



# News 'n Notes

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

www.chssc.org ♦ (323) 222-0856

**FEBRUARY 2002**

## **Bernard Street Houses Get a Makeover!**

If you haven't visited the CHSSC's Bernard Street houses in a while, you might be pleasantly surprised by its new look!

Gone are the chipping pieces of white paint on the 100plus-year-old Victorian homes. In their place are fresh coats of oil-based tints in the shades of mocha, peachsicle and white.

The makeover project, which took nearly two weeks to complete, was performed by Torrance-based contractor Bob Miles, under the supervision of Membership Secretary Cy Wong. Cy said that due to the fact that he and Bob are old friends, the cost of painting both houses was only \$3,600.

Planning for the paint jobs began just after the start of the new year, and the actual work was initiated within days of the Board giving its stamp of approval to spend the money.

The creamy, pastel exterior layers of paint bring the CHSSC a step closer to its goal of beautifying the houses, over which we took ownership nearly 10 years ago (although the mortgage was fully paid off only as recently as last year!). The next step in the campaign, Cy Wong said, should be repairing the rooftops, followed by installation of a sprinkler system so that our flowers can be watered automatically on a regular basis.

The interior walls of the Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center (411 Bernard St.) were painted late last year by a crew working for Chinese artist Hei Feng under the supervision of CHSSC Board Member Ann Lau. Each of the three front exhibition rooms is painted a different color, including lavender, azure and bronze. The front room closest to North Broadway is being used to display a collection of photographs taken by El Camino Community College students working toward the theme of "A Day in the Life of Chinatown." The north front room is being used to showcase our latest book, *Bridging the Centuries*, while the room in the center is displaying a "Timeline of Chinese Americans in Los Angeles."

Meanwhile, the walls of the house currently being used as our office have been painted in recent weeks by Board Member Gilbert Hom. Let's give everyone involved a round of applause and continue our support of the house improvements.

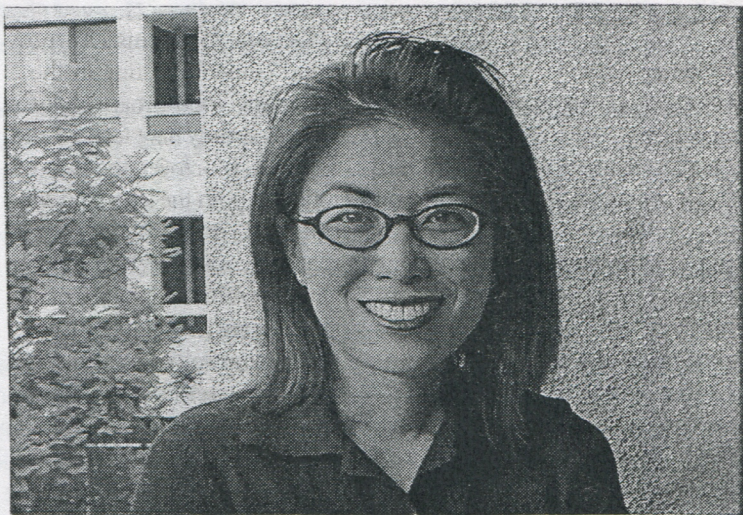


Photo of Joy Chen by Gary Leonard, *LA Downtown News*, Aug. 27, 2001

### **MARCH PROGRAM**

\*\*\*

#### **Joy Chen, Director of Economic Recovery Office for Los Angeles Mayor James Hahn**

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Ms. Chen was appointed by Mayor Hahn to stimulate the economy and revive travel and tourism in L.A. and Southern California. Ms. Chen, who was honored last month by the Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute, will speak to us about some of the ideas the Hahn Administration has for improving Chinatown's business climate. Her dynamic leadership style and impressive list of accomplishments have been featured in recent articles published in the *L.A. Downtown News* and the *Times*.

