

ACROSS THE OCEAN: Digging the Archives and Remembering the Korean Past | MARGARET JUHAE LEE

October 16, 2024

12:00 noon-1:20 p.m. | Refreshments will be served
Doheny Memorial Library (DML)
Friends Lecture Hall, Room 240

In *Starry Field: A Memoir of Lost History*, former *The Nation* editor Margaret Juhae Lee recounts her travels in Korea in search of the lost traces of her grandfather Lee Chul Ha. While the elder Lee was an important historical figure—an anticolonial activist and a prisoner of imperial Japan—Lee's journey eventually opens her up to a recollection of the events, the generations, and the history of her entire Korean family. It is an experience of self-discovery that, in heartfelt prose, offers a rare account of the Korean past as it is seen, remembered, and imagined today from across the sea.



Introducing and framing Lee's discussion of *Starry Field* will be a presentation of the print collections and the digital archives that are held at USC's Korean Heritage Library. Part of Lee's journey was completed through this library. And it will again be from this library that new generations of historians, researchers, and regular citizens will move to discover their Korean heritage along with the richness and depth of the Korean-American experience.



This event is cosponsored by the Korean Studies Institute.

SCHEDULE

Opening remarks
Sunyoung Park

Unveiling the Legacy: A Journey Through the Korean Heritage Library and the Korean American Digital Archives
Joy Kim and Jungaeun Hong

Starry Field: A Memoir of Lost History (2024)
Margaret Juhae Lee

The Korean Calligraphy Workshop/Contest

Date: Tuesday, October 8th 5-6 p.m.

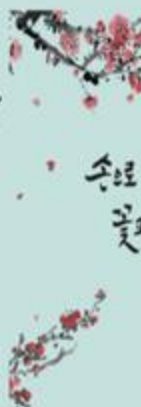
Place: East Asian Library Seminar Room 110 C

Come and learn about Korean Calligraphy in collaboration with the Korean Language Program in the USC Dornsife's East Asian Languages and Cultures! Celebrate Hangul Week, featuring the Korean alphabet, by enjoying a hands-on calligraphy activity and exploring the beauty of the Korean language!

**All materials and light refreshments will be provided.*

***Top three calligraphy entries will win special prizes*

Questions? jungeunh@usc.edu



COLONIAL KOREANS ACROSS LINGUISTIC AND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES

The Inaugural Conference of the March First Symposium on History and Democracy

March 25, 2025

11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Doheny Memorial Library, Friends Lecture Hall (room 240)

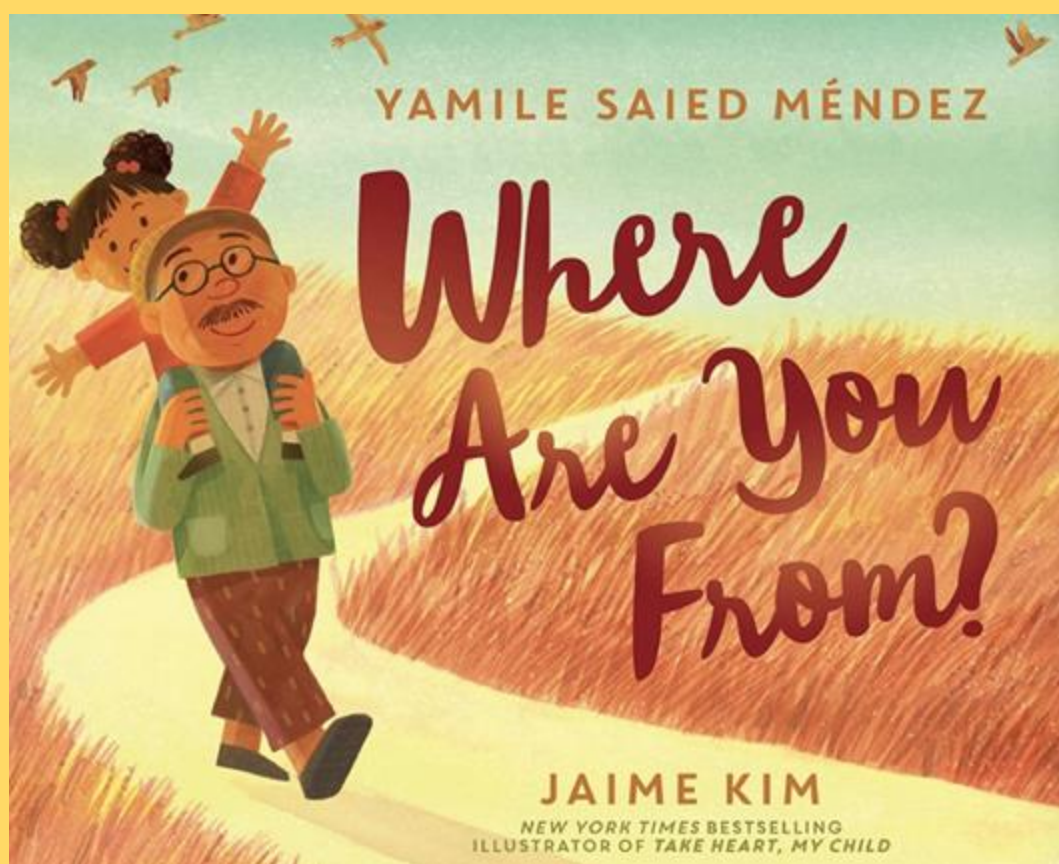
This conference seeks to broaden and integrate existing historical accounts of colonial Korea (1910-1945) with an understanding of Korean diasporic experiences in countries such as the United States, China, and Japan. Bringing together leading scholars of both colonial Korea and early Korean America, the gathering will provide reflection on personal experiences in the era of global imperialism on both sides of the Pacific. Inspired in part by the publication of Kim San and Nym Wales' *Song of Arirang*, conference speakers will address a diverse range of topics, including the transpacific critical reimagining of Korean history, the contributions of diasporic activism to the domestic independence movement, and the effects of colonialization on the development of a Korean American identity.

