



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

415 Bernard St., Los Angeles, CA 90012; Voice: 323-222-0856;

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AUGUST 2005

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

REDISCOVERING THE GREAT CHINESE MARINER ZHENG HE (1371-1433)



Guest Speaker:

DR. MARSHALL M. LIH,
SENIOR ENGINEERING ADVISOR,
National Science Foundation, Washington, DC

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005, 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)**

Leading off our program year, distinguished scholar Dr. Marshall M. Lih will examine the controversies swirling around British submarine commander Gavin Menzies' work, *1421: The Year The Chinese Discovered America*. In chronicling the seven voyages of Ming Dynasty Admiral Zheng He, the book's 2003 publication ignited fiery debate, with historians impugning its research and calling the book "pseudoscience." The center of the controversy is author Menzies' claim that Admiral Zheng's fleet reached America seventy-one years before Christopher Columbus.

Shortly after publication, a review in *Publishers' Weekly* attacked the work, stating:

"A former submarine commander in Britain's Royal Navy, Menzies must enjoy doing battle. The amateur historian's lightly footnoted, heavily speculative re-creation of little-known voyages made by Chinese ships in the early 1400s goes far beyond what most experts in and outside China are willing to assert . . . [and] Menzies is forced to defend his argument by compiling a tedious package of circumstantial evidence that ranges from reasonable to ridiculous."

But Menzies' book has been marketed brilliantly and enjoys international appeal. Attesting to this, some university students have contacted the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California seeking clarification of issues raised in the book, e.g., "According to the book, Chinese explorers had probed the west coasts of North and South America, as well as Australia and Antarctica. The author backs these claims with genetic and archaeological data, and presents a very interesting theory."

While most official documentation is lost, there are extant artifacts, sites, journals, and papers. Three of the seven docks of the Longjiang shipyard on the outskirts of Nanjing survive, whose lengths and widths may support some of the claimed ship sizes. Menzies asserts there are remnants of the fleets' presence and offspring of its sailors scattered across the Eastern Hemisphere.

Whether or not the Admiral's early arrival is apocryphal, the size of the fleets and dimensions of some of the ships were spectacular. Another marvel is the navigation, communication and logistics in such an undertaking without modern electronic and computing equipment. With the 600th anniversary of Admiral Zheng He's first voyage celebrated July 11, 2005, there is renewed interest to investigate his voyages using modern instrumentation and methodologies.

Guest speaker Dr. Marshall Lih is a Senior Engineering Advisor at the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC. He obtained his Bachelor of Science from the National Taiwan University and Master's and Doctorate degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Dr. Lih is a 1995 recipient of the Presidential Rank Meritorious Award of the U.S. Senior Executive Service. n/n



AROUND CHSSC

2005 SPRING DINNER CELEBRATING CHINESE AMERICAN PIONEERS IN LAW

By Maureen Bloch



(CHSSC President Kenneth L. Chan; Nowland C. Hong; Betty Tom Chu; Judge Rose Hom; Judge Ronald S.W. Lew; Judge Jennifer Lum; Judge Delbert Wong; U.S. Attorney Debra Yang. Photo by Tom Eng)

Held at the San Gabriel Hilton Hotel, our 2005 Annual Spring Dinner was an elegant affair. At this latest fundraising dinner, the bar for such events was raised in keeping with the salute to Chinese American legal pioneers. But all puns aside, the fundraising event was one of the most successful in CHSSC's history, netting over \$17,000 to carry out important projects of the Society, including archiving, publishing and speaker programs as well as maintaining our buildings at 411-415 Bernard Street and staff salaries.

