



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

appreciation of our chinese american heritage • a non-profit organization • 1648 redcliff street • los angeles, ca. 90026

November 1989

Happy "belated" Thanksgiving! Hope everyone enjoyed the festivities of Thanksgiving with family and friends. With December approaching, we see the year coming to a close. Many of us have continued to stay busy through the year with work, outside interests, and other activities. Well, it's that time again when the Society sets aside one evening of R&R for its annual Christmas potluck gathering. Be sure to mark your calendar . . .

DATE: Wednesday, December 6
TIME: 6:30 p.m. (sharp!)
PLACE: Castelar School -- Multi-purpose Room
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles Chinatown

Holiday Cheer

Parking on school playground -- enter on College Street between Hill and Yale Streets.

Bring your favorite dish to serve 8-10. One dish admits two people. Or if you can't bring a dish, admission is \$5 per adult and \$3 per child (under 12).

Members . . . be sure to invite your family and friends! Come and join us for our once a year Christmas get together. We promise to keep the business meeting brief.

Note: Sweet Bamboo book available for Christmas giving!

CHSSC BOARD BRIEFS - The following motions were made at the September 21 and October 26 Board meetings:

September 21: Tom McDannold moved that the Society buy the round trip tickets to bring Lim Poon to the Fall Dinner. The motion was seconded by Beverly Picazo and passed.

Tom McDannold moved to accept the proposed CAMF (Chinese American Museum Fund) budget for 1989-1990. The motion was seconded by Franklin Mah and passed with two abstentions -- Suellen Cheng and Tom McDannold.

Paul Louie moved that we reaffirm our practice of not making our mailing list available to individuals or groups who desire to use it for fundraising purpose. The motion was seconded by Beverly Picazo and carried.

October 26: Tom McDannold moved that a committee be formed to assess the Society's need and the cost and effectiveness of getting a computer. The committee is to come forward with a recommendation. The motion was seconded by Cy Wong and passed. (Kipham Kan appointed a committee of

Franklin Mah [Chair], Tom McDannold, Don Loo and Munson Kwok.)

Angi Ma Wong moved that the Board approve \$50 for supporting History Day L.A. in 1990. The motion was seconded by Paul Louie and passed.

BITS OF NEWS - **"FRIENDS OF AMANDA"** - By now, many of you have read and heard of the desperate search underway for a marrow donor especially within the Asian community to help little Amanda Chiang. If you can help, please call 1-800-999-8822 for a simple blood test to determine if you are a compatible donor or write to:

The Amanda Chiang Leukemia Fund
c/o Asian/Pacific Women's Network, Los Angeles
P. O. Box 86974
Los Angeles, CA 90086-0974

Give the most precious gift . . . "the gift of life".

This is sponsored by Asian/Pacific Women's Network, Los Angeles in conjunction with Life-Savers Foundation of America.

WOO SEEKS NEW STAFF MEMBER - Councilman Michael Woo is seeking a new staffer to be his representative to the Chinese community. Candidates for this entry-level position need the ability to speak English, Cantonese, and Mandarin as well as reading ability in Chinese. The ideal candidate will combine an interest in government with the ability to get along well with the public. He or she will work with leaders of the Chinese community will represent the councilman at events within the Chinese community and the 13th Council District, which includes Hollywood, Silver Lake, Los Feliz, and Studio City. Interested applicants should send a resume to Gary Townsend, Chief Deputy to Councilman Woo, Room 218, City Hall, 200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CHINESE AMERICAN MATERIALS NEEDED FOR HISTORY PROJECT - KCET Television, the Los Angeles PBS station, will be producing a half-hour documentary film tentatively titled "Chinatown", as part of the ongoing TV series, **THE LOS ANGELES HISTORY PROJECT**. "Chinatown" will tell the story of Chinese Angelinos from 1850 to 1939, when LA's original Chinatown was displaced by the construction of Union Station. This film will show how, in the face of great difficulties, Chinese Angelinos created a vibrant, productive, and close-knit community, which contributed significantly to the city's growth, development, and culture. KCET is seeking the assistance of Chinese Americans in locating photographs, letters, diaries, "home movies" and similar historic materials for inclusion in the film. Individuals interested in sharing their historic materials should call Carolyn King at (213) 669-5078 during the hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Individuals who wish to communicate in the Chinese language, should call Suellen Cheng at (213) 626-5240 during business hours. All materials will be returned. Your cooperation and interest is much appreciated.

MUSIC CENTER THROWS BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR COMMUNITY - The Southern California community will soon be invited to help the Music Center of Los Angeles County "blow out the candles" on its 25th birthday cake. On December 6, 1964, the doors of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion opened for the first time, and Zubin Mehta conducted the Los Angeles Philharmonic in an exuberant fanfare -- and the Music Center was born. On December 6, 1989, 25 years --

to the day! -- later, the Music Center will thank the community of Los Angeles for its ongoing support by throwing the most exciting "birthday party" the city has ever seen. Absolutely free of charge to the public, the lunchtime event, which will take place from 11:45 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. on the Music Center Plaza, will feature celebrity guest performers and masters of ceremony, on-air personalities Ken Minyard and Bob Arthur, of the "Ken and Bob Company" of KABC Talkradio, and the USC Marching Band with 25 outstanding high school bands from throughout Southern California, who will come together to "serenade" the Music Center and the thousands of birthday party guests on the Plaza. In addition, the Mark Taper Forum will be turned into a giant, decorated birthday cake in honor of the festivities, and free birthday cake, courtesy of the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, and Jerseymaid milk will be available free to the first 5,000 to join the festivities. There are tens of thousands of people who live and work in the downtown areas who may not frequently visit the Music Center. On December 6, everyone is invited to be a part of this special 25th anniversary celebration! Sponsors of this event are the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, KABC Talkradio, Vons, and Jerseymaid.

