



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

1994-95 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Irvin Lai
Vice President	Sue Yee
Secretary	Pauline R, Wong
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MAY, 1995

DIRECTORS

Randall Bloch
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Eugene Cooper
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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

PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 7, 1995 - 7:30 P.M.
Castelar School - Multi-purpose Room
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown
(Park on playground. Enter on College Street)

RUTHANNE LUM MCCUNN

Ruthanne Lum McCunn, author of "Thousand Pieces of Gold", will speak about the research for new novel. "Wooden Fish Songs" is the story of Lue Gim Gong, a Chinese immigrant famous in his day for developing orange hybrids. "Wooden Fish Songs" were the laments sung by the Chinese women left behind by husbands, sons, and brothers looking for a better life on "Gold Mountain" - America. Lue's story is told by the three women who know him best: Sum Jui, his mother, who strives to protect him from bitter family rivalries; Fanny Burlingame, the prim and deeply religious New England spinster who becomes Lue's mentor and friend; and Sheba, the daughter of a slave, who works alongside Lue in Florida

Both "Wooden Fish Songs" and "Thousand Pieces of Gold" will be available. A percentage of the sale price will go to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California to help support their programs. The author, Ruthanne Lum McCunn, will be happy to autograph your copy.

Ruthanne Lum McCunn is an Eurasian of Scottish and Chinese descent. She was born in San Francisco's Chinatown, grew up in Hong Kong, and returned to the United States to attend college. She is also the author of "Chinese American Portraits", "Sole Survivor", and "Pie Biter", a bilingual children's book. She lives in San Francisco and is currently at work on a new novel.

WORLD WAR II PHOTO EXHIBIT continues to bring fame to Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History(MCAH) and CHSSC

May Standard Savings in San Gabriel

June Monterey Park City Hall lobby

July Veterans Administration on Temple & Alameda

August Chinese American Citizens Alliance Conference in San Francisco

NEWS 'n NOTES

REMINDER: CHSSC will not have its regular meetings during the months of July and August. We will have our first regular meeting Wednesday September 6, 1995

SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR 1995 - 1996 CHSSC YEAR

PRESIDENT	Irvin Lai
VICE - PRESIDENT	Sue Yee
SECRETARY	Henrietta Yuan
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	Franklin Mah
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Cy Wong
TREASURER	Munson Kwok

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INCUMBENTS:

Randy Bloch
Kenneth L. Chan
Susan Dickson
Elmo Gambarana
Eugene Moy

NEW

Jim Fong
Winifred Lew
Ruth Lung
Stanley Mu
JrffreyTung

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the June meeting. Please be sure the nominee has consented prior to being nominated. Elections will be held after nominations are closed. The new board of officers and directors will be installed after the elections. These offices will begin July 1, 1995.

SILENT AUCTION DINNER - Last year on November 10 during the dinner honoring WWII vets a silent auction was held and one of the items up for bid (prizes) was a gourmet dinner for 10 people to be held at the winning bidder's home and prepared by members of the committee. Committee members Suellen Cheng, Susan Dickson, Jim Fong Munson Kwok, Irvin Lai, Marji Lee, Ella Quan, and Cy Wong prepared and served the dinner at the home of Joe and Janice Lowe in Chino Hills, on Saturday May 13, 1995. It was attended by ten adult guests and their nine children. The committee is to be congratulated for putting on an excellent dinner which was called "Dinner Experience out of Chinese America " according to the printed menu made for this occasion. It was a fun evening and the delicious dinner was enjoyed by all including the Lowes, their guests and the committee.

CHSSC presented its "**Dinner Experience Out of Chinese America**", May 13, 1995 at the home of Joe and Janice Lowe of Chino Hills. The gourmet menu to top all menus was as follows:

MENU:	Wrapped Appetizers: Shrimps in Blankets Purses for Prosperity
	Salad Taiwanese Chicken Salad

Entrees	Louisiana Hot Barbeque Ribs Chef Irvin's Shrimps Villager's Chicken Cantonese Fried Rice
Sides	BBQ Beans Broccoli in Bacon Rice
Dessert	Blueberry Creme Torte Mints
Drinks	Wine, Tea, Water

SYLVIA SUN MINNICK will be speaking at the Golden Dragon Restaurant on JUNE 5, 1995. The topic of her speech is "The Upcoming California 150th Birthday-The Involvement of an Asian American ". Ms. Minnick is a woman of many interests and talents--author, historian, publisher, professor, gubernatorial appointee, lecturer, city council person, wife and mother. Her new position as Executive Coordinator of California's upcoming Sesquicentennial commemoration adds a challenge to her life and career; assuring that all of California's people become involved in the Sesquicentennial.

