



# News 'n Notes

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

October 2000

## October Meeting: The Great American Dream

Lucy Wang is always asked the same questions by strangers walking down the street, at the airport and on a cab ride down New York City: Where are you from REALLY? But the real question is: How did a Wall Street bond trader become a playwright? Answer: With a lot of soul searching and fearless fights.

Born in Taiwan, raised in Ohio and moved to New York City is the American Dream in the bigger picture, but the sacrifices could not just be omitted in Lucy's story about finding herself in ballet shoes and joining drama club. Wanted to be a performer at a young age came to the realization of how discriminatory acting is in the real world with mission statement of equal opportunity backlash to a simple statement "You are lucky to be here in America while the children in China are starving." And going along with the charade she was typecasted as the bowing china doll in Nutcracker. Her parents warned her but like any child part of learning is to experience first hand.

Right brain turned left, she studied math and science, then in later years majored in Finance and got a MBA then found herself in the Big Apple. It was the support of her father which got her career going and hard work does pay off for the 22 years old. Then came the stock market crash which turned her world upside down where highlight of the day was lunchtime around the corner. And a lying boss giving the other guy the bonuses for his car collections of porches and corvettes.

Is this what all this hard work has come to? When her father was laid off a year before getting his pension slips in place, she came to another realization that she has to quit her job as a bond trader as crazy as it seems without another job at hand. She later found a job at City Hall and bet with fate on the 1994 Mayor election where she tells herself if Dinkins loses she will become a writer. In the hopes of turning her fate around, a writer was born at last, but it wasn't that easy with a MBA in Finance on the resume. Getting publishers to read her drafts was a toll booth line moving slowly. While pursuing writing screenplays she wrote business and financial articles to make a living. Later on she taught writing at University of Southern California, Ohio State University and the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. Her big break came into place in an anthology written by Asian Americans.

In final thoughts, she gave people like me encouragement and hope. "Write what you know." That is the best advice given. Junk Bonds, her latest work, is about -- yes -- stock market.

## November Program

Wednesday, November 1st, 2000

7:00 PM

Castelar Elementary school  
multipurpose room  
840 Yale St.

Los Angeles, Chinatown

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

Asian American Magazines  
Reporting, Disseminating and Creating Asian  
American History, Culture and Life Style

Is there an Asian America?

Some say that such a place exists among China,  
Japan, Korea, the Philippines,  
Viet Nam, Thailand... and America.

Is it merely a string of strange coincidences  
(similar physical features, cultural traditions,  
experiences in America, etc.)

or a result of political expediency?

If it exists, where has it been,  
where is it today and  
where will it be tomorrow?

Chinese Historical Society of Southern  
California will present a program that explores  
the Asian American experience through the  
founders of two Asian American Magazines...

## GIANT ROBOT and JADE Magazines

JADE, founded by Gerald Jann, was the earliest commercial Asian American magazine debuting in 1974 covering aspects of Asian American community with articles covering personal endeavors to historical interest.

GIANT ROBOT, edited by Eric Nakamura and Martin Wong, is one of the latest magazines starting in 1994 with an attitude that made great impact in placing Asian and Asian American pop culture from movies and music to historical movements in the forefront.

## Contents • October 2000

Special thanks • Projects • Calendar Events • Exhibits • Job Announcement • Silver Anniversary Dinner RSVP





**Special Thanks for September refreshments to:**

Ruby Louie  
Ruth Lung  
Dolores Wong  
and Noel Toy Young

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

**Congratulations**

Virginia and Richard Quan and their new and  
sixth addition to the family.

Sarah Christine Quan was born Sunday, October 15th  
weighing 7 lbs. 2 ozs.

and welcomed by her siblings

Matthew (13), Andrew (12), Megan (9), Christopher (3), and Joshua (1).

**Meet Our New News 'n Notes Editor**

As many of you have noticed, the News 'n Notes has a  
new look. We have received many compliments already,  
thanks to our new editor, Yvonne Chia.

Yvonne Chia came to us while working on her photo essay about  
Angel Island Immigration Station.

She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree from USC in  
Photography and computer Imaging.

She is young, full of energy and new ideas.

--Ella Quan

**Retraction**

We wish to apologize for inadvertently omitting the names of  
Beulah Quo and Dolores Wong who, with Leslee Leong, supplied the  
delicious birthday cake for Tyrus Wong. Thanks to Beulah Quo who  
asked the cake decorator to decorate the cake with a facsimile of  
Tyrus flying his famous centipede kite. Appreciation also goes to  
Beulah, Dolores, and Leslee for personally spending many hours  
inviting many of the over 100 guests at our September meeting.

