



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

APRIL 1999

PROGRAM

Wednesday, May 5, 1999

7:00 P.M.

CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Multi-purpose Room

840 Yale Street

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

"MULTICULTURAL CELEBRATIONS"

by

Norine Dresser

You don't need a passport to participate in exotic, exciting rituals. Join Norine Dresser as she gives a slide-illustrated program describing the ethnic and religious varieties of birth, wedding, coming of age, and healing customs going on right here at home, with advice about what to say, what not to do, and what gifts to give if you have the opportunity to attend.

Discover bangle bracelet parties for 7-month pregnant Indian women, amulets to protect newborns; the role of money at different ethnic weddings; new and old traditions for pregnancy and healing.

Copies of *Multicultural Celebrations* will be autographed and sold at the meeting.

FREE WALKING TOURS on Saturdays and Sundays during Asian Heritage Month, the month of May. Schedule for tours are 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Limited space. Reservations necessary. Leave message on 323-222-0856. Your reservation will be confirmed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE to CHSSC members and friends.

February 26, 1999 was a banner day for our Chinese Historical Society. Our Chinese New Year dinner at the Empress Pavilion was an event to be proud of. The tables were beautifully decorated with white tablecloths and red napkins with a centerpiece designed and made by Margie Lew. In the front of the room, newly prepared panels displayed our many projects throughout the years. Of course, our newest project, the WW II book, *Duty and Honor: A Tribute to Southern California Chinese American Veterans*, and the digitalized archives, were showcased. Franklin Mah even set up his computer to give a live demonstration of the digitalized archives.

Even before all the candles were lit, people started coming. We had more people than ever before. Through the Herculean efforts of our member, Dr. Wing Mar, we had 45 tables. At least half of the attendees were non-members. Our nine course dinner and comraderie were enjoyed by all while we were entertained by Michael Cladis. At the end of the meal our speakers, Tiffany Tom Chow, the daughter of Pat Tom, and Daniel Bagdadi, L.Ac spoke about how Western and Eastern medicine can work together to solve emotional problems.

At the end of the evening, I was able to announce that we had raised \$100,000 in cash and pledges, including many received that night, since receiving the challenge grant in November. It was an exciting moment, but it isn't the end – it's an intermediate step. Last Fall our fundraising efforts were energized when L.P. Leung and His wife, Barbara, very generously gave the \$100,000 challenge grant. Now that we have had a tremendously successful dinner, we must continue our efforts while we have the momentum.

We now have a home in Chinatown for the Society and a Visitors Center that is open every Sunday. However, the mortgage payments have been such a burden that our foremost goal is to pay off the mortgage. Once the debt is retired, we will work towards long and short range plans. For example, we need to staff our Visitors Center on a regular basis for it to be effective. As our Moon Festival celebration demonstrated, the backyard of our property is a wonderful staging area for community events. The Society needs to make use of its property. My long-range vision is for the society to build a structure that will house our artifacts and be a community resource.

The CHSSC needs your support. Begin by coming to the May 1st opening ceremony for our free Chinatown walking tours. Sign up to take a tour yourself to see how Chinatown has changed in the past 24 years that we have been a volunteer organization. Think about being a volunteer on an existing project or on something new that interest you. Lastly, we need your continued financial support. Several fund-raising efforts for the summer are still in the planning stage. Together we can continue preserving and making history.

THANK YOU, ANGI MA WONG. Angi has done it again. She has donated a limited supply of her latest – *The Lunar New Year Song* – to the Society for a fundraiser. The song is sung in English, then bilingual, then in Chinese. This song comes in cassette and CD. Anyone interested in purchasing either a cassette (\$10) or a CD (\$15) may contact the Society by leaving a message at 323-222-0856.

DUTY AND HONOR sales are still going strong. It is understandable that many veterans and their families have bought a book for each of their children and grandchildren. We recently sold five copies to one family. Angi Ma Wong is taking this book further and has purchased three books to donate, one to each of the three branches of the Palos Verdes libraries. Stanton Mu, retired teacher from Belmont High School, is donating two books to Belmont High School, one for the Social Studies Department and one to the Belmont High School library. Some are planning to donate one or two copies of *Duty and Honor* their alma mater. Buy your copy now while the supply lasts.

BELATED ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS to all those who have been donating refreshments for our various meetings. Please accept our apologies for the delay in saying 'thank you.'

June, 1998 – Ruth Lung

September, 1998 – Ruth Lung

November, 1998 – Bob & Edith Jung, Margie Lew, Ruth Lung, Johnson Yee, Noel Toy Young

January, 1999 – Bill & Margie Chun-Hoon, Friends of the Chinatown Library, Albert & Margie Lew, Ruth Lung, Johnny Yee

February, 1999 – Bill & Natalina Chew, John Kuderna, Winifred Lew, Ruth Lung, Noel Toy Young

March, 1999 – Margie Lew, Ruth Lung, Ella Quan, Noel Toy Young

April, 1999 – Johnny Yee, Betty Yeow, Donna Young, Noel Toy Young

HISTORIC SITE, UTAH

Applications and information are still available to those interested in being part of this field trip. Call Bill Chew on 310-823-6291.

CHSSC ARTIFACTS ON DISPLAY. Watts Community Labor Action Committee will have an exhibit in conjunction with the Getty Museum and Claremont College.

Exhibit Title: "Illuminating Community Archives and Collections"

Exhibit Dates: May 22 – June 30, 1999

Museum Times: Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Exhibit Opening: Saturday, May 22 at noon

Address: 10950 S. Central Avenue, Los Angeles 90059

SUMMER INTERN OPPORTUNITY offered by Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History and El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, City of Los Angeles.

Duration: June 14, 1999 to August 20, 1999

Hours per week: 40 hours

Stipend: \$3000 for ten-week period

Deadline: 5:00 p.m. May 7, 1999

For info: Call (213) 626-5240 or 680-2525

CONGRATULATIONS, RANDALL BLOCH. The March-April issue of the L. A. Conservancy introduced their 1998 Downtown Walking Tour Docent Graduates. Our own CHSSC member, Randall Bloch, was pictured among the graduates.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1,2,8,9,15,16
May 22,23,29,30
10 a.m. & 1 p.m.

FREE WALKING TOUR OF CHINATOWN
Reservations necessary. Limited space.
Call CHSSC office 323-222-0856.

Saturday, May 1
12 Noon
Free

Our kick-off event, featuring *hereandnow*, a Los Angeles-based Asian American theatre company.
411 Bernard Street.

Sundays
May 2,9,16,23,30
Noon – 4 p.m.
Free admission

L.A. CHINATOWN HERITAGE & VISITORS CENTER
411 Bernard Street (opposite entrance to Empress Pavilion parking)

Friday, May 7
7:30 p.m.

BEIJING SPRING, the story of three generations in Beijing in the spring of 1989.

A musical Odyssey by East West Players and sponsored by East West Players and sponsored by Visual Artists Guild.
David Henry Hwang Theater, 120 N. Judge John Aiso St.
Advanced purchase: \$25, orchestra; \$20 balcony
(\$30, \$25 at the door)

For further info, call 310-539-0234

Monday, May 10
\$200 per individual
11:30 a.m.-lunch
1:00 p.m. Tee Off

11th ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
Sponsors: Kaiser Permanente & Bank of America
Chinatown Service Center
For more info, call 213-808-1700, ext. 204

July 9 – 11

THE SIXTH CHINESE-AMERICAN CONFERENCE
San Diego, CA

Sponsors: Chinese Historical Society of Greater San Diego and Baja California (CHSSD)
Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA)
Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC)

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.