



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

SEPTEMBER 1993

PROGRAM - OCTOBER 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Multi-purpose Room
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles Chinatown

SUN WING WO AND COMPANY

Sun Wing Wo and Company, located in the Garnier building at 419 and 421 Los Angeles Street, which is the future site of the Museum of Chinese American History, was one of the first general stores in old Chinatown. The store was opened in 1891 by Ow Bue Lew. As part of the first set of tenants ushered into the Garnier building, Sun Wing Wo saw the earliest days of the old Chinatown and witnessed generations of change and diversity. As part of the last to depart, the store was moved to new Chinatown by the descendants of Ow Bue Lew, Sun Wing Wo also saw its final days, as well as the emergence of the new Chinatown. Don't miss the fascinating history of The Sun Wing Wo General Store.

Our speakers will be Robin Dong and Philip Cheng. Ms. Dong and Mr. Cheng were summer interns at the El Pueblo Historical Park working for the Museum of Chinese American History project, courtesy of the Getty Grant program. They will present a slide show and share with us their findings on the Sun Wing Wo and Company.

A CARD TO THE FUTURE - Do you have an L.A. Library card? Would you like to go with a new version of it to the Central Library's grand opening celebration, Sunday, October 3?

Since the new library will be fully computerized, the only card you can use there starting on that date to check out any of the more than 2.1 million books, some 10,000 magazine subscriptions, 500,000 photographs of Southern California, plus thousands of CDs, videos, cassettes, etc., is a new plastic computer card they have ready to offer you now. The branch libraries, including Chinatown, have them free. Just fill out a simple application form, show them a valid ID, and you can walk out with your very own card, ready for October 3. They're also available at participating Carl's Jr., First Interstate Bank, Robinson's-May, Broadway stores, KLOS, and other merchants. Until each branch also becomes computerized, use your old card there.

What does the new card offer? At the newly restored and expanded central opening, there will be free tours, two outdoor stages with continuous entertainment, storytellers, opera, family creative

workshops, and Barney the Dinosaur. Hungry? There will be fast food outlets and gourmet restaurant fare available, and ice cream for all. Parking discounts at adjacent garages will be offered with the new card. Several merchants and L.A. attractions also offer special discounts.

To celebrate the gala reopening, our Society will co-sponsor a FREE photo exhibit on "Chinatown" at the Chinatown Public Safety Association, in the community room, 823 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, from Saturday, September 25 to Sunday, October 10, illustrating both the stability and changes in the Chinese community from the late 19th century to the present. For exhibit hours, please call CPSA (213) 621-2344.

Opening attractions don't end on October 3. From October 5-31, a succession of leading authors and writers, jazz and classical concerts, opera recitals, the Asian American Friends of CTG play readings, Bob Baker Marionettes, Councilman Mike Hernandez, a Jim Henson tribute, ethnic food authors, Julia Child, cartoon characters, etc. will all be in programs within a new 250-seat Mark Taper Auditorium, various book departments, and outdoors on the west lawn. Program schedules are available at all libraries, First Interstate Banks, Robinson's-May, KCBS, KNX, and KLOS.

The new center on Fifth and Flower Streets will also contain the historic familiar Rotunda, a conference center, gift shop, gourmet and cafe restaurants, KLOS (childrens') Story Theater, and public garden, with escalators and elevators to take you there.

Your new card will be your key to many enjoyable hours.

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5K AMERICAN HEART WALK - CHINATOWN BRANCH - The Chinatown Branch of the American Heart Association will hold its first Heart Walk to benefit heart research and community programs such as free screening for blood pressure and cholesterol; and to print Chinese bilingual materials to prevent heart disease.

The walk begins 9 a.m., Saturday, October 2, from Castelar School through the Civic Center, Little Tokyo, Olvera Street, El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park and back to Chinatown where the Moon Festival/Street Fair will be taking place. It is an interesting cultural and historic walk into three ethnic communities; and it will promote walking as a viable way to exercise.

The Chinatown Heart Association would like to invite members to participate in the Walk (5K/3.1 miles). Free blood pressure and cholesterol screening will also be available at the site by the Chinatown Service Center with funds donated by the Pacific Alliance Medical Center Foundation. For further information, call Marco Torres, American Heart Association at (213) 385-4231.

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HELP WANTED - The Pioneer Awards Committee seeks volunteers. This project has been a tradition of the Society since the beginning. This year, the Pioneer Awards Committee also seeks suggestions and

nominations for Awards. Awards have been given in two categories: **Pioneer Awards** have been given to individuals or organizations in the Southern California Chinese American community. The achievement(s) have to be at least partly performed or be related to Southern California. There needs to be some impact which relates to the history, or the community, or to pioneering in general. The **Centennial Honors** are given to individuals or organizations fulfilling a Pioneer Award. In addition, the nominee must be 100 years old or older. Sites significant to Southern California Chinese American history can also be nominated.

Please contact Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369 or Eugene Cooper (818) 798-6835.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE FALL DINNER COMMITTEE! Interested or want to find out more -- call Don Loo (310) 208-5382.

THANK YOU to our members -- Lillian Fong, Sylvia Soo Hoo, Wanda Leong, Nancy Yee, Cy Wong, and Lupe Chee for providing refreshments at the September 1 general meeting.

DONATION - CHSSC thanks Holly Lee for her generous donation of \$100 in honor of her daughter's second play "Arthur and Leila". Her play will open in San Francisco (world premiere) on October 30 for nine weeks and play at East West Players December 16 to January 23. Her daughter is Cherylene Lee, author of Wong Bow Rides Again.

Note: Perhaps a theatre party at East West Players? Over 10 people, there's a discount on tickets.

STAN LAU REACHES 70! Congratulations to our own life member, Stanley Lau, who has reached the milestone of 70 years young. Stan reached this big birthday in June, and had a delayed celebration in August at the fabulously new Sam Wo Restaurant in San Gabriel Square. In the Chinese tradition of celebration, Stan made a generous donation of \$500 to his "favorite" organization, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. (Thank you, Stan, for your generous donation to CHSSC!) Stan is one of the original pioneers back in 1975 who helped to create the Society. He served as the Society's founding president while blazing a trail for its future projects in oral history and the collection of old news articles.

THE GRAND TOUR OF THE BAJA COAST - Tom and Dorothy Hom and the Chinese Historical Society of San Diego and Baja California are organizing the second of their great bus tours to study and visit the Chinese of Baja. This one takes you down the coastal side past La Playa, Rosarito Beach, to Ensenada to meet Chinese Mexicans there. Then back to Tijuana for a Chinese evening banquet with prominent Chinese citizens of that city. Then the Tijuana night life if you are interested. Accommodations will be at the branch of the Hotel Lucerna, at which we stayed in Mexicali two years ago. Sunday morning will include breakfast-on-your-own, then a tour of the city, a visit to the Cultural Center and Museum, then back to

San Diego, the point of origin. All this will take place October 16-17, Saturday and Sunday. The package will cost \$135.00. Your reservation must include a check payable to "Chinese Historical Society of San Diego & B.C.". It must be received by October 1, 1993, the absolute deadline. For information and reservations, contact Munson Kwok, (310) 645-1369, 5474 West 76th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045-3208.

THE CROWD AT "INTERTWINING TRAILS" - A capacity crowd of 125 members and friends crowded into El Pueblo de Los Angeles' historic Merced Theatre Sunday, August 29, to hear and see "Intertwining Trails", the experiences of the Chinese and Jews in L.A. The event was a joint affair by CHSSC and JHSSC, with El Pueblo. The program began at 2:00 with a short welcome by Jean Bruce Poole, El Pueblo's History Department Director, and a gift exchange of printed materials by CHSSC and JHSSC presidents. High point of the afternoon was Society's Gene Moy and JHSSC President Stephen Sass both presenting their slides showing the common history. The newly-taught audience was then treated to group tours of El Pueblo Park by its official docents, Las Angelitas. With freshened appetites, they were later treated to a finger-food hot and cold buffet spread derived from both cultures, back at the Merced. At 5:00, the enthusiastic partygoers had to reluctantly leave, since El Pueblo had to again close the unrestored Merced Theatre to the public. CHSSC members of the joint committee were Gene Moy, Elmo Gambarana, Suellen Cheng, Don Loo, and Sue Yee deserve a long round of applause for the successful event. Thanks also to Gene Cooper, Jim Fong, Munson Kwok, Bob Large, Doreen and Ben Nakayama, Jean Bruce Poole, Susan Sing Moy, and Mrs. Sing at the event. The joint committee of JHSSC and CHSSC reports their social event was such a success that there will be other joint events in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT - Suellen Cheng Kwok and her family wishes to thank Society members and friends who expressed condolences for the passing of her father.

CAROLINE CHAN - With great regret, the Society must announce the passing of Ms. Caroline Chan, the first Chinese American school teacher in Southern California. Ms. Chan was 103. She was the recipient of the Society's Pioneer Award as the first school teacher and as a Chinese American woman pioneer. Later, she received Centennial Honors for these lifetime achievements. Ms. Chan was active in the China Society of Southern California, other community organizations, and an active member of the Chinese Methodist Church all her life.

OCAW COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM - OCAW is offering a number of internship positions to undergraduate/graduate Asian American women college students. Interns will participate as a member of an OCAW committee, working directly with OCAW Boardmembers throughout the year on various projects. For more information on requirements, qualifications, skills preferred, call OCAW Internship Program, (310) 559-0956 or write to OCAW, Los Angeles Chapter, P. O. Box 3278, Alhambra, CA 91803.

HISTORICAL OUTINGS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - CHSSC has a few copies of Professor Lothrop's book, Historical Outings of Southern California. For copies, call CHSSC Office (213) 621-3171. Cost: \$5.42 - first come, first served!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2: 5K AMERICAN HEART WALK CHINATOWN BRANCH - 8:00 a.m. Registration, 9:00 a.m. Walk kick-off, Castelar School, College Street entrance.

October 2-3: 4th Annual CHINESE MOON FESTIVAL/STREET FAIR - 800 block of North Broadway (between Alpine and College Streets), L.A. Chinatown, noon to 10:00 p.m. Joining the celebration will be a list of entertainers and demonstrations by artisans from other ethnic groups -- on stage/street fair, booths, Chinese cultural performances, multi-cultural performances, moon festival dinner party, traveling telescopes, moon viewing party with free mooncakes and tea, and lanterns on display. New to this year's celebration is the Street Fair. For more information, contact the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, (213) 617-0396.

October 3: LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY'S REOPENING - The Central Library's reopening will be a city-wide event.

October 4: THE CHINA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - Dinner/Program meeting 6:15 p.m. social time, 7:00 p.m. dinner at 960 North Broadway, L.A. Chinatown. Members \$10, guests \$12. Tonight's program: Nutrition Facts and Fallacies of Chinese Foods by Cissy Enzmann and Dr. Michael Shih, M.D. and Chinese music by Professor Yao-Hua Gao. For reservations, call Rina Rae Sherman (213) 936-0327 or Lloyd Noakes (213) 663-9511.

October 7: New "Rebuild L.A." co-chair speaks at ASIAN BUSINESS LEAGUE'S GENERAL MEETING. Ms. Linda Wong, co-chair of RLA, will highlight the direction of RLA and her perception of L.A.'s economic future. 6:30 p.m. - McCormick & Schmick's, 633 West 5th Street, 4th Level, downtown L.A. Members \$15, non-members \$18.

October 9-10: ANGELINO HEIGHTS FALL HOUSE TOUR - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. View the interior of the recently moved Foy house and 12 other turn of the century Los Angeles homes decorated in fall harvest themes. Enjoy a street fair, English Tea, foods, crafts, and exhibits of restoration products. Cost: \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Mail your ticket requests to: Angelino Heights Community Organization, P. O. Box 86112 Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, CA 90086. Make check payable to: A.H.C.O. House Tour. For tour information, call (213) 250-2225 or Daniel Munoz (213) 250-2214.

October 10: CHSSC Fundraiser Event -- THE JOY LUCK CLUB (see attached flyer) - Note: The Joy Luck dinner is at Fung Lum Restaurant at Universal City, 7:00 p.m.

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October 17: L.A. PAST/L.A. FUTURE - CROSS ROADS L.A. (see attached flyer) CHSSC will have a display table for this event. Come and volunteer or buy.

October 20: CHSSC BOARD MEETING - 6:30-8:30 p.m., CHSSC Office, 969 North Broadway, Los Angeles. Parking is available at Mandarin and Bamboo Plazas.

November 6: CHSSC FALL DINNER - flyer forthcoming!

November 6: L.A. CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY invites you to a Los Angeles Chinatown Walking Tour conducted by the docents of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (9:30-noon), at Chinese American Citizens Alliance, 415 Bamboo Lane, Los Angeles Chinatown. Tour includes a 30-minute slide presentation on the Chinese American history in L.A.; a tour map of Chinatown, Yesterday and Today; free copy of the Chinatown souvenir book; and a gourmet lunch at Hop Li Restaurant. Tour is \$5 and lunch is optional at \$8. Advanced reservations required. Check is payable to LACHS before October 31. Please send reservations to Suellen Cheng, 5474 West 76th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

November 12-14: THE REPEAL AND ITS LEGACY: A CONFERENCE ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPEAL OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACTS (San Francisco, CA)

Thru November 14: EAST WEST PLAYERS present 1993/1994 Season of Women "29 1/2 Dreams -- Women walking through walls" is a musical montage. This presentation is performed and written by women of Asian Pacific descent. They piece together a tapestry of their lives, examining the issues they face in the 90's through song, dance, comedy and drama. Questions? Call East West Players, (213) 660-0366 (Monday-Friday, 2:00-6:00)

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. If necessary to call regarding CHSSC business, please call before 9:00 p.m., Sunday thru Thursday.

Special thanks to contributors in this issue: Elmo Gambarana, Munson Kwok, Sue Yee, Julie Lee (OCAW), Asian Business League, Ella Quan, and Don Loo. August N 'n N mailing volunteer: Yours truly!