



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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APRIL 2004

CHSSC's PROGRAM COMMITTEE

In the March *News and Notes*, we highlighted some activities of CHSSC's busy Research and Publications Committee. But just as much goes on under the Programming Committee!

One of the Society's most enduring and important commitments is to our monthly general meetings at Castelar Elementary School. This is where history lovers congregate to listen and discuss aspects of our rich heritage. This year, we've had informative presentations ranging from Raymond Lew on Kwong Dak Wo store to Susan Sovine on Pearl Buck. As you may imagine, coordinating and preparing programs each month requires much effort and planning so we welcome and encourage your suggestions.

We also meet regularly at the annual Fall and Spring Fundraising Dinners. In 2003-2004, we featured two authors: Virginia Li (*From One Root Many Flowers*) and Iris Chang (*The Chinese in America*). While the authors' discourse stimulated our minds, the healthy Chinese cuisine stimulated our tummies, and conversation flowed freely between old friends and new acquaintances.

CHSSC reaches out to the general public through tours, fieldtrips,

(Continued on Page 2)

MAY PROGRAM

JACK ONG

Actor-Writer-Activist

**"THE CONTROVERSIAL LIFE AND MURDER
OF DR. HAING S. NGOR"**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2004, 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)**

Actor and human rights activist, Dr. Haing S. Ngor, survived the Cambodian holocaust under the Khmer Rouge and settled in Los Angeles. After winning an Oscar and Golden Globe for his performance in the film, *The Killing Fields*, he established a human rights foundation with fellow actor, Jack Ong. Tragically, Dr. Ngor was murdered on February 25, 1996 outside his home near Chinatown. On April 27, 2004, a U.S. federal judge overturned the conviction of the man found guilty of the murder, ordering he be released or retried.

At CHSSC's May 5th meeting, Mr. Ong will discuss the new edition of Haing Ngor's best-selling autobiography, *A Cambodian Odyssey*, (written with author-journalist Robert Warner) and the years Ong shared with Dr. Ngor, working and traveling as Hollywood actors and activists. Jack Ong is executive director of The Dr. Haing S. Ngor Foundation.

An epilogue to the book's new edition traces the events from Dr. Ngor's Academy Award victory through his murder and the subsequent trial. It also explores the complex relationships between Chinese Americans and Cambodian Americans in this country and abroad.

Copies of the new volume will be available for purchase at the meeting. All proceeds will benefit the Dr. Haing S. Ngor Foundation.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

APRIL 2004

(Program Committee, from Page 1)

community events, and at our Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center. Docents give walking tours of Chinatown, pointing out the 100-year-old history behind the facade of busy commercial activities. In the spring of 2003, CHSSC sponsored a tour to Hanford and Allensworth in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. In the fall, we applauded Byron Yee's "Paper Son" play. This winter, we joined members of the Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California and the Filipino American National Historical Society-Los Angeles Chapter in a "reunion" at Little Tokyo's historic and newly-renovated Far East Café. We also mounted several exhibits on our "Portraits of Pride" project at public libraries, and put up CHSSC information booths at the pan-Asian Lotus Festival in Echo Park and the MTA Gold Line opening. We marched in the Chinatown New Year Parade and passed out water at the Chinatown 10K.

Our two Victorian houses at 411 & 415 Bernard Street, the CHSSC office and Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center, are our hub. Here we interact with all manner of diverse people—from academicians to tourists to the international media—all seeking information on Chinese American history. Occasionally, we are privileged to learn from those who have experienced history firsthand and are themselves icons of our community. Our Heritage and Visitors Center also has a rich library and book store.

Since burning our mortgage on the two houses, CHSSC has worked to improve the physical structure of the historic homes. Last year, we converted the garage to an Archival Center. We now look forward to some serious landscaping.

This is a busy and dynamic historical society. By day, we are actors, engineers, teachers, soccer grandparents, etc. By evening and weekends, we metamorphize into history lovers who are committed to preserving Los Angeles' ethnic heritage for our youth and to honoring our Ah Goong and Ah Po pioneers.

