



NEWS & NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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

February 1990

CHSSC MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, March 7

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: THE HISTORICAL RECOGNITION GAME:
SHOULD WE LOVE IT AND LOSE IT?

Los Angeles Chinatown is changing daily in a burst of dynamic growth. Are there parts of the district with sufficient historical significance and cultural value worth recognizing? A panel of Drummond Buckley, Munson Kwok, Tom McDannold, Eugene Moy, and others will discuss the importance of a recognition program to a community interested in keeping its heritage. Aspects of recommending and achieving recognition will be reviewed. Slides of potential historical structures, zones, and monuments in the area will be shown by Kwok and Moy. This short list had been developed by the Community Redevelopment Agency in 1982 as a result of a required evaluation study of Chinatown. In ten years many of these buildings will be gone!

CHSSC BOARD BRIEFS - The following motions were made at the January 17 Board meeting:

Kipham Kan informed the Board that the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California invited the Society to be one of the co-sponsors of their April program in Gardena. Dr. Ronald Takaki will be the speaker. Eugene Cooper moved that the CHSSC co-sponsor the program. The motion was seconded by Paul Louie and passed. This program does not replace the Society's April general meeting.

Tom McDannold moved that the President be authorized to approve expenditures requested before the budget is finalized. The motion was seconded by Stanley Mu and passed.

Paul Louie moved that the Membership Secretary, the By-laws Committee, and the Finance Committee should meet and work on the issue of life membership dues. The motion was seconded by Eugene Cooper and carried.

Franklin Mah reported on the results of the survey on computer needs of the Society. Tom McDannold moved that the Board authorize up to \$2000 to purchase a computer and a printer for the Society. The motion was seconded by Sue Yee. Stanley Mu moved to amend the motion by adding "Macintosh Plus" before "computer". The motion to amend was seconded by Paul Louie and was not passed. The original motion was carried unanimously. (A copy of survey report is on Secretary's file.)

Bev Hom proposed that the Society purchase a slide projector to be used for Society's programs and projects. Cy Wong moved that the Board authorize the purchase of a slide projector system for the Society. The motion was seconded by Tom McDannold and carried.

OTHER ITEMS FROM JANUARY BOARD MEETING - Standing Committees: With everyone's cooperation, Kipham Kan was able to appoint chairpersons to each standing committee as listed below. A few changes to the list of committee members were also made. (* Chairperson)

ARCHIVES: Tom McDannold*, add Tom Moy and Emma Louie.

PUBLICATIONS: add Ella Quan and Munson Kwok.

HISTORIC RESEARCH & RECOGNITION: Eugene Cooper*, add Stanley Mu and Eugene Moy; remove John Yee. (Note: Stanley Mu is no longer on this committee. See "Conference Committee" below.)

PROGRAMS: Bev Hom*, add John Yee.

FINANCE & ASSETS: Paul Louie* (Note: Bob Large asked to join Finance Committee, effective February 21 Board meeting.)

OUTREACH: Cy Wong* and Stanley Mu* (Note: Stanley Mu is no longer on this committee. See "Conference Committee" below.)

The existing committees were incorporated into the new standing committees as follows:

ARCHIVES: Resource Committee.

PUBLICATIONS: Book Committee, News 'n Notes, and Map Committee.

HISTORIC RESEARCH & RECOGNITION: Museum Committee.

PROGRAM: Moon Festival Committee, Conference Committee.

FINANCE & ASSETS: Finance Committee.

OUTREACH: Outreach Committee.

Program Committee: Johnny Yee introduced ideas of future field trips including a 3-day Northern California trip. The Program Committee will discuss those ideas presented.

Conference Committee: Kipham Kan encouraged members to participate in the planning of the 1991 National Conference on Chinese American Studies. A sub-committee under the Program Committee consists of Kipham Kan, Tom McDannold, Stanley Mu, Sue Yee, Eugene Cooper, and Suellen Cheng will work on the Conference project. Stanley Mu will be coordinating the conference. Upon his request, Stanley Mu was removed from the Historic Research & Recognition Committee and the Outreach Committee to allow him more time for the planning of the conference.

