



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

JANUARY 1996

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PROGRAM

" REQUIEM"

DIRECTORS

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Stan Mu
Jeffrey Tung

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1996

7:30 P.M.

CASTELAR SCHOOL MULTIPURPOSE ROOM
840 YALE STREET, LOS ANGELES CHINATOWN
COLLEGE & HILL ST (Enter parking on College Street)

The February meeting will present a short film, "Requiem", directed by Elizabeth Sung, a woman of bicultural heritage. The film tells a story of a young Asian girl and her brother from their childhood in Hong Kong to the fulfillment of their dreams in America. Sung's brother, Fashion Designer Philip Sung, died of AIDS in 1985. She hopes that this film will bring awareness to people who will learn to take better care of themselves.

The Hong Kong apartment scenes were filmed at 411 Bernard Street, our CHSSC Heritage and Visitors Center.

SOCIETY MEMBERS..... come out and see the first major public project from our own Center.

Elizabeth Sung will be on hand to critique the project and to answer questions.

STILL TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP WITH CHSSC.....

Year 1996 will be even more exciting with three big projects in full swing and we invite your participation: World War II Project, Shrine Preservation Phase II, and the Visitors Center. Plus the meetings, dinners, field trips, special events, and publications. Dues for the 1996 calendar year can be paid now. Remember, dues are the major income for keeping our administrative and project operations going. Help us keep the Society BIG, FAST, and the BEST. Don't forget to add \$5.00 for a subscription to the Gum Saan Journal.

SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OPENS. A large contingent of CHSSC members made the excursion southward Jan. 13-14 to join the celebration of a milestone occasion, the opening of the Chinese Historical Museum of San Diego by our sister organization, Chinese Historical Society of Greater San Diego and Baja California. The core group of 8, organized by Stan and Mary Mu into their GM van, included Margie and Al Lew, Bob and Edith Jung, Elmo Gambarana, and Munson Kwok. They met up with Tom Moy there, ran into the Calvin Lee family (he's a San Diego native), Carol Nye doing the photos, and later in the evening, the Gene Moy family of 3 and the Paul Chace's.

The full day of events under a really warm, sunny sky, started with a prelude staged by the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (Chung Wah) of that city, the "awakening" of the season's Chinese New Year's lions by the local master. This ceremony, rare to L.A., was authentically and thoroughly performed, with the painted placement of the eyes and the spine, and the transfer of the spark of "life" by fire to the tails, to the accompaniment of the usual string of loud firecrackers. The young lions then moved down the short 3rd Avenue block to the corner of I and 3rd, site of the dedication.

The dedication started with lion dances and ended with prayer, by Rev. Jow, the last pastor of the old Chinese Mission church which once used the restored and preserved building. In between were an appropriate number of speeches from local officials (councilman, police chief), foreign dignitaries (such as Dir. Gen. Owyang of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office of L.A. and other high officials), of course, former councilman and assemblyman Tom Hom, probably the key prime mover of the historical society and museum ideas, and current CHS president, Dr. Alex Chuang and Museum Trustees Chair, Dr. Shu Chien. Following the traditional ribbon cutting, a 7 foot statue of Confucius, a gift of the Republic of China, was dedicated in a rear patio.

The building itself is a brick building with mission revival style facade, moved from its original location in San Diego's Chinatown some six blocks and now completely restored as a showpiece of San Diego's new Asian Pacific Ethnic Historic District. A space of 2,000 square feet will be made available for exhibits and a library. There are built in features such as cabinets and bookshelves for storage, and in a tradition for a Chinese meeting space, a kitchen in the back with rest rooms adjacent. An office/exhibit area of 500 square feet completes a split level second floor. Beside the building, a very charming Chinese garden with flowing brook makes the facility very unique. The building is now a shell eager to be filled. As Murray Lee noted, a lot of work will be needed to install the exhibits, and by account of the Chinese newspapers, this \$2 million project is about half way, with the completion of the building and grounds. Their mission, as given by Dr. Chaung, will be "presentation of Chinese historical heritage and artistic culture."

The ceremonies were completed with a wonderful banquet at the San Diego Marriott in the evening. A big feature was a showing of Chinese historical court dress, courtesy of the Republic of China. Al Lew and Munson Kwok were our lucky raffle winners. On this trip, the core group was also able to explore Old Town San Diego, locale of several historical museums.

Congratulations to our sister group, the Chinese Historical Society of Greater San Diego, and our good friends Tom and Dorothy Hom, and Murray



Support the
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center

GUNG HAY FOT CHOY!

Chinese New Year Boutique

FUND-RAISER

Arts and Crafts • Beautiful and Unique Gifts • Clothing
Gourmet Items • Jewelry • Multicultural Books

Saturday, February 17, 1996

10 am - 6:00 pm

411 Bernard Street

Los Angeles Chinatown

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the CHSSC Building Fund

Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1996

MARDI GRAS. El Pueblo's own version of Mardi Gras! The centuries old tradition is celebrated on "Fat Tuesday" with a parade, crowning of the King and Queen. Prizes are given for best costumes, hats, etc. Great fun!

Friday - Sunday
March 1 -3, 1996

CONFERENCE OF CALIF. HISTORICAL SOCIETIES 1996 SOUTHERN SYMPOSIUM by Kern County Historical Society. For info, call 805-871-5119.

Saturday and Sunday
March 23-24, 1996

BOK KAI FESTIVAL - Mark the dates of March 23-24, 1996, on your calendar for the 1996 Bok Kai Festival. This traditional Marysville Chinese community celebration has been held since 1880. The festival events are a grand Saturday and Sunday party. We are looking forward again to having a Society delegation marching in the historic Bok Kai Parade on Saturday morning and enjoying the many other festivities. A local banquet dinner is planned. Members will assemble in Marysville, 45 miles north of Sacramento, on Saturday morning. Travel arrangements and motel reservations are best made individually. Johnny Yee will lead a side-trip to historic Chinese locations in the Mother Lode for those with an extra day or two for touring. Contact Paul Chace (619-743-8609) or Johnny Yee (818-572-0459) for more details.

1996 CHINESE NEW YEAR EVENT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, Jan. 16

Press Conference-Los Angeles Chinatown
Empress Pavilion Restaurant

Saturday, Jan. 20

Miss L.A. Chinatown Fashion Show
Omni Los Angeles Hotel
930 Wilshire Blvd.

Saturday, February 3

Miss L.A. Chinatown Pageant
Westin Bonaventure Hotel
404 S. Figueroa Street

Saturday, February 10
2:00 p.m.

Little King & Queen Contest
Castelar Elementary School
840 Yale Street

Saturday, February 17
2:00 p.m.

Golden Dragon Parade
L. A. Chinatown - on North Broadway

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
February 16 - 6 to 10 p.m.

Carnival
Castelar Elementary School
840 Yale Street

Feb. 17, 18 - noon to 10 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday

Street Fair
Central Plaza - Chinatown
900 block North Hill Street

February 17 & 18
11 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 17
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

CHSSC Boutique

Monday, February 19

411 Bernard Street
CHINESE NEW YEAR
YEAR OF THE RAT 4694

Friday, February 23
6:00 p.m.

Chinese New Year Banquet
Empress Pavilion Restaurant
988 North Hill Street #201

Sunday, February 25

Firecracker 5K/10K Race

Friday, March 1

L. A. Chinatown
Call Steve, 818-583-1592
Golf Tournament
California Country Club
1509 S. Workman Mill Road, Whittier