



Locke Foundation 樂居鎮基金會

Preserving Locke's history and legacy

www.lockeca.com

Spring 2012

lockefoundation@frontiernet.net



Locke Foundation Chair speaks out

Dear friends and supporters of Locke,

I am pleased to introduce you to the first issue of the Locke Foundation Newsletter which will keep friends and supporters informed about our town. I have always believed that the most important goal of the Locke Foundation is "To educate the public about the town of Locke's history and legacy".

Through the energies of the Locke Foundation, along with local volunteers, this upcoming year should be one of our most successful ones in achieving our mission goals. The Locke Foundation includes representatives of commercial and residential property owners, and members of the community representing Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, historical preservation and Chinese culture.

Last year the Foundation experienced an increased number of guests coming in and enjoying the services of our Visitors Center/Museum, expanded its role in community outreach, and grew more viable as a non-profit public benefit organization. Last October's Harvest Moon Festival was well attended, financially successful, and generated a lot of renewed interest in Locke. Plus, it was a lot of fun! And with the Foundation's commitment to broader advertisement and media coverage, our upcoming Asian Pacific Spring Festival (See Page 3) should be even better attended and offer new attractions for our guests to enjoy.

The Locke Foundation is also staging a Membership Drive during which new members will receive our quarterly Newsletter along with special "gifts" from the Foundation. (See Page 5).

I am also looking forward to new exhibits soon being staged by California State Parks and Recreation on the second floor of our Boarding House/Visitors Center. These new exhibits will further inform and educate the public regarding the historic and cultural importance of the town of Locke. Plus, our downstairs Locke Foundation space is getting a face lift too. And the Foundation plans to continue its current outreach to China and to expand its relationship with the Zhongshan Regional Government. Also, a Self-Guided Walking Tour of Locke will soon be available in our Visitors Center.

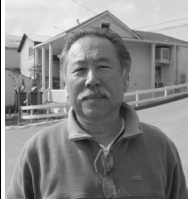
As per our Mission Statement the Locke Foundation is implementing the River Road Beautification Project. This donor sponsored project will include painting facades along the River Road View of the town; pruning and maintenance, and clean-up of frontage areas and alleys. Sponsorships and donations continue to be the Foundation's life blood in achieving our mission goals. For the LF to achieve its short and long term goals of Cultural and Historic preservation there must be sustained funding in place to make it happen. So please support the Locke Foundation and its activities. Become a Foundation Member. Attend our cultural events. Give a donation.

Clarence Chu

Meet Locke Foundation Board of Directors



Clarence Chu is chairman of the Locke Foundation; he owns two gift shops located on Main Street of Locke, the Joe Shoong Chinese School, Chinese Association Museum, and the Dai Loy Museum.



Dustin Marr is a life long resident of Locke and owner of Yuen Chong Market. Representing commercial property owners, he is willing to serve the town and the Board now and into the future.



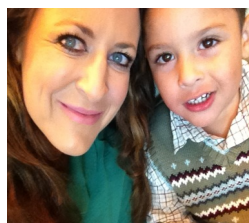
An American born Chinese, Eileen Leung serves as Vice-President of Locke Foundation and Treasurer for Chinese New Year Celebration Association 2013. She is editor of Sacramento Chinese Culture Foundation's newsletter and Treasurer for International House in Davis.



Jay Correia currently supervises the National Register Program at the California Office of Historic Preservation. Prior to this Jay worked as a Historian with California State Parks. Jay's passion for preserving Delta history is his primary motivation for working in the historic preservation profession.



Property owner and resident of Locke, Deborah Mendel is an author, publisher and instructor of the Option Method, a self-help tool created by her late husband. She is also an artist, working with wood and textiles. Currently the LF Secretary, she is frequently the "go to" person for running raffles and silent auctions at LF fundraisers.



Descendant of Delta pioneers, Tina Giannetti-Mabalot is owner of Al the Wops with her father Lo. Her grandfather was the original owner of the Ryde Hotel across the river. She is currently an English Teacher and mother of Lorenzo.



Brock Alexander is a sculpture and ceramics teacher at Lincoln High School in Stockton CA. He is also an artist and owner of the Moon Café building in Locke. He joined the board in hopes of making this great town better. "Locke is so special, different, and unique, and unfortunately our problems are so common to many small towns. I hope that we will one day as a community be as unique as the town we live in"



Lo "Lorenzo" Giannetti grew up in Ryde, California, and attended Rio Vista High School. A Vietnam veteran, he spent 45 years at Clark Trucking Service as CEO. Co-owner of Al the Wops with daughter Tina.