Moon Festival: Sue Yee reported that the committee members have been working on a grant proposal to be submitted to the Cultural Affairs Department.

NOTICE TO ALL OFFICERS AND STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS - All officers and committee chairs are to submit their proposed budget ASAP to Financial Secretary, Bev Picazo, no later than March 2!

STANDING COMMITTEES NEED YOU! Just about all the standing committees have had their first meeting primarily to discuss budget and committee work. It's not too late to sign up. If you would like to serve on one or more of the standing committees (see prior page for committee list), please contact the committee chair(s). As you can see, we have a number of projects at hand that could use your expertise, i.e., Moon Festival, next Society field trip, 1991 National Conference of Chinese American Studies, just to name a few. We appreciate hearing from you!

BITS OF NEWS - THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES MARATHON V comes to Los Angeles on Sunday, March 4. The Society is still enlisting **MARATHON RACE DAY VOLUNTEERS** to help cheer the runners on mile for mile. You can make that difference by showing your support on March 4 to help the runners meet their goal of completing the full 26.2 miles to the Finish Line. If you are interested, please contact Gene Moy (818) 289-2067 for application forms. Invite your family and friends! It'll be fun! **VOLUNTEERS ALREADY SIGNED UP, PLEASE MEET IN FRONT OF CATHAY BANK AT 7:45 A.M. FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS!**

HELP CHINATOWN YOUTH PROGRAMS -- REMEMBER TO SPONSOR THE CHINATOWN RUNNERS, Edmund Soo Hoo and Edward In, **FOR THE LOS ANGELES MARATHON V.** Funds collected will support cultural, educational, sports and community service programs for youth in Los Angeles Chinatown under the funding auspices of the Chinese Cultural and Community Center of Greater Los Angeles (CCCCGLA). Participating youth organizations include Chinatown Teen Post and Los Angeles Chinatown Athletic Association. If you are interested in sponsoring the Chinatown Running Team, please make your check payable to CCCCCGLA. All contributions are tax-deductible. For additional information, call Sharon Lowe (213) 620-1360 or Don Toy (213) 680-0876.

(UN) PRESERVATION NEWS - The City of Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission last October rejected an application by the Friends of Yee Mee Low to give historic recognition to the interior of the famous bar and restaurant, now over 50 years old. The developer is now free to raze the earthquake unsafe brick building. Lost also will be the Moongate doorway on Ord Street, leading to Shanghai Street of Old China City. This interior, with its booths and stage, was beautifully preserved by Florence and Gilbert Leong, of the F. Sue On Company.

Remaining for a little while should be the last physical remnant of China

City: Flora's Bar, quaintly shaped shop stucco structures, and the other Shanghai Street entrance. These reside on Philippe's parking lot off Ord Street.

It's also too late for the last six of eight unique, identical little bungalows on the corner of Ord and Hill Streets, by the ramp. This developer is planning a mixed use mall with more housing units for Chinatown. Preservation analyst and architect Roger Hathaway has reported that these buildings are around 89 years old, with details reflecting a classical revival. In 1982, these buildings were judged in good condition. They have been used as residences and association headquarters. From the beginning, they were probably intended as modest cost cottages.

Since the days of President Gerald Shue, some in CHSSC have always felt "something should be done." Although the six buildings together compose an unusual architectural statement, past President Eugene Moy has suggested moving one to a preservation site somehow. Does anyone have a comment or interest? Contact Kipham Kan (213) 641-2975.

MCAH PROGRESS - Following a hard-fought effort extending over three months, supporters of the Museum of Chinese American History (MCAH) were successful in gaining approval of \$80,000 in FY89 capital funds for the project from the El Pueblo Park budget. The approval was given by the City of Los Angeles' Recreation and Parks Department. (Notice was even made in the Metro Section, Los Angeles Times.) The push was led by the non-profit Friends of MCAH and its president, Dr. Dan Louie, Jr. At various stages, letters and testimonies were needed as well as debates with certain non-Chinese groups opposed to this disposition of funding. Friends of MCAH members who were active in this fight included Eugene Moy, Gilbert Leong, and Edith Jung. Dr. William Chun-Hoon of Castelar School supported the need for the MCAH project.

