



## 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 2015

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



Locke Foundation

### 100th Anniversary Celebration (1915 - 2015)

***"The Legacy Lives On"***

**Saturday, May 9, 2015, Noon to 4 pm**

- Lunch by Louie's Restaurant & Catering
- Tradition Asian Entertainment
- Author Lecture by Lawrence Tom
- Featuring Angel Island Exhibit
- Grand Prize Drawing

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

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All prepaid lunches on-line will receive a free ticket to win a HD Color TV, Samsung Galaxy Tablet or Sharif's Jeweler Ring.

Cost: \$25 for lunch and all events and exhibits

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## Strolling down Main Street

By Stuart Walthall and Joe Chan

Photo by Joe Chan

There is always something interesting to see when taking a stroll down Main Street, Locke. Take your time. Check out the nooks and crannies. You will always discover something new and fascinating to catch your attention and perhaps make you pause and ponder. On one recent stroll, a familiar sight caught the eye.

Placed on either side of the gateway into the Locke Memorial Park stand a pair of *Foo Dogs* (*Fu Dogs*), the western name given to these ubiquitous figures seen today gracing the entrance to many Chinese structures. The traditional Chinese name for these iconic statues is *Guardian Lions*, or simply *Shi*- meaning lion. Their imagery is extremely common within Chinese historical architecture.

Dating back to the Han Dynasty (206 BC -AD 200), Guardian Lions stood in front of palaces, tombs, temples, and homes of the very wealthy. Presently, due to the advent of less expensive construction methods, these symbolic forms can be seen fronting businesses, libraries, government offices, and many homes.



Foo dogs take their name from the Chinese word for 'Buddha', which is fo, and they are also commonly known as the "lions of fo". Lions of Fo always come in pairs, often depicting the male lion playing with a ball or globe and the female lion holding a cub in her paw.

Since lions were not native to China, Chinese sculptors originally modeled the lion statues after local dogs, such as the Chow Chow, which has a bushy coat that gives it a lion-like appearance. Together with other closely related Chinese dog breeds, the Chow Chow belongs to a group of dogs known as "foo dogs". So, the Lions of Fo statues were also referred to as 'foo dogs'.

Foo Dogs are designed in pairs. The female lion represents *yin*, symbolically protecting the people dwelling within the building. She traditionally is shown restraining a playful lion cub under her paw, representing *nurture*. The male lion represents *yang*, offering protection to the structure itself. He is depicted with a ball or globe under his paw. This symbolizes his dominance over the world.

Most visitors to Locke might stop to admire these beautiful Fu Dogs, yet simply dismiss them as decorative elements. Now you know. When you walk into Locke's Memorial Park to enjoy a restful moment- you are being watched and protected.

## LF newsletter enters 4th year

The current spring issue of the Locke Foundation Newsletter marks the completion of a successful three- year run for the quarterly publication.

Initially created as one of several benefits offered to Locke Foundation members, the newsletter is now available to the general public through a variety of sources, including the Locke Foundation Boarding House Museum/Visitors center, the newly created LF web site: [www.locke-foundation.org](http://www.locke-foundation.org), in addition to various businesses, and civic organizations.

While fulfilling the Foundation's mission goal of educating the public of Locke's historical and cultural heritage, the newsletter also offers a unique glimpse into the current happenings in and around the town of Locke.

Articles and photographs published in the LF newsletter are being reprinted in other publications, and then circulated to a wider audience.

When visiting Locke, come by the Boarding House Museum/Visitors Center and pick up a copy of the Locke Foundation newsletter. Read it and share it with your friends and family. Or better yet, join the Locke Foundation (see back page of this newsletter) and receive your quarterly newsletter as one of several benefits offered to new LF members. Funds raised through membership dues go toward sustaining the Locke Foundation and preserving Locke's meaningful legacy.



