



NEWSLETTER May 2026

Asian Heritage Proud Jacinta Wong, HOC President

Hope everyone has been enjoying this stretch of beautiful San Diego weather - the longer days, blooming flowers, and that sense of renewal that spring always brings. It's one of my favorite times of year, and it feels especially meaningful as we head into Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month.

May is always a vibrant and busy time for the House of China, and I hope you'll join us in celebrating our community through several upcoming events!

We're excited to be part of the Asian Pacific Cultural Festival on May 16. It will show Balboa Park visitors the richness and diversity of our broader AANHPI community. We'll also celebrate the next generation at the Chinese Language Essay Awards Ceremony on May 23 at the Chinese Community Church - always an inspiring reminder of the importance of language, heritage, and education.

As I step into the role of President, I do so with deep respect for the legacy of the House of China and the many individuals who have shaped it over the decades. This has always been more than just a cottage in Balboa Park - it is a vibrant community institution that fosters cultural understanding, connection, and pride.

At the same time, we are all aware that arts and culture organizations across San Diego are facing real challenges. Sustaining spaces like ours requires not only passion, but ongoing community support. If you've been meaning to renew your membership, I encourage you to do so. If you're not yet a member, I invite you to join us. Your support -whether through membership, volunteering, or simply showing up—makes a meaningful difference and helps ensure that the House of China continues to thrive for generations to come.

I'm truly excited about the year ahead and the opportunity to build on the strong foundation already in place. I look forward to working alongside our board, members, and community partners to continue growing, connecting, and celebrating all that makes our culture so special.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I hope to see you at our events this May and throughout the year.

Warmly,

Jacinta Wong, President, House of China



HOC First Knight Yukang 宇康Zhang

Yukang Zhang will become the first House of China young man to become a member of the House of Pacific Relations Knight program. The program is in its second year and is dedicated to cultural friendship, service to the community and the development of young men. His self introduction follows:

Hi everyone my name is Yukang Zhang and I'm currently a 9th grader attending the Bishops School in La Jolla. In my free time I enjoy hanging out with my friends and walking to the beach whenever I can do either. My hobbies are playing volleyball as I'm a part of my school's varsity team and I also play competitive travel volleyball at Coast. I decided to join the HPR Knights because after finding out its goal and purpose I thought that representing the House of China would be a great decision. I hope to promote Chinese culture to the other countries and cultures as well as make even more contributions to the House of China. In the end, I want to gain more experience while also improving my communication and organization skills.

Other likeminded boys ages 15 to 18 are welcome to join as HOC Knights. More information is available at: <https://hprknights.org/> and seid1950henwing@gmail.com

Thanks go to Felix Yang, David Lai, and Jack Shi for their volunteer work as HOC Emperors and for laying the groundwork for the HOC Knights.

First Chinese American Civil Rights Advocate by Henry Huo



The story of the first Chinese American Civil Rights Advocate, Wong Chin Foo, has been researched and shared by Henry Hou. Henry undertook this history project in 2025 for a class at Bishop School where he attends school. The display board was a feature at the HOC April 6 "Unexpected" program at the Mingei International Museum in Balboa Park. It is now on display at the HOC Cottage. Henry writes:

Wong Chin Foo was a Chinese immigrant, journalist, public speaker, and pioneering civil rights activist in the late 1800s. He is remembered as one of the earliest and most outspoken advocates for Chinese American rights during a period of intense anti-Chinese racism and exclusion in the United States. He also helped popularize the term "Chinese American," giving language to a new identity for Chinese immigrants and their descendants.

Wong founded the first Chinese American newspaper and used journalism as a tool to challenge discrimination. Through his writing, speeches, and public debates, he spoke against the Chinese Exclusion Act and confronted anti-Chinese politicians and public figures. His activism was bold because he defended Chinese immigrants at a time when they were often denied basic rights, excluded from citizenship, and portrayed unfairly in American society.

Wong Chin Foo's work centered on identity, resistance, and the power of voice. He argued that Chinese immigrants deserved dignity, legal protection, and recognition as part of American life. His speeches and articles challenged stereotypes and helped bring Chinese American perspectives into public debate.

Although Wong Chin Foo played an important role in early civil rights history, his legacy has often been overlooked. His advocacy, journalism, and public speaking helped lay the foundation for later Chinese American activism and broader struggles for equality in the United States. His story reveals an important chapter in American history and shows how one person's voice could challenge exclusion and fight for equal rights.

