

Fall/Winter 2024 Newsletter

Friends Of the Chinatown Library

A Message from Juanita Carter, Senior Librarian of the Chinatown Library

The theme of the Ninth Annual Citywide Friends Breakfast Symposium at the Central Library was Growing Your Friends. The theme was well chosen because the Symposium strives to provide sustainability tools in a nurturing environment. Friends of the Chinatown Library, Candace Lee and Farzana Cassim, attended the Symposium eager to discover how to grow our Friends group.

I met Candace and Farzana at the networking breakfast in the Thornton Courtyard. Candace suggested that I sample an apple turnover. It was scrumptious and

reminded me of my great-grandmother's turnovers. By the time we walked into the Mark Taper Auditorium for greetings and information sharing by Principal Librarian of Community Engagement and Outreach and Chief Friends Liaison, Madeline I. Pena Feliz, and City Librarian, John F. Szabo, I felt a genuine camaraderie with my 2 Chinatown Friends. Simply, it was a lovely way to start the day.



In the auditorium, Symposium attendees participated in the “All Ages Welcome” Workshop, taken from the book *All Ages Welcome: Recruiting and Retaining Younger Generations for Library Boards, Friends Groups, and Foundations* by Linda Bertinelli, Madeline Jarvis, Kathy Kosinski, and Tess Wilson. Worksheets focused on Recruitment Brainstorm, Elevator Pitch, and the 3-3-3 Rule, which is as follows:

1. Contribute to your organization so it is one of your top 3 recipients of charitable donation (or make the organization a priority)
2. Introduce 3 new people or agencies to your organization.
3. Attend 3 non-board-related events or activities at the library.

If adhered to annually, the 3-3-3 Rule will reconnect you with your group's purpose and enhance your group's visibility.

The highlight of the Symposium was a Friends Panel Discussion. Representatives from Friends of the Mar Vista Library and the recently formed Friends of the Pico Union Library shared their success strategies. Friends of the Pico Union Library provided insights on their establishment journey. With considerable startup assistance from the Pico Union Neighborhood Council, they hit the ground running. The Friends of Mar Vista Library shared ideas on achieving long-term sustainability. In April, they celebrated their 40th anniversary.

Soon Friends of the Chinatown Library will also have a reason to celebrate. December 17, 2026 will mark the 50-year legacy of The Friends of the Chinatown Library. Here's to a future jubilant Chinatown celebration. Happy holidays!

Fun Programs with Rita Law, Children's Librarian



Elisa from The Blue Submarine brought her moving aquarium to our library again this summer, and attendees from the local preschools as well as the public enjoyed learning about the animals, as well as touching them gently! Elisa talks about the danger of littering and polluting the ocean with plastic, which harms aquatic creatures. The Friends sponsored this program. Thank you very much!

Kevin from Noteworthy Puppets visited with his musical Three Little Pigs show, and the children went wild with glee when the wolf chased the pigs around! I ask Kevin to come back every year because all his content is original and he works immensely hard at perfecting the whole production.



At the height of summer and in the middle of baseball season, the Dodgers Foundation gave us a special program with Al Ferrara, a former Dodgers outfielder who played in the 1960s. Mr. Ferrara talked about his experience with the greatest team in Major League Baseball and the children were really excited to receive a free book, shirt, and cap from the Dodgers. This was an opportunity for us to promote our LAPL summer reading challenge.



The Friends sponsored this program called Creative Plate. Two former teachers showed children how to cook healthy food – in this case, blueberry oat breakfast bars.



Young performers from Hwarang Youth Foundation demonstrated Korean drumming to the children, who had the opportunity to try drumming themselves.



For Halloween I visited Castelar Early Education Center and performed storytime, and the first graders at Castelar Elementary School walked to the library for a local trick-or-treat experience. I told some spooky stories and gave the children some *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place* bags from Disney Plus that included an LAPL pencil, eraser, and bookmark.



These two performers make a bilingual English-Spanish musical duo called Baila Baila. They entertained the children with lots of props, instruments, and singing, of course! The Friends paid for this program and the children had a lot of fun jumping and dancing along.

