

NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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July 2006

July Program Review

Potluck Picnic at the Heritage Center—July 15, 2006



Gilbert Hom at the grill



JW Wong resting before cooking.



More than 40 people attended the picnic in spite of the heat. Many stayed until after dark.

(cont'd on page 3)



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

JULY 2006

Board of Directors 2006-2007



On the right is Councilman Mike Ten administering the oath of office for the 2006-07 Board. L to R, John Wong, President; Kenneth Chan, Vice President; Eugene Moy, Vice President for Programs, Albert Chang, Secretary, William Gow, Donald Loo and Jeannie Liu, Members at Large.

George Yin and Pete Chinn were not present at the oath. Susan Dickson, Betty Gaw, Munson Kwok, Irvin Lai, Marlynn Ma, and Benjamin Nakayama, will continue their term of service.



Mike Ten posing with 2005-06 Board and the newly elected 2006-07 Board. First Row, L to R, Mike Ten, John Wong, Kenneth Chan, Eugene Moy, Albert Chang, William Gow, Donald Loo and Jeannie Liu. Back Row, L to R, Mary Yee Kwok, Susan Dickson, Irvin Lai, Munson Kwok, Betty Gaw and Jack Ong.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

JW Wong, President
Kenneth L. Chan, Vice President
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Ben Nakayama, Treasurer
Marlynn Ma, Financial Secretary
Dr. Albert Chang, Secretary
Pete Chinn, Membership Secretary

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Susan Dickson
Dr. Betty Gaw
William Gow
Dr. Munson Kwok
Irvin Lai
Jeannie Liu
Dr. Donald Loo
George Yin

News 'n Notes Editor, Yvonne Chang

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.

(Potluck Picnic, from page 1)



A special award of appreciation was presented at the picnic to Ernesto Con (the painting contractor, right) for his part in the beautification of the Heritage Center. Others receiving awards for having completed their terms on the Board are: L to R, Donald Loo, Jeannie Liu and John Wong. Other recipients of the award not in the photo are: Kenneth Chan, Albert Chang, Mary Yee Kwok, Peter Liang and Wing Mar.



Eugene Moy also received his award for having completed his term as a member at large.

Photos on pages 1, 2, and 3 are by Tom Eng.

Current Events

MTA and Chinese Burial Site

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, July 27 at the Boyle Heights Senior Center, 2839 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, at 6:30 p.m. CHSSC has received from MTA catalogs of artifact inventory and color photos. There will be a presentation of the artifact at this meeting.

Canada Apologizes to Chinese for Racist Tax

On the front page of *Rafu Shimpo*, July 8, 2006, is an article that is reminiscent of former United States President George H.W. Bush's apology to survivors of interned Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.. "More than a century ago Canada forced tens of thousands of Chinese who helped build the nation's railroad to pay a 'head tax' if they wished to remain in the country and then taxed again to bring in their families. Last month, Canada apologized."

Some 15,000 Chinese were brought into Canada to help build the Canadian Pacific Railway. When the railway was completed in 1885, a head-tax was imposed at \$50 per person to those who wished to remain. The tax was raised to \$500 by 1903, an amount that was then two years' wages for Chinese laborers. They were collected from some 81,000 Chinese immigrants until 1923 when immigration from China was banned. Canada began admitting Chinese again in 1947.

Head-tax survivors and their widows are expected to receive \$20,000 each. Some Chinese Canadians had hoped that the first-generation children of the head-tax payer would also be compensated because they lived in poverty while their families struggled to pay off debts incurred to cover the tax. Joseph Wong, founding president of the Chinese Canadian National Council had suggested \$9,000, an amount in line with payments made in 1988 to Japanese Canadians interned during World War II.

(cont'd on page 5)



Historical Chinatowns

San Bernardino Chinatown

By Yvonne Chang

Between 1867 and 1870 there were 16 men, including Ah Wing and Jim Kang in San Bernardino. They were laundry men, cooks, and houseboys, according to the Census. The Chinese were at first welcomed as good and cheap laborers. During a state-wide depression in 1875, San Bernardino's White residents started an anti-Chinese movement. The Chinese were forced to move in 1878 to a Chinatown on Third Street between what is now Arrowhead Avenue and Sierra Way. By the late 1890s, San Bernardino's Chinatown had between 400-600 residents. Many of its residents worked on produce in farms.



