



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-1918

JANUARY 2003

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Greetings to all Society members and supporters. I sincerely hope you had a joyous Christmas and New Years holiday.

First, a heartfelt thanks for your participation, support, and attendance at our monthly meetings. A thank you also to my wife, Betty Wong, for her work in cleaning and hanging the curtains in the office.

I have the good news that before three days of the new year had elapsed, ADT Security Services installed new alarm systems in our Office and in the Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center.

As we approach crunch time to complete our landscaping project, I ask you to please continue to support the project—and CHSSC's other activities—and to invite others who share our ideas to participate. Toward beautification of the yard and surroundings, I welcome you to donate Asian plants, dwarf fruit trees, and shrubbery.

To stay abreast of the Society's many activities, I hope you will continue to read your monthly News 'n Notes. In closing, my words for the month are: "Others will know your integrity not by the words you speak, but by the virtue of your actions."

President Cy Wong

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!

Year of The Ram 4701

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Wishes You
Good Health, Prosperity and Good Fortune
in the New Year!!!

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003

7:00 P.M.

CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Multipurpose Room

840 YALE STREET

LOS ANGELES, CHINATOWN

(PARK ON PLAYGROUND, ENTER ON COLLEGE STREET BETWEEN HILL AND YALE STREETS)

Guest Speaker:

ANGI MA WONG



"FENG SHUI FOR MODERN LIVING"

Feng shui is hot! And now it's easy. Join former CHSSC president, best-selling author, and celebrity consultant Angi Ma Wong for the ultimate crash course and slide presentation on feng shui - the hottest design trend sweeping the globe!! With humor and clarity, Angi takes the complex Chinese system of placement, clearing up the confusion and making it easy to understand. Along the way, she explains how to use colors, numbers, elements, and symbols to attract health, wealth, happiness, and relationships. *Not to be missed!*

The daughter of a diplomat, and seen on Oprah, Regis and Kelly, CBS Sunday Morning, CNN Headline News, and in Time Magazine, Angi Ma Wong is a celebrity feng shui consultant, wife, mother, award-winning businesswoman, author of 17 books and cancer survivor. Her clientele includes almost 100 major residential and commercial real estate developers worldwide, as well as Universal Studios and Bank of America.

Please Note:

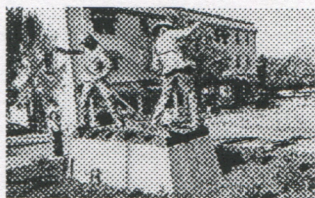
Our New Email Address:
chssc@earthlink.net



IRON ROAD PIONEERS

Chinese Railroad Worker STATUE DEDICATION

BY RANDY BLOCH



**THERE ARE MANY STATUES OF MEN SLAYING LIONS,
BUT IF ONLY THE LIONS WERE SCULPTORS, THERE
MIGHT BE QUITE A DIFFERENT SET OF STATUES**

Historian, Barbara Tuchman

It is said nothing moves the human heart more powerfully than appreciation. On January 18, 2003 at 10:00 a.m., in Railroad Square beside San Luis Obispo's Amtrak Station, the long-awaited *Iron Road Pioneers* statue dedication was held, favored by a cloudless sky and the ocean air the city is famous for. With its expansive theme of appreciation for the Chinese railroad workers who completed the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the Chinese American builders of the West, the spirit of this statue touches the sublime, which is perhaps the purpose of statuary contemplated by Barbara Tuchman in her statement.

Held Martin Luther King Day weekend against the backdrop of an anti-war demonstration in town, the dedication ceremony was originally scheduled for December 14th, but cancelled due to rain. Event organizers had agonized over their decision to change the date and apologized profusely for the inconvenience.

Though dedicated on January 18th, the statue has been in place since October of 2002. Half was constructed in Quebec, Canada; the other half in San Luis Obispo. Erecting a statue honoring the Central Coast Chinese railroad workers was first suggested to the City in 1994. A diverse community known for its harmonious blending of many groups, the City embraced the suggestion, but after early excitement, the idea lost momentum due to fundraising obstacles and bureaucratic hurdles.

