



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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

Fax: 323-221-4162; Email: chssc@earthlink.net; Web: www.chssc.org;

Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-0856

SEPTEMBER 2005

OCTOBER PROGRAM

DIANA SHUI-IU WONG

Artist



(The artist in her studio.)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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)

Our October speaker, artist Diana Shui-Iu Wong, has stated: "Who we are, from where we have come and to where we will go are the concerns of my art. I would accept that I am only a mortal who is attempting to find the key to the gate of eternity, where art and mystery both dwell." Please join us on October 5th as Diana Wong shares and discusses her dramatic paintings, prints and art installations.

Upon entering Ms. Wong's Santa Monica studio, one feels they have entered an intimate living room, sparsely furnished in modern simplicity. Yet, in the heart of the building, paintings adorn the walls, a balcony is overhead, and the energy of creativity dominates the space. Diane Shui-Iu Wong is described as a "universal artist," combining *Yin and Yang*, East and West, and the influence of the *I Ching*. Her art seeks to bridge opposing worlds. It is a combination of the elements of music, dance, and painting. Her works have been exhibited in venues throughout Southern California and in Hong Kong, Beijing, Milan, Bangkok, Taipei, New York and Tokyo. They include: "Diana Shui-Iu Wong, An Artist's Journey;" "Blue and Gold, A Tribute To Hong Kong;" "The Wonders of Heaven;" and "Merging The Labyrinth And Beyond, Art and Life of Diana Wong." Art critic Jan Butterfield describes Ms. Wong's paintings as: "Fluid landscapes creating lyrical beauty of deliberate intent...whose canvases cannot contain the power they have generated."

Ms. Wong's work also appears in collections by American Express International, Hilton Hotels in Chicago and Tokyo, the Tokyo Disneyland Hotel, Cathay Pacific Airlines, and locally by Los Angeles First Bank and Far East National Bank. She has been reviewed in *Asian Art News*, *China Daily*, *Archivio*, *Forbes Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *South China Morning Post*.

Diana Shui-Iu Wong was born in Hong Kong where she attended the Chinese University. She later attended the Academia de Belle Arte in Rome where she received her Bachelor's Degree in decorative arts. She then pursued graduate studies in classical oil painting at the Royal School of Arts in London, England. Instead of following a career as a credentialed art teacher, she threw herself into painting professionally. Time and a successful career have shown that she chose wisely.

We are most pleased and honored that Ms. Wong will speak at our October meeting.



AROUND CHSSC

THE TREASURE FLEET OF ADMIRAL ZHENG HE

By JW Wong, CHSSC V.P. of Programs



(Dr. Marshall Lih with JW Wong. Eugene Moy photo.)

More than 70 Society members and guests attended September's CHSSC program at Castelar Elementary School in the heart of L.A.'s Chinatown. Thanks to Life Member and past CHSSC president Irvin Lai—intimately related to our speaker by the marriage of their children—we learned of Dr. Marshall Lih's longtime study and expertise on Ming Dynasty explorer, Admiral Zheng He, an important figure in international maritime history.

Though educated as a chemical engineer and currently working at the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC, Dr. Lih's avocation is spokesperson for a Chinese admiral who died six centuries ago. Combining a simple overhead projector with his thorough fascination with the seven epic voyages of Admiral Zheng He, Dr. Lih captured the imagination of CHSSC's membership. Like a storyteller of ancient teahouses, Dr. Lih wove a story of military prowess, shipbuilding projects on a monumental scale, and fearless seamanship. Admiral Zheng He's complete story may never be told, however, since the primary records of the journey were destroyed by a later imperial administration. But other journals, extant maps, and stone steles describe the Admiral's incredible feats dotting the coasts of the world's oceans, and provide mute evidence of a journey not forgotten in Asia and becoming far more well known in the West.

This history, however, is only the tip of the iceberg and an international controversy has been brewing recently. In 2002, retired British Naval Commander and navigator, Gavin Menzies, wrote *1421, The Year China Discovered America*. It became an immediate best seller and stirred a storm of heated discussion. The book proposes that the Chinese Treasure Fleet not only reached the Americas in recent times (as opposed to the Bering

[Please see "Admiral Zheng He," page 3]

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Kenneth L. Chan, President
Dr. Wing Mar, Vice President
JW Wong, V.P. Programs
Ben Nakayama, Treasurer
Marlynn Ma, Financial Secretary
Dr. Donald Loo, Secretary
Peter Liang, Membership Secretary

Members at Large

Dr. Albert Chang
Susan Dickson
Dr. Betty Gaw
Dr. Munson Kwok
Irvin Lai
Jeannie Liu
Eugene Moy
Jack Ong
Mary Yee Kwok

*News 'n Notes Editors, Randy Bloch and
Monica Lee Merritt-Kwon*

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.



