



# 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

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September 1991

### PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 2, 1991 - 7:30 p.m.

Castelar School -- Multi-purpose Room

840 Yale Street

Los Angeles Chinatown

(Park on playground; enter on Hill and College Streets)

**"Transpacific Family Pattern: A Case Study of Sam Chang Family"**

**Speaker: Mr. Haiming Liu**

Mr. Haiming Liu is a doctoral candidate in the Comparative Culture Program at the University of California, Irvine. He will share his research findings on the relationship of China and Los Angeles Chinese Americans. He will also explain how he interprets Chinese American history based on the documents and experiences of Sam Chang family, a pioneer family in Los Angeles.

Mr. Liu came from China and received his M.A. from Beijing Foreign Languages Institute in 1982. In the summers of 1989 and 1990 he was funded by the Society and worked as a research assistant for the Museum of Chinese American History at El Pueblo. Mr. Liu was a recipient of the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship and recently has been awarded a fellowship from the Humanity Research Institute of University of California.

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### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**FALL DINNER** - CHSSC will be having its Fall Dinner on Sunday, November 10, 1991 (note the date change) at the Empress Pavilion. Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to join us for a festive evening! (See attached flyer for more information.) Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help, please contact Dexter Wong (213) 809-4043.

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**CHSSC ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP** - A scholarship committee is being formed to establish a society scholarship for students pursuing the study of Chinese Americans. This committee will define the scholarship criteria, establish the program and carry out its operation. We plan to award our first scholarship in June, 1992.

If you are interested in making the CHSSC scholarship a reality, please contact Dexter Wong (213) 809-4043.

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**"A DOOR OPENS TO THE PAST FOR CHINESE AMERICANS. INS FILES RELEASED"** - According to the August 17 issue of the Seattle Chinese Post, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Seattle is transferring roughly 60,000 pre-1943 Chinese case files to the National Archives, Pacific Northwest Region Branch, also in Seattle. These are records about the Chinese--both immigrant and native-born alike--who passed through Port Townsend, and later Seattle, during the Exclusion Period, from 1882 through 1943, whether their destination was Portland, Boise, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Boston, or China.

Society members, whose parents or grandparents may have come through Port Townsend/Seattle, may be interested in knowing that after indexing is completed in a few years, these records will be opened to the public. In addition to genealogy research, there is a wealth of information for anyone interested in researching Chinese American history. The Archives will also be recruiting volunteers to index the materials. Call (206) 526-6507 for more information.

This is indeed good news because two years ago, the situation was quite different. During a visit to the Pacific Northwest Archives Branch, in 1989, Emma Woo Louie learned that the INS repeatedly refused to transfer these records. As a result, our Society, the Chinese Historical Society of America, and the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle wrote to Senator Brock Adams of Washington about our concern over the impasse. Now, these records are no longer locked up, to molder away. A week after the Chinese Post announcement, Emma received news that the first shipment of records--75 boxes--out of a total of over 600 boxes that are expected--arrived at the Archives Branch. The rest will be history.

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**SOCIETY HONORS CENTENARIAN** - The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California recently honored Ms. Caroline Chan, aged 100, with the Centennial Award for her pioneering achievements in the Southern California Chinese American community. Ms. Chan was the first Chinese American school teacher in the Los Angeles Public School System. She began her career in 1924, at approximately the same time as her sister Katherine. Previously after graduating from the University of Southern California, Ms. Caroline Chan first taught English to immigrant girls at the Chinese United Methodist Church in San Francisco and later, to young Chinese women under the shelter of the famed Ms. Donaldina Cameron at the Cameron House in the same city. Ms. Chan was further honored for her lifelong service to the China Society of Southern California, for which she served, among other offices, as dinner reservations chair until well into her 90's.

When asked why she became a teacher, she replied that she originally had no intention to do so. "But my parents were wonderful people, and they wanted me to become a teacher, and so I

became a teacher." Upon further reflection, she remarked, "I never learned to appreciate that idea, or them, until much later, you know."

