

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

lockefoundation@frontiernet.net

Spring 2019

www.locke-foundation.org

A vibrant poster for the Asian Pacific Spring Festival. The background is a warm orange-yellow gradient with stylized clouds at the bottom. At the top, the text 'Locke Foundation Presents' is in a gold, outlined font. Below it, 'Asian Pacific Spring Festival' is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. A white banner with red Chinese characters '樂居鎮亞太春節聯歡' is placed below the title. The date and time 'Saturday, May 18, 2019 11am - 5pm' and the location 'Main Street, Locke, CA' are in green. A list of activities is shown in two columns: Lion Dance, Taiko Drums, Tea Ceremony, Brush Painting, Arts & Crafts, Martial Arts, Dance, Music, Food, and more. A green speech bubble in the bottom left says 'FREE ADMISSION FREE PARKING'. A cartoon pig character is in the bottom center, with a banner below it saying 'Year of the Boar'. At the very bottom, it states 'Locke Foundation is a 501(c)3 Organization. FEIN: 20-0364281 www.locke-foundation.org 916.776.1684/916.776.1828'.

Locke Foundation Presents

# Asian Pacific Spring Festival

樂居鎮亞太春節聯歡

**Saturday, May 18, 2019**  
**11am - 5pm**  
**Main Street, Locke, CA**

Lion Dance	Martial Arts
Taiko Drums	Dance
Tea Ceremony	Music
Brush Painting	Food
Arts & Crafts	and more

**FREE ADMISSION  
FREE PARKING**

Year of the Boar

Locke Foundation is a 501(c)3 Organization.  
FEIN: 20-0364281  
www.locke-foundation.org 916.776.1684/916.776.1828

Come  
to  
Locke  
on May  
18 and  
let the  
good  
times  
roll



## Locke Celebrates Chinese New Year, February 16, 2019

By Stuart Walthall

After a week of severe wind and rain, Mother Nature relented and bestowed good fortune on the town of Locke, transforming picturesque Main Street into a perfect backdrop for this year's Locke Chinese New Year Celebration. 2019 - The Year of the Boar - marked the third year in which the Locke Foundation, helped by its team of volunteers, funded and staged what has become a signature event for Locke: the largest, most complete example of a rural agricultural Chinese American community in the U.S.

Hundreds of visitors, many of which were first-timers to the town, were given the opportunity to experience an event which presented numerous elements traditional to Chinese New Year celebrated in China. There was the Lion Dance, whose members blessed residences and businesses by devouring lettuce hung over doorways, then spitting the leaves three times into the front entrance, thus bestowing good fortune, prosperity and health. A martial arts demonstration followed highlighting skills of sword, spear, hands and feet. A trio of roving musicians performed traditional Chinese music on authentic instruments. Demonstrations included Chinese calligraphy, tea ceremony, silk painting and gambling.

The Locke Foundation also hosted a luncheon which reflected the tradition of "getting together" (團拜) during the period of Chinese New Year. Attended by numerous elected officials, dignitaries and heads of organizations, this special meal presented a networking opportunity unique to the Delta area.

The Locke Boarding House Museum was packed throughout the day with guests enjoying traditional Chinese New Year treats, rare photographs, artifacts, archival materials and exhibits which highlighted the accomplishments of the Chinese workers who helped build the Transcontinental Railroad.

Photographers had a field day capturing images of the festivities, the demonstrations, the people and most of all - the unique town of Locke.

Gratitude and congratulations go to Locke CNY event co-Chairs Clarence Chu and Anita Lo, along with LF volunteers Douglas Hsia, Eva Chu, Mark Miller, Honey Lum, Eileen Leung, Corliss Lee, Betty Louie, Eva West and Sherry Stanley. Without the tireless efforts of Locke Foundation volunteers, signature events such as the Locke Chinese New Year Celebration and the Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival could not be presented to the public.







