

NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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JANUARY 2006

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Guest Speaker

PATRICK HONG

Senior Technical Editor
ROAD & TRACK MAGAZINE



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 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)

For those interested in anything automotive, our next meeting will greatly interest you. Patrick Hong, senior technical editor for Road & Track Magazine, will be the speaker at CHSSC's February 1st General Meeting. Following an early interest in all things automotive and a curiosity in the mechanical, Mr. Hong steered that affinity into a career as a writer, road test editor and his current position as senior and technical editor.

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CHSSC PROTESTS MTA'S DISREGARD FOR BURIED CHINESE PIONEERS

IRVIN LAI ADDRESSES CONTROVERSY AT SPECIAL MEETING; DEMANDS REPARATIONS

By Jack Ong

In an eloquent address on Thursday, January 19, before the Review Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension project of the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), former CHSSC president Irvin Lai protested the disregard of graves bulldozed near Evergreen Cemetery on June 22, 2005, that are potentially those of early Chinese immigrants, and made several demands, including reparations as well as a thorough accounting of skeletal remains and artifacts unearthed in the excavation.

Lai's remarks evoked applause and a number of passionate remarks of agreement by some of the 50 community members attending the RAC meeting in East Los Angeles. The MTA was accused of "haphazard," "disgusting," and "appalling" methods, "covering up" its discovery of 108 sets of human bones when it began work to widen the north side of First St. near Lorena Ave., adjacent to Evergreen Cemetery.

Supporting Lai at the RAC meeting were Jimmie Joe, president of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (Los Angeles Lodge); CHSSC board members Susan Dickson, Eugene Moy, Jack Ong, and JW Wong; and new member Kelly Fong, a UCLA graduate student in archeology.

After the meeting, speaking off the record, several RAC appointees questioned the MTA's method of explaining initial reports of the findings. MTA at first claimed only "one or two graves" and "a bone fragment" were discovered at the time, emphasizing that they were not Native American burial grounds. One board member claimed that "strange, terrible smells" were noticed coming from the L.A. County

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("Meeting" from page 1)

Today it's life in the fast lane, testing cars and writing about them. He has tested a variety of luxury performance and prestige cars, including the Audi A8 L, BMW 745Li, Jaguar CJ8 L, Mercedes-Benz S500, and Volkswagen Phaeton V8. While evaluating the latest in automotive performance, he's traveled throughout North America, Europe, and Asia.

Many Americans would look at this job and comment at how awesome it would be to have a job like this. Though not so within many Chinese American families. Being a car driver, writer, and editor is not one of those professions Chinese American children are encouraged to enter. For many Asian parents, if a profession was not in the medicine or engineering field, it wasn't worth pursuing.

On the contrary. Mr. Hong has found a job that has combined his passion and a field of study that would honor many Asian parents. Mr. Hong has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters degree in Aerospace Engineering. He is well qualified to comment on automotive styling, the dynamics of streamlining, and the aesthetics of speed.

Join us for an evening discussing cars, speed, and racetrack luxury. To many there is nothing like the vibration of a high performance automobile engine experienced through the grip of a steering wheel. Male or female, this won't be an experience you will soon forget.

CHSSC MOURNS THE LOSS OF WRITER SANORA BABB HOWE

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of CHSSC life member and literary figure Sanora Babb Howe. She passed away on December 31, 2005 at the age of 98.

Howe wrote five books including a collection of poems, a compilation of short stories, and her praised novel "Whose Names Are Unknown." This novel chronicles a family's flight from the drought and dust storms of Oklahoma to the migrant camps of California during the 1930's. It was set for publication in 1939, but due to John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" being published first, Howe kept her manuscript in a drawer until 2004 when it was rediscovered by University of Oklahoma Press. Many critics have praised "Whose Names Are Unknown" as a masterpiece and a compelling and more authentic depiction of Depression-era migrants than Steinbeck's novel.

Howe was the wife of Oscar award-winning cinematographer James Wong Howe who died in 1976. She met him prior to World War II but because of rampant racism and anti-miscegenation laws, they did not marry until 1948, when laws banning interracial marriage were finally abolished. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

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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.

