



CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
*requests your presence at our annual*

# *Holiday Potluck & Boutique*

**6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2000  
at Castelar Elementary Multipurpose Room**

840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown  
(Park on playground, enter on College Street)  
between Hill and Yale Streets

*-- Bring your specialties --  
main dishes, salads, desserts  
ethnic and holiday goodies!!  
(Enough for 6 people)*

**If you don't bring food, please bring \$5.00 per person.**

For more information, contact:  
Susan Dickson (626) 792-8454 or Ella Quan (323) 255-6487





# NEWS 'N NOTES

## CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

NOVEMBER 2000

### NOVEMBER MEETING: JADE AND GIANT ROBOT

Capturing Culture through the eyes of Magazines editors --  
Eric Nakamura, Martin Wong, and Gerald Jann.

Capturing the voices of invisible majority comes into the heart of these magazine editors.

To Eric and Martin, it is not about making the big bucks to make it equal to success in the publishing world. Even Gerald agreed that the business is brutal in the marketing aspects of selling advertising spaces to make ends meet. Whatever truly counts at the finish line is reaching out to their audiences and to share their vision of what means something either in the forefront or in the obscure.

Both Jade and Giant Robot started out with no hard cost of millions in investments. Gerald held his magazine with practically a one-man-bandwagon. (He did mention later that it was foolishness, but at the end it generated results.) He graduated from Pasadena Art Center and step-foot into the printing business. With all the knowledge of production and his wanting to be a writer, all came to one proposal -- Jade Magazine debuted in the 1970.

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### AMERICA'S CHINATOWNS

A discussion panel co-sponsored by CHSSC and the Autry Museum was held on Saturday, October 28th, 2000 at Casa Italiana on North Broadway. A huge turnout of people interested in the aspect of Chinatowns in North America were in attendance. The discussion covered three different Chinatowns -- New York, Vancouver and Los Angeles, telling how each of the Chinatowns was established and how its form changes over a period of time. Lecturers included Jan Lin, Professor of Sociology at Occidental College; Andy Yan, a student in the Master Program at Department of Urban Planning UCLA; and Eugene Moy, Vice President of Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.

Gene Moy opened with a historical overview of how Chinese came to shore of North America and with records shown three Chinese sailors landed in Baltimore when the ship captain decided to stay aboard in the area in 1785. In 1815 Governor Desola of California had a cook who was Chinese. The reason why many Chinese came to America was due to social and political unrest in China first started with the Opium War resulting in an economic problem where many people were frantically looking for opportunities elsewhere. It wasn't until 1848 with the discovery of gold in California that bought in a drawn

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### A NEW ART SCENE

It was a sunny Sunday afternoon in Chinatown as I came across the New Chinatown Barbershop. As I walked in, there were two young men working, they were both working on different stations. They were not barbers and I wasn't there to get a haircut like one would have thought...

*my experience of barbershop was during December of 1999 when I stopped in front of the shop because "New Chinatown Barbershop" was written on the window. I have never thought about photographing barbershop before nor have I walked into one before as far as my memories are concerned. I decided to walk in the minute I glanced through the window and saw a barber at work. He was an old man cutting a little boy's hair with his agile hands, one hand held a comb and the other a pair of silver scissors. The boy was sitting quietly on an old red chair with phone books propping the little body up for height. I felt like an intruder suddenly stopping the meditative ritual of the barber which should never to be disturbed. I asked the barber if I may take a picture of him cutting the boy's hair, but he declined such an invitation. As novice as I still am I walked out with regrets never to push the dialogue, but to recreate my memory of what I know of the New Chinatown Barbershop...*

what has become of it? This is why I came, to find out all about it. I met Annie Shaw through a friend of mind and I later found out that she had rented the barbershop space. It was either luck or accident that she came upon renting this space when an artist friend of hers, Tammy Singer, rented the space next to the shoe store for her art show. And the idea just clicked that she needed a studio space or a gallery space and to make something out of it. When a sign was up for lease of the barbershop space, Annie couldn't give it up.

When I was working on my photography essay about Chinatown for my photography class, walking up and down the streets photographing things of interest to me, I passed by several galleries popping up here and there replacing spaces of old storefronts. Yet not one of those galleries has come to contribute to a site-specific project except probably for the New Chinatown Barbershop. I am sure the residents of Chinatown may know more about the barbershop than anyone coming in from the outside looking in.

This space is full of history, once owned by Rei who came from the Philippines and ran his barber business for 60 plus years until he passed away recently. An information from a particular source mentioned that at one point of time before the barbershop was established it used to be a Bible school for children.. (We may need verification for this information.)