*Eileen Leung and Stuart Walthall have spearheaded the publication of the LF newsletter since Spring 2012. They are still on speaking terms, a remarkable testament to the spirit of collaboration and synergy.*

## New Locke Foundation Lifetime Members

Chan, Gene	Krupa, Feliks
Chan, Ruth	Lam, Marcus
Confucius Church of Stockton	Lee, Andrew
Fong, Lorraine	Lobre, Larry
Fong, Stephen	Marr, Whitney
Gan, Carolyn	Mooring, Will
Ganger, Margie	Siebenhaar, Aimee
Ikeda, Gladys	Tom, Willis
Lum, Honey	Wilson, Susan
Jan, Ron	



## Chinese Demo Garden Gets a Facelift

Article by Stuart Walthall

Photos by Anita Lo

After four successful growing seasons it's time to give the Locke Chinese demonstration garden a much needed makeover.

A brand new PVC water pipe system has already been installed, replacing the ancient leaky cast iron pipes which served the garden for decades. Next comes amending the old depleted soil with ten yards of organic compost, plus an additional five yards of manure. The final step will be the installation of the modern water saving drip irrigation system. Local volunteers have stepped forward to complete the project.

Much credit goes to Locke resident Russell Ooms for the installa-



**Russell Ooms working in the Chinese Demo Garden**

tion of the new water pipe system. Russell manned his massive trencher in order to dig the 18 inch deep trenches necessary to lay the new pipes. He also donated the use of several tillers and a tractor to begin the soil refurbishment process.

Working alongside Ooms was Walnut Grove resident Dave



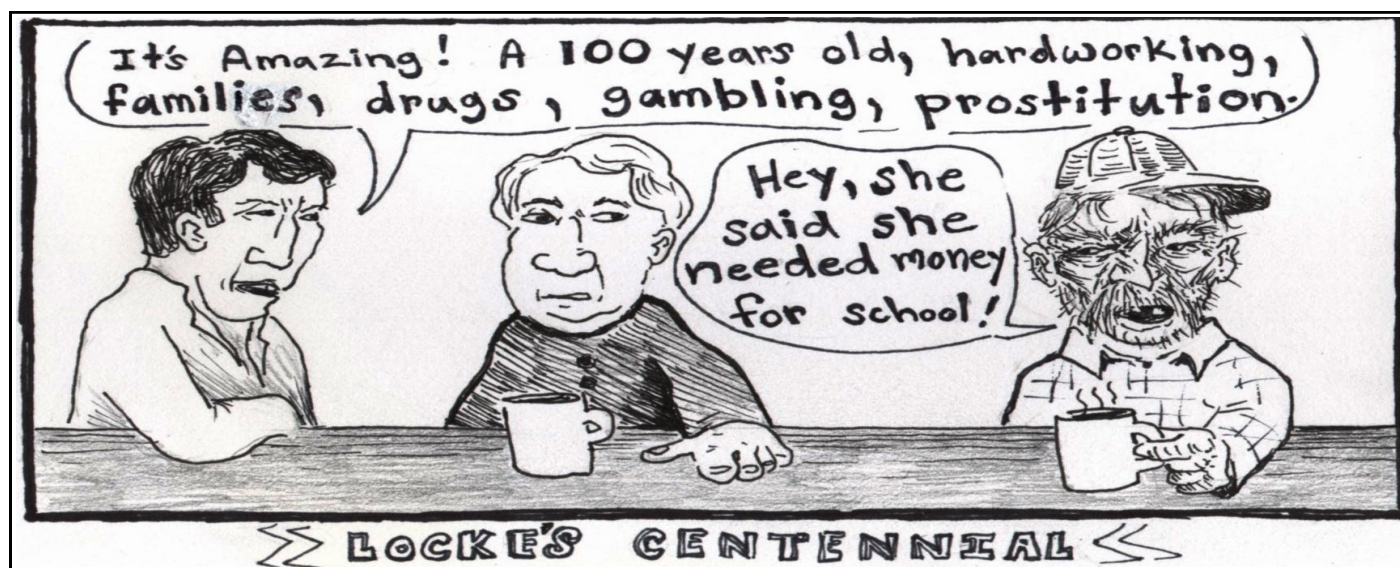
**Dave Kaplow removing old water pipe system**

Kaplow who is the owner/operator of Plant World Landscaping, a company specializing in low water use landscaping, soil analysis, and soil enrichment. Dave has generously volunteered his time and expertise toward the maintenance of the Chinese demonstration garden. He has also made his services available for all of Locke's garden and common area needs... free of charge.

