



Locke Foundation Newsletter 樂居鎮基金會  
Preserving Locke's history and legacy

[www.locke-foundation.org](http://www.locke-foundation.org)

Spring 2017

[lockefoundation@frontiernet.net](mailto:lockefoundation@frontiernet.net)

**Locke Foundation Presents**

# **Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival**

**Raffles  
Music  
Dance  
Food  
Lion Dance  
Taiko Drums  
and more**



**Free Admission  
Free Parking**

**Saturday, May 20, 2017**

**11am - 5pm**

**Main Street, Locke, California**

**樂居鎮亞太春節聯歡**

Locke Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization. FEIN: 20-0364281  
[www.locke-foundation.org](http://www.locke-foundation.org) 916-776-1684 / 916-776-1828



# COMMUNITY BIDS FAREWELL TO FRIEND

Written by Stuart Walthall  
Color Photos: Jeff Kan Lee  
B&W photo: James Motlow



On January 29, 2017 residents from Locke and surrounding communities gathered to commemorate and celebrate the life of longtime friend and Locke advocate, Jeff Gillenkirk. The well-attended ceremony was held at the Jan Ying Museum located on Main Street, Locke.

Jeff had passed away unexpectedly on November 22, 2016 at the age of 67. He was co-author of Bitter Melon: Inside America's Last Rural Chinese Town, the definitive biography of Locke. (To see Jeff's full obituary, go to the Locke Foundation website at [www.locke-foundation.org/](http://www.locke-foundation.org/) and click on the 2017 Winter Edition of the LF Newsletter).



**James Motlow**

In a ceremony led by Locke resident and Bitter Melon photographer James Motlow, friends were given the opportunity to share stories, express gratitude, and give testimony to how their lives had been touched and influenced by Jeff.

The memorial service was initiated by Locke resident D.R. Wagner's reading of a poem taken from his recently released book: Love Poems. Jeff had read this poem, entitled "Coming to our Senses Again", to his life partner Katie Kleinsasser the night before his passing.



**Locke Poet  
D.R. Wagner**

Following Wagner was actress Nancy Wang, who orated dramatic excerpts from Ten Thousand Steps: One Woman's Insistence on the American Dream, a play written by Gillenkirk about the life of Locke legend Connie King. Wang is a founding co-director and principal performer with the Asian American Theater Workshop Eth-Noh-Tec, an Asian American kinetic storytelling non-profit organization based in San Francisco.

Wang's presentation was preceded by Maximilienne Ewalt's reading of the script introductory text.



**Actress Nancy Wang**



**Connie Chan Robison**

Next to speak was Connie Chan Robison. Connie, born and raised in Locke, had generously lent her language and social skills to Gillenkirk while serving as facilitator and translator for the numerous oral histories contained in Bitter Melon. She spoke eloquently of the meaningful mutual friendship and respect that evolved while working closely with Jeff.



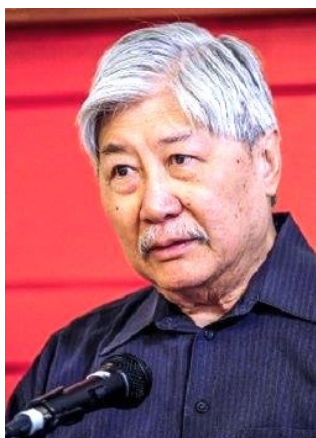
**Lili and Darwin Kan**

Also paying tribute were Darwin and Lili Kan. Darwin was born and raised in Locke, is the grandson of Locke founding father Lee Bing, and is the past owner/operator of Walnut Grove's iconic BIG STORE.

Locke businessman Clarence Chu gave touching testimony to the deep friendship that developed between himself and Jeff through their many years of casual, yet significant conversations.



