

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

MAY 1994

1993-94 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Beverly Hom-Tsao
Irvin Lai
Robert Large
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General meetings are held
the first Wednesday of every
month except July and August.

CHSSC Office
(213) 621-3171

PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 1, 1994 - 7:30 pm
Castelar School - Multi-purpose Room
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

CHINESE IN PERU: TAHUANTINSUYU, CULÍES, CHIFAS

Dr. Clara M. Chu, Graduate School of Library and
Information Science, University of California,
Los Angeles.

The history of overseas Chinese on the shores of Latin America is not a recent one. The presence of overseas Chinese were encountered in Peru in the late 1500's (and even earlier), and their arrival as Coolie laborers in Peru and the rest of Latin America in mid-1800's represented the initial wave of immigration. A general and personal histories of Chinese Peruvians will be presented. The information resources collected for this project on the Chinese in Latin America will be assembled into a resource guide for researchers and other interested parties. A preliminary resource guide is available upon request.

Our speaker, Dr. Clara Chu, is a member of our society and an assistant professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at UCLA. She grew up in Lima, Peru and was educated in Canada at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver) and at the University of Western Ontario (London).

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Prior to this evening's program will be the Election of Officers and Board members for 1994-1995. The slate reads as follows:

Irvin Lai
Sue Yee
Pauline Renee Wong
Munson Kwok
Franklin Mah
Cy Wong

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Membership Secretary

Randy Bloch
Eugene Cooper
Susan Dickson
Elmo Gambarana

Board members (Incumbents)

Kenneth Chan
Saykin Foo
Eugene Moy
Ella Quan

Board members (New)

HERITAGE & VISITORS CENTER UPDATE - The CHSSC has for 19 years been providing volunteer service in documenting and publicizing the history of the Chinese American community in Southern California. At the April general meeting, the Building Committee was authorized to proceed with the Heritage and Visitors Center concept, which would provide a permanent home for the Historical Society and its collections.

Since that time, the Board of Directors has retained the services of William L. Tan to assist in final negotiations for the purchase of the architecturally significant properties at 411-415 Bernard Street, and to prepare legal documents.

Also, in the past month, a number of energetic volunteers have stepped forward to assist with the planning and fundraising for this historic project. The Building Committee, chaired by past president Eugene Moy, includes the support of a Fundraising and Public Relations Committee, and a Planning and Development Committee. The Fundraising Committee is co-chaired by Ken Chan and Nadine Soo Hoo Levy and includes Elmo Gambarana, Munson Kwok, Mai Diep Lawrence, Israel Levy, Ella Quan, Al Soo Hoo, and Cy Wong. The Planning and Development Committee is chaired by Irvin Lai and includes Eugene Moy, with assistance from two AIA architects, Barton Choy and Henry H. Woo.

At the present time, more volunteers are needed to assist with fundraising (including grant writing), public relations, program development, and site planning. Once the property is secured, we'll need help in site cleanup, and in applying for historic landmark status. For further information, or if you are interested in joining in the volunteer effort, please contact Gene Moy (818-289-2067).

19TH CENTURY SHRINE PRESERVATION PROJECT FUNDRAISING PROJECT - The Society recently held a very successful fundraising dinner and was recommended for a Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs grant to fund our restoration project in the full amount requested. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin on July 1, 1994 - a further announcement will appear soon in News 'n Notes.

The Board of Directors wishes to acknowledge the generous

contributions of the following individuals and organizations:
Lippo Bank, Michi Nakayama, Everline and Jimmy Quon, Ernest Chann, Lupe and Frank Chee, Jean and Bill Jong Properties, Helen and William Wong, Holly R. Lee, Michael Arlen, Patricia and Harry Mar, and Jim Fong. Thank you very, very much!

CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM REALITIES - Now that you've read that the Chinese American Museum in Garnier Building at El Pueblo Historic Park stands to receive \$500,000 from Proposition 180 in the June 7 Primary Election, we know you will be sure to vote that important day. Remember, you read it in last month's News 'n Notes. Didn't plan to vote? To make it easy and definite, you and your voter friends do assure the Museum that nice amount of guaranteed money, member Elmo Gambarana will again be at the June 1 general meeting to hand out Voter Registration blank forms to all attendees. After filling out a few lines, folding and mailing out (postage paid), you will receive your Sample Ballot, and chance to call for an Absentee Ballot if you want.

