



Genealogy Society Singapore

新加坡族譜學會

MEDIA RELEASE

28 MAY 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVENT: FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR

To celebrate SG60, the Genealogy Society Singapore (GSS) is organising a **Family History Seminar** jointly with FamilySearch, Chinese Ancestry Research and My China Roots on 7 June 2025 at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre.

This is the first time, four significant organisations involved in promoting genealogy and family history are coming together to share their expertise and resources with Singaporeans interested in tracing their roots and constructing their family history.

Highlights of the full day programme include detailed talks about:

- How to start genealogy research
- Navigating birth and death archival records in Singapore
- Reading tombstones and burial records
- Designing a family tree
- A hands-on session using an automated family tree software

This event is open to the public and is free of charge.

EVENT DETAILS

Date: Saturday, 7 June 2025

Time: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Venue: Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, Recital Studio, Level 6

Register here: <https://forms.gle/ASfUtXuwxa6H9oV9A>



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ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

GENEALOGY SOCIETY SINGAPORE

www.genealogysocietysingapore.com

The Genealogy Society Singapore (GSS) is a non-profit society established in 2012 with the aim of providing a forum for anyone interested in genealogy and ancestral studies to meet, interact, share, and exchange knowledge. The Society works to create greater awareness and interest about genealogy research that will help promote the advancement of Singapore's multi-racial, cross-cultural heritage, custom and traditions. The Society is run entirely by volunteers.

FAMILY SEARCH

www.familysearch.org

FamilySearch is the largest genealogy organisation globally. It offers free access to genealogical records and the world's largest shared family tree. FamilySearch is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organisation sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

CHINESE ANCESTRY RESEARCH

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chineseancestryresearch>

Chinese Ancestry Research is a grassroots, non-profit online community founded by Nathan Co (施日勤) in late 2023. Since then, it has grown, purely by word of mouth, into the world's largest English-language group dedicated to helping Chinese descendants trace their roots. Now nearing 25,000 members, the group has become a trusted hub for genealogical expertise, cultural reconnection, and historical storytelling. Its greatest strength lies in its ability to engage a global community — from Singapore to San Francisco, Manila to Melbourne — and reignite a nearly lost curiosity in heritage, family origin, and ancestral pride. Members work with volunteers and experts to interpret gravestones, read ancestral books, decode surname origins, and rediscover lost family lines — often unearthing histories that stretch back hundreds, even thousands of years. More than just a group, Chinese Ancestry Research is a living archive — and a bridge between past and present.



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MY CHINA ROOTS

www.MyChinaRoots.com

My China Roots is a company founded in 2012 by CEO Huihan Lie, a Dutch-born Chinese with Indonesian Chinese parents. In his search for his own roots, he came across many others who were also disconnected from their Chinese heritage. Today the company has 14 full-time “family history sleuths” working in five countries. They help members of the Chinese diaspora trace their ancestry and connect with relatives. The company’s website allows users to build online family trees and discover the stories of their ancestors through millions of digitised and searchable clan books (*jiapus* / *zupus*), immigration records, tombstones, clan association member lists and other historical records. The team also provides offline customised research and travel services. Based in Guangzhou, the company’s “family history sleuths” travel to customers’ ancestral villages in Guangdong and Fujian, conduct interviews and recover whatever family history traces that may still be available. Their researcher-guides bring overseas families back to those villages on fruitful roots-finding trips and family reunions. The company’s roots-finding work was featured in the Netflix documentary, “Found” (2021).

CONTACTS

For more information and to request interviews, contact:

1. Ng Yew Kang, Immediate Past President, Genealogy Society Singapore, Mobile: 91464555, Email: ngyewkang2012@gmail.com
2. Nathan Co, Founder, Chinese Ancestry Research, Mobile: 90076742, Email: nathanluco@yahoo.com
3. Derek Au, Asia Representative, FamilySearch International, Phone: +852 29102970, Email: aude@familysearch.org
4. Huihan Lie, Founder and CEO, My China Roots, Mobile/Whatsapp/Wechat: +33 695922438, Email: huihanlie@mychinaroots.com