This event marks the inaugural MARCH FIRST SYMPOSIUM ON HISTORY AND DEMOCRACY. The popular uprisings on the Korean peninsula of March 1, 1919, represent a foundational moment in the history of both South Korea and North Korea. The University of Southern California and its Korean Studies Institute have special ties to this event. The KSI is housed in the family residence of March First leader ANH CHANG HO, while USC'S KOREAN HERITAGE LIBRARY preserves the historical archives of the Korean National Association (1909-1988). The conference will include an exhibition of selected documents from these archives.

The conference is organized by SUNGYOUNG PARK (EALC, USC) and JUNGAEUN HONG (USC Libraries). Event sponsors include the USC KOREAN STUDIES INSTITUTE, the USC KOREAN HERITAGE LIBRARY, and the SHINGO ITO CENTER FOR JAPANESE RELIGIONS AND CULTURE.

USC Libraries USC Dornsife USC Dornsife USC Dornsife USC Dornsife







The Question We All Know – "Where Are You From?"



From Collecting to Co-Creating

Committee on Public Services
Columbus, Ohio
Thursday, March 13, 2025

Jungeun Hong



Introduction

- Traditional role: Collector of Community History
- Transition to an active role: Helping the community document its own history
- New approach: Co-creating historical records and engaging with community organizations



Traditionally

- Reliance on donors contacting the library
- Collections primarily received when organizations disbanded
- Focused on accumulation rather than engagement



Challenges

- First-generation Korean Americans hesitant to donate materials
- Risk of losing invaluable history
- Need for innovative preservation strategies

Korean American Digital Collection

<https://libraries.usc.edu/locations/east-asian-library/east-asian-archival-collections#korean-american>