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**SPECIAL THANKS FOR NOVEMBER REFRESHMENTS TO:**

**BILL CHUN-HOON**

**JOHN KUDERNA**

**RUTH LUNG**

**JOHNNY YEE**

**NOEL TOY YOUNG**

We apologize if we have inadvertently left anyone off this list.  
Your support is invaluable and much appreciated.

**THANK YOU**

**TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED  
OUR 25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

It was a great pleasure to have everyone share our memories and our visions for the many years to come. Your generosity and support to CHSSC are greatly appreciated.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**TO DR. ANNIE CHIN SIU OF SAN MARINO  
SHE WAS AWARDED FELLOWSHIP**

**IN THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF DENTISTS ON OCTOBER 13TH, 2000.**

Dr. Siu graduated from the University of California at San Francisco and is currently on the Board of Councilors for the USC School of Dentistry and also a Pre-clinical Assistant Professor at the USC School of Dentistry.

**CHSSC SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS NEEDED**

How would you like to help a college student fulfill his dream? You can do so by contributing to the CHSSC Scholarship Fund. For the last several years, the CHSSC has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a qualified and deserving undergraduate student in a college or university here in Southern California who shows a strong interest in Chinese American studies in the Humanities or Social Sciences. Donations are needed to continue this important program, which starts in December, so please consider contributing to the Scholarship Fund and know that you are helping to encourage a student continue his or her education goals, especially in the field of Chinese American studies.

More and more interest is being shown in the contributions of Chinese Americans to this country and the world, and what better way is there to show your support and applaud their efforts? We will gladly accept donations of any amounts. Just specify "Scholarship Fund" on your donation and accept our thanks for helping in such a tangible way!

Contact Winnie Lew, Scholarship Chair, for more information through the CHSSC office at (323) 222-0856.

**A REMINDER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

The time has come to renew your subscription. If you do not want to miss anything that is coming up in the new year 2001, I suggest you do it as soon as you finish reading this November issue. For all members (either annual members or lifetime members), if you want the Gum Saan Journal please add \$5 to your subscription. Thank you.

**WRITERS NEEDED**

Are you a writer? If you are we need you to become a part of our team. Writing about Chinatown and surrounding neighborhoods for our News 'n Notes. As a writer you can give another light to interesting issue and perspective to history and the present of the community. Please contact Yvonne Chia at (310) 393 9185.

**2000-2001**

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**APPRECIATION OF OUR  
CHINESE AMERICAN HERITAGE**

**CHSSC**

**P.O. Box 862647**

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**(323) 222-0856**

**WWW.CHSSC.ORG**

**A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**



**PAST PRESIDENTS****STAN LAU**

1975-76

**GEORGE YEE**

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**ELLA YEE QUAN**

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1991

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1994-95

**JEFFREY D. TUNG**

1996-97

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1998-2000

**NEWS 'N NOTES**

LAYOUT DESIGN BY

WWW.SPOONFULDESIGN.COM

**SUBMISSIONS OF CALENDAR**

EVENTS AND ARTICLES MUST BE

RECEIVED BY THE 15TH OF EACH

MONTH IN ORDER TO BE

CONSIDERED IN THAT MONTH'S

NEWSLETTER

CONTACT

YVONNE CHIA

YCHIA76@HOTMAIL.COM

(310) 393-9185

**WHITE ELEPHANT SALE**

Time to clean out your closets and get rid of some of the clutter. To benefit CHSSC's Heritage and Visitors Center, we are asking for donations for a White Elephant Sale on December 9th and 10th, 2000. We are looking for those old clothes, toys, books, and any other items which we can sell to raise money for the Center.

Please bring your donations to the Heritage and Visitor Center on any Sunday between now and the 9th of December from noon - 4 pm. or call for drop off location near you please contact Yvonne Chia at (310) 393 9185 or Reuben Lim at (323) 953-6743.

We can only accept larger items such as furniture and appliances if they are in good working condition. Please contact us if you have any questions.

**CHSSC's 25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

CHSSC members and their family and friends filled 30 tables to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of CHSSC's achievements and a look into the future of the Society. A huge plaque with the names of three Founders and 106 Charter Members was unveiled and will be on the wall of the Los Angeles Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center. Rev. Paul Louie, one of the Founders, traveled from San Mateo to be with us for the occasion. Thirty Charter Members were also present with some of their family members and friends.

The highlight of the evening was viewing the many photos collected from a committee of CHSSC members depicting some of the activities and events of the past 25 years. The photo collection was by no means complete. If anyone has photos to contribute, please leave a message on (323) 222--856 and we will get back to you.

