

# Locke Foundation Newsletter 樂居鎮基金會

Preserving Locke's history and legacy

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Summer 2019

www.locke-foundation.org

## 9th annual Locke Asian Pacific Street Festival



Despite the predictions of inclement weather, several hundred visitors braved the elements to attend the 9th annual event to celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage month.

Arts and crafts and community booths lined Main Street with food trucks. Live entertainment included performers from Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Filipino and Polynesian cultures.

Tea ceremony, brush painting and calligraphy demonstration and guest lecturers added depth to the celebration. High school student volunteers from Rio Vista and Delta High School helped set up the booths and direct parking.

Co-chaired by Clarence Chu and Honey Lum, the festival planning committee included Stuart Walthall, Eva Chu, Anita Lo, Douglas Hsia, Corliss Lee, Mark Miller and Eileen Leung.

Guest lecturers included Debby Staley on Chinese women during Gold Rush and Railroad Building Days; Fred Wong and Hilda Kwan on Historical sites of Chinese settlements on federal lands; and Jeff Kan Lee on Life in the Delta.



All photos on this page by Elizabeth Wong



# Locke Foundation Free to Operate as Traditional Non-Profit

By Stuart Walthall

On February 5, 2019, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the Locke Foundation's amended bylaws which now enable the LF to operate as a traditional 501(c)(3) California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation.

The new bylaws disassociate the LF from Sacramento County, clarify differences and responsibilities of the LF and the Locke Management Association (LMA) and frees the LF from burdensome and unnecessary duties and restrictions. The Locke Foundation is now free to operate autonomously as do the vast majority of non-profit organizations.

Here is a bit of the back story: On April 8, 2003, the SCBoS took a series of actions that were necessary to subdivide and sell the land under the buildings in the Town of Locke to their owners and to create two nonprofit organizations, the Locke Management Association (LMA) and the Locke Foundation (LF).

The LMA is the de facto homeowners association for the Town of Locke incorporated under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c)(6). It is responsible for enforcement of the town's Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. In addition, the LMA has the following specific responsibilities: #1. Own, manage and maintain common areas, including residential streets, parking lots, the garden area, and walking easements; and #2. Levy and collect monthly assessments from the property owners to cover the ongoing cost of maintenance, operations, and liability insurance.

The Locke Foundation is a nonprofit organization incorporated under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for the purpose of soliciting donations and grants both from the public and private sectors to assist with preserving the cultural and historical significance of Locke. The Mission of the Locke Foundation: "To educate the public about Locke's history, to promote the town of Locke and to celebrate Locke's rich cultural legacy".

The original bylaws passed in 2003 by the SCBoS for both the LMA and the LF were virtually identical boilerplates. Many of the articles and procedures found in the LMA bylaws were irrelevant to the

function of the Locke Foundation. LMA responsibilities, such as: collection of assessments, enforcement of CC&R's (the LF has no CC&R's), notification of interested parties for sales of property, design and review procedures and First Right of Refusal issues had nothing to do with the Locke Foundation and its mission.

The Locke Foundation was also (questionably) required to adhere to Brown Act regulations. The Brown Act requires an organization to publicly post its meeting agenda, time and place at least 72 hours prior to the organization's board meetings. (More on this later).

In addition to the numerous irrelevant elements placed in the original LF boilerplate, those bylaws also required identical Board of Directors for both the LF and the LMA. In short, if you served on one board you had to serve on the other. If you did not serve on one board you could not serve on the other. This requirement slowly began to be ignored, even when Sacramento County had a representative seated on both boards to witness the apparent violation. Some board volunteers were interested in serving the Locke Foundation while others had vested interests in the LMA. Plus, it was a lot to ask of a volunteer to come to Locke twice a month for board meetings. By the time the new LF bylaws were approved by SCBoS there were only two individuals (out of 13 possible directors) serving on both boards. The new LF bylaws removed the issue of identical boards.

The original make-up of the LF board of directors as mandated by Sacramento County included Three (3) representatives from residential property owners; Three (3) representatives from commercial property owners; Three (3) representatives from various Chinese organizations; One (1) representative from Sacramento County; One (1) representative from California State Parks & Recreation; One (1) representative from various historical organizations and One (1) at-large representative. Thirteen (13) directors total. Any modification of LF bylaws, changes in directorship of mandated seats and total number of LF directors had to be approved by SCBoS. In other words: Sacramento County had ultimate control of the Locke Foundation.