East Asian Archival Collections

gam to 10pm Contact

About the East Asian Library • East Asian Library Collections •

About China Japan Korea **Korean American** Asian American

- Philip Ahn papers [Digital Library](#) | [Finding Aid](#)
- [Ahn, Florence](#)
- [Ahn, Chang Ho](#) (안창호) | [Finding Aid](#)
- [Charr, Evelyn Kim](#) | [Finding Aid](#)
- [Chen, Helen Paik](#)
- Cho, Joseph (조재경) | [Finding Aid](#)
- [Cho, Kap Suk](#) (조갑석)
- [DeYoung, Henry Chung](#) (정만경) | [Papers](#) | [Finding Aid](#)
- [Hahn, Frances](#)
- [Ronyoung Kim and Richard Hahn papers](#) | [Finding Aid](#)
 - [Hahn, Gloria](#) (a.k.a. Kim, Ronyoung; 김난영)
 - [Hahn, Richard](#)
- [Hahn, Jason](#)
- David Hyun papers [Digital Library](#) | [Finding Aid](#)
- Korean National Association in Hawaii and related lawsuits collection [Digital Library](#) | [Finding Aid](#)
- [Hyun, Soon](#) | [Finding Aid](#)
 - Reverend Soon Hyun Collected Works [Digital Library](#) | [Finding Aid](#)
- [Hwangbo, Eugene Park](#)
- [Kim, Anna Charr](#) | [Finding Aid](#)



Digitization Initiative

- Digitizing materials and returning the originals
- Library retains publication rights for digital records
- Ensures preservation while respecting ownership concerns



Expanding Community Involvement

- Library's evolving role in organizations:
 - Becoming board members
 - Advising on archival best practices
 - Strengthening relationships post-donation



Case Study I – Friends of Korea

- Ongoing engagement with an active organization
- Serving as board members
- Conducting and preserving oral histories
- Hosting the first Southern California Peace Corps Korea reunion and inviting a guest speaker to discuss the history and impact of Peace Corps Korea.



Case Study I – Friends of Korea (Cont'd)

WELCOME ABOUT RESOURCES EVENTS PROJECTS RECENT NEWS SUPPORT CONTACT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friends of Korea is an all-volunteer organization. All projects and activities are overseen by a Board of Directors who give freely of their time and talent to support the mission of the organization and to oversee the implementation of projects. Friends of Korea는 전적으로 자원 봉사자가 운영하는 기관이다. 모든 프로젝트와 활동은 이사회의 결정을 거쳐야 하는데 이사들은 기관의 사명을 지원하고 이를 위해 실행하는 프로젝트에 자신들의 시간과 재능을 아낌없이 기부하고 있다.



James Mayer and Choi Jong-ho, Governor of Gyeong Sang Nam Do Province, & Peace Corps closing ceremony in July 1981. Former board members, Suzanne Samberg and Peace Nests Spicers, are in the photo. Nancy Kelly is also in the photo...see if you can find them.



Board Members

- Paul Courtright
- Bruce Fulton
- Suzanne Crowder Han, Vice President
- Christy Gavitt
- Jenna Gibson
- Daniel Kim
- Kenneth Klein
- Gerard Krzic, President
- James Mayer, Vice President
- Ekaterina Mozhaeva
- Janice Gow Pettey - Secretary
- Elin Perez
- David Roden - Treasurer
- Linda Tobash
- H. Sook Wilkinson

Nancy Kelly, Chief Operating Officer

[READ BOARD BIOS HERE](#)



Ken Klein conducting an interview with one of Peace Corps Korea volunteers who attended the reunion



PEACE CORPS KOREA

2023 Southern California Reunion

Thursday, January 26, 2023 | 10:00 a.m.--8:00 p.m.
 RSVP by 1/18/23 to Joy Kim (Curator, Korean Heritage Library): joykim@usc.edu

Friends Lecture Hall, room 240 | Doherty Memorial Library
 3550 Trousdale Parkway | University of Southern California | Los Angeles, CA 90089

Between 1956 and 1961, more than two thousand Americans served in Korea as Peace Corps volunteers, working mostly as teachers and health workers in both rural and urban communities across the country. They embedded themselves in Korean life, becoming well-versed in the language and culture.

Upon returning to the United States after their service, they formed an alumni group called Friends of Korea. Many went on to build careers as diplomats, educators, scholars, policymakers, and consultants. To this day, many of the returned Peace Corps volunteers work passionately to raise awareness of Korean issues and perspectives in America.

The materials they recorded or collected during and after their service years were donated to the USC Libraries, where they are preserved in the USC Peace Corps Korea Archive. These primary materials provide invaluable support to scholars who research the critical fifteen-year period in Korean history that laid the foundations of the country's modern economy and flourishing democracy.

In appreciation of their service, the USC Korean Heritage Library is inviting Korea Peace Corps volunteers in Southern California to a reunion event on campus. Attendees will have an opportunity to hear about recent research in the field, record oral histories for the archive, and share their stories about the important work they accomplished.



During her oral history interviews with PCK volunteers, Dr. Na-rae Seo demonstrated kimchi-making at the Peace Corps Korea reunion held at Ghost Ranch, New Mexico, in July 2023

Case Study II – Korean American Pioneer Council



The screenshot shows the top portion of the Korean American Pioneer Council website. The header is dark blue with the KAPC logo (a globe with 'KAPC' text) and the organization's name. Navigation links for Home, About, Support, and Archives are visible. The 'Archives' link is highlighted, and a dropdown menu is open, listing 'Korean American Digital Archive (USC)', 'KAPC Minutes (USC)', and 'KAPC Oral History Series (USC)'. Below the navigation is a red banner with the organization's mission statement.

Korean American Pioneer Council

Home About Support **Archives**

OUR MISSION: To preserve the legacy, record, and promote the education, understanding and appreciation of the experience and history of the Korean American community.

- Korean American Digital Archive (USC)
- KAPC Minutes (USC)
- KAPC Oral History Series (USC)



License agreement with Korean American Story

USC / DIGITAL LIBRARY / KOREAN AMERICAN DIGITAL ARCHIVE /

Korean American Story *USC Collection Folder*

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SELECT ALL 1336 ASSETS

VIEW & SORT



Chun-Kyu Lee (full)



Chun-Kyu Lee (photo)



Chun-Kyu Lee (edited)



Emma Kim Stoll-Vanilla Honey (full)



Chun-Kyu Lee



Emma Kim Stoll-Vanilla Honey (photo)



Emma Kim Stoll-Vanilla Honey (edited)



Seung Hie Kim (full)



Emma Kim Stoll-Vanilla Honey



Seung Hie Kim (photo)



Sammy Kim (full)



Seung Hie Kim (edited)



Expanding with Community Partnerships

- Collaboration with the Korean Studies Institute and Korean Languages and Culture Program
- Hosting lecture series featuring selected community hidden heroes
- Students document and film interactions
- Co-creating records for archival preservation

Collaboration with USC Korean Language program – Faculty & Students



K-TRAIL
STEPS INTO HISTORY: AN IMMERSIVE WALK THROUGH USC'S KOREAN HERITAGE

ROUTE

USC 돌레길 걷기

MEETING POINT: KOREAN HERITAGE LIBRARY
9:30 AM ~ 12 PM ON FRIDAY, 04.11.2025

VISIT AND EXPLORE NOTABLE SPACES RELATED TO KOREAN HERITAGE AT USC CAMPUS AND SURROUNDING AREAS!

SPONSOR

USC Libraries Korean Heritage Libr
USC Domest
USC Domest

남가주의 한국어 프로그램
(U.S.C. KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM)

Photo credit: Google Maps

Steps into History: An Immersive Walk through USC's Korean Heritage

This event is designed to visit and discuss notable spaces related to Korean heritage at USC campus and surrounding areas. The walking tour will start with the USC Korean Heritage Library which showcases unique collections on Korean American history, media studies and other Korean language sources. Other sites include the University Club, Ahn House, USC Dive Tower, Korean National Association Memorial Foundation, Hung Sa Dahn and Francis Sherman's Church.



Heroes and Legends

Messages from our team...



"I am so blessed that I got this opportunity in being able to honor my hero through this book."

"Engaging in this project has not only introduced me to numerous inspiring individuals but has also provided valuable insights into my own character."



2024 Heroes and Legends: Los Angeles

CONGRATULATIONS

2024 Heroes and Legends



2024 Heroes and Legends book is now available at your schools and libraries. Click the cover to access E-Book.



Dr. Jeong W. Jin
Pianist/Composer
"The Sound of Dreams"
— By Daniel Kim (17)

He grew up in Korea where his entire family played the piano, but he had no professional influence in his life. His father was a principal of an elementary school, his eldest brother became a professor at Dong-Ah University, the first person to get a PhD in educational statistics. His eldest sister became an elementary school principal.