Don't miss the:

REVISITING EAST ADAMS

FILM PREMIERE!!!

Wednesday, June 23, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

David Henry Hwang Theater
120 Judge John Aiso Street, Los Angeles
Information: (323) 222-0856

2003-2004 CHSSC Officers

Linda Wong Smith, President

Pete Chinn, Vice President

Eugene Moy, V.P. Programs

Susie Ling, Secretary

Ben Nakayama, Membership Secretary

William Chew, Treasurer

Franklin Mah, Financial Secretary

Board Members

Dr. Betty Gaw Gilbert Hom

Susan Hum Dr. Donald Loo

Dr. Wing Mar Jack Ong

News 'n Notes Editor: Randy Bloch

MISSION STATEMENT

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November, 1975. The purposes of the Society are: 1) to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California; 2) to pursue, preserve and communicate knowledge of this history; and; 3) to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese American community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multi-cultural society of the United States.



AROUND CHSSC

SPRING 2004 FUNDRAISING DINNER



(Judge Delbert Wong autographs commemorative *Gum Saan Journal* for guest speaker, author Iris Chang—Courtesy Roy Nakano)

Best-selling author Iris Chang re-visited with CHSSC as the featured speaker at CHSSC's April 24th Spring Fundraising Dinner at Chinatown's Empress Pavilion. Perhaps longtime member Fred Gong's impression summarizes it best: "She's the best speaker I've ever heard in my life." Boxes of Iris Chang's two recent titles, *The Chinese in America* and *Rape of Nanking*, were efficiently distributed to eager Dinner purchasers and graciously autographed. In his remarks, Monterey Park Vice-Mayor, Mike Eng, said in jest, "I've already had many opportunities to 'plagiarize' from Iris Chang's seminal work while making speeches and presentations!"

But Ms. Chang was not the only author in the house. One day before the Dinner, *Gum Saan Journal* editor Icy Smith had picked up the print run of CHSSC's latest title, "*Gum Saan Journal Special Edition on Delbert Wong, the First Chinese American Judge*" to make it available at the Dinner. Judge Wong's son, author Marshall Wong said, "I wanted to know the key life experiences that informed my father's sense of justice. I wanted to explore how his career reflected the great debates of the turbulent 1960s and 1970s."

Assemblywoman Judy Chu joined the Dinner to ceremonially present CHSSC checks and special certificates of recognition to our Scholarship winners. Dr. Chu said, "I taught Asian American studies at UCLA and I'm proud to award the CHSSC Scholarships to Huy Chheng and Yolanda Tran who represent the best of the next generation dedicated to this field of academic

endeavor." A third California Assembly certificate was conferred upon Board member Dr. Wing Mar for his tireless efforts on behalf of the Society and as Chair of our *Portraits of Pride* project. Joyce Mar and other friends cheered this surprise announcement.

Emcee Angi Ma Wong charmed the crowd while Gene Moy, Doreen Chan Nakayama, Linda Wong Smith, Pete Chinn, Randy Bloch, and a host of Dinner Committee members saw to details and chatted with friends. Armed Forces Veteran Stanley Mu led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and was seen at a table with his two brothers, Stanton and Stanford, and their wives. Irvin Lai led the invocation in both English and Cantonese. Notably, Colonel Hayward Fong and Gee How Oak Tin Association never seem to miss a dinner. We thank our many many supporters.

We also thank our table sponsors: Dr. Wing & Joyce Mar, Colonel Hayward Fong, Gee How Oak Tin Association, Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith LLP, Eugene Moy & Susan Sing, Ben & Doreen Nakayama, and Dr. Yep H. Wong; and, the Dinner Committee: Randall Bloch, Pete Chinn, Qian Deng, Don Loo, Dr. Wing Mar, Eugene Moy, Lucille Niki, Lillian Ng, Jack Ong, Susan Sing, Linda Wong Smith and Angi Ma Wong.