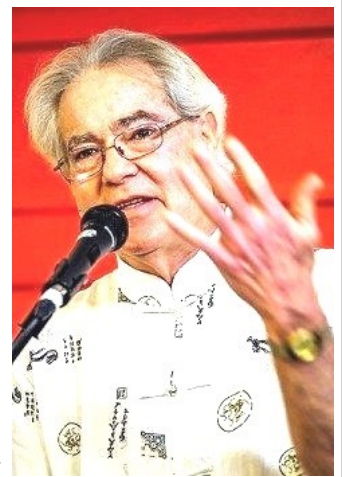
**Clarence Chu**



**Alex Eng**

Additional speakers included past LF Chairman Alex Eng, who read a moving tribute letter on behalf of Stockton author Sylvia Sun Minnick, and Stuart Walthall, current Chairman of the Locke Foundation.

Following the testimonials, Walthall announced the initiation of a scholarship program to be sponsored by the Locke Foundation and presented in the name of Jeff Gillenkirk. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a worthy local high school senior whose field of interest includes writing, history, or social awareness. The first Jeff Gillenkirk scholarship will be awarded in 2018.



**Stuart Walthall**

After closing thoughts from Motlow, attendees were invited to the Locke Baptist Church Building on Key Street to share food, fellowship, and more fond memories of Jeff.



**Memorial Service in Jan Ying Building**



**Reception at Locke Baptist Church Building**



# LOCKE RESIDENTS COME TOGETHER TO PAY IT FORWARD

Written by Stuart Walthall

Photos by Gabriel Monarrez

During the busy holiday season Locke's Moon Cafe Gallery, along with residents from Key Street, came together to stage a benefit music concert, organize a food drive, and gather donated Christmas gifts; all for a worthy local cause.

On December 3, 2016, the Moon Café Gallery presented the its fourth annual Holiday at the Moon Benefit art sale, raffle, and live music event. Proceeds from the event were donated to Angels of the Fields; an organization dedicated to bringing Christmas to the children and families of local farm workers.



**Eva Nicholson Captures the Crowd**

Ten musical acts stepped forward and volunteered their time and talents to the cause, playing non-stop music from 2:00 to 11:00 pm. San Francisco singer Eva Nicholson, accompanied by pianist Les Haber, generously volunteered her soulful sounds to the Moon Cafe Gallery benefit concert. Eva performs throughout Northern California with her music group Surface Tension.

Donated raffle prizes included works of art, wood crafts, holiday gifts, stationary, wines, and more.

As a result of the many donations of cash, proceeds from art sales, and a raffle tickets, the Holiday at the Moon raised twice as much as last year's benefit concert event.

The Angels of the Fields Christmas Party was presented the Jean Harvie Community Center in Walnut Grove on December 10, 2016. Over 200 children, along with their families attended the party. Every child in attendance received a personalized (big) bag of Christmas gifts, donated by residents and businesses from surrounding communities. At the conclusion of the party Locke residents handed out 90 food boxes.



**Locke Music Student Michael Wang Performing at the Piano**

A debt of gratitude and acknowledgement is owed to the many volunteers who helped stage the annual Angels of the Fields Christmas Party. Special thanks go to event organizers Yolanda Chavez, Norma Koch, Mara DaPrato, and Holly Pauls.

Thank you Locke volunteers: Dave, Sandy, Alfredo, D.R., Deborah, Katie, Adrienne, James, Russell, Kim, Brock, Alma, S., and Locke kids Junior and Emily.

Locke's Moon Café Gallery is already making plans for next year's art and music event to benefit Angels of the Fields. Don't miss it.

## Chinese Foot-Binding: Beauty at what price?

By Eileen Leung



Foot binding in China is believed to be started in the Sung dynasty (AD 960-1280). The ultimate goal is to achieve "beauty" that is admired by men. The walk of a woman with bound feet was considered very graceful, like "skimming over the top of golden lilies" and thus the "golden lily" feet. The three inch "golden lily" became the prized possession of some women and sought by almost every

woman for the next 1000 years!

Once foot binding became entrenched in the culture, it was impossible to stop. Bound feet became the norm; unbound feet were seen as freakish, lewd and ugly. And while mothers undoubtedly hated to inflict pain on their daughters, leaving their feet unbound was never considered. For if a mother didn't bind her daughter's feet, her daughter would be ridiculed by other women and would almost assuredly never snag a husband. A young girl could be lifted out of poverty if her feet were small and perfectly curved, because that was more important to men than her social status.

