

# 沙加緬度中華文化基金會

Sacramento Chinese Culture Foundation

P. O. Box 160841, Sacramento, CA 95816

May 2012 [www.chineseculturefoundation.org](http://www.chineseculturefoundation.org)

SCCF-Wells Fargo launch  
first scholarship awards for students of  
Chinese language  
June 10, 2012

Join us in the stunning  
lobby of Wells Fargo Bank  
in downtown Sacramento  
to congratulate our young  
people, their families and  
teachers.

Free admission  
Parking validated by WFB



# **Wells Fargo SCCF Scholarship Awards Ceremony**

## **SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

30 students ages (5-18)

Excel in Chinese language and culture

## **PARTICIPANTS**

13 schools from Sacramento area



## **HONORING WELLS FARGO BANK**

### **DIVERSITY AWARD**

Chevo Ramirez, WF Foundation VP

### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

Rick Cwynar, WF Marketing VP

Sunday, June 10, 2012, 2pm-4pm

Wells Fargo Bank Lobby

400 Capitol Mall

Downtown Sacramento

**WELLS  
FARGO**

RSVP By June 6

Helen Yee at 916-392-1001 or

Vicki Beaton at 916-601-7511

**SACRAMENTO  
CHINESE CULTURE  
FOUNDATION**



Free parking

Refreshments served

# We had fun in Sonoma and Mendocino



On April 28, 40 SCCF members and guests embarked on a day-long adventure to Sonoma and Mendocino. Our first stop at Quarryhill Botanical Garden was not without challenges because we could not find the entrance on Highway 12! After several fits and starts during which our Amador Stage Lines bus driver, Danny Riedel, had to make a series of 3-point turns, we arrived at our destination. We were greeted warmly by executive director, Bill McNamara. Two electric carts filled with non-walkers followed the group

through the gardens.

The gardens were started by San Francisco philanthropist Jane Davenport Jansen to preserve the seeds of endangered trees and plants from Asia. All the trees and foliage were planted in early 1990's; some have already grown to over 30 feet tall. Each year, Bill travels to Asia with botanists from other countries to obtain seeds.



Like conservation efforts to protect animal species nearing extinction, this effort seeks to preserve plant species from extinction due to urban development, natural disaster, floods.



The next leg of the tour led us to Talmage, home of the City of 10,000 Buddhas. A self-contained city home to Dharma monks, this serene community is the largest Buddhist monastery in North America.. Once the site of a state hospital, the entire grounds consisting of 400 acres were purchased in 1974. Besides the meditation hall and verdant grounds there are elementary and high school, university, dormitories for monks and nuns, organic vegetable garden, and wild peacocks. We enjoyed a plant-based lunch at the Jyun Kang Vegetarian Restaurant. There are literally 10,000 Buddha figurines in the Meditation Hall.



*Photos courtesy of Evan Wong, Margaret Justinich and Liz Wong*

# Fong Family Pilgrimage from Toisan to Sacramento

My grandfather came to Sacramento from China in 1913. To commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his arrival, I obtained information on his immigration experience. Grandpa went back to China in 1920, married Grandma, and brought her to Sacramento in 1922. They had nine children that grew to adulthood, 31 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren, and 13 great, great grandchildren. I want to pass on their immigration experience to their descendants.



This summary documents the steps my Grandfather, Fong Sue, and Grandmother, Wong Shee went through to come to Sacramento. It describes the process with the Immigration Service, which was then part of the Department of Labor. The most interesting were the various detailed interviews with Fong Sue's business partners, paper father and customers as well as my grandparents at Angel Island.

Grandpa came to Sacramento as the paper son of a merchant. His paper father was actually his uncle, Fong Jew who had to submit an affidavit that he was a lawful resident and merchant in Sacramento which also established identity of his minor son, Fong Sue, and requested his "son" be allowed into the U. S. to live with him. The affidavit includes a person who swears he knows the father and son and the desire of Fong Sue to come to the U. S. as well as two citizens and residents of Sacramento swearing Fong Jew is a merchant and is known to them.

On October 19, 1913, Grandpa arrives in San Francisco aboard the S. S. Korea and is detained on Angel Island. The next day, a Medical Certificate of Release states Grandpa was held for observation and released that day. On the same day, the immigration inspector requests the immigration records of Fong Jew to verify his arrival in February or March of 1910. Grandpa then goes through an extensive interview, which includes minute details about his relatives and village. The questions and his answers are in a five-page transcript. "What are your paternal grandmother's name, age, and feet?" The answer for the feet would be "natural" or "bound". "How large is your village?" The answer would be the number of homes in the village.

The inspector sends the case to Sacramento on October 25, 1913, so additional information can be obtained from Fong Jew, the person mentioned in the affidavit who knows the father and son, and two white witnesses. The inspector in Sacramento also interviews the manager of the company in which Fong Jew is a partner in addition to three white witnesses who conduct business with the company. The purpose of this information is to verify Fong Jew is a partner in the company and it is a legitimate business. Many of the questions Grandpa was asked were also asked of Fong Jew to determine if Grandpa's answers are consistent with those of Fong Jew.

