



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

1993-94 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

CHSSC Office
(213) 621-3171

JANUARY 1994

PROGRAM

Wednesday, February 2, 1994 - 7:30 p.m.
Castelar School - Multi-purpose Room
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

"A CENTURY-LONG SUCCESS STORY, THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF BOK KAI AT MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA"

Speaker: Dr. Paul G. Chace

This evening's program will be a slide-illustrated lecture presented by our speaker, Dr. Paul G. Chace, a historian of Chinese American heritage in the West. Each year for over a century, the Marysville community has traditionally celebrated the birthday of Bok Kai as part of their festivities for the Chinese New Year.

This annual and now historic celebration serves to unite all people throughout the community, Chinese and non-Chinese alike, to turn out and enjoy their civic parading, an evening of fireworks, lion dances, firecrackers, lucky bomb competitions, athletic events, banquets, musical concerts, Chinese opera, displays of art, and their colorful Bok Kai Temple activities.

The Marysville Bok Kai Festival was the focus of Dr. Chace's recently completed dissertation at the University of California, Riverside. A scholar of Chinese American history and archaeology in the West for twenty-five years, Dr. Chace has published numerous articles on Chinese American heritage. Two years ago, the annual Chinatown book, published by the Los Angeles Chinese Chamber of Commerce, featured his story describing a tour of the California's oldest Chinese temples. He has written extensively on archaeological investigations of Chinese work camps and urban centers throughout the Western United States. His doctoral studies at the University of California focused on anthropology and ethnicity theory, while utilizing his long continuing interest in documenting Chinese American heritage. For the last year, Dr. Chace has

been Director of the Cultural Resources Division of The Keith Companies, with its main office in Costa Mesa.

According to Dr. Chace, the Bok Kai Festival was originated in Marysville, soon after the California Gold Rush, by the Chinese leaders within the community. The festival was a time for returning thanks for the blessings and fortunes of the year past and an opportunity for creating civic harmony throughout the town so that all could prosper there in the coming year. The celebration originated as the birthday for Bok Kai, the principal deity within the Chinese community temple.

Don't miss Dr. Paul Chace's presentation on Marysville's Bok Kai Festival!

LAST CALL FOR MARYSVILLE'S BOK KAI FESTIVAL - As announced in our last newsletter, the Society is organizing a bus excursion to participate in Marysville's Bok Kai Festival on March 11-13. So far, over 30 people have signed up for the trip. The bus can accommodate 46, so we still have room for a few more people.

The tentative cost, which includes the bus fare and hotel accommodation is:

Single occupancy	\$194.00
Double occupancy	\$256.00

Participating in the Bok Kai Festival would be fun, informative, historical, and a major 2 1/2 day excursion. Marysville is one hour (45 miles) north of Sacramento, so it is an eight hour bus trip.

The Society's Bok Kai Festival Excursion schedule includes:

Friday, March 11, 1994

3:00 p.m. - Leave Los Angeles for Marysville
 11:00 p.m. - Arrive at motel (Marysville)

Saturday, March 12, 1994

9:00 a.m. - Bus to staging area for Bok Kai Parade
 11:00 a.m. - March in Bok Kai Parade through streets
 1:00 p.m. - Lunch (on our own)
 2:00 p.m. - Visits to Bok Kai Temple
 3:00 p.m. - Street Fair and festival entertainments
 6:00 p.m. - Society Bok Kai dinner banquet

Sunday, March 13, 1994

10:00 a.m. - Bus from motel to festival (Downtown Street Fair)
 11:00 a.m. - Lucky bombs sold at temple
 12:30 p.m. - Lion dancers in front of society hall
 1:00 p.m. - Festival street entertainments
 2:00 p.m. - Leave on bus from Marysville
 10:00 p.m. - Arrive home in Los Angeles

Alternatively, if we stayed later to view the traditional competition to capture the Temple's Good Luck Bomb rings on Sunday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., the bus would arrive home at 2:00 a.m. This is the only community in America that still stages this old Chinese style bomb firing ritual. The most-lucky Number Four Bomb is auctioned off, usually for about \$2,000. Thereafter the athletic competitions to capture the rings fired from the remaining Good Luck Bombs is a spectacular event. It is worth staying to watch, if we are hardy enough to arrive home after midnight.

