

# 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*

Phone & FAX (323) 222-0856 • web site - [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org)

December 1998

1998-1999

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!!!!**

### PRESIDENT

*Susan G. Dickson*

### V. P. PROGRAMS

*Winifred Lew*

### SECRETARY

*Henrietta Yuan*

### TREASURER

*Ella Y. Quan*

### FINANCIAL SECRETARY

*Franklin Mah*

### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

*Cy Wong*

## PROGRAM

**Wednesday, January 6, 1999**

**7:00 P.M.**

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

**JEFFREY D. TUNG**

*Randall Bloch*

*Eugene Cooper*

*Elmo Gambarana*

*Gilbert Hom*

*Munson Kwok*

*Irvin R. Lai*

*Ruth Lung*

*Eugene Moy*

*Ben Nakayama*

### CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Multi-purpose Room

840 Yale Street

(Park on playground. Enter on College Street  
between Hill and Yale Streets)

Note: North Broadway will be closed between  
Cesar Chavez and College Street.

### OLVERA STREET and CHINA CITY:

Imagined and Contested Space

By William Estrada

Olvera Street and China City were created in the 1930s by Christine Sterling and City boosters. As a tourist landscape, Olvera Street and China City pitted a timeless, romantic, homogeneous Spanish, Mexican, and Chinese culture against industrialization, immigration, urban decay and modernity itself. The discontinuity that Sterling found in the present and the continuity she wished to restore were connected by virtue of their location in a single urban geography adjacent to the Plaza, the oldest and most historic section of Los Angeles.

William Estrada is a native of Los Angeles. He is curator at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument and is completing his Ph.D. in History at UCLA. His presentation to the CHSSC is based on his dissertation: *The Los Angeles Plaza: Myth, Memory, Symbol, and the Struggle for Place in a Changing Metropolis*.



**AN EVENING WITH CLARENCE LEE**  
**LUNAR NEW YEAR STAMP DESIGNER**

The FRIENDS OF THE CHINATOWN LIBRARY and the CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA invite you to meet Clarence Lee, the designer of the United States Postal Service Lunar New Year stamps at the Castelar School multipurpose room on TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1999 at 7:00 p.m.

Clarence Lee was commissioned by the United States Postal Service to design the complete set of 12 Lunar New Year stamps. This year's commemorative stamp, the Year of the Hare, will be dedicated earlier in the day in a ceremony at 10 a.m. in Los Angeles Chinatown, Central Plaza, Sun Yat Sen statue. The special meeting in the evening at Castelar School will give you the opportunity to hear about his personal experiences in creating these stamps.

The Hare stamp is the 7<sup>th</sup> commemorative stamp in the series. The other Lunar stamps and the city where the first day of issue was held include: Rooster (San Francisco), Dog (Pomona), Boar (Sacramento), Rat (San Francisco), Ox (Honolulu), and Tiger (Seattle).

**HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND BOUTIQUE.** A great time was had by all. Plenty of good food, and festive singing of holiday carols led by the "CHSSC Choir" and accompanied by Mae Hom on the piano. The evening was filled with exciting announcements. Among them was the FIRST DONATION TOWARDS OUR CHALLENGE GRANT -- \$10,000 DONATED BY MARGIE AND ALBERT LEW, Life Members in excellent standing and always volunteering for all projects. Thank you, Margie and Al, for your generous donations of time and money.

As if this was not enough, Margie introduced their daughter BARBARA and son-in-law L.P. LEUNG as our anonymous BENEFACTORS OF THE \$100,000.00 CHALLENGE GRANT. Thank you, Mr. And Mrs. L. P. Leung. Your generosity has given us the boost we needed to keep on trying to pay off the mortgage. Thank you, again.

**AN EXPRESSION OF THANKS FROM PAUL AND EMMA WOO LOUIE**

"We want to say thank you again to all of you who purchased Emma's book *Chinese American Names: Tradition and Transition* at the joint CHSSC / Friends of Chinatown Library meeting in October. It was an overwhelming experience and we're very grateful for your response. The sales manager at McFarland was very impressed; he said he had expected Ella Quan to return books because this is the usual procedure for most organizations.

