



News 'n Notes

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
www.chssc.org • (323) 222-0856

OCTOBER 2001

*Don't forget to make reservations for CHSSC's November 9th
Fall Dinner, with guest speaker Wellington Kwan!*

November Meeting
Wednesday,
November 7, 2001
7:00 pm

@ Castelar Elementary School
Multipurpose Room

Please don't park past the yellow line

CHSSC presents

Charles Sharp
*who will speak on Cantonese
music in Los Angeles*

Please come and bring your friends to
what promises to be an interesting
and edifying experience!

'Mixer' a Tasteful Concoction
by Kelli Allen

On Saturday, October 13th, CHSSC held a Mid-Autumn Mixer at the Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center from 4 – 7 pm. The otherwise relentless heat of the day was invitingly quelled by a subtle early evening breeze, and the small shady grove at the back of the property proved to be an ideal setting for the event.

Preparatory work by some dedicated members of the Society (you know who you are!) added to the great ambiance of Saturday evening's event. Several board members and others helped by securing food and wine, booking the talented Rose Gales Trio, setting up tables and chairs, and even building a stage for the band! The event wouldn't have been possible without the concerted

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Opportunity to Speak to CHSSC is Music to Scholar's Ears
by Linda Chong

Look forward to a special treat for nearly all five of your senses at our next meeting, Nov. 7, when an ethnomusicology scholar from UCLA is scheduled to give a multi-media presentation on the topic: "A Survey of Cantonese Music in Los Angeles."

Charles Sharp, who is currently working on his PhD dissertation, says he plans to speak on the tremendous role of music in maintaining a sense of community for Chinese Americans in Los Angeles. He plans to focus mostly on the period from the 1930s on, and his talk will center primarily on Cantonese opera as an important mode of expression.

Sharp plans to use visual and audio clips to accentuate the audience experience as he shares some of his historical research, which includes using, among other resources, our very own *Gum Saan Journal*. His talk will be based on an anthropology project he worked on as an undergraduate student at San Francisco State University. That experience exposed him to a professor who had been studying Chinese classical music in San Francisco's Chinatown—the largest such community in the nation—and, in turn, he inspired Charles to begin playing the flute and woodwinds for an amateur Chinese opera troupe. Charles has been playing the *dizi*, or Chinese flute, for nearly a decade now.

Charles said he is looking forward to interacting with our members and speaking to them about what they might remember of Chinatown's early music scene. His paper and talk will make note of the fact that one of the only permanent buildings in Los Angeles' Chinatown was a Cantonese opera house, and that there was just such an entertainment venue in the historic, but now defunct, China City. His paper will focus on what "outsiders" thought of the boisterous music, exaggerated performances and colorful costumes and makeup. He also will explore the ways in which Chinese music was marketed to non-Chinese in Los Angeles who were exposed to people in Chinatown.

Already armed with an M.A. in ethnomusicology from UCLA, Charles admits that his current scholarly research pertains more to jazz and American history than Cantonese opera and Chinese immigrant society in Southern California. However, there is a link. "It sounds completely different, but I'd like to think my work is connected no matter what it is I am working on. It is all about making your own America," he said.

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Thanks to all who contributed to this month's News 'n Notes!

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efforts of these people, and of course, the great response from the 120+ attendees.

The evening was truly an event for a smattering of people with varied tastes. Available were not only cheese and wine for the bon vivant, but also orange chicken, chow mein, and yummy almond jello (thanks, Mrs. Chong!) for the bigger appetite.

Although the refreshments were great, the evening was largely dedicated to providing attendees with an arguably higher form of nourishment: a type of food for the soul. Ingredients: music & art. The swingin' jazz played by Rose Gales Trio was lively, varied and well-balanced with classic and new songs played both instrumentally and with voice accompaniment. While some attendees sat under the trees and enjoyed the music, a few couples, apparently unable to resist, got up from their seats to dance.

A significant purpose of the event was to encourage guests to spend time experiencing the Chinatown art scene. CHSSC was privileged to have an exhibit of photographer Jason Jem displayed in the Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center just in time for the event. (Note: This wonderful collection of photographs highlighting Chinese Americans in the arts & humanities is still on display – don't miss it!).

Guests went on an evening 'art crawl' to visit the Chungking Road art galleries, an evening and weekend 'hot spot' burgeoning in popularity as a venue for L.A. artists. One artist had made hundreds of ceramic mugs displaying the motif of his exhibit. The New Chinatown Barbershop is now featuring an intriguing photo essay exhibit about a young girl who visits Chinese prisons with her father and in the process examines her past and present self. The main floor of another gallery floor displayed a mountain of sand, lightly blanketed with white granules and covered with brightly colored tubes curving in and out of the hill. There seemed to be an artistic flavor for any kind of palate.