He, along with many volunteers, is also lending his skills toward the creation of Main Street's newest feature: a community park and monument. The park will memorialize the history of the town and will honor the legacy of the Chinese immigrants who built Locke. The new space will offer Locke residents and visitors a restful and reflective space from which they can observe a panoramic view of Main Street.

Come to Locke this spring, take a wooden walkway to the back of town, and then stroll through the new and improved Locke Chinese demonstration garden. While you are there check out Connie King's infamous toilet garden display.

Then take a break and relax in our new Main Street park. See you there!





## THE OLD MAN AND THE SAND

By Kim King

The old man was at his usual "spot" on this summer day in 1960. The spot was a three-foot square plot of sand where he spent most of his days. I never knew his name. I didn't ask, and he didn't tell. We never spoke to each other, and it would be this way whenever I visited him.

My Mom warned me to stay away from him because he was a likely candidate to have tuberculosis, which still killed men in Locke. Despite her warnings I wanted to see him because he intrigued me. He always wore a worn work shirt with its sleeves rolled up to just above his elbows. His tattered trousers fell four inches above his ankles and were held up by a jute rope. His shoes were without laces and lacked any hint of color or polish. He did not wear socks.

His face was weather-beaten, deeply tanned, abounded with wrinkles, and his chin was speckled with white and gray stubble. He wore a floppy fedora which hid his unkempt hair. He smoked his hand-rolled cigarettes incessantly, wheezing while he inhaled and exhaled, letting his cigarette dangle loosely but securely from his chapped lips. He had a terrible set of crookedly-spaced teeth, yellowed by tobacco. But then again, he still had his rear teeth while many Locke residents wore dentures.

As I approached his sand pit, I saw him already fulfilling his daily routine. He sat seated on a piece of cardboard, legs straddled around his plot. He used a wooden stick as a stylus, worn totally smooth by the sand. He drew a Chinese character in the sand with utter precision, after which he erased with the side of the stick. Then he would draw it again and again, all day long.

I would visit him day after day, finding him writing a different character each day with focus and mystic discipline.

Later that year my Mom told me he had died a pauper, stricken with tuberculosis. I will never forget him.



*Kim King was born in 1950 and spent his first 19 years living in Locke. He is the son of Tommy and "Locke Mom" Connie King. He went on to graduate from the University of California, Berkeley. The following short story is one of many Delta memories Kim King is currently journalizing. The LF Newsletter is grateful for his contribution to this series.*

*This is the first in a continuing series of articles depicting the personal recollections of Locke as told by the children, friends, and acquaintances of Locke's founding generation.*

*Much emphasis has been placed on the early history of Locke and its inhabitants. However, there is much to be told by the succeeding generations of Locke residents. Born In American will present the vivid memories of those who were born to, lived among, and were nurtured by Locke's earliest generation.*

## Angels in the Delta

By Stuart Walthall

During the busy Christmas season, Locke's Moon Café Gallery presented Holiday at the Moon: a benefit art sale, raffle and live music event. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Angels of the Fields, an organization dedicated to bring Christmas to children of local farm workers.

More than a dozen musicians stepped forward and volunteered their time and talents to help the cause. A number of musicians played on and off for the entire 7-hour event, serving as back-up band for attendees who mustered enough courage to stand before a microphone and sing a tune. Donated raffle prizes for the event included art work, wood drafts, holiday gifts, wines, museum tickets and more. Prominently placed at eye level was a large glass donation jar which grew greener as the day long festivities intensified.

As a result of generous community support, cash donations and proceeds from art and raffle ticket sales raised twice as much as its anticipated goal.

Holly Pauls, Walnut Grove resident and community volunteer, gratefully accepted the Moon Café Gallery benefit event proceeds on behalf of Angels in the Fields. What the artists witnessed was the joyful delirium of over 150 children along with their families celebrating and sharing family time together. All of the children in attendance received personalized Christmas gifts, generously provided by local donors.

A debt of gratitude is owed to many local community volunteers who helped stage the annual event. The holiday party was held on December 13, 2014, at the Jean Harvey Community Center in Walnut Grove, California.



*Anxious kids attending the Angels of the Fields Christmas party at Jean Harvey Community Center check out bicycles they could win as raffle prizes. Photo by Brock Alexander.*

Special thanks go to event organizers Yolanda Chazez, Norma Koch, Mara Da Prato and Holly Pauls.

