



# News 'n Notes

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

www.chssc.org • (323) 222-0856

NOVEMBER 2001

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR NEXT YEAR!

Important: Please indicate on form new member or renewal.



CHSSC

### Annual Holiday Potluck

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

@ Castelar Elementary School

Multipurpose Room

Enter from College St.

Please don't park over yellow line. Thank you.

#### The Fruit of Their Labors ...

With the recent printing of CHSSC's new book *Bridging the Centuries: History of Chinese Americans in Southern California*, the society wishes to extend a warm thanks to all those members and friends who contributed. The hope that the compilation of articles, histories, and photos would amalgamate into a wonderful, comprehensive text has come to fruition. Contributions included stories, articles, photos and inevitable time and effort on the part of CHSSC book committee. Special thanks should be extended to editor Susie Ling and graphic designer Abe Ferrer. Thank you again for your efforts.

What is the book about? The premise of the book is summed up in the title and in a recent press release President Irvin Lai explained that the book "includes historical articles about Chinese in L.A., in Santa Barbara, in Orange County, and all over Southern California - even in Mexicali - in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. But it also bridges the rich history of our past into our own twenty-first century."

According to the press release, the 200-page book includes sections on the legacy of the Southern California

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#### Patriotism Favored Ingredient at Fall Dinner

by Kelli Allen

National events of the last few months have been trying for our country: the September 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attack and the ensuing war in the Middle East. Besides being a clear lesson on the importance of emergency preparedness, both national and individual, the events have fostered a heightened, contagious sense of nationalism in the country. Magnified by the observance of Veteran's Day, recent sentiments of national pride were echoed in the ambiance and theme, "Immigration and Integration", of Chinese Historical Society of Southern California's November 9 Fall Dinner at Empress Pavilion Restaurant in Chinatown.

As guests arrived between 6:30 and 7 pm, they were given programs with American flags on the cover, and led to red, white and blue decorated tables, adorned with patriotic centerpieces made by Margie Lew. Those with time before the program began meandered around the banquet room viewing displays: a photo exhibit by Jason Jem entitled "Breaking the Mold: Chinese Americans in the Arts and Humanities", a photo and text exhibit promoting CHSSC's new book, *Bridging the Centuries: History of Chinese Americans in Southern California*, and a table exhibiting patriotic memorabilia.

One of the only elements of the evening that was not imbued with the spirit of Uncle Sam was the food. However, guests would undoubtedly agree that the food, probably more catered to the palate of Uncle Wong than that of Uncle Sam, was forgivably of higher quality than the stereotypical American hot dog and apple pie. (Besides, those aren't very easy to eat with chopsticks.) Shark fin soup, Peking duck, steamed filet of cod with ham, and fried chicken with ginger & onion were just a few of the many delectable dishes, and the meal was topped off by mango pudding.

Patriotism was woven throughout the evening's program. Members of CHSSC board started off the tone of the evening with some patriotic renditions. President Irvin Lai and Membership Secretary Cy Wong led the group of just under 200 people in reciting the Pledge of

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# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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## 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. *Thanks for helping.*

### Special Thanks . . . to Special Folks

#### Thanks to:

- ...Empress Pavilion Restaurant for the great service.
- ...Members of the November 9th Dinner Committee for the wonderful evening!
- ...Margie Lew for the beautiful, patriotic centerpieces at the dinner.
- ...Angi Ma Wong for manning the merchandise booth at the dinner and for donating books to the bookshop.
- ...Those who provided refreshments at the November 5th monthly meeting.

### Locke Hopeful for Restoration and Growth

About 50 miles Northeast of San Francisco along the Sacramento River sits a small rural town that was built by Chinese Americans in 1915. While occupied mainly by Chinese up until the 1950's, because of California's Alien Land Act, the residents of Locke could not own the land, and were therefore unable to carry titles necessary for having repairs done. Unfortunately, the years have taken a toll on the 50 or so buildings and sewage system problems threatened the town's demise. However, recently, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted to buy the land a follow through with a plan that will "save the last rural Chinatown in the nation". The efforts are anticipated to not only preserve the history and heritage of the now quiet town, but to also stimulate tourist activity and general economy of the area. At least, Locke business owners are keeping their fingers crossed for the change.