In 1993 Sylvia was appointed by Governor Pete Wilson as Deputy Assistant Director/Community Liaison, California State Parks. She oversaw important community events such as the "Coming Home of Pio Pico", a tribute to the last governor of Alta California.

Besides owning a publishing company, Sylvia is an author having written the critically acclaimed book "**Samfow: The San Joaquin Chinese Legacy**". She has served on the Stockton City Council for two terms, becoming the first Asian elected to that city from its very beginnings in 1848. Sylvia has also taught Asian American history at CSU-Stanislaus' main campus in Turlock and on the Stockton campus.

In 1994, Ms. Minnick was appointed as Executive Coordinator to the California Gold Discovery to Statehood Sesquicentennial. Ms. Minnick's role is to coordinate the commemoration and oversee the CAL-150 team.

Sylvia and her husband, Richard, are long-time residents of Stockton. They have two grown daughters. Sylvia, who was born in Malaysia, is a graduate of CSU-Sacramento, with a B.A. and M.A. in history. Those interested individuals may contact Ms. Sherman for information regarding the event which will be held at the Golden Dragon Restaurant. Guests are \$12 (213) 936-0327.

ROBERT SHAPIRO REGRETS - It starts with a careless word, a phrase, a joke. An expression which in some way demeans the targeted person. Then by inference and by deliberation, the targeted person's group, whether it is religious, ethnic, or economic. Next comes a willful, and acceptable, isolation as that person and his group are dehumanized. Then harassment, violence, and formal exclusion. Or even murder as in the case of Vincent Chin and Jim Loo. As observed by many historians, such as noted Prof. Gary Nash of UCLA, such is the

evolution of divisiveness that constantly threatens the diversity which makes America great. Thus when Mr. Shapiro, leader of the O.J. Simpson defense team, made demeaning jokes about Criminalist Dennis Fung's court testimony, he took that first step, of a word. The Asian American reaction was outrage. That in itself is healthy indication that the community unlike 100 years ago, is alive and well. On the following Monday, Mr. Cochran made further demeaning statements. The matter climaxed on Tuesday afternoon April 18 at the County Courthouse when Society Pres. Irvin Lai joined a televised lineup of irate Chinese American legal professionals and community organizations to deplore Shapiro's remarks saying, "Slurs against Mr. Fung and his name were insults against 1.3 billion people on this Earth." The coalition managed to gain Mr. Shapiro's appearance and publicly expressed humble and respectful apology from the errant defense team. Lai pressed Shapiro for a written apologetic statement, which was **FAXd** to him the next morning. He further elicited a commitment Mr. Shapiro's commitment to assist the community in a project. Those of us with a sense of history must maintain a concern for the consequences of any careless act.

