



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

April 1990

CHSSC MAY GENERAL MEETING

Date: ~~Monday~~ ^{Wednesday}, May 2

Time: 7:30 p. m.

Place: Multi-purpose Room -- Castelar School
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

Parking is available on school grounds -- enter on College Street between Hill and Yale Streets.

Program: Nomination of Officers for 1990-1991
and
The Role of Afro-Americans in the History of Los Angeles

This evening's meeting will consist of our regular business meeting, followed by the nominations of officers for 1990-1991, and then our program with our guest speaker and Society member, **Miriam Matthews**. Our program speaker will provide us with her slides and talk on the Role of Afro-Americans in the History of Los Angeles followed by a Question and Answer period.

As a distinguished librarian, historian and collector, whose career was launched more than six decades ago, Miriam Matthews has researched many aspects of the history of African-Americans in Los Angeles and California and has shared her findings with various institutions, scholars, authors and the media throughout the United States.

Miss Matthews has many accomplishments. To name just a few:

In 1929 she was the first person in Los Angeles to stimulate an interest in the celebration of Negro History Week. In addition to arranging exhibits in the library, writing articles and book reviews for the local press she gave speeches at educational institutions, organizational meetings and made broadcasts over two major radio stations. She helped dedicate the California historical murals at the Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company's main office building for which she was the chief consultant. She provided her historical photographs of West Coast African-Americans for exhibitions at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, the Space Museum, the California Museum of Science and Industry, the Dunbar Museum, the California Afro-American Museum and others. In February 1988 the California State

University at Dominguez Hills established the Miriam Matthews Award which is presented annually to individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of African-American history and culture. While serving on the California Heritage Preservation Commission, she played a major role in securing permanent archival programs for the City of Los Angeles. During the City's Bicentennial celebration (1980-1981) she initiated the proposal that resulted in the first accurate historical monument to honor the 44 multi-ethnic founders of Los Angeles. Her name is inscribed on a small plaque below this monument. The preservation of other local African-American monuments is due in part to her efforts.

Various honors have been bestowed upon Miss Matthews. They include:

Women of the Decade in Literature (L. A. Sentinel, 1960)
Newsmaker of 1975 (National Association of Media Women)
Grand Dama of the City and County of Los Angeles (City Council and Board of Supervisors)
1982 Award of Merit (California Historical Society)
1988 Fellow (Historical Society of Southern California)
U. S. House of Representatives Award (1984)

Her name appears in several biographical dictionaries such as Who's Who Among American Women, Dictionary of International Biography, Who's Who on the Pacific Coast, and the Black Women Oral History Project, Radcliffe College.

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR 1990-1991 OFFICES - The Nominating Committee, consisting of Ella Quan (chair), Munson Kwok, Cy Wong, Ronald Fung, and Robert Large, submits the following names as candidates for 1990-1991 (July 1, 1990 - June 30, 1991).

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Membership Secretary

Kipham Kan
Paul Louie
Dexter Wong
Franklin Mah
Tom Eng
Mary Yee

Board Members

Eugene Cooper
Beverly M. Hom
Suellen Cheng Kwok
Ronald Fung
Robert Large

Continuing Board Members

Tom McDannold
Stanley Mu
Cy Wong
Sue Yee

We are asking for nominations from the floor. Be sure you have received consent from your nominee before name is submitted.

HIGHLIGHTS OF UPCOMING CHSSC EVENTS

May 12 **CHSSC Joint Board Meeting with Chinatown Cultural Center at ~~Kipham Kan's~~ at 12:00.** (This date is tentative.)
CACA

June 6 **Program Dinner Meeting**

Program:

Election and Installation of 1990-1991 Officers

Program Speaker: Timothy Fong

Program: Emerging Race Relations in California

Currently, Tim is completing his Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley and has recently moved down to Monterey Park to conduct research for his doctoral dissertation.

The role of Asian Americans in the history, evolution and future of race relations within today's multi-racial, multi-cultural reality will be the focus of this talk.

(More information will be available at the May meeting.)

July 14 - 15 **13th Annual Lotus Festival - Echo Park, LA**
(The Peoples & Cultures of the Pacific Rim)

August **CHSSC Picnic #3**

September 2 **Moon Festival**

September 28 **CHSSC Field Trip to tour the Joss House and Mother Lode Expedition to Northern California.** Roundtrip is approximately 1500 miles. Cost will be under \$150. The cost will include two box lunches, one dinner so far, and admission to a couple of Joss Houses. Details need to be worked out. All that is required is a \$10 deposit payable to Margie Lew at 5518 Via Marisol, Los Angeles, CA 90042; for info, call (213) 258-2362 to reserve you a space on the bus for the trip. Motel arrangements are on your own. Be sure to send downpayments to motels in both locations listed on the next page. Be sure to identify yourself with CHSSC group. Request room with two beds, upstairs, quiet corner. Adjustments will be made upon arrival.