**Wednesday, March 6, 2002**

**Multipurpose Room**

**Castelar Elementary School, 840 Yale St.  
Chinatown Los Angeles**

**7:00 pm**

**Enter lot from College St.**

**Please don't park past the yellow line.**

### **—————CONTENTS—————**

- **Milestones & Passages • Author James Bok Wong's Feb. 25th Discussion •**
- **NEW! Health & Wellness column by Dr. Betty Gaw • June Trip to Hanford •**



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

**FEBRUARY 2002**

## Milestones

\* Congratulations to **Bill & Margie Yee** on the recent birth of their granddaughter, Jennifer Courtney Yee. Born to Drs. Billy and Lynn Yee of Walnut Creek, Calif., baby Jennifer Courtney Yee arrived Jan. 30, and is Bill and Margie Yee's 15th grandchild.

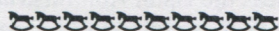
\* Happy birthday in advance to our member, **Wallace Huey** of Gardena, who is gearing up to mark his 80th birthday this coming March. (Thanks, Bill Yee, for the news tip!)

\* Also, you might be seeing a lot of these Chinatown ambassadoresses in coming weeks: The 2002 Miss Los Angeles Chinatown and her court! Queen Tiffany Liu (who also was voted Miss Photogenic) was crowned a few weeks ago, just in time to be the guest of honor at many of the local Lunar New Year festivities. Her entourage includes: First Princess Juting Tsang; Second Princess Tina Yao (also known as Miss Friendship); Third Princess Ruth Chen; and Fourth Princess Tina Huang. Congratulations!

## Kudos and Thanks!

Many thanks to all the members and friends who joined the CHSSC volunteer corps at the Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker 10K Run on Feb. 10. Whether it was helping out with registration, water and t-shirt distribution, or finish line and timing detail, your efforts were certainly appreciated. Volunteers included **Bill and Margie Yee**, their son **Mike Yee**, and Mike's in-laws, **Rev. Jing Chow and Betty Chow**, who had been visiting from Ohio. We also had enthusiastic participation by **Gilbert Hom, Jim Fong, Eddie Chen, Linda Wong Smith, Gene Moy, Linda Chong, Eileen Chong** (Linda's sister) and Eileen's friend, **Terry Rose**. Former administrative assistant **Kelli Allen** (and **Linda Wong Smith**, too!) even came out the day before the race to assist with stuffing and handing out goodie bags! And on race day itself, we were delighted to be joined by L.A. city employee **Mei Ong** (a contributor to Icy Smith's *Lonely Queue*), who brought out her son and nephew to help. Thanks also go to *Bridging the Centuries* editor **Susie Ling**, who came out with her daughter on race day to man a booth selling CHSSC publications. Last, but certainly not least, recognition should go to **Ben and Doreen Nakayama**, who have helped out with this road race for many years.

**Pauline Wong**, a life member of the CHSSC and chair of the volunteer committee of the Firecracker 10K Run, recently sent this message: "Thanks everyone for helping recruit volunteers for our race. We needed every single body to help. Thanks for jumping in and helping so well, also. Hope you can come out again for the 25th annual race next year."



Less than a week later, a few of those same CHSSC volunteers were out and about the streets of Chinatown again, this time marching in the Golden Dragon Parade of Feb. 16. The following comes from **Johnny Yee**, coordinator of the CHSSC parade contingent:

"The CHSSC participated in the Lunar New Year's parade in full force. This unit led the parade and dedicated the day to the victims of 9/11 and the women and men who have been serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. Also, the unit took note of the fact that Johnson Yee—someone who for many years had been in the lineup of the parade and had served as its coordinator—passed away on Feb. 5. **Al Soo Hoo**, the parade announcer, made all of this known loud and clear. **Johnny Yee** served as coordinator and **Irvin Lai** led as CHSSC president." Some of the other CHSSC folks sighted marching on the route included (but are not limited to) past president **Angi Ma Wong**, board chair **Susan Dickson**, newly installed Vice President for Programs **Linda Wong Smith**, **Don Loo** and his visiting German friend, Juergen (a long-time friend and supporter of the CHSSC), "**Bambi**" and **Roland Chow**, **Natalina Chew**, board member **Ann Lau**, and Ann's daughter, **Sumsum Chan**.