MTA GIVES "OLD CHINATOWN" COLLECTION - Los Angeles' Metropolitan Transit Authority conveyed its curatorial authority for the "Old Chinatown Artifacts Collection," discovered by Archaeologist (and member) Roberta Greenwood during her Red Line study at Union Station. The ceremony took place on April 27 in a beautiful appropriately sunny setting, the patio garden of the new Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center. CHSSC received over 200,000 pieces for its Archive, including a beautifully preserved small statue of prosperity, symbolically presented by Acting Executive Officer for Construction, Jim Adams, and Environmental Compliance Manager Jim Sowell to Society Pres. Irvin R. Lai. Ms. Greenwood presented the collection manifest. Ownership of the collection was transferred by Rob Vogel of the Catellus Development Corporation. Remarks on the significance of understanding history, especially all the ethnic histories of Los Angeles, was made by Councilman Mike Hernandez. Councilman Hernandez is quite a buff on Latino history of the district. He also presented a scroll of congratulations to Pres. Lai. Castelar School's lion dancers also performed. The finest finds were colorfully encased in the Society's new donation, an 8' display case from Eagle Rock Library. They made a full color photo, together with the Castelar Students, on the Metro front page of Los Angeles Times the following day, in a featured story by Connie Kang. In one of CHSSC's stirring press successes (thanks to a big boost from MTA), Irvin Lai and the event went LIVE on KABC during the 11 AM news. Footage was recorded on KTLA-TV, KNX radio and other stations. The Chinese dailies, Chinese Daily News, International Daily News, and China Press all ran front page stories with color pictures. In all, one of Chinatown's better press successes in many a day. Thanks to Ella Quan and Margie Lew at the registration desk, Eugene Moy, Cy Wong, Elmo Gambarana, Jim Fong for setting up. (We found we can seat 50-100 in our patio, outdoor.) Roberta Greenwood and her staff for a colorful display so attractive to the media. Munson Kwok for the video and for doing the press coordination with MTA to create an event in less than 3 weeks. Randy Bloch for coordinating with L.A. Times. Susan Dickson for bringing the Castelar 6th graders. Principal Dore' Wong for the lion dancers. And all the Society attendees and community leaders who comprised a truly grand event.

WHY USC? Why is the CHSSC Spring Dinner celebrating the alumni of the University of Southern California? USC, founded in 1881, is one of the first major colleges and universities in

Southern California that admitted many Chinese and Chinese Americans from Los Angeles Chinatown. Mr. Peter Soo Hoo, Sr., long regarded as a founder of Los Angeles Chinatown on today's site, was an engineering graduate there. There are many illustrious Chinese American professional and community leaders that hail from USC. For those of you who come from that OTHER, (hint, UCLA) school, or even others, the Society will take each in turn in order of historical significance. Let's join in this occasion for USC is a pioneering school which provided starts for many pioneering Southern California Chinese Americans, dating back to the turn of the century.

BUY CHINESE NEW YEAR COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS AT YOUR POST OFFICE

by Thomas H. Woo printed in *Chinese American Forum*, April 1995, Vol. 10, no. 4.

"Have you asked for Chinese New Year commemorative stamps when you go to your post office?

In the last two years, you might have bought the year of the ROOSTER stamps and the year of the DOG stamps, the first two of the series. This year, it is the stamp for the year of the Boar. Doing it every year, you will have a collection of a series of 12 Chinese New Year commemorative stamps, showing 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac.

After repeated proddings from various Chinese American organizations, the U.S. Post Office finally agreed to issue a series of the 12 Chinese New Year commemorative stamps. They printed 160 million stamps in each of the last two years, this year they cut the quantity to half because the sale of the commemorative stamps had slumped. If the decline trend of the stamp sale is continued, they might consider stopping the issue!

Everyone uses stamps. Asking for the Chinese stamps will ensure its continued printing, and completion of the series will create a special and beautiful stamp collection for Americans. Chinese Americans in particular are urged to buy sheets and sheets of the Chinese New Year commemorative stamps. It is a small, yet a meaningful way to show the Chinese traditional culture in America (Call first. It is not available at every postal office as it was in the last two years.)

The Post Office has committed to issuing the commemorative series but there are also other competing noble events to be commemorated. If it is not cost effective, they may be reluctant to continue. So, it is up to us to keep this cultural ingredient in our multicultural salad bowl."

C.Y. LEE CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST is open to any person 18 years or older with an interest in Asian American/Pacific Asian culture and experience. All manuscripts must be postmarked by June 1, 1995. Call Ella Quan (213)255-6487 for rules and formatting guide.

RUMMAGE SALE REPORT- The usually quiet Pasadena City College campus was unrecognizable tht early Sunday morning May 7 as the small contingent of Society members converged at one end of the bustling parking lot to hurriedly set up and display its van loads of clothes racks, tables and merchandise for its Second Rummage-Flea Market Sale. Even before they were finished, roving bands of shoppers crowded around to stare, poke and begin buying the wide-range of goods spread out. The steady stream of shoppers kept the brave and hardy sales crew on their toes, turning left and right as curious shoppers approached from every direction. New objects were brought up from the rear to replace spaces of just-sold items, clothes put on

empty hangers, as the hours flew by. Suddenly it seemed the crowd was gone as the three o'clock closing hour approached.