Pat Brazier serves as Chief of Staff to Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli, District 5, and is a member of the LF as the county appointed representative since 2003. A Sacramento native, she earned a degree in Government from CSU, Sacramento, and was formerly in the insurance business as the owner of Carlisle Insurance Agency in Elk Grove.



Darrel is a Senior Attorney with the Department of Insurance' and serves as its Agent for Service of Process. With almost 35 years of state service, Darrel still finds time to serve on several county and non-profit boards, proudly starting My Sister's House, a domestic violence program outreaching into the Asian Pacific Islander and other minority communities, serving as its only male President, and as a Trustee of the Sacramento City Unified School Board, District 6.

Asian Pacific Spring Festival Comes to Locke on May 19, 2012



T-shirt design

The Locke Foundation is proud to announce its 3rd annual Asian Pacific Spring Festival in honor of Asian Pacific Heritage Month. This year's festivities will be held on May 19th from 11am until 5pm. Locke's Main Street will be lined with activities, performers, vendors and artisans.

The event will be kicked off with a Dragon Dance in celebration of the Year of the Dragon. The day will be fun-filled, entertaining and educational. The afternoon's program of Asian Pacific performances will include Taiko Drummers, Martial Arts, cultural dances, Chinese orchestra along with world music performers, Loki Rhythm. There will be origami and calligraphy demonstrations. Have your name translated by the calligrapher into a 'take home' piece of art.

For the first time in many decades the historic Dai Loy Gambling Museum will open its doors for a genuine Poker Tournament with a cash prize going to the winner. There will be Mah Jong demonstrations in the Jan Ying Benevolent Association building. There will be a silent auction on Main Street featuring local art and other prizes. As usual, we will have a prize-filled raffle table with many chances to win and pick your prize.

Delicious Chinese food, prepared by Locke's own Locke Garden Restaurant, will be offered right on Main Street along with soda, beer, and wine. Your food and beverage purchases will support the Locke Foundation. Other sale items will include Locke T-shirts, Locke posters, memorial tiles, maps and more. Purchase our new self guided walking-tour map and explore the fascinating town of Locke.... walk around and take in Main Street and walk to the back of town to see the community gardens and the demonstration garden. Bring your camera.

Take a peek into the history of Locke and its Chinese American culture. There will be displays in several buildings including the Jo Shoong School, Boarding House Museum, Dai Loy Museum and the Jan Ying Benevolent Association building. On exhibit in the Jan Ying building is an original Asian style wok kitchen along with cooking implements and Chinese tableware. On loan from the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco will be an exhibit by photographer James Motlow entitled "Locke: A Photographic Exhibition of a Chinese Community in the Sacramento River Delta" which has been shown across the country.

We hope you will join us in this fundraising cultural event. Relax in one of our shaded seating areas and enjoy the music, people watch and take in the unique architecture of Locke. Admission and parking are free. To make a raffle prize donation, contact Clarence Chu at 916-776-1661 or cash donations may be sent to Locke Foundation, May Event, P.O. Box 1085, Walnut Grove, CA 95690.



T-shirt and poster designed by Brandy Alexander.

Come and Visit Locke's Chinese Vegetable Demonstration Garden

By Deborah Mendel

Since I arrived in Locke around 2003, I had heard many stories and seen the wonderful photographs by James Motlow in his book "Bitter Melon", of the Chinese community's vegetable gardens in the back of town. At that time there was only one traditional garden left in town, that of Connie King.

Connie usually grew a few Chinese vegetables along with an assortment of other vegetables and an array of flowers. Her plot showed the remnants of its previous gardener, her



late husband Tom King. Tourists would often find her in the plot and she delighted in giving them a tour and the opportunity to teach them about the history of Locke.

Since Connie passed away, volunteers for the Locke Foundation have turned her old plot, right across from her former home on Key Street, into a Chinese vegetable demonstration garden. Using photos originally featured in 1976 from an article by James Motlow for Ortho Books entitled "Adventures in Oriental Cooking" as a guide, each year several residents have cultivated a variety of traditional Chinese vegetables in the manner that the original residents of Locke might have done.

Stuart Walthall, James Motlow, Kim Robertson, Ivan Zhang, Anthony Ragona, Cindy Cai, myself and of course Mrs. Yin Kwan Chan have contributed at different times these last two years. Russell Ooms rototills the plot prior to planting. We have grown, long beans or dow gok, bok choy, see gwa, dong gwa, foo gwa, poo gwa, and gow choy along with a couple of strawberry plants for the children. If you are not familiar with these vegetables, come visit the garden this spring and summer!