*(information came from Evelyn Nieves article "Rescue Mission Is Planned for a Rural Chinatown". New York Times: May 29, 2001)*

NOTE: For those interested in submitting articles or announcements to possibly be included in *News 'n Notes*, items must be received by the **15th of that month**. Mail articles to P.O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA, 90086-2647. **Thank you!**

### 2001-2002 CHSSC Officers

Irvin Lai, President  
Eugene Moy, Vice President  
Linda Chong, V.P. Programs  
Henrietta Yuan, Secretary  
Cy Wong, Membership Secretary  
Ella Quan, Treasurer  
Franklin Mah, Financial Secretary

### Board Members

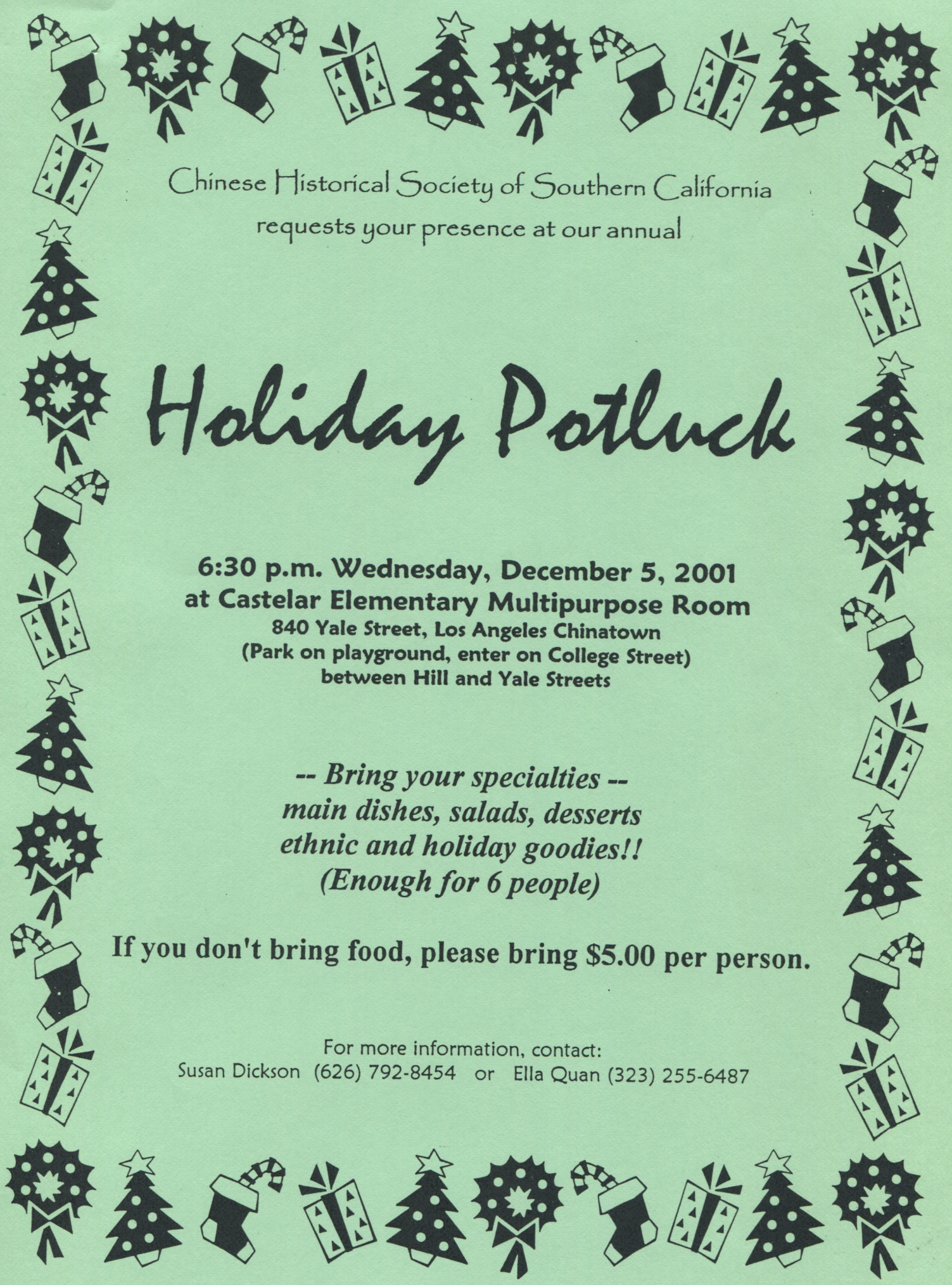
Susan Dickson, Chairperson  
Pete Chinn Winifred Lew  
Gilbert Hom Dr. Wing Mar  
Ann Lau Stanley Mu  
Ben Nakayama