--Ella Quan

**2000-2001**

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***Appreciation of our  
Chinese American Heritage***

CHSSC

P.O. Box 862647

Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647

Phone / Fax

(323) 222-0856

[www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org)

***A non-profit organization***



**Past Presidents****Stan Lau****1975-76****George Yee****1976-77****Gerald Shue****1978-79****Chuck Yee****1980-81****Eugene Moy****1982-83****Munson Kwok****1984-85****Ella Yee Quan****1986****Angi Ma Wong****1987-88****Kipham Kan****1989-90****Tom McDannold****1991****Sue Yee****1992-93****Irvin Lai****1994-95****Jeffrey D. Tung****1996-97****Susan G. Dickson****1998-2000**

**News 'n Notes**  
 layout design by  
[www.spoonfuldesign.com](http://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  
[yvonnechia76@aol.com](mailto:yvonnechia76@aol.com)  
 (310) 393-9185**

**Projects Updates****Portraits of Pride****Distinguish Chinese American Pioneers of the 20th Century**

We have just added Dr. Eddie Leong Way Ph.D who is an internationally reknown pharmacologist as part of our profile of distinguished Chinese American Scientists. As you all know the current 5 scientists are now featured in the Autry Museum's On Gold Mountain exhibition. Dr Way will be featured in our next sites exhibition. At this point we have four requests in our local communities for the travelling exhibit starting next year of varying time-duration.

We are very excited and proud to show our suburbia communities the contributions made by our seniors and peers throughout California in the field of sciences and technologies. The planning committee has already suggested other disciplines that would also reinforce the message in creating life style and great wealth, technology and the entrepreneurial spirit in California. This spirit is in reflection of the past contributions of the railroad, the reclamation of the delta land, the fishing and produce industry of Southern California, the Aerospace and the Defense Industry until now in the technological future.

Portraits of Pride welcome ideas, suggestions, request for exhibiting, resources, volunteer time and talent that is necessary. If you think someone you know should be present amongst this group of men/women please let our committee know. We will make the assessment depending on our time and other criteria. We want to include people who we can all be proud of in representing the Chinese American community.

Please call Peter at the office and give him your contact references. The easiest way to help is to show up at CHSSC fall dinner. There will be displays and presentation of the six scientists. Your presence is priceless!!!

**Chinese American Museum's Permanent Collection**

The CAM would like to express appreciation to those who responded to our call for photograph, artifact, and home movie donations. These donations greatly assist in creating the inaugural exhibits and will enable CAM to produce future temporary exhibitions. The Museum still needs your help in acquiring a few items for the inaugural exhibits. Below is a short list of items CAM is looking for, if you have a potential donation or have any questions, please contact Estella Chung, Assistant Curator at CAM as soon as possible. tel: (213) 628-0605; e-mail: [Estella\\_camla@hotmail.com](mailto:Estella_camla@hotmail.com).

- Tri-lingual Chinese Restaurant Menu, English-Chinese-Spanish
- Parade lion head (donation or purchase new for CAM)
- Chinese Checkers Set (donation or purchase, antique or new)
- Chinese Checkers Set (donation or purchase, antique or new)
- Advertisements written in Chinese for packaged goods produced in the U.S.
- Letters, birthday cards to and from nuclear family members that are separated (i.e. one family member in US other in China, Taiwan, etc)
- A Chinese language newspaper from between 1890-1940
- Historical Chinese New Year Parade Programs 1890s-1950s
- Photocopies of Angel Island interviews & coaching papers
- Chinese restaurant menus, especially from 1960 or earlier





November 5, 12, 19, 26

Heritage and Visitors Center  
411 Bernard Street  
12 noon - 4 p.m.

November 17 to 19 - US-Japan Expo,  
LA Convention Center,  
(310) 532-2000

November 3 - Asian Business league annual  
awards banquet and casino night,  
7 PM

Regal Biltmore Hotel  
(213) 624-9975

November 4 - Asian American History and  
Historians in the Making: A National  
Symposium, with authors and historians:  
Judy Yung, Him Mark Lai, Ruthanne Lum  
McCunn among others,  
9 AM

190 Royce hall, UCLA  
Free Admission and Lunch included  
(310) 206-2892, Russell Leong

November 7 - ELECTION DAY!!!