For further information and reservations, contact:

Don Loo Work: (310) 206-8569
 Home: (310) 208-5382

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PARTNER NEEDED! Johnny Yee is willing to share expenses to 50/50 on the Bok Kai Festival tour to Marysville and possibly Oroville on March 11-13. Normal snoring is acceptable. We all snore. However, exceptional snoring need not apply. Please contact Johnny at (818) 572-0459 or Don Loo at the number above.

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SOCIETY BANNER - Has any one seen the CHSSC's "white" banner? Any information, please contact Ella Quan (213) 255-6487.

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A FESTIVAL OF LIFE - Chinese Cultural and Community Center of Greater Los Angeles and the Merging One Gallery (CHSSC member Diana Wong) proudly present "A Far Village: A Festival of Life," a free Chinese New Year exhibit featuring the artistry and culture of the native Miao people of southwestern China. A lecture on Miao arts by Ms. Hanah Jane Exley with reception to follow will take place Sunday, February 6, at 2:00 p.m., Merging One Gallery, 1547 Sixth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Come experience a unique cultural experience and join the Chinese Cultural Center, to be based in Los Angeles Chinatown. For further information, please call Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369.

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SOCIETY THANKS CONTRIBUTORS TO SHRINE RESTORATION PROJECT - The Society would like to acknowledge the generosity of the following contributors to its Shrine Preservation Fund: Iku and George Kiriya, Charly Cheung, Shelley Wong, Elsie Ho, Edith and George Sheu, Ronald N. Yee, Sylvia and Tanny Wong, David J. Tong, Don Wong, Edward and Patricia Yaplee, John and Dorene Chuck, Raymond J. Peter, Pauline Soo Hoo, Jeanette E. Young, Ida Q and Yun Lee, Doris L. Sue, Grace Ray Anderson, Cynthia D. Lee, Elisabeth Waldo-Dentzel, and Lucille Choy.

In addition, we extend a special thanks to the following donors for their ongoing support of this project: Calvin and Winifred Lee, William J. Minderhout, Drs. Tim and Annie Siu, Roy and Elizabeth K. Fong, Roberta S. Greenwood, and Herbert W. Tom.

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CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA OFFERS 1994 SCHOLARSHIP - The CHSSC is once again offering its annual scholarship to students pursuing Chinese-American studies.

The CHSSC was founded to discover, recognize, and increase awareness of Chinese-American history. An appropriate way to accomplish that purpose is to offer an annual scholarship to students who want to learn more about the Chinese contributions to American history.

Qualifications for the CHSSC Scholarship include: presently a full time student with Sophomore or Junior standing at an accredited college or university in Southern California, a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.0, and taking relevant course work in Chinese-American studies within the humanities or social sciences.

Completed applications and supporting documents must be submitted to the Chinese Historical Society (CHSSC), Scholarship Committee, P. O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647. Applications should be postmarked no later than March 4, 1994. Finalists will be contacted for an interview.

For more information and application forms, students are asked to contact their college's financial aid office or the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California by writing to the address above or calling (213) 621-3171.

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BRUSHSTROKES OF OLD CHINATOWN - The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California will co-sponsor an art exhibit of Old Chinatown paintings by seven artists at the El Pueblo Gallery. The exhibit will be presented by the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Monument and the Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History from March 17 - April 21, entitled "Brushstrokes of Old Chinatown". It will be open from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Original works by Tyrus Wong, Leo Politi, Martin Jackson, Florence Young, Gilbert Leong, Joseph Weisman, and Sally Wheeler (Mill) were collected from family, Pomona College, and the Society. They reflect scenes of the original Chinatown from about 1920-1940.

During the Chinese New Year celebration, two exhibit stands will be set up in Chinatown at Bamboo Plaza and Central Plaza as a sample of the main attraction to direct the public to the exhibit at El Pueblo Gallery.

Besides contributing three paintings of Sally Wheeler from the Society's collection, the Society is asked to help in providing volunteers to staff the exhibit. The volunteers will be handing out requested literature and answering any questions from viewers. Members are urged to phone Tamryn Stoll (213) 680-2821 or Suellen Cheng (213) 626-5240 to sign up for any 2-6 hour shift to help out this exhibit.

Go visit the nostalgic trip to "those good old days", as we step into our New Year's future.

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1994 MEMBERSHIP DUES - Beginning January 1, 1994 the membership dues for the CHSSC are: Individual \$25 and additional member of the same household \$10, Contributing/Senior \$10, Life \$300, Institutional \$50, Corporate \$100, and Life Patron \$1,000. Membership dues are January 1-December 31. Don't forget to renew your 1994 membership!

Note: Included in last month's newsletter was the Gum Saan Journal. The journal had the "old" membership rates at the time of printing. The rates shown above are correct.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS - The following Society members received their **Life Membership pins** at the January general meeting: Albert Lew, Stanley and Mary Mu. Congratulations Al, Stan, and Mary!

Also at our January meeting, Al and Margie Lew treated everyone to a full sheet cake in celebration of Al's 70th birthday. Happy Birthday, congratulations and many more, Al!

REFRESHMENTS - Thank you, Al and Margie Lew and Christine Yee Hollis for refreshments at our January general meeting.

HELP WANTED!! Publications Committee is getting closer to "Conference Proceedings" production. We need typists and we need "computer jocks" who know WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Pagemaker, or other layout programs. Or if you just want to help, somehow. Please call Ella Quan (213) 255-6487 or Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369.

BYLAWS were revised and the revisions were approved at the January general meeting. For a copy of the Revised ByLaws, please contact Ella Quan (213) 255-6487.

RUMMAGE-GARAGE SALE - CHSSC members and friends ... we may be having a rummage-garage sale later this spring, so hold on to your unwanted items for a little while longer. More info next month.

Bill Chun-Hoon had a six bypass heart surgery and is quietly recuperating nicely at home. We wish you well, Bill!

Society sends its condolences to Randy and Maureen Bloch on the passing of Randy's father. Randy's father had suffered a long illness.

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Interested in receiving a copy of **ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1992 CONFERENCE ON CHINESE AMERICANS?** CHSSC intends to publish this 8 1/2" x 11", 300-page soft cover volume, with a target publication date of March 31, 1994. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Society at: CHSSC, P. O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647, (213) 621-3171.

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ASIAN BUSINESS LEAGUE - First Quarter Networking Reception will be held on Wednesday, January 26, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Club on Bunker Hill, 333 South Grand Avenue, 54th floor, Wells Fargo Building, Los Angeles. Cost: \$10/ABL members, \$15/non-members. For info, call Naomi Kuromoto (213) 626-5837 or Peter Fong (213) 965-6348.

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CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES "Southern Symposium" - February 25-27 (Anaheim, California) - hosted by the Garden Grove Historical Society, 12174 Euclid Street, Garden Grove, CA 92640. For info, call (714) 530-8871.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

thru December 30: **"The Way of the Brush"** Yang Zhiguang & Ou Yang (Chinese brush painting and oil painting) - Reception: 6:00-8:00 p.m. on December 3 at Merging One Gallery, 1547 Sixth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 395-0033, hours Wednesday-Saturday, 10:30-6:00 p.m.

February 5: Miss Los Angeles Chinatown Pageant
February 10: Chinese New Year Day (4692 - Year of the Dog)

February 16: CHSSC BOARD MEETING - 6:30-8:30 p.m., CHSSC Office, 969 North Broadway, Los Angeles. Parking is available at Mandarin and Bamboo Plazas.

February 19: Golden Dragon Parade
February 25: Chinese New Year Banquet
February 27: 5K/10K Race
March 12-13: Bok Kai Festival (Marysville)
***** Society trip March 11-13 *****
April 3: Easter

August 19-20: National Conference: "From Memories to Aspirations: The Chinese American Experience" Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii

Note: For forms, contact Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369

September 17-18: 5th Annual Chinese Moon Festival

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: Johnny Yee, Randy Bloch, Elmo Gambarana, Ella Quan, Suellen Cheng, Munson Kwok, Paul Chace, and Don Loo. Last month's mailing volunteers: Yours truly!