At the entrance to the garden plot we have displayed Connie King's Toilet Garden. Donated by her family and recreated by artist and LF Director Brock Alexander, this whimsical display holds cacti and succulents that can withstand the heat of the summer.

The demonstration garden is included in the Locke Foundation tours and has relied solely on donations from the public and the volunteers. Some visitors to Locke who admired Connie's toilet garden have donated cacti and others have donated seeds. We look forward to this spring's next crop and encourage all donations as we continue to educate the public about traditional Chinese vegetables and the people who found in soil of Locke an affinity to their own homeland, the Pearl River Delta in China.

Demonstration Garden Wish List:

- Soaker hoses
- Spray nozzles
- Vegetable seeds
- Succulents & Cacti
- Plant markers
- Cactus potting soil

If you would like to make a donation to the demonstration garden please contact Deborah Mendel at 916-776-4236 or send a check with the notation 'demo garden' to Locke Foundation, P.O. Box 1085, Walnut Grove, CA 95690.



LF is grateful to the following individuals who have collaborated on this first issue:

Stuart Walthall
Brandy Alexander
Deborah Mendel
James Motlow

THE LOCKE FOUNDATION

MOVING INTO THE FUTURE

by Stuart Walthall

Since its inception in 2004, the Locke Foundation has slowly-but-steadily grown into the solid and effective non-profit organization it has now become. Over the past 8 years the Foundation has funded such worthy projects as the Locke Memorial Park, with its striking monument dedicated to our early Chinese immigrants. The Foundation also organized and funded the downstairs portion of the California State Park Boarding House Museum which now houses the Foundation's office, display areas, kitchen, and archival spaces. LF members man this State Park/Visitors Center, keeping its doors open to the public four days a week. The Foundation volunteers who donate their time to the Visitors Center not only offer our guests a friendly and knowledgeable introduction to the Locke, but also strive to increase awareness and encourage participation in the preservation of Locke's unique legacy.

Our Visitors Center offers a variety of free resources along with a number of for sale items.

With the Locke Foundation firmly in place it is now time to look forward to the future with optimism. Starting this year the LF will be initiating several new programs and projects that will accelerate the achievement of its mission goals. In other words, the Locke Foundation is taking the next step forward in its continuing growth. One of the by-products of the Foundation's current Membership Drive is the chance to offer our new members the opportunity to participate in the shaping of Locke's future.

The LF is always seeking volunteers willing to devote their skills and experience toward our dedicated mission. Individuals whose interests include history, grant writing, interpretation, and fund raising are especially welcome. Even if you are simply a *people person* we would greatly appreciate your participation. The Foundation will also be initiating its Oral History Project designed to record and preserve the priceless life stories of individuals whose connections to Locke's past are quickly and quietly dwindling. Oral histories are time consuming, costly, and involve a number of individuals dedicated to the process of interviewing, recording, and transcribing the living memories of Locke's historic past.

A fund is being created specifically for this Oral History Project and your donations to the project will help ensure that Locke's rich past will be permanently archived for future generations to value and enjoy. Donations to the Oral History Project may be made at: lockeca.com or mailed to: Locke Foundation P.O. Box 1085 Walnut Grove CA 95690.

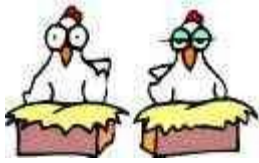
The Foundation is also initiating the River Road Beautification Project, the purpose of which is to help restore building fronts and facades to their historic appearance. The project begins with painting and repairing structures visible from the River Road. How many times have we heard: "Do people really live here?" The time has come to improve the view, and to improve first impressions. Also planned is a comprehensive program which involves cataloging, preserving, displaying, and storage of historic artifacts, photographs, and archival materials. Plus, the Foundation has long term plans for sidewalk repairs and for historic signage to be used as part of our Building Genealogy Project. (See next issue) And as you can see, we have started our Locke Foundation Newsletter. It's easy to continue receiving our newsletter. The Locke Foundation intends to pursue funding made available to historic towns through grants and matching funds; however, money is tight all over. In the meantime the LF will continue to rely on volunteers and to utilize funds raised through memberships, events, sales, and most importantly, your generosity.

By becoming a member of the Locke Foundation you will be entitled to several benefits along with giving you the opportunity to show your support of an organization dedicated to the preservation of Locke's unique legacy.

- 1. Our quarterly newsletter which offers an interesting and sometimes fun way of keeping you informed of the Foundation and of the town itself.
- 2. James Motlow is offering to the first 50 new members a signed digital photographic image from his book [BITTER MELON](#). Stories From the Last Chinese Town in America.
- 3. Self Guided Historic Walking Tour of Locke.