### Publications for Sale through CHSSC

Book/ publication	Cost	Tax	Total	Priority	Total (Priority)
Linking Our Lives	\$11.00	\$0.88	\$11.88	\$4.00	\$15.88
The Lonely Queue	\$40.00	\$3.20	\$43.20	\$7.00	\$50.20
On Gold Mountain	\$20.00	\$1.60	\$21.60	\$4.00	\$25.60
Origins & Destinations	\$20.00	\$1.65	\$21.65	\$4.00	\$25.65
Legacy of Places	\$25.00	\$2.06	\$27.06	\$4.00	\$31.06
Duty and Honor	\$39.95	\$3.30	\$43.25	\$7.00	\$50.25
Gum Saan Journal Set	\$100.00	\$8.00	\$108.00	\$7.00	\$115.00
Gum Saan Journal	\$2.50	\$0.25	\$2.75	\$0.50	
Walking Tour map (color / paper)	\$1.50 / 50c				

Interested in any of these items? We can bring any orders to the monthly meeting where reserved items can be picked-up and paid for - without mailing cost, of course! We have limited Gum Saan Journal Sets and limited supply of GS Journal back issues, so get them while you can! Call (323) 222-0856 or email [chssc2001@yahoo.com](mailto:chssc2001@yahoo.com) to place orders.





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California  
requests your presence at our annual

# Holiday Potluck

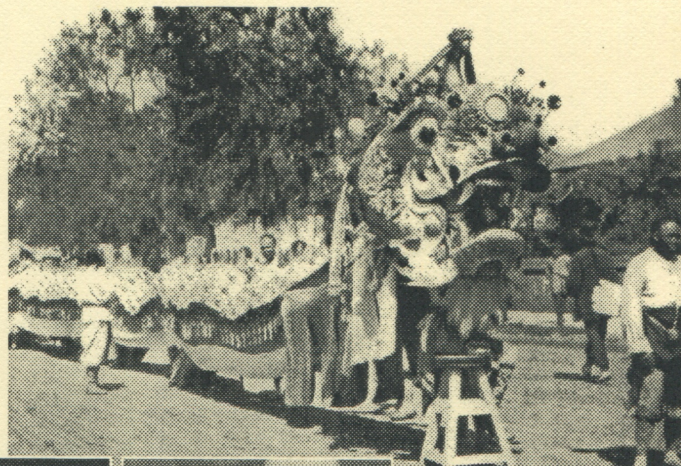
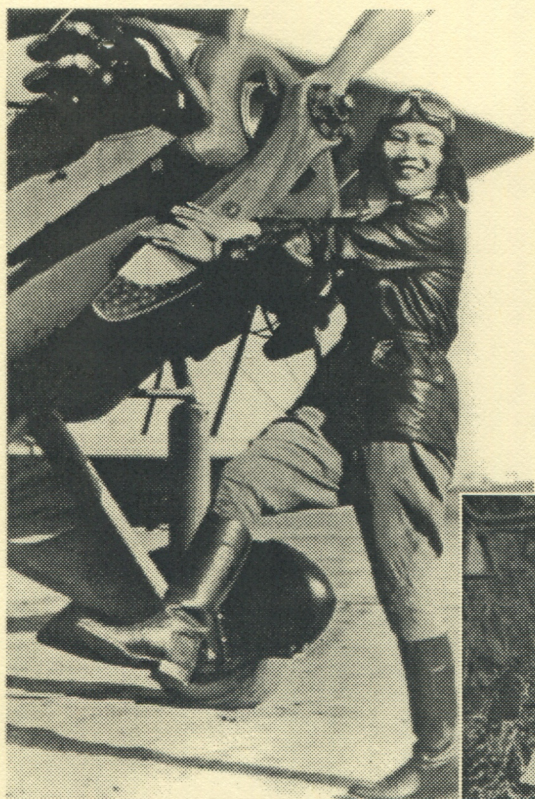
**6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 5, 2001**  
**at Castelar Elementary Multipurpose Room**  
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown  
(Park on playground, enter on College Street)  
between Hill and Yale Streets

*-- 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





# BRIDGING THE CENTURIES

## HISTORY OF CHINESE AMERICANS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

A publication of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California • Publication Premiere: Fall 2001