We were delighted to see so many friends and acquaintances at the meeting. Thanks again to Historical Society President Susan Dickson and Friends President Cindy Fong for the invitation to speak about the book. We thank Ruby Ling Louie, Dolores Wong, Winfried Lew, Ella Quan, Munson Kwok, Franklin Mah, and all the others who worked very hard to make everything run smoothly that evening. And we thank you all -- Society and Friends -- for continuing to be the same warmhearted, fun-loving, and hospitable groups whom we regretfully left behind when we moved to Northern California."



**SPECIAL VETERANS' TRIBUTE AND BOOK RECEPTION, SATURDAY, DEC. 19<sup>th</sup>,** brought 200 people to Castelar's multipurpose room to see the book, *DUTY & HONOR*, for the first time. Many of the veterans came to pick up their pre-ordered book, to buy additional books for their families in time for Christmas and to meet friends they haven't seen for a while. **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers who pitched in to set up and decorate the room, prepared the delicious food, and helped distribute the books. If you were unable to attend and would like to see or buy a copy of the book before the holidays, call the office (323-222-0856) and leave a message. A time can be arranged. The book will also be sold at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cost is \$36.00 + 2.97 (CA sales tax) = \$38.97 per book. Buy your book now before the limited supply runs out.

(A letter of appreciation from one veteran to all who worked on the book.)

"Dear Marjorie,

*I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for undertaking the Chinese American WWII Veterans of Southern California Research Project. I can see it was no small feat which took much effort, time and finances. The success of this project was due in a large part to your drive and determination in locating and registering us veterans and overseeing the countless details in order to see it to its completion. For this, I salute you! I'm sure I'm expressing the gratitude and sentiments of my fellow WWII veterans and their families.*

*I'm looking forward to seeing my old friends in person and in the publication With whom I grew up and subsequently separated by the war. We all have our own Individual war memoirs to bear, good or bad, and can only empathize with each other. Some of us would rather forget about this time in our lives and see it as our historical fate But your project will help us see it from a more historical perspective as to why we, Chinese Americans, fought and died for America.*

*Without a doubt, there were discrimination and inequities toward minorities at that time in American society, however, after WWII things began to change for the better, although slowly. I wish to think that it was due to our patriotism for our country that the conscience of America wouldn't allow the old inequities to exist.*

*There is the notion that the younger generation is not aware or appreciative of the contributions and sacrifices of their forbears. In a way, we can't fault them, given the many distractions in our society today. Hopefully, through your project and publication they will realize that we, Chinese American Veterans of WWII, and others did our duty not only to save our country from tyrannical domination but to make this a better country for all its citizens. This is our legacy.*

*America is still a great country with all its imperfections but each of us can be what-  
Ever we want to be given our talents and determination. That, in a nutshell, is what we fought for.  
I pray it will not be in vain.*

*Sorry, Marjorie, but this long discourse. This is how I feel in retrospect. I'm glad my parents came to America with all the early hardships they endured but life has improved with each succeeding generation. I hope we all play a part in it as WWII veterans but more importantly as Chinese American parents and grandparents in American society.*

*Thanks again to you and your staff for all your hard work!*

*With Sincerity,*

*(Signed) Sinclair Yip"*



**NORTH BROADWAY RESURFACING PROJECT** to begin December 28, 1998.

Councilmember Mike Hernandez informs us that Chinatown will have a newly resurfaced street on North Broadway between College Street and Cesar Chavez Avenue in time for Chinese New Year – Year of the Hare - on Feb. 16, 1999. The project should approximately take 2 weeks to complete.

**FIELD TRIP TO THE GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, UTAH**

The Chinese Historic Society of Southern California is planning another field trip to Promontory Summit, UT for the annual re-enactment of the completion of the Transcontinental railroad, on Monday May 10, 1999.

Bill Chew has volunteered to be the project leader and is organizing a group of families and friends to attend this historic event which recognizes the first contribution of the Chinese railroad workers of the Central Pacific.

There are three optional travel plans which are briefly described below.

