



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 90086-2647 (213) 621-3171

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

MARCH 1994

PROGRAM

Wednesday, April 6, 1994 - 7:30 p.m.
Castelar School - Multi-purpose Room
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

"STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND" A Slide Lecture by Photographer Carol Nye

The juxtaposition of cultures and images is the focus of Carol Nye's slide lecture this evening. She will present her two bodies of work in which Nye juxtaposes two views of culturally displaced communities. In one series, Nye examines the cultural transition of L.A.'s Chinatown resulting from the influx of Vietnamese Chinese. In the other series, Nye documents the non-Chinese Muslim population of Turkish descent who inhabit the far reaches of China's Xinjiang Province.

Nye will also discuss her upcoming public art project in Chinatown depicting Chinese-American pioneering women, which includes Katherine Cheung, Seto Yiu Hai (Mama Quon), Ruby Ling Louie, and Ella Yee Quan.

Nye graduated from Otis College of Art & Design. She is a recipient of the 1993-1994 Artist in Community Cultural Grant. Her work has been exhibited at numerous galleries, including City Hall Bridge Gallery in L.A.; Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa; Visual Studies Workshop, Rochester, New York; and her work has been published in Women & Work, Photographs & Writings, 1986, Women Photographers in America, 1985, and Zoom Magazine, 1989.

IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEM
FOR
APRIL GENERAL MEETING

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MONTHLY MEETING: A PERMANENT HOME?

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!!! One of the Society's most important decisions for the future will be made at the April 1994 meeting. The question involves the acquisition of property in Chinatown for a permanent home for CHSSC. The immediate project cost is around \$400,000 to \$500,000 for securing the real estate and an additional involvement of another \$500,000. It is **ESSENTIAL** that each member's voice be heard on this matter. In a few days, you will receive a descriptive package about the proposed project. The Board of Directors **URGES** you to read carefully and come to the April 6 meeting for detailed discussions, at the end of which, a formal vote may be taken: YES or NO. If you are not able to make the April meeting, please convey your opinions to President Sue Yee (818) 799-8396 or to project head Eugene Moy (818) 289-2067 or send your comment to the CHSSC, P. O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647.

***** SEE TEAR-OFF FORM AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS PAGE *****

BRUSHSTROKES OF OLD CHINATOWN - Those who are Chinese American history and/or art buffs must not miss the surprising "Brushstrokes of Old Chinatown," which opened March 18 at the El Pueblo Monument Gallery in the Old Winery, just off Olvera Street in the heart of the City of Los Angeles (Sunset or Chavez Boulevard and Main). Showings of well over 60 artworks and pieces are daily from 10 AM to 4 PM for a month. This exciting, unique exhibit will probably never be duplicated. For the first time several artists, many living, have been brought together because of their common theme of interest: pre-WW II Old Chinatown. The quality of the art is impressive. Featured is a work by Dong Kingman, "Garnier Building", the Museum site, by Jake Lee, "Olvera Street," and by Leo Politi, the well known "The Girl I asked to Pose." Our favorite members, Tyrus Wong and Gilbert Leong, are very much involved in their presented work. And many others, Chinese and non-Chinese. The exhibit is historically significant for the views and interpretation of the old district and its people expressed by these talents. This one is a **MUST SEE**.

(Tear off and send in)

COMMENTS AND STRAW POLL (not binding, only the April vote is)

DO YOU FAVOR THE BERNARD STREET PROJECT?: Yes _____ No _____

"OUR CHINESE PIONEERS IN TV JOURNALISM" is the theme of this year's Annual Spring Dinner on Saturday, April 23, at the new Ming Pavilion (formerly Golden Palace), 911-913 North Broadway, L.A. Chinatown. Free parking will be available at Castelar School. Social 5:30 p.m., dinner 6:00 p.m. Raffles and more raffles! Cost: \$35. Members, family, and friends ... please bring along 2-3 guests for this exciting evening of food, fun, and memorable media evening. Come join us at Chinatown's newest restaurant! See you there! Reservation deadline is April 11. (Note: Dinner flyer sent under separate mailing.)

RAFFLE ITEMS - BRING TO APRIL GENERAL MEETING - Those who already collected their donated gifts for the spring dinner raffle of April 23 can bring them down to the meeting ahead of time. Committee member, Elmo Gambarana, will receive and record them then. He also says this will leave enterprising members to go and get other donations from other persons or places for the special evening.