November 10 - Chinese Historical  
Society of Southern California  
Silver Anniversary Dinner at  
Empress Pavilion  
(RSVP info on page 7)

November 10 to 12 - US-China Peoples Friendship  
Association, Western Region Conference  
Seaport Marina Hotel, Long Beach  
(562) 434-8451

November 12 - "Meeting the Needs of Our Times"  
Builders of the Humane City in Los Angeles  
1900-1950 by Michael E. Engh, S.J.,  
associate professor of history at  
Loyola Marymount University  
Hosted by Historical Society of Southern  
California at Regal Biltmore Hotel  
2:00PM  
Reservation by November 3  
(323) 222-0546

November 17 - Chinese American Museum Banquet  
Universal City Hilton  
(213) 626-6240

## Projects Updates

CAM list continued from page 3

- Fan Tan set (donation or purchase, antique or new)
- Post-1965 family snapshots, especially of daily life in the suburbs
- Large items (i.e. furniture, business signs, etc)

## Origin of Fortune Cookies

I like to thank everyone who contacted me with their information and help in getting this project started. If you know the history or anything interesting about the origin or the making of fortune cookies I would like to interview you first hand.

Please contact Yvonne Chia by email: [yvonnechia76@aol.com](mailto:yvonnechia76@aol.com) or call (310) 308-6452.

I am currently working on a video documentary on Jim Fong about living in Adams / San Pedro.

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## OCA Dinner

The OCA dinner was held on September 28th, 2000 at the Wilshire Grand Hotel emceed by Tritia Toyota. Besides the tux and glam, the highlight of this banquet came with an acceptance of the Inspirational Award when Alberta Lee, the daughter of Dr Wen Ho Lee, took the stage. Her thoughts toward her father's mistreatment is a step in emphasizing that any ordinary person or any ordinary family could be subjected to what had happened to her father and her family. Her family came to the media existence when her father was charged with a 59-count indictment and held in solitary confinement for nine months. She became her family's spokesperson travelling around the nation speaking to news media and Asian communities. In her heart this was not an act of heroism, but her duty as a daughter to put a light to her father as a person and a father.





Thru November 5

*Transition 2000: LA Moments Between  
Millenniums*

10 photographers' records of  
New Year's Eve 2000, each with  
descriptive text, LA Central  
Library, History Dept

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

San Francisco

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

Thru January 24, 2001

*Secret World of the Forbidden City:  
Splendors from China's  
Imperial Palace*, exhibition of art objects  
from the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)  
Oakland Museum of California  
(510) 238-2200

November 18, 2000

*Shangai-li Chinese Acrobats*  
Cal Tech Performing Arts Series  
8PM  
\$22, 18, 14  
(888) 222-5832

November 19, 2000

*Dragonfest Martial Arts Show*  
Glendale Civic Auditorium  
1401 N. Verdugo Road  
10AM- 5PM  
\$10  
(626) 795-3137

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





## **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.***





# SILVER ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Celebrating 25 years of Achievement

Friday, November 10th, 2000

6:00 PM Registration, No-Host Bar

EMPRESS PAVILION RESTAURANT

Bamboo Plaza, 988 N. Hill Street, 2nd Floor

Los Angeles, Chinatown

• • • • •

## HONORING OUR FOUNDERS

Slide Show of Our Past 25 Years

"Gum Saan Journal" Anniversary Packets

Entertainment

Warm Hospitality of The CHSSC

Nine-Course Chinese Banquet

• • • • •

The CHSSC is a Non-Profit 501 (c) (3) Organization

Of every ticket sold, all but \$20 is tax deductible to benefit the CHSSC

For Further Information, Contact:

CHSSC (323) 222-0856 • Ella Quan (323)255-6487 • Susan Dickson (626)792-8454

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT BY NOVEMBER 3rd

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Please list attendees sitting together  
(or on separate paper):

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Tables of 10 people for me at the following level:

☐ Platinum (\$1,500)   ☐ Gold (\$1,000)   ☐ Silver (\$750)   ☐ Bronze (\$500)   \$ \_\_\_\_\_

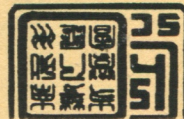
Please Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Seat(s) at the following level:

☐ \$150   ☐ \$100   ☐ \$75   ☐ \$50   \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend, but enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

make checks for the total amount payable to: CHSSC, P.O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647





NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please include me on the membership roster that will

be available to members only

I am interested in helping with:

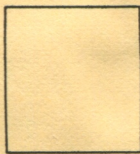
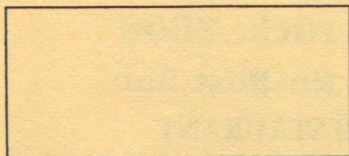
- ☐ Programs ☐ New ☐ Renewal
- ☐ Publications ☐ Publications
- ☐ Research ☐ Publications
- ☐ Membership/Publicity ☐ Publications
- ☐ Fundraising ☐ Publications
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: CHSSC  
We are a tax-exempt non-profit educational organization  
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Chinese Historical Society of Southern California  
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FIRST CLASS



- ☐ Gum Saan Journal (2 Issues Annually) \$5.00
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