Friday night, 9/28

Motel 6
505 Montgomery Street
Oroville, CA 95965
(916) 532-9400
(Reserve as "AP" for CHSSC)

Saturday night, 9/29

Motel 6
2760 Cleveland Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 546-1500

This field trip will be more exciting and colorful than the previous trips to the Mother Lode. This is the Mother Lode of Northern California. You will witness many adventures and see actual weapons used in the first tong war fought in America. Johnny Yee is working on keeping our costs down.

NEWSWORTHY

On April 3, there was a celebration ceremony for Castelar Elementary School with four new classrooms and the expansion of the Chinatown Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. Beulah Quo was Mistress of Ceremonies. There was a welcome speech by Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon. Dr. Ruby Ling Louie, President of the Friends of the Chinatown Library, made greeting remarks. Dr. Munson Kwok, Chairperson of the Chinatown Community Advisory Committee, spoke. There were noisy firecrackers under the direction of Bill Hong. Castelar School children, with the guidance of Lauren Okayama, performed lion and ribbon dances. Library buttons and bookmarks with tassels were passed out. Refreshments were served by volunteers. Franklin Mah, Alvina Lew, and Tom Eng took pictures of the celebration. Dr. Ruby Ling Louie, Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon, and Dolores Wong were congratulated for making this celebration a reality. Attending were Edwin Quo, Suellen Cheng, Dorothy Siu, Cy Wong, Margie Lew, Paul and Emma Louie, Lillian Fong, Gene Cooper, Ronald Fung, Al Soo Hoo, Fred Gong, Ella Quan, Jeannette Young, Steve and Ella Leong, Don Toy, Mary Yee, Frank and Lupe Chee, Mr. and Mrs. F. Chow Chan, Juliana Cheng, Elmo Gambarana, Howard Hew, Kipham Kan, and Delbert Wong. A second celebration was held on Sunday, April 8, for the community.

CHSSC member, Gladys Waddingham, will be on the program at the National Convention of CAMP (Council on America's Military Past) in Bismarck, North Dakota, to be held April 25-29. Her narrated slide program will be on Martha Summerhayes, a young woman who followed her husband in the 1880's through the Frontier Army posts of America.

Professor Ron Takaki, author of Strangers from a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans, was interviewed for KCET "By the Year 2000" due for viewing on Friday, May 4, at 9:00 p.m. Interview took place at Gardena meeting at the Nakaoka Community Center on Sunday, April 8, in which CHSSC was one of seven organizations

sponsoring the meeting. In attendance from CHSSC were Kipham Kan, Ella Quan, Munson Kwok, and George Kiriama.

CHSSC member, Grace Chow, is doing better. She's turning 91 this month. She is now using a walker as she feels more secure with the equipment. (Continue to get better, Grace. We're thinking of you!)

Patron wins big: Huntington Beach resident Marilyn Tom (one of Grace Chow's daughters) recently was given the Patron of the Arts honor by Huntington Beach's Cultural Affairs Division for outstanding community contributions. Recognition is given annually to an individual who has contributed significantly to the culture of the community. Marilyn was honored for 12 years of volunteer service. She worked closely with the Huntington Beach City Council and the Allied Arts Board toward the advancement of the Huntington Beach Art Center, scheduled to open around May 1991. (Congratulations, Marilyn!)

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

SPECIAL REQUEST: The Cultural Affairs Department of the City of Los Angeles will be conducting an intensive survey of cultural and artistic needs in the city in order to construct a long-term masterplan. They would like to reach every segment of the city and as many cultural groups as possible. They will be surveying as many artists, audience members, and arts organizations as they can reach. The Cultural Affairs Department is bringing the arts community together. This survey is an important part of that process. If you would like further information about this project or would like to get involved, please contact Morris McNeill (consultants) at (213) 299-2699.

Asian Business League (ABL) will present its annual Pacific Rim Trade Forum on Thursday, April 26, at the Biltmore Hotel Emerald Ballroom, downtown Los Angeles. The program will begin with reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner and the presentation of speakers. Between 100-200 attendees from various businesses and government agencies are expected to attend. The subject of this year's Forum is "The Winds of Change--Current US/ROC Trade Issues and Opportunities". A distinguished panel of speakers will discuss the political, trade and legal issues between the U. S. and the Republic of China. Topics will include how to do business in Taiwan and the emerging mergers and acquisitions activities by Taiwanese companies in the U. S. The keynote speaker at the Forum will be the Honorable C. Y. Chang, Director General of the Coordination Council for North American Affairs Office in Los Angeles; Dean Chiang, Esq., partner of the law firm of Lee and Li, Taipei, Taiwan; and Mr. Li Yu, President of MEW Acquisitions Company, Inc. Cost: \$40 for ABL members, \$50 non-members. Tickets at the door are available for \$60. For information, call (213) 580-1248.

Alhambra Festival of Neighbors - May 5-6. For information, contact Cy Wong (213) 731-1084.

The Historical Society of Centinela Valley will hold its Annual Barbecue on Sunday, May 6, from noon to 3:00 p.m. on the Centinela Adobe Complex at 7634 Midfield, Westchester. Menu includes steak, chicken, beans, coleslaw, rolls, coffee, homemade cake, etc. Cost is \$6 adults and \$4 children under 12. Free parking on 83rd Street, west of Hindry with shuttle bus to the Adobe. For information, call (213) 649-6272.

