



# 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](mailto:chssc@earthlink.net); Web: [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org);

Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-0856

APRIL 2006

## APRIL PROGRAM

### CHSSC ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006, 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)

The May meeting will be CHSSC's annual general membership meeting. All current active members are encouraged to attend. We will have reports from the Board members and various committees reviewing the activities of the past year. It has been a great year. Some very interesting changes have been made, and we have witnessed some very exciting programs.

The order of business will also include the presentation of the winners of the CHSSC scholarship, new Society publications, changes to the Chinatown Heritage & Visitor's Center, and a preview of the CHSSC 30th anniversary celebration DVD. We will also be nominating candidates for the 2006-2007 Board of Directors officers and members-at-large. (Elections will take place at June's general meeting.)

The Board will also entertain comments, suggestions, and reports from the general membership as well. This is your meeting. In order to have an organization that we are all proud to be members of, we must hold each other accountable and participate in the mission of the Society. The entire CHSSC Board is looking forward to seeing you there.



### WASHINGTON MUTUAL JOINS AS CORPORATE SPONSOR OF 'ACTORS' EVENT ON MAY 6

Washington Mutual has signed on as a major corporate sponsor of CHSSC's "Salute to Chinese American Actors" at the San Gabriel Hilton Hotel on Saturday evening, May 6, according to dinner chairs Jeannie Liu and Dr. Don Loo.

"Wah-Moo," as the financial institution has nicknamed itself in a current ad campaign, will bankroll the VIP Reception at 5 p.m., when Jade Table (\$2000) and Jade Ticket (\$200) patrons will have the opportunity to meet, mingle, munch and imbibe with the honorees, who are some of the most respected men and women in the Asian American acting community.

Official registration for the event begins at 6 p.m.; dinner, a multi-course traditional Chinese banquet, starts at 6:30 p.m.; followed by CHSSC's all-star salute at 7:30, featuring Miranda Hoh as Mistress of Ceremonies.

As Society President Ken Chan says: "This important honors event is shaping up to be one of our best yet! The chance to share an evening with all these actors under one roof is, I believe, historic in itself. I don't recall when so many talented Chinese ladies and gentlemen, all fine performers, have been brought together for a single event like ours. This rare gathering is getting a lot of buzz in the community, deservedly so. The early ticket sales are very encouraging, an indication that we members better make our own reservations now!"

President Chan also remarked that the CHSSC board of directors is "thrilled to welcome Washington Mutual as a corporate sponsor."

At News 'n Notes press time, the following actors have been confirmed to attend: Michael Paul Chan, Francois Chau, George Kee Cheung, Chao-Li Chi, Tsai Chin, Dennis Dun, James Hong, Alvin Ing, Nancy Kwan, Dana Lee, Jodi Long, Lisa Lu, Tzi Ma, Ming-Na, Julia Nickson, Jack Ong, Freda Foh Shen, Elizabeth Sung, Lauren Tom, and Russell Wong.





### AROUND CHSSC

#### CHSSC 2006 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS SELECTED

*By Susie Ling  
CHSSC Scholarship Chair*

Our judges have selected two fantastic scholarship winners for the David and Pearl Louie CHSSC Scholarship for 2006. These winners will be introduced to CHSSC at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 3rd.

Cathy Dang is an undergraduate student at Loyola Marymount University majoring in Sociology with double minors in women's studies and Asian American studies. She has been an active member of the Asian Pacific Student Association and the Han Tao Chinese Cultural Club. She was selected as the Joseph Ito Fellow at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and has also worked for the Little Tokyo Service Center. This young activist is hoping for a career in workers' rights law.

Lani Cupchoy, our graduate winner, already has a BA from UCLA, an MA from CSULA, and is now pursuing a PhD from UCI in history. Her master's thesis was entitled "Global Kupuna: The Struggles of a Native Hawaiian Elder," and her dissertation is on Chinese American women in Los Angeles. Lani has worked as a teacher's aide, counselor, and motivational speaker for LAUSD youth. Lani is Chinese-Hawaiian and Mexican.

CHSSC joins the two students in showering great thanks to the time and effort of this year's three volunteer judges: Professor Dean Toji of CSULB's Asian American studies program, Professor Yichin Shen of CSU Fullerton's Asian American studies program, and Stacey Hirose, Academic Advisor at UCLA's Asian American studies program. Dean and Stacey both showed interest in doing some "time" in our Archives Center to further their own research. All the interviewees and judges received a copy of our 2006 *Gum Saan Journal* on Chinese grocers.

