

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

lockefoundation@frontiernet.net Spring 2020 www.locke-foundation.org

In compliance with CDC request to ban public gatherings over 50 persons for the next 8 weeks, the Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival has been cancelled.



Locke Foundation Presents  
**Asian Pacific Spring Festival**  
樂居鎮亞太春節聯歡

**Saturday, May 9, 2020**  
**11 am - 5 pm**  
**Main Street, Locke, CA**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**FREE PARKING**

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

庚子年2020  
YEAR OF THE RAT

**Sponsors**

Chevron  
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Locke Foundation is a 501(c)3  
Organization  
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# Oral History Project Launched

By Corliss Lee

Early California Chinese immigrants endured discrimination, alienation, poverty and pain. They built the railroads and levees. They became keepers of the land which they could not own. And the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta became the richest agricultural land in the U.S.

Despite hardships and sacrifice, there were also times of joy. Simple pleasures of daily life — family, friends and raising children, overcoming adversity to ultimately prosper.

The Locke Foundation has taken the responsibility of recording the history of the Chinese in the Delta starting with the town of Locke. As the largest, most complete example of a rural agricultural Chinese American community in the U.S., its story has been told to a certain extent over the years, but there has never been a concerted effort to cast a wide net in capturing its stories. The Locke Foundation is now taking on that task with urgency. The stories of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Chinese Americans must be gathered in earnest as they will not be with us much longer. Time is of the essence.

Our first interviews begin March 2020. Members of the committee include Corliss Lee, Douglas Hsia, Honey Lum and Mark Miller. Please join us in support of this all-important endeavor. You can help in the following ways:

If you know of anyone with ties to the Delta, please provide us with an introduction and/or contact information.

Join us for a Chinese Antique Fashion Show fundraiser, sponsored by the Chinese American Council of Sacramento (CACCS) and the Locke Foundation Oral History Project (LFOHP) in August of 2020 at Happy Garden, Sacramento, CA. (Specific date and time to follow).

Please support our efforts monetarily. In addition to incidental costs incurred by our volunteers, we may also need compensate professionals in the field of oral history. There are added costs of equipment and transcription services. Please make your tax deductible contributions to the: Locke Foundation Oral History Project (LFOHP).

Grants will be another potential source of funding. However, seed money is all important at this time.

If you have expertise and would like to volunteer your skills, please let us know. For example, we are looking for individuals fluent in English and

Heungshan or Toisanese dialect willing to do transcriptions.

The Locke Foundation thanks you for your interest and support. Please donate any way you see fit. We are here to help preserve the all important history of the Chinese in America, of which the Chinese of the Delta played a profound role.



Join Mabel Ow, Franklin Leong, and Sherry Jang—tell your story too.

## Whispers of the past

By Stuart Walthall

The primary mission of the Locke Foundation (LF) is to educate the public about the history, culture and legacy of Locke and to tell the stories of those who made the town of Locke their home.

The LF has been gathering recorded interviews, artifacts, film, historic photos and printed oral histories from numerous sources and plans to ultimately make these significant materials available to the public. These materials should also prove valuable to scholastic institutions, historians, authors and the media.

The LF has received over 20 recorded interviews by Delta residents referenced in *One Day, One Dollar: Locke, California and the Chinese Farming Experience in the Sacramento Delta*, by Peter Leung. Many of these 40-year old recordings contain first-hand stories of individuals whose memories date back to the founding of Locke. The tape recordings have now been digitized and await funding which will enable translation, transcription and publication.



你的故事

**Bitter or Sweet, your story  
is important to us**



Locke Foundation Oral History Committee is  
ready to serve you and your family

Corliss Lee: 925 683 1776

[corlissmlee@gmail.com](mailto:corlissmlee@gmail.com)





## Highlights of 2020 Chinese New Year Celebration in Locke

The Year of the Rat was welcomed in the town of Locke on Saturday, February 15, 2020. Opening remarks were given by Stuart Walthall, chair of Locke Foundation; John Hospenthal, Vice-President of Farmers & Merchants Bank, Steve Ly and Darren Suen, Mayor and Vice-Mayor of Elk Grove, and Clarence Chu, Vice-chair of Locke Foundation. Karen Nolan, representing Assemblyman Jim Frazier, presented the town of Locke with a resolution. The event planning committee included Clarence Chu, Anita Lo, Douglas Hsia and Honey Lum. The event was underwritten by a generous donation from Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Kicking off the festivities were lion dancers and martial artists from Eastern Ways. Colorful lions frolicked among the spectators and delighted young and old. Over 550 visitors came to visit the town and attend lectures in tea presentation, Chinese cooking, zodiac stories and watch young budding artists in action. Students from William Land School and art instructor Linda Yu submitted many award-winning entries to the poster contest.



*Eastern Ways lions romp through Main Street collecting red envelopes from merchants and visitors.*



*Capitol Chinese Orchestra musicians perform in Boarding House.*



*Master chef David SooHoo prepares Lo Han Jai, signature dish for Chinese New Year in River Road Art Gallery.*



*Front row: Brian Tom, VJ Louie, Karen Nolan, Eileen Leung, Anita Lo, Corliss Lee, Steve Ly, Stuart Walthall, Clarence Chu and Honey Lum. Back row: Darren Suen, Mark Miller, Douglas Hsia and John Hospenthal.*



Anita Lo and Clarence Chu created the children's art contest and calligraphy activity which were wildly successful in attracting over 30 entries from William Land School in Sacramento. Cash prizes were awarded to top candidates in 3 age categories.



Anita Lo and art entries.



Art contest judges Linda Yu, Clarence Chu and Anita Lo with first place winner in age 6 and under category. Chloe Chiu.



Visitors try their hand at Chinese calligraphy.



