



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

appreciation of our chinese american heritage • a non-profit organization • p. o. box 862647, los angeles, ca

MARCH 1993

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PROGRAM

THE HISTORY OF EVERGREEN CEMETERY & CH'ING MING

Wednesday, April 7, 1993 - 7:30 p.m.

Castelar School - Multi-purpose Room

840 Yale Street

Los Angeles Chinatown

A storehouse of early Los Angeles' history, Evergreen Cemetery was founded in 1877 and is the oldest cemetery in Los Angeles that is still in operation. This is where Los Angeles' first Chinese cemetery came to be located in the late 1870's, and where the Chinese Cemetery Shrine (L.A. Monument #486) was built in 1888. How did the promoters of Evergreen obtain a permit to operate inside city limits when this was clearly against the law? Come learn about the deal that was made and how, almost 100 years later, Evergreen came to own the land where the Chinese Cemetery Shrine stands today.

CHSSC's Shrine Preservation Committee will be your host for the evening as along with the history of Evergreen Cemetery, we examine the significance of the Ch'ing Ming holiday. We will also present a slide show on Evergreen, Los Angeles' original Chinese cemetery, other Chinese cemetery shrines in California and Australia, and the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission's visit to the Chinese Cemetery Shrine in 1990, just before designating it a city monument.

Anthropology Professor, Dr. Eugene Cooper of USC, will examine the significance of Ch'ing Ming and related Chinese folk culture. Emma Louie, probably the first CHSSC member to visit the Chinese Cemetery Shrine in a research context, will share her impressions upon its discovery.

A reading from old L.A. newspaper clippings by Society member Cy Wong will recount the observances of Ch'ing Ming and Hungry Ghosts Day, and Chinese funeral processions through the streets of Los Angeles a century ago. Written in the exaggerated prose that was the style of the day, these pieces are occasionally humorous and at times unsettling, but always fascinating.

We hope to see you April 7th!!!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

DID YOU VISIT EVERGREEN CEMETERY OR THE CHINESE CEMETERY IN THE EARLY YEARS? We would appreciate your sharing these experiences with us at the April meeting. Please telephone Randy Bloch (818) 980-4386. Thank you very much!

DONATIONS TO THE SHRINE PRESERVATION FUND - The Society would like to acknowledge the generosity of Helen and Dawes Lee, Dorothy Siu, Jennie C. Lee, and Kathryn C. Kwok for their contributions to the Shrine Preservation Fund.

DO YOU PERSONALLY RECALL THE CHINESE EXCLUSION PERIOD? The Chinese exclusion laws were repealed in 1943. Did those laws affect your family in any way? Did your mother or father say something about the laws that you only understood years later? Did you yourself later discover that a particular family matter was related to the existence of those laws? Did the exclusion laws affect the lives of your uncles, aunts, or family friends? Or do you have a story to tell which relates to this period of time?

IF YES TO ANY OF THE ABOVE, please share your story with the readers of Gum Saan Journal. Write it down, straight from your heart -- it need not be more than a single page! -- or have a son, daughter or a grandchild write it for you. And mail or give it to Emma Woo Louie. Or phone her for details beforehand. She is collecting these memories and stories for the December 1993 issue of Gum Saan Journal. The theme of this issue is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese exclusion laws. This is your issue but, as in Dear Abby, pseudonyms will be accepted. (Emma W. Louie, 1648 Redcliff Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026, 213-664-3808)

DONATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND - Society welcomes any and all support donations. Please make checks payable to "CHSSC" -- designated Scholarship Fund -- and send to: Dexter Wong, CHSSC Scholarship Chair, 17647 Mapes Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90701.

FIVE RECEIVE HSSC AWARD - On March 6, at a special awards luncheon at the Doubletree Hotel in Pasadena, the Historical Society of Southern California presented its Community Enrichment Award to five women whose vision, investment of time, and energy have made an impact on the history of Los Angeles. Two of these women are familiar to CHSSC -- Jean Bruce Poole, Historic Museum Director of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park and Carolyn Kozo, Coordinator of the "Shades of L.A." - A Search for Photographic Ethnic History. Congratulations Jean and Carolyn -- Awards well deserved!

ASIAN AMERICANS AND THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY - Shirley Lim is a PhD student in history at UCLA working on her dissertation focusing on Asian Americans and the entertainment industry. She is eager to speak to anyone (past or present) involved in film, television, and ethnic theater -- silent movies up to the present. She is

interested in one's experiences as extras, actors, actresses, dancers, costume designers, technicians, cinematographers, stunt workers, advisers, agents, etc. Her dissertation depends on the support and involvement of the Asian American community and the Chinese American community in particular. Her research will take about a year. She is very much interested in press clippings and memorabilia. If you know of any family or friends who might be able to assist her, please call (310) 441-1536. (Shirley was a guest at our March general meeting.)

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THANK YOUS - to Lillian Fong, Elsie Wong, and Ruth Lung for the refreshments at our March 3 general meeting.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES - Dues are \$15 member and \$5 (additional for same household or senior), \$25 institutional member, and \$200 life member. Dues are payable January 1 of each year to CHSSC and should be mailed to CHSSC, P. O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647. If you haven't paid your dues, we will have to drop your name off our membership roster which will be out around the end of April.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS - Congratulations to husband and wife team -- Stanley and Mary Mu.

CALENDAR

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April 10 | MERGING ONE GALLERY presents Jiang Zhixin's The "Soul of Loess" Series (brush paintings from Mainland China) at 1547 Sixth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 395-0033. Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, 10:30-6:00. |
| April 21 | CHSSC BOARD MEETING - <u>6:30-8:30 p.m., CHSSC Office, 969 North Broadway, Los Angeles.</u> Parking is available at Castelar School or Mandarin and Bamboo Plazas. |
| April 24 | 9TH ANNUAL L.A. CHINESE "HIGH SCHOOL REUNION" -- DINE AND DANCE, 6 p.m. to midnight -- at Pickwick, Banquet and Entertainment Center, 1001 Riverside Drive, Burbank -- Royal Crest Room. No-host cocktails at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. RSVP by April 10. Cost: \$35 per person or \$65 per couple (8 per table). For information, call Jim Fong (213) 295-0616 or Delphine Wong, Reunion Treasurer, (213) 483-3100. |
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April 25 | EAST WEST PLAYERS presents world premiere play "THE RISING TIDE OF COLOR" by Vernon Takeshita. Performances are Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. For information and reservations, call Monday-Friday 2-6 p.m. (213) 660-0366. |

NEWS 'n NOTES

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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. Items submitted after the due date may not always be included in this issue.

Special thanks to contributors in this issue: Lupe Chee, Randy Bloch, and Emma Woo Louie. Last month's mailing volunteers: Yours truly!

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FIRST CLASS

ACTIVE Member: Paid to Dec. 31, 1992
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