Special thanks to our donors, David and Pearl Louie, who believed in investing in the education of youth. No doubt, their investment will grow multifold.

#### CHSSC LEADS UPCOMING FIELD TRIP TO MONTEREY

It is time for CHSSC members and friends to go on another field trip! So, one is being planned. Set aside the weekend of May 20th and join CHSSC in Monterey, CA for a weekend of knowledge, fun, and food (of course).

These events are being scheduled for Saturday, May 20th:

- 10:00 a.m. – Tour of Hopkins Marine Station and Point Alones Chinese Village with the director of the Marine Station. The tour will include viewing artifacts discovered at the Point Alones site and a traditional Chinese tea and incense burning ceremony.

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### 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

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

*News 'n Notes Editor,  
Monica 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.





### CHSSC MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO LEND SUPPORT AT UPCOMING MEETING!

The next ad-hoc subcommittee meeting of the MTA Review Advisory Committee will be on Thursday, Apr. 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Castelar Elementary School, Multipurpose Room, 840 Yale St., Los Angeles Chinatown. CHSSC members are encouraged to come out and show your support.

Archaeologist Sherri Gust is expected to provide her final report on what her team discovered about the artifacts and human remains that were discovered at the MTA Gold Line extension site in Boyle Heights. CHSSC will also be presenting a list of demands to the MTA.

(*"Monterey" from page 2*)

- 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. – We will be attending the program "100 Year Respectful Remembrance of the Point Alones Chinese Village" at the Maritime Museum of Monterey. A panel of residents will be sharing memories of growing up in the Cannery Row area and interacting with the Chinese community. William Green from the National Archives in San Bruno and Joe & Elizabeth Chan, Angel Island docents, will be setting up exhibits and information tables about their organizations. Gerry Low-Sabado will be speaking about the Quock Mui family and their impact on their society. (A small donation is requested to fund a lai see for the Monterey Bay Lion Dance group which will be performing at the museum.)
- Other sites to visit are the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium, Custom House, Salinas (birthplace of author John Steinbeck), Cannery Row, and up to Santa Cruz to see China Beach and other sites. CHSSC board members, Eugene Moy and Munson Kwok, will serve as our guides.

The Chinese arrived in Monterey in the 1850s. The sugar beet industry was built on the backs of the Chinese. They pioneered the fruit drying industry and reclaimed thousands of acres of the Salinas Valley Swamp. The Chinese also founded the commercial fishing industry (squid, mussels, abalone and seaweed) located at Cannery Row. Interesting note: The ancestors of Munson Kwok, CHSSC board member and past president, arrived in the

Monterey Peninsula by boat in the 1850s.

If you are interested in participating in this field trip with CHSSC please contact Mary Kwok at [wsspring@aol.com](mailto:wsspring@aol.com) or call Monica at the CHSSC office, 323-222-0856. You will need to provide your own transportation there. Rooms have been reserved at a group rate at the Laurel Inn, [www.laurelinnmotel.com](http://www.laurelinnmotel.com), 801 W. Laurel Drive, just east of Hwy 101 in Salinas, CA. These rooms need to be guaranteed and paid for by May 1st. Please contact the hotel directly at 800-354-9831 to make the reservations or call Mary Kwok by Thursday, April 27th.

A suggestion for your enroute travel: Drop by Oxnard to see the exhibit "*When China Ruled the Seas*." (See Margie Lew's article below.)

### A BLAST FROM THE PAST (Year "1421")

*By Margie Lew*

Remember when you were in grammar school studying American history, your teacher told you that

"In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue  
On the Niña, Pinta, the Santa Maria  
With just 87 men in his crew."

Well, not exactly, it turns out.

Now, after years of research and documentation of archaeological data, it seems there is a great probability that China was exploring the east and west coasts of North and South America in 1421, 71 years before Señor Columbus set foot in the region.

The Ming dynasty governed China from 1368 to 1644. China's third emperor, Zhu Di, ruled from 1403 to 1424. One of his great accomplishments was the building of the largest fleet of ships that the world had ever known. This "Treasure Fleet" consisted of 62 huge vessels with a crew of 28,000 men under the command of Admiral Zheng He. The fleet sailed on seven maritime expeditions between 1421-1423 to establish the trade and friendship with many countries, stopping in Australia, Antarctica, east Asia, the Caribbean, the Americas, the east coast of Africa.