Overall, the event was enjoyed by all and hopefully heightened awareness of some of what Chinatown has to offer.

2001-2002 CHSSC Officers

Irvin Lai, President

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Linda Chong, V.P. Programs

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Ella Quan, Treasurer

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Ann Lau Stanley Mu

Ben Nakayama

Please come to the Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center to enjoy the new photo exhibit by Jason Jem entitled 'Breaking the Mold' featuring prominent Chinese American writers, musicians, and others who have contributed to the humanities.

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 to place orders.

'Xie Xie, Gracias, Mg Goi and Thanks' to the following people for contributions to refreshments for our October 3rd meeting:

Jim Fong

Johnny Yee

Aurora Bahou

Dorothy Lew

Ruth Lung

Winnie Lew

Noel Toy Young

... and that also goes for the diligent pre-meeting set-up crew, including Ella, Elsie, Dolores, Wallace,



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L.A. Moon Festival 2001

On September 29 -30, in celebration of the Chinese harvest moon, several organizations planned and helped realize the 2001 L.A. Chinatown Moon Festival. It was a hot weekend and tourists showed up with hats and sunscreen and searching for shade. Although the sun seemed determined to get as much attention as the moon, the great turn-out of locals and non-locals willing to brave the heat showed an interest in learning more about the Chinese culture.

The two-day event included wonderful and lively performances by lion dancers, Chinese musicians, Chinese dancers and even mooncake makers. The stage at Central Plaza was busy all day with such performances, and nearby merchants were happy to get the flow of customers.

CHSSC was able to participate in the event as well by hosting arts and crafts activities at Bernard St. Several creative volunteers set up booths for children to learn how to brushpaint, make bead and pipecleaner dragons, decorate chopsticks and more. Led by a troupe of lion dancers, a lantern parade of students from Castelar Elementary School paraded through Chinatown, displaying a colorful array of lanterns. Cookies donated by Phoenix Bakery and cold drinks were waiting for the students when they reached the Heritage and Visitors Center.

We'd like to express our gratitude to those who helped set up for the arts and crafts activity on Saturday and especially to those who volunteered to share their artistic talents with the participants.



CHSSC Members "Dig" Their Recent Visit to Remains of San Bernardino Chinatown

by Linda Chong

While most CHSSC members were busy at work or involved with other tasks on that particular day, four members with less conventional schedules spent Oct. 9 at the site of the former Chinatown in the nearby Inland Empire community of San Bernardino.

The team of Cy Wong, Ben Nakamura, Linda Chong and Dorothy Louie Lew explored the exposed earth and rubble at the corner of Third Street and Arrowhead Avenue, where an archaeological dig has taken place following the recent razing of the state Department of Transportation's building, which had occupied the lot for 72 years.

The five-week excavation concluded on Oct. 12, so our crew of amateur explorers were among the privileged few to see the findings as they were being found.

A team of 12 archaeologists have unearthed objects such as porcelain dishes, Chinese coins, pieces of opium pipes and bowls, gaming bits and bullets. They were all found beneath the former Caltrans district headquarters in San Bernardino, a two-story structure that is being demolished and, a year from now, will be turned over to the San Bernardino Economic Development Agency for use as part of the county's courthouse expansion.

The findings were culled from privies, or primitive toilets, and less-trained observers might dismiss the exercise as "rifling through someone else's garbage," admitted dig coordinator Julia G. Costello. But they tell us much about the underreported population of Chinese immigrants to the area, who came in the 19th century to build railroad lines, pick fruit in groves in nearby Riverside, and work in related packing houses, experts said. Many of those Chinese pioneers stayed on to operate laundries, tend the gardens, and perform domestic tasks on behalf of the Inland Empire's wealthy.

The CHSSC delegation was fortunate enough to participate in one of the few hourly tours being given of the site, which consisted of mounds of uneven dirt. An obsolete office building had been serving as the administrative heart of the digging work, which was conducted by a consulting firm based in Hemet, and assisted by Costello, whose company, Foothill Resources, Ltd., is located in the Fresno area.



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"Collected Shadows"

Triumvirate Pi Theatre is a new, non-profit company dedicated to creating provocative live theatre that breaks down perceived barriers of race, gender, and disability for Los Angeles theatre artists and audiences. We are a multi-racial, multi-abled group whose world premiere, "Collected Shadows", will run at the Secret Rose Theatre in North Hollywood from Nov. 2nd - Nov. 25th. Our opening piece, *Boundaries*, concerns a young woman attempting to acquire passports out of her oppressive country, and how far she might have to go to accomplish her goal. This play features Asian American actors Michael Sun Lee and E'ca Mungor. The Secret Rose Theatre is at 11246 Magnolia Blvd. 1 blk west of Lankershim. Show runs Fri/ Sat nights at 8pm, Sundays at 2pm. Tickets are \$15.00, with discounts for community groups. Please call for info and reservations (323) 655-0120 or email us at TriumviratePi@cs.com. Our website is www.tri-pi.org.