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Crematorium just after the excavation began. Days later, a "whistle blower" reported to the media that human remains, many empty coffins, and Chinese artifacts had been unearthed in the excavation. The RAC board member thinks it is "possible that they were cremating some evidence."

Lai informed the dozen attending members of RAC, as well as Metro project executive Dennis Mori, several MTA staff members, and the community representatives that even cursory research by the MTA would have indicated that early Chinese pioneers to the Los Angeles area were buried outside Evergreen Cemetery, relegated to the "potter's field" area simply because of strict discriminatory laws in force at the time.

"There is also a logical explanation for the empty coffins," Lai said. "Our people mostly worshiped their ancestors, and the custom was, after 10 years, to exhume the buried ancestor and remove the bones to an urn. The coffins were then re-buried."

Lai, speaking on behalf of CHSSC, requested full archeological reports of the unearthed burial plots, a map and photographs of the graves; an inventory of all artifacts and access to inspect them; an accounting and DNA testing of the 108 skeletons; input from the Chinese American community of Los Angeles regarding the final resting place as well as a memorial monument for the unearthed remains; and an apology to the Chinese community from the MTA, along with corrective measures by the Authority to prevent such unconscionable actions in the future.

The MTA reports that it is already working with the community through RAC to "develop a proper and respectful re-interment plan, ceremony and monument that will be consistent with the desires of the community."

CHSSC MEMBERS CAN LEND SUPPORT AT UPCOMING MEETING!

An ad-hoc subcommittee has been formed to address this issue and CHSSC members are encouraged to participate. The first meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the Boyle Heights Senior Citizen Center, 2839 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90033.

AROUND CHSSC

GUM SAAN JOURNAL:

HISTORY OF CHINESE GROCERS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By Monica Merritt-Kwon



(Grocers Kenneth Ong and Robert Jung)

On a cool, windy afternoon in L.A.'s Chinatown, people gathered in the meeting room of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance to be introduced to the 2006 edition of CHSSC's publication, *Gum Saan Journal*, and to meet the individuals whose stories are told in the *Journal*. January 15th was an afternoon filled with many interesting stories told by Will Gow, Robert Jung, and Kenneth Ong.

After some opening remarks, CHSSC President Ken Chan introduced *GSJ* Editor Susie Ling to begin the event. Susie asked the audience who among them worked in a Chinese market when they were young. Many hands went up. Some shared that they worked in markets in Hawaii, Arizona, L.A. Chinatown, and even in Vancouver, Canada. As Chinese Americans, we all have a link to the Chinese market industry. Either our parents or grandparents worked in the produce industry or a butcher's market, or shopped and/or owned a market themselves.

Each person profiled in the *Gum Saan Journal* represent trailblazers in the Chinese market arena. They were entrepreneurs, etching out new niches for Chinese Americans. Some went on to build other ventures: banks, savings and loans, and community organizations and/or unions. For instance, Robert and Edith Jung organized the Chinese American Grocers Association which advocated for the rights of Chinese market owners.

To read more about these trailblazing Chinese grocers and more, purchase your own copy of the *Gum Saan Journal* for \$10. Contact the CHSSC office for more details. Many thanks to the CACA Los Angeles Lodge for allowing us to launch the 2006 edition of the *Gum Saan Journal* in their facilities.



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JANUARY REPORT

Families with Children from China

By JW Wong



(CHSSC V.P. of Programs JW Wong and President Ken Chan with Susan Robinson)

I'm sure many of you are familiar with the term ABC (American Born Chinese). Our speaker for January, Ms. Susan Robinson, shared with us about a growing population of CBA's (Chinese Born Americans). As a mother of a precious little girl adopted from mainland China years ago, Ms. Robinson has a heart for CBA's. She has been an active member of the Southern California chapter of the organization, Families with Children from China (FCC). FCC is a national organization with over 100 locations nationwide and the local chapter alone boasts over 500 members.