[*"Admiral Zheng He" from page 2*]

Strait land bridge postulate of over 25,000 years B.P.E.), and that the Admiral managed to circumnavigate the world, predating the age of European discovery by some seventy years.

Notwithstanding the recent controversy, Dr. Lih wants us to remember that these documented trips stand on their own as a tribute to human endeavor. Having built the largest ships of the time and sailed them to the far corners of the eastern and western oceans, these consummate sailor/explorers should be honored for their vision, courage, and unconquerable human spirit.

Thanks to our President Kenneth L. Chan, we now have a copy of a two-hour documentary of Admiral Zheng He's triumphant voyage, which is available to our members and others interested in this milestone of Chinese history. To learn more about the 1421 book and its ongoing research, please visit www.1421.tv/.

CHSSC 2005 INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

By Gilbert Hom



(Intern Laura Ng & Gilbert Hom.
Photo by Dr. Paul Chace.)

Last year, when I proposed creating a CHSSC summer intern program, I hoped the Society would begin focusing on working directly with our community's youth, the lifeblood of our organization's future. I had the opportunity to put that idea into practice this past summer. In April, the Society received an email from Laura Ng, a freshman student at UC San Diego. In her email, Laura explained she is majoring in anthropology with an added interest in archeology and she expressed her interest in an internship or volunteer position with the Society. Since we have desperately needed someone with time and energy to address the ongoing needs of our archeological collections, Laura's and the Society's interests seemed a perfect fit.

Making it even more timely, this year, we received an extremely important addition to our archeological holdings: the Paul Chace-William Evans Collections. The Chace-Evans collections not only represent significant segments of Chinese American history—namely, the early mining period and the building of the Transcontinental Railroad—but also a significant pioneering chapter in American archeology. When combined with our Los Angeles MTA-Old Chinatown Collection, and Santa Barbara Collection of Chinese American artifacts, the Society's *in toto* historical holdings represent one of the largest combined collections of its kind.

When I learned Laura was raised near Chinatown, in Lincoln Heights, and was working her way through college, I became determined to locate revenue to pay for her services. Dr. Paul Chace, William Evans and Dr. Wing Mar helped to kick-start the internship program through making substantial financial contributions. Moreover, we were able to allocate funds from an existing NEA grant to offer Laura a more generous stipend.

Since I know little about archeology, Paul Chace and William Evans volunteered as consultants on the project while I supervised Laura's work. This included performing painstakingly detailed tasks such as sorting, labeling and cataloging hundreds of porcelain pieces from the Chace-Evans collections. Laura also created an inventory spreadsheet for the MTA catalog, making it easier to read and access. And she helped with archival "housekeeping," by retrieving historically significant items that had been borrowed by researchers at El Camino College in Torrance. I believe that all Society members who have met Laura are impressed by her focus and strong work ethic.

CHSSC's first summer intern program was so successful that we hope to begin planning soon for next summer's internship.

2005 CHINATOWN FOOD FESTIVAL

By Jeannie Liu

I had heard about the upcoming Chinatown Food Festival a few weeks ago, and how successful last year's was. So when the call for CHSSC booth volunteers went out, I did not hesitate. Working at the Festival booth was an opportunity to do two things I enjoy very much: sample delicious foods and help out CHSSC. Marlynn Ma, our new financial secretary, also participated, and we kept each other company. We were assigned a booth location toward the back of Chinatown's Central Plaza; the booth was situated between the Chinatown Safety Council and the Hong Kong

[Please see "Food Festival," page 4]



[“Food Festival” from page 3]

Tourism Board booths. We displayed books and T-shirts for sale with plenty of membership applications on hand, just in case. A steady stream of visitors stopped by to look and ask questions. Marlynn and I were very excited when Kim Benjamin, President of the Chinatown Business Improvement District, placed an extra large order of books and T-shirts that would make any organization proud. I guess timing is everything, because shortly afterwards, our shift ended! Of course, we also treated ourselves to different kinds of tasty foods, which is always one of the benefits of volunteering at a food festival. n/n

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR CHSSC MEMBERSHIP!

It's CHSSC membership renewal time. Base annual membership is \$45; please add \$10 if you wish to receive our newly-expanded, scholarly *Gum Saan Journal*. Please mail checks to the CHSSC office at 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING SNACK DONATIONS

The Society warmly thanks Winnie Lew, Ruth Lung, Jim and Sylvia Soo Hoo, John and Esther Yee, and Henrietta and William Yuan for the delicious snacks they provided for the September General Meeting.

BERNARD STREET LANDSCAPING UPDATE

We are most fortunate to have retired science teacher and current Chinatown Library volunteer Darryl Gerwin contributing his gardening expertise to care for the Society's grounds. Darryl has already pruned our grapevines which were profusely overgrown, weeded the garden, unearthed a row of bricks along the driveway, and worked hard to rid us of pesky crabgrass.

Five fruit trees were planted in August after former Board member Gilbert Hom installed an irrigation system. Many thanks to Gilbert! The donated trees are: Fuyu Persimmon by Dr. Wing Mar in memory of his parents; Mandarin Orange donated by Dr. Dorothy Fue Wong in

memory of Milton Lai; and Malaysian Red Guava, *Longan*, and Cherimoya donated by Dr. Betty Gaw in memory of her parents and brother. The trees are expected to bear fruit in two to three years.

SECOND CALL FOR FALL DINNER RAFFLE PRIZES

We again solicit your kind 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. A big thanks to Dolores Wong who has already donated 2 items to the raffle committee.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PAST CHSSC PRESIDENT, CY WONG

If you take your eyes off your goals, all you see is obstacles.

Never mistake knowledge for wisdom. One helps you make a living and the other helps you make a life.

TORRANCE-SOUTH BAY JAGUAR CLUB MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR DONATING HISTORIC YMCA FACILITY

At a recent luncheon, more than 50 YMCA Jaguar Club members and their friends and families were acknowledged for their service to the community, with a commemorative plaque. Among those hosting were CHSSC Vice-President Dr. Wing Mar and Mrs. Joyce Mar. In 1964, a key group of YMCA fathers and friends—the Jaguar Club—purchased the current Torrance-South Bay YMCA facility at 2900 Sepulveda Boulevard, for the local Y to continue its mission and programs. Executive Director Joseph Wilcox, Jr. included the word “family” in the name of the new building, which was a first in the YMCA movement's history. Many CHSSC members have been active in the Jaguar Club since its inception, including Drs. Tim & Annie Siu, Dr. Steve Liu, and Dr. and Mrs. Wing Mar.

[Please see “Announcements” page 5]

["Announcements" from page 4]

60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALBERT & MARGIE LEW

A big congratulations goes out to Al & Margie Lew on the joyful occasion of their sixtieth wedding anniversary. CHSSC also expresses its appreciation for their most generous financial donation on this auspicious occasion. n/n

HEALTH & WELLNESS

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE BRAINS



By Dr. Betty Gaw

You've heard the refrain from the play, *My Fair Lady*, "Why can't a woman be like a man?," when Professor Henry Higgins laments the differences between men and women's behavior. Neurologists, pathologists, psychologists, marriage counselors and other scientists have been mystified by the obvious gender behavior differences in this incredibly complex issue. Is it anatomy, genetics or environmental influences that determines the difference in behavior, thinking or reaction in men and women? The controversy of Nature versus Nurture continues, but 21st century science and medicine are illuminating the subject of brain function differences in men and women.

Unresolved Differences Cause Failed Relationships

When there is lack of understanding, poor communication, insensitivity, inconsideration and gaping differences in thoughts and feelings, then relationships between men and women fail miserably. It is these basic differences in the male and female minds that leads to misunderstanding, anguish and marriage failures. Wives frequently bemoan that their husbands do not listen or respond to what they say, or that they never apologize. On the other hand, husbands lament that they are tired after a long day's work, and need space and time to themselves, feeling that apologizing is a sign of weakness.

The way the mind thinks, processes information or interprets it through the 25 billion brain neurons, axons, dendrites, and 164 trillion synapses, determines how words and thoughts are perceived, ultimately determining reactions and behavior. The incredibly complex interactions between brain cells for memory storage and retrieval, perception, feelings and emotions, and language, are the integrated and magnificent power of the brain. This exquisitely sensitive and intricate organ is a high fuel-energy and oxygen consumer. When deprived of oxygen or the nutrients it requires, or should it be poisoned by drugs, chemicals or pollution, brain cells degenerate or die. But before they do, mental diseases manifest as behavior problems, memory loss or dysfunctional thoughts. A sick mind is a relationship killer.

Women are known to be care givers because by nature they bond easily with children and people. There are fewer women loners than men. Women score higher than men in verbal tasks, since their brain-speech centers develop earlier and are bigger. Men inherit the color blind trait, but not women. There are more women shoppers than men; it is thought that they were the primordial gatherers in the stone age era. More men excel in spatial relationships, are great in navigation, understand maps and directionality, as well as need more space in their work and play. Men are good at construction and love to drive, but may not ask for directions should they get lost, fearing they'll reveal their weakness!

Gender Is Determined By The Brain

The fetus has a growing brain that is basically female until the sixth week of pregnancy, when it may develop into a male if there is sufficient male hormone, testosterone. If not, then the fetal brain will develop as female under the influence of the female hormone, estrogen. This is known as estrogen dominance since it overpowers testosterone. Thus, gender establishment takes place very early in pregnancy and is hormone influenced.

Should there be disruption to the mother's circulating testosterone that is shared by the baby, then the chance of a male baby is lessened, or gender determination becomes ambiguous, meaning traits of both male and female characteristics may ensue. It is the ratio of male to female hormones, or testosterone to estrogen ratio, that establishes whether the baby will develop a male or female brain during the sixth week in utero. When there is ambiguous genitalia, DNA and genetic studies need be done on the child to help identify the gender and guidance given in the developmental years as the child grows.

(Please see "Health & Wellness," page 6)



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

SEPTEMBER 2005

[*"Health & Wellness," from page 5*]

Gender Differences can be Resolved

Understanding that no two brains or two persons are unlike, men and women can have a common meeting ground by communicating well, negotiating, explaining and being compassionate with each other, in order to achieve successful relationships. The male and female brain is pliable, teachable, and shows great plasticity when it is healthy and is motivated to learn. When false pride and prejudice and social injustice exist, then gender bias becomes a greater issue. Marriages may be made in heaven, but couples must learn how to communicate well and be understanding and considerate, to get into each other's mind and thoughts and fathom the intricacies of feeling and behavior. When that fails, then consulting with an experienced counselor or even getting a simple photon emission computed tomography or S.P.E.C.T. of the brain will reveal and illuminate the brain's intricate and hidden functions. For those of us grieving the departure of a loved one, the following poem may give deep spiritual comfort:

The questions, "Why can't a woman be like a man?" and "Why can't a man be more like a woman?" are no longer a mystery of life, but one of the myriads of variety that makes the world more interesting to live in. Each gender has its attributes that need to be valued like a lock and key. If there is cooperative understanding, there is glorious peace and harmony.

References

For information on hormone-disrupting phthalates, visit: www.nottoopretty.org;

Michael Gurian, family and marriage counselor: www.Michael-Gurian.com;

"Change Your Brain, Change Your Life," Dr. Daniel Amen, child and adult neuro-psychiatrist: www.amenclinic.com.

All Rights Reserved by Dr. Betty Gaw, 2005

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

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

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 November 2nd, Wednesday

"NOT A CORNFIELD" 32-ACRE PROJECT

1201 N. Spring St., L.A. Chinatown adjacent

Information: (323) 226-1158; www.notacornfield.info

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

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



[*"Community Calendar," from page 6]*

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

September 29th-October 6th, Thursday-Thursday
6th ANNUAL SAN DIEGO ASIAN FILM FESTIVAL
San Diego
Information: (858) 650-3459; www.sdaff.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 1st, Saturday, Noon-5:00 p.m.
26th ANNUAL MOON FESTIVAL
China Alley, Hanford
Information: (559) 582-4508

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

October 23rd, Sunday, 7:00 p.m.
CHARITY CONCERT FOR ASIANS FOR MIRACLE MARROW MATCHES WITH LEA SALONGA
Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts
12700 Center Court Dr., Cerritos
Information: (888) 236-4673; www.asianmarrow.org

October 26th-November 20th
"EQUUS" BY EAST WEST PLAYERS
David Henry Hwang Theater
120 N. Judge John Aiso, Little Tokyo
Information: (213) 625-7000; www.eastwestplayers.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

[Please see "Community Calendar," page 8]

[“Community Calendar,” from page 7]

November 13th, Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

**“ILLUMINATIONS: CHINESE & WESTERN
ENCOUNTERS THROUGH THE STAINED GLASS
RENOVATION OF SHANGHAI ZIKAWEI CATHEDRAL”
SLIDE PRESENTATION**

Murphy Recital Hall

Loyola Marymount University, L.A.

Information: (310) 338-2880; www.lmu.edu/laband/

(Compiled by Donna Young)



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

415 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