Art contest judges Anita Lo, Linda Yu, and Clarence Chu with first place winner in age 7-13 category. Catherine Hoang.



Tea ceremony with Nami Thompson and team in Jan Ying Building.



Elizabeth Wong and Mollie Chow display replicas of zodiac animals with children.

Many thanks to contributors of photographs: Jim Kok, Elizabeth Wong, Stuart Walthall., Anita Lo, Clarence Chu

## Josiah Gallup: Business Agent to Chinese Merchants

Printed with permission of Professor Emeritus, Adrian Praetzelis, Sonoma State University  
Photo from California State Library collection.

In late 1994 archaeologists from Sonoma State University carried out archaeological testing and data recovery on the HI56 Block in Sacramento, California. This work, done in advance of construction of a federal office building and courthouse, was sponsored by the U.S. General Services Administration in accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Pre-field documentary research had disclosed that this was the last archaeologically surviving portion of Sacramento's mid-19th-century Chinese district.

This work revealed archaeological deposits that were determined to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D, including caches of domestic and commercial refuse associated with a series of Chinese District Association boardinghouses that housed Chinese workers during the mid-1850s. The resulting historical and archaeological analyses revealed much information about the everyday lives of these working-class Chinese pioneers as well as how material culture was used by Chinese District Association agents to enhance their community's relationship to Sacramento's power brokers.

### Josiah Gallup, Chinese Business Agent

Perhaps the most important business contacts of the Chinese District Associations of I Street were their American business agents. In the tradition of *Guanxi* and out of necessity, the business agent was a trusted associate who represented the merchants' interests in a number of spheres. *Guanxi* is a network of family and business relationships tied together by bonds of trust, obligation and reciprocity that in China are strong society bonds.

In 1855, four of five Chinese District Associations in California had offices and boardinghouses in Sacramento on I Street between 5th and 6th Streets. Agents of these District Associations nurtured important reciprocal relationships with Sacramento business men, including Josiah Gallup.

Josiah Gallup, who came from a family of Connecticut merchants who had traded in China, was an agent for the Yeungwo and Sam Yap (Canton) District Associations. Gallup's papers provide a wealth of information about the role of this important cultural bridge in early Sacramento (Gallup Collection, California State Library). He moved to Sacramento in 1849 where he acted as commission agent, translator (fluent in Heungshan and Toisanese dialect), legal representative and labor broker for several District Associations. As a middleman for the Chinese merchants of San Francisco and Sacramento, he helped them purchase real estate and supplies, transport miners and prostitutes to gold fields and negotiate with government officials. Unfortunately he died at the young age of 32.



Where there were permits to be obtained from City Hall, a bond to be posted, or legal representation for a Chinese individual accused of a crime, the American business agent would speak for his District Association. In 1855 an agent, a former Sacramento City judge, was even employed to lobby the State Legislature on behalf of Chinese merchants' and Associations' interests. On a more mundane level—although one that has direct implications to archaeology—where supplies had to be purchased from an American source, the agent put in the order and was reimbursed. Receipts in Gallup's probate file and asides in his private correspondence show that he purchased everything from household supplies and vegetables to building materials for his clients.

Chinese merchants definitely needed white business agents who were savvy in the Chinese language and mainstream American commerce as liaisons to navigate their way in the American business establishment.



## Scholarship Opportunities for 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 3, 2020. The scholarships will be awarded at the Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival on Saturday, May 9, 2020. Information and application forms can be accessed at: [www.locke-foundation.org/scholarship](http://www.locke-foundation.org/scholarship)

## Boarding House Museum Hosts Free Museum Day

The Locke Boarding House Museum, along with over two dozen Sacramento area museums, participated in Free Museum Day - a popular cultural tradition designed to provide members of Sacramento and surrounding communities access to the region's wealth of art, history, science and wildlife. The event, staged on Saturday, February 1, 2020, was coordinated by Sacramento Association of Museums (SAM) - an organization of which the Locke Boarding House Museum (LBHM) has been a member since 2005.

Visitors to the LBHM were greeted by a staff of friendly Locke Foundation volunteers who directed guests to the many resources housed in the museum. Interpretive materials on display included historic photos, cultural literature, artifact displays, archival ephemera and the James Motlow photo exhibit: Locke in the 1970s. Knowledgeable docents were on hand to answer questions and snacks were served throughout the busy day.

Though the region-wide event was billed as Free Museum Day, the Locke Foundation wants to emphasize the Locke Boarding House Museum always offers free admission and parking.

LBHM hours of operation:  
Tuesday: Noon the 4:00 pm  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

## In Memoriam Willis Tom 1926-2020



Willis passed away peacefully at the age of 93. Loving husband to Shirley; father to Rodney (Jeannie), Karen (Ron), and Sharen (Ernie); 8 grandchildren Jenny (Tim), Kristi (Jay), Ryan (Grace), Christopher, Rachel, Matthew, Johnathan and Shannon; and 6 great grandchildren.

Willis grew up in Locke, California and graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in accounting. He married Shirley shortly thereafter and went on to work for the City of San Francisco for 37 years as a tax auditor.

His main passions were photography, playing badminton, singing, and skiing. He enjoyed spending time with family on vacations in Hawaii, Alaska, Caribbean, Mexico, and the Mediterranean.

Willis was a member of the Duck Sin Tong Chinese Association. In his later years he enjoyed reconnecting with the Locke community through their Foundation. He attended the Locke Centennial in 2015, and several fundraisers where he entertained the audience a capella with "Memories" and "The Impossible Dream".

A memorial service was held at Golden Hills Memorial Park, Colma, on January 19, 2020.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to: Locke Foundation (in memory of Willis Tom) - P.O. Box 1085, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

## 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

### 2020 Board

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