Ms. Robinson brought us through her personal adoption journey. Having fallen in love with China on a trip with her husband, they decided that when it came time to grow their own family that it should include one of the many orphaned little girls in China. On their second trip to China, the Robinsons picked up their second child, a little girl, and then on their third most recent journey, they took both of their children to China. This last time to make sure their daughter would know where she came from, her roots.

As program chair of FCC, Ms. Robinson is intimately familiar with all the many events that FCC sponsors. There is the Getting Started Workshop, support group for waiting families, the Just Arrived Group, play groups for all ages, and many more. In addition to providing programs for their own members, FCC also supports other organizations that help orphanages in China and A3M, Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches. Since adopted Asian children have no blood relatives in the United States, this program is important to many FCC members. As Ms. Robinson stated, FCC hopes to encourage families to help each other make carrying that burden of that missing piece that exists among their adopted children a little lighter to bear.

There have been approximately 50,000 children

adopted from China and there are approximately 6,000 children adopted each year. With the huge influx of children adopted from China, many new parents are asking themselves, "How do you bridge this multiculturalism that exists between our child and ourselves?" Ms. Robinson shared that parents of adopted children from China are always thinking, always reworking the thought process of how to raise a CBA. First and most importantly, there are adoption issues that need to be addressed. Then, identity issues come to the forefront and then, finally, the family can address the cultural side of things. Many FCC events make it so that families can participate in Chinese and Chinese American cultural events; such as the Moon Festival, Chinese New Year, and the oh-so-American event, the Miss Chinatown Pageant.

The presentation was extremely well received with questions lasting well after the formal meeting. The principal mission of the FCC is to help American families who have adopted children from China to transition their new family member into a new cultural milieu that can only be described as not only multicultural, but Chinese American. There are many things that need to be addressed when adopting a child... from anywhere in the world, but the joy that is found in the parents and the child's face, as seen in Susan Robinson's own family, shows that it is worth it all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY – HAPPY NEW YEAR! YEAR OF THE DOG – 4704

CHSSC's President and Board of Directors extend their sincerest wishes to our members and friends for a most joyful and prosperous New Year.

SAVE THE DATE!

CHSSC's annual Spring fudnraising dinner will be on Saturday, May 6th, 2006 at the San Gabriel Hilton. Please save the date! We will be honoring Chinese and Chinese American actors and actresses.

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING SNACK DONATIONS

Many thanks to Winnie Lew and Ruth Lung for providing fresh baked lemon bars for our January meeting and for their help in setting up the snack table. We sincerely appreciate it!

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("Announcements" from page 4)

CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE – FLAG BEARERS NEEDED

For 29 continuous years, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California has carried the Stars and Stripes in the vanguard of the Golden Dragon Chinese New Year Parade in L.A. Chinatown. Be a part of history as we march again for the 30th consecutive year on Saturday, February 4th! We will assemble at 1:00 p.m. at the intersection of Aliso and Main, just south of the Chinese American Museum at El Pueblo Monument. Uniform of the day will be red shirt or blouse and black pants. Please call Monica at the CHSSC office to let her know you will be participating. Thank you and we look forward to marching with you!

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 Dr. Patrick Albano, Sulynn Chee, and Marlene & John Gaines.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM PAST CHSSC PRESIDENT, CY WONG

The person who is useful as an Artist, is one who studies his own life, and records his experiences.

Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.

INTERPRETERS NEEDED

Lionbridge, a company that provides language interpretation services, is looking for individuals fluent in Mandarin, Foo Chow, Fuqien, and Toishan to work as interpreters at the Immigration court. All work is freelance and part-time so the interpreter can accept whichever cases fit his/her schedule. No experience is necessary, but applicants must be US citizens or Green card holders. We offer travel opportunities to different Immigration Courts in the country, competitive rates, and free training. If you are interested, please contact Kristen Corridan at (800) 423-6756 ext. 4029 or email her at kristen.corridan@bowneglobal.com.