By the time the new LF bylaws were passed, State Parks & Rec. had long since stopped seating a representative on the LF board, citing a conflict of interest since it owns the Locke Boarding House. Sacramento County had not seated a representative since 2015. In 2016 the representative from an historic organization opted to serve only on the LMA board. One director representing a Chinese organization dropped off the LF board along with two residential and one commercial property representatives. Yet, the Locke Foundation could not fill these empty seats. The LF needed new blood.

Despite numerous empty board seats the LF was still thriving. There were many individuals who were already volunteering their time and skills to the LF. They were passionate in their dedication to the mission of the Locke Foundation but were restricted from serving on its board of directors. They volunteered at the Locke Boarding House Museum, served as docents for walking tours of Locke and were active in the staging of LF festivals, fundraising and promotion of the town. The newly amended LF bylaws removed the restrictions of County-mandated board seating.

The new LF board of directors consists of: Two (2) representatives of commercial property owners - one of which will also serve on the LMA board of directors; One (1) representative from residential property owners, One (1) representative from a Chinese organization; and Five (5) at-large representatives. The new bylaws allow up to eleven (11) total directors.

The Locke Foundation originally submitted its amended bylaws for SCBoS approval in November of 2017. However, the SCBoS opted to address the LF amended bylaws in conjunction with yet-to-be submitted LMA amended bylaws. The LMA did not submit its amended bylaws until one year later. SCBoS finally approved the new LF bylaws in February of 2019. They did not approve the LMA bylaw amendments.

The Locke Foundation now has a new and enthusiastic group of volunteers seated on its board of directors. However, along with the LF's newly gained autonomous status has come an unfortunate and costly situation.

Martha Esch, owner of the Lockeport Grill & Fountain located at 13959 Main Street, Locke, took advantage of the window of opportunity created by the year long delay of SCBoS approval process in order to sue the Locke Foundation - along with the

LMA - in Superior Court for alleged Brown Act violations. (Case No. 34-2018-80002996). I remind the reader that any question regarding Brown Act requirements ended with the approval of the newly amended LF bylaws. The Brown Act applies only to organizations who have ties to governmental agencies.

Ms. Esch's claims of LF Brown Act violations are based on the LF decision to cease posting its meeting agendas. The LF also ceased conducting its board meetings at the Locke Boarding House Museum and Visitors Center - a building which the LF funds, operates and houses its office. The reason why the LF decided to conduct its meeting outside of its place of business? Disruptive behavior by Martha Esch during Locke Foundation (and LMA) meetings. You Tube: Martha Esch - to view videos of Ms. Esch during Locke public meetings.

The Locke Foundation has hired Porter Scott Law Corporation to defend itself against Ms. Esch's lawsuit. Thus far the Locke Foundation, which is funded through donations, sponsorships and museum sales, and is operated by unpaid volunteers, has spent nearly ten thousand dollars on legal fees defending itself against Ms. Esch's lawsuit. These mounting legal fees now jeopardize numerous Locke Foundation programs and projects which benefit the town of Locke and the public.

In jeopardy is the operation of the Locke Boarding House Museum and Visitors Center, the Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival, the Locke Chinese New Year Celebration, the Locke Scholarship Program (LF Directors have stepped up this year and funded the scholarships, awarded to five local high school seniors, out of their own pockets). Also in jeopardy: town park maintenance, the LF Oral History Program, rotating museum exhibits, the Locke Chinese demonstration garden, LF newsletter, the Locke Artifact & Archival Project, and numerous other programs and events. Additional legal fees caused by this lawsuit are looming in the future. The Locke Foundation will keep its membership and the public informed of the status and progress of the Martha Esch lawsuit, including any additional litigation against the LF and its directors by Ms. Esch.

The Locke Foundation is the only organization solely dedicated to the preservation, celebration and advocacy of the town of Locke: the largest, most complete example of a rural agricultural Chinese American community in the U.S.