## 2001-2002 CHSSC Officers

Irvin Lai, President  
Eugene Moy, Vice President  
Linda Wong Smith, 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

## 'Thank You' for

### February 6 contributions of coffee & refreshments:

Lupe Chee, Natalina Chew, Susan Dickson,  
Blossom Huey, Dorothy Louie Lew, Winnie  
Lew, Ruth Lung, Julie Raskoff, Johnny Yee &  
Noel Toy Young

## Corrections & Errata

*News 'n Notes* wishes to clarify the following items from last month's newsletter:

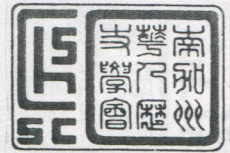
- ⇒ Winifred Lew's father, Winslow Woo, was incorrectly identified as a "pioneer laundryman." Rather, he worked in the aerospace industry, and the laundryman was his son-in-law, Winnie's late husband.
- ⇒ Mrs. James Soo of Oakland should have been explicitly identified as a life member of the CHSSC.
- ⇒ In the caption and text of the article on Frank Wu, the date of the CHSSC book signing was incorrectly stated as Feb. 5. It should have read "Feb. 3rd," as written in the Calendar of Events.

The editor wishes to state for the record that it is never our intent to omit, misrepresent, or erroneously convey information. If this occurs, please accept our apologies with the reminder that *News 'n Notes* is, for the most part, produced by a staff of one person who is relatively new to CHSSC and is juggling other duties as well. That is why we can always use an extra pair of eyes or a few extra pens (or word processors) to write and edit articles.

Interested in participating more actively? Please contact Linda at the office or send submissions to P.O. Box 862647, L.A., CA 90086-2647. The cut-off date for publication is the 15th of the month. Thank you!

## Welcome, New Members!

Sherri Gust, Pam Easter, George Yin & Susan Goldberg. We're glad to have your support!



### Dr. James Bok Wong Reviews *Jade Eagle*

FROM A DISPATCH SENT BY DR. BILL CHUN HOON

The Friends of the Chinatown Library will host a book review and discussion by Dr. James Bok Wong, author of *Jade Eagle*, on Monday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m., in the community room of the Chinatown Branch Library. Refreshments at 8 p.m. and a brief business meeting to follow. Parking on the Castelar School playground east of the library.

*Jade Eagle* is a poignant story of Johnny Hanson, a Caucasian young man orphaned at an early age who grew up in war-torn China during World War II. Dr. Wong's novel, integrated with historical events, tells of Johnny's struggle in his personal life; discovering and losing love; as an interpreter to the famed Flying Tiger Gen. Claire Chennault; as a manager for the construction of a Chengdu airfield for the American Superfortresses; and in later years as an ace pilot in the Korean War.

Dr. Wong received his Ph.D from the University of Illinois. He served in the 14th U.S. Army Air Force in World War II. He was chief economist and director of international technologies for Dart Industries. He is a community leader and currently serves as president of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Foundation. His book is in the Chinese Heritage Collection of the Chinatown Branch Library.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Speaking of the Chinese Heritage Collection of the Chinatown Branch Library, we have been informed by Tom Eng, a long-time friend and member of both the CHSSC and the library, that librarians are seeking donations and suggestions for building up this unique and highly specialized area of the neighborhood public reading facility. Any thoughts or gifts should be directed to Branch Manager Carol Duan at (213) 620-0925. Thank you!

## NEW HEALTH & WELLNESS COLUMN BY DR. BETTY GAW

### ***FAT IS UNDER ATTACK!***

FIRST ARTICLE IN A MONTHLY SERIES

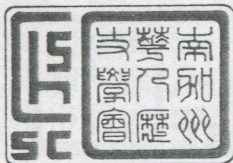
The Surgeon General asked us Americans to "Take Action" to control the gross increase of overweight and obesity in children and adults, as it may be the main cause of preventable death in the future.