Chang Kyu Park
First KBS Announcer
"A Life of Reflection, Mentorship, Faith, and Purpose"
— By Joowon Kim (17)

Mr. Park's story speaks to the lessons of strength, perseverance, and adaptation deeply inculcated into my being. Mr. Park had a very humble Korean upbringing, he listened to his parents, went to school, and attended church every Sunday. Everything changed after he immigrated to the United States after finishing his schooling in



“Meet Our Hero”

USC Korean American Legacy Special Lecture Series



DATE:
February 19, 2025

Time: 5PM-7PM
@ USC Doherty Memorial Library

Hosted by
Christopher HR Lee/Kahley Park
CARE Projects

Dr. Monica Ryoo

Born in post-war Korea, Dr. Ryoo overcame economic hardship to become a renowned radiation oncologist with a career spanning over 30 years, treating countless cancer patients and earning prestigious awards. Beyond medicine, Dr. Ryoo's leadership in initiatives such as the Foundation for Korean Language & Culture (FKLC) has promoted cultural education and socioeconomic opportunities for Korean-American and non-heritage students. Her dedication extends to volunteering and community projects, reflecting her deep commitment to social justice and education.

As a writer and community leader, Dr. Ryoo bridges cultural divides, sharing insights that inspire pride in Korean heritage and the pursuit of meaningful work. Her achievements exemplify the power of perseverance and service, encouraging others to embrace their identity and contribute positively to society. Dr. Ryoo's journey serves as a shining example of the transformative impact of dedication, cultural pride, and giving back to the community.

About this special lecture series...

In cooperation with CARE Projects, the USC Donnell Korean Studies Institute, the USC Korean Heritage Library, and the K.R. Lee Center for Leadership, we are hosting a special lecture series to honor our Heroes and Legends for their lifetime achievements, service, and generosity in making a positive impact on our youth and future generations.

The series also highlights the important oral and visual history of our Korean American legacy. You will have the opportunity to meet, listen to, and engage with these heroes, drawing inspiration and connecting with our shared heritage to further our research on important Korean American history.

Coming soon...

“Meet Our Hero”

USC Korean American Legacy Special Lecture Series



DATE:
TBD
Time: 5PM-7PM
@ USC Doherty Memorial Library

Hosted by
Christopher HR Lee/Kahley Park
CARE Projects

Jin Nok Wi

The first Korean radio announcer at Seoul Central Broadcasting Station (SBC), reported the first North Korea's invasion of the South at 6:30 on the morning on June 25, 1950.

Born in Jeonju, Jeonju-gwan, Province, North Korea (1926), Jeonju-gwan School (1940), Announcer at Seoul Central Broadcasting Station (SBC) (1945), Selected for the first KBS Announcer broadcast during contest (1948), in charge of the United Nations Commission on Japan Broadcasting (UNAC) (1950-1951), KBS 2nd Radio Music Team (1951-1953), immigrated to the United States with his family (1953), Managed a hamburger restaurant in Honolulu Beach (1953-1955), Managed a bar in Gardena (1955-1959), Published a local newspaper "Korean News" (1959-1960), Published an essay collection "10 Years of Immigration" (1966), Published an essay collection "Lost Song" (1968), Published an essay collection "Lament's Epiphany" (1997), Published biography "3 Minutes Past" (2006), Hosted regular programs at LA Radio Korea, Served as president of the So-Cal Artists Association, Published series "Self-government and Social Innovation Deal on Korea Minister" (2008-2010).

About this special lecture series...

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www.honoreesoflegends.org



Jin Nok Wi First KBS Announcer



Community Engagement in Collection

- From collection to active co-creation
- Strengthening intergenerational dialogue and community ties
- Ensuring the longevity of Korean American historical records

References



Caswell, Michelle. "Inventing New Archival Imaginaries: Theoretical Foundations for Identity-based Community Archives." In *Identity Palimpsests: Ethnic Archiving in the U.S. and Canada*, edited by Dominique Daniel and Amalia S. Levi, 35–55. Sacramento, CA: Litwin Books, 2014.

Caswell, Michelle. "SAADA and the Community-based Archives Model: What's a Community Based Archives Anyway?" *Tides Magazine*, April 2012. <http://www.saadigitalarchive.org/blog/20120418-704>

Chuh, Kandice. "‘One Hundred Percent Korean’: On Space and Subjectivity." In *Imagine Otherwise: On Asian Americanist Critique*, 85–111. Duke University Press, 2003. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv11cw6nw.7>.

Popple S, Prescott A, Mutibwa DH, eds. *Communities, Archives and New Collaborative Practices*. Policy Press; 2020. doi:10.56687/9781447341932



Thank you!

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