Readers may direct comments on this legal situation to LF president, Stuart Walthall, at [stuartwalthall@aol.com](mailto:stuartwalthall@aol.com)



## LF Participates in Bok Kai Festival

By Douglas Hsia

When Chinese immigrants in America became the victim of their own success in finding extraordinary amount of gold in the gold country, they would be chased out from the mountains by other miners. They came running down to Marysville for refuge. Over the years, Chinese in Marysville had gradually built up a Chinese sanctuary during these Gold Rush years. They also cultivated rich cultural traditions such as the Bok Kai Festival Parade and the heavy hitter fire crackers on Bomb Day.

The Bok Kai Festival, honoring Bok Eye, the Chinese God of Water, pays tribute to the many Chinese who worked the gold mines in the 1800s. The rare Bok Kai Temple, recently listed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the country's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places, came to be a symbol of gratitude and hope for the Chinese who had left their homeland with hopes for a better life in America. For 149 years, Chinese and Caucasians have been celebrating the occasion together. It is always scheduled on the second day of the second Lunar month.

This is the second year the newly formed Chinese American Pioneer Heritage Committee added a series of programs of documentary and workshop to the existing celebrations. Locke Foundation showed our support to the new Committee's effort by participating in the Parade and a publicity booth on March 9, 2019.



*The Locke Foundation delegation included Douglas Hsia, Karun Yee, Robyn Brown, Honey Lum and Corliss Lee.*

For the parade we brought a work horse with us to symbolize Chinese laborers building the levee. We also manned a booth to share our publications and heritage. Our objective is to work with the new committee to manifest the Chinese heritage of Marysville, it is considered as the last linkage to the dawn of Asian history in America.

## James Motlow Opening Reception and Lecture

April 27, 2019 marked the date for a very special opening reception and lecture which offered a rare glimpse into Locke during a time period when the town still had a thriving Chinese community.

The Locke Foundation was pleased to present the new exhibit of historic and intimate photos of Locke and Locke residents by photographer James Motlow entitled: LOCKE IN THE 70s. This exhibit has traveled across the USA and now has found its home back in Locke.

In addition to food and wine, guests were also treated to a (jam packed) lecture given by James Motlow in which he informed and elaborated on his photographic images while offering personal anecdotes.

The exhibit runs through Sept. 2019, at the Locke Boarding House Museum, second floor. Don't miss this show. It reveals the essence of LOCKE IN THE 70s.



Photo courtesy of No Tunnel.

## Rio Vista HS Students Receive Locke Foundation Scholarships

By Stuart Walthall  
Photo by Anita Lo

On May 18, 2019, during the Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival, four worthy Rio Vista High School seniors were presented with Locke Foundation scholarships. Each of these outstanding students received a Locke Foundation Scholastic Achievement certificate in addition to a cash award. The students were also acknowledged with Academic Achievement certificates from the office of State Assemblyman Jim Frazier. On hand to present the certificates on behalf of Assemblyman Frazier was Constituent Services Representative Karen Nolan.

Scholarship recipients were chosen on the basis of grade point average, extra-curricular activities, public service and quality of written essays penned on the theme: "What is the historic significance of Locke, Ca"? The qualifications of the 2019 LF scholarship applicants were extremely high, making the selection process difficult. The four students chosen for scholarships excelled in each category of achievement. Recipients of the 2019 Locke Foundation Scholarships are: Cindy Torres, Meagan Delancy, Montana Olson and Ingrid Gallardo.



Back Row L-R: Clarence Chu, Karen Nolan and Katie Kleinsasser (Jeff Gillenkirk Memorial award), Stuart Walthall. Front Row L-R: Scholarship winners: Cindy Torres, Meagan Delancy, Montana Olson and Ingrid Gallardo. Yesenia Alduenda (Rio Vista HS Counselor) and Hsia Douglas.

Ingrid Gallardo was chosen to receive the Jeff Gillenkirk Memorial Scholarship- an award given to the

student who displays strong involvement in community service and displays humanitarian interests. Ingrid plans to pursue a degree in Global Studies and hopes to someday work for the United Nations. Jeff Gillenkirk was a strong advocate for the town of Locke and is the co-author of the definitive biography of Locke: BITTER MELON - Inside America's Last Rural Chinese Town. Presenting the Jeff Gillenkirk Memorial Scholarship on behalf of the Locke Foundation was Gillenkirk's mate Katie Kleinsasser.

Also present at the awards ceremony was Rio Vista High School counselor Yesenia Alduenda who offered inspired words of praise and encouragement to student award-ees whom she has grown to know throughout their promising high school careers.