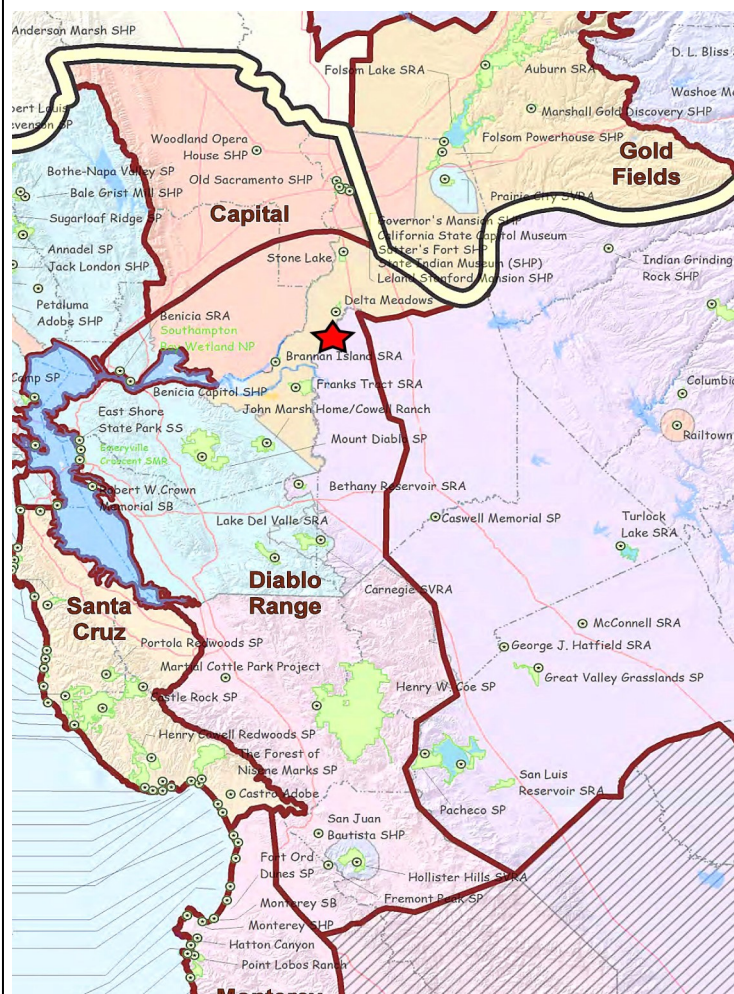
From top to bottom: (1) Eastern Ways lions; (2) Jie Lin, tea master; (3) Stephen Tse, calligrapher; (4) Lucky envelopes

## Locke Boarding House joins State Parks Diablo Range District

By Mark Miller

A major goal of the ongoing re-organization of California State Parks has been to improve the management of the entire park system. Part of this re-organization is to restructure the size of park districts, and to re-allocate the number of parks within each district. These changes have included the creation of an entirely new park district. This new park district is the "Diablo Range", district 9. The Diablo Range District has been created with parts from already existing districts. What does this mean for the Locke Boarding House?

Formerly the Locke Boarding House had been under the supervision of State Park staff located at the Gold Fields District office in the town of Folsom. With the creation of the new Diablo Range district, the Locke Boarding House has been transferred into this new district. The recently appointed superintendent for the new Diablo Range district is Matt Bellah, the former head of the Capital District, which includes parks like Sutter's Fort and the Capital building. His familiarity with the Sacramento region should be a positive factor in his supervision of the Diablo Range district and the Locke Boarding House.





## New Art Studio In Locke

Article and photo by Stuart Walthall

Artist Joy Kuo is a perfect fit for the town of Locke. Her delicate hand-infused Chinese brush paintings blend eastern sensibilities with western energy, mirroring Kuo's own life direction and Locke's historic and cultural legacy. Joy has now firmly planted her eastern roots in Locke with the opening of her Locke Art Studio, a working art studio located at 1265 Levee Street. (south-east corner of Main and Levee Streets).

Joy was born in Guangxi Province, China. At the age of five, she and her family moved to Taiwan where she was raised and educated. After receiving an education in accounting, she went to work in business administration. In 1983, at the age of 37, Joy immigrated to the U.S. where she continued her accounting career for another 17 years before retiring. She is a mother of two and is enjoying a second chapter in her life - the life of an artist.

Following her retirement, Kuo dedicated herself to the study of art. She attended college art classes, intentionally studying with numerous teachers who offered instruction in a variety of styles, techniques and media. She studied figure drawing, water color, oil, pencil and her specialty: Chinese brush ink art.

It was Joy's affinity to ink brush painting that inspired her to seek and find a private master teacher of that ancient technique, an instructor with whom she currently studies. Kuo creates her ink brush paintings primarily on silk but also utilizes paper. *"I like to share the creative experience with others. I enjoy interacting with those who visit my studio as I work".*

The town of Locke welcomes Joy Kuo as the newest member of its community. Good fortune to Joy and her artistic endeavors.

Studio Open: Thursday - Sunday  
By Appointment: Monday - Wednesday  
Contact: 408-598-6085  
[www.lockeartstudio.com](http://www.lockeartstudio.com)



Locke Foundation presents

"Locke in the 1970's"

April 1-September 30, 2019

Reception: Saturday, April 27, 2019  
Noon-4:00 pm, Lecture at 3:00 pm  
Free admission



Black and White Photography show by James Motlow  
Co-author of Bitter Melon

Boarding House Museum  
19316 Main Street  
Locke, California  
Hours: Tues/Friday: noon-4 pm  
Sat-Sun: 11 am—3pm





## Coins used by Chinese immigrants

By Mark Miller

Bronze cash coins from China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam would all find their way to California. For a Chinese immigrant arriving in California during the Gold Rush, the free circulation of gold, raw and coined, required learning new skills in the use of money for daily life.



