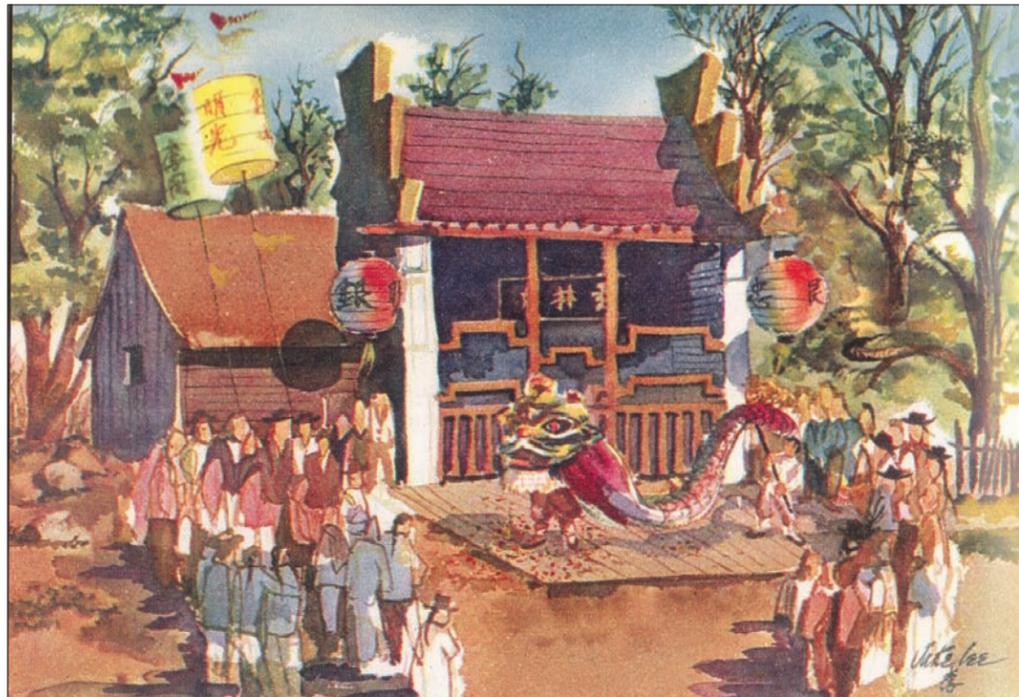
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# Weaverville: Affirming Our Past



CHSA COLLECTION

*Chinese New Year Celebration, Weaverville, California. Watercolor painting by Jake Lee.*

Fifty years ago, one of the first activities of the brand-new Chinese Historical Society of America was to take groups on field trips to sites of historic importance to Chinese Americans. At the time, these historic sites were already being lost through development and neglect, creating a sense of urgency within CHSA to protect these sites and preserve the stories associated with them. Among the first historic places visited was Weaverville. And today, the Weaverville Joss House is now a California State Historic site.

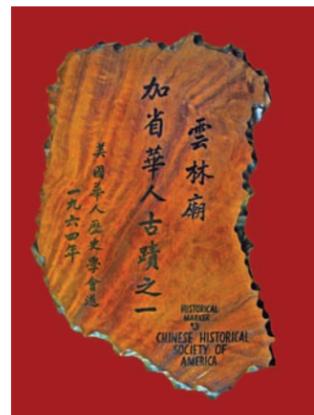
### ABOUT THE WEAVERVILLE JOSS HOUSE

In 1956, Moon Lim Lee, descendant of one of the original miners who built the Joss House, donated it to the State of California. That generous gesture was a stroke of genius as the Weaverville Joss House is now preserved, protected and

renovated. Without the support of the State of California facilitated by the efforts of then State Assemblymember Fiona Ma, the Joss House's incredible artifacts, hangings and religious ephemera would not have been preserved nor restored. Today, however, many Chinese historic sites are still overlooked, neglected, forgotten.

### CELEBRATING AND PRESERVING OUR RICH HISTORY!

At our annual Membership Luncheon on January 11, 2014 at the Hilton Hotel in Chinatown we will acknowledge the fact that vestiges of a rich history of early Chinese settlements still exist. We will put on display some of the records and accounts that CHSA has in our own collections about Weaverville as a way to pay homage to our early sites. Special guests that will be with us that day are Jack Frost, California Parks Service Ranger



CHSA COLLECTION

Preservation marker presented by CHSA to Weaverville, California in 1964.

and Historic Monument Guide for the Weaverville Joss House State Historic Park, former State Assemblymember Fiona Ma, Cathy Lee Price, granddaughter of Moon Lim Lee, and other family members.

Visit [chsa.org](http://chsa.org) for information and tickets for CHSA's Annual Membership Luncheon.

# Best of CHSA In 2013: A Year In Review

What an exciting year for CHSA! As we promised earlier in the year we continued to engage the public with great programs and exhibits. This past year we were pleased to offer free admission; create new partnerships with the de Young Museum, California Academy of Sciences, and the Exploratorium; and significantly increased museum attendance. Going into the new year we hope to find continued success through quality programming and reaching out to other institutions and communities.

CHSA has also increased a web presence and expanded their reach through social media websites. We even opened an Instagram account (@chsamuseum) and a Tumblr (chsamuseum.tumblr.com) for long-form blogging. We also posted highly informative online exhibits such as *Earthquake: The Chinatown Story* and *The Work of Giants: The Chinese and the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad*. Be on the lookout for more original online content!

On behalf of the CHSA staff, we would like to thank you for subscribing to the *Bulletin* as we deliver news and views of what's happening currently at our museum and the Chinese American community. See you all again in 2014!



ALL PHOTOS FROM CHSA COLLECTION

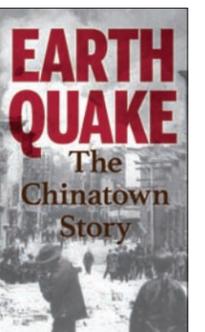
CHSA staff and volunteers showcased their talents during Lunar New Year in February after a few months' practice. Taught by dragon dance teacher Corey Chan, they wowed the crowd with their awesome moves.



Above left (l to r): Doug Chan, Charlie Chin, Laurie Wu McClain, and Steve Phillips at the March on Washington panel in August. Right: Rick Quan poses a picture with Norman Owyong after a discussion in July about his stint with the Golden State Warriors.



"Creative Spaces" artist Leland Wong created this mural on the facade of the Yick Gallery, which served as his artist studio throughout the year.



Left: Throughout the year our main gallery held the "Hats Off!" exhibit, which kicked off in March. Donated by Leslie Selcow in honor of her friend Jade Snow Wong.

Right: CHSA debuted a brand new traveling exhibit called *Earthquake: The Chinatown Story* in April, commemorating the anniversary of the San Francisco 1906 Earthquake and Fire.