Record attendance in the sparkling ballroom of the new San Gabriel Hilton quickly banished concerns that a venue outside Chinatown would draw sufficient members and guests. Thirty-three tables of ten, beautifully decorated by Jeannie Liu, Richard Liu, Joyce Mar, Matthieu Sauvage-Mar, Dr. Wing Mar, Bo-Gay Tong Salvador and Donna Young, were easily accommodated in the spacious ballroom. In addition, servers performed their jobs with ease, not crowding guests or each other. This left ample room for an elaborate display of prizes, tempting guests to purchase raffle tickets. As attendees passed through the foyer into the ballroom, an impressive collection of the Society's publications was displayed opposite the registration tables, adjacent to photographic panels with biographies of each honoree. Before dinner, in a private meeting room, a special VIP reception and photo opportunity was held for the seven honorees and their families and the CHSSC Board of Directors.

[Please see "2005 Spring Dinner," page 3]

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

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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.



[“2005 Spring Dinner,” from page 2]

Serving as master of ceremonies, veteran actor and activist Jack Ong introduced the legal theme, making his appearance in drag as “Blind Justice,” complete with bad wig, holding the scales of justice, and accompanied by the familiar *Dragnet* theme. “We were concerned for the pacing of the evening,” said Dr. Don Loo, dinner co-chair, “but thanks to our master of ceremonies, there was always something going on during dinner . . . and not one guest left early.” Co-chair Howard Fong added, “After Jack made his grand entrance to kick off the evening, no one wanted to miss whatever else that crazy guy would do!”

With his natural humor and sense of timing, Jack, a CHSSC Board member, set the tone for the evening. He remarked, “I had to think of a way to loosen up a room full of judges and attorneys. Sometimes, nothing works like making a complete fool of yourself.”

Each of the seven honorees received a bronze plaque from CHSSC, recognizing their accomplishments. The Chinese American Pioneers in Law honored June 5th were: Betty Tom Chu, the first Chinese American woman lawyer in Southern California, the first woman founding CEO of a savings and loan in America and Mayor Pro Tem of Monterey Park; Rose Hom, the first Chinese American female judge appointed to the Superior Court in California and the first Chinese American female judge appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court; You Chung Hong, the first Chinese American admitted to the California Bar (dec.), whose CHSSC award was accepted by his son, attorney Nowland C. Hong; Ronald S.W. Lew, the first Chinese American judge, U.S. District Court; Jennifer Lum, the first Chinese American female judge, United States District Court; Delbert Wong, the first Chinese American judge in the continental United States, the first Chinese American California Deputy Legislative Counsel, and the first Chinese American graduate of Stanford University Law School; and, Debra Yang, the first Asian American U.S. Attorney in Los Angeles.

All dinner guests received a beautiful booklet created by Society member Jason Jem, featuring photos and biographies of the seven honorees. In the dinner booklet, U.S. Attorney Debra Yang states, “breaking through the glass ceiling is sometimes deeply lonely. There is no one around to ask questions and give guidance.”

After dinner and the presentation of plaques, emcee Jack amped up the energy to auction a case of wine bottles that featured signed photographs of the honorees on each wine label. The bottles had also been placed as decorations on each of the 33 dinner tables. Ann Lau, former CHSSC vice-president, made the winning bid for the case of wine bottles. In addition to ticket sales and the wine auction, the event raised funds by raffling forty donated prizes, coordinated by Board member Dr. Betty Gaw.

In conclusion, CHSSC President, Kenneth L. Chan stated, “It was truly a great honor for our Society to salute these amazing pioneers. The success of this evening is a reflection of the esteem in which we and the community hold these men and women, all of whom struggled against prejudice and stereotypes to achieve what they did. They are great role models for us all.”