Iron Road Pioneers sculptor, Elizabeth MacQueen—along with restaurateur, Marco Rizzo—jumped in when it appeared the project's exploratory phase was petering out. One of MacQueen's much loved statues, *Puck*, was displayed in San Luis Obispo for five years, but finally purchased by an out of state theater, removed, and relocated.

Completion of the ten-year, \$125,000, *Iron Road Pioneers* project was accomplished by a small coalition of like-minded historic and cultural groups, including the Chinese Professional Association (CPA), which for five years has steered the project's finances and logistics and the city's Art in Public Places which provided a dollar for dollar match totaling \$50,000. Also involved were

(Continued on page 3)

2002-2003 CHSSC Officers

Cy Wong, President

Ann Lau, Vice President

Linda Wong Smith, V.P. Programs

Henrietta Yuan, Secretary

Ben Nakayama, Membership Secretary

Ella Quan, Treasurer

Franklin Mah, Financial Secretary

Board Members

Eugene Moy, Chairperson

Pete Chinn

Al Der

Gilbert Hom

Dr. Wing Mar

Dr. Betty Gaw

Icy Smith

Boutique & White Elephant Sale

February General Meeting

The Society's Boutique and White Elephant Sale is almost here! Come and see what treasures you can find!! We have collected a number of items, all of them new or in very good condition. There are household objects, jewelry for the ladies, some books on Chinese American subjects, hand-knitted and crocheted potholders and slippers – and you name it and you will most likely find it!!!

Most items are very reasonably priced, with a few in the higher-priced range, but on these, you can probably make your "best offer." Anyway, come on down and have some fun and, chances are, you will find a thing or two (or three) that will appeal to your good shopping taste. See you at the February CHSSC meeting. Questions: please call Ruth Lung at (323) 462-3877 or Margie Lew at (626) 284-6348.



Iron Road Pioneers (from page 2)

faculty of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, the San Luis Obispo County Historical Society whose non-profit status conferred donor tax benefits, the San Luis Obispo County Cultural Heritage Commission, and the San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum. The City donated the land the sculpture stands on. Coming soon are a commemorative plaque, a park bench, and nighttime illumination for the site.

For Brigadier General, John Gong, of the U.S. Army 40th Infantry Division, the January 18th dedication culminated five years of hard work and persistence to see *Iron Road Pioneers* to completion. General Gong—one of 3 or 4 Chinese American generals in the U.S. Armed Forces—emceed Saturday's event. He extended himself painstakingly to ensure all involved were thanked and acknowledged, and that guests were comfortable. In his comments on the statue he remarked, "They opened up the doors of commerce to the rest of the world."

After greeting guests, General Gong summoned a local church representative, Pastor Chao, to deliver the invocation, followed by activity to prepare the site. This involved firecrackers to drive off evil spirits and a Lion Dance by the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Lion Dance Team to invite protection and ensure an auspicious event. Next came proclamations and certificate presentations by politicians and their representatives, including Mayor, David Romero; U.S. Congressional Representative, Lois Capps; State Senator, Bruce McPherson; State Assemblyman, Abel Maldonado; and, San Luis Obispo County Supervisor, Peg Pinard. A Resolution adopted by San Luis Obispo County was also read.

Elizabeth MacQueen, who created *Iron Road Pioneers*, was then invited to the podium. MacQueen remarked that "This is the first substantial piece of public art in San Luis Obispo." and said she was "amazed at the perseverance of the people who completed the project." She mentioned the dilemma between artistic accuracy on one hand, and the denial of reality which for some makes art more palatable, on the other. MacQueen is known for the kinetic energy of her works, among them, *Persephone*, a daughter longing for her mother; *Puck*; *Cannery Row*, a memorial to women cannery workers; and, *Sacajawea*, the Shoshone Indian girl who led explorers Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo history professor, Dr. Daniel Krieger, writes a column on local history and has been interviewed by TV personality, Huell Howser. Dr. Krieger spoke eloquently on the deeper meaning of the statue, beyond its physicality, and called the work a "statement of inclusiveness." He added, "The study of history involves discovering what happened, but has never been revealed before." In a statement thinly disguising his impatience with revisionism he said, "There would have been no transportation infrastructure and very little San Luis Obispo without Chinese labor."

