

2016 CHINESE AMERICAN GENEALOGY CONFERENCE

October 15-16, 2016

Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA)

215 Centre Street, New York, NY

SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2016

8:30 AM Registration Opens

9:00 AM Welcome & Opening Remarks

9:15 AM – 10 AM Keynote Address

Chinese American Genealogy Research: Principles & Practices

Speaker: Henry Tom

Henry Tom was born in New York City and his entry into Chinese genealogy research started with a visit to his ancestral village in Taishan, China. Subsequently, he joined the online SiYi Forum as the Moderator for Location, established the Tom Genealogy website, and after compiling a 148 generation family lineage, he published “Tan Genealogy: Heritage and Lineage”. While fluent in speaking the Taishan (Hoisanva) dialect, he cannot read or write Chinese or speak Mandarin Chinese. He demonstrates that one can successfully conduct Chinese genealogy research without having to be Chinese literate.

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM

What’s in a Name?: Pieces, Patterns, and Pitfalls as They Apply to Chinese Genealogy

Speaker: Patrick Chew

Linguist Patrick Chew presents an overview of the complexity in the different types of names in Chinese genealogy, including the various structures of names, “paper names”, and the monkey wrench of dialect(s) that get thrown into the mix.

11:15 AM – Noon

Adventures in Writing Chinese American History

Speaker: Scott D. Seligman

Knowledge of Chinese American history can help a great deal when uncovering your family’s history. Through case studies, writer, historian, and genealogist Scott Seligman shares his research process and resources on uncovering the multi-generational stories of Chinese Americans within the context of Chinese American history.

1 PM – 2 PM

Tips for Conducting Chinese Genealogy Research

Speaker: Tony King

How do you search for information on your Chinese ancestors? This session explores the resources available, including archives (state, national, international) and other sources with an emphasis on genealogy websites, such as Familysearch.org, ancestry.com, and other online resources to discover your Chinese roots.

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

Discovering Chinese Family History in Personal Documents, Ephemera and non-Traditional Sources

Speaker: Amy Chin

Amy unearthed and documented her family's over 100-year immigration story for the New-York Historical Society's popular "Chinese American: Exclusion / Inclusion" exhibit which was also shown at the Oregon Historical Society and will become a permanent exhibit at the Chinese Historical Society of America in San Francisco in Fall 2016. Learn, through Amy's examples, how to interpret your own family holdings and mine lesser known public sources for leads in searching for your own family history.

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Writing Your Family History

Speakers: Rozanne Gates, Suzanne Sheridan, and Amy Chin

Collecting, researching, and preserving your family history is only part of the story. How do you organize and tell your family story in your own words? Rozanne Gates, writer and interviewer and Suzanne Sheridan, photographer and songwriter of The Legacy Project USA show us how we can each write our family history in compelling ways.

3:15 PM– 5 PM

Small Group Consultations/Break-Out Sessions

- Work directly with conference speakers, attendees and MOCA staff and volunteers to locate your ancestral village, get quick translations of family documents, trace a clan line, search for a Chinese Exclusion Act case file, navigate an online search, share tips and experiences, or find a long lost cousin (perhaps from among the other attendees!).
- Get hands-on instruction on how to safely preserve family documents, textiles, photographs, recordings and other materials so they will not disintegrate or degrade over time.
- Take a self-guided tour of MOCA's core exhibition, *With a Single Step: Stories in the Making of America* and special exhibition, *Sour, Sweet, Bitter, Spicy: Stories of Chinese Food and Identity in America*.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2016

8:30 AM Registration Opens

9 AM – 10 AM

Interpreting Chinese Genealogy Books

Speaker: Tony King

A Chinese genealogy book is considered the holy grail and ultimate source for your clan information and history. Understanding how to interpret the information will provide a plethora of information and facts pertinent to documenting your family's heritage and lineage.

10:15 AM – 11 AM

Hoisanva: The Chinese Dialect Spoken by Most Chinese in America 1849 – 1965

Speaker: Gene M. Chin

The majority of Chinese in North America from 1849 – 1965 originate from 7 contiguous counties within Guangzhou (Kwangtung) province, China. They are collectively known as the Sam Yap (3 county) & Sze Yap

(4 county) regions. Taishan (Hoisan) city/county accounted for more than half of these Chinese. In order to research effectively the romanized Chinese names found in Federal government records and to revert back to the appropriate Chinese characters for these names - this requires a Hoisanva dialect capability - Cantonese & Pinyin romanizations will not be phonetically accurate. In 1949, the new Chinese Communist government required a Hoisanva translator for the new ambassador from China.

This session is generously sponsored by Asian American/Asian Research Institute, City University of New York.

11AM – Noon

Foo Genealogy Research: History, Progress and the Future

Speaker: Sun Hoo Foo

Genealogist Dr Sun Hoo Foo discusses how he traced his lineage back 73 generations through the genealogy book and in the process, discovered the historic sites and temples of significance to his ancestors.

1 PM – 2 PM

Deep Dive into Immigration Files and Documents

Speaker: Alan Chin

By way of introduction, Alan Chin will show selections from a long-term photo essay and book project that he's been working on in Toisan, China, where his family and two-thirds of all Chinese Americans came from until the 1960s. Then, through a deep dive into the contents of his father's "paper son" file obtained from the National Archives (NARA) and his Confessions Program file received from the Department of Homeland Security (successor to the INS), Alan will examine the Chinese Confession Program (1956-1965) and its impact through the lens of his family.

2:15 PM – 3:15 PM

Chinese Exclusion Act and Immigration Records at the National Archives

Speaker: Angela Tudico

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) maintains thousands of immigration case files created during the Chinese Exclusion Act period (1882-1943) and after. Learn about whether your ancestor would have had an immigration file, how to find your records, and how these records can be useful for your genealogy research.

3:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Finding and Visiting Your Ancestral Village in China

Speaker: Henry Tom

The ancestral village, beyond finding your family heritage & relatives, is the primary source for your family genealogy books. The majority of Chinese genealogy books were destroyed by the Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution (1966 – 1976). This presentation will assist you in planning and traveling to China to visit your ancestral village in China.

4:15 PM – 5 PM

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5 PM Closing Remarks