



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

1995-96 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

AUGUST 1996

PROGRAM

DIRECTORS

Randall Bloch
Kenneth Chan
Susan Dickson
Elmo Gambarana
Winifred Lew
Ruth Lung
Eugene Moy
Stan Mu
Jeffrey Tung

Wednesday, September 4, 1996 - 7:30 P.M.
Castelar School - Multipurpose Room
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown
(Park on playground. Enter on College Street)
between Hill and Yale Street

WOODEN FISH SONGS

by

RUTHANNE LUM MCCUNN

Yes, Ruthanne Lum McCunn has recovered from her accident of June, 1995 when she was scheduled to come to speak to us. Our hopes and best wishes for a speedy recovery have been answered and she will speak to us at our first meeting of the 1996-97 year.

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 knew 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 for purchase at a discounted price. A percentage of the sale price will go to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California to help support its programs. The author, Ruthanne Lum McCunn, will be happy to autograph the books.

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.

BY-LAWS DUE FOR VOTE. Each CHSSC member has been sent a copy of the latest revised By-laws. **Please bring your copy with you to the Sept. 4th meeting** and be prepared to vote on it.

1996-97 ELECTION. The slate of officers and members of the Board of Directors as recommended by the Nominating Committee was sent to each CHSSC member. Elections will also be held at the Sept. 4th meeting. Nominations from the floor will be welcome. However, prior consent must have been obtained from the candidate before the name is announced.

1996-97 Recommended Slate:

President	Jeffrey Tung
1st Vice President	Sue Yee
Vice President /Programs	Susan Dickson
Secretary	Henrietta Yuan
Treasurer	Munson Kwok
Financial Secretary	Franklin Mah
Membership Secretary	Cy Wong
Board of Directors:	Eugene Cooper
	Irvin Lai
	Eugene Moy
	Ben Nakayama
	Susan Woo Yamasaki

SAVE FRIDAY, NOV. 1, 1996!! Mark your calendars now and save the evening for CHSSC's Fall Dinner. The money raised will be used to complete the World War II Project. Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends.

CHSSC's SUMMER PILOT PROGRAM held at the Heritage and Visitors Center from July 15 through August 8 was a big success!! During July and August, seven classes of Los Angeles Unified School District's summer school students came to our Center at 9:00 a.m. Each day, a different class arrived at the center and was split up into groups. While one-half of the class toured Chinatown on a scavenger hunt for unique architecture, bilingual signs, roast duck, roast pig, fresh seafood in the markets, etc., the other half stayed at the Center and divided into two groups. The students at the Center participated in various cultural activities: calligraphy, Chinese watercolor, ribbon dancing, Chinese teacup dancing, Tai Chi, lantern making, Nin Go (Chinese New Year pastry) and healthy exercise. This was an effective way to have these limited-English speaking students pay attention to and learn about Chinatown and some of its culture.

Planning for the event began in the Spring with a small committee: Susan Dickson, Bill Chun-Hoon, Cindy Fong, Louise Leong, and Ella Quan. Through the efforts of Bill Chun-Hoon, leaders of the Los Angeles School District's summer immigrant/refugee program became involved and helped select the participating classes as well as provide bus transportation for one class. This program would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers. Bill Chun-Hoon did double duty as tour guide and lesson leader. Peggy L. Wong, Cy Wong and Louise Leong served as interesting tour guides despite the heat. Bill and Anita Jeung taught and demonstrated Tai Chi. Margie Lew, "Grandma Margie", taught the children lantern-making. Ella Quan, a jack-of-all trades, filled in when needed and made sure the students had refreshments at the end of the walking tour.

Susan Dickson served as coordinator of the project at the Center. Gene Moy took time off work to serve as coordinator when Susan was out of town. Other educators who took time off from their precious summer vacations included: Gin Gee, Susan Shum, Irene Chin, Lucy Jung, Peggy Wong, Fong Tchan and Lenora Hall.