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!

CHSA Announces Grand Opening

The Chinese Historical Society of America, based in San Francisco, will be hosting the grand opening of the Chinese American National Museum and Learning Center on Saturday, November 17, 2001, in the historic Julia Morgan Chinatown YWCA.

Years of planning and fundraising have finally found fruition in the completion of the museum and center. Funding from city, county, and even state agencies added to the CHSA \$1.2 million capital campaign to not only enable the renovation of the historic YWCA building, but to also help expand current programs and provide improved resources. With stewardship of "over 50,000 pieces of art, artifacts, photographs and immigration documents tracing the history of Chinese in America", the CHSA is now looking forward to having the new venue to display exhibits like the *Daniel Ching Collection* and *Dong Kingman in San Francisco*, as well as presenting projects from participants of the *In Search of Roots* program.

In the official press release of September 25th, CHSA Executive Director Melissa M. Szeto represented the organization in expressing hope that "the museum and learning center will help dispel the myths and misperceptions of the Chinese still held by many Americans today".

As members and friends of a similar organization also aspiring to communicate to society the rich history of Chinese Americans, we should applaud this great feat of our cousin society and hope that it will indeed help to dispel through education any engendered misconceptions of the contributions and culture Chinese Americans have woven into the fabric of this nation. ka.

EVENTS & EXHIBITS

Friday, Nov. 2 *Dia de Los Muertos*, the Mexican remembrance day @ El Pueblo De L.A. Museum (213)625-5045

Sunday, Nov. 4 10am-5pm
Jeanne Yanai's Holiday Arts & Crafts Show @ Torrance Cultural Arts Center

Sunday, Nov. 4 11:30am - 3pm
Japanese Restaurant Association Japanese Food Festival @ New Otani Hotel, Little Tokyo, \$8

Thursday, Nov. 8 *Yellowface: Asians on White Screens* presented by MANAA & museum curator Chris Horak; a look at the Hollywood practice of casting whites in Asian roles; @ Hollywood Entertainment Museum (323)960-4833

Friday, Nov. 9 6pm CHSSC's Fall Dinner w/ guest speaker Wellington Kwan @ Empress Pavilion, Chinatown (323)222-0856

Saturday, Nov. 10 'A' Magazine presents the AMMY Awards for movies and television @ Orpheum Theater, Los Angeles \$45/\$60/\$75/\$125 VIP

Saturday, Nov. 17 1-4pm
Free family festival day @ Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena (626)449-2742 ext.41

Saturday, Nov. 17
UCLA vs. USC football game @ the Coliseum

Sunday, Nov. 18 Dragonfest martial arts event; meet famous martial artists & get autographs, Glendale

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 24-25 *Japan Expo* @ L.A. Convention Center (310) 515-5699

Thursday, Nov. 29 8pm
OCA/ CAM/ CHSSC watches *Flower Drum Song* musical @ Mark Taper Forum; CAM may still have tickets available (213) 626-5240, or call (213) 250-9888

Sunday, Dec. 2 2pm *Generation to Generation: Preserving Traditions*, a panel discussion, including CHSSC VP Gene Moy, @ Autry Museum (323)667-2000 ext. 327



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

Please join us!

Fall Dinner 2001

**"Coalition for the Community:
Preserving Our History
as We Continue to Make It"**

Speaker: Wellington Kwan

Mr. Kwan, Senior Partner of immigration law firm Kwan & Motallebi, will discuss
"The Evolution of Chinese Immigration since World War II"

***Music by Jeff Gonzales, saxophonist**

***A Community Service Award will be presented to
Asian Pacific American Legal Center
for their community service in civil rights**

When: Friday, November 9th, 2001
Time: 6 pm Social
7 pm Dinner
Where: Empress Pavilion Restaurant
988 N. Hill St., 2nd Floor
Los Angeles Chinatown

*CHSSC is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization

*All but \$20 per dinner is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law

Reservation Deadline: November 2, 2001

*** On the back of this form, please list the names of attendees.***

Please reserve _____ tables of 10 people for me at the following level:

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

Please reserve _____ seats for me at the following level:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 \$ _____

☐ I am unable to attend but would like to make a donation. \$ _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

Make checks payable to CHSSC, PO Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647



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 \$ _____

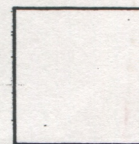
- ☐ 25th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt

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

sizes ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large



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FIRST CLASS