"From an early period in my childhood, I knew Delbert [Wong] was special. He was one of the first Chinese American lawyers in Los Angeles. He was the first Chinese American judge in the U.S. He was and is always approachable, helpful, and compassionate."

Stewart Kwoh, Asian Pacific American Legal Center
(*Gum Saan Journal*, Special Edition 2004)

"Delbert [Wong's] decision to study law was neither intended to please his parents nor was it an act of rebellion."

Marshall Wong (*Gum Saan Journal*, p. 14)

"My grandfather came to this country from China nearly a century ago and worked as a servant. Now I serve as governor just one mile from where my grandfather worked. It took our family one hundred years to travel that mile. It was a voyage we could only make in America."

Governor Gary Locke (as quoted in Iris Chang's *The Chinese in America*, p. 389)



CHSSC 2004 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

With great pleasure, we announce the winners of the 2004 CHSSC Scholarship Awards. Our panel of judges: Dr. Haiming Liu of Cal Poly Pomona Ethnic Studies; Judy Soohoo of UCLA Asian American Studies; and, Dr. Swan Ngien of California State University at Los Angeles Anthropology concurred in the selections after reviewing fourteen applications and interviewing five candidates. At our April 24th Spring Dinner, we were fortunate to have Assemblywoman Judy Chu, a former UCLA Asian American Studies instructor, present the scholarship checks and congratulatory certificates.

Scholarship winner Huy Chheng is a UCLA master's student in Asian American studies and graduated cum laude from Cal State Northridge in sociology/Asian American studies. As a filmmaker, Huy is researching the lives of children growing up in Chinese American restaurants. She has completed a coming of age story of three Chinatown youth entitled "Sweet and Sour," as well as a documentary on Asian American actresses entitled "Breaking Through: Do We Sell Out or Stay True?". Huy has been active with youth programs through Chinatown Service Center, Korean Youth Center, and San Gabriel's Asian Youth Center. Upon learning she was selected for the scholarship, Ms. Chheng said, "I am honored to receive such a prestigious award from a great organization whose mission is to serve the community, especially the Chinese American community. With all my gratitude, I thank the CHSSC, the staff, and the judges for their hard work and dedication to the community."

Awardee Yolanda Tran was raised in Los Angeles' Chinatown and graduated from Arcadia High School. She is an Asian American studies and political science major at UCLA. Yolanda recently completed an internship with State Assemblyman George Nakano and has been accepted to intern with the Department of Labor in Washington D.C. She intends to pursue a career in law. Describing how it felt to be chosen for the scholarship, Yolanda said: "When I got the email that I won the scholarship, I thought, yes, I can finally go to Washington D.C. and intern at the White House. I can finally go do some educational and inspiring work with people who are knowledgeable and passionate about the same field I have longed to be a part of."

While not our main intention, both students will benefit much from this economic support. To our generous donors, we guarantee that your money has been invested most wisely with profound returns to come. We also take this opportunity to thank Winifred Lew for her many years as Scholarship Chair. Winnie paved the way, and her wonderful organizational skills make it much easier for those following in her footsteps.

DR. WING MAR SPEAKS AT TORRANCE YMCA

CHSSC Board member and *Portraits of Pride* (PoP) Chair, Dr. Wing Mar, made a presentation to the Dinner meeting of the Torrance YMCA Men's Club Dinner Meeting on March 3, 2004. This year, the PoP project publishes a book profiling 35 Chinese Americans of great achievement in health, science and defense.

Dr. Wing Mar has a distinguished service record with the Torrance YMCA, having led a Five Hundred Thousand Dollar capital campaign in the mid-1960's to purchase land and acquire a new facility. He received a special service award from the Y in 1966, and in 1968 his name was placed in the Metropolitan Los Angeles YMCA's *Golden Book of Distinguished Service*.

Following Dr. Mar's recent speech to the Torrance YMCA Men's Club, this item appeared in the April issue of their publication, *Portal*:

"Dr. Wing Mar shared his interest and efforts to recognize the distinguished and important contributions to American culture by the many Chinese who immigrated to America many years ago. He has spent the last 4 years compiling information on 35 Chinese Americans from a variety of walks of life. His hope is to publish a book of their accomplishments and he plans to provide copies to the public libraries. He is being assisted in this venture by others and has found this to be deeply rewarding. He shared a few of the many stories including his own and everyone found it fascinating to learn of their struggles, trials and hardships and that they as a people are not bitter and take great pride in doing what they can to make this a better world for not only themselves but all mankind."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONDOLENCES

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California extends its deepest sympathy to four-term past-president Irvin Lai and Collin Lai on the passing of their mother Effie Lai on April 18, 2004.

The following obituary was published in the *Los Angeles Times* on April 21, 2004:

LAI, EFFIE JUNG

"Born May 2, 1904, in San Francisco; passed away peacefully, April 18, 2004. The eldest of ten, married at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, mother of five. Survived by sons, Milton (Mabel), Irvin, Collin (Susan); daughter, Mildred (Danyo); ten grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild; brother, Robert Jung; sisters, Henrietta (Hank), Phyllis (Hiram); numerous cousins, and many favorite nieces and nephews. Always cheerful, energetic, and generous, Effie was active in church and never hesitated to lend a helping hand. After years as a restaurateur, and helping her sons launch their businesses, Effie became a cosmetologist in her 60's before 'retiring', and traveled the world with her family, and fellow octogenarians. She had an unmatched zest for life and was an inspiration to all who knew her."

CHSSC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

A very hearty welcome to Susan Hum Lai, Jack Ong, and Dr. Don Loo who recently joined the CHSSC Board of Directors as Members At Large.

CHSSC DOCENTS CONDUCT FREE WALKING TOUR

We thank Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon, Jim Fong and Marian Leng—mainstays of our Walking Tour Docent Force—for generously leading a Chinatown walking tour of two fifth grade classes from

Heliotrope Elementary School in Maywood and completely donating their services.

LI FOUNDATION PORTRAITS OF PRIDE GRANT

The Society's *Portraits of Pride* project recently received a \$5,000 grant from the Li Foundation of San Francisco. *Portraits of Pride*, which profiles Chinese Americans of great distinction in the health, science and defense fields, will publish a volume of 35 chapter-long biographies this year and donate approximately 600 copies to California libraries. Future volumes are in the works.

MARCH GENERAL MEETING REFRESHMENTS

We greatly appreciate the generosity of Bill & Natalina Chew, Jenny Cho, Ruth Lung, Mary Mu, Bev Shue, Johnny Yee and Donna Young for the delicious refreshments at our March 3rd CHSSC General Meeting.

GUM SAAN JOURNAL NEW FORMAT & SPECIAL PRICE

The Society recently published two issues of its semi-academic *Gum Saan Journal* in a new double-length format. Volume 27, 2004 represents our two-issue obligation to our 2003 subscribers and was recently mailed. The new Judge Delbert Wong special issue will be shipped to all 2004 subscribers by May 1, 2004.

Henceforth, *Gum Saan Journal* will be published once yearly in the new expanded format. Though we must increase the subscriber price to \$10 (\$8.00 plus \$2 shipping & handling) for future issues, we are offering the two new issues at a special \$6 introductory price (plus shipping & handling, if mailed). Please take advantage of this excellent offer and purchase your new *Gum Saan Journals*!

HEALTH & WELLNESS

By Dr. Betty Gaw



DRIVER DISTRACTION **BY CELL PHONE USE CAN BE DEADLY!**

(Newly updated)

About a year and a half ago, I experienced the worrisome sensations of acute loss of memory, drowsiness, ataxia (loss of balance while walking), and restless sleep accompanied by bad dreams. In retrospect, I realized I had overused my cell phone for two weeks, logging more than four hours use during the month of November. Not having the flu, these symptoms caused fear and anxiety, prompting the differential diagnosis of brain tumor, especially since, in October, my friend Gaby underwent resection of one of the most aggressively malignant brain cancers, Glioblastoma Multiforme.

Soon after my excessive exposure to cellular phone radiation/CPR, I read an excellent and timely review on the subject: "Cellular Phone Radiation and Potential Risks to the Human Brain" in the official newsletter and journal of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. Together with the recent media publication on CPR and the enormous popularity of cellular phone use by young people, I feel there is a grave urgency to publicize the hidden hazards of cellular phone radiation.

On April 12, 2004, the *Los Angeles Times* published "Hit Movie Rings True in China," about comedy and deceit involving China's current infatuation with cellular phones, at the expense of older values. There are 280 million registered cell phone users in China, representing twice the number of users in the United States. The enormous popularity of this high-tech instrument has propelled many children to use cell phones as their principal communication with family and friends.

Electromagnetic Fields (EMF's) - emitted by cell phones - contribute to childhood leukemia and other cancers, such as brain cancer. Biological changes have been observed in the brains of rats exposed for two hours a day to EMF's, resulting in leakage of albumin from the arteries into brain tissue. Headaches are the most frequent complaint from prolonged cell phone use, as reported in a January,

2003 study in Singapore. Since young people's cells are rapidly dividing and growing, EMF's affect children far more severely, dose for dose, as compared with adults. The pathological process of cell destruction involves gradual loss of function; thus, I caution parents and children to watch for memory loss, headaches, dizziness, poor concentration, learning difficulties, loss of subtle balance, blurred vision, etc., accompanying cell phone use. The best strategy to prevent brain damage is to hold to very brief periods of cellular phone use. Don't forget that all radiations are cumulative, and that one cannot rid oneself of EMF's, once they enter the body and begin to bombard live cells. The health threats of cellular phone use are but one of the invisible but deadly hazards of the wireless age.

STATISTICS

Worldwide, more than 400 million people depend on cellular phones, and the numbers have escalated exponentially. Each year, cell phone use while driving results in 2,600 annual vehicle crash deaths, 570,000 injuries, and 1.5 million incidents of property damage, according to Harvard University's Center for Risk Analysis. In California, 4,699 accidents were caused by drivers using cellular phones in the last year. Indeed, cellular phone use is a serious public health issue looming large on the horizon, not even considering the subtle acute and chronic long-term biological impact on our bodies' cell functions.

ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

Electromagnetic Mechanical Fields (EMF's) consist of electric and magnetic waves of energies, and CPR falls into the category of non-ionizing energy, as emitted by radios, cellular phones and microwaves. This energy heats tissues, increasing body temperature, and, with prolonged exposure, "cooks" the brain and tissues, causing biological damage. 20-60% of the emission energy is absorbed by the cellular phone users' brain in the first one to two centimeters beneath the skull's surface.

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS OF EMF's

- Lethargy and malaise, a feeling of being unwell;
- Immune system dysfunction/damage;
- Central nervous system impairment: short and long term memory loss; psychomotor

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APRIL 2004

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 29 to May 6, 2004

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS ASIAN FILM & VIDEO FESTIVAL

Directors Guild Theater & Japan America Theater
Information: 213-680-4462 x 68

May 3 to May 28, 2004

EXHIBIT OF TEN NEW CHSSC PORTRAITS OF PRIDE PROFILES

Los Angeles Harbor College (Library)
1111 Figueroa Place, Wilmington, CA

May, 2004

EXHIBIT OF NEW CHSSC PORTRAITS OF PRIDE PROFILES

Alhambra Public Library
410 Main Street, Alhambra, CA

May 7, 2004

ASSEMBLYWOMAN JUDY CHU HONORS OUTSTANDING APIA'S

Grapevine, 324 S. Mission Dr., San Gabriel, CA
Information: 323-981-3426

May 12, 2004, 12:00 p.m.

CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON MIXER WITH SAN GABRIEL COUNCILMAN CHI MUI

Chinese Cultural Center, 9443 Telstar Ave., El Monte
Information: 213-617-0396

May 13, 2004, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF L.A. PRESENTS "THE LESSONS OF HATE: FROM VINCENT CHIN TO TODAY," PANEL DISCUSSION, LIGHT DINNER

Japan America Theater
244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo
Information: 213-386-3114

May 20, 2004, 12:00 p.m.

CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON MIXER WITH CITY ATTORNEY ROCKY DELGADILLO

Big China Restaurant, 911 N. Broadway, L.A.
Information: 213-617-0396

May 21, 2004

CHINATOWN PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BANQUET

Empress Pavilion Restaurant
Information: 213-621-3043

May 22, 2004

ASIA CULTURE FEST, PERFORMANCES & CRAFTS (FREE EVENT)

Pacific Asia Museum
46 N. Los Robles, Pasadena

May 27, 2004, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS MIXER

Chinese American Museum
El Pueblo Plaza
Information: 323-250-9888

May 27, 2004, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CHSSC PORTRAITS OF PRIDE SHOWCASE AT RAYTHEON PLAZA

Information: 310-783-0032

June 4, 2004, 6:30 p.m.

FRIENDS OF CHINATOWN LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER

Ocean Seafood Restaurant
750 N. Hill Street
Information: 213-620-9917

June 19-20, 2004

CHINESE FOOD FESTIVAL

Los Angeles Chinatown
Information: 213-680-0243

June 23, 2004, 7:00 p.m.

REVISITING EAST ADAMS FILM DOCUMENTARY PREMIERE

David Henry Hwang Theater, 120 Judge John Aiso Street,
Los Angeles
Information: jennycho@ucla.edu; (323) 222-0856

Through June 27, 2004

REVISITING EAST ADAMS - AN EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND MEMORABILIA FROM THE EAST ADAMS NEIGHBORHOOD, CIRCA 1930'S TO 1950'S

Curators, Jennifer Cho & William Gow
CHSSC Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center
411 Bernard Street, L.A. Chinatown

impairment for balance and motor skills; diminished reaction time while operating a motor vehicle; slowed judgment; sleep disturbance; and, loss of cognitive skills, as in decision making, correlation, and planning;

- DNA damage due to mutations, leading to cancers;
- Sexual organ and fertility impairment;
- Blood pressure elevation, heart disease and changes in blood cells; and
- Skin and eye damage.

MINIMIZE YOUR CELLULAR PHONE RADIATION EXPOSURE

1. Make short, necessary conversations;
2. Use a "speaker phone" option to distance yourself from the cellular phone;
3. Buy a cellular phone with an extendable antenna, not one with a stubby antenna which emits higher intensity radiation;
4. When possible, rather than use the cell phone in a vehicle or steel construction building which increase the phone's power output, open the vehicle door or step outdoors;
5. While in a vehicle, do not turn on your cellular phone unless you are making a call or expecting one;
6. Use a hand bag or purse to carry a cell phone when it is switched on, rather than carry it close to your body;
7. When using the cell phone, take off metal-rimmed eyeglasses, as this increases radiation emissions by 20% to the eyes and 6.3% to the head;
8. Take note of the signal level for geographic connection to your cell phone. The fewer the number of "cells," or zones of service, and the farther from the base station, the greater is the radiation emission. Keep your cell phone use very brief;
9. Do not use hands free kits with a headset or ear bud/microphone which has a wire connecting your cell phone to your ear. These devices increase the radiation to your brain threefold!;
10. Use carbon, lead, or radar absorbing shields to block the radiation from penetrating the brain;
11. "Car Baby," an attachment to your cellular phone, which is dial-connected by specific radio channels, allows you to talk at home or in your vehicle at a distance of 1-2 feet away from the phone with clarity, and without attachments. Website: carbaby.com/wholesale.html;
12. Remember not to prolong your cell phone conversations.

Visit the World Health Network: www.worldhealth.net for more information.



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

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