The Society's September 2005 program featured as its speaker, Dr. Marshall M. Lih, Senior Engineering Advisor, National Science Foundation, Washington D.C. Dr. Lih's most interesting and convincing presentation highlighted the contents of the recently published book, "*1421: the Year China Discovered America*," authored by Gavin Menzies, a

(*Cont'd on page 4*)





("1421" from page 3)

former submarine commander in the British Royal Navy. This is a must-read book!

Dr. Lih's analysis of the Treasure Fleet's history and voyages piqued the interest of several CHSSC members. So, on Tuesday, March 14, a group of 10 members drove (not sailed!) to Oxnard for a visit to the Maritime Museum's exhibit, "When China Ruled the Seas." Tour guide Irene Sy explained in great detail many facts concerning the roles played by Emperor Zhu Di and Admiral Zheng He in the historic voyages of the Treasure Fleet. How mind-boggling to compare the built-to-scale size and structure of the Spanish vessels to one of the Chinese ships which, at 500-ft length, made the Niña or Pinta look like a child's toy boat! Blew our minds, for sure!

After lunch, we drove a few more miles north to Ventura's museum complex to see the street that was known as Old Chinatown from the 1850's to the 1920's. CHSSC member Linda Bentz, noted historian and an authority on Chinese maritime history, was kind enough to give us some history of that era, and to show us the picturesque mural painted by a well-known artist from China, depicting scenes of daily life when the Chinese lived there.

Thus ended our tour. It was a great trip that was enjoyable, enlightening, and educational. The Maritime Museum's exhibit will run through May 31 (See page 6) and, if unable to see this most interesting exhibit, do read Menzies' book "1421: The Year China Discovered America."

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR CHSSC BOARD!!**

The Nominations Committee request nominations from the CHSSC membership for the 2006-2007 Board of Directors. A nominee needs to be a current member of the CHSSC. All 7 officer positions are open for nominations. Nominations are also open for 5 two-year Member-at-Large positions and for 1 one-year Member-at-Large position. Please send your nominations to Dr. Albert Chang by May 3 by emailing him at [AlbertChang@charter.net](mailto:AlbertChang@charter.net) or write to the CHSSC address. Additional nominations may be made at the May 3 general meeting. The Nominations slate will be published in the May 2006 issue of *News 'n Notes*, and the election will take place at the June 7th monthly meeting.

### **APRIL REVIEW**

#### *Sherri Gust Presents MTA Findings*

By JW Wong



Last month, archaeologist Sherri Gust presented her findings in the discovery of Chinese remains at a forgotten cemetery in Boyle Heights, the site of the MTA Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension (MGLEE) Project. This "potter's field" is located just outside the perimeter of Evergreen Cemetery, at the corner of First and Lorena Streets.

Ms. Gust discussed her findings previously presented to the ad-hoc subcommittee of the MTA Review Advisory Committee (RAC) investigating the facts and details of the burial recovery project. Close to 70 people listened intently while she discussed her PowerPoint presentation which detailed her team's past work, discovery, and artifacts reaching back into the history of these burials. There was evidence of long deteriorated coffin wood, a plethora of buttons, metal casket handles, and several brick burial markers. It was a fascinating look at the burial practice of a community forced to bury its dead in a potter's field.

We were also presented with County burial records with names of the dead and the dates of their death. Many, but not all, were Chinese, as it was a cemetery of convenience open to many racial groups. Due to people of many ethnic backgrounds being buried in this potter's field, it was a challenge to identify the ethnicity of the remains. Ms. Gust and her team will present their final report to the MTA RAC ad-hoc subcommittee at their next meeting, Thursday, April 27th, at 6:30 p.m.

Following her talk, there was a lively question and answer period. The questions not only covered the material just presented but many expressed great concern for the future of the site and how the community will be compensated for the original mishandling of the grave sites. This meeting was a precursor to the very important MTA RAC ad-hoc subcommittee meeting on April 27th, where CHSSC will present its requests to MTA regarding the artifacts and remains found in Boyle Heights.





### HEALTH & WELLNESS

#### WHY EAT GARLIC?



By Dr. Betty Gaw

You either love garlic in your food or you loathe it. Garlic is a member of the onion family although they both have different shapes, flavors, and odors. The botanical name of garlic is *Allium sativum*, indigenous to southwest Siberia from whence it spread to the Mediterranean countries, southern Europe and Asia. There are numerous species of garlic.

