

# VEWS '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

#### 1995-98 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**JANUARY 1996** 

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**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 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.



#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (213) 621-3171

Name	☐ GUM SAAN JOURNAL (2 issues annually)\$5.00 ☐ ACTIVE, annual\$25.00
Address	(spouse, same household) 10.00
City State Zip	(senior citizen over 60 years attition) 10.00
Phone ( ) ( )	☐ LIFE 50.00
<ul> <li>Please include me on the membership roster that will be available to members only.</li> </ul>	- VONTONAIE, annuai
am interested in helping with:   □ Programs □ Publications □ Research   □ Membership/Publicity □ Fundraising	☐ LIFE PATRON
Other	General \$Scholarship \$
	Publications \$ Shrine \$ Heritage Center Building Fund \$
MAKE CHECKS PA WE ARE A TAX-EXEMPT NON-PROF	Heritage Center Building Fund \$

#### CHSSC WISH LIST:

showcases to display additional artifacts, documents, etc.

folding chairs and tables.

.volunteers to help at Open House, walking tours, boutiques, etc. Call the CHSSC office phone - 213-621-3171if you can help in any way.

HOLIDAY BOUTIOUE is coming again to 411 Bernard Street in February. Please mark your calendars now...Saturday. February 17. 1996. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Yes, that is also the day of the Chinese New Year Parade. Please let us know if you can come by early to help set up, if you can stay and march in the parade and/or if you can help close up after the parade. We need new faces and extra hands to help. Please come and join in on the fun.

CENTINELA'S "LUMINARIAS". On an almost-warm Sunday evening, January 7, the Historical Society of the Centinela Valley presented their tradition marking the last part of the Christmas season at the Adobe and History Cener, located on the extreme western edge of Inglewood by the 405 Freeway. A gathering of members and friends is denoted by paths guided by hundreds of candles mounted in paper bags to give a stunningly pretty effect, which is a Southwestern or Mexican custom, "Luminarias." The HSCV version includes decorations, apple cider, cookies, and very good rendition of Christmas songs by an excellent chorale, the sounds of Hawthorne. Seen from CHSSC were Munson and Suellen Kwok, and the family of Elsie Inase. Highlights are always a greeting of the Walt Haskell's, past CHSSC members and the incomparable Gladys Waddingham, now 95!!! Still right beside a little table selling the latest of her books of history, recalling her 46 years at Inglewood High School. Mrs. Waddingham has at least one more book planned in this coming year. Her 30th Anniversary book about HSCV, just published in 1995, is also a good model to consider. -- M. Kwok

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

Saturday, Jan. 20

**Empress Pavilion Restaurant** 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

Saturday, February 17

840 Yale Street Golden Dragon Parade

2:00 p.m. Friday, Saturday, Sunday February 16 - 6 to 10 p.m.

L. A. Chinatown - on North Broadway

Feb. 17,18 - noon to 10 p.m. Saturay & Sunday

Carnival Castelar Elementary School

February 17 & 18 11 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. 840 Yale Street Street Fair

Saturday, February 17

Central Plaza - Chinatown 900 block North Hill Street

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, February 19 **CHSSC Boutique** 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 Firecracker 5K/10K Race

Sunday, February 25

L. A. Chinatown Call Steve, 818-583-1592

Friday, March 1

**Golf Tournament** California Country Club

1509 S. Workman Mill Road, Whittier