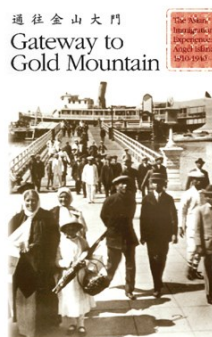
## "Gateway to Gold Mountain" Comes to Locke

*Gateway to Gold Mountain: The Angel Island Immigration Experience*, a traveling exhibition that tells the story of Chinese immigrants' experience at Angel Island, will be on display in Locke from April 25, 2015 to July 31, 2015. This exhibit has been on display throughout the United States, including at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, on Ellis Island, Chicago, Portland, Los Angeles, and many other venues. It will be on display as part of the Locke Centennial celebration that is taking place throughout 2015. Many Angel Island immigrants ended up settling in Locke and other Delta towns.

Angel Island, an immigration station in San Francisco Bay, was the entry point into the United States for more than 500,000 immigrants from 80 countries between 1910 and 1940. 175,000 of these immigrants were from China. Due to the Chinese Exclusion Acts and other restrictive legislation, many arrived to find America far different than the land of opportunity that many Chinese called "Gold Mountain." While some immigrants passed through Angel Island in a few days, the average detention time for a Chinese was 2-3 weeks, and often for several months. A few were forced to remain on the island for nearly two years. Angel Island is a critical part of the story of the development of the American West that is rarely documented in history books today.

Through historic photos, text, and poetry, the exhibit depicts the attitudes, hopes and fears of the Chinese immigrants who faced incredible discrimination upon entry in America. Visitors who attend will walk through a series of vignettes that represent a particular experience at the immigration station. Images of barbed

wire fences, guard towers and locked doors set the scene. Banners display the poems that were carved on the Angel Island barracks walls by immigrants. Long dismissed as mere graffiti, these poems are a vital historic record of the aspirations of the immigrants, and of their anger and sadness at the injustice of their initial reception in America. This poetry is among the first Asian American literature, powerful statements of unjust circumstances.



The exhibit, which is free and open to the public, will be held in the Jan Ying Building at 13947 Main Street, which is open Thursdays through Sundays, from 11:00 am - 4:30 pm. Additional viewing times available by appointment. Other exhibits are also on display in Locke featuring recollections of life in this Chinese town in the last century.

### About the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF)

The mission of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation is to promote a greater understanding of Pacific Coast immigration and its role in shaping America's past, present, and future. Through an array of interpretive programs and educational partnerships, the Foundation preserves the Immigration Station site, a National Historic Landmark, as a place that honors the complex story and rich cultural heritage of Pacific Coast immigrants and their descendants. For information, contact (415) 348-9200, [info@aiisf.org](mailto:info@aiisf.org) or visit: [www.aiisf.org](http://www.aiisf.org).

## Locke Foundation Board Announces New Directors for 2015



Locke Centennial year 2015 ushers a new look to the Locke Foundation Board of Directors. After years of service as Chair of the Locke Foundation, Clarence Chu hands the reigns over to Eileen Leung. Eileen has been on the LF board since 2011 and has served as its Vice-Chair and editor of LF newsletter. A native of Hawaii, she has been active in cultural organizations such as Sacramento Chinese Culture Foundation, Chi-

nese New Year Culture Organization, Wa Sung Service Club and International House Davis. She has been a volunteer docent at the Locke Boarding House and conducts tours in English and Chinese.

The new Treasurer is Stuart Walthall, a 30-year resident of Locke. He was past chair of Locke's Asian Pacific Spring Festival and



Harvest Moon Celebration. He is currently Membership chair, and coordinator of the Chinese Demo Garden, Genealogy Project and Oral History program. He created the Self-Guided Walking Tour brochure and writes prolifically for the newsletter.

Honey Lum is our newest board member. Born and raised in Sacramento, she is currently Asset Manager with the California State Department of Housing and Community Development. She has served as statewide president of Asian Pacific State Employees Association (APSEA). She is currently president of Chinese American Council of Sacramento (CACS). Her other civic activities include serving on boards of APAPA, OCA and Pacific Rim Street Festival.