We thank master of ceremonies Jack Ong; the 2005 Spring Dinner co-chairs, Howard Fong and Dr. Don Loo; Raffle Chair Betty Gaw; the Dinner Committee: Betty & Sin Hock Gaw, Joyce & Dr. Wing Mar, Mary Yee Kwok, Eugene Moy, Donna Young, Kenneth L. Chan, JW Wong, Icy Smith, William & Natalina Chew, Ben Nakayama, Linda Chong, Jeannie Liu, Randall Bloch, Dr. Munson Kwok, Philip Tong and Susan Hum; those who staffed our registration and publication sales tables: Bill & Natalina Chew, Susan Sing, Randall Bloch and Collin Lai; portrait photographer and author Jason Jem; Danny Lim, Benjamin Chow and Matt Lum who assisted with the audio systems, stage setup, registration and the VIP reception; Tien Tien Chan; Tina Chan; our table sponsors: Kenneth L. Chan, Phoenix Bakery, Dr. Betty & Sin Hock Gaw, Eugene Moy, Jeannie Liu, L.P. Leung, Tom Woo, Winifred L. Lew, Dr. Wing Mar, Wendel & Debbie Wye, Judge Rose Hom, Dr. Albert Chang, Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Chinese American Citizens Alliance – San Gabriel Lodge, Chinese American Citizens Alliance – Los Angeles Lodge, Friends of the Chinese American Museum; Friends of the Chinatown Library, Mayor Benjamin “Frank” Venti, Monterey Park; the following generous donors: Galpin Motors and Dr. Keh Ming Lin; Miss Chinatown, Jessica Feng and her princesses Annie Tang and Eileen Chan; Tim Soo Hoo and all other donors, supporters and attendees.

A few days after the dinner, Judge Rose Hom sent the Society the following letter which truly says it all:

“Dear President Chan:

“Thank you for the honor bestowed on me on Sunday, June 5th. As one of the Chinese American Pioneers in Law, I was doubly honored to be included in such stellar company.

“The entire process—from the artistic photographs and interview with Jason Jem, to the thoughtful reception, to the delightful antics of Jack Ong, to the auction of the autographed bottles—made the evening one to remember. And, of course, there was the delicious food. My father, the cook and restaurant and cafeteria owner, would have approved. The fish, especially, was cooked to perfection. My guests, too, were impressed with the program and the food. I particularly enjoyed the wine bottles with our photographs that we kept as souvenirs. It will be cherished as one of the more unusual mementos on my bookshelf.

“Thank you again for a wonderful evening.” n/n



2004-2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS YEAR IN REVIEW

By Randy Bloch

The 2004-2005 Board of Directors achieved a banner year of accomplishments, led by its energetic new president, Kenneth L. Chan. Many details of office protocol were scrutinized and replaced with more efficient procedures.

Office and Infrastructure

The time-consuming routine of maintaining and checking an off-site post office box was eliminated almost immediately. All mail is now sent to CHSSC at 415 Bernard St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. This required our stationery and envelopes be reprinted, which was done at significant cost saving. Our buildings' alarm contract was changed to a more service-oriented San Marino firm which has eliminated issues with our former company. Several new air conditioners were purchased and installed.

The rear lot of the Bernard Street houses enjoyed reconfiguration into a twelve-car gravel parking lot, achieved in a weekend at no cost to CHSSC. Significant brush clearance was carried out in the 411-415 Bernard Street front gardens, along the eastern perimeter of the property, and adjacent to the driveway that bisects our two houses. Castoffs and trash were removed from the property's western border, many beautiful flowering plants were planted, and the screen door at 415 Bernard Street was repaired and repainted.

Programs

On February 12th, a contingent of 125 CHSSC flag carriers marched in the forefront of Chinatown's 106th Golden Dragon New Year's Parade. Thank you to Angi Ma Wong for again bringing a large Rotarian contingent from the South Bay. We designed and distributed special New Year tee shirts of a rich red color for the parade that were given to all our participants. The Society sponsored ten monthly speaker/author programs at Castelar School this year with an average attendance of 60 people.

On July 7, 2004, in the first event of the program year, fifty CHSSC members attended the Los Angeles Conservancy's screening of *Shanghai Express*—starring Marlene Dietrich and Anna May Wong—at the beautifully-restored Orpheum Theatre in Downtown Los Angeles. We held a highly-successful fundraising dinner on November 13, 2004, honoring the 38 profilees in our newest publication, *Portraits of Pride*. On June 5, 2005, we honored seven Chinese American legal pioneers at our spring fundraiser at the San Gabriel Hilton (see article in this issue). We co-sponsored a program with the Friends of the Chinatown

Library this May, highlighting the library's Chinese Heritage Collection.

Initiatives

The Board of Directors held a 3-month recruitment competition between its members to boost our membership base. Donna Young won handily with 12 new recruits, and CHSSC gained about 70 new members.

About 600 copies of our recent book, *Portraits of Pride*—honoring the lives and accomplishments of WWII-era scientists, educators and health professionals—was distributed to city councils, library and school districts, and public and academic libraries in an ongoing distribution campaign. We mounted a display of 35 informational panels of *Portraits of Pride* profilees in the Los Angeles City Hall Bridge Gallery during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Our Chinatown walking tour program continued receiving excellent participation from community groups and schools ranging from first grade to university level, and our Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center hosted approximately 500 visitors over the course of the 2004-2005 Board term.

Following on these successes, the 2005-2006 Board year looks to be as exciting as the last.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAVID AND PEARL LOUIE FAMILY FOUNDATION CHSSC SCHOLARSHIP

The CHSSC Scholarship program is the proud recipient of a most generous grant from the David and Pearl Louie Foundation in support of the CHSSC Scholarship. We also express our thanks to members Col. Hayward Fong and Winifred Lew for their very generous donations to our annual scholarship program. Starting in 2006, we will be able to offer two \$1000 scholarships—one for graduate students and one for undergraduate students—in Chinese American studies. Information about the criteria for 2006 is on our website.

WELCOME TO MONICA LEE MERRITT, NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

We extend a warm welcome to new administrative assistant, Monica Lee Merritt who was selected from a list of highly qualified candidates. Monica's distinguished resume includes positions at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, the Chinese Historical Society of America

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Museum in San Francisco and, most recently, the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. She replaces Randy Bloch who is relocating to the East Coast to be closer to family. We wish Monica and Randy the very best!

Board personnel changes include immediate past vice-president William Chew, financial secretary Howard Fong, Susan Hum, membership secretary Philip Tong, Frank Yee and Donna Young. Thank you for your service on the Board!

INTERN LAURA NG JOINS CHSSC TO CATALOG OUR ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Laura Ng—an undergraduate anthropology student at UC San Diego with a concentration in archaeology—is assisting the Society with cataloging its extensive collections. Laura's work is a significant addition to the archiving being completed under our 2004-2005 National Endowment for the Arts grant. Her internship was underwritten through the generous donations of Dr. Paul Chace, Gilbert Hom and Dr. Wing Mar.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PAST PRESIDENT, CY WONG

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter, that tells what kind of life you have lived.

CHSSC PARTICIPATES IN LOTUS FESTIVAL

July 9th and 10th, For the third consecutive year, Board member Eugene Moy gave an informative slide show and talk on the history of Los Angeles' Chinatown in St. Paul's Cathedral, next to Echo Park Lake. The talk drew a small but appreciative audience and publications of the CHSSC and photo panels from our Chinese American Pioneers in Law dinner were displayed. The pan-Asian Lotus Festival is celebrated each year with the blooming of the lotuses.

ISLETON-BRANNAN ISLAND MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

Isleton's first annual multicultural festival will be held on September 10 and 11, 2005 on Main Street (Isleton's National Asian American Historical District). Groups from varied cultural backgrounds will be represented and CHSSC member Lucky Owyang is helping facilitate the event. There will be beautiful costumes, performances, regional foods,

collectibles, gifts and information. The Chinese junk, the *Grace Quan*, will be docked from September 9 to 12 for the delight and edification of students, historians and fishermen. Event location is the historic district along Highway 160, thirty-five miles south of Sacramento, Isleton CA 95641. For more Isleton information, visit: www.isletonhistory.org.

LIFE PATRON MEMBERSHIP

Kudos and thank you to former vice president Pete Chinn who recently became a Life Patron member of the CHSSC. The CHSSC Board of Directors recognized this distinction in its minutes.

JUNE GENERAL MEETING REFRESHMENTS

We very much thank Mary Yee Kwok, Winifred Lew, Ruth Lung, Mary & Stan Mu, Dolores Wong and Johnny & Esther Yee for their delicious snack donations to the June general meeting.

DONATIONS OF TREES AND SERVICES TO BERNARD STREET PROPERTIES

The CHSSC Landscape Committee thanks Dr. Betty Gaw for her gift of a *longan* tree, a cherimoya tree, and a Malaysian guava tree—which she dedicated to her father—all recently planted in our rear garden. We also thank Dr. Wing Mar for donating a Fuyu persimmon tree, and Dorothy Fue Wong who donated a mandarin orange tree. In addition, immediate past membership secretary Philip Tong has underwritten the cost of our Bernard Street homes' gardening services for an entire year. Thank you so much!

CHSSC OFFICE RELOCATES TO HERITAGE AND VISITORS CENTER BUILDING

With the tremendous help of Gilbert Hom, Eugene Moy, JW Wong, and the assistance and vision of President Kenneth L. Chan, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California has moved its Office operation one door east to a front room of its Chinatown Visitors Center (411 Bernard Street). The move will allow the Visitors Center's exhibits, bookstore and other facilities to be open to the public during the week. We invite the volunteer services of those wishing to serve as Visitors Center docents.

[Please see “Announcements,” page 6]



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INDEX OF ACADEMIC GUM SAAN JOURNAL NOW ON OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CHSSC.ORG

A complete chronological list of the Society's semi-academic *Gum Saan Journal* issues, including subject matter, is available on CHSSC's website.

K.T. LEUNG ACCOUNTANCY PREPARED OUR 2004 TAX RETURN

The San Marino accounting firm of K.T. Leung, CPA, prepared our last year's tax returns.

ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR CLASSES IN ADULT CONVERSATIONAL MANDARIN

Classes sponsored by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) in conversational Mandarin are forming. Class times are Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon and Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and will be held at the CACA Los Angeles Lodge at 415 Bamboo Lane in Chinatown. Please phone CHSSC Board member Irvin Lai at 323-735-1332 for information.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND ARCHIVAL MATERIAL FOR CHSSC's 30th ANNIVERSARY

Calling all archivists and photographers of CHSSC events and programs! If you have slides, snapshots, enlargements, or video of our activities, events, speakers, etc., please contact our office at 323-222-0856, by email (chssc@earthlink.net) or bring such items to our September 7th or October 5th General Meetings. All items will be copied and returned by mail. Thank you!

CALL FOR RAFFLE GIFTS FOR FALL DINNER ON NOVEMBER 4, 2005

We solicit your donations of gifts to be raffled at our Fall 2005 dinner on November 4th, and at our monthly meetings. Generous gifts of new items such as books, electronics, food baskets, handcrafted items such as cushion covers, etc. will greatly benefit the Society. Please wrap and ID your donations. Raffle prize person is Dr. Betty Gaw at 323-665-6030 or bettycgaw@hotmail.com. n/n

HEALTH & WELLNESS

DEATH, THE ULTIMATE LOSS HOW TO HELP A FRIEND IN THEIR GRIEF

(Adapted from an article by Julie Ireland,
M.S. Counseling, Denver, Colorado)



By Dr. Betty Gaw

(Most of us become speechless and uncomfortable when a friend tells us that a loved one has passed away. Besides offering a muttered condolence, we may say the wrong platitude or worse yet, withdraw from the one grieving, and do nothing to help. This is the "ultimate social shunning," as Professor Julie Ireland puts it. In the following article, Professor Ireland offers many insightful suggestions to comfort the grieving, and encourages us to give humane support during this most difficult and exquisitely stressful time of any human experience, Dr. Betty Gaw.)

I remember returning to work after my mother died. Suddenly every door to my co-worker's offices was tightly shut. Hardly anyone mumbled a word to me. There was no card, no flowers, no hugs. Interestingly, these were women in the human service field with years of counseling in their background.

Death is uncomfortable. We don't know what to say. So we say nothing. This is the worst possible thing you can do. What surprised me most was the reaction from others. Friends didn't send cards. Phone conversations went silent the minute I told callers my Mom died. I did have at least a couple of friends who called and were very kind and let me cry endlessly. The grieving person feels shocked, afraid, depressed, suicidal, hopeless, and angry. People's lack of reaction is interesting, because death isn't a freak occurrence. Given that the one thing we are guaranteed in life is death, it strikes me as odd that people don't know how to react to it.

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[*"Health & Wellness," from page 6*]

Some Thoughts:

- Always send a card. It hurts so much worse not to be acknowledged.
- Send a single flower, a plant, or a bunch of daisies. It doesn't have to be costly. Your friend will appreciate the thoughtfulness.
- Bring food. This is so helpful.
- Bring it up. The alternative is ignoring the death and that is significantly worse.
- Call and check in on your friend. It is OK to say, "I am so sorry your Mom died." Then call every week to leave a message on their answering machine telling them you are thinking of them, even though they may not want to be cheered up.
- Ask your friend "What can I do for you?" They may need you to just listen.
- Don't say, "I'm sorry for your loss." Say, "I'm sorry Pat died." It is always better to use the person's name. It is more personal. "I will miss your Mom also, she sure was special." It helped me to know that other people miss her as much as I do.
- Send them a book on grief. That helps. Don't overlook the grieving child or teen, for they are just as hurt and confused. Go to the funeral to support your friend. They will appreciate it.
- Offer to pick up the children, to finish that report, or to pick up the dry cleaning. Often they feel helpless to take care of mundane tasks.
- Be extra-sensitive for milestones. Acknowledge that it's been one year since the loved one died—such as it's Mothers Day and the person is feeling especially alone, Valentines Day for the loss of a partner, the deceased person's birthday, or the first Thanksgiving without their family member or friend.
- Your friend may be angry with God, the world, and the deceased, and bear guilt. This is normal.
- Relive the triumphs of the deceased's life, for they are cherished.
- People think that death is contagious. It is not.

Don't Say:

- "They are in a better place."
- "You need to see a therapist." They don't need your implication that their grief is inappropriate.
- "Aren't you over it?" The pain takes years to subside.
- "You are lucky you still have a husband" (or children) or whatever. They do not feel lucky.

After a death, we feel a deep loneliness. To ignore your friend when they need you the most is the ultimate social shunning. Consider how you would like to be treated in a time of grieving. Your silence tells your friend that their loved one's life was not important.

(Julie Ireland has a Master's Degree in Counseling, is a professional speaker on anger in the workplace and is a college professor.)

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing, Often

BONE MARROW DRIVES by ASIANS FOR MIRACLE MARROW MATCHES

Various locations throughout L.A. area
Information: (888) 236-4673; www.asianmarrow.org

Thursdays, 3:00-7:00 p.m.

CHINATOWN FARMERS MARKET

727 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown
Information: (213) 680-0243; www.chinatownla.com

First Saturday of Every Month, 10:30 a.m.

"UNDISCOVERED CHINATOWN" TOURS

L.A. Chinatown
Information: (213) 680-0243; www.chinatownla.com

Through October 16th, Sunday

"FROM THE FIRE: CONTEMPORARY KOREAN CERAMICS" EXHIBIT

Pacific Asia Museum
46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena
Information: (626) 449-2742, x20;
www.pacificasiamuseum.org

Through December 1st, Thursday

"PAPER SONS: CHINESE IN THE MIDWEST, 1870-1945" EXHIBIT

Chinese-American Museum of Chicago
238 W. 23rd St., Chicago
Information: (312) 949-1000; www.ccamuseum.org

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Through December 19th, Monday
"REMEMBERING C.C. WANG" EXHIBIT OF PAINTINGS

Through January 15th, 2006, Sunday
"PANDERING TO SINOPHOBIA: THE CHINESE QUESTION IN POLITICAL CARTOONS" EXHIBIT
Chinese Historical Society of America
965 Clay St., S.F. Chinatown
Information: (415) 391-1188; www.chsa.org

Through December 31st, Saturday
"ARCHIVIST OF THE 'YELLOW PERIL': YOSHIO KISHI COLLECTING FOR A NEW AMERICA" EXHIBIT

Museum of Chinese in the Americas
70 Mulberry St., 2nd Floor, New York Chinatown
Information: (212) 619-4785; www.moca-nyc.org

Through January 8th, 2006, Sunday
"BIG DRUM: TAIKO IN THE UNITED STATES" EXHIBIT
Japanese American National Museum
369 E. First St., Little Tokyo
Information: (213) 625-1770; www.janm.org

Through January 15th, 2006, Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
"IMPRESSIONS: MILTON QUON'S LOS ANGELES" EXHIBIT
"SAM BOI LEE: A PORTRAIT OF MY MOTHER" EXHIBIT
Chinese American Museum
425 N. Los Angeles St.
El Pueblo State Park at Olvera Street, L.A.
Information: (213) 626-5240; www.camla.org

August 26th, Friday, 6:00 p.m.
JOSEPH ILETO FELLOWSHIP LECTURE EVENT:
"WORDS OF EMPOWERMENT: CREATING A NONVIOLENT SOCIETY THROUGH PEACE ADVOCACY"
National Center for the Preservation of Democracy
111 N. Central Ave., Little Tokyo
Information: (213) 241-0254; www.apalc.org

August 27th-28th; Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

CHINESE FOOD FESTIVAL
943-951 N. Broadway, L.A. Chinatown
Information: (213) 680-0243;
www.chinesefoodfestivalla.com

August 28th, Sunday, 2:00 p.m.
"SNOW FLOWER & THE SECRET FAN"
DISCUSSION & BOOK SIGNING BY AUTHOR LISA SEE
Pacific Asia Museum
46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena
Information: (626) 449-2742 x20;
www.pacificasiamuseum.org

September 7th-October 2nd
"STEW RICE" BY EAST WEST PLAYERS
David Henry Hwang Theater
120 N. Judge John Aiso, Little Tokyo
Information: (213) 625-7000; www.eastwestplayers.org

September 10th, Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM NINTH ANNUAL HISTORYMAKERS AWARDS BANQUET
San Gabriel Hilton Hotel
225 W. Valley Blvd., San Gabriel
Information: (213) 626-5240; www.camla.org

September 10th-11th, Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
14th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF PHILIPPINE ARTS & CULTURE
Point Fermin Park
807 W. Paseo del Mar, San Pedro
Information: (323) 913-4663; www.filamarts.org

September 15th, Thursday, 6:00 p.m.
ASIAN PACIFIC WOMEN'S CENTER 2005 METAMORPHOSIS GALA
BP Hall at Walt Disney Concert Hall
111 S. Grand Ave., L.A.
Information: (213) 250-2977; www.apwccla.org

September 16th, Friday, 5:30 p.m.
CHINATOWN SERVICE CENTER 34th ANNIVERSARY DINNER
Empress Pavilion Restaurant
988 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown
Information: (213) 808-1700; www.cscla.org

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September 17th, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

MID-AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL

L.A. Chinatown

Information: (213) 617-0396;

www.lachinesechamber.org

September 20th-25th, Tuesday-Sunday

"RAISE THE RED LANTERN" BY NATIONAL BALLET OF CHINA

Orange County Performing Arts Center, Segerstrom Hall

600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa

Information: (714) 556-2787; www.ocpac.org

September 22nd, Thursday

ASIAN AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM 12th ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT "SHOWTIME"

Japan America Theatre

244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo

Information: (323) 293-6284; www.aadapinc.org

September 22nd-25th, Thursday-Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.

32nd ANNUAL LOS ANGELES KOREAN FESTIVAL

Seoul International Park

3250 San Marino St., L.A. Koreatown

Information: (213) 487-9696;

www.lakoreanfestival.com

September 25th, Sunday, 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

13th ANNUAL THAI CULTURAL DAY

Barnsdall Art Park

4800 Hollywood Blvd., L.A.

Information: (310) 827-2910;

www.thaiculturalcenter.org

September 29th, Thursday, 8:30 p.m.

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS 35th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF ASIAN PACIFIC FILM & VIDEO

John Anson Ford Amphitheater

2580 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood

Information: (213) 680-4462; www.vconline.org

September 30th, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS 14th ANNUAL IMAGE AWARDS

Omni Los Angeles Hotel

251 S. Olive St., Downtown L.A.

Information: (213) 250-9888; www.oca-gla.org

October 1st, Saturday

PACIFIC ASIA MUSEUM 28th ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE AUTUMN MOON "SERENADE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC"

Pasadena Conference Center

300 E. Green St., Pasadena

Information: (626) 449-2742 x12;

www.pacificasiamuseum.org

October 6th, Thursday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

ANGEL ISLAND IMMIGRATION STATION FOUNDATION ANNUAL DINNER EVENT

San Francisco Belle

Pier 3, San Francisco

Information: (415) 561-2160; www.aiisf.org

October 7th-9th, Friday-Sunday

"BRANCHING OUT THE BANYAN TREE: A CHANGING CHINESE AMERICA" 2005 CHINESE AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

Radisson Miyako Hotel

1625 Post St., San Francisco

Information: (415) 391-1188, ext. 108; www.chsa.org

October 20th, Thursday

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CENTER 22nd ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Universal City Hilton

555 Universal Hollywood Dr., Universal City

Information: (213) 977-7500; www.apalc.org

November 4th, Friday, 6:00 p.m.

CHSSC 2005 ANNUAL FALL DINNER

Empress Pavilion Restaurant

988 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown

Information: (323) 222-0856; www.chssc.org

November 8th, Tuesday – VOTE! CALIFORNIA SPECIAL ELECTION

(Compiled by Donna Young)

CHINESE IN THE PHILIPPINES

By Susie Ling

Pancit, siao bao, lumpia, lugaw, hopia - such Pilipino cuisine standards are a reminder that there has been much cultural exchange with the Chinese over the last thousand years. These Chinese Filipino words are Fujian-based (Hokkienese), and not Cantonese.

When the Spanish conquistador, Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, conquered Manila in the 1570s, there were approximately 150 Chinese already settled there. The Spaniards would connect the Chinese junk trade to Manila with international global commerce, establishing the infamous Manila-Acapulco galleon trade. But the indispensable Chinese junks were also a threat to European colonial powers. The Fujianese were excellent sailors connecting the Philippine archipelago with their traditional neighbors: Chinese and Muslims in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Spaniards also resented their own dependence on Chinese tailors, artisans, masons, and cooks in the Philippines.

The Chinese population in the Philippines always remained proportionally larger than the Spanish population. Chinatown in Binondo, a suburb of Manila, by the late 19th century had associations including Cantonese Association (est. 1850), Chinese Cemetery (est. 1879), Yu Family Association (est. circa 1880), Textile Merchant Association (est. 1888), Anglo-Chinese School (est. 1899), and Manila Chinese Chamber of Commerce (est. 1904). Because there has been so much intermarriage, Pilipinos ranging from National Hero Jose Rizal, General Emilio Aquinaldo, and President Corazon Aquino are prominent Chinese mestizos. Chinese mestizos often have Hispanized Chinese surnames like Cojuangco, Tanco, Ongpin.

Today, there has been much amalgamation between Chinese and Pilipino cultures. At a Pilipino market in West Covina, a red Buddhist-like shrine held tangerines in front of the Virgin Mary. Many Chinese in the Philippines speak English, Tagalog, Mandarin AND Fujian dialect. In the last decades, Chinese from Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, and Vietnam have diversified the Chinese Pilipino population.

(Susie Ling is an Associate Professor of History and Asian American Studies at Pasadena City College.)



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