CHSSC provided the necessary strong effort in support of this money with both letters and formal comments before government bodies by President Kipham Kan.

The \$80K represents a portion of the total funds needed that the project must raise through grants and government agencies.

The community fundraising goal remains \$200,000 to be generated by the Friends of MCAH through its various programs.

Work has begun on the MCAH project to rehabilitate and restore the North Bay of the Garnier Building, site of MCAH. Detailed architectural drawings are being prepared, and the construction permits are expected to be pulled by the Spring. MCAH planning and designing are continuing with staff and consultants.

As part of the planning, Camille Wing and the Chinatown of Hanford was revisited February 19 to study the finer examples of layouts for stores and Chinese living quarters. Parts of buildings never opened were shown by Camille. The Hanford temple restoration itself is proceeding nicely. Camille sends her greetings to all.

MINI TRIP TO SAN DIEGO - On Saturday, February 17, a small group of us fought the rain and wind down to the Chinese Historical Society of San Diego and Baja California for an 11:00 a.m. tour of San Diego's Chinatown. We met with members of the CHSSDBC at the Benevolent Association office. CHSSDBC President Tom Hom welcomed our group and everyone present and gave a short talk on what was happening with some of the developments in San Diego. Before leaving for the tour, we received a copy of the tour map and souvenir book. We then proceeded downstairs for the tour. At the conclusion of the tour, we all assembled in front of the Nanking Restaurant, the final rest stop of our tour, for a few photos with the CHSSC banner blowing in the wind. After lunch, the CHSSC group made arrangements to go back to the association office to chat further with some of the members of the SD group and just before we departed, CHSSC Vice President Bev Hom made a presentation to the President of CHSSDBC. To show our appreciation and as a token of our visit, Bev presented a copy of our first publication, Linking Our Lives, along with four copies of the current as well as past issues of the Los Angeles Chinatown Souvenir Books, and a copy of the Immigration Bicentennial Commemoration Book, 1988-1989. In return, CHSSDBC President Tom Hom presented our group with copies of the Chinese Community Church's Centennial Calendar, 1885-1985; Chinese Community Church Centennial Celebration Book, and a copy of the City Planning Department Report No. 87-502 re Chinese/Asian Thematic Historic District. All in all, we enjoyed our trip to SD. In attendance were Johnny Yee, Bev Hom, Bob Large, Paul and Phyllis Chace, Tom Moy, Doreen Chan Nakayama, Mrs. Moy, Gene/Susan/Bernie Moy, Rosalyn Chen, and Johnson Yee. Just about all of us headed back to LA except for Johnny Yee who stayed to attend the dinner and fellowship at the Chinese Community Church. As a result of our visit, we plan to initiate a joint field trip to Mexicali in March, 1991. Also, Dorothy Hom, wife of CHSSDBC President, joined our Society's membership. (Welcome aboard, Dorothy!)

Angi Ma Wong gave a talk to the fourth grade students at the St. Vincent School. A \$10 donation was given to the Society by the school as a token of appreciation.

Beulah Quo named AAPAA 1990 Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient. The award will be presented at the Sixth Annual Jimmie Awards Dinner to be held on March 19 (see calendar section). The award is given in recognition of outstanding work by an Asian Pacific American. Ms. Quo's career in film and theatre rivals her commitment to community service. Her film and television credits include "The Sand Pebbles," "MacArthur" and "Chinatown." She has appeared in "General Hospital" as a saucy grandmother. She received an Emmy nomination for Best Supporting Actress as "Tzu-Hsi," Dowager Empress of China. She also appeared in an episode of PBS series, "Meeting of the Minds." Her contributions in community service include past board president and founding member of the East West Players and the Association of Asian Pacific American Artists, and has served on the boards of The United Way, El Nido Services, Los Angeles Human Relations Commission Advisory Committee, China Society of Southern California and is a volunteer to numerous other community organizations. Ms. Quo graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California with a B.A. in sociology and also holds an M.A. from the University of Chicago. She taught at Los Angeles Community colleges and at Ginling College, Nanjing, China.