The Locke Foundation also plans a "deluxe" tour of Locke to our new members. This special one-time tour will include an up-close and personal view of Locke by taking you into selected homes of some of our quirky residents; into the studios of artists and craft people; and into secret places not offered to the visiting public. So please take a moment to consider joining the Locke Foundation. We need your support.

Let's keep preserving and celebrating Locke's living legacy.



Cooperative Community Chicken Coop Barn Raising Style

By Russell Ooms



Several Locke residents have been talking about getting chickens in Locke for a long time but it wasn't until Kim Robertson, in her New Zealand twang said, "When are we going to get those chickens?" That's when we began in earnest. She presented the idea to the Locke Management Association, and it was approved.

We knew we wanted the coop to roll around so we could move it place to place to take advantage of new grass and bugs for the chickens. I found a farm wagon for sale in the foothills. James Motlow & I drove up with my flat bed truck and it just fit on the bed. It's a four-wheel trailer with a long handle that turns the front wheels when the tractor pulls the trailer left or right. While I may be a cabinetmaker, I'm not too much a carpenter. We hired a recently out of work guy named Pablo from Sacramento who came down on Saturday and framed both the sides and roof. He was amazing to watch as he stood atop the flimsy frame and moved like a mountain goat.



Now it was Locke volunteers' turn to build a coop. We did the work in fits & starts. One day we had 9 people working. Other days we had four. Katherine & Ivan's two kids, Colton and Irisa showed up and learned how to use

power screw drivers putting up the used plywood siding. We cut out the siding where the windows went and covered them with wire fencing to allow plenty of ventilation. We trimmed the windows and put on cedar lap siding I found for a bargain in Lodi.

I built a nesting box to hang outside the coop. This way we can get eggs without going into the coop. I built 3 nests, but I'm told the chickens will take turns with only one or two. We plan to have 16 chickens so I added another just in case.

We found old tin roofing, just like a Locke house, for the roof. We insulated the ceiling to keep the hot tin roof from radiating into the coop. We covered all of the interior walls with plywood to give us a smooth paintable & washable interior. Chickens make a big mess all the time.

Locke artist Chris Spencer donated an old, rustic Locke door that new Locke resident woodworker Alfredo Montalvo hung. I found two metal vents for six bucks apiece and put them next to the door for more ventilation. It seems chickens don't like to be hot. Chris will also be donating a rooster but not to worry; it will be made of paint and mounted on the door.

We also built a subfloor and covered this plywood floor with one piece of linoleum. I drilled a hole in the center of the floor and

put in a floor drain. Now, when we clean the coop, we can hose it out and all the water will drain out the center of the floor. I bought a battery operated self opening & closing chicken door on the internet. A timer will open & close the door to follow the Sun. At night chickens come home to roost. Once they are all inside the door will close, keeping out all the animals that eat chickens.... except us, of course.



We added a little landing outside entrance to get into the coop as it's about 36" above ground level. I still have to build a little movable stairway to get up to the landing. I have to make some round roosting poles as chickens like to grip on smooth poles without sharp edges.

We plan to buy day-old chicks and raise them in two pear bins. They need heat lamps, constant food & water, and protection from predators. We'll cover the tops with wire to keep them safe. When they are about 3 months old they can move into the chicken coop. We plan to get 5 or 6 different varieties for their disposition and egg laying ability.



I don't think we'll get any fryers this time. Maybe in the late summer we'll buy some pullets to raise for meat. Some of the newer breeds are ready to butcher in 6 weeks.