Chinese American historian, Phillip Choy—representing the Chinese Historical Society of America—pointed out that the statue is "showing the nation how to correct a major historical error," addressing the idea that Chinese labor had less role in constructing the railroads than commonly believed.

Marco Rizzo, owner of Café Roma on Railroad Square, has promoted the project since its inception. He thanked the "Café Roma Patrons" who helped fund the statue and his family members, who played a significant role. Notably, his aunt, Rose Marie Rizzo, successfully campaigned to remove signage from around the statue.

Chinese community elder and guest of honor, Mr. Howard (Toby) Louis—sporting a yellow-flowered boutonniere and Western-style bolo with jade neckpiece—spoke next. Mr. Louis is the youngest son of Ah Louis who, as an herbalist, general store owner, foreman, and employment agent for the Central Coast Chinese railroad workers, helped build San Luis Obispo. It is not an overstatement that Ah Louis' presence in 19th Century San Luis Obispo was *sine qua non* for it to become the community it is today. As Ah Louis' sole surviving child, Howard Louis is the personification and embodiment of Central California Chinese American history. His opening words at the *Iron Road Pioneers* dedication are likely one of the purest, most pithy speeches ever delivered: "Dad, Mom, and [my] seven brothers and sisters are up there smiling." This was a great day in the life of this gentleman, scholar and elder statesman, and the crowd, leaning to catch his every word, could not get enough of him.

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, represented by Eugene, Susan and Bernie Moy; Wing and Joyce Mar; Linda Chong; Gilbert Hom, Rosalyn K. Chen-Yee and friend; Bill and Natalina Chew; and, Randall and Maureen Bloch presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Louis on behalf of the Society. Speaking for CHSSC, Eugene Moy remarked that though probably all California's 58 counties have remnants and a legacy of the early Chinese presence, only San Luis Obispo County could muster the wherewithal to raise this wonderful statue.

(Continued on page 7)



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

JANUARY 2003

THANK YOU FOR JANUARY MEETING REFRESHMENTS!

Thank you so much to Margie Lew, Ruth Lung, Julie Raskoff, Annie Siu, Tim Siu, Betty J. Wong, Dolores Wong and Donna Young for the variety of delicious snacks and beverages at the January meeting.

CONDOLENCES

The Society expresses its sincere condolences to CHSSC Life Member, Christie Miles Bourdet, on the passing of her father, Louis Charles Bourdet. Mr. Bourdet was an active local historian, past president and life member of the La Puente Valley Historical Society, past president of the Associated Historical Societies of Los Angeles County, and a longtime board member and life member of the Conference of California Historical Societies.

We also express our sincere condolences to CHSSC member and past program speaker, Linda Bentz, on the recent death of her mother.

CURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITS & EVENTS

February 1, 2003

ALHAMBRA/SAN GABRIEL LUNAR NEW YEAR PARADE & STREET FESTIVAL

Parade @ 11:00 a.m. on Valley Blvd. between Del Mar & Chapel in Alhambra;

Street Fair @ 10:00 a.m. on Valley Blvd. between Chapel & Garfield

Info: 626-300-5933

February 2, 2003, 8:00 a.m.

L.A. CHINATOWN FIRECRACKER 5K/10K RUN

North Broadway & College Street, Chinatown

Info: 323-256-1363

February 3, 2003, Social Hour—6:15 p.m.; Dinner—7:00 p.m.

CHINA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Golden Dragon Restaurant, 960 N. Broadway, Chinatown

A tour of the town and factories of Yixing, "The Tea Pot Capitol of China"

February 8, 2003, 2:00 p.m.

L.A. CHINATOWN LUNAR NEW YEAR PARADE LED BY CHSSC

February 9, 2003, 12:00 noon

HOLLYWOOD LUNAR NEW YEAR PARADE

Hollywood Blvd. between Vine St. & La Brea Ave.

February 9, 2003

CHINESE NEW YEAR CAR SHOW

Info: 213-617-0396

February 14, 2003, 6:30 p.m.

SOUTH BAY CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chinese New Year Celebration

Sea Empress Restaurant – Gardena, CA

\$30 adults (with advance reservations); \$20 children. Family event; entertainment provided.

Please contact Lilli Tom by 2/5/03 at 310-541-7236.

February 20—23, 2003

CONFERENCE OF CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETIES SPRING SYMPOSIUM

San Bernardino, California

Info: 909-823-6163

February 21, 2003, 7:00 p.m.

CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET

Empress Pavilion Restaurant

Info: 213-617-0396



HEALTHY EATING REQUIRES GOOD DIGESTION

By Dr. Betty Gaw

Now that we have enjoyed about five weeks of holiday feasting in 2002, we count our blessings and give thanks for our health, family and friends.

Food Digestion

This is a very complex biochemical process handled by the gastrointestinal tract ("GIT"). The inlet is the mouth where food is chewed and swallowed and then descends via the esophagus into the gastro-esophageal junction and into the muscular pouch, the stomach. The duodenum is a short portion of the tract joining the stomach to the small intestine, the ileum, from which it leads to the colon or large bowel, and ends at the anus.

Digestion begins in the mouth with sugars and alcohol being quickly absorbed into the vascular blood stream. The saliva contains the digestive enzymes, amylase, lipase, and ptyalin, which act on the chewed food to break the large food molecules down into smaller units. Poor chewing leads to malabsorption and digestive complaints. Potent hydrochloric acid is produced by the stomach, which kills microbes and digests large protein molecules of our food into small, absorbable molecules, by activating pepsinogen to pepsin enzyme. Gastric lipase hydrolyzes fats and gastric protease to digest proteins. The pancreas contributes amylase, protease, lipase, and insulin to metabolize glucose for cell energy. The liver manufactures cholesterol from which hormones, proteins, and triglycerides (pre-fat) are manufactured, and, together with the gall bladder, detoxifies and eliminates toxins and waste products. Thus, the GIT is a super food processor, nutrient absorber and builder, that sustains life. A newborn baby who cannot suck to take nourishment due to an immature or defective neuromuscular system, or who vomits and has diarrhea, is at very high risk of malnutrition and death.

The Common Digestive Disorders

The inflammatory conditions causing disease and gastrointestinal distress are esophagitis, frequently caused by gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD), gastritis, colitis, ileitis, hepatitis, cholecystitis of the gall bladder, and pancreatitis. Excessive food or drink may cause irritation, inflammation, and poor circulation of the GIT, as will infections such as *Helicobacter pylori* which is the most common bacterial cause of gastric ulcers. Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and analgesics such as aspirin may erode or ulcerate the gastric mucosa, causing bleeding. Inflammation resulting in scarring, diarrhea, constipation, vomiting, eructations, heartburn/pain, and gaseous bloating from food fermentation. With the highly processed, high fat/sugar/carbohydrate foods in our modern-day meals, dyspepsia or indigestion affects young and old alike. Rancid fat and oils, after repeated frying, is oxidized fat which is irritating and toxic to the GIT. Those with food allergies experience more frequent gastrointestinal distress, as will people who eat on the run, swallowing improperly chewed food, people with ill-fitting dentures, and, invariably, the middle-aged to aged population, whose gastric hydrochloric acid and digestive enzymes are insufficient. Undigested macro-molecules, when abnormally absorbed through the gut, cause an adverse immune response by the body, known as "leaky gut syndrome." This leads to autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, migraine, atherosclerosis, lupus, and other inflammatory diseases. The gastrointestinal tract is connected to the brain via chemical, neuromuscular interactions. Digestive disorders lead to bowel motility disorders, malabsorption, and a host of adverse health consequences.

Enzyme Replacement

When there is an imbalance, or GIT dysfunctional state not due to infection, enzyme replacement replacing lipase, amylase and protease is very helpful in restoring digestion and absorption of nutrients. As we age, enzyme replacement is crucial; burping and gas bloating are red flags for one to take action. Lactose intolerance requires lactase supplement for those who drink cows milk or eat cheese.

(Continued on page 6)



Health (Cont'd from page 5)

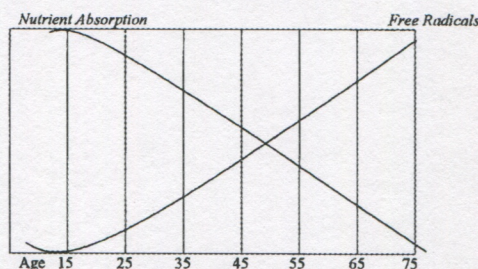
Probiotics Replacement

Since the GIT is colonized by friendly bacteria which help in fighting off pathogenic bacteria, viruses, yeast and fungi, and protect our immune system—being the first line of defense in handling millions of ingested microbes as well as producing Vitamin K and Vitamin B, to maintain our health—they must be protected and nourished. Probiotics require fiber, fluid, and a friendly environment to thrive in. Stagnant fermented foods, antibiotics, and other toxic chemicals in our tap water such as chlorine, pesticides, herbicides, plastic derivatives, etc., kill these delicate organisms. The main species are *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *L. brevis*, *L. salivarius*, *L. helveticus*, *L. bulgaricus*, and *Bifidobacterium bifidum*. These friendly bacteria may be purchased in capsule form with combined probiotic species and are very efficacious in enhancing bowel motility, maintaining the integrity of bowel functions, and even reduce GERD. I used probiotics when I was touring Turkey for 22 days during June 2002 when I suffered from “Turista” diarrhea—but only for an eight-hour night—while my travel mates vomited and purged with severe cramps and were ill in bed, or needed to lay on the van seats while in transit, for four to ten days. I attribute my swift recovery to my loyal probiotic friends.

Other Self Helps

1. Antacids (calcium carbonate, baking soda), demulcents (Pepto-Bismol), and charcoal powder for short-term use;
2. Hydration with electrolytes to prevent loss of body fluids from vomiting and diarrhea;
3. Eat healthy meals, always with vegetables and fruits for their enzymes, vitamins, minerals and fiber. Whole grains are better than refined, processed carbohydrates. Heat destroys enzymes;
4. Do not overload the stomach nor stress the liver (e.g., potassium, alcohol, fats, polluted water/foods) and pancreas (excess carbohydrates stress insulin production). Aging places a debit on their physiologic functions which means there are less reserves;
5. When taking antibiotics, you should triple your probiotics intake, which should be taken in the intervals between doses of the antibiotic. The best time to take probiotics is on an empty stomach when there is low gastric hydrochloric acid. Remember, these are delicate, live, friendly bacteria, sensitive to strong acid, and that you want as many of these organisms as possible to travel to the gut, where they colonize the mucosa, do their crucial job and multiply;
6. Do not eat a heavy meal before bedtime, as it takes 3-4 hours to process and digest food. Sleep renders the body to a quiescent digestive state;
7. Do not eat a heavy meal before strenuous exercise, because one third of your blood circulation gets shunted to the GIT to work on digestion and nutrient absorption, which is why, with less circulation to the brain and muscles, drowsiness is common after a substantial meal.

The following chart shows what normally occurs when we age. Absorption of nutrients drops a third by age 45, and two thirds by about 60 years. Free radicals, which cause cell damage and diseases, increase with aging. That is why it is a prime requisite that we eat nutrient-dense foods and antioxidants to neutralize free radicals.



Since we live to eat and eat to live, let's enjoy the pleasure of it to the fullest, promoting healthy digestion for maximum well-being. It has been said that death starts in an unhealthy GIT. That is food for thought. For more information, visit www.lef.org, the Life Extension Foundation.

Dr. Betty Gaw

(Dr. Gaw serves on the Society's Board of Directors)



Iron Road Pioneers (from page 3)

"Mockettes," or miniatures of the statue, were ceremoniously presented to acknowledge the project's main ("Gold Spike") donors. Authentic, chrome-plated railroad spikes, inlaid with the recipient's name, were also presented to key project players.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of God Bless America by Henry Charles Johnson of Carson, California, who had traveled from Southern California by Greyhound Bus, leaving at 3:00 a.m. that morning. With delight on his face, Mr. Johnson seemed to revel in Irving Berlin's lyrics: "While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that's free." Guests were treated to Chinese finger food and tea after the event.