The truth, no matter how unpalatable, is that foot-binding was experienced, perpetuated and administered by women. Though utterly rejected in China now—the last shoe factory making lotus shoes closed in 1999—it survived for a thousand years in part because of women's emotional investment in the practice. The act of foot-binding—the pain involved and the physical limitations it created—became a woman's daily demonstration of her own commitment to Confucian values.

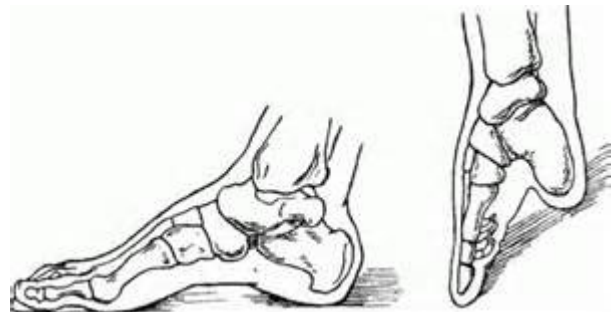
The process of foot binding must begin at the age of four to six, before the arches are fully developed. The cotton bandages, ten feet long and two inches wide, were wrapped around the toes and pulled tightly to the heel. Every two days, the binding was removed and rebound tighter. Decorative shoes, as pictured above, were worn to cover the scars and hold the shape. This extremely painful process lasted for at least ten years in order to shape the desirable three inch "golden lily". On top of the pain, the health of the girls was greatly affected. Infections, diseases and

even death could be the result of foot binding. The bound feet would also produce the terrible smell of rotten flesh because the tissue was practically dead after 3 years of foot binding. This odor was reported to be greatly appreciated by men!

There were many reasons why such a painful practice survived for so many years. The old Chinese believed women of virtue should be uneducated, dependent on men and stay close to home to take care of the physical well beings of the family. Foot binding did all that and more. Since foot binding started at a very young age, the girls who later became women were trained to be objects rather than individuals, appealing to men and dominated by men. Worst yet, mothers with bound feet, the majority of the women in those days, would not allow their sons to marry women with unbound feet. What kind of life would a girl have if she had unbound feet?

Foot binding also fostered the dominance of men over women. Since it was difficult for a woman to walk with bound feet -- the farthest she could walk was 3 or 4 miles (4.8 to 6.4 kilometers) -- Chinese women never strayed far from home, nor had much contact with others outside their villages. This made them more conservative and more willing to obey their husbands. Their diminished mobility virtually ensured they couldn't have extramarital affairs, or run away to escape a beating when their husbands were displeased. As foot binding became entrenched during the Song dynasty (960-1279), education for women was strictly curtailed and independent property rights outlawed

Great pain has been endured for centuries by women to achieve beauty, perceived by men and defined by men. In the Western culture, we have the tight corsets of yesterday that in many instances resulted in broken ribs and damaged organs and the high heels of today that cause painful fallen arches. Fortunately, foot binding has ended completely after the revolution of 1911.





## Locke Foundation Hosts Dual Events on February 4, 2017



Saturday February 4, 2017, was a fun and diverse day at the Locke Boarding House Museum/Visitors Center. In addition to staging its Chinese New Year Celebration, the Locke Foundation (LF) also participated in Sacramento Museum Day.

Visitors were treated to hot tea, fortune cookies, and Chinese delicacies as they viewed the museum's numerous cultural displays, historic photographs, and resource materials.



2017 is the Year of the Rooster. So to add a little fun to the event (and to keep the kids occupied), the Boarding House offered a Draw the Rooster interactive table where kids had the opportunity to draw, paint, color, glue, and add sparkles to rooster templates and colorful T-shirts.

At the nearby Joe Shoong Chinese School Museum, LF volunteer Anita Lo presented a Chinese calligraphy demonstration where visitors could learn about the ancient art form and also take home a beau-



tiful calligraphy souvenir from their day spent in Locke.