"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. The change from hard copy subscription to electronic subscription will save the Society a few dimes and save the environment a few trees.

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. To keep our tours operating we must increase our docent force. Tours are by reservation, last an hour, and are usually weekday mornings. Peak season is from September to June. Tour guides receive modest compensation. If you are interested in helping out, please phone the CHSSC office at (323) 222-0856.

2006 MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to those who sent in their 2006 membership dues. To see if you have updated your membership, check the year marked on address label on your newsletter. If your membership is current it will have 2006 on it. If you are a life member, we encourage you to continue to support CHSSC through your generous donations. Many thanks to you all for your continued support of CHSSC.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing, Often

BONE MARROW DRIVES by ASIANS FOR MIRACLE MARROW MATCHES (A3M)

Various locations throughout L.A. area

Information: (888) 236-4673; www.asianmarrow.org

Ongoing

"FINDING OUR FAMILIES, FINDING OURSELVES" EXHIBIT

Museum of Tolerance

9786 W. Pico Blvd., West Los Angeles

Information: (310) 553-8403; www.findingourfamilies.com

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISE



By Dr. Betty Gaw

At the beginning of the year, I wonder what new year resolutions some of us have made. Could they be to pursue health, wealth, or good relationships? I choose EXERCISE. Exercise is the basis of good health and fitness. Many of us work in offices, sit at our desks typing the computer keyboard, lead a sedentary lifestyle, and may not even be exposed to sunshine all day. Is there any wonder that 65% of Americans are overweight? Obesity is the root cause of a myriad of diseases.

The Benefits of Exercise

Any movement of the body contributes to exercise, whether it be done when you are standing, sitting, or lying down. It involves muscle contraction and relaxation which propels the circulation of blood throughout the body and vital organs, bringing oxygenated blood and nutrients to bodily tissues and removing waste products by way of certain organs.

Exercise strengthens bones by increasing bone density, tendons, ligaments and muscles. Exercise hastens healing of the skin, maintains body temperature, activates the brain and its nervous system by improving memory, reducing stress, deterring Alzheimer's disease, and setting hormone and immune complexes into optimum function. It gives balance, agility and well being. Using food as the source of energy, exercise sustains life.

Why are Americans Growing Fatter?

When abundant food energy is ingested in excess of the body's needs, it is stored as fat in the body. Exercise will burn up this stored fat. The balance of amount eaten versus the amount of energy expended determines how overweight one becomes. There are many more slender children than there are adults because children are perpetually in motion. Adults who are sedentary accumulate fat rapidly, unless they reduce their food portion size and eat a balanced diet. The health risks of being overweight are numerous. Such risks include heart and vascular diseases, diabetes, stroke, osteoarthritis, liver failure, Parkinsonism, and cancer.

What Are the Ways to Exercise

There are numerous ways to exercise. Walking, bicycling, and jogging are the most popular things to do. It is also important and beneficial to stretch every large joint in the limbs and trunk. Simple weight-lifting could be done by holding a small bottle of water in each hand and bending at the knees and extending in the arms. You could also strap weights to the ankles and lift at the knees to strengthen the muscles in the thigh and legs. Playing tennis, basketball, softball, skating, dancing, gardening, and even house-cleaning are all forms of activities that contribute to exercise. When watching television, you can do stretching exercises or you can carry 1-2 pound weights around the house for strengthening exercises. While you brush your teeth you can do several squats which will build up the strength in your quadriceps and hamstring muscles in the thighs. Thirty minutes a day of brisk walking is sufficient for cardiovascular fitness.

I do caution you to not over-exercise because it produces an excess of free radicals. Free radicals can overwhelm the body's restorative and protective system that can lead to disease and rapid aging. Choose your activities outdoors when there is the least air pollution, because air-borne pollution poisons the body and is detrimental to exercise by accumulating damaging free radicals.

Fitness Benefits of Selected Activities

The chart below gives guidelines as to what activities will benefit what goals you have selected for yourself. Aerobics, bicycling, running and swimming are the best for cardiovascular fitness whereas yoga will result in flexibility and stress reduction.