Ms. Chan is the daughter of Rev. S. K. Chan, of the Chinese United Methodist Church, and a member of an illustrious member of a pioneering family. Her siblings include, besides Katherine who became the first Chinese American school teacher in the public school system in San Francisco at today's Commodore Stockton; Spencer, a graduate of USC in 1914 as probably the first Chinese American pharmacist in Southern California; Betty, probably the first biologist out of USC; Eleanor, a stage designer; and Wesley, a communications expert.

The Centennial Award was presented by Vice President Suellen Cheng, Board Member Cy Wong, Gilbert Leong, Marjorie Hee, and Munson Kwok. Mr. Leong reprised an abbreviated version of his March 1991 program on the Methodist Church to the Society, to the great pleasure and enjoyment of Ms. Chan, who remembered that the outings in those days took "tons of sandwiches" which she and her mother had to prepare.

In the last four years, the Society has presented seven previous Centennial Awards in honor of institutions or entities significant to Chinese American history in Southern California.

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**CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** held their annual membership meeting and installation dinner on Saturday, August 24, at the Ocean Seafood Restaurant. Al Soo Hoo was MC. Secretary of State, March Fong Eu, spoke. Los Angeles Councilman, Mike Hernandez, swore in the new President, Patrick S. D. Lee, other officers and directors. Recognition was given to the outgoing President, Kenneth Chan. New directors include Irvin Lai, Kim Tsai, and Kenneth Chan. Tom Eng took pictures for the evening.

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**THE 1992 CONFERENCE ON CHINESE AMERICANS: ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS** will be held on August 28-30, 1992 at the California State University, Los Angeles campus. The conference is hosted by the Institute for Asian American and Pacific Asian Studies at California State University, Los Angeles; the Center for Pacific Rim Studies and the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California at Los Angeles, and the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.

The purpose of this conference is to allow a forum for the presentation of research papers, oral history papers, and theses. Many Asian studies programs are encouraged to conduct workshops and present scholarly papers related to the Chinese American experiences in the United States. It is hoped that this conference will enhance the relationship between Chinese Americans and their communities by increasing the understanding of the role of Chinese Americans in the United States.

Presentations will focus on the past, present, and future of

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Chinese Americans in the United States. The past influences of Chinese Americans on U.S. history will be discussed.

The benefits of this conference are to minimize stereotyping of Chinese Americans and to help future authors to portray accurate accounts of the role of Chinese Americans in U.S. history. Local and state governments will be able to use the results of this conference to better understand and deal with Chinese American problems. By enhancing their awareness of everyday economic and social necessities, businesses can develop better market strategies to meet the needs of Asian communities. These communities are among the largest growing ethnic groups in the United States.

It is planned that this conference will become a biannual event hosted by different Chinese Historical Societies throughout the United States. In addition, when there is adequate interest, the conference will be expanded to include all Pacific Rim immigrants and their impact on U.S. history.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** If you would like to know how you can help, please contact Stanley Mu, Director of the Conference of Chinese Americans, at (818) 346-2196. We welcome all volunteers!

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**OUTREACH** - Calling for docents! We need more docents! Consider volunteering! Interested? Call Ella Quan (213) 617-0396 for schedule.

If you have not yet reaped the rewards of volunteering, consider the many opportunities currently in need at our Society. Your contribution of time and energy will enrich your life in many ways.

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**CHSSC 1991 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER** - Here's a few more changes to add to your current roster issued in July:

Telephone number: Grace Anderson (213) 739-9616

Tom McDannold  
2998 Dogwood Circle  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
(805) 492-1924

If you know of any further changes, please notify Franklin Mah (213) 372-9421.

If you weren't at the last general meeting, it was announced that the Society's new official mailing address is:

CHSSC  
P. O. Box 862647  
Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647

Please use this address instead of the Broadway address. You may continue to use the phone number (213) 617-0396 until further notice.

**PROGRAMS** - If you have any questions or future program ideas, please contact Vice President, Suellen Cheng, at (213) 645-1369.