With the statue's bronze plaque not ready for the ceremony, the foundry prepared a facsimile which was on display. The plaque reads:

THIS SCULPTURE COMMEMORATES AND HONORS THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION OF THE CHINESE IMMIGRANTS WHO HELPED BUILD THE EARLY RAILROADS ON THE CENTRAL COAST AND ACROSS OUR NATION. THEIR LABORIOUS EFFORTS HELPED TO LAY THE EARLY FOUNDATIONS FOR SAN LUIS OBISPO TO BECOME THE PREMIER MODEL URBAN COMMUNITY THAT WE ENJOY TODAY. THE FIRST NARROW GAUGE RAIL LINE IN THIS REGION WAS COMPLETED IN 1876. IT ENABLED SAN LUIS OBISPO'S AGRICULTURAL AREAS TO SEND THEIR PRODUCTS WORLDWIDE VIA PORT HARFORD (NOW PORT SAN LUIS). THOUSANDS OF CHINESE LABORERS GRADED THE ROADBEDS, BUILT TRESTLES, CUT MAJOR ACCESS ROADS, AND RISKED THEIR LIVES IN THE PROCESS. MANY DIED AND WERE LAID TO REST IN UNMARKED GRAVES. THIS SCULPTURE IS AN EVERLASTING MONUMENT IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE IRON ROAD PIONEERS.

2002 HOLIDAY LAMPLIGHT TOURS



The CHSSC and Friends "Low Family"

Left to Right: Jim Fong, Mark Jue, Rosalyn K. Chen-Yee,
Matthew Chung, Gilbert Hom, Peter C. Lee & Linda Wong-Smith.
(Not shown: Eugene Moy; Linda Chong.)

Do You Like to Write?

We Need Your News 'n Notes Items!

**Historical Articles, Announcements, Etc.
Please Submit by 10th of Each Month!!**

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2003 EVENTS

Saturday, January 25:

Little King & Queen Contest
at Castelar Elementary School

Saturday, February 1, 2003:

CHINESE NEW YEAR DAY
"YEAR OF THE RAM 4701"

Saturday, February 8:

104th Annual Golden Dragon Parade
L.A. Chinatown

Sat./Sun., February 8-9:

Chinese New Year Festival,
L.A. Chinatown

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Docents and Gallery Sitters

CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM

El Pueblo Community Gallery

March 16 through April 12, 2003

"Finding Family Stories"

Art Exhibition

**Please phone Linh Duong
at Chinese American Museum
(213) 626-5240**



Hanford Trip Recap

by

Linda Chong

The January 18 statue dedication trip to San Luis Obispo marked the second time in seven months that a delegation from the CHSSC made a trek to Central California to expand their horizons and their knowledge of Chinese American history.

On June 1, a contingent of nearly two dozen travelers traveled to the Central Valley town of Hanford to experience a delightful tour of what once had been home to the third largest Chinese community in the state (San Francisco and Los Angeles having the largest and second largest Chinese populations, respectively.)

Though it was an adventure of sorts for some, for a few others in the group, it was a warm reunion. In 1987, members of the CHSSC rented a bus for the expedition to Hanford. On both occasions, our gracious hostess was Camille Wing, a long-time resident of Hanford and denizen of its rich lore.

The 2002 expedition to Hanford was organized by inveterate traveler John Yee, who had been in constant contact with Camille Wing. His attention to details continued up to the last minute, making it possible for us to learn that, unfortunately, famed Chef Dick Wing was not in good enough health to prepare us a special gourmet feast at the Imperial Dynasty/China Pagoda restaurant. Nonetheless, the CHSSC visitors enjoyed a lovely dinner at the historic and ornately decorated eatery by instead selecting items off the menu a la carte.