Yours Sincerely,



Ng Yew Kang
Founder and Immediate Past President
Genealogy Society Singapore



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ANNEXE 1: SEMINAR PROGRAMME AND SPEAKERS

Organisers:



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FamilySearch

華人祖先研究群
CHINESE ANCESTRY RESEARCH



Venue Partner:



Seminar Programme:

9:00 am: Welcome Speech by Ng Yew Kang, Founder and Immediate Past President, Genealogy Society Singapore (GSS)

9:15 am: ***Start With What You Know: Family Tree and Memories*** by Brian Edwards, Portfolio Director, FamilySearch International (FamilySearch)

10:00 am: ***Family Memory Books and Tree Design*** by Eric Leach, Chinese Product Manager, FamilySearch

10:45 am: Break

11:00 am: ***Early Immigration, Birth and Death and Other Relevant Records in National Archives Singapore (NAS)*** by Clara Poh, Archivist, NAS

11:45 am: ***Tombstones and Burial Records*** by Raymond Goh, Vice President, GSS

12:30 to 1:00 pm: Lunch Break

1:00 to 2:00 pm: Hands-on session using ***Family Tree software*** led by Eric Leach and Brian Edwards

2:15 pm: ***Chinese Genealogy Basics*** by Eric Leach

3:00 pm: ***Leaving No Stones Unturned*** by Nathan Co, Founder, Chinese Ancestry Research and Genealogy Advisor, GSS

3:45 pm: Break

4:00 pm: ***Introduction to Jiapu: How to Find and Read your Jiapu*** by Huihan Lie, Founder and CEO, My China Roots

5:30 pm: Concluding Remarks by Ronney Tan, President, GSS



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ANNEXE 2: ORGANISER PROFILE - Genealogy Society Singapore



Genealogy Society Singapore

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www.genealogysocietysingapore.com

The Genealogy Society Singapore (GSS) was founded on 28 July 2012 with an objective to provide a platform for all Singaporeans interested in genealogy, family history and roots-finding to discuss and exchange knowledge and experience. It forged partnership with the National Library Board (NLB) to jointly organise talks, workshops, competitions and exhibitions introducing genealogy to the public and school children. It proposed a new format of writing one's family history in a way that is interesting to young Singaporeans, telling the family story in simple language with portraits of all family members and photographs of memorable family events. It also facilitated donations of clan/family books (*zupus* 族譜) from members of the public to NLB for preservation since 2012.

The Society's Advisors are:

- George Yeo, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Professor Wang Gangwu, renowned historian, National University of Singapore
- Professor Phua Kok Khoo, Chairman and Chief Editor, World Scientific Publishing Co Pte Ltd and Founding Director, Institute of Advanced Studies, Nanyang Technological University
- Dr Ho Nai Kiong, retired pediatrician and genealogy scholar
- Legal Advisor: Ung Gim Sei
- Business Advisor: Liew Shin Liat, a retired Business Consultant
- Genealogy Advisor: Nathan Co, founder of Chinese Ancestry Research

Significant Projects

In 2014, the Society published a handbook in Chinese in on how to write a Chinese Family History.

In 2015 to celebrate SG50, the Society jointly organised a "Family History Writing Competition" with the Singapore Memory Project under NLB. It drew over 600 participants, from school children to adults, with ages ranging from the teens to the 80s. The Society also assisted students from River Valley High School in their 'Heritage and Roots Tours' to Fujian in China.

In support of Singapore's Bicentennial Commemoration in 2019, it published a family history book by Cyprian Lim "My Maternal Roots - A Story of Family, Faith and Freedom". The author traces his maternal history over 20 generations spanning 600 years.

In support of Celebrating SG Families in 2022, it published the book "The Chiang Family History- A Tale of Three Cultures and the Chia Keng Village" by Bernard Chiang.



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In 2023, it assisted Sarafian Bin Salleh, a Bugis Singaporean in publishing his book “Tuah Bugis- Chronicles of The Seafaring People of Singapore”.

In 2024, it published the book “12 Family Histories- A Tapestry of Singapore’s Multicultural Legacy” featuring 7 Chinese, 2 Indians, 1 Malay (Bugis), 1 Arab and 1 Eurasian Singaporeans.

The Society encourages and assists Singaporeans of different ethnicities to write their family history for the benefit of their current family members and future descendants.

The Society started off with only Chinese members, but today its members are from different communities, reflecting Singapore’s multi-ethnic population.

More younger and well-educated Singaporeans are now interested in tracing their roots and writing their family histories. This augurs well for a family oriented and close-knit Singapore.



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ANNEXE 3: ORGANISER PROFILE – Chinese Ancestry Research



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/chineseancestryresearch>

Connecting Roots. Rekindling Stories. Restoring Identity.

Chinese Ancestry Research (CAR) is the world's largest independent online community dedicated to helping people of Chinese descent rediscover their ancestral roots — with nearly 25,000 members from over 100 countries and territories. Founded in 2023 by Nathan Co, a Singapore-based genealogist and fintech consultant, CAR has become the leading platform for reconnecting overseas descendants with their ancestral villages and long-lost kin in Greater China and elsewhere.

CAR was created specifically for the English-speaking global community — for those who may not speak Chinese, may not read Chinese characters, and may not even know where to begin. And yet, they carry questions in their blood and stories in their bones. A surname with no history. A gravestone in an unfamiliar script. A whisper from the past with no clear path forward. That's where CAR comes in.

What sets CAR apart is its interdisciplinary approach. This is not genealogy in a vacuum. CAR blends root-tracing with deep knowledge of Chinese dynastic and regional history, global history and migration patterns, dialects, ancestral poems, funeral and festival customs, and tombstone design conventions. Its experts are also trained in DNA triangulation, clan lineage systems, and cross-script literacy (both simplified and traditional Chinese). This rare combination of skills enables CAR to solve cases others cannot — sometimes starting with nothing more than a blurry photo, a partial name, or a fragmented memory.

CAR's strength lies in its results. It has helped members identify ancestral villages, decode clan/family books (*zupu* 族譜) interpret tombstones, and locate surviving kin — often across oceans, generations, and even language barriers. Its community includes adoptees, mixed-race individuals, and descendants of 19th-century migrants, many of whom had no idea where their Chinese roots began — until CAR helped them trace the path.

CAR also maintains active partnerships with museums, genealogical institutions in China and regional countries, and regional clan associations, allowing access to rare archives, verification support, and in many cases, real-life reunions. In 2025, CAR started partnering with CHiNOY TV, a Filipino-Chinese media network, to produce "Identity & Roots", a documentary series featuring emotional real-life stories of rediscovery across the Chinese diaspora.



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As a non-profit, volunteer-driven initiative, Chinese Ancestry Research does not charge for its services. It is grounded in values of inclusivity, accuracy, and cultural respect, while maintaining clear guidelines to ensure meaningful, focused participation. It is apolitical, areligious, and open to anyone with Chinese ancestry — no matter how far removed by time, migration, or memory.

CAR is more than a research group. It is a living archive, a global knowledge hub, and a storytelling community that inspires. Its fast-growing library of original articles — spanning over two dozen thematic series — includes surname origin studies, investigative case files, diaspora narratives, practical guides, and cultural explorations. These stories don't just inform — they move people. They spark identity, healing, and pride. Members have described them as “mind-opening,” “life-changing,” and “emotionally powerful.”

Through its tools, partnerships, inspirational storytelling, and human connections, CAR ensures that no descendant of Chinese ancestry is ever truly rootless again — and that the journey home can begin, even in English.



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ANNEXE 4: ORGANISER PROFILE – My China Roots



www.MyChinaRoots.com

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The company’s website allows users to build online family trees and discover the stories of their ancestors through millions of digitised and searchable clan books (*jiapus/ zupus*), immigration records, tombstones, clan association member lists and other historical records.

The team also provides offline, customised research and travel services. With a focus on the provinces of Guangdong and Fujian, My China Roots’ private family history detectives are based in Guangzhou, and travel to customers’ ancestral villages, conducting interviews and digging up whatever family history traces may still be left, while their researcher-guides bring overseas families back to those villages on fruitful roots finding trips and family reunions. The company’s roots-finding work was featured in the Netflix documentary, “Found” (2021).