- 1) **Air-Rail-Auto Plan:** Fly from LAX to Sacramento, drive to Colfax, overnight stay and tour “Cape Horn”, Amtrak train Colfax to Salt Lake, rent car drive to Ogden for lunch stop and visit “Union Station” depot museum, hotel stay in Brigham City, GS Historic Site Celebration, return to SLC and fly back to L. A.
- 2) **Air-Auto Plan:** The tentative plan is to fly to Salt Lake City on the morning of May 9. Rent cars / vans at airport, drive / lunch stop and tour the Chinese murals and statue at “Union Station” in Ogden, drive to Brigham City, stay one night, attend the ceremonies and return to LAX Monday evening or Tuesday. Each party shall be responsible for his own expenses.
- 3) **Colfax Only:** Drive your car with a group to Colfax for weekend with many historic events and return to L.A. (or maybe a side trip to Tahoe?)

If anyone is interested in attending, please fill in the following information to receive additional details on exciting options, the itinerary, costs and schedules.

Travel Plan Selection (circle one only): Air-Rail-Auto, Air-Auto, Colfax only.

No. in party \_\_\_\_\_ Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_; FAX: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide this information to BILL CHEW, 8118 W. 83<sup>rd</sup> St., #1, Playa Del Rey, CA 90293. Phone / FAX (310) 823-6291; E-Mail: wfchew2@aol.com

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Sunday, Dec. 27, 1998    Lighting of the Luminarias  
6:00 p.m.                Historical Society of Centinela Valley California  
For info: Bud Utter (310) 676-4363

Jan. 3,10,17,24,31,1999    L.A.Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center  
12 noon – 4:00 p.m.       411 Bernard Street  
Los Angeles Chinatown



**SNEAK PREVIEW OF *HEADING EAST* TRAVELING EXHIBIT.** Starting this year on through the year 2000, California will be celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Discovery of Gold and Statehood. As part of the Sesquicentennial celebration, the California Asian Pacific American Experience (CAPAE) Committee in collaboration with the California Sesquicentennial Commission and California Public Library System will present the *HEADING EAST: CALIFORNIA'S ASIAN PACIFIC EXPERIENCE* traveling exhibit. The exhibit explores the trials and tribulations of California's Asian Pacific history through a series of panels and cubes that display powerful and memorable images. CHSSC is one of the co-sponsors of this exhibit which is created by Board Member Munson Kwok and Suellen Cheng, Museum of Chinese American History curator. *Heading East* is an idea originated by Sesquicentennial Commissioner Beulah Quo. For info: Call Munson Kwok at 310-645-1369.

**Thru January 7, 1999**     *Heading East:: the Exhibit*  
**T-Th. 12 noon – 5 p.m.**     Japanese American Cultural & Community Center – North Gallery  
**Sat., Sun. 11a.m.-4 p.m.**     244 South San Pedro Street in Little Tokyo

**Jan. 15-30, 1999**     *Heading East:: the Exhibit*  
                                  Alhambra City Hall

**Jan. 3 – Mar. 31, 1999**     “Gum San: Land of the Golden Mt” Chinese in CA  
                                  Gold Rush. Sponsored by Council for the Humanities  
                                  Ontario Museum, 225 S. Euclid 909-983-3198

**Jan. 5, 1999**     Clarence Lee, Lunar New Year Stamp designer  
**10:00 a.m.**     Chinatown Central Plaza  
**7:00 p.m.**     Castelar Elementary School

**Wed., Jan. 6, 1999**     Olvera Street and China City  
**7:00 p.m.**     Castelar Elementary School  
                                  840 Yale Street, L. A. Chinatown

**Sat., Jan. 23, 1999**     Los Angeles: The Essence of a Community  
                                  4<sup>th</sup> Historical Society of Southern California's Conference  
                                  Autry Museum – For info: 323-222-0546

**Thru Jan. 24, 1999**     “GOLD FEVER: LURE & LEGACY OF THE CALIFORNIA  
**Admission + \$3**     GOLD RUSH”  
                                  Autry Museum, 4700 Western Heritage Way  
                                  Griffith Park, L. A. Res.req. 323-667-2000

**Feb. 5-7, 1999**     DEATH VALLEY  
                                  Conference of California Historical Societies  
                                  For info: Margaret – 775-882-1994; Christie – 626-792-1048

**Mar. 20, 1999**     MARYSVILLE'S BOK KAI TEMPLE Celebration  
                                  For info: Paul Chace (760) 743-8609.

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