The travelers had built up quite an appetite for their delicious meals, which, in some cases included rack of lamb, escargots, and prime rib. Many had made the four-hour drive up to Hanford just that morning and were promptly whisked off in the afternoon to a tour of the city's historic highlights. With Camille Wing as our principal guide (she was later joined by her daughter, Arianne, who had come down to Fresno to meet us), the delegates took a walking tour of the picturesque Hanford civic center and the small (but mostly intact) China Alley and Chinatown area of the former railroad hub. This included seeking the air-conditioned comfort of the Hanford Theatre, which once had been home to the town's Chinese school.

The centerpiece of our tour was a stop at the Chinese Temple, which is open only one Sunday a month and is staffed by a group of dedicated volunteers including Camille and Arianne Wing. The two-story temple contained artifacts of significance to those interested in the history of China as well as the United States. A collection of photographs, documents and objects of daily life from Hanford's 19th century heyday as a railroad center was displayed on the first floor, which also housed a small gift shop.

Outside the temple, CHSSC members took snapshots and expressed their gratitude to Camille Wing for her efforts. Board member Eugene Moy presented her with a copy of *Bridging the Centuries*, while member (and current board member) Icy Smith gave Camille Wing a copy of her book, *The Lonely Queue*.

For several of the visitors, the highlight of the trip was having the opportunity to meet and speak with other members of the Wing family, which has prepared gourmet meals for a host of celebrities, including President Dwight D. Eisenhower, over the years. Although Dick Wing was not with us in person, his spirit certainly was as he had prepared special appetizers for us to pique our sense of epicurean delight.

The next day, about half of the group headed south to the tiny hamlet of Earlimart, home to Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. The park is the only state park that focuses on the contributions made by people of African descent toward the growth and development of California. The town was founded by an ex-slave and four other African Americans in 1908, making it unique and significant in countless ways.

As members of an organization dedicated to the discovery and promotion of Chinese American history, the CHSSC visitors were captivated and impressed by the tales of perseverance overcoming hardship that seemed to be universal themes as they toured Hanford, Earlimart, and—seven months later—San Luis Obispo.



**CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**
*SPECIAL CASH AND CARRY BOOK PRICES
to CHSSC Members (tax included)*

Bridging the Centuries

\$20

Our latest publication is a 210-page collector's edition of contemporary and historical accounts of the lives of ethnic Chinese who helped build the southern region of the State of California, from the first laborers of the late 1800's, to today's hip youngsters from Southeast Asia.

Linking Our Lives

\$12

"A Look at Chinese American Women of Los Angeles" is the secondary title of this book, which is founded on a collection of oral histories. For decades, Chinese women were largely banned from entering the United States, resulting in several generations of single-parent families in which Chinese fathers visited "home" only occasionally, due to the demands of the backbreaking labor they performed abroad. Eight women scholars trace these and other tales of spiritual triumph over the years.

Origins and Destinations

\$20

This collection of 41 manuscripts, published by the CHSSC, originated from a three-day academic symposium on Chinese Americans held at California State University at Los Angeles in 1992. The event was co-sponsored by the CHSSC, Cal State L.A. and UCLA.

The Lonely Queue

\$32

Author and CHSSC Board member Icy Smith chronicles "the forgotten history of the courageous Chinese Americans in Los Angeles" in this pictorial book, now in its second publication run.

Wong Ho Leun: An American Chinatown

\$20/2

This two-volume set is considered a definitive historical account of the Chinese community in Riverside, a largely agricultural county near Los Angeles. Beautifully illustrated with photographs, drawings and Chinese calligraphy, the book's dedication is written by celebrated Chinese American author, Maxine Hong Kingston (The Woman Warrior).

For mail orders, please call CHSSC office (323-222-0856)

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!!!

Deadline: February 28, 2003

**See Membership Rates On
Last Page Of (U.S. Mail Copy) News 'N Notes
Add \$5 For Two Annual Gum Saan Journal Issues
(Persons Renewing After March 1st
May Not Appear on the 2003 Roster)**

**NEW CHINATOWN BRANCH
LIBRARY**

Grand Opening Ceremony

Thursday, February 6, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

Corner of Hill and Ord Streets in Chinatown.

**Event to be attended by Councilman Ed Reyes;
City Librarian Susan Kent; and a member of
the Board of Library Commissioners.**