For more information, call (213) 972-7211. Members of the media are requested to call (213) 972-7272.

FORBIDDEN CITY, USA is the latest work by Arthur Dong, producer/director of "Lotus" and "Sewing Woman". Dong is a member of CHSSC.

This is a documentary film about the remarkable and little-known story of second generation Chinese Americans, who in the 1930's battled tradition to join mainstream American culture. At Forbidden City, a San Francisco nightclub on the edge of Chinatown, Chinese American singers and dancers performed in all American musical revues. This film moves beyond the musical romance of "Flower Drum Song" to reveal how one group of Chinese Americans overcame adversity to pursue their dreams in the entertainment industry. (see Calendar section - December 1)

PRACTICE MEANS EVERYTHING FOR KUNG FU CHAMP -- DR. LESTER WONG
CHSSC member, Dr. Lester Wong, was featured in the October 19, 1989 edition of the Contra Costa Times. Wong is a Pharmacist at Kaiser-Martinez and Chairman of the Concord Human Rights Commission. He has been studying the art of Kung Fu off and on for 20 years but he doesn't have a black belt. Two weeks prior, he won a major black belt martial arts competition -- his second important championship in less than a month. His father was interested in Kung Fu and encouraged him to study the same. Wong sees Kung Fu as important culturally. Overall, it develops one mentally, physically, and spiritually. Part of the philosophy is to develop the body and mind through meditation. As he puts it, in the Chinese philosophy, you are fluid. You attempt to balance the energy flowing through your body. Wong has competed against students of Karate as well as other martial arts disciplines. Wong travels to San Francisco once a week to study Kung Fu. On September 24, he won the weapons competition at the Pacific Amateur Athletic Association California State Kung Fu/Karate Championships at Hamilton Air Force Base. On October 7, he won the black belt Chinese Weapons division and black belt Chinese Forms division in the Second Annual Battle of the Bay Martial Arts Competition in Daly City. He has also won firsts in competitions at the Pacific Karate Championships, Northern Pacific Nationals and Pacific AAU region events to go with a score of other awards at the various competitions he's attended. Wong enjoys the weapons competition, in which contestants demonstrate their proficiency in a series of choreographed moves. Wong's specialties are the staff and the plum

flower pick -- a crescent sword blade on the end of a stick. Wong conducted a Kung Fu class through the YMCA and is currently in contact with leisure service departments in Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, and Concord in an attempt to offer classes through the recreational programs. As you can see, Wong wants to see this art promoted. It's a long-term commitment. If one doesn't learn self-defense, the health and exercise is equally important.

OUTREACH UPDATE - Angi Ma Wong, Suellen Cheng, and Gene Moy served as docents for one hour to a group of 56 participants from Coro Foundation and World of Difference. They gave a slide presentation on October 12 at CACA, followed by catered dinner and student speakers involved in the Democracy Movement in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Angi Ma Wong gave lecture and walking tour of Chinatown on October 14 as part of L. A. Unified School District multi-cultural inservice.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - As of November 15 Board Meeting, total membership is 375 members.

Roster updates include: Kathryn C. Kwok (213) 225-6895

Howard and Cathy Chan
1970 Turnbull Canyon Road
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
(818) 961-7516

Bea Jue
1973 Ashington Drive
Glendale, CA 91206
(818) 952-1002

Sick and Shut-In: CHSSC members, Mrs. Ralph D. Cornell and Ms. Mae B. Johnson, have been ill. We hope you are feeling better. Get well soon!

Membership renewals: annual membership is on a calendar year basis - January 1 to December 31 of each year. Don't forget to renew your dues! For membership information, contact Franklin Mah (213) 372-9421.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - Birth: John Christopher Kwok was born July 18, 1989, weighing 6 lbs. 8 oz., 20" at birth to Michael and Nancee Kwok. Michael is the son of CHSSC member, Kathryn C. Kwok. (Congrats, Katie! Though belated, good news!)

Engagements: September 2 - Irene Lai and Benkin Jong.
September 27 - Cindy Wong and Eric Hoey.

Irene is the daughter of Irvin Lai; Cindy is the daughter of Allen and Frieda Wong.

Kristin Sheu, daughter of George and Edith Sheu, is engaged.

Marriage: Mary Yee's daughter, Mimi Yee, was married on November 11.

Congratulations to all!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, October 29, 1989 - Saturday, February 3, 1990: New York Chinatown History Project presents new exhibition: "Both Sides of the Cloth" - Chinese American Women in the New York City Garment Industry. Gallery hours Sundays and Saturdays 12:00-5:00 p.m.; other times by appointment.