Bill and Anita Jeung were in San Antonio to attend the ceremony honoring her brother, Major General Vernon Chong, who was given the Wilford Hall Medical enlisted members of the Air Training Command's Order of the Sword. The event took place on December 2, 1989.

SOCIETY PUBLISHES NEW BOOK - SWEET BAMBOO is an intensely personal, affectionate memoir by pioneer Chinese American journalist Louise Leung Larson. The book traces the Tom Leung family from the Sun Duck County, Guangdong, China village of Sweet Bamboo through its evolution into a modern American family. It is a personal history, seen with a skilled reporter's eye, set against the background of a great City's formative years. The book tells an American success story about survival, enterprise, resourcefulness, and pluck. Above all, it describes the Americanization process of a close knit Chinese family as it struggles to preserve its heritage and develop its new identity reflecting two cultures, against a sometimes harsh social, political, and economic environment. (To order copies, see the attached flyer.)

ECHOES OF THE PAST is a book which researches the history of traditions, cultures, and values of China. The book is printed by the University of Hawaii Press. Cost: \$20 (hardbound). To order copies, please contact Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon at (818) 799-3585.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - As of the February 21 Board meeting, we have a total of 242 members for 1990. Renew today -- renew early to be included in the mailing of News 'n Notes, Gum Saan Journal, Society roster, flyers, and other correspondence of Society news. It's not too late to renew or become a member for the first time. In order to be included in the next Society roster, your dues must be paid up no later than March 31!

Address/phone update - Grace Chow, 96112 Indian Wells, Huntington Beach, CA 92647 (714) 968-3969.

Membership renewals: 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. Mail early! Check is payable to CHSSC. Mail to Franklin Mah, 2210 Grant Avenue, #1, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. For membership information, contact Franklin Mah (213) 372-9421.

Thank you for your generous **DONATIONS** in memory of Florence S. Leong, Alice Hom, and Louise Leung Larson. **FLORENCE S. LEONG:** Gilbert Leong, Dorothy Siu, M/M F. Chow Chan, Phillip and Miranda Chow, M/M Milton Quon, Nellie Chan Wong, Elsie and Roger Wong, M/M Tyrus Wong, M/M Delbert Wong, Mary K. and Lillie Louie, F. See On Company, M/M Paul Louie, M/M Baldwin Tom, M/M Edwin Kwok, and Alfred Soo Hoo. **ALICE HOM:** Chong and Isobel Lew, Marla L. Chung for Darrell Chung Family, M/M Harry Fung, Betty Chen-Donner, Lulu Kwan, and M/M Richard Hicks. **LOUISE LEUNG LARSON:** Holly Rose Lee, Warren A. Lee, and Edith Tom.

12th ANNUAL FIRECRACKER 5/10K RUN was pretty wet and windy this year. Surprisingly enough, only three of our volunteers weren't able to make. As for the rest of the volunteers, they worked through the rain at our

refreshment area just the same. Thanks to all you dedicated volunteers who stayed through the bitter cold, wet, windy morning. I know this is a day we'll all remember. Thank you again for your dedication!

ENGAGEMENT: Congratulations to life member, Alfred Soo Hoo, and Bibiana Yung. Big day to be announced!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, March 5: Dinner meeting of the China Society of Southern California will feature a program by Mr. Henry Nyi of San Clemente, California on the History and Collection of Chinese Stamps. Reservations may be made by contacting Ms. Rina Rae Sherman (213) 936-0327. Cost: \$10 for non-members. Social hour 6:15 p.m., dinner 7:00 p.m. at the Golden Dragon Restaurant, 960 North Broadway, Los Angeles Chinatown.

Friday, March 9: Chinese American Women Leadership Council (a volunteer council of concerned women) sponsors a gala Chinese New Year Celebration Dinner. Proceeds to benefit a non-political Chinese students and nationals Immigration Assistance Project of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California. Cocktails 5:30-6:30 p.m., dinner 7:00 p.m. at the Empress Pavilion Restaurant, Bamboo Plaza, Los Angeles Chinatown. Cost: \$45/person; checks payable to CAWLC-APALC. All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Faith Chen (213) 748-2022 before March 5.

