



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

appreciation of our chinese american heritage • a non-profit organization • 978 n. broadway, #206 • los angeles • ca 90012

May Program

Wednesday, May 1, 1991

7:30 p.m.

Castelar School

850 Yale Street

Los Angeles Chinatown

"Turning Family History into Drama"

Cherylene Lee

Cherylene Lee, a talented actress and playwright will read excerpts from her plays "Wong Bow Rides Again" and "Yin Chin Bow" and discuss how she presents oral history through drama. "Wong Bow Rides Again" was produced by East West Players in Los Angeles in February 1987 to critical acclaim. "Yin Chin Bow" was the 1990 co-winner "Best of Festival" in the Third Step Theater's 3rd Annual Spring Play Reading Festival, New York. Both plays are based on the history of Cherylene's family.

Cherylene Lee was recently selected for the 1991 Mentor playwrights program by the Mark Taper Forum Theater. Her poetry and short stories have been published by the *Southern California Anthology* 1985, the *International Examiner*, *Plexus*, *New Methods*, *Bamboo Ridge*. She was awarded Artist in Residence at the Ucross Foundation, Wyoming for 1988 and the Djerassi Foundation, Woodside, California for 1989. She is in the process of writing a musical. Cherylene is also an actress with many performing credits on stage, TV, film and clubs. These credits include A Chorus Line, King and I, Flower Drum Song, M*A*S*H, Kung Fu, the F.B.I., Kentucky Jones...

Canton Jazz Club...

is a new musical that just opened at East West Players. The story takes place in 1943 in Los Angeles. In the heart of the city is the hippest of nightclubs, featuring the good looks and talents of an all Asian American revue, complete with cool jazz and hot dancing, the epitome of the high life. Then murder enters and stalks the lives of all who are a part of Canto Jazz Club.

The Society is trying to get a group together and join the CACA to go see a performance. Group tickets are discounted from the normal price. At press time, no date has been set for this group outing, although it will probably take place some time in May. If you have some input on when it should be, please call Suellen Cheng at (213) 645-1369 or Kipham Kan at (213) 641-2975.

April 1991

Field trip to Mexicali

The Society is planning a field trip to Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico on May 25 and 26, 1991. We will be joining the Chinese Historical Society of Greater San Diego and Baja California which is sponsoring this trip. A chartered bus will take us from San Diego to Mexicali (approximately 125 miles). On the bus you will be provided with a copy of the history of the Chinese influence on the development of Mexicali and Baja California. There will also be a bilingual Chinese Mexican member of San Diego's Society to provide us with additional information. In Mexicali, we will meet some of the local Chinese who will give us some background and history of the Chinese in Mexicali. We will tour the old Chinatown on foot and see some of the city sites by bus. Mexicali is noted for its Chinese restaurants. A banquet is planned at one of the best Chinese restaurants. Free time for shopping and individual activities will also be included in the schedule.

The cost is \$110 per person, and includes transportation, hotel based on double occupancy, Chinese Banquet, lunches, entertainment and tour. All reservations and monies must be in by May 18th. The bus holds 47 passengers and it is first pay, first served. After May 18, cancellations will be refunded only if there are more reservations than space available.

We will carpool from Los Angeles to San Diego and need to make carpool arrangements as well as roommate arrangements for the singles.

Look for the reservation flyer included with this newsletter and hurry to send it in!

Dues are way Overdue!!!

If you have not renewed your membership, please do it right away! Otherwise you will be deleted from our mailing list and will no longer receive our News 'n Notes nor Gum Saan Journal. You will not be included in our new roster nor will you receive it. So act now! Who wants to suffer the agony of delete! Send your renewal to:
Mary Yee, CHSSC Membership Secretary
4721 Konya Drive
Torrance, CA 90503

CHSSC Notes

Our annual elections will take place at the May meeting. As announced in the last News 'n Notes the following slate has been proposed for the 1991-92 Officers and Board of Directors:

President	Tom McDannold
Vice President	Suellen Cheng
Secretary	Susan Woo
Treasurer	Franklin Mah
Financial Secretary	Tom Eng
Membership Secretary	Mary Yee

Board of Directors

Eugene Cooper
Stanley Mu
Cy Wong
Sue Yee
Dexter Wong

At the April meeting, Irvin Lai was also nominated for the Board of Directors and the nominations were closed. Following the election, the installation of the new officers and board directors will take place at the June meeting.

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Bylaws Committee is considering revision of the "Mission Statement." The following is their proposed draft:

Purpose

The purpose of this Society shall be to bring together people with a mutual interest in the history of the Chinese and the Chinese Americans of Southern California. The Society and its members shall perform all the normal functions and activities of an established historical society and community institution in pursuit of gaining, preserving, and communicating knowledge of this important history. Knowing the heritage of our community is basic to maintaining our democratic, American way of life. An understanding of the significant historical role of the Chinese in Southern California contributes to and promotes a better appreciation of our rich, multi-cultural society.