*Japanese bronze cash coin (Emperor Komei) recovered from the Gold Rush Virginia Town Chinese community near present day Lincoln.*

Historian Talcott Williams, writing in 1897, makes the point that in China at that time, daily transactions in gold and silver coinage were extremely rare. No single official gold coin was in circulation in China, and the commercial silver weight of one "tael" had significant regional variations. Historians have placed the monetary value of a single Chinese bronze cash coin during this period of California history at 1/100 of a cent. Arriving in the hyper inflationary environment of Gold Rush California, Chinese immigrants would find their holdings of bronze cash coins, used in China since 250 B.C., of little monetary value. However, even with marginal monetary value, archaeological, historical, and ethnographic evidence indicates that bronze cash coins still retained a significant cultural and practical value for Chinese immigrants. Even to the point of being actively hoarded. There is a substantial body of historical accounts relating to the multiple uses of bronze cash coins that extended beyond that of simple economic exchange. Bronze cash coins served a wide variety of cultural purposes.



*Chinese bronze cash coin (Kangxi Emperor, Qing Dynasty) recovered from the Gold Rush Virginia Town Chinese community near present day Lincoln.*

There are historic accounts of Chinese street processions where Western bystanders would be handed a bronze cash coin as the procession made its way down the street. Bronze cash coins are also known to have been used in divination. There is a long history of the coins being used with the I Ching (Yi Jing) Book of Changes.

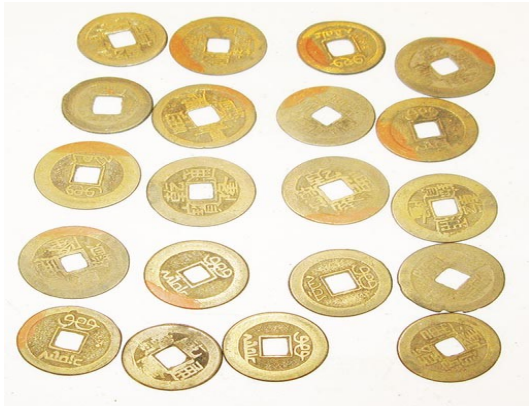
In addition, bronze cash coins can also be used in the construction of charms and ritual objects. Interestingly, for use as ritual objects, not all bronze cash coins have the same intrinsic value. Coins minted during the reign of the more popular emperors have greater value. The construction of some ritual object requires a significant number of suitable coins.

The most common public use of bronze cash coins was their use as game pieces in the Fan Tan gambling game. The popularity of Fan Tan in California dates back to the Gold Rush. At the Dai Loy gambling hall in Locke you can see an example of bronze cash coins still being used as game pieces up until recent times.

Bronze cash coins also had utilitarian uses. From the first time of Spanish colonial settlement in California during the 1770s, refined metal had always

been in short supply. This was still the case at the start of the Gold Rush in 1848. Metal of all types was actively hoarded by everyone, especially metal workers like blacksmiths. Bronze cash coins would be used as washers, or forged and shaped into new objects. Archaeological excavations of Chinese Gold Rush communities have repeatedly found evidence of the intentional hoarding of cash coins for future use.

A related example is of this is the number of recycled and re-purposed brass opium tins that have been found in the archaeological deposits of Chinese Gold Rush communities. No metal object was left to waste that could be transformed for a new purpose.



***Loose bronze cash coins that are part of a ritual object curated by California State Parks.***

With all the above examples, we can see that cash coins were more than money and a means of economic exchange. There may have even been additional historic uses of cash coins in California that we have yet to rediscover.



***Bronze cash coin and brass sheet from an opium tin used to make an improvised pipe. Recovered from the Gold Rush Virginia Town Chinese community near present day Lincoln.***

## Scholarship Opportunities for Delta High School Students

The principal mission of the Locke Foundation is education: Educating the public about the rich history and legacy of the town of Locke and informing the public of the compelling Chinese immigrant experience that played an important role in the history of California and the nation. Another mission of the LF is to bring benefit to Locke and surrounding Delta communities.

For these reasons the Locke Foundation is pleased to announce the availability of four scholarships to be awarded to graduating seniors from Delta High School and Rio Vista High School. Deadline for applying is April 19, 2019. The scholarships will be awarded at the Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival on Saturday, May 18, 2019. Information and application forms can be accessed at: [www.locke-foundation.org/scholarship/](http://www.locke-foundation.org/scholarship/)



**2018 LF scholarship winners from Rio Vista and Delta High Schools.**

Save the Date

Locke Foundation  
Fundraiser Banquet

Saturday, September 28, 2019

## Locke Foundation Membership Application/Renewal

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

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

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 2019 Board

President: Stuart Walthall  
Vice-Pres: Clarence Chu  
Secretary: Douglas Hsia  
Treasurer: Eileen Leung

Directors:  
Honey Lum  
Dustin Marr  
Mark Miller  
Darrel Woo

Newsletter: Eileen Leung  
Stuart Walthall

Cartoonist: Brock Alexander