Continuing their service as officers and directors are Vice-chair Joyce Eng, Secretary Deborah Mendel, Brock Alexander, Pat Braziel, Clarence Chu, Dustin Marr and Darrell Woo.



## Lion dancing in Chinese Culture

Articles and photos by Eileen Leung

The lion dance is an important tradition in China. Usually the dance is part of festivities like Chinese New Year, opening of new businesses and weddings. If performed well, the lion dance is believed to bring good luck and happiness. The lion is a vehicle for dispensing all the good blessings of heaven to the entire community.

Although the lion is not native to China, Buddhists and many others use it to represent courage, energy and wisdom. The Chinese consider lions to be peaceful, unlike the fierce tiger which is native to China. The lions came to China via the famous Silk Road; rulers in the Middle East sent lions to Chinese emperors as gifts to get trading rights with merchants.



The lion possesses mythical qualities. The costume is composed of symbolic shapes which cure sickness, bless marriages and guard against misfortune“:

1. The bird-shaped horn represents the phoenix
2. The ears and tail represents the unicorn
3. The protruding forehead is adorned with mirrors to deflect evil forces
4. Long beards are characteristic of Asian dragons

The lion is operated by two dancers. One handles the head, made of strong but lightweight materials like paper-mache and rattan; the other plays the body and tail under an ornate cloth that is attached to the head. Modern heads are made with aluminum and plastic. The lion is accompanied by three musicians playing a large drum, cymbals and a gong. Sometimes, a little Buddha teases the lion with a fan or giant ball. The head dancer can flap the lion's eyes, ears and mouth for expression of moods. The lion walks back and forth in a zigzag pattern to confuse the evil spirits which move in straight lines. He may scratch an itch, or shake his mane.

Lion dances practiced in the U.S. originates from the Guangdong Province, whence many Locke farmers immigrated. The lion and its performance are different from those seen in Beijing opera or acrobatic performances. The Cantonese lion is an extension of the martial art spirit and thus always performed by students of Kung Fu. Early martial artists studying in Buddhist temples imitated the fighting styles of animals in nature that they observed such as the tiger and crane. Other styles include the praying mantis, leopard, eagle, snake and dragon; the forms you see imitate the movements and characteristics of these animals. No matter what style, the lions movements are feline in nature. The lion dance combines art, history and kung fu moves. Every move has a specific musical rhythm. Normally the performers are training in martial arts. While a lion dance might look like a dragon dance, the dragon requires more than two operators.

When hired by businesses to guarantee a prosperous year, the lions must "pick the greens: "cai qing". Here the businesses will tie a red envelope filled with money to a head of lettuce and hang it high above the front entrance. The lion would approach the lettuce like a curious cat, consume the lettuce and spit out the leaves but not the money. Eating and disbursing of greens symbolizes the distribution of wealth and good fortune to all those present. The lion is supposed to bring good luck and prosperity to the business, and the dancers receive the money as a reward. The tradition become a mutual transaction.

In modern times, businesses do not demand much from the performers and it is easy money for martial arts schools. In the old days, the lettuce was hung 15-20 feet above ground and only well trained martial artist could reach the money while wielding a heavy lion head. These events became a public tournament where the audience could judge the quality of martial arts schools on how well the lions competed. Some lions even dance on bamboo stilts; others form human pyramids to reach the lettuce. Variations to the cadence of drums keep the music lively.

Lions are imported from Guangdong, China and other southeast Asian countries; full size ones cost several thousand dollars.

### Lions Visit Locke

The lions from VFW #8358 Chung Mei Post came to Main Street, Locke, on Sunday, March 1, 2015, to bestow blessings on the community and local businesses including the Chinese School, Chinese Culture Shop, Locke Chinese Medicine, Strange Cargo, Locke Farm, Jan Ying Building, Moon Café Gallery, and Locke Garden.



## Ching Ming: Traditional Chinese Festival on April 5

By Eileen Leung

Ching Ming (Qing Ming) which means Clear and Bright, is a traditional springtime Chinese festival when people make pilgrimages to grave sites for reunions of family members and ancestors. The rite of "sweeping the tomb" is performed in the morning so ancestral spirits were able to spend their entire day with their descendants until sundown. The spirits were thought to have mundane needs such as food, clothing and money. Therefore, it was the duty of descendants to provide for these needs by offering sacrifices periodically at the grave. In turn, ancestors would be benevolent to their pious descendants by providing rainfall for crops and bountiful harvests. Neglected ancestors can cause all kinds of misfortune.