Thanks and appreciation goes to all of you who were able to attend the dinner to help celebrate this memorable occasion. Thank you again for your continued support.

**25TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRTS**

A limited number of 25th Anniversary commemorative T-shirts are still available at \$20 each or two or more at \$18 each, sizes come in medium, large, and extra large for sale at the Heritage and Visitors Center. Or you can order them along with renewing your membership subscription.

**PROGRAMS FOR 2001****January - Chinese American Contributions to Science, Technology and Medicine - Chinese American Portraits Project**

To counter negative portrayal of Chinese Americans in the media surrounding the Wen Ho Lee Case the Historical Society has embarked on a project to document the role of Chinese Americans in the sciences, from technology to medicine, aerospace to engineering, to demonstrate past and current contributions to the country and to society. This program will present a panel of distinguish scientist and engineers.

**February - Cecelia Rassmussen**

Los Angeles Times writer whose regular column on the third page of Sunday's Metro section brings to life Los Angeles' past. Her articles have chronicled the role of several ethnic communities in our city's history.

**March - Gloria Lothrop**

History of the Italian American community in Los Angeles a slide show presentation with a preview of what's going on with the Italian Hall at El Pueblo.

**April - James Hong**

Presentation by the most recognized character actor whose roles have span the entire spectrum from comedy to dramatics.





DECEMBER 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, SUNDAY

HERITAGE AND VISITORS CENTER  
411 BERNARD STREET  
12 NOON - 4PM

DECEMBER 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, SATURDAY

GOOGIE TOURS. CHOICE OF THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY, BEHIND THE ORANGE CURTAIN, COFFEE SHOP MODERN AND MORE, COCKTAILS N COFFEE SHOPS WITH PRESERVATIONIST JOHN ENGLISH.  
\$34, RESERVATION REQUEST  
(323) 890-3480

DECEMBER 10

ON GOLD MOUNTAIN READING DISCUSSION GROUP AT MARY PICKFORD EDUCATION CENTER  
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
DISCUSS ADELINE YEN MAH'S BOOK FALLING LEAVES. WHICH EXAMINES LOS ANGELES IN THE 1960S AND THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN CALIFORNIA.  
\$5 FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS  
GENERAL ADMISSION IS \$7  
FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL (323) 667-2000, EXT. 243 OR 317

DECEMBER 16

THE MIRACLE MILE: A WALKING TOUR. TWO-HOUR TOUR OF THE WILSHIRE DISTRICT AND ART DECO BUILDINGS WITH STORIES BEHIND THEIR DEVELOPMENT.  
THE ART DECO SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES  
10AM  
\$5-10, RESERVATION REQUEST  
(310) 659-3326

SAN FRANCISCO

DECEMBER 1

CHINESE GARDEN ARCHITECTURE. LECTURE AND SLIDE SHOW TOUR WITH CURATOR OF THE CHINESE SCHOLAR'S GARDEN STEPHEN WHITEMAN ON THE TRADITION OF CHINESE GARDEN ARCHITECTURE IN NEW YORK.  
OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA, OAKLAND  
7PM  
(888) 625-6873

November Meeting continued from page 1

In the case of Giant Robot, Eric and Martin shared similar think tank. Both men graduated from UCLA, Eric with a degree in East Asian Studies and Martin with a degree in English. They met at an underground music scene after numerous amounts of mistaken identities because they were the only two Asians there. Their friendship grew from there without hesitation and with that came their first issue of xeroxed and stapled Sanrio Hello Kitty front cover of Giant Robot launched in 1994. A budget of \$100 cranked out 200 plus issues.

#### Proud Moments

When asked about the most rewarding experience both magazines ever had, it came down to interviews and acquiring those interviews. Extensive amount of phone calls and connections seem all too familiar to the editors and persistence most of the time generate great results. Martin shared his thoughts about calling from his day job at McGraw Hills trying to get through Jet Li's publicist for months with two phone calls a day. Finally an interview was granted and it was an accomplishment. The process is always rewarding. Gerald shared his first interview and meeting people along the way that changed him.

Receiving letters from readers could come as rewarding as interviews because without an audience no matter what kind of articles are written it remains words on paper with no attachments nor emotions.

America's Chinatowns continued from page 1

interest of Chinese. At one point in one year twenty-five thousand Chinese landed in San Francisco in either 1851 or 1852. It was later on with the Anti-Chinese movement that forced Chinese out of the urban to the rural area. It was in the late 19th century when establishment of Chinatowns grew to what it is now today.