Exhibition is at 70 Mulberry Street, 2nd Floor, New York (212) 619-4785.

This multi-media exhibit tells the story of Chinese American women garment workers in New York City through photography, slideshow, oral histories, and quilt project.

Thursday, November 30, 7:00 pm: **KNOW THE RIGHT THING: REPRESENTATION OF ASIAN AMERICANS.** AAPPA presents an evening with Professor Ronald Takaki, Pulitzer Prize Nominated Author of Strangers From A Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans. Professor Takaki's comments will focus on the media myth of Asian Americans as the "model minority". He will offer his insights on the representation of Asians in Hollywood as well as read excerpts from his latest book. A question and answer period will follow his talk along with a book signing session. His book will be available for purchase at a special discount price. Proceeds from the book sale go to AAPPA's ongoing community programs. Refreshments will be served. Admission at the door is \$15; check payable to AAPPA. Presentation will take place at the Transamerica Center Auditorium, 1150 South Olive Street, Los Angeles. Parking is available at 1150 South Grand Avenue. For more information or group reservations, call AAPPA at (213) 874-0786. [AAPPA, The Association of Asian Pacific American Artists, is a non-profit organization concerned with the positive image and portrayal of Asian Pacific Americans.]

Friday, December 1, 8:00 pm: **Arthur Dong's Los Angeles Premiere of FORBIDDEN CITY, USA** at the Japan American Theatre, 244 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles. Ticket price: \$20/person to benefit Visual Communications. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call Visual Communications (213) 680-4462 or Japan America Theatre Box Office (213) 680-3700.

Sunday, December 3: Asian American Friends of Center Theatre Group (AAF-CTG) cordially invites you to attend the Mark Taper Forum's Literary Cabaret Series, presenting its first performance of **THE JOY LUCK CLUB** by Amy Tan at The Itchey Foot Ristorante, 801 West Temple at Figueroa, Los Angeles. Parking next to restaurant. Cost: \$10 each. No host dining 4:00-5:15 p.m. (no orders taken after 5:15 p.m.), The Joy Luck Club 6:00-7:00 p.m. For reservations or additional information, call (213) 972-7680. Seating is limited; make your reservations early.

Wednesday, December 6, 11:45 am-1:15 pm: **MUSIC CENTER THROWS 25TH BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR COMMUNITY** at the plaza of the Music Center. Come help blow out the candles! (see story on pages 2-3)

Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 pm: **CHSSC Board Meeting** at CACA building. [Please note: All future meetings will begin at 7:00 pm sharp!]

Monday, December 18, 6:00 pm: **Friends of the Chinatown Library Christmas Potluck Party** -- that's right, NO MEETING! Be sure to bring your favorite dish (serves 6-8) and a \$3 gift to exchange. Our Christmas program will feature Dr. Charles Wong who will share with us his slides and experiences in Japan. Come join us for an evening of NO WORK -- just plain R&R!

WANT / HELP ADS: Call (213) 281-7429 for an update on the Society's calendar of events. Questions? Leave a message and someone will call you back.

"Program" suggestions for monthly meetings? Please pass your suggestions to Bev Hom (818) 336-7900. [Thank you!]

Articles for Gum Saan Journal? Society is seeking articles on Chinese American history for the next issue of Gum Saan Journal. Questions or information? Please contact Ella Quan (213) 291-5388 or Munson Kwok (213) 828-6911.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you for your support of News 'n Notes -- staff contributors in this issue: Suellen Cheng, Angi Ma Wong, Cy Wong, Dolores Wong, Dr. Lester Wong, and Lillian Fong. October 25 mailing session supporters: Ben and Doreen Chan Nakayama, Dorothy Siu, Kipham Kan, Richard Smith, Cy Wong, Luci Suehiro, Jeannette Young, and Lillian Fong. Special thanks to Ben and Doreen for providing their home for our mailing and for the special treats! Thanks, everyone!

Oops . . . and special thanks to Johnny Yee for delivering the mail from our September 28 mailing session to the post office for me. [Thanks, Johnny!]

Items for News 'n Notes are always welcome! Please submit in writing to News 'n Notes Editor, 15744-25 Tetley Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745. Reminder: The editor would appreciate the cooperation of Society members and friends in submitting any articles for N'nN by the 15th of each month. (The absolute deadline!) Items submitted are printed at the discretion of the editor. Thank you!

Beverly M. Hom
N 'n N Editor

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH
ABOUNDING JOY AND HAPPINESS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!





Holiday Cheer

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Annual Christmas Potluck Party

DATE: Wednesday, December 6, 1989

TIME: 6:30 pm sharp!

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Multi-purpose Room
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles Chinatown

Parking is available on school playground
(enter on College Street between Hill and
Yale Streets)

COME AND HAVE FUN . . .

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH
(Your dish should serve 8-10)

One dish admits two people!

If you can't bring a dish, \$5/adult and
\$3/child (under 12).

For information, call Kipham Kan (213) 641-2975
or Bev. Hom (213) 336-7900