#### Description of the Garlic Plant

Garlic grows from bulblets with leaves that are over a foot long and flat like grass which bears a mild garlicky odor. The bulblets are cloves enclosed in white sacs or paper-like membranous skin. The flowers are held at the top of a stalk in an umbrel enclosed by a leaf-like spathae in which are small bulbils. The name is of Anglo-Saxon origin, derived from the words *gar* meaning "spear" and *leac* meaning "plant" in reference to the shape of the leaves.

#### History of Garlic

According to ancient Roman author and philosopher Pliny, garlic and onion were invoked as deities by the Egyptians at the taking of oaths. Virgil's "Eclogues" mentioned that garlic was consumed by the ancient Greeks and Romans. In ancient Greek, persons who partook of garlic were not allowed to enter the Temples of Cybele. Hungarian jockeys often fasten a clove of garlic to the bits of their horses, believing that the other racers will fall back when they smell the offensive odor. In northern China, people would fill their pockets with cloves of garlic to chew on during the winter months, to fortify their immune system from catching colds and the flu.

#### Cultivation

Garlic grows in sandy, loam or clay soil, in full sun, but do best in moist, sandy soil. Plant each clove 2 inches deep and 6 inches apart. When planted in March the bulbs mature August.

#### The Culinary Delights of Garlic

Speak to any gourmet chef or food enthusiast and you'll learn that garlic is one of the prime condiment or ingredient in cooking. Whether it is Chinese stir fry or making Italian pasta sauce, garlic is a necessary culinary ingredient that adds zest to the food. Without it, food lacks flavor. For those who find the odor of garlic offensive, chew or ingest a combination of caraway, fennel seeds, and vinegar to help lessen the odor.

#### The Health Benefits of Garlic

Raw uncooked garlic is pungent due to its volatile essential oils containing the bioactive ingredients Alicin and Aliin. This oil is rich in organic sulphur necessary for the body's biochemical functions. Once absorbed through the skin or from the gastrointestinal tract, it permeates the tissues, exuding its garlicky odor, even when excreted. These characteristics of garlic make it a great deterrent of mosquito and flea bites.

*Dr. Gaw's article on "Why Eat Garlic?" will be continued next month.*

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### "YOU'VE GOT E-MAIL"

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter by email, please let us know by emailing us at [chssc@earthlink.net](mailto:chssc@earthlink.net). The Society mails out just over 450 newsletters a month. Each newsletter costs \$1.00 to print, staple, label, and mail. The change from hard copy subscription to electronic subscription will save the Society a few dimes and save the environment a few trees. Thank you to those who have already requested to receive their newsletter in the electronic in-box.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

CHSSC's annual Spring fundraising dinner will be on Saturday, May 6th, 2006 and the San Gabriel Hilton. We will be honoring Chinese and Chinese American actors and actresses. Make your reservations now! Tables and seats are selling fast so send in your reservations now to ensure your presense.

*Cont'd on page 6*





("Announcements" from page 5)

### WELCOME, NEW CHSSC MEMBERS!!!

On behalf of CHSSC President Kenneth L. Chan, Membership Secretary Peter Liang and the CHSSC Board, we extend our warmest welcome to Ben Fong, Geri Gaw, and Wing Lew. Welcome back to past members Teresa Cortey, Rachel Halbert, Raymond Jung, Stephen Lesser, Wilson Lue, Robert & Dorothy Schoon, Lisa See, and Lucy Wang.

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California (CHSSC) is seeking a motivated and self-directed individual to fill the position of Administrator. Candidate shall support the daily operations and programs of the Society, including clerical office operations, scheduling and coordinating the walking tour program, operating the Chinatown Heritage and Visitor's Center, and fundraising activities. For those who are interested, please send cover letter and resume to the CHSSC office, 415 Bernard St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email [chssc@earthlink.net](mailto:chssc@earthlink.net).

### CHSSC NEEDS YOUR HELP WITH ITS CHINATOWN TOUR PROGRAM!

The Society's tour program handles requests from individuals and schools throughout Southern California. We believe our tours serve a valuable function educating the public on Chinese American history. But we must increase our docent force to keep our tours operating. Tours are by reservation, last an hour, and are usually weekday mornings. Peak season is from September to June. Tour guides receive modest compensation. Please phone Monica Merritt-Kwon in the CHSSC office (323-222-0856).

### WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PAST CHSSC PRESIDENT, CY WONG

Life is a theater – invite your audience carefully, not everyone is holy enough and healthy enough to have a front row seat in our lives, so choose wisely, the people who sit in the front row of your life.

Observe the relationship around you. Pay attention to: which ones lift and which ones lean; which ones encourage and which ones discourage.

### THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING CHSSC

CHSSC would like to extend its sincere appreciation to member Jack Hom who donated shares of Texas Instruments Inc. stock last August. His generous contribution was designated to the Society's general fund and will greatly support and further the mission of the CHSSC.

Many thanks also to those who donated to CHSSC in memory of Judge Delbert Wong who passed away last month. They are Arthur Chen & Peggy Saika, Christopher & Harumi Kim, Mary Kwok, Judge Joseph & Mickey Wapner, and Norman & Angi Ma Wong.

### MARCH GENERAL MEETING SNACK DONATIONS

The Society warmly thanks Winifred Lew, Ruth Lung, and Johnny & Esther Yee for the delicious snacks they provided and set-up for the April General Meeting.

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.chinatownla.com)

Through May 14th, Sunday

#### "ISAMU NOGUCHI – SCULPTURAL DESIGN" EXHIBIT

Japanese American National Museum  
369 E. First St., Little Tokyo  
Information: (213) 625-1770; [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org)

Through May 31st, Wednesday

#### "WHEN CHINA RULED THE SEAS: THE TREASURE FLEET OF THE MING DYNASTY, 1405-1433" EXHIBIT

Ventura County Maritime Museum  
2731 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard  
Information: (805) 984-6260

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APRIL 2006

(*"Calendar" from page 6*)

Through June 18th, Sunday

**"REFLECTIONS OF BEAUTY: WOMEN FROM JAPAN'S FLOATING WORLD" EXHIBIT**

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena

Information: (626) 449-2742; [www.pacificasiamuseum.org](http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org)

Through October 15th, Sunday

**"MERGING: THE ART OF DIANA SHUI-IU WONG" 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](http://www.camla.org)

April 27th, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

**MTA REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Castelar Elementary School

Multipurpose Room

840 Yale St., L.A. Chinatown

Information: (323) 222-0856; [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org)

April 29th – 30th, Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**LA TIMES FESTIVAL OF BOOKS**

UCLA campus

Westwood, L.A.

Information: [www.latimes.com/fob](http://www.latimes.com/fob)

May 4th – 11th, Thursday-Thursday

**VC FILMFEST – LOS ANGELES ASIAN PACIFIC FILM FESTIVAL**

Aratani/Japan America Theatre, Little Tokyo, L.A.

Information: (213) 680-4462; [www.vconline.org](http://www.vconline.org)

May 6th-7th, Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL**

Harbor Regional Park

2580 Vermont Ave., Wilmington

Information: (714) 968-1785

May 6th, Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

**CHSSC SPRING DINNER**

San Gabriel Hilton

225 West Valley Blvd., San Gabriel

Information: (323) 222-0856; [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org)

May 10th – June 4th, Wednesday – Sunday

**EAST WEST PLAYERS PRESENT MOTTY CHON**

David Henry Hwang Theater

120 Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo, L.A.

Information: (213) 625-7000; [www.eastwestplayers.org](http://www.eastwestplayers.org)

May 19th, Friday, 5:30 p.m.

**CHINATOWN PUBLIC SAFETY ASSOCIATION BANQUET**

Empress Pavilion Restaurant

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

Information: (213) 621-3043; [www.cpsala.org](http://www.cpsala.org)

May 19th, Friday, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

**ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER OLDER ADULTS FESTIVAL**

Angelus Plaza

255 S. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown

Information: (213) 623-4352 ext. 327

June 3rd-4th, Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**PACIFIC ISLANDER FESTIVAL**

Aquarium of the Pacific

320 Golden Shore, Long Beach

Information: (562) 590-3100; [www.aquariumofpacific.org](http://www.aquariumofpacific.org)

June 10th, Saturday, 1:00-6:30 p.m.

**THAI HERITAGE FESTIVAL**

Thailand Plaza

5321 Hollywood Blvd.

Information: (323) 466-5966;

June 10th-11th, Saturday-Sunday

**3RD ANNUAL CHINESE FOOD FESTIVAL**

L.A. Chinatown

Information: (323) 680-0243; [www.chintatownla.com](http://www.chintatownla.com)

July 8th-9th, Saturday-Sunday, 12 noon-8:00 p.m.

**ANNUAL LOTUS FESTIVAL**

Echo Park

1632 Bellevue Ave.

Information: (888) 527-2757; [www.laparks.org](http://www.laparks.org)

August 12th-20th, Saturday-Sunday

**ANNUAL NISEI WEEK FESTIVAL**

Little Tokyo, L.A.

Information: (213) 687-7193; [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org)



## CELEBRATE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH!

With the month of May comes the celebration of Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month. There are events throughout the month to celebrate Asian culture and heritage including public television specials, film festivals, and cultural performances. Please see the *Community Calendar* listed on pages 6-7 for events in your area.

Ever wonder how a whole month is designated to honor one group of citizens such as Asian Americans? Well, like Black History Month and Women's History Month, APA Heritage Month began as a congressional bill introduced by legislators in June 1977. Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution calling upon the President to proclaim the first 10 days in May as Asian-Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Hawaiian Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed. However, the proclamation of Asian-Pacific Week had to be brought forward each year because a Joint Resolution did not contain an annual designation. On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed the Joint Resolution for an annual weeklong event.

More than 10 years later, Asian-Pacific Heritage Week became what it is today, Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In May 1990, President George H.W. Bush, designated the month of May to celebrate the heritage, culture, and people of Asian and Asian Pacific heritage. The month of May was chosen to commemorate the initial immigration of Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843 and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869. As is well known, the majority of workers who laid those tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Since its beginnings almost 30 years ago, recognition of Asian Pacifics in America has expanded to include community festivals, government gatherings, and educational activities for students and adults. CHSSC is doing its part to honor Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (specifically Chinese Americans) this year. Our annual spring dinner, "Salute to Chinese American Actors," is already turning out to be a gala event. Our exhibit, "Chinese American Pioneers in Law," will be displayed at the Chinatown Branch of the Los Angeles Public Library. Finally, CHSSC is planning a field trip to Monterey to learn about the Chinese influence in that area. Do your part in celebrating Asian Pacific American heritage and take part in one of the many events in your area.



### Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

415 Bernard St.  
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LOS ANGELES CA 900

21 APR 2006 PM 11 L



Active Member: Paid to Dec. 31, 2005  
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MAY 2006

## JUNE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2006, 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)

### The Erhu, A Traditional Music

The voice of the ancient Erhu comes from deep within Chinese history and consciousness. Its vibrant chords have sung of loneliness, celebration, and the human condition for as long as any one of us can remember in our memories of traditional Chinese music. It has started to make its way into western music as well. World famous cellist Yo Yo Ma has successfully brought its melancholy sound into his work.

Our June first Wednesday presentation will present the erhu and its almost other worldly sound played by a newcomer to the society, master Chung Min Chu. Master Chu was deeply attracted by the sound of a Erhu performance in a Chinese Spring Festival gathering in Los Angeles about five years ago. He started learning Erhu with Professor Gau Yau Hwua in Monterey Park. He is currently an active member of the Los Angeles Chinese Music Orchestra, playing Erhu and Chinese bamboo flute.

Master Chu is a finance manager at the port of Los Angeles. He has economic and finance degrees from Taiwan National University and his MBA from the University of Oregon. Numbers have always been an integral part of music form. Here is an opportunity to hear the theory proven.

I am sure we are in for a special treat next month as we meet the sweet music so little understood by us who grew up under European classical music and rock and roll. Hey, about introducing the Erhu to that native American born music, jazz! How American can you get?

## AROUND CHSSC

### Demands to MTA by CHSSC



Chinese head stones (photo by Sean Song)

**Markers from Chinese American graves** unearthed during excavations for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project near Evergreen Cemetery are being **disgracefully used as "decorative lawn liners"** at the Los Angeles County crematorium. Some of the head stones are over 100 years old.

Listed below is a summary of CHSSC's demands to MTA:

- 1) MTA will honor the skeletal remains that were unearthed:
  - The 128 skeletal remains will be reburied in Evergreen Cemetery in separate graves in front of the Chinese burial shrine. (MTA will assist CHSSC in the retrieval of the Chinese grave markers from the LA County Crematorium so the markers can be placed with these skeletal remains.)
  - MTA will erect three memorial monuments at the excavation site, reburial site, and the Puente Hill Landfill.)

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