The discussion started with Professor Jan Lin's overview of the ever-changing New York's Chinatown in presenting the statistic of social and economic changes throughout the years. New York's Chinatown is located in the southern part of Manhattan Island and it is really close to the World Trade Center, City Hall and Wall Street. With this in mind the issue of labors versus capitalism always would come up in conflict.

What is most interesting is how this particular Chinatown is represented in the media. It is known as an area filled with sweatshops, prostitutions, and crimes. It is actively with 12-15 times a year another sweatshop would arise with investigators scouring the area trying to clean the place up. The representation of Chinatown becomes the reality for outsiders looking in without any exploration. The challenge for Chinatown is to move away from those kinds of representation of sorts such as a timeless place that remains unchanged while the reality is always moving and changing.

On the other hand the changes are merely a replacements of new immigrants coming in taking the place of the old and reviving the industries. The challenge is now confronted with newer economic enclave with capitals coming overseas. There are still trades going on the sidewalk with separation of economic situation of global investment and local circulation, but





NOVEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 3

***THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING* BY PRINCE  
GOMOLVILAS, DIRECTED BY TIM DANG,  
PRESENTED BY EAST WEST PLAYERS  
120 JUDGE JOHN AISO ST.  
(213) 625-7000**

DECEMBER 15 - 24

**MARK TAPER FORUM PRESENTS CORNERSTONE  
THEATRE COMPANY'S  
FOR HERE OR TO GO?  
BY ALISON CAREY, DIRECTED BY BILL RAUCH  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER OF LOS ANGELES  
COUNTY  
135 N. GRAND AVE, DOWNTOWN LA  
(TEMPLE, HOPE, FIRST AND GRAND)  
REGULAR PRICE: \$25  
GROUPS OF 20 OR MORE: \$12  
CALL NANCY YEE (626) 282-3588 FOR MORE  
INFORMATION ON PLAY TIME EVENING OR MATINEE**

THRU 2001

***COMMON GROUND: THE HEART OF COMMUNITY  
JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY  
JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM  
(213) 625-0414***

THRU JANUARY 1ST, 2001

***ON GOLD MOUNTAIN: A CHINESE AMERICAN  
EXPERIENCE  
AUTRY MUSEUM OF WESTERN HERITAGE,  
GRIFFITH PARK, LA  
(323) 667-2000 EXT 234***

THRU FEBRUARY 11, 2001

***ALLEN SAY'S JOURNEY: THE ART AND WORDS  
OF A CHILDREN'S BOOK AUTHOR  
JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM  
(213) 625-0414***

THRU FEBRUARY 18, 2001

***MORE THAN A GAME: SPORT IN THE JAPANESE  
AMERICAN COMMUNITY, STORY OF ONE  
IMMIGRANT GROUP THROUGH THE UNIVERSALLY  
POPULAR TOPIC OF SPORT  
JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM  
(213) 625-0414***

the next step is to join the two together to create a modern Chinatown.

Then the discussion shifted gear to Andy Yan's dialogue of the Saltwater City namely the Chinatown in Vancouver, Canada. It was an insightful overview of the national history in leading to the minute changes that affect the Chinese population / community. Taking a more humanistic view of Vancouver's Chinatown, it gives a reflection of the struggle and accomplishment that comes through in Chinatown's architectures.

Like some cities with their architectural anomalies as wonders the most fascinating story is about Chang Toy who built a 6-foot wide building on the main street of Vancouver. It was said that the Sam Kee's grocery warehouse had to be demolished in 1912 after the city's decision to widen Pender Street. The city bought only 80 percent of the land area to extend the street and the remaining two- percent of the land was giving back to Chang Toy. Angered by the situation, Chang Toy made a public bet at a local bar. It was a \$5,000 bet to see if he could do something with the leftover land. And he built the 6-foot wide building. It was a local bathhouse until recently when it was bought by an insurance company as their main corporate office.

Another flavorful architecture is the Chinese Freemasons Building that represents the cultural mix of East and West. It was built by an organization called Chi Kung Tong then later changed their name to Freemasons because of racism against the Chinese during the early 1900s. The building has two facades merging a classical Italian style and a Canton style architecture. It not only presents the issue of mix cultures, but it brought in another notion of homeland close at heart to the people living in the community.

A New Art Scene continued from page 1

The name of the barbershop itself is the only storefront with "New Chinatown" written on it; that in itself is a historical memento.