Our first program in the education field at the Heritage and Visitors Center was well-received by students, their teachers and even the volunteers. This program should be a model for a full-time program when we get funding.

TRAVELING EXHIBIT - "Gold Mountain Families: Searching for Chinese American Roots," was enthusiastically received by over 100 guests when it was displayed at the Monterey Park City Hall. From there, the exhibit made its way to the Monterey Park Public Library. This exhibit highlighted some Chinese American family histories and also featured tips on how to research your own family history. Call Suellen, (213) 626-5240, for more information.

SPEEDY RECOVERY to Paul Louie who fell and was injured when he was visiting China with his sons and brother. We're glad you're back and up and around again, Paul.

AN AMERICAN CHINATOWN by Wong Ho Leun will be on sale at all CHSSC meetings, dinners, and other events. The book comes in two volumes (over 700 pp) at a discounted price of \$75.00 per set.

CALLIFORNIA GOLD DISCOVERY TO STATEHOOD SESQUICENTENNIAL - upcoming events:

- Sept. 7, 1996 Admission Day Celebration. Reenactment by docents and park staff of California's admission to the union. Contact: Columbia State Historic Park, 209-532-1050.
- Sept. 9, 1996 Admission Day Celebration at State Capitol. Contact: Calif. State Capitol Museum, 916-324-0312.
- Sept. 14-15 Trip to the Diggin's. Contact High Rock Trekkers 4WD Club, Ed Dunkley, 916-988-4690.
- Sept. 21, 1996 Day of Living History. Recreates life on the Paradise Ridge as it was 150 years ago. Contact Gold Nugget Days, Inc., Connie Rogers, 916-872-8712.
- Sept. 27-29 GoldFest at Ironstone Vineyards. Contact "B" Clauss, 209-728-1251.
- Sept. 28, 1996 Living History Day. Contact Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, 916-445-4422.
- Oct. 4-Nov. 23 Juan Bautista de Anza Commemorative Relay. Contact Heritage Trails Fund, George Cardinet/Nancy Dupont, 510-926-1081.
- Oct. 5-6, 1996 Gold Rush Days. Contact Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, 916-622-3470.
- Oct. 5-6, 1996 U.S. National Gold Panning Championships. Contact Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, 916-622-3470.

WONG on the OPRAH WINFREY SHOW & USA TODAY. Our Life Member, Angi Ma Wong, did it again. She was on the Oprah Winfrey Show on Wednesday, July 31 at 3:00 p.m., ABC-TV, Channel 7. Angi was focused on the show with other celebrities, all who have used alternative healing methods and non-traditional cures such as transformation, yoga, meditation, Rolfling, and *feng shui* in their lives and had been interviewed for a new book *It Works for Me*. In her home, Angi provided suggested changes according to ancient Chinese design traditions to attract health, wealth, family harmony, and business success.

CHSSC supports CPSA. President Irvin Lai and 12 other CHSSC members supported the Chinatown Public Safety Association (CPSA) by sponsoring a Silver Table at their 14th Annual Awards Dinner where CHSSC's Life Member, Munson Kwok, was honored for his community work. Congratulations, Munson. You deserve the award!!

OLD CHINATOWN. On Saturday, July 13, the Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History held a meeting at the Merced Theater on 420 Main Street, Los Angeles. The Friends want to construct a model of Old Chinatown and asked for help with any kind of information pertaining to Old Chinatown. Over 50 people attended the meeting and compared memories about their lives in Old Chinatown. Some shared pictures. All in all, the meeting was very rewarding.

SANTA BARBARA DIGGINGS. Roberta Greenwood, CHSSC member and archaeologist, has delivered to CHSSC nine boxes of artifacts dug up from Old Chinatown in Santa Barbara. She said that most of the pieces are whole. Two more boxes will be forthcoming. A session to categorize the items will then be scheduled. Our deep appreciation to Roberta and her associates for all their hardwork. Thanks also to Stanley Mu for helping Roberta.