If you want to help the Museum directly, the way to do it is to become a member. Membership starting at \$35. Just contact Elmo Gambarana (213-733-2927), Suellen Cheng (213-626-5240), or Munson Kwok (310-645-1369) in person or by phone for an application. The time is now!

RUMMAGE'S LAST STAND - Did you make it to the Society's BIG rummage sale Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15? No? Well, you're in luck. You have only one more chance. We have reserved space at Pasadena City College's popular monthly Swap-Garage Meet on Sunday, June 5. We'll be selling off the indoor, outdoor, and personal articles there, located at PCC's main parking lot, between Colorado and Del Mar Boulevards, at Hill Avenue. Sales begin early and continue until about 3:00. Say, why don't you come down and help us vend all the plain and fancy items we will be offering to the expected crowd of shoppers. Come down and give us a hand for a few hours; we could use a few more hands to collect the money the Society needs. You may even see some gems you will want to buy yourself. Call Elmo Gambarana (213-733-2927), Ella Quan (213-255-6487), Sue Yee (818-799-8396), or Gene Moy (818-289-2067) now. Bargain prices prevail, and you never know what you will find there. See you June 5!

MEMBER NEWS

Beulah Quo was spotted on television as one of the judges at the May 20 Miss Universe Pageant in the Philippines.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - (1) More volunteers are needed to help the Heritage and Visitors Center's Building Committee. Interested? ... call Gene Moy (818-289-2067). (2) Looking for additional volunteers for Archives Committee. Questions/more information ... call Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369. (3) Help is needed at our June 5 swap meet at PCC between 6:30 am and 3:00 pm. Gates open 6:30 am, sales begin 8:00 am, and closes at 3:00 pm. We still need help in setting up our area in the wee-wee hours of the

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morning, people to work different shifts throughout the day, help transport articles, and close/clean up at the end of the day. More details ... call Elmo Gambarana (213) 733-2927. (4) Society looks for News 'n Notes Editor. Recommendations have been submitted to Ella Quan, Nominating Committee Chair. Interested? ... contact Ella Quan (213-255-6487).

CONGRATULATIONS to Faith Devona Wong, daughter of Cy and Betty Wong, upon receiving her Bachelor's degree in Marketing from Southern University Agriculture & Mechanical School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on Friday, May 13, 1994.

THANK YOUS - ... to Aerospace Corporation for their donation of \$500 towards our publication materials ... to Ella Quan, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and her committee for their hard work on our slate of officers and board members for the coming term ... to Lillian Fong, Catalina Wong, Ruth Lung, Sylvia Soo Hoo, and Noel Toy Young for the refreshments at our May 4 general meeting.

CONDOLENCES - Memorial services were held for Mrs. Selvania Jones, mother-in-law/mother of Cy and Betty Wong on April 2 at the First Baptist Church in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Robert (Bob) Cornell Large, active member of the Society for the past 15 years, passed away at his San Gabriel home on May 5. He had long suffered from heart trouble and diabetes, including quadruple heart bypass surgery two years ago. Despite these disabilities, Bob had faithfully attended every monthly meeting, dinner, and several field trips the past several years, always arriving early to assist and guide the setting up and taking down of these events. He also volunteered regularly (part time) at El Pueblo Historic Park in downtown L.A. Always giving freely of his advice, he never sought praise or credit for his good suggestions. The past few years he served as unofficial Parliamentarian, as well as Board member of the Society. The genial U.S. Navy veteran was retired from the L. A. Department of Water and Power as a draftsman, and lived alone.

Bob was a husband, father, grandfather, and brother. He is survived by his wife, Emilia; children, Judith, Lyden, Mila, Amy, Eva, and Arlene; grandchildren, JP and Justin; and a brother, Keith, and his wife. Not only was Bob involved in CHSSC, he was active in Nature Friends, Pacific Railroad Society (where he chaired the Museum Committee), and the Alhambra Historical Society (where he devoted service faithfully every Thursday, 11:30-4:00).

Memorial services were held May 12 at the Live Oak Memorial Park in Monrovia. CHSSC members in attendance were Munson Kwok, Suellen Cheng, Gene Moy, Irvin Lai, Jim Fong, Lillian Fong, Elmo Gambarana, and Bev Hom Tsao.

Bob was a very quiet and private person. He loved the great

outdoors. Many have described him as a very loving person who cared about family, parents, and friends. He was a man with a big heart, admired, cherished, reliable, and so on. Dedicated service with no complaints appeared to be the watchword in his life. CHSSC is and will be much indebted to Bob Large, and the many members he has touched these many years.