Sixty percent of our population falls in the category of being overweight and obese. The trend escalates as we age, when our calorie-burning metabolism slows down, our activity diminishes, but our calorie intake remains unchanged. Whatever food energy is not used by the body is converted and stored as fat, which is known as adipose tissue. We must restrict our caloric intake according to our age and sedentary lifestyle. In the animal kingdom, being slender rather than overweight favors longevity. Our genes and hormones play a role in obesity, so does the hormone, Leptin, which is produced by fat cells which send signals to the brain that the stomach is full, thus curbing the appetite. Someone with poor Leptin and Adiponectin levels sends no signals to the brain and will continue to gorge himself on food and drink since there is no satiety felt. These people become morbidly obese—the 300 to 500 pounders. On the other hand, a brain that is dulled by depression and high anxiety may not be capable of receiving these signals.

The Body Mass Index/BMI is an index to categorize the normal from the abnormal, factoring in the height and weight of a person, and the health risks go up as the BMI increases.

Have your doctor take your height and weight in metric measurements next time you are having your check-up, and calculate and record your BMI, year to year. If you are experiencing significant loss of height, then osteoporosis needs be ruled out. If your weight gain is more than 20 percent, then you must do all you can to reduce it. Oils and fats contain 9 calories per gram, whereas protein and carbo

(Continued on page 4)



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

**FEBRUARY 2002**

## Passages

It has been a difficult few weeks for us here at the CHSSC. We have lost several of our close and long-time friends, some of them very suddenly. Please join us in sending heart-felt condolences to:

- Life member Mary Kwok, whose husband Andy Kwok, died on Jan. 22 of a heart attack.
- CHSSC members John ("Johnny") and Bill Yee, whose brother, CHSSC life member Johnson Yee, died on Feb. 10 after a six-month battle with lung cancer. Regrets also go out to Johnson's wife, Rosalyn.
- The family and friends of Jan Landrum, who served as director of Alpine Recreation Center in Chinatown for 33 years. She died Feb. 3 after a long battle with cancer.
- The friends and relatives of long-time Chinatown community activist and restaurateur Bill Hong. A founding member of the CHSSC, Bill passed away in recent days as a result of complications from a stroke he had suffered earlier in the month. Bill had been in a comatose state after his stroke, and he never regained consciousness. Memorial services have been scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 23, at Wah Wing Sang Funeral Home on Cesar E. Chavez Avenue near

## FAT ATTACK

(Continued from page 3)

hydrates have 4 calories per gram.

### The Functions of Fat

It is a blanket of soft, oily cells in the form of lobules, lying under the skin, and infiltrating all organs, with greater concentrations of deposits in the breasts, hips, and abdominal cavity- the panus or apron of fat. The more obese we are, the more fat cells or adipose tissue accumulate in all our tissues, such as the skeletal muscles which move our bones and joints, our heart muscle which must not stop pumping, else we suffer from cardiac arrest, our miles and miles of arteries which move blood and nutrients to every tissue, and our respiratory tracts and diaphragm. Muscles contract and relax in their incessant job of serving us, but let fat infiltrate, and we become weak, tired and unable to function, as fat is flab and does not perform like muscle cells. Fat is good as a filler and padding, helping us have contour and form over our facial bony prominences, keeping us from looking gaunt, but it lacks adequate supply of blood circulation. The surgeon fears operating on an obese person because healing is delayed and poor in an obese patient, predisposing him/her to infections, and possible death.

Fat produces hormones, facilitating many metabolic functions. It also is an insulator from cold, and supplies us with stored energy during times of famine.