San Bernardino Chinatown in the late 1800's.
Photo courtesy of San Bernardino City.

The Chinese immigrants came in the 19th century to build railroad lines, pick peaches and nectarines in Riverside County groves and work in packing houses of Riverside's Casa Blanca neighborhood. They stayed on to operate laundries and tend gardens in the area. Many returned to China after they saved enough money to live comfortably there. Today it is very difficult to find a descendant of the Chinese immigrants who lived and worked in San Bernardino.

By the mid 1920s, Chinatown was largely abandoned. It became the site for the Caltrans Inland Empire District Headquarters. The Press Enterprise reported in its October 4, 2001 newspaper that when Caltrans tore down its buildings thousands of artifacts

were discovered, many dating back to the 19th century. The area became an archeology site. The newspaper announced tours to see the site.

Applied Earth Works, a consulting firm in Hemet was hired to do the digging. Porcelain dishes, Chinese coins, wine bottles, bullets and opium bowls were found 3 to 6 feet beneath the ground. They provide a glimpse of life in San Bernardino's Old Chinatown.

About 1,000 pieces of Chinese coins were found strung together in strips of 100. These zinc coins were commonly used by Chinese immigrants as gambling chips. Other artifacts used in games of chance were found alongside the coins, dominoes, five dice and 100 bean-size beads. The dominoes are believed to be chips for the game "Go."

California laws prohibited Chinese immigrants from purchasing property until the 1930's. A San Francisco born 24-year old Chinese, Wong Nim came to San Bernardino in 1867 and built a row of buildings instead, and leased them to Chinese immigrants. Later Wong Nim became known as the mayor of Chinatown. He built a temple in 1891 with a statue of Kuan Yin that is reputed to have been bought in China. Nim's grandson Lin gave it to Bing Wong, a local Chinese immigrant. It was placed in his restaurant Cathy Inn from 1956 until September 1991 when it was moved to San Bernardino Historical and Pioneer Society. It is still there today.



Kuan Yin. Photo courtesy of San Bernardino City.

It was always known that there was a Chinatown in San Bernardino but there were very few existing documents recording their lives prior to the discovery of these artifacts.

This is the first of a series of vignettes on historical Chinatown.

(Canada, from page 3)

There are an estimated 25 head-tax survivors, 275 widows, and 4,000 first generation children. The Chinese community welcomed the belated apology but feels sad that the first generation children will not be compensated.

The Canadian government also announced it would contribute C\$24 million to establish a historical recognition program that gives grants for commemorative projects and education programs dealing with past immigration restrictions and war measures.

Announcements

There will not be a program in August 2006. The next program will be Wednesday, September 6th at the Castelar Elementary School. Details will be announce in the August News 'n Notes.

Cultural Events

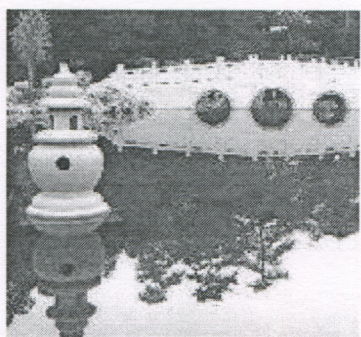
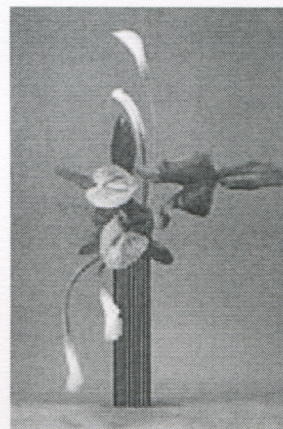


Photo courtesy of The Huntington Library

The first phase of Huntington Library's Chinese Garden will open for public view August 5, 2006 and remain open for six months. Visitors will be able to stroll around the 1.5-acre lake bordered by Tai Hu rocks and enjoy a landscape that includes five hand-carved stone bridges, a stream, and a canyon waterfall connecting to the Japanese Garden, built by Mr. Huntington almost a century ago. Set against a backdrop of mature California oaks retained as integral

to the site, plants of China, including camellias, pine, and lotus will be seen in abundance and highlighted for their cultural, symbolic and botanical significance.



There will be a Chinese floral arrangement slide lecture and workshop on Sunday, August 27, 2006, at the Pacific Asia Museum. A certified master of Chinese floral arrangement from Taiwan will be giving the lecture and workshop.

Classical Chinese flower arranging has a long history as evidenced in old paintings and other art works. Methods and techniques of arrangement have varied greatly along with aesthetic values over the years, as have preferred flower varieties.

RSVP is required because space is limited, the workshop is limited to only 20 participants. Call 626-449-2742 x 31.

Cost of lecture only: \$8/\$15 for members/non-members.
Cost of workshop and lecture: \$40/\$50 for members/nonmembers.



Health & Wellness

By Dr. Betty Gaw

How Does Environmental Pollution Affect Us?

When giant whales beach on our shores and expire there, arctic polar bears become decimated due to disease secondary to environmental pollution, and birds fail to hatch because of fatal deformities, we all wonder why? We Homo sapiens experience ever-increasing lung cancer worldwide and suffer strange disease syndromes never encountered eighty years ago. Eight of our pristine National Parks in the United States, including Yosemite in California is so polluted that it is in violation of the federal smog standard. All creatures great and small are suffocating in this potentially deadly soup of man-made chemicals.

What Are the Known Pollutants?

Smog and Ozone--

Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino/Riverside Counties had 120 days being out of compliance to the Environmental Protection Agency's/EPA's standard of acceptable air quality, in 2003. This makes southern California the new smog capital in the United States. The chief sources are diesel trucks and buses, cars/vans/SUVs, aircrafts, locomotives, industrial plants/factories—oil and gas refineries, construction equipment, smokers, etc. Refer to the Los Angeles Times, April 16, 2004.

Chemicals

With our scientific sophistication, new chemicals are created every day. The ones that we encounter in our lives and adversely impact our health are:

Paint and paint solvents, including nail polish and remover; deodorants/perfumes/fragrances; hairsprays; marker pens; cleaning soaps and solutions; chlorine in Clorox, and its by products such as flame retardants/PBDEs; plastic in every shape and form oozing xenoestrogens that mimic estrogens which are the culprit causing hormone imbalance known as estrogen dominance, leading to cancers of the

reproductive organs and infertility; mothballs; benzene/gasoline; pesticides and herbicides found globally in our air, water, meat, and mothers' milk; perchlorate from fireworks, rocket fuel, explosives, air-bags and road flares; mercury, lead, known neurotoxins, and other heavy toxic metals from industrial plants dumped into lakes and rivers, ending in our oceans to contaminate all our fish and ocean creatures; and over-use of fertilizers of every kind. We are bombarded by thousands of man-made chemicals every moment of our lives. The newest potentially carcinogenic chemical reported is Acrylamide, formed from high temperature heating of starch-foods, such as in French fries, baked goods, grilled potatoes, snack-food chips, etc. Health damaging hydrogenated vegetable oils have been man-created to extend shelf life, ubiquitously present in almost all our baked goods, mimics bad saturated fats, thus contributing to cardiovascular diseases.

**The second part of this article will be continued in the next issue.

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Words of Wisdom From Past President of CHSSC Cy Wong

Strive for perfection in everything.
Take the best that exist and make it better.
If it doesn't exist, create it.
Accept nothing nearly right or good enough.

Remember:

The future depends entirely
on what each of us do
every day.



Community Calendar

Ongoing

Bone Marrow Drives by Asian for Miracle Marrow Matches
Various locations throughout Los Angeles area
(888) 236-4673; www.asianmarrow.org

Chinatown Farmers Market
Thursdays, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
727 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles Chinatown
(213) 680-0243; www.chinatownla.com

Continuing

Merging: The Art of Diana Shui-Iu Wong"
Through October 15
Chinese American Museum
425 N. Los Angeles Street
El Pueblo State Park at Olvera Street, Los Angeles
213-626-5240; www.camla.org

July

An Evening with the LA Opera, music and relationship with
the new Chinese Garden
July 27th, Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Huntington Library, Friends Hall, San Marino, CA
Cost: \$45
Further information: (626)405-2128; www.huntington.org

Phyllis Chang in Concert
July 29th, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fisherman's Village
Marina Del Rey, CA
Cost: Free
Further information: (310) 823-5411

Hearts of Gold (Cantonese and English play)
July 29th, Saturday, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Monterey Park City Council Chamber
320 W. Newmark Avenue
Monterey Park, CA
Cost: Free tickets from Bruggemeyer Library after July 15,
(626) 573-2666

August

Chrysanthemums on the Eastern Edge: Plants in
the Chinese Art
August 5, 