The busy Saturday was also Museum Day, presented by the Sacramento Association of Museums (SAM). Staged one day per year, primarily in the greater Sacramento area, Museum Day participating venues such as the Sacramento Zoo and the California Railroad Museum open their doors free or at reduced rates to the public. SAM is an association of 30 museums, of which the Locke Boarding House Museum is a member.



And by the way, the Locke Boarding House Museum is always free. Museum hours are: 11:00 to 3:00 Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

## Locke Foundation Scholarship Opportunity

The Locke Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of two \$500 scholarships to be awarded to 2 graduating high school seniors from Yolo, Sacramento and San Joaquin counties. Deadline is April 1, 2017.

The scholarships will be awarded at the 2017 Locke Asian Pacific Street Festival on Saturday, May 20, 2017.

Application forms can be accessed at LF web site.

## Memorial Park Clean Up

By Stuart Walthall

On February 19, 2017 a group of intrepid Sacramento volunteers, led by landscape legend Daisy Mah, came to the Delta to generously donate their time, energy and skills to the Locke Memorial Park. And their efforts were rewarded with a rare sunny and rainless day.

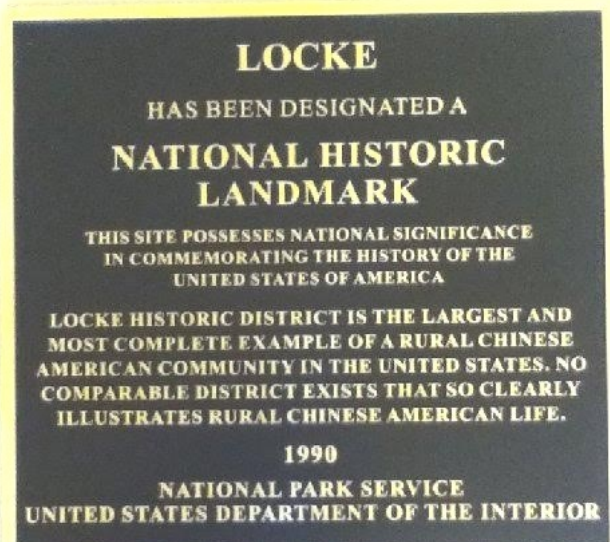


The volunteers weeded landscape beds, pruned vegetation, and spruced up the grounds and walkways of the park. In addition, Daisy Mar (born and raised in nearby Walnut Grove) offered instruction regarding proper care of specific vegetation, all of which are native to China and California.

The Locke Foundation would like to thank Daisy and her crew of willing volunteers for their gift of service to the town of Locke.

The Locke Memorial Park is being readied for the addition of a beautiful bronze plaque commemorating the town Locke becoming a National Historic Landmark in 1990.

The new historic marker will be installed this spring. Come to Locke's Memorial Park and check it out!



## Locke Foundation Membership Application/Renewal

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer for the following activities:

Volunteer docent \_\_\_\_\_ Donor \_\_\_\_\_ Visitor Center Volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

Contributor to newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Media contacts \_\_\_\_\_ Landscape maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Dues: circle one

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual Annual/\$200 Lifetime

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Family or Non-Profit Organization Annual/\$300 Lifetime

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Business Annual/\$500 Lifetime

Make check payable to Locke Foundation. Please return this form with check to Locke Foundation, P. O. Box 1085, Walnut Grove, CA 95690. Contributions are tax deductible to extent allowed by law. Tax ID: 20-0364281.

Office use only:

Date application received \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Locke Foundation  
P. O. Box 1085  
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

### 2017 Board

President: Stuart Walthall  
Vice-Pres: Clarence Chu  
Secretary: Honey Lum  
Treasurer: Eileen Leung

Directors: Brock Alexander  
Dustin Marr  
Darrel Woo

Newsletter: Eileen Leung  
Stuart Walthall

Cartoonist: Brock Alexander  
Poster art: Cathy Wei