### NEXT MONTH'S SEGMENT:

**Fat May be Fatal, as it is Linked to So Many Diseases**



### Friendly Reminder

Reserve your seat now for our March 2nd Chinese New Year Banquet in Gardena. Our guest speaker will be playwright Lucy Wang. Don't miss out! Call Dr. Mar for details.



## CURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITS & EVENTS

### Saturday, Feb. 23

- ⇒ Monterey Park Lantern Festival, Garvey Avenue between Garfield and Nicholson avenues
- ⇒ "Lighting the Way," presented by the Friends of the Chinese American Museum. Lantern Festival @ El Pueblo Historical Monument 1 to 7 p.m. (Parade @ 5:30 p.m.) L.A. Classical Chinese Orchestra performance, knot making, Chinese opera, calligraphy, lantern making, face painting, etc. (213) 626-5240 for information
- ⇒ Discussion forum on formation of a Chinese American DNA Bank sponsored by UCLA Pharmacogenetics, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., lunch raffle, @ Chinese Cultural Center

- II, 9443 Telstar Ave., El Monte (310) 794-4128 Dr. John Wu
- ⇒ Children's author Debbie Leung Yamada will appear at Bruggemeyer Library in Monterey Park to read from her latest book, *Striking it Rich: Treasures from Gold Mountain* @ 1 p.m.
- ⇒ Cellist Yo-Yo Ma and conductor John Williams (Theme from "Star Wars") in concert, 1:30 p.m. Dorothy Chandler Pavilion (213) 465-3500

The talented duo will also make an appearance at the Marina del Rey Costco store to autograph copies of their new joint CD, "Yo-Yo Ma Plays the Music of John Williams," from 2:30-4:30 p.m.  
⇒ Chinese New Year celebration and

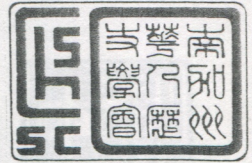
- book presentation of Icy Smith's *The Lonely Queue* @ Pacific Asia Museum, 2 p.m., 46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena; Free Admission (626) 449-2742
  - ⇒ Central City Optimist Club Chinese New Year Banquet 7 p.m. @ Empress Pavilion Contact: Jerome Tong - 3tongs@msn.com
- Or buy \$45 tickets at the door

### Sunday, Feb. 24

- ⇒ Hong Kong singer and actor Aaron Kwok in concert
- Call for tickets and details  
Arrowhead Pond, Anaheim

### Saturday, March 2

CHSSC and South Bay Chinese American Chamber of Commerce New Year



### TO HANFORD WE WILL GO!

It's been several years since the CHSSC took its last field trip—one that involved sleeping away from home, that is. So, in an effort to make up for some lost time, active member and inveterate traveler Johnny Yee is back at the planning board again.

This time, Johnny's planning to lead a delegation to Hanford, the Central Valley town that is also the birthplace of Judge Delbert E. Wong. Johnny made an announcement about his plans at the last general membership meeting, on Feb. 6, but he's now informing *News 'n Notes* about some of the details. Please read on and take note, even if you remain undecided about whether you're joining us!

The Hanford excursion will take place on the weekend of June 1-2. We'll leave the Los Angeles area early Saturday morning, and begin the return trip from Hanford sometime during the mid-day on Sunday. Johnny proposes that we go up in carpools, and he suggests that each passenger pay the driver \$35 ("presented in an envelope") to cover mileage and incidentals on the 400-mile roundtrip journey. Johnny added that on the way up north, we might be able to spend some time in Ellenworth, a small town 40 miles south of Hanford, which was the earliest post-civil war settlement of former black slaves in California. They were led by a General Ellenworth, and many descendants stayed.