High School Scholars 2024



Row 1: Yanfen Lin, Annie Cai, Jianming Lin, ZhiJing Liu, Margarita De Leon, Michael Ung, Judy Tran, Vivian Huang

Row 2: Jiaying Luo, ZiQi Situ, YingJun Tan, Malia Mahelona-Janilkarn, Erin Capisonda, Justin Kang, Becky Li, Elia Manuel

DONORS	SCHOLARS	HIGH SCHOOL	UNIVERSITY/ COLLEGE
Brenda Au <i>In Memory of Henry & Fanny Au</i>	Yafen Lin	Abraham Lincoln HS	Caltech
	Annie Cai	Abraham Lincoln HS	USC
BJA Family Legacy	Mintong Zeng	Downtown Magnets HS	Pomona College
Phyllis Chiu <i>In Memory of Tung Chen Chiu & Paul Inafuku</i> <i>In Memory of Ellen Chan Inafuku</i>	Jianming Lin	Abraham Lincoln HS	UC San Diego
Marge Chun-Hoon <i>In Memory of Bill Chun-Hoon</i>	ZhiJin Liu	Abraham Lincoln HS	USC
Marilyn and Lane Hauck <i>In Memory of Auntie Dolores Wong</i>	Margaret de Leon	Downtown Magnets HS	UCLA
Mabel Wong Hogel <i>In Memory of Allen L. Hogel, Ed.D</i>	Michael Ung	Downtown Magnets HS	UC San Diego
Jack Hom Scholarship Endowment Fund	Judy Tran	Downtown Magnets HS	UC Davis
	Vivian Huang	Downtown Magnets HS	UC Santa Barbra
Joe/ Ling Foundation <i>In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Joe Thick Ling, Sr.</i>	Chris Ma	Downtown Magnets HS	UC Riverside
Dianne Manke & Ken Sleeper <i>Friends of the Chinatown Library</i>	Jiaying Luo	Abraham Lincoln HS	UC San Diego
	ZiQi Situ	Downtown Magnets HS	UC Davis
Moy Family <i>In Memory of Mary and Nelson Moy, Sr.</i>	YingJun Tan	Abraham Lincoln HS	Harvard University
	Malia Mahelona-Janilkarn	Jackson Street HS	Cal Poly Pomona
Wong Family <i>In Memory of Dolores Wong</i>	Mohammad Absar	Downtown Magnets HS	UC San Diego
Richard & Roger Wong <i>In Memory of Kit S. Wong</i>	Erin Capisonda	Downtown Magnets HS	USC
Ryan & Vivi Wong	Justin Kang	Downtown Magnets HS	UC Berkeley
	Becky Li	Downtown Magnets HS	UC Santa Barbra
	Elia Manuel	Downtown Magnets HS	UC San Diego

Evans Adult School Scholars 2024



Row 1: Audrey Bank, Margarita Mnatsakanyan, Alex Lemus, Annalee Bowers, Artur Osipyan, Griselda Barrientos, Jimmy Quintanilla, Juan Albeno,

Row 2: Karla Santos, Kweli Varnado, Martiza Estrada, Maynor Martinez, Melanie Castillo, Nimsy Secundio, Rosmindia Walker, Whitney Rivers, Valente Aviles

DONORS	SCHOLARS	CAREER GOAL	COLLEGE/POST SECONDARY	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
Brenda Au <i>In Memory of Henry & Fanny Au</i>	Nimsy Secundino	Medical Translator	Evans Adult School	Mexico
Winston & Becky Bowen <i>In Memory of Bill Chun-Hoon</i>	Annalee Bowers	Pharmacy Tech & Nursing	LACC	Belize
	Maritza Estrada	Nursing	American Career College	Guatemala
	Artur Osipyan	Lawyer	LACC	Russia
Marge Chun-Hoon <i>In Memory of Bill Chun-Hoon</i>	Melanie Castillo	Marketing & Music Technology	LACC	US
Mabel Wong Hogle <i>In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Buck Jue Wong</i>	Jimmy Quintanilla	Nursing	LA Trade Tech College	El Salvador
The Joe/Ling Foundation <i>In Memory of Mr. Mrs. Joe Thick Ling, Sr.</i>	Rosmindia Walker-Bobino	Teach Creative Writing	Cochise College, AZ	US
Ashley & Matt Kline <i>In memory of Ted Fong</i>	Audrey Burbank	General Art-Illustration	LACC	US
Louie Family Foundation <i>In Memory of David & Pearl Louie</i>	Karla Santos	Skin Therapy	LA Trade Tech College	El Salvador
	Whitney Rivers	Nurse Practitioner	LACC	US
Moy Family <i>In Memory of Nelson & Mary Moy, Sr.</i>	Griselda Barrientos	Nursing	Rio Hondo Community College	El Salvador
	Juan Albeno	Airplane Service & Repair	Spartan College of Aeronautic & Technology	US
Janet Petersen	Valente Aviles	Computer Operator	Abram Friedman Occupation	Mexico
	Alex Lemus	Business	LACC	US
	Mayor Martinez	Electrician	LACC	Mexico
Chansons - Phoenix Bakery	Margarita Mnatsakanyan	Nursing	West Coast University	Armenia
The Sujo Family	Kweli Varnado	Electrical Engineering	LACC	US

News from Lynn Nguyen, Young Adult Librarian



The Chinatown Teen Council hosted an end-of-year rejection party to acknowledge the college rejection letters they received. Students had an opportunity to share their feelings of disappointment but also celebrated the schools they chose to attend.