It is the only festival that follows the solar calendar, typically celebrated on April 4, 5, or 6, even in China. Similar to spring festivals of other cultures, it celebrates the rebirth of nature, while marking the beginning of planting season and other outdoor activities.

On this day, Chinese visit family graves to tend to underbrush that has grown; weeds are pulled and dirt swept away. The family will set out offerings of food and spirit (paper) money. While bland food is placed by the tombs, the Chinese provide scrumptious offerings to their ancestors at their home altar tables. The food may consist of a whole cooked chicken, a whole roast pig or other dishes the deceased favored. Accompanied by rice, the dishes and utensils are carefully arranged to bring good luck. Three sets of chopsticks and three wine-cups are arranged above the food and closet to the headstone. The head of the household will bow three times with the wine cup in hand, then pour the wine on the ground just in front of the headstone. Each member of the family comes in front of the headstone and bows three times. Some families will eat the food together at the gravesite similar to having a picnic with their deceased relatives.

Sometimes a family will burn incense with offering to expedite the transfer of nutritious elements to the ancestors. Other families will set off firecrackers to scare off evil spirits and to alert the deceased relatives they have arrived to pay respects.



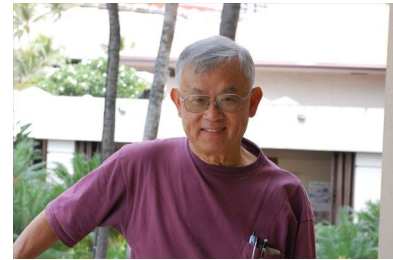
*Note whole roast pig, chicken fruits, incense and candles at family grave site.*

Today the responsibility for "hang san" or "walk the mountain" as visiting the cemetery is commonly known, still falls to the

eldest son. One of the key virtues of Confucianism is filial piety: respect for one's parents and ancestors. Ching Ming is a time for mourning the loss of close relatives rather than worship. Many Chinese Christians families still continue the tradition of going to the cemetery on this day. This festival is not really ancestor worship, but enhancement of kinship within the clan and remembering its history.

Originally a festival of agrarian China, modernization and

## In memoriam Lim Mar



1942-2014

Lim Mar was born in Lodi and grew up in Walnut Grove. Like most Chinese immigrants, life was not easy. His dad operated Ming's Barber Shop on Market Street, and his mom worked long hours in canneries in Sacramento and San Joaquin Counties. Lim was the second in a family of six children. He attended Walnut Grove Elementary School. He graduated from Courtland High School and San Jose State College where he earned bachelor's and master's degree in electrical engineering. He worked as an aerospace engineer for Lockheed Martin in Sunnyvale for 41 years and excelled in his specialty of defense missile systems. He had a keen interest in his roots and researched extensively his family's lineage from immigration to California. An accomplished photographer, he took pictures of everything. Most notable were his collections of photos about the simple life in the Delta and book of maps about Locke buildings. His youngest sister, Daisy Mah, was instrumental in creating and maintaining the horticultural display in the Locke Memorial Garden. He is survived by wife Yen Hwa and two children, Aimee Siebenhaar and Michael Mar, two brothers and three sisters. Some of his photos of Locke and Delta towns will be on display for a limited time during the Centennial. His warm affection for our community are well documented for posterity.

### . . . Ching Ming article continued

urbanization have transformed the nature of this festival. Migration to urban areas has separated families from the village setting. They can mourn only close relatives (3 generations) instead of all their ancestors back several centuries. Land reform has reduced access to large family estates filled with graves; cremation is more popular; clan consciousness has declined.

Source: Tom, K.S. Echoes of the Past, Hawaii Chinese History Center, 1989.

## Locke Foundation Membership Application/Renewal

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

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

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

I would like to volunteer for the following activities:

Event planning \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity \_\_\_\_\_ Membership recruitment \_\_\_\_\_

Write articles \_\_\_\_\_ Grant writing \_\_\_\_\_ Historical restoration \_\_\_\_\_

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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