Monday, March 12: Friends of the Chinatown Library General Meeting -- optional dinner 5:30 p.m. at Hop Li, meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room, Chinatown Library. For information, call Ruby Ling Louie (213) 628-2496 or Dolores Wong (213) 662-6081.

Saturday, March 17: "Classics of Ancient China" - new discoveries of old texts yield exciting new translations. Faculty presenters are Robert G. Henricks, Professor of Religion and Director of Alumni College '89 on "China: Old and New" and Robin Yates, Burlington Northern Professor of Asian Studies. Event will take place at LaJolla Beach and Tennis Club, 200 Spindrift Lane, LaJolla, California. For information, contact George Harris (619) 224-1881.

Monday, March 19: Association of Asian/Pacific American Artists (AAPPA) hosts the 6th Annual Jimmie Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, no host cocktails at 6:00-7:00 p.m., dinner at 7:15 p.m., and awards ceremony at 8:15 p.m. Tickets at \$250 and \$100. Early reservations will ensure preferred seating. Deadline for reservations is March 5. Net proceeds to support the expansion of community program activities, membership, and the operating budget. Information, call (213) 874-0461.

Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.: CHSSC Board Meeting at CACA building. Optional dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Happy Valley. Information or questions, contact Kipham Kan (213) 641-2975.

Saturday, March 24: Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park "Annual Fundraising Banquet" at the New Won Kok Restaurant, 2411 North Broadway, Los Angeles. Social hour at 6:00 p.m./dinner at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$17.50/person; check is payable to CCSEP by March 17, c/o Marion Siu, 1471 Avon Park Terrace, Los Angeles, CA 90026. Seating will not be assigned for individuals who send checks for less than a full table. Ten constitutes a full table.

Thursday, May 24, 8:00 p.m: The Institute of Archaeology is pleased to present a slide illustrated lecture on the Excavations of the Original Chinatown in Los Angeles by Roberta Greenwood. The lecture will be an hour, followed by Q&A session. The lecture and reception are free to the public. More details forthcoming, such as meeting place, etc.

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.

TWO POSITIONS OPEN AT CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY - Youth Adult Librarian and Children's Librarian. Qualifications: U. S. citizenship/permanent resident Master of Library Science (MLS), bilingual (Chinese/English) preferred. Cantonese, Mandarin, or Vietnamese speaking okay. Experience helpful and desirable, but not mandatory. For more information, contact Elsa Wu (213) 620-1209.

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] (e.g., office memos, letters, photocopies, computer printouts, etc.) for Castelar Elementary's recycling program. Funds from the project will be used for campus beautification projects and science materials. Please call Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon, Principal, at (213) 626-3674, to pick up any large quantities or bring them when you come to our regular monthly meetings.

"PROGRAM" suggestions for monthly meetings? Call Bev Hom (818) 336-7900.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you for your support of News 'n Notes -- staff contributors in this issue: Munson Kwok, Franklin Mah, Lloyd Noakes, Anita Jeung, Bill Chun-Hoon, Beverly Picazo, and Elsa Wu.

January 30 mailing session supporters: Jeannette Young, Dorothy Siu, Kipham Kan, Cy Wong, and Lillian Fong. Thanks, Jeannette, for providing your home and all so many goodies for our mailing session! Thanks, everyone, for your help and the food treats! Thanks, Kipham, for taking the mail for me!

Thanks to the following people who provided REFRESHMENTS at the February 7 general meeting: Dorothy Siu, Cy Wong, Lillian Fong, and Bev Hom. Special thanks to Ella Quan and Ben and Doreen Nakayama for handling the table set up. Thanks to all who chipped in that evening with cake, clean up and all!

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! . . . Bev M. Hom, N'n N 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 (𦵇竹) 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.

Volume Discount

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227 pages, 6"x9", 20 photos,
3 illustrations, 1 map, 1 glossary,
1 genealogy, paperback, Feb. 1990.

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ISBN 0-930377-02-8
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*Complete and send your order form below with your check payable to "CHSSC" to
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