BOK KAI - A CHSSC group of over 50 strong converged for a weekend in Marysville, California, about 460 miles north, for the annual Bok Kai Festival celebrating the Chinese New Year. On this beautiful, warm, sunny weekend, our parade unit of 36 persons (including Life Member Bernie Moy and Baby Levy), carrying a massed array of Old Glory, helped to lead off the Saturday morning down D Street, through Front Street in Chinatown, and back up C Street, annually dubbed Bok Kai Street. Organized by Johnny Yee and Paul Chace, with President Sue Yee, Ella Quan, and Rosalind Chen on the banner, our unit was splendid in the red jackets and dark pants. We received rousing applause along the route for the flags we presented (the people are very patriotic) and in front of the reviewing stand when the local TV anchorwoman announced that we were from L.A. The parade went on nearly two and a half hours, including every school, 27 Ben Ali shriner units, and more marching doggies (accompanied by owners, of course) then you would have ever seen. The climax was a splendid Golden and Silver Dragon, manned and womanned by members of a Beale AFB medical squadron.

Following the parade was a street fair, Chinese entertainments, and ceremonies in Chinatown for the next two days for "opening the New Year. To our surprise, the Chinese food booths at the fair were run by L.A. Lotus Festival vendors!! Statuesque Miss Chinatown USA and her entourage reviewed the march, then cruised through Chinatown visiting the two major associations and the famed temple. CHSSC had its big evening gathering arranged by Paul Chace at the China Garden in Yuba City where we hosted six tables, spilling into the side booths as members gathered with Northern California friends and relatives. Over the course of the weekend, virtually all members made the side trip to the Oroville Temple and Museum, an outstanding preservation and display; others got as far Placerville, led by Johnny Yee, or the Sutter Buttes, led by Eugene Moy. A small group led by Franklin Mah even got to Fat City in Old Sacramento and glimpsed the

90-year old legendary Frank Fat.

The Marysville weekend is a major attraction because of the authenticity of its ceremonies, which have been performed for more than the 114 years of the official celebration. These events are centered around the Bok Kai River Temple located at the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers, once always threatening to flood. This working temple is at its most frenzied, and smoky on this weekend as hundreds of Chinese (locals, Central Valley folk, and even Bay Area people) rushed to entreat the deities for a happy and prosperous New Year. There are many non-Chinese on-lookers, and a lively business is dance "openings" in front of the two associations are particularly intense and athletic. What makes Marysville unique is what is probably the last Bomb Day ceremony in the Western Hemisphere. Bombs or large, gunpowdered filled firecrackers are made locally to lift rings and other trinkets high into the air, to be caught by scores of contending youth for a year's good luck. This ceremony seemed sometimes violent and primitive, much akin to a large rugby scum. Firecrackers everywhere, and these bombs, are now only legal in Marysville for only this weekend. Suellen Cheng (#39) and Paul Chace (#27) purchased and registered bombs. As our closing ceremony for the day, Suellen's bomb was fired by Johnny Yee and the ring retrieved by Rosalind. The bomb will become part of the Museum's display.

This trip was one of CHSSC's best. Thanks are due to Paul Chace, Franklin Mah, John Yee, Don Loo, Susan Dickson, and many others along the way. A CHSSC video was made by Munson Kwok, to be shown in May.

After Bok Kai, comes more ... GOLD RUSH TOUR - May 22-25 - a joint event of four groups: The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Historical Society of Southern California, Jewish Historical Society of Southern California, and the Society of Architectural Historians (Southern California Chapter).

A lavish, once-in-a-lifetime tour will begin by sailing through the Golden Gate in a replica of a historic sailing ship which first sailed into San Francisco in 1849, sailing around Angel Island and docking in China Basin, near the 1854 China Warehouse, followed by a banquet at the Far East Cafe, co-hosted by the Chinese Historical Society of America and Western Jewish History Center. In Sacramento, also the tour will have a private visit of the new exhibit at the Sacramento Museum of History, "The Legacy of Gold Mountain" by curator Anna Lee. The tour will also visit Folsom, Coloma, Placerville, Grass Valley, Nevada City, and Truckee. Hotel accommodations include the Delta King, a restored paddle-wheel river steamboat, which once nightly connected San Francisco and Sacramento and The Holbrooke Hotel in Grass Valley. The tour will end with a day-long train trip in two private-rail-cars, retracing the Central Pacific route over the Sierra, built by Chinese crews. For information, call (213) 243-5169.
(Handout materials will be available at the April 6 meeting.)

ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS - THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE ON CHINESE AMERICANS - This 300-page paperback book presents the collection of papers assembled by UCLA Professor Lucie Cheng and the Conference Panel Committee for the third conference on Chinese American Studies held August 28-30, 1992 in Los Angeles. To order your copy today, please send a check, payable to CHSSC. Mail to: CHSSC Book Department, P.O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647. Cost: \$15 per copy + \$1.24 each (sales tax) + \$3.00 (postage & handling for each book) = \$19.24.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA'S CHINA PROJECT needs volunteer experts for limited assignments in China.

Volunteers of America is recruiting volunteer experts for humanitarian service in China. Assignments range from two weeks to six months. Roundtrip air, ground transportation and accommodations are provided. Retirees are welcome and spouses may accompany either as volunteers themselves or at their own expenses.

Volunteers of America is a non-profit human service organization that, since 1986, has dedicated itself to serving America's "tired, poor and huddled masses". Today, the organization has more than 6,000 staff and many thousand more volunteers in some 300 communities nationwide with new outreach to Russia and China. THIS YEAR, TRY A MORE MEANINGFUL WORKING VACATION. YOU'LL COME HOME WITH A LOT MORE!

For information about how you can lend your expertise to become an Ambassador of Goodwill through the Volunteers of America, please contact: Kiphan Kan (310) 215-3703.

1994 CHINESE AMERICAN SUMMER STUDY TOUR sponsored by PIC Travel and Wuyi University. Dr. Charles Choy Wong is recruiting Chinese American students for a summer/study tour to China. The 32-day program include Hong Kong, study at Wuyi University, and then, a tour of five major cities. While at Wuyi University, students will interact with Chinese students on a daily basis in order to enhance their cross-cultural experience. Cost is \$2,375 inclusive of round trip airfare, all housing, all meals in China, instructional fees, tour program, transfers, ferry fare, and visa fee. Interested students, please contact Dr. Charles Wong (213) 256-3452 or Holly Jang (818) 331-3366 by April 15.

Back in 1987 Charles took a student group to this same Wuyi University and they had a terrific time. They planted trees and hopefully they're still alive and growing. He drew a few students from CHSSC members then and hopes to get a few again for this trip.

PROGRESS REPORT - 19TH CENTURY CHINESE SHRINE PRESERVATION PROJECT - The Historic Research and Recognition Committee is happy to report that the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs has recommended the Shrine Restoration Project for

funding through its Cultural Affairs Grant program. This grant, along with the generous contributions of our members, will allow us to begin our restoration project in July of this year.

The Board of Directors would also like to acknowledge the following contributors to the Shrine Preservation Fund: Him Mark Lai, Billy and Anna Lew, Henry G. Welcome, Jean and Bill Jong, Franklin Mah, Camille Wing, East-West Federal Bank, Keong and Gwen Lee, and Freddie Ho. Thank you so much!

OUTREACH - Past President Angi Ma Wong continues to bring Chinese American history and cultural presentation to local schools: John Thomas Dye School in Brentwood (5th year!) on February 22; Glen Feliz School, February 18; Willow Street School in Agoura Hills, March 2; Point Vicente School in Palos Verdes, March 3. Also Angi donated a walking tour of Chinatown as an auction item to the Pacific Resources '93 Conference and raised \$295 for Home Aid, the building industry's program to provide housing for the homeless. She reports the three businessmen who went on the tour were more interested in shopping their way through Chinatown than learning about its history!

Angi's book TARGET: The U.S. Asian Market, A Practical Guide to Doing Business has won the Best Business Book of the Year Award from Bookdealer's World and will go into a second printing in July with a newly-designed cover.

As you can see, Angi has been busy. She's been named Citizen of the Month for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes for March 1994.

A few days ago you should have received a flyer in the mail. See, we even got Angi to be our Mistress of Ceremonies at the Society's Annual Spring Dinner honoring "Our Chinese Pioneers in TV Journalism" on April 23.

CONTINUING TRADITIONS - The Legacy of Gold Mountain: A History of the Chinese in Sacramento - a special exhibition at the Sacramento Museum of History, Science and Technology opening April 9 through September 5. The Legacy of Gold Mountain will explore the experiences of the early Chinese pioneers who migrated from Canton, China to Sacramento in search of gold and personal fulfillment. It will follow the trials and tribulations of the Chinese through their involvement in gold mining, railroading, business, reclamation, and agriculture. The exhibition will examine the effects of the anti-Chinese movements of the late 1800's through the emergence and disappearance of Sacramento's first Chinatown, and it will document the record wave of immigration and creation of a second Chinatown. Through the placement of personal records, photographs, artifacts, and the recreation of historical settings within a historical time line, the exhibition will chronicle the lives of Chinese men and women as they slowly evolved from sojourner to settler to citizen.



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"WE CAME, WE SAW, WE STAYED -- STORIES OF LOS ANGELES" -

Performances will be April 28-30 at 2:00 p.m. at Angelus Plaza, Seniors Activity Center, 255 South Hill Street, 4th floor auditorium, Los Angeles (3rd and Hill Streets). It's free to the public, open seating, and very empty space theater. The folks are fabulous and their stories are great! Seating is on a first come, first seated basis. Kathleen Coyne thanks the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department for providing funding for this project.

MEMBER NEWS - Gladys Waddingham, long time friend and member of CHSSC and the Historical Society of Centinela Valley was recognized by the City of Inglewood on January 25, 1994 having named the lecture hall in the Inglewood Library "**The Gladys Waddingham Lecture Hall**". In 1985, the City had also given her a plaque in recognition of her 60 years of community service. Still full of energy, Gladys (soon to be 94 in August) has written a book, The History of Inglewood, with the help of curator Betty Forsyth and local photographers. The book has been published by the Historical Society of Centinela Valley (HSCV) and contains over 400 photos with history. For information, contact HSCV, Box 236, Inglewood, CA 90306. Cost: Pick-up copy is \$27; mail copy is \$30 (includes tax).

Medical updates - **Helen's Recovery** - Our beaming alumna Helen Morrison is out of Queen of Angels Hospital and back at the Temple Park Convalescent Center, 2411 West Temple (corner of Park View Street), LA. Her telephone is (213) 389-1533. She'd still welcome seeing or hearing from her old friends at CHSSC.

Fred Gong had surgery. He is recuperating nicely and is able to drive again. Fred is a member of CHSSC and the Friends of the Chinatown Library. He is involved with the ECC (English Conversation Center) and the Grandparents and Books (bringing grandparents and children in sessions of learning and sharing).

Society wishes Helen and Fred a clean bill of health. We're thinking of you!

Condolences - Our condolences to member John Ng and his wife of Riverside in the loss of their daughter and son-in-law during the January 17th earthquake.

Tim Fong interviewed nearly 40 local residents here, has written a book, "The First Suburban Chinatown -- the Remaking of Monterey Park, California". A copy will soon be in the Monterey Park Library.

REFRESHMENTS - Thank you, Cy Wong, Ruth Lung, Lillian Fong, Harold Dresser, Wanda Leong, Ella Quan, and Dolores Wong for the delicious refreshments at our March 2 general meeting.

CALENDAR

April 4: CHINA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DINNER PROGRAM MEETING - Golden Dragon Restaurant, 960 North Broadway, LA Chinatown. Social 6:15 pm, dinner 7:00 pm. Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$12. Program: The Ordos -- A Changing Land in Inner Mongolia. Speaker: Dr. Pamela Logan, China Exploration & Research Society. For information, call (213) 936-0327 or (213) 663-9511.

thru April 9: "What's Next?" Reassessing Our Values After the Quake -- a juried mixed-media exhibition. Juror: Jan Butterfield. Merging One Gallery, 1547 Sixth Street, Santa Monica, (310) 395-0033 (exit Santa Monica Freeway at Lincoln Boulevard). Hours: Wednesday-Saturday, 10:30-6:00.

April 15: 6TH ANNUAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY RESEARCH ROUNDTABLE: Responding to Race Realities (9 am-4 pm, UCLA, Ackerman Union Grand Ballroom). Includes presentations on race relations, internship fair, and learn about President Clinton's National Service Program.

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

April 23: CHSSC Spring Dinner (6:00 pm) - Ming Pavilion (formerly Golden Palace Restaurant), LA Chinatown.

August 19-20: National Conference: "From Memories to Aspirations: The Chinese American Experience" Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii (Note: By now, most of the CHSSC members should have received in the mail materials for this conference. For information/forms, contact Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369.)

**** SUBMIT YOUR PAPERS ****

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 pm, Sunday thru Thursday.

Special thanks to contributors in this issue: Carol Nye, Elmo Gambarana, Gladys Waddingham, Kiphan Kan, Ella Quan, Lillian Fong, Charles Wong, Randy Bloch, Angi Ma Wong, Susie Ling, Kathleen Coyne, Richard Rowe, and Munson Kwok. Last month's mailing volunteers: Mike Tsao and yours truly!