Sponsors for 2019 Locke Foundation Scholarship Awards are: Lien Fan Chu and LF Directors Clarence Chu, Douglas Hsia and Stuart Walthall.

The Locke Foundation is extremely proud to honor these four rising stars. Each path is bright .... and each future filled with promise.

## Author Kim Luke speaks on life saga

by Douglas Hsia

Locke Foundation and CACS (Chinese American Council of Sacramento) proudly hosted Kim Luke to present her newly published book The Lu Family SAGA at the Jan Ying Museum on Saturday, June 1, 2019. The event reflects the theory a good book, a popular author and a venue that provides the right cultural ambience are the key to a successful author lecture.

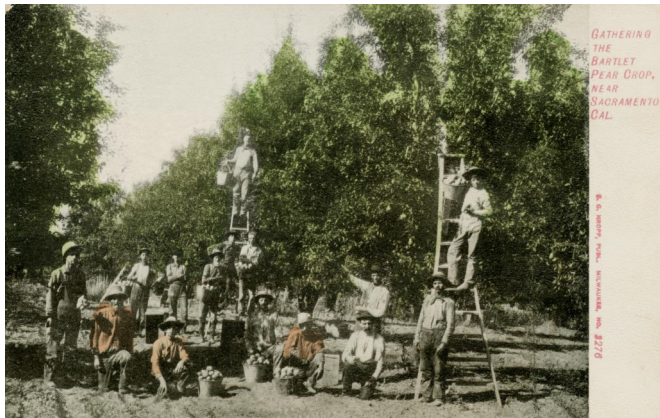
Kim could not help herself from pouring her heart out to the audience. Although Kim's great grandfather is the very first martyr of Chinese 1911 revolution, it is mainly her personal journey through the Chinese history that wins the heart of her readers.

I believe I am the best person to organize this event because my past career of China trade gave me the opportunities to listen to countless personal stories against the treacherous Chinese history, none is more comprehensive than Kim's version. None brought me closer to this stretch of Chinese history.





Long before everyone had a phone and camera in their pocket, people have always wanted their friends and family to know what they were seeing and doing. In the early 1900s as farm workers followed the crops up and down California, postcards were a cheap and convenient way to stay in touch with others.



In orchard near Sacramento around 1905

Long before email and text messaging, a nickel postcard and a penny stamp could reach anyone in the United States. Telegraph messages could be costly and household and public phones were still a rarity. Everyone used the mail to communicate over long distances, or even just across town. Even with only a 2 ½ by 3 ½ inch space in which to write, a postcard was a convenient way to send word of critical news or just a simple hello.



Hop vines ready for harvest. One of the many local farms supplying breweries in Sacramento before Prohibition.

Merchants in every town would have a selection of postcards with pictures of the local community. In agricultural towns, you could find images of the local farms and crops. By example, for the Sacramento area you see postcards of hop farms and orchards.



Chinese farm workers that put food on our tables. Circa 1930.

Before World War II, color photography was rare and expensive. Almost every photograph taken was in black and white. However, to liven up postcard images, an artist would hand paint color tints on a master photograph for the postcard printer to copy when printing the postcard. The color of the world is what the artist thought it should be. Crops are lush and green, and fruit is in the full color blush of ripeness.



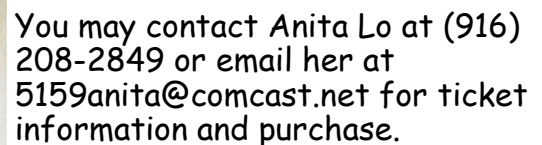
This appears to be a staged and hand colored studio photograph of a Chinese farm worker.



The postcards that survive provide us with an important window on our agricultural past. Along with the images, the short notes written on these cards provide insight on the daily life and concerns of the people of \_\_\_\_\_



While a local picture postcard from Locke has eluded this postcard enthusiast, there is evidence that Walnut Grove did have some postcards. Undoubtedly there are more historic images of our local agricultural past to find, enjoy, and learn about. Saving these views of agriculture and life from an earlier time is a rich and extraordinary legacy of the past that we can pass on to the future.



## 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:  
Corliss Lee  
Honey Lum  
Dustin Marr  
Mark Miller  
Darrel Woo

Newsletter: Eileen Leung  
Stuart Walthall

Cartoonist: Brock Alexander