The China Society of Southern California will hold its next dinner meeting on Monday, May 7, at the Golden Dragon Restaurant, 960 North Broadway, LA Chinatown with social 6:15 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m. Program speaker is Delores Bremner, a docent at the Pacific Asia Museum. Her topic is titled "Manchu Dragon Robes and Other Qing Dynasty Costumes. Cost is \$9 members and \$10 non-members. For more information, call (213) 663-9511.

Monrovia Old House Preservation Group presents Mother's Day Old Homes Tour on Sunday, May 13. Houses open 10:00 am - 4:00 pm (rain or shine). Pre-tour ticket prices are \$8 adults, \$5 12 and under/65 years and over, free for 5 years and under. Pre-tour tickets may be purchased by calling Monrovia Volunteer Center (818) 357-3797, Monrovia Floral (818) 358-1889, or Anderson House Museum (818) 358-7822. Day-of-tour ticket prices are the same except for adults (\$10). Be sure to allow four hours for the full tour.

Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) in San Francisco will present Sweet Bamboo Book Party on Friday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. Meeting place to be determined. Program will include slide show on Louise Leung Larson and book pictures. For more information, contact Munson Kwok (213) 828-6911.

The Los Angeles Historical Theatre Foundation and Department of Cultural Affairs sponsors "Los Angeles at the Los Angeles" on May 18-20 at the Los Angeles Theatre, 615 South Broadway, Los Angeles. Parking available at Pershing Square Garage; \$5 single event, \$20 series subscription. For information, contact Jim Dolan (213) 746-9868.

Thursday, May 24, 8:00 p.m. The Institute of Archaeology will present a slide illustrated lecture on the Excavations of the Original Chinatown in Los Angeles by Roberta Greenwood. Lecture is one hour, followed by Q&A, and reception (in which the audience may talk with the speaker). Lecture and reception are free to the public. Location for lecture may be a problem. Currently reserved Kinsey 51 (UCLA) but it's possible the auditorium in Fowler Museum will be available as the time nears. For more info, please call Bev Hom (818) 336-7900.

LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics) 2nd Annual Leadership Awards Dinner presents Senator Daniel Inouye, one of America's most distinguished and respected Asian Pacific Americans, as its keynote speaker on July 20 at the Biltmore Hotel. For information, call LEAP (213) 485-1422.

September 3 is not only Labor Day but the celebration of the birthday of Los Angeles. Details forthcoming!

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Annual membership is on a calendar year basis -- January 1 to December 31 of each year. Still only \$15 for regular, \$20 for couples, \$5 for seniors and students. Check is payable to CHSSC. Please mail to Franklin Mah, 2210 Grant Avenue, #1, Redondo Beach, CA 90278; for info, call (213) 372-9421.

Attached is new membership roster. The coding is as follows:

ACT -	Active	INST -	Institution
ADD -	Additional household	STU -	Student
SEN -	Senior	LIFE -	Life Member
SNRA -	Additional Senior		

Please mail corrections for the roster to Franklin Mah.

DONATION: Thank you, Anna Lau, for your donation in memory of Florence Leong last month.

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.

ENGLISH CONVERSATION CENTER (ECC): Need additional volunteers to help with afternoon class (1:30-3:00) at Chinatown Library. Interested, please call Marian Leng (213) 939-8703.

WHITE PAPER RECYCLING PROJECT: Please save discarded white paper (black ink only) for Castelar Elementary's recycling program. Funds from the project will be used for campus beautification projects and science materials. For information, please call Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon (213) 626-3674.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you for your support of News 'n Notes -- staff contributors in this issue: Munson Kwok, Ella Quan, Johnny Yee, Franklin Mah, Miriam Matthews, Timothy Fong, Gladys Waddingham, Beverly Chow Luedtke, ABL, LEAP, and Lillian Fong. March 25 mailing session supporters: Kipham Kan, Richard Smith, Dorothy Siu, and Franklin Mah. Thank you everyone for your help, and Franklin for taking the mail to the post office.

ITEMS FOR NEWS 'n NOTES are always welcome! Please submit in writing no later than the 15th of each month to News 'n Notes Editor, 15744-25 Tetley Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745.

Bev M. Hom
News 'n Notes Editor



SWEET BAMBOO

A Saga of a Chinese American Family

By LOUISE LEUNG LARSON

Published by
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
Los Angeles, California

Sweet Bamboo is the true story of a middle class Chinese family in Los Angeles over the span of five generations. This intensely personal, affectionate memoir by journalist Louise Leung Larson traces the Tom Leung family from its simple origins in the Cantonese village of Sweet Bamboo (甘竹) to its evolution into a modern American family. It is a personal history, seen with the skilled reporter's eye, set against the background of a great city's young, formative years, during which a Chinese American community grew.

Sweet Bamboo is an American success story about survival, enterprise, and leadership, and above all, the Americanization process in a city where the Chinese struggled to maintain their community, families, and identity against political and legislative odds.

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