The main goal of the trip is to participate in a one-and-a-half-hour walking tour of Chinatown Hanford and to enjoy some delicious food! You can say there's something for everyone. The special French cuisine will be prepared at the famed Imperial Dynasty restaurant, home of the renowned Wing Brothers. (One of the brothers, Dick Wing, had been chef to General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower!) Legend has it that the French cuisine is special because it combines elements of Chinese and French cooking. The price is very reasonable—Johnny estimated a meal might run somewhere between \$50 and \$60. And you'll have time to savor your meal—over the course of about two hours, there will be wine served. The caveat, however, is you need to be decisive. Reservations and orders must be made two weeks in advance. For those who don't wish to go French, you can order the breast of chicken dinner for \$16.95 or New York cut sirloin steak for \$20.95.

The last time we took a trip to Hanford was 16 years ago, so undoubtedly, like the rest of the state, the town has probably undergone some changes! We'll find out just how great the transformation has been when we meet up with Camille Wing, the 72-year-old wife of Chef Richard ("Dick"). For Saturday afternoon (**rendesvouz time is 1 p.m. sharp!**), Camille has offered to take us on a leisurely and interesting jaunt during which we will see a temple, a museum and Chinatown. The China Alley district of Hanford, at 7th and Green streets, is just four easy walking-distance blocks from the hotel Johnny has arranged for us to stay in. That's the Comfort Inn at 10 North Irwin, Hanford, CA 93230 (telephone: 559/584-9300). The cost of a double-occupancy (two bed) room is \$69.07, which includes tax and a senior citizen's discount. For that price, you also get a free continental breakfast. Check-in time is 3 p.m. or thereabouts, and check-out time is 11 a.m. the next morning. Johnny apologized about not getting a group rate, but he said the rooms would have to be ordered in "blocks." Please be aware that there is a 24-hour cancellation period on the rooms, after which there might be a surcharge levied. In addition, when you make your reservations (via credit card), please mention: "Chinese Historical Society." Johnny also noted that rooms for the month of May are booked solid, so he urges folks to make their reservations and send in their money soon ("Maybe within a week, maybe the rooms fill up quickly," he said.)

### MORE CURRENT AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

(continued from page 4)

Banquet @ Sea Empress Seafood Restaurant, 1636 Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena, \$35 per person, with talk by Asian American playwright Lucy Wang  
**Sunday, March 3**

⇒ Jeanne Yanai's Spring Arts & Crafts Show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Dr., Torrance, Free 310-329-8679

**Tuesday, March 5**

⇒ Alhambra Adult School World Travel Forum Series presents tour of China film with Buddy Hatton @ 7:30 p.m., \$2 tickets, Alhambra High School Auditorium, 101 S. Second St., Alhambra; Call (626) 308-2309 for details

**Wednesday, March 13**

⇒ Chinese Chamber of Commerce luncheon mixer; Details: (213) 617-0396

**Wednesday, March 13 until Thursday, March 28**

⇒ Chinese Chamber of Commerce Asia Trip to Vietnam and Southern China  
**Friday, March 29**

⇒ Chinese Chamber of Commerce golf tournament @ California Country Club, 1509 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier: 11:30 a.m. lunch; 1 p.m. shotgun start; 6 p.m. dinner; Call for Details: (213) 617-0396

### ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF CHINATOWN

Come to the Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center to check out our newest exhibit in the front room facing southwest (closest to North Broadway). The Visual Artists Guild, in conjunction with Catherine Bauknight's photography class at El Camino College in the South Bay, put together a display of more than a dozen photographs capturing candid Chinatown. The photos, including several taken by Board Member Ann Lau and her husband, Spencer Chan, were put up Feb. 16, the day of the parade and a host of other activities.



### You Oughta Be in Pictures....

Thanks to Suellen Cheng, Margie Lew and Cy Wong, who recently volunteered to speak about the CHSSC and its participation in the Golden Dragon Parade in a videotaped program filmed by Jack Foster. The program will be aired on the bilingual Adelphia and Phoenix satellite channels.



# 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

- ☐ 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 25th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt

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

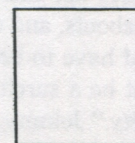
sizes ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large

*Make checks payable to: CHSSC*

*We are a tax-exempt non-profit educational organization*



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**FIRST CLASS**