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.

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICAN WOMEN (OCAW) - This year, the L.A. Chapter of OCAW will be awarding two \$1,000 scholarships (1 merit-based and 1 financial need-based) to two motivated, deserving women of Chinese ancestry. Eligibility requirements include: Woman of Chinese ancestry; in pursuit of further education, vocational or trade training; evidence of acceptance into a college, university, or school; applicant or her parent(s)/legal guardian must be maintaining a permanent residence/address in one of the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, or Ventura. Scholarship criteria will include but are not limited to: community service, financial need, personal essays, letters of recommendations, and academic accomplishments or potential. Each applicant is judged on her own merits. Consideration is taken for any hardships or extenuating circumstances which has made it difficult for the applicant to begin, continue, or return to her education. Send a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope to: J. Lee, OCAW Scholarship Program, 3748 Keystone Avenue, #403, Los Angeles, CA 90034. Requests not accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed business size envelope will not receive a reply.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 12: ANNUAL BARBECUE OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CENTINELA VALLEY (12:00 - 3:00) at the Centinela Adobe Complex, 7634 Midfield, Westchester. (Jerry Stern has served as general chairman every year since the first one in 1975.) \$7 donation for steak with all the trimmings, including homemade cake. Calliope and antique cars. Free parking on 83rd Street, west of Hindry. Transportation to the BBQ.

June 15: CHSSC BOARD MEETING - 6:30-8:30 pm, CHSSC Office, 969 North Broadway, Los Angeles. Parking is available at Mandarin and Bamboo Plazas.

June 18: CHSSC BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING - 10:00 am, Society


Office.

July 31: CHINESE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROJECT presents "A Chinese Summer Festival" (11:00-5:00) at the San Jose Historical Museum, 1600 Senter Road, Kelley Park (next to Happy Hollow and Japanese Friendship Garden). Free admission. Includes martial arts, music, dance, lantern competition and parade, 200' dragon, boat race, food, games, children's hands-on, arts and crafts, sciences and mementos. For more information, call (408) 225-0205 or (408) 735-9417.

August 19-20: NATIONAL CONFERENCE: "From Memories to Aspirations: The Chinese American Experience" Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii (NOTE: JUNE 15 IS THE DEADLINE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION.) For info, contact Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369.

September 17-18: 5th Annual Chinese Moon Festival

FAREWELL ...



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CHSSC Office:
Message Center
213/821-3171

**CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**
P.O. BOX 882947 • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90088-2947

April 9, 1994

Mrs. Sue Yee
President
Chinese Historical Society of
Southern California
P. O. Box 882947
Los Angeles, CA 90088-2947

Dear Sue:

Please share this letter with the Board and the Society.

The time has come for me to write this letter. It is with the deepest regret that I must remove myself from the position as Editor of News 'n Notes, effective July 1, 1994, at the conclusion of my two-year Board term.

I have held this position since April, 1987, following Margie Lew's tenure. I can still remember the first day I accepted to volunteer my services and before I knew it, I was it -- the Society's editor. I wasn't sure at the time how I could ever follow Margie's footsteps. She was the English major -- not me!

I've enjoyed all these years as your amateur editor. I thank the Society for allowing me the time and energy to volunteer my services for this length of time. My goal was to serve the Society in this capacity for at least ten years.

Due to the numerous responsibilities beyond my control, both at work and at home, and to maintain my sanity, I must request an early leave. I have obligations to myself, my husband, and my families.

Many thanks to the many friends, members, and family who have given me their support throughout the years. I am most grateful to the many who have come through for me -- you know who you are! I especially want to thank my husband, Mike, for his presence and understanding. He's been a real honey!

Mrs. Sue Yee
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As time permits, I (and Mike) plan to help where possible in the Society activities.

I wish the Society continued success in all the challenges ahead. I am confident that the Society will find a qualified person to fill my shoes. Perhaps the Nominating Committee could assist in this endeavor.

All the best to CHSSC!

Warmest Regards,

Beverly

Beverly M. Hom Tsao
CHSSC News 'n Notes Editor

cc: E. Y. Quan, CHSSC Secretary

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: Julie Lee, Gladys Waddingham, Elmo Gambarana, Cy Wong, Don Loo, Munson Kwok, Randy Bloch, and Gene Moy. Last month's mailing volunteers: Mike Tsao and yours truly!