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**THANK YOU** Lillian Fong, Ruth Lung, Susan Woo, Ella Quan, and Christine Yee Hollis for providing refreshments at our September 4 general meeting.

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**LOST AND FOUND** - CHSSC owns three cash boxes, one large and two small ones. If anyone knows the whereabouts of these boxes, please notify CHSSC President, Tom McDannold (805) 492-1924.

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**EL PUEBLO EDITOR** - Eddie C. Louie, 73, news secretary to former Mayor Sam Yorty and a veteran journalist who overcame a language barrier to become editor of several newspapers. Louie, born in China, came to Los Angeles as a boy without knowing one word of English. Despite that he became editor of both the old Polytechnic High School paper and the Daily Trojan at USC. He was a longtime photo editor at the defunct Los Angeles Herald Express and at his death, editor of El Pueblo, a newspaper published by the All City Employee Benefits Service Association for more than 15,000 municipal employees. Louie passed away at his home August 21 of an aneurysm.

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More items of interest to include in your **CALENDAR** . . .

## September

- 1-30      The Los Angeles Historical Society and the Electric Railway Historical Association of Southern California, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument, and the Los Angeles City Archives present **ELECTRIC RAILWAY SYSTEMS IN LOS ANGELES 1891-1991** at the City Rotunda, 200 North Spring Street, 3rd Floor, Los Angeles.
  
- 26      **THE ASIAN BUSINESS LEAGUE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA** will be holding a **Sunset Open House** at the Westin Bonaventure, 404 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Open House will be at poolside on the fourth level of the hotel. Admission is members \$5; non-members \$10. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and members/guests will have the opportunity to meet with ABL board members and become acquainted with the organization. For more information, call Vincent Wong, (213) 616-0870.
  
- 28      To celebrate the opening of the **NG SHING GUNG TEMPLE**, the San Jose Chinese Historical Society will host a pre-opening dinner dance at the Fairmont Hotel. Black tie optional; \$55 per person. Mail reservation to: Mildred Chan, 854 Seale Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303.
  
- 29      The **NG SHING GUNG TEMPLE RECONSTRUCTION DEDICATION CEREMONY** will be held 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the San Jose

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Historical Society Museum, 635 Phelan Avenue, San Jose.  
For more info, call Munson Kwok, (213) 645-1369.

- 30 Madame Sylvia Wu invites you to attend **A CHINA FLOOD RELIEF FUND RAISING RECEPTION** (6:30 p.m.) **AND DINNER** (7:30 p.m.) at Madame Wu's Garden, 2201 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA. Donation: \$100 per person. Please make checks payable to: American Red Cross-"China Disaster Relief". For reservations, call (213) 453-5225 or 828-5656.

## October

- 3,5,6,&8 **"CHINESE CINEMA: YEARS OF CHANGE"** - a national series made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities and co-sponsored by the UCLA Film and Television Archives. A symposium featuring Nick Browne, UCLA; Paul Clark, East-West Center; Paul Pickowicz, UC San Diego; and Esther Yau, Occidental College. Info, call (213) 206-FILM.

TIME: Film screenings begin 7:30 p.m. (except Tuesday)  
PLACE: Melnitz Theater, UCLA  
FEE: Members \$3, Guests \$5

- 7 Asian Pacific American Friends (APAF) of the Center Theatre Group/Mark Taper Forum present the first event in its Asian Pacific American Playwrights Reading Series **"ARTHUR AND LEILA"** written by Cherylene Lee, daughter of Holly Lee and member of the society. Performance begins 7:30 p.m.; reception to follow. Free admission. Limited seating. Mark Taper Annex, Rehearsal Room A, 601 West Temple (at Grand). RSVP to (213) 972-7373.