When I asked Annie about her thoughts of the other art galleries around the area she addressed the issue of initial disapproval. Her first reaction was a notion of sadness about the galleries. There was nothing that addresses about Chinatown. She gave an example about "Black Dragon Society" which the name takes up an idiom of mystic and exotica, a stereotypical perception of Chinatown as a Hollywood set unrealistic. Yet on the other hand she realized that those galleries bring in new crowd into the once prosperous space during the yester years of the 50s. The community seemed to enjoy and welcome that aspect of the galleries taking over old stores in hoping Chinatown will revive in a new light.

Leefahsalung: Project 4 in hopes will give a possible new perspective to the New Chinatown Barbershop space. The ideas incorporated in this experimental project are to investigate and to integrate personal memories within time and space of present existence. It opens up the possibility of dialogues among the people within the Chinatown communities and also Chinatown's surrounding neighborhoods. In recollecting information and history of the barbershop it is able to reach out to public involvement and reinventing the space itself. Currently the series is a collective group of artists and non-artists each bringing his or her personal moments into the barbershop.





NOVEMBER 2000

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

### CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

POSITION: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

IMMEDIATE NEED

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OPENED UNTIL FILLED

#### JOB DESCRIPTION

THE CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (CHSSC) SEEKS A MOTIVATED INDIVIDUAL TO PROVIDE FULL TIME OFFICE ASSISTANCE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE PRESIDENT OR HIS DESIGNEE. CANDIDATE SHALL SUPPORT THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE SOCIETY. DUTIES SHALL INCLUDE MOST ASPECTS OF CLERICAL OFFICE OPERATIONS. CANDIDATE MAY SCHEDULE AND COORDINATE WALKING TOURS. CANDIDATE MAY ALSO HELP IN THE OPERATION OF THE SOCIETY'S VISITOR CENTER INCLUDING RETAIL SALES. CANDIDATE MAY ALSO ASSIST IN FUNDRAISING. WORK DAYS SHALL BE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

#### QUALIFICATION

- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.
- MINIMUM OF A TWO YEARS' COLLEGE OR THE EQUIVALENT IN ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:
  - HUMANITIES
  - SOCIAL SCIENCES
  - BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
  - OR RELATED TOPICS
- GOOD WRITING AND GOOD ORAL COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS SHALL BE REQUIRED, WITH BILINGUAL LANGUAGE SKILLS (CANTONESE AND MANDARIN) DESIRABLE.
- FAMILIARITY WITH OFFICE COMPUTER TOOLS, SOFTWARE AND OTHER OFFICE MACHINES MUST BE DEMONSTRATED
- CANDIDATE MUST SHOW INTERESTS COMPATIBLE WITH THE GOALS OF THE SOCIETY.
- GOOD INTERPERSONAL AND OFFICE MANAGEMENT SKILLS ARE A PLUS.

#### EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

RANGE OF \$10-12 PER HOUR. PLUS BENEFITS

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICANTS CAN INQUIRE, FAX RESUME AND INFORMATION TO THE SOCIETY AT (323) 222-0856.  
OR MAIL TO: CHSSC PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, P.O. Box 862647, LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-2647.  
OR E-MAIL TO MUNSON KWOK AT <MUNSONAK@AOL.COM>, ENTITLING YOUR MESSAGE "CHSSC JOB."

APPLICANTS ARE EXPECTED TO SUBMIT RESUME, INCLUDING SCHOOL AND PRIOR JOB HISTORY,  
AND REFERENCES (1- JOB OR SCHOOL RELATED, 1-CHARACTER).

INTERVIEW OF FINALISTS MAY BE CONDUCTED BY THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE.

THE SOCIETY IS AN EDUCATIONAL, NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION BASED IN LOS ANGELES CHINATOWN,  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR 25 YEARS



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
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 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please include me on the membership roster that will be available to members only

I am interested in helping with:

- ☐ Programs
- ☐ Publications
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Membership/Publicity
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Volunteering
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: CHSSC  
 We are a tax-exempt non-profit educational organization

- ☐ Gum Saan Journal (2 Issues Annually) \$5.00
- ☐ Active Member, annual \$25.00
- ☐ Additional Member, annual \$10.00
- ☐ Contributing, annual (spouse, same household) \$10.00
- ☐ Institutional, annual (senior citizen over 60 and student) \$50.00
- ☐ Life \$300.00
- ☐ Corporate, annual \$100.00
- ☐ Life Patron \$1,000.00
- ☐ Donation: Please accept my tax-deductible donation(s) to the following fund(s)
- ☐ General \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Scholarship \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Publications \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Building Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ 25th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt \$18 for one or more sizes ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California  
 P.O. Box 862647  
 Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647



FIRST CLASS