Type of Exercise	ewhat or just a little: 3-moderately: 4-strongly: 5-vary strongly Results Obtained			
	Cardiovascular Fitness	Burns Body Fat	Shapes Muscles	Flexibility
Aerobics	5	4	2	3
Bicycling	5	4	2	1
Circuit Weight Training	3	3	5	2
Kickboxing	5	5	2	2
Pilates	2	2	5	5
Running	5	5	2	1
Roller blading	4	3	2	1
Swimming	5	3	2	2
Tal Chi	1	1	1	3
Tennis	3	3	2	1
Walking	3	3	2	1
Yoga	1	1	2	5

My new year's resolution is to exercise more for health and happiness. I empower you to do likewise.

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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 February 12, Sunday

"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 February 12, Sunday

"PLACE/DISPLACE: THREE GENERATIONS OF TAIWANESE ART" EXHIBIT

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena

Information: (626) 449-2742, ext. 10;

www.pacificasiamuseum.org

Through February 26th, 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

Through March 19th, Sunday

"DRAGONS, DRUMS, FIRECRACKERS, AND FLOATS: A CHINESE AMERICAN TRADITION"

EXHIBIT

Chinese Historical Society of America

965 Clay St., S.F. Chinatown

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

Through April 9th, Sunday

"TALK STORY: AN AMERICAN FAMILY" EXHIBIT

Chinese Historical Society of America

965 Clay St., S.F. Chinatown

Information: (415) 391-1188, www.chsa.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

January 29th, 2006, Sunday

CHINESE NEW YEAR DAY - YEAR OF THE DOG 4704

January 29th, Sunday, Parade: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.,

Festival 12:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

5TH ANNUAL PASADENA LUNAR NEW YEAR

PARADE & FESTIVAL

Colorado Blvd., Old Town Pasadena

Information: (310) 478-1818

February 4th, Saturday, Parade: 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,

Festival: 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY ANNUAL LUNAR NEW

YEAR PARADE & FESTIVAL

Valley Blvd.

Alhambra and San Gabriel

Information: (626) 284-1234;

www.lunarnewyearparade.com

February 4th, 2006, Saturday, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

107th ANNUAL GOLDEN DRAGON PARADE

L.A. Chinatown

Information: (213) 617-0396;

www.lagoldendragonparade.com

February 4th, Saturday, 3:00-7:00 p.m.

"LONG JOURNEY HOME: THE JAPANESE

AMERICAN INTERNMENT" EXHIBIT

San Fernando Museum of Art & History

519 S. Brand Blvd., San Fernando

Information: (818) 838-6360

February 4th-5th, 2006, Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.,

Sunday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

CHINESE NEW YEAR FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW

L.A. Chinatown

Information: (213) 617-0396; www.lachinesechamber.org

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February 12th, 2006, Sunday, 8:00 a.m.

28th ANNUAL L.A. CHINATOWN FIRECRACKER 5K/10K RUN/WALK

Broadway near College St.

L.A. Chinatown

Information: (323) 256-1363; www.firecracker10k.org

February 17th, Friday

CHINESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET

Empress Pavilion Restaurant 988 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown Information: (213) 617-0396

February 18th, Saturday, 12:00 p.m.-7:00p.m.

LANTERN FESTIVAL 2006

Chinese American Museum 425 N. Los Angeles St.

El Pueblo State Park at Olvera Street, L.A. Information: (213) 485-8567; www.camla.org

February 24th, Friday, 6:30 p.m.

LANTERN FESTIVAL BANQUET

Empress Pavilion Restaurant 988 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown

Information: (213) 721-0763; www.camla.org

April 17th, Sunday

QUAKE CENTENNIAL DINNER

Palace Hotel

2 New Montgomery St., San Francisco

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

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

June 10th-11th, Saturday-Sunday

3RD ANNUAL CHINESE FOOD FESTIVAL

L.A. Chinatown

Information: (323) 680-0243; www.chintatownla.com



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

415 Bernard St. Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