A November 13, 1913, memo from the inspector to the Immigra-

tion Commissioner at Angel Island states there are discrepancies in some of Grandpa's answers and recommends he be recalled and interviewed again. The inspector re-interviews Grandpa on November 15, 1913, and Grandpa clarifies some of the answers. The inspector then writes a memo to the Immigration Commissioner recommending Grandpa be denied entry due to material discrepancies between his and Fong Jew's answers. The inspector also believes Grandpa is not related to Fong Jew. The case is forwarded to the inspector of the Law Section.

The Law Section inspector conducts the denial reexamination on December 1, 1913, and asks very detailed questions and clarification to previous answers. The inspector's memo to the Immigration Commissioner recommends approval for Grandpa's admission since his answers clarified some discrepancies or were immaterial. On January 14, 1914, Grandpa receives his Certificate of Identity.

A December 17, 1919, a notarized document from the manager of the Sacramento Meat and Poultry Market states Grandpa is an active member of the business and his intent to depart for China to visit family. On the same day, Grandpa applies for pre-investigation of his status as a lawfully domiciled merchant. This request appears to be part of the requirements prior to departing for China. The Immigration Service then begins the investigation process on Grandpa.

On December 18, 1919, the Immigration Service request Grandpa's records to verify he entered the U. S. in October 1913 through the Immigration Service. Subsequently, Immigration Service records confirm Grandpa is a merchant's son and a salesman at the Sacramento Meat and Poultry Market. From March 3 through 8, 1920, the immigration inspector interviews Grandpa, the manager of the Sacramento Meat and Poultry Market, and four white witnesses who conduct business with the market to verify Grandpa worked there. A March 9, 1920, memo from the inspector to the Immigration Commissioner states Grandpa is a merchant and recommends Grandpa be allowed to go to China. The Immigration Service (Chinese Division) letter authorizes Grandpa to go to China and to provide the letter to the registration officer upon embarkation.

Grandpa sails off to China and returns to Deng Heung village, near Canton, which is now called Guangzhou. He marries Grandma in 1920 and they have a son who dies as a baby. Grandpa is in China



By Steve Fong, SCCF Lifetime Member

for about two years. He then goes to the U. S. consulate in Hong Kong on June 29, 1922 to start the process to return to the states with his wife. Grandpa submits an affidavit for Grandma (Wong Shee) affirming under oath he is a merchant in Sacramento and wishes to return home with his wife, age 22. A July 6, 1922, S. S. China manifest shows them as passengers on the ship to California. They arrive in San Francisco on July 31, 1922, and go through the immigration screening process at Angel Island.

Grandma's arrival is reported on a July 31, 1922, Inspector's Abstract of Record and Report - Wife of Exempt Chinese. Grandpa is reported favorably and is admitted by the immigration inspector. There is an affidavit from Grandpa swearing he is a merchant in Sacramento, wishes to bring Grandma to live with him in the U. S. and establish Grandma's identity. It includes a photo of Grandma (age 22) and Grandpa (age 25).

Grandpa and Grandma go through an extensive interview process in which the inspector asks very detailed questions about their family, village, and wedding. Their answers were consistent and provided a very interesting glimpse of them. For example, the first time they met was on their wedding day when Grandma was transported by sedan chair from her village to Grandpa's village, about seven to eight li in distance (between 2 to 2.5 miles). Accompanying her were 20 others who carried her furniture and belongings. Grandma is admitted on August 4, 1922. On August 17, 1922, Grandpa applies for the return of his Certificate of Identity and signs for the receipt of it.

The above information was obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration, Regional Archives, Pacific Region, San Francisco. The housing of the archive documents is in San Bruno, California. Special thanks to Marisa Louie, Archivist, for locating the files and providing the process for accessing them.



1935

*Heartwarming stories of perseverance and triumph enrich the tapestry of our Chinese American community. Please share your family's legacy with SCCF.*



1950



1970



Compare same individuals in 1980 to 1935



1980

# From Chinatowns to Ethnoburbs....Part I

Like other ethnic groups, most Chinese immigrants to the US before 1946 first settled in Chinatowns upon arrival. These were overcrowded tenements that provided their first jobs and housing. They worked in restaurants or service industries for long hours, little pay and no benefits. As their economic situation improved, they discovered they could move outside of the ghettos for better schools and living conditions; they still flocked to the Chinatowns for grocery shopping, restaurants, networking with clan associations and even jobs. As soon as some families settled in a particular neighborhood, other family members and friends followed, attracted by affordability, newer housing tracts, good schools, acceptance of influx of new ethnic groups.

## What are Ethnoburbs:

Suburban ethnic cluster of residential and business districts in a large metropolitan area: multi-racial, multi-ethnic. Examples include Los Angeles, Sacramento, Bay Area, New York City and Vancouver.



**Los Angeles:** The first immigrants settled in the San Pedro Street area and later moved to Broadway, Hill, College and Sunset Boulevards. They either worked in or owned restaurants, laundries, small grocery stores and herb stores because they did not compete directly with the white majority and little capital was required. They lacked language skills to work in mainstream retail or government offices. They chose professions in which they never worked in the home country.