Comments and ideas are sought and welcomed, to Munson Kwok, (213) 645-1369.

Items for News 'n Notes are always welcome! Please submit in writing no later than the 15th of each month to:
Bev Hom, 15744-25 Tetley Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745.

Board Briefs

The following board motions were passed at the February and March Board meetings:

- to pursue the acquisition of the Old Chinatown Metro Rail collection of artifacts and accept the costs involved.
- to appropriate \$250 for fund raising mailings to support the Evergreen Chinese Cemetery Shrine project.
- to authorize the Archives Committee to view the 1890 document of San Joaquin Valley Chinese name lists, to verify the publisher, to verify the provenance, and, if everything is in order, to buy the item. [At the April general meeting, the membership was informed that this document had been purchased.]
- to authorize a maximum of \$2,500 for a video system, which is to be put to use for the Society's purposes and activities.

The next scheduled Board Meeting is on May 15, 1991 at 7 p.m. at Castelar School.

Vignettes of History

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is proud to confer Centennial Honors on Ms. Caroline Chan, the first Chinese American school teacher in Southern California. This wonderful pioneer has recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Ms. Chan was honored by the Society in 1979 as a pioneer in education. She remained active until well into her 90's, serving as reservations chair for the China Society of Southern California.

We are told recently by members of the French Hospital Auxiliary that the beloved Lady of Chinatown, St. Joan of Arc, may be moving in the foreseeable future. She is located on College Street, across from Castelar School. Not many weeks ago, she was festooned with yellow ribbons while our dedicated troops were serving in the Middle East. Her leaving will occur when the Auxiliary settles with a land buyer for their property. Their offices will move to the eastern part of Los Angeles county. The day that St. Joan leaves will be truly a sad one for Los Angeles history, for her people first settled on this property and planned their hospital in 1860. Over the years, she has become Chinatown's very own.

Incidentally, several members of the Auxiliary grew up in or lived in Chinatown. Others remember Old Chinatown from the good old days.

Contributors in this issue: Beulah Quo, Dolores Wong, Munson Kwok, Suellen Cheng, Ann Lau, Bob Le,e, Tom Hom.

Last month's mailing: Suellen Cheng, Kipham Kan.

JOIN THE GRAND TOUR OF

MEXICALI, BAJA !

Sponsored by the Chinese Historical Society of Greater San Diego & Baja California

- VISIT THE OLD MEXICALI CHINATOWN
- MEET SOME OF THE LOCAL MEXICALI CHINESE AND LEARN ABOUT THEIR HISTORY
- TOUR THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MEXICALI
- CHINESE BANQUET/ ENTERTAINMENT
- AND LOTS MORE!

**MAY 25th & 26th, 1991, SATURDAY & SUNDAY
(Memorial Day Weekend)**

Carpool to San Diego Saturday morning,
meeting at the Chinese Benevolent Association Building at 450 Third Avenue.

Leave San Diego in chartered bus at 9 AM.

Return to San Diego 8PM Sunday and LA about 11PM.

For more information, call Richard Smith at (213) 641-2975 or Suellen Cheng at (213) 645-1369.

Cost: \$110.00 per person, includes hotel, double-occupancy, Chinese banquet, lunches, entertainment and tour, and transportation to and from San Diego. The cost of going between LA and San Diego should be worked out with the individual carpools.

**RESERVE NOW!
SPACE IS LIMITED AND RESERVATIONS ARE TAKEN
ON A FIRST-PAY, FIRST-SERVE BASIS.
THE DEADLINE IS MAY 18th, 1991.**

All reservations and monies must be in by **May 18, 1991**. Because of the advance deposits that need to be paid, no monies will be refunded in the event of a cancellation after May 18. However, if the reservation is cancelled prior to May 18, a 50% refund will be made. Should there be more reservations than space available, then all your monies will be refunded in case of cancellation.

Please include me in the **MEXICALI, BAJA, GRAND TOUR!**

Mr./Mrs./Ms. _____
FIRST AND LAST NAMES (print)

STREET ADDRESS

TELEPHONE (very important)

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

Please make _____ reservation(s) @ \$110.00 /person. Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Name of person you will share a room with _____

Please make check payable to : Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
Mail to: Richard Smith, 5424 W. 76th St., Los Angeles CA 90045.



Corporate Office

3600 Wilshire Blvd.
Suite 1500
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 389-1500

THE VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA CHINA PROJECT

On May 11, 1991 the Volunteers of America will present the 1991 Marco Polo Award to renowned celebrity couple, Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows. The award, which honors the contributions of Mr. Allen and Ms. Meadows in creating bridges of understanding between the American and Chinese peoples, has been presented only once before -- to famed entrepreneur H. Ross Perot.

The presentation of the Marco Polo Award will take place at a gala dinner to be held at the Shangri-La Restaurant in Los Angeles. In addition to receiving the Marco Polo Award Mr. Allen and Ms. Meadows will, in turn, be presenting the Volunteers' Asian-American Community Service award to Ms. Deborah Ching, Executive Director of the Chinatown Service Center; Mr. Irvin Lai, Past President of the Grand Lodge of Chinese American Citizen's Alliance; and Dr. Munson Kwok, Past President of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. They will be honored for their significant contributions to the Asian community in our city.

Co-chairs for this event will be Ms. Nancy Kwan, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme and Mr. Henry Hwang.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Volunteers of America's China Project, sending people-to-people humanitarian aid to China and bringing the MIDAS TOUCH program which provides entrepreneurial training to Chinese youth -- the first ever free enterprise project for China's youngsters. Tickets to the event are available at \$200 per place corporate rate, or \$100 per place community rate. For dinner information, please call LYN McMILLION (213) 389-1500.

The Volunteers of America is a national human service organization which has been serving the needs of infants and children, destitute families and the forgotten elderly since 1896. This year alone, the organization will spend more than \$300 million in bringing relief and dignity to those among us most in need. With the launching of the China Project, the Volunteers hope to begin building new and enduring relationships with the people of China.

**** Please read the reverse side for****
a joint letter from Dolores Wong and Beulah Quo.

Dear Friends Of —

Ms. Deborah Ching, Executive Director of the Chinatown Service Center

Mr. Irvin Lai, Past President of the Grand Lodge of Chinese American
Citizen's Alliance,

Mr. Munson Kwok, Past President of the Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

We are so delighted that the Volunteers of America will be honoring Debbie, Irvin and Munson. It will happen in conjunction with the presentation of the Marco Polo Award to Hollywood's most renowned couple and enduring friends of China, Steve Allen and Jayne Meadows. Mr. Allen and Ms. Meadows will make presentations to our above three honorees.

The presentation of the award will take place May 11, Saturday, 6:30 P.M. at the beautiful Shangri-La Restaurant, 313 S. Boylston, Los Angeles. (The restaurant is located between 3rd and 4th Streets at Boylston, which is two blocks west of the Harbor Freeway. The entrance for free parking is on 4th Street, valet parking will also be available.)

We want you there to celebrate with us, so we have arranged for a special group rate for members of the above three organizations. Instead of the \$200 per place corporate rate or even the \$100 per place community rate, we are offering you the opportunity to attend this landmark event for the special group rate of only \$75 per place. For more information about this event, please see the reverse side of this letter.

We want, so much, for you to be with us for this important occasion. Please, fill out the form below and mail it directly to Ms. Beulah Quo along with your contribution made payable to Volunteers of America. The evening will not be complete without you, so please come. How wonderful it will be for us to get together and pay tribute to the honorees, whom we greatly admire and respect.

Sincerely,

Dolores Wong

Dolores Wong

Beulah Quo

Beulah Quo

YES! I will join you in supporting the MARCO POLO AWARD DINNER. Here is my check made payable to the Volunteers of America in the amount of \$_____ for _____ places at the special \$75 per place group rate. (Contributions are tax deductible as permitted by law)

I cannot attend on May 11th, but here is my contribution of \$_____ for _____ places to be filled by Asian-American Community volunteers.

Mail to: Ms. Beulah Quo
1906 Redcliff Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Calendar

April 25, 1991. A Decade of Progress. Asian American Journalists Association, 10th Anniversary Celebration Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction. \$50 pp. (213) 628-AAJA.

April 28, 1991 (and not April 27 as was reported here last month). Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society's sixth annual Old Towne Days. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Saugus train station & Heritage junction, 24107 San Fernando Rd. in downtown Newhall. Many, many activities planned. (805) 254-1275.

May 6, 1991. China Society Dinner. Golden Dragon Restaurant. \$10. 7 p.m. Dolores Bremer will talk about "Chinese Traditional Gardens."

May 11-26, 1991. Sixth Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific American International Film Festival at UCLA Melnitz Theater. Call Visual Communications for further information, (213) 680-4462.

May 11, 1991. The Volunteers of America will present the 1991 "Marco Polo" Award to Steve Allen and Jayne Edwards. In turn, they will present the Volunteers' Asian American Community Service Award to Deborah Ching, Irvin Lai and Munson Kwok. The presentation will take place at a gala dinner at the Shangri La restaurant. Tickets are available to members of the CHSSC at a special price of \$75. Please see enclosed letter from Dolores Wong and Beulah Quo. Send in your reservation to Beulah!