The Chinatown Library was buzzing with excitement as the Friends of the Chinatown Library and the Chinatown Teen Council hosted Dr. Laureen Hom (on the left with Dr. Wenli Jen on the right), shared insights from her newly published book, *The Power of Chinatown*. We were honored to welcome Dr. Hom, the LA Chinatown Land Trust, the Chinese Historical Society, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, and community members to our library for this special event. Dr. Hom captivated the audience with her research on the evolving landscape and gentrification challenges facing Chinatown, sparking a meaningful conversation within our community.



The Chinatown Teen Council teamed up with CCED to support the new residents of Cathay Manor, a senior housing complex in Chinatown. Teen Council president, Rebecca Yu, delivered a heartfelt speech inviting the seniors to visit the Chinatown Library and take advantage of our free programs and resources. In addition, the Teen Council members packed and distributed free lunches to all the elders who attended the event.



Summer wouldn't be complete without our 2nd annual pride celebration, *It's Reading... Rainbow!* After such an incredible turnout last year, we were so excited to bring this event back! Partnering again with the Asian Mental Health Project and Queer Asian Social Club, we crafted another unforgettable celebration for LGBTQIA community + Pride Month, welcoming families to join in.

This year, we were honored to have Mama Peggy and Jess Wang from Gu Grocery lead our Queer Dumpling Workshop, where they shared the art of making rainbow Tang Yuan—delicious Chinese glutinous rice balls (汤圆). Special guest and author Jezz Chung also joined us, traveling all the way from New York to discuss her book *This Way to Change* and host a powerful writing workshop.

Our Q&Gay Panel Discussion resonated with stories of resilience and joy as queer Asians and a parent of a queer Asian shared their journeys. The room was filled with emotion as participants recounted their experiences coming out, transitioning, and navigating challenges with bravery and pride. Special thanks to Jiggy Yoon, Sung Tse, Jezz Chung, Roshan Sethi, Nicholas Zhou, and Karen Joyce.

Throughout the day, attendees enjoyed tables of fun filled with LGBTQIA+ resources and activities like glitter makeup, friendship bracelet crafting, and temporary tattoos. The talented Take Kare group put on a beautiful musical performance. To cap off the festivities, the East Wind Lion Dancers dazzled us with their vibrant rainbow lions, filling the space with energy, celebration, and a burst of cabbage confetti. Drag Queen Aiana Shaw added even more flair, delivering a memorable performance and an empowering confidence workshop!

We were overjoyed to welcome more than 150 participants and deeply appreciate the support of the Friends of the Chinatown Library for making this event possible!



The Friends of the Chinatown Library proudly recognized the recipients of this year's Chinatown Library Scholarship.

The Chinatown Teen Council has applied for the *Teens Leading Change* 2025 grant through the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, hoping to secure funding to advance their Oral History Project on Chinatown. This initiative aims to capture the stories and spirit of leaders working to preserve and protect Chinatown. They recently released a new podcast episode with Connectopod, where they share their experiences as teen council members. Be sure to tune in by scanning this QR code.

To learn more about their past Teens Leading Change projects, visit:

<https://www.connectopod.net/chinatown-lapl-in-progress>



Elected FOCL Board 2024-2025

President	Ryan Wong
Vice President	Susan Dickson
Secretary	Candace Lee
Treasurer	Nancy So

Board Members

Cherry Gee	Patricia Kao
Angelica Moyes	Roger Wong
Vivi Wong	

Special Advisors:

Farzana Cassim
Hoover Louie, CPA, Financial Advisor



Our newly elected member of the Chinatown Teen Council Cabinet 2024-2025. President, Rebecca Yu; Vice President, Jinglan Zhang; Secretaries, Ashlyn Ing and An Hue Nguyen Lam; Social Media Managers, Karen Lin and Tiffany Seto; Outreach Coordinators, Zherui Cheng and Becky Lei; Sunshine Leaders, Sabina Pabellon and Michelle Chui; and Historians, Raymond Rigoso and Kezia Araujo-Benito. We are grateful for their commitment to being the voices and leaders of our community.

FRIENDS OF THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY

CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY
639 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 620-0925

www.lapl.org/branches/chinatown
president@friendsocl.net

LIBRARY SERVICE HOURS:

Monday & Wednesday: 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday: 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: Closed