ANGELS FLIGHT. A comprehensive history of *Angels Flight* has been offered to CHSSC members at a 20% savings--\$14.00 per copy. Retail price is \$17.50. Call Ella Quan, 213-255-6487 to order your copy. Checks are to made payable to CHSSC.

LOTUS FESTIVAL. A dozen active members turned out to sit at the annual Society booth in the Lotus Festival at Echo Lake Park in Los Angeles on Saturday and Sunday, July 13, 14. Coming in staggered shifts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., it was more a social than a work scene as we engaged curious passerbys in conversation about our activities and purposes, pointing to our mounted poster displays and literature. With a variety of Asian American food stands nearby, lunch or snacks was a selective treat. Sue Yee's Program Committee thanks Jeff Tung, Elmo Gambarana, Jim Fong, Cy (just got off the plane) Wong, Gene Moy, Elsie Inase with daughter Tina, Wini Lew Ruth Lung, Mary Mu, Lillian Fong, Don Loo, and any other volunteer we may have unintentionally slighted, for participating in a successful, relaxed day in the sun for the Society.

CONDOLENCES to the family of Life Member Fred Chung who recently passed away. He was also past president of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Los Angeles Lodge.
CONDOLENCES to the family of Eddie Woo and brother of Board Member Winifred Lew. He passed away on July 31, 1996.

COMING EVENTS

Aug. 10-Sept. 7
 Tues-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
 FREE

"OUT OF HONG KONG", a contemporary art exhibition of work by 12 Chinese artists at Merging One Gallery, 1547 Sixth Street, Santa Monica. Call 310-395-0033.

Sat. & Sun., Aug. 24,25
 10a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chinatown Branch Library is holding its annual used book sale in the Castelar multipurpose room. Support the library by donating books for the sale and/or buying some books. All proceeds benefit the Homework Center at the Chinatown Branch Library. Call Carol, 213-620-0925 for more information.

Sunday, Aug. 25
 Noon to 4 p.m.

Open House
 L.A. Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center
 411 Bernard Street, L. A. Chinatown
 213-621-3171

Friday, Sept. 20
 5:30 p.m.

Chinatown Service Center gala celebration of 25 years of service in the community. Honoree will be Mr. Poy F. Wong. Westin Bonaventure Hotel, 404 S. Figueroa St., L.A. RSVP by Sept. 6. For additional info, call 213-253-0880.

Saturday, Sept. 21
 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 FREE

Echo Park Historical Society presents the 2nd annual Echo Park History Day. This year's theme focuses on historic Elysian Park. Guest speakers will include Paul Duchscherer, author of *"The Bungalow: America's Arts and Crafts Home"*; William Mason, historian and curator of California history for the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History and advisor to CHSSC; and Marc Wanamaker, author and former film studio archivist. Guided tours will be offered of Elysian Park's 3 Historic Cultural Monuments. Call 213-250-0573 for additional information.

Sunday, Sept. 22
 1p.m.-4p.m.

Historical Society of Centinela Valley and Inglewood City Dept. of Parks & Recreation presents its **FIESTA** at the Centinela Adobe Complex, 7634 Midfield. Free parking at 83rd west of Hindry with shuttle bus to Fiesta. Dancing and lots of food at the High School Alumni Center. Make it festive by wearing a costume.

Saturday, Oct. 12
 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

CCF Symposium 1996: Chinese Cuyture within the American Context sponsored by the Chinese Culture Foundation of S.F. and supported by the Chinese Historical Society of America. Chinese Culture Center, Holiday Inn, 3rd Floor, 750 Kearny St., San Francisco. For more info, call 415-338-0500

Friday, Nov. 1

CHSSC's FALL DINNER

NEWS 'n NOTES DEADLINE: All articles must be in to the P.O. Box by the 15th of the month to be considered in that month's News 'n Notes.