- 12 **RETURN TO GOLD MOUNTAIN** (Coloma, CA) - A Chinese American Pioneer Festival (10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) to enhance the awareness of the contributions of the Chinese people during the Gold Rush. On October 12, there will be a celebration to honor the rededication of the Chinese store museum located in the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, to learn about Chinese culture in Coloma in the days from 1849-1890, and to commemorate the birth of Chinese American history in the United States. Events for the day include an earth-ancestor-heaven altar with offerings of a roast pig, incenses, candles; an opening ceremony with traditional lion dances; there will be cultural arts, crafts, music, games, Chinese food; experience historical displays, skits with cultural costumes, tours of the gold mining site, and more. And it's free! Join in on this first time in 142 years a Chinese American celebration in Coloma! Event is co-sponsored by The Gold Discovery Park Association, The Chinese American Council of Sacramento, and Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park. For more details, contact Marshall Gold Discovery Park Association, P. O.

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Box 265, Coloma, CA 95613, (916) 622-3470 or  
Dr. Wesley Yee (916) 443-8701.

- 16        **CHSSC BOARD MEETING** at Castelar School 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 21        **FRIENDS OF THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY** general meeting at  
7:00 p.m., Chinatown Library Community Room.
- 24        Monterey Park Harmony Month's activities include the  
showing of **"THOUSAND PIECES OF GOLD"** starring Rosalyn  
Chao and Paul Chan at the Edward Theatre, 400 South  
Atlantic Boulevard, Monterey Park. Tickets available.  
Limited seating. For information/reservation, call  
Suellen Cheng (213) 645-1369.
- 24-26     The Asia Society and leading Asian American organiza-  
tions present a national symposium **"THE ASIAN  
AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: LOOKING AHEAD"**.
- TIME:    Thursday 4:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
         Friday 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
         Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- PLACE:   The Biltmore Hotel  
         506 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles 90071
- COST:    Members \$100                Register by October 14!  
         Non-members \$125
- (Fee includes symposium, two continental breakfasts, and  
two dinners.)
- For information, call The Asia Society (213) 624-0945
- 25-27     **11th Annual Conference of the California Council for the  
Promotion of History presents THE PRACTICE OF HISTORY:  
APPLICATIONS AND ALLIANCES** in Stockton, CA. Reservations  
can be made by contacting: Mr. Mike Bennett, San Joaquin  
County Historical Museum, P. O. Box 21, Lodi, CA 95241.
- 26-27     The longest running multi-cultural celebration in  
Los Angeles, the **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MASKS**, was  
created in 1976 to celebrate the diverse heritage of  
all Angelenos by uniting the various cultures through the  
common theme of the mask. The free two-day event will  
take place October 26 and 27 in Hancock Park.

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**ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHAPTER OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICAN WOMEN (OCAW)** at the New  
Otani Hotel, Los Angeles. This year's theme, "Reaching  
For Harmony" recognizes the global movement towards unity  
and harmony in an ever-changing and diverse world.  
Honored that evening will be the outstanding Chinese  
American Woman for her achievements in striving for  
harmony, an Individual Community Service Award, a

Corporate Community Service Award, and a \$1000 scholarship. More details forthcoming!

- 16      The LOS ANGELES CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents a leisurely stroll (walking tour) through Little Tokyo with Jene McKnight from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Come and explore the origins of Little Tokyo, a Buddhist Temple, the cultural center and plaza, the Little Tokyo historic district, and many more. Parking is available in the area for about \$3.00/day. Tour is limited to 20 persons. Cost of tour is a \$5 donation payable to LACHS. Wear good walking shoes and dress according to the weather. For reservations, call Jene McKnight (213) 292-7833.

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

Special thanks to contributors in this issue: Emma Louie, Franklin Mah, Dexter Wong, Susan Woo, Lai "Queenie" Quon, Munson Kwok, Suellen Cheng, Kipham Kan, Lupe Chee, Lillian Fong, Ella Quan, APAF, and Vincent Wong (ABL). Last month's mailing volunteers: Special thanks to my husband, Mike Tsao, for his continued help and patience!

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## Publications Price List

	<u>No. pages</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>CATax</u>	<u>P/H</u>
Linking Our Lives: Chinese American Women of Los Angeles	138	9.95	.81	1.50
Sweet Bamboo: A Saga of a Chinese American Family	227	12.95	1.06	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	.16	0.50

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

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