To order a copy of BRIDGING THE CENTURIES: History of Chinese Americans in Southern California, mail this order form to: CHSSC, P.O. Box 862647, LA, CA 90086-2647. Please check our website [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org) for more information or to email with questions.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE / ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ CHSSC MEMBER? Y \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE _____ BOOK(S) @ \$25/Book:	\$ _____ .00
Minus 20% CHSSC member discount:	\$ _____ .00
California Sales Tax 8%:	\$ _____ .00
Domestic shipping and handling \$6/book	\$ _____ .00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ _____ .00</b>

Please enclose check or money order payable to: CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. Thank You for your order.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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*Fruit continued from front page*

Chinese American community, historic communities, oral histories, 'snapshots' of significant events and institutions, and the history of related organizations. With such a rich and diverse blend of stories, the audience for the book is from all walks of life. Mr. Lai goes on to explain CHSSC "wanted a book for the Southern California enthusiast, for the public school teacher, and for our community to learn about our ethnic roots".

Whether or not you had an opportunity to contribute to this great publication, we hope that you will obtain a copy for your own collection. It will also make a wonderful Christmas gift for parents, friends, children - in fact, for anyone who could benefit from learning more about the history of Chinese Americans. Please call the office to place an order or send a check for to P.O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647. Members: \$20.00 (plus \$1.75 tax and \$6 postage and handling). Non-members: \$25.00 (plus \$2 tax and \$6 postage and handling). Please indicate item of purchase on the check.



President  
Irvin Lai  
mingling  
with guests.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Nov. 3 - Jan. 13, 2002**

**Bamboo Masterworks: Japanese Baskets**, exhibit @  
Pacific Asian Museum (626) 449-2742

**Sunday, Dec. 2 2:00pm**

**Generation to Generation: Preserving Traditions;**  
panel discussion @ Gene Autry Museum,  
Wells Fargo Theater (323)667-2000

**Saturday, Dec. 8 1-4pm**

**Pasko Sa Nasyon: Phillipine Holiday Celebration**  
free Christmas festival @ Pacific Asian Museum

**Friday, Dec. 7 - Sunday, Dec. 9**

China Expo @ L.A. Convention Center

**Sunday, Dec. 9**

Chinese American Museum Banquet honoring actress  
Nancy Kwan, artist Tyrus Wong, Judge Ronald Lew,  
& the late Billy Lew @ Universal Hilton  
(213)626-5240

**Friday, Dec. 14 - Sunday, Dec. 16**

**Holiday Lamplight Tours;** visitors go back in time to  
celebrate a holiday evening set during three different  
eras; @ Heritage Square Museum (626)796-2898

**Tuesday, Dec. 25 Merry Christmas**

Guest Speaker  
Wellington  
Kwan warming  
up the crowd.



*Dinner continued from front page*

Allegiance and in singing (twice!) "God Bless America".

Susie Ling, editor of *Bridging the Centuries*, delivered an enthusiastic promotion for CHSSC's most recent publication. She read a few excerpts from the numerous articles in the book. (Please see "The Fruit of Their Labors . . ." if you'd like to read more about it.)

Our guest speaker, lawyer and community activist Wellington Kwan, spoke about his work with Chinese immigrants. The realization of early immigrants' dreams to come to America and live a better life almost always entailed repeated trials. Up until 1968, when Kennedy repealed the quota for immigrants, "the Chinese had a quota of only 105 per year". He not only provided compelling information about struggles Chinese endured to obtain permanent U.S. residency, he also managed to keep the audience attentive with a few witty jokes. In fact, after one about a lonely parrot, he feared that everyone would "remember his jokes rather than immigration".

CHSSC President Irvin Lai then presented a community service award to Stewart Kwoh, president of and representative for Asian Pacific American Legal Center. APALC was founded as an organization "to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education . . . and to create a more equitable and harmonious society". One of the many noble efforts of the APALC was their success in fighting for the rights of the Thailand immigrants who were locked up in an El Monte sweatshop discovered in 1995. After discussing related work of the legal center, Mr. Kwoh shifted his focus to recent national events and beautifully summed-up the evening with his final thought, stating that "our country in a time of trial must uphold the democratic ideals that have made our lives and our futures so great".

Thank you to all attendees, especially those who sponsored tables. We are grateful for your support and hope you enjoyed the evening.





# CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Membership:

- ☐ New  
☐ Renewal

*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  
(spouse, same household)  
☐ Contributing, annual \$10.00  
(senior citizen over 60 and student)  
☐ Institutional, annual \$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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Office \$ \_\_\_\_\_

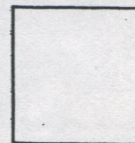
- ☐ 25th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 for one \_\_\_\_\_ \$18 for two or more

sizes ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large



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



**FIRST CLASS**