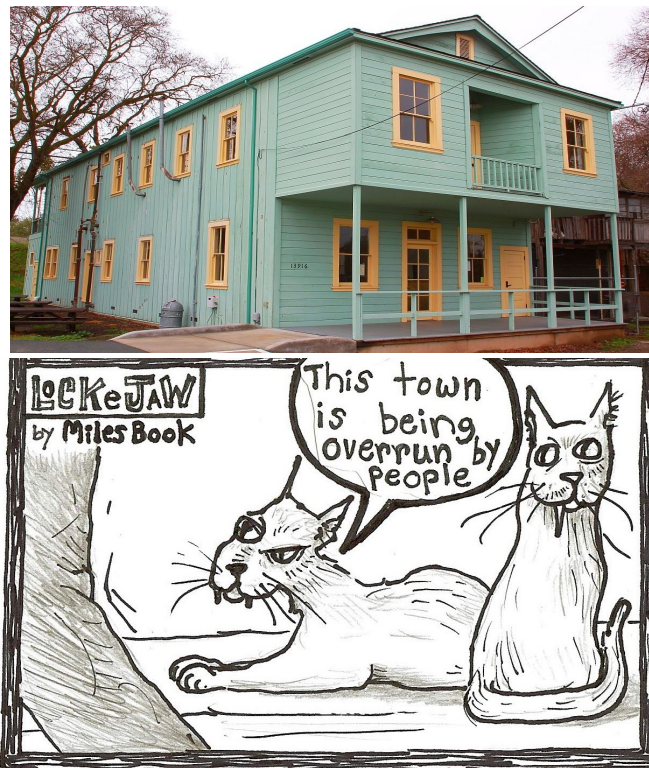
A safe chicken run is still needed to keep the coyotes and hawks from making a meal of our little egg layers. I'd say we have about \$1,200.00 in material & paid labor into our little coop on wheels, so each egg of the first dozen eggs will cost us \$100 an egg! Every egg after that gets cheaper, but the joy of working together on this neighborhood project is well worth it.

Russell Ooms is a residential property owner in Locke.

Update on Board House Museum and Visitor's Center Displays

At the January 2012 Foundation meeting Gold Fields District Interpretive Specialist, Terri Lopez, presented drawings of her new plans for the museum. She outlined the State Parks' plans for changing out the components currently on the first floor, which will create a cohesive message to the public and provide the required wheelchair access to exhibits, furniture and vignettes on display. New display cases, a front desk and bookcases will be brought in along with additional interpretive panels.

She described how additional panels and exhibits will soon be added to the second floor. Rotational exhibits both upstairs and downstairs will be welcome too. Terri also announced that our new Gold Fields District Superintendent is Mr. Matt Greene. The Locke Foundation looks forward to meeting Mr. Greene and to the Visitors Center's 'new look'.



PURCHASE A MEMORIAL TILE

How many times have we all been faced with the dilemma of getting a gift for someone *who has everything*? Well, here is a thoughtful and meaningful solution to that dilemma: purchase them a Memorial Tile. It's a quick, easy, and economical way for you to express your fondness to someone you care for.

The walls standing within Locke's lovely Memorial Park are adorned with hundreds of memorial tiles whose messages of love and respect shall remain as tribute for generations to come. Not only can you honor a current or departed loved one with the placement of a memorial tile, but you can also commemorate your entire family, or celebrate an anniversary, or even advertise your business or organization.

One recent visitor to Locke solved his Christmas gift dilemma by handing his best buddy a memorial tile application form and saying: "Put in what you want and I will buy a tile in your honor". Since his friend was a frequent visitor to Locke he was more than happy to write his brief message of fondness for the town along with his own name. And then his friend made a request; he asked that his name also be written in Chinese calligraphy. No problem. One of our Locke Foundation volunteers quickly obliged his request by translating his first name into Cantonese. Now this happy gift recipient often brings his friends and family to Locke to show off his memorial tile, complete with English and Chinese script. And his buddy gets credit for *best Christmas gift* that year.

Funds raised through memorial tile sales help to ensure the continued operation of the Locke Foundation whose sole purpose is the preservation of Locke's colorful history and culture. Your purchase is a tax deductible charitable contribution. So how can you lose? Purchase a memorial tile and get yourself credit for *best gift*. Your memorial tile may also contain a business or organization logo, an armed service insignia, or even a high contrast image of someone you wish to memorialize. And for memorial tile recipients who do not live in the area the Foundation is more than happy to send a photographic image of your installed tile upon request. Just make sure we have your email address along with your request. Come visit us in Locke. You are always welcome. To order, log onto this web site: www.lockeca.com/Fundraising.htm



Volunteer Anita Lo with different formats for commemorative tiles.

Locke Foundation Membership Application

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing address _____

Email _____ Tel () _____ Fax () _____

I would like to volunteer for the following activities:

Event planning _____ Publicity _____ Membership recruitment _____

Event logistics _____ Speaker's Bureau _____

Special interests in Chinese history and culture: _____

Annual Membership Dues: ☐ Individual, \$25 ☐ Family, \$50 ☐ Organization, \$100

☐ Business Membership, \$250 ☐ Corporate Sponsor, \$500 ☐ Distinguished Friend, \$1000

Make check payable to Locke Foundation. Please return this form to: Locke Foundation, P. O. Box 1085, Walnut Grove, CA 95690. Tax ID: 20-0364281

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

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Save the Date for Al the Wop's Chili Cook off on June 9, 2012.