As their financial status improved, they moved to ethnoburbs such as Monterey Park, Alhambra, Arcadia, San Marino. The San Gabriel Valley has the largest suburban Chinese concentration in US. A family can survive in these communities without speaking English.

## Reasons for the migration of Chinese from Chinatowns to Ethnoburbs.

1. Improved financial status of immigrants who first settled in Chinatowns.
2. The Immigration Act of 1965 removed highly restrictive quota barriers that for so long prevented reunification for Chinese families. This wave brought highly educated and financially stable families to America. They did not have to settle in the Chinatown tenements first. They could afford to buy homes immediately in neighborhoods with good schools.



3. The 1980 Refugee Act brought an influx of immigrants from Vietnam and other southeast Asian countries, including many ethnic Chinese.

Here are some of the reasons ethnoburbs have developed and thrived:

- Asian families seeking communities with good schools
- Real estate agents aggressively marketing to selected ethnic groups
- Influx of foreign capital; business investment opportunities and favorable status for business immigrants.
- Geopolitical forces in other countries made US a safe haven for wealthy.
- Skilled labor needed to build incubator technology centers
- Decline in all-white neighborhoods; Asian neighborhoods over 50%
- Chinese families moving from inner cities or moving directly from overseas
- Affluent immigrants can bypass taking service jobs in ghettos, but to move directly to middle-class communities; they are either professionals or self-employed business, and they interact with mainstream society at higher levels.
- Asian banks aggressively jump start of small and medium sized businesses.

Five Largest Chinese Populations as a Proportion of City Population in the Los Angeles County

	Total City Population	Chinese, except Taiwanese	Percent
City of Monterey Park	60,051	25,411	42%
City of Alhambra	85,804	29,139	34%
City of San Gabriel	39,804	13,417	34%
City of San Marino	12,945	4,186	32%
City of Rosemead	53,505	16,995	32%

## Backlash from white population:



- Mega mansions, rising housing prices, shopping centers with no English signs, stores with no English speaking personnel.
- White people feel character of their community changing. They are the minority in local political arenas such as city council, and school boards.
- Chinese language offered in mainstream schools.
- Chinese overseas buyers can pay cash for real estate.

## Next installment: Sacramento

Source: Li, Wei, Ethnoburb: new ethnic community in urban America, Univ of Hawaii Press, 2009

# Community Calendar 2012

**SCCF Sponsorship in bold**

## June 10, SCCF Wells Fargo Scholarship Awards

June 21-22, 2012, Remembering the Chinese in Lewiston, ID, conference sponsored by Lewiston College remembers the nearly three dozen Chinese gold miners massacred on the Oregon side of Hells Canyon in 1887. It brings together historians and others to talk of the Chinese who once lived and worked in the region during the gold-mining era in the 1800s. The conference has become a major venue for collecting knowledge of the Chinese history in the Pacific Northwest.

June 23, 2012, Official Dragon Boat and Dumpling Festival on the 5th day of the 5th lunar month.

August 5, Sunday, 11am-2pm, SCCF Picnic lunch and games, William Land Park near Funderland, free to SCCF members; \$5 for guests.

September 23, 2012, 11am-3pm. Sunday, Chinatown Mall Fair, downtown Sacramento. Free admission.

September 30, Mid-Autumn Festival.

## OCA-GSA Honors Steve and Carlota Yee

At its annual Dragon Boat Festival on May 5, 2012, at Doubletree Hotel, SCCF board member and community activist Steve Yee was honored along with his late wife, Carlota Gutierrez. They received the Civil Rights/Social Justice award for their tireless efforts to advance the rights of Chinese Americans. Steve was founder of Day of Inclusion Act and initiated grass roots efforts to protecting the original Sacramento Chinatown's artifacts at the proposed Railyard Improvement Project in downtown Sacramento. Carlota, who passed away from ALS in 2011, was active in supporting the Yee Fow Museum and other community events. Well deserved recognition.

Photo courtesy of Vicki Beaton



## Locke Spring Festival Draws Huge Crowds

To celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month, Main Street in Locke buzzed with excitement as nearly a thousand visitors came to enjoy a day filled with mellow music, martial arts, dragon dance, Taiko Drums and cultural dances on May 19, 2012. SCCF was a major sponsor for this event. Sierra Chinese School from Rocklin performed the dragon dance. Capitol Chinese Orchestra returned for encore rendition of favorite Chinese songs.



Photos courtesy of Locke Foundation

## SCCF Membership Application/Renewal

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

Name in Chinese characters (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: Individual, \$25/year Family, \$45/year Lifetime membership, \$150/\$200

Please return this form to: SCCF, P. O. Box 160841, Sacramento, CA 95816-0841 or any SCCF board member.

Office use only:

Date application received \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

SCCF  
P. O. Box 160841  
Sacramento, CA 95816-0841

### 2012 Board

President: Mayue Carlson  
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Michelle Lau  
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If your address label is printed in RED,  
please send in renewal membership fee as  
soon as possible to continue receiving news-  
letters.