But May 7 would never have come off if a few dedicated members hadn't come over to Elmo's front back lawn weekends before to open up, sort and price out all the items members had been donating all during the past year. Those heroes were Jim Fong, Susan Dickson, Elsie Inase, Bob & Edith Jung, Margie & Al Lew, Ella Quan, Cy & Betty Wong, and Sue Yee. The valiant sales crew included Mai Diep, Lillian Fong, Jim Fong, Sue Yee, Susan Dickson, Gene Moy, Tom Moy, Ella Quan, Clara Tom, Cy Wong, Elsie Inase, Henrietta and William Yuan. Special thanks to lunch caterer Noel Toy Young, and transporters Gene Moy, Al & Margie Lew. Elmo Gambarana sends grateful "Thank yous" to all the members and Society friends who generously gave so the Society may prosper. Final figures on the money raised is \$650.91. A closeout sale is scheduled at Elmo's on June 24.

THANKS for the May 3rd's refreshments to Frank & Lupe Chee, Lillian Fong, Ruth Lung, Sylvia Soo Hoo, Noel Toy Young, and Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) via Tom Eng who is now one of their Board Members

GUM SAAN JOURNAL - The December 1994 issue is the last free issue. All members wishing a subscription and have not subscribed will need to send in \$5 for the June '95 and Dec'95 issues. Individual copies will cost \$2.50 plus tax, postage and handling.

WORK HARD, PLAY HARD!! Sunday June 25, 1995

Heritage & Visitors Center Open House/Work Party/BBQ

The Building Committee is please to announce a series of Open Houses on the fourth Sunday of each month through the end of the year. Our historic Victorian home at 411 Bernard will be open to the public with a variety of activities, including a photo exhibit on loan from the Museum of Chinese American History, continuous showings of videos on Chinese American and Los Angeles history, exhibits on the Fritz-Whiting families (builders and former owners of the property), an L.A. Chinatown history slide show, and guided tours of Chinatown. Volunteer docents are needed for shifts of 2-4 hours between noon and 4:00 on June 25th and on future fourth Sundays. Please call Ella Quan at 213-255-6487 or Gene Moy at 818-289-2067 if you would like to help.

To kick off the open house series, the Building Committee also plans a concurrent work party and barbecue on June 25. We need painters, landscapers, and those handy with tools for a variety of chores from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. If you can volunteer your labor or tools and equipment please call Gene Moy at 818-289-2067 to coordinate. And to celebrate afterward, we plan to hold a festive barbecue from 2:00 PM-5:00 PM. All members, families and friends are invited to join; at only \$4.00 per person, it's a great way to celebrate the beginning of summer. Please RSVP with Ella Quan at 213-255-6487. If you would like to help with your cooking talents please call master grill chef Cy Wong at 213-731-1084.

To prepare for the Open House Series, the Building Committee conducted a preliminary open house on Sunday May 21. With some modest publicity through the Downtown News and at the L.A. Wings bicycle event in Chinatown on that day, we received a variety of visitors who studied our exhibits and videos with interest. Thanks to the following for their assistance: Susan Sing, Bernie Moy, Doreen, Ben, Kenny & Kyle Nakayama, Sue Yee, Ella Quan, Munson Kwok, Don Loo, Cy Wong, the Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History for the photo exhibit loan, as well as to Building Chair Gene,

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MEMORIAL SHRINE

Ribbon Cutting and Historic Plaque Dedication



*Bring your family, guests, and your camera
as we celebrate completing phase one!!!*

1:00 o'clock in the afternoon

Saturday, June 3, 1995

Evergreen Memorial Park

204 N. Evergreen Avenue, Los Angeles

Directions to Evergreen Cemetery from First Street and Broadway in Downtown Los Angeles: Drive east on First Street through Little Tokyo and over the First Street Bridge into Boyle Heights. Proceed approximately 1 1/2 mile further to the corner of First Street and Evergreen Avenue. Turn left on Evergreen, go 1/2 block, and make an immediate right turn into Evergreen Cemetery. Once inside, proceed along the road that runs on the right perimeter of the cemetery. Once the road starts to curve to the left (north) you have reached the monument site and may park along the road.

(Restoration of this Los Angeles Historic/Cultural Monument is made possible
in part by a grant from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs)