

# 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

### 1994-95 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Irvin Lai
Vice President	Sue Yee
Secretary	Pauline Renee Wong
Treasurer	Munson Kwok
Financial Secretary	Franklin Mah
Membership Secretary	Cy Wong

### Directors

Randall Bloch  
Kenneth Chan  
Eugene Cooper  
Susan Dickson  
Saykin Foo  
Elmo Gambarana  
Eugene Moy  
Ella Quan

General meetings are held  
the first Wednesday of every  
month except July and August.

CHSSC Office  
(213) 621-3171

AUGUST 1994

### PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 7, 1994 - 7:30 pm  
Castelar School - Multi-purpose Room  
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

### CHINATOWN HERITAGE AND VISITORS CENTER

Hope everyone enjoyed the summer and made it through the long hot weather! Welcome back to our first meeting following the summer break.

Our speaker this evening will be Eugene Moy, Chairperson of our Building Committee. He will provide us with updated information on the Bernard Street property -- the future home of our Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center. Eugene and his committee have been very busy this summer, and have a lot to share with us.

Also, please come to our exclusive "Members Only" potluck BBQ on Saturday, September 10, at 3:00 and see the house inside and out while enjoying good food and fellowship. (Flyer attached)

=====

**MOON FESTIVAL MEMO** - Were you at last year's Moon Festival? Did you take in the continuous entertainment on the Main Stage, attend the tasty outdoor dinner in the Main Plaza, or hear the legend of the Moon Maiden celebrating the centuries-old Chinese Festival, while munching a mooncake?

It's back again this year for two days, Saturday and Sunday, September 17 and 18. From noon to 10 p.m., the family holiday on the full moon of the eighth month of the lunar calendar, there will be again stage shows, food, arts and crafts demonstrations. A fun carnival starts Friday at 5:00 and continues the whole weekend through Sunday. Moonviewing will be through an observatory telescope, and there'll be the mooncakes.

One major difference will be the location. Instead of at car and sidewalk congested Broadway, it will be all together on fenced-in open land at Cesar Chavez

Boulevard (formerly Sunset) and Broadway. You have to see it to believe it.

Presented by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce with assistance from L.A. Cultural Affairs Department, the free fair is open to all residents of this megalopolis, who will be learning more about centuries of Chinese culture. Come join us there!

=====

**BUILDING FUND STARTS UP** - The "CHSSC Building Fund" has been initiated with unsolicited donations totaling \$8,800 in the first month!!! The account has been installed at the East West Federal Savings Bank, which is also assisting with the escrow of the Heritage and Visitors Center, 411-415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles Chinatown. To make this project successful, our calendar 1994 goal must be \$75,000 or more at the beginning of a capital campaign that aims for \$2 million over several years. For information on the Heritage Center, call Eugene Moy, (818) 289-2067. For information about giving a tax deductible donation payable to "CHSSC Building Fund", call Munson Kwok, (310) 645-1369.

=====

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ... CHINESE MEMORIAL SHRINE RESTORATION PROJECT** - With the submission of architect Barton Choy's technical drawings to the Society, we proudly announce that work to restore the 19th Century Chinese Memorial Shrine in Evergreen Cemetery (L.A. Monument #486) has commenced.

The first phase of the work will encircle the monument with a protective retaining wall and an ornamental wrought-iron fence. A gate and a row of steps leading to the memorial will also be added to enhance visitor access. During the second (and final) phase of the project, the structural elements of the shrine, including the furnaces and center stone, will be restored.

Over 100 of our members contributed \$10,000 to the Shrine Preservation Fund in two fundraising campaigns. Thank you sincerely for your generosity and for your patient anticipation of the project's start. The Society also held a successful dinner to raise funds for the project and received a grant from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. Additionally, the Getty Conservation Institute is considering becoming involved, having met with our representatives at the monument site on two occasions. Funding for the second phase of restoration will come from grants and the community at large.

Members of the Society's Shrine Preservation Committee have worked to ensure the Memorial Shrine's survival since the application for monument designation was filed on June 14, 1990. The shrine was confirmed as a Los Angeles Cultural/Historic Monument on August 31, 1990. When it became apparent that it might be demolished after the laws protecting the new monument expired, negotiations with Evergreen Cemetery led to the Society's purchase of the shrine on September 17, 1992. The century-old monument needs restorative work, and our Shrine

Preservation Committee has been busy making plans and raising funds for this enterprise during the two years since the Society acquired the property.

Activities to preserve and restore the shrine have received excellent coverage in the media, including several photo stories in the Los Angeles Times, the International Daily News, and the World Journal. Copies of these articles are available -- please contact the Society's office at (213) 621-3171.

The Board of Directors thanks Dr. Eugene Cooper, Randall Bloch, Suellen Cheng, Elmo Gambarana, Dr. Kiphan Kan, Robert Kwan, Irvin Lai, Emma Woo Louie, Paul Louie, Tom McDannold, Eugene Moy, Cy Wong, Earl Wong, Susan Woo-Yamasaki, and other Society members for their generous participation in activities to preserve the shrine.

=====

**MEMBER NEWS - ADIOS, BILL** - William Mason, one of the most eminent and colorful of Western historians, with special expertise on Asians in North America, is riding off into the sunset toward Walnut Creek in Northern California, at least for a while. There he hopes to spend many hours in UC's Bancroft Library and finally get that definitive book written.

As a reminder that Los Angeles started as a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural colony, he tells us (again) that the "46th" pobladores, Murillo Rodriguez the "chino" was born in Manila, was likely a Filipino and therefore Asian. All Asians but the Japanese were "chino". Starting with the colonists on the famous trek founding Los Angeles in 1781, Rodriguez and his family never made it because of smallpox. We think Bill said Rodriguez retreated to Loreto after losing his family. Being a talented silversmith and armorer, he was called to Santa Barbara by the Upper California governor in 1781 and died soon after. Thus at least one Asian probably passed through Los Angeles (it's undocumented), a year late, joining a group with African, Spanish, and Indian roots.

And what were Asians, including Chinese, doing in Mexico at these very early dates? Likely, they came on an annual Manila galleon, that legendary annual trade that sent gold and silver to Asia in return for all sorts of wondrous goods for 250 years or more.

We must wish Bill "Good Luck". We will miss this living encyclopedia while he is away.

**LIFE MEMBERS PINNED** - The following LIFE members were presented their LIFE pins at the May meeting: Jim Fong, Winifred Lew, Catalina Wong, and Beverly Hom-Tsao.

**MEMBERSHIP PINS** - Regular members may purchase a CHSSC PIN FOR \$3. Buy one and wear it proudly. \$5 will replace a LIFE pin for LIFE members only.

**CHSSC AT LOTUS LAND** - True to tradition, a band of members drove

# NEWS 'n NOTES

4

to Echo Park Lake Sunday, July 10, to sit in a Society booth table at the 17th Lotus Festival. Our purpose was to inform the crowd of family and couples pouring through the grounds who we are and what we do all year long. It was a chance to meet the Asian and non-Asian residents in our far-flung city. As almost everyone knows, the annual festival is so named and held the same month each year to coincide with the full blooming of the giant lotus flowers growing in the lake's border. Once you've seen them, you'll know why our members enjoy coming out each year to volunteer. Unstated benefits of volunteering that day include an opportunity to sample some of the exotic Asian foods not usually found in Chinatown, visit the other attractions of the widespread fair, and pick up a few free giveaways. Plus, probably bumping into friends we haven't seen for a while.

Chair Sue Yee sends "thank yous" to these dedicated members who served at the sunny Society site from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. -- Jim Fong, Lillian Fong, Elmo Gambarana, Al and Margie Lew, Don Loo, Franklin Mah, Gene and Susan Moy, Ella Quan, Cy Wong, and Sue Yee herself. ... See you all next year near the lotus blossoms!

**ROUND-UP NEWS ON OUR SENIOR MEMBERS** - From her bed at the Queen of Angels Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital Center, Chalet Convalescent Wing, alumna **Helen Morrison** waves hello to her old friends at the Society. The white-haired octogenarian still asks about her old friends, and reads News 'n Notes "from cover to cover". Helen can be reached at 1300 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90027, (213) 487-1160.

Our visit with **Grace Chow** (Thursday, 6/23/94) - Frank and Lupe Chee called to make sure of schedule and to let them know if it was okay to bring her favorite dim sum and big bag of Bing cherries for all. Diet is non-restrictive. We had a splendid visit with Grace. Perky, young-at-heart, and looking fabulous. She's residing at the Stanley Convalescent Home, 14102 Springdale, Westminster, CA 92683, (714) 893-0026.

Society sends its wishes to Helen and Grace. We're thinking of you!

**CONDOLENCES** - Mrs. Wai-Hing Chan, wife of Mr. F. Chow Chan, passed away. Mr. Chan made a donation in her memory. Society sends its condolences to the Chan family.

=====

Camille Wing, our Society member from Hanford, informs me that **THE TAOIST TEMPLE PRESERVATION SOCIETY** received a couple of awards this year -- Governor's Historic Preservation Award (for dedicated commitment and volunteer service to the preservation of the Taoist Temple, which has successfully saved this historic resource of the Chinese-American Community) and Take Pride in California Award (for increasing awareness of the importance of wise use of an historical resource). Both awards were received through the Department of Parks and Recreation. Congratulations to the Taoist Temple Preservation Society. Awards well deserved!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**September 5: Come celebrate LOS ANGELES' 213TH BIRTHDAY** - Old Plaza/Olvera Street, Pancake brunch 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. birthday festivities.

**September 7: The Asian Business League (ABL) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) promote SOUTHWEST CHINA** - Business promotion reception at the Sheraton Grande Hotel, 333 South Figueroa Street, downtown Los Angeles. Reception 6 p.m., presentation 7 p.m. Costs: Advance reservations - ABL members \$10, non-members \$15, \$20 at the door.

UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations working to further the industrial process in developing markets. ABL is hosting this reception for high ranking delegates from the Yunnan Province of China. The Yunnan delegation will discuss general economic conditions in the Yunnan region, comparative advantages, various legal/regulatory issues, and specific sectors of industry. This presentation is a prelude to the "Southwest China Investmart" an investment forum taking place in Kuming, this November.

**September 9: Asian Youth Center 4TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER** - Almansor Court, 700 Almansor Street, Alhambra - Reception 6 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. RSVP Faith Chen (818) 309-0622 by 8/31/94.

**September 11: Centinela Valley hosts "LA FIESTA" (1:00 - 4:00) free.** Featuring historical exhibits and demonstrations at the Centinela Adobe Complex, 7634 Midfield, Westchester. Incidentally, the Adobe suffered major damage in the January earthquake and cannot be toured.

**September 17-18: 5TH ANNUAL CHINESE MOON FESTIVAL** (see page 1)

**September 21: CHSSC BOARD MEETING** - 6:30-8:30 p.m., CHSSC Office, 969 North Broadway, Los Angeles. Parking is available at Mandarin and Bamboo Plazas.

**September 23: Asian Business League (ABL) BUSINESS MIXER AT HOLLYWOOD PARK CASINO**, 1088 South Prairie Avenue, 2nd floor, in the Private Reception Area, Inglewood. The first 20 attendees will receive a free gift from HPC. Begins 6 p.m. Costs: Advance reservations - ABL members \$10, non-members \$15; \$20 at the door. RSVP by September 19 - Naomi (213) 626-5837.

**September 30 - October 2: Conference of California Historical Societies 1994 NORTHERN FALL SYMPOSIUM - "CONTRA COSTA COUNTY - LOST TRAIL OF THE PONY EXPRESS"** -- Info, call (510) 939-9180.

**October 1: The Taoist Temple Preservation Society presents 15TH ANNUAL MOON FESTIVAL** (China Alley - Hanford, California), located at approximately 7th and Green Streets, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. (Entertainment begins at 2:00) ...Free admission ...Tours of

Taoist Temple and Museum ... Authentic Chinese food ... Craft booths and exhibits ... Lion dancers ... Tai Chi demonstrations.

**October 2: Weiliang Zhao "AN OPEN DOOR" paintings** at Pacific Asia Museum, Foyer Gallery, 46 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena

**October 15-16: The Craft and Folk Art Museum's INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF MASKS** celebrating the cultural diversity of L.A. at Hancock Park, Los Angeles (213) 937-5544.

**October 15-16: Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County presents SECOND ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HISTORY FAIR**, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Heritage Square Museum, 3800 Homer Street (Avenue 43 exit of the 110 Pasadena Freeway), \$50 registration fee.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**FAREWELL ...** This is truly my last piece of work as your News 'n Notes Editor for CHSSC. My term of service coincided with my departure as your Board of Director for 1993-1994. However, I promised at the June Board meeting that if we didn't do a June newsletter, I would volunteer my services one more time by providing you with the August edition in time for the September general meeting.

Once again, it has been my pleasure to volunteer and serve the Society in this capacity. Thank you for your trust in me! All the best to CHSSC ... Your Editor (April '87 - August '94)

\*\*\*\*\*  
**SPECIAL NOTE ...** Please mail any items for News 'n Notes to: CHSSC, P. O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647.

Special thanks to contributors in this issue: Ella Quan, Frank and Lupe Chee, Elmo Gambarana, Munson Kwok, Randy Bloch, Sue Yee, Camille Wing, and ABL. Last month's mailing volunteers: Mike Tsao and yours truly!

\*\*\*\*\*



**Join Us!!**

**Chinatown Heritage and Visitors  
Center**

**OPEN HOUSE  
POTLUCK BBQ**

*Enjoy food, fun, and camaraderie with fellow  
CHSSC members*

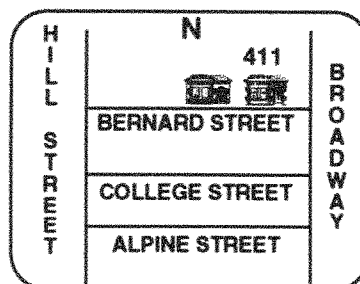
**Tour our 108 year "new" home**

**Saturday, September 10, 1994  
3:00 PM**

**411 Bernard Street**

(paid parking available in nearby lots)

**Chicken, Links,  
Soft Drinks,  
and Coffee provided**



**We need Baked Beans,  
Cold Vegetables  
Dishes,  
Nonperishable Salads  
and Desserts  
(to serve 6 - 8)**

**RSVP REQUIRED - Please call by September 2**  
**Sylvia Soo Hoo (213) 221-5573 or Ella Guan (213) 255-6487**