May 11, 1991. Chinatown Public Safety Association presents a Chinese Opera Benefit for the Chinese Community Service Center. Performances by the Victory Music Club. Universal Theatre, 1041 N. Broadway. 7 - 11 p.m. \$100, \$50, \$30, students and children's tickets at \$20. (213) 621-2344.

May 12, 1991. Monrovia Old House Preservation Group presents Mother's Day Old Homes Tour. (818) 357-3797.

May 15, 1991. 10th Annual Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Awards, luncheon at the Biltmore Hotel. \$55 pp. (213) 623-CITY.

May 19, 1991. Historical Society of Centinela Valley's Annual Barbecue. Noon - 3:00 p.m. Centinela Adobe Complex, 7634 Midfield, Westchester. \$6 donation. (213) 649-6272.

June 13 - 16, 1991. Happenings in the Sierra. Conference of California Historical Societies, 1991 Annual Conference, hosted by Mono County Historical Society. Call Kipham (213) 215-3703 for copy of the flyer.
Calendar continues on next page

Chinese Cultural and Community Center
of Greater Los Angeles
presents

1991 Heritage Banquet
"A Celebration of the Asian Pacific
American Heritage Month"
"A Seed Money Fundraiser for the Land and Building Fund"

Friday, May 31, 1991
6:30 p.m.: No Host Cocktails
7:00 p.m.: Banquet and Cultural Entertainments

Golden Palace Restaurant
911 North Broadway
Los Angeles Chinatown

Donation: \$30.00 per person
Contact: Munson A. Kwok, (213) 336-5441

Job Openings

The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center is now seeking new staff personnel. The following positions are open: Finance Director; Accountant; Program Associate, Administration; Program Associate, Development; Administrative Assistant, Gallery; Administrative Assistant, Endowment Campaign; Events Supervisor; Box Office Manager; Assistant Librarian; Library Aide; Box Office Clerk; Theatre Ushers. (213) 628-2725.

The newly published issue of *Amerasia Journal*, research publication of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, explores the controversy surrounding Professor Ronald Takaki's book, "Strangers from a Distant Shore; A History of Asian Americans." This issue includes three commentaries on the book which were originally presented at the Association of Asian American Studies 1990 Conference. The commentaries are by Professors Paul Wong, Sucheng Chan, and Elaine Kim. Also published are three viewpoints: by Professors Paul Wong, Karen Leonard and writer Frank Chin. Author Ronald Takaki provides two separate responses to the commentaries and viewpoints. Rounding out a discussion of the book is an editorial by *Amerasia Journal* editor Russell Leong. For more information on subscription, call (213) 825-2968.

CHSSC thanks Irving Lai for his \$100 donation in honor of his granddaughter Marissa Renee.

Again, we thank Sylvia Soo Hoo and all the volunteers who provide such great goodies at our general meetings.

Back up editor Kipham Kan is still sitting in for Bev Hom at the computer terminal and assuming all responsibility for this issue.

NEWS 'n NOTES

Publications Price List

	<u>No. pages</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>CA Tax</u>	<u>P/H</u>
Linking Our Lives: Chinese American Women of Los Angeles	138	9.95	7%	1.50
Sweet Bamboo: A Saga of a Chinese American Family	227	12.95	7%	1.50
The Golden Years 1938-1988: Chinatown Los Angeles 50th Year	70	3.00	7%	1.50
1990 Chinese Moon Festival, Los Angeles Chinatown	48	2.00	7%	1.50
Walking Tour Map, Revised		1.50	incl.	incl.
Gum Saan Journal (June and December issues free with membership). Otherwise, per issue		2.00	7%	0.50

Mail Orders to: Ella Y. Quan, CHSSC Publications, 4205 S. La Salle Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90062

Calendar (continued)

April 6 - August 17, 1991. California Off the Beaten Track. Photographs, Installations, Video. Security Pacific Gallery, 555 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa, (714) 433-6000. Monday - Saturday, 11 - 5. Among the artists exhibited is our member, Photographer Carol Nye.

June 3, 1991. The China Society presents How Man Wong who will speak about the Islamic Frontiers of China. Golden Dragon Restaurant. 7 p.m. \$10 per person. For more information, call Bob Lee at (213) 628-8439 (2 p.m. - 7 p.m.). Also, if you want How Man's book, call Bob to order it.

June 4, 1991. Showing of the movie "Sunless Days", in commemoration of the June 4th events. Vagabond Theatre on Wilshire Blvd, at 7:30 p.m.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
978 N. Broadway, #206
Los Angeles, CA 90012-1729

FIRST CLASS