City of San Diego eliminating grants to Art and Culture by David Seid, Executive Director

The near elimination of funds for San Diego art and culture non-profits in the City of San Diego's FY27 budget has been announced. The budget has funded grants to sustain and provide arts and cultures to all.

The HOC has a diversified income stream of fundraisers, cottage open house donations, and generous membership donations. However, governmental grants are a significant revenue source as well. The HOC has been a recipient of \$14K in FY25 governmental grants.

The grants the HOC received help to present, promote, and preserve culture and friendship to 50,000 visitors attending open house; school and senior programs; festivals; support of Mandarin language programs and performing arts groups; supplies, personnel, insurance, bookkeeping services, etc.

Contact your City of San Diego Council member to advocate for the HOC and arts and culture non-profits. Point out how arts and culture provide for public well-being; draw tourists along with their expenditures to San Diego; employ thousands of workers; and how arts and culture groups spend millions in construction, production costs, purchases, etc.

Another way you can help is to send in a contribution payable to the HOC by completing the attached membership/donation form.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
RETURN OF 13TH ANNUAL



ASIAN PACIFIC CULTURAL FESTIVAL SAN DIEGO

The 13th Annual Asian Pacific Cultural Festival in San Diego will take place on May 16, 2026. It will be co-presented by the Asian Culture and Media Alliance and the House of Pacific Relations in Balboa Park.

FOOD · CULTURAL PERFORMANCES · ARTISAN
VENDORS · INTERACTIVE CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

16 MAY
2026

11 AM - 5 PM

HOUSE OF PACIFIC RELATIONS
BALBOA PARK, SD



ASIANCULTURALFESTIVALS.COM

House of China “Unexpected Stories of San Diego Chinese”

Ninety attendees enjoyed the House of China’s April 6 “Unexpected Stories of San Diego Chinese” program, held at the Mingei International Museum. Researchers Susan Lan Cassell and Michael Yee of Cal State University, San Marcos presented slides and talk on unexpected early San Diego Chinese stories up to modern times.

Food was provided by Diversity Café a program of the Union of Pan Asian Communities. Unexpected bonuses include Wong Foo Chin history display; Chinese fishing village lithograph, books and photos related to San Diego early Chinese; and announced launch of the San Diego History All-in campaign to gather vintage stories. (see related All-in article and survey)



The first Chinese settlers in San Diego were fishermen (1860s)



Unexpected Story Guests



Charles and Linda Tu



Cassandra Wong

Recovering the Chinese Community of San Diego



Chinese Public School, 1916. Courtesy of Dede Huang

HELP PRESERVE THE STORIES, PEOPLE, AND INSTITUTIONS THAT SHAPED CHINESE SAN DIEGO

Recovering Chinese San Diego is a community effort dedicated to preserving and honoring the history of Chinese people, families, businesses, organizations, and events in San Diego during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



Send questions to:

- community@sandiegohistory.org
- info@sdchm.org

Help us connect missing pieces and deepen our understanding of the people and communities who helped shape San Diego.

Some items of interest:

Memories, photos, pamphlets, meeting minutes, family trees, menus, church bulletins, event programs, business records, letters, newsletters or anything else connected to Chinese San Diego are all welcome!

Do you have a story, memory, photograph or artifact to share?

1. What you are sharing?

- Memory Document Family Story Photo
Artifact Organizational History Other

2. Provide an approximate date or time period.

3. Provide a description.

Name:

Email:

中國館
端午節午餐
中文作文比賽獎學金頒獎典禮
HOUSE OF CHINA

Chinese Language Essay Awards Ceremony



二零二六年五月二十三日，星期六

中午十二點
中華聯合基督教會

Saturday, May 23, 2026. 12 Noon
Chinese Community Church
4998 Via Valarta, San Diego, CA 92124

定票表格	票數	總額
Ticket Reservations by 5/16/26 please	No. Tickets	Total Enclosed
門票 / ticket donation \$25	x _____ =	\$ _____
We are unable to attend and would like to make a donation in the amount of		\$ _____

訂票人姓名 _____ 請寫支票給
Name _____ Check payable to House of China
地址 _____
Address _____
電話／電郵 _____
Phone/E-mail _____

Mail: 請寄給/12052 Rue Des Amis, San Diego, CA 92131

Question: 如有任何問題請致電黃美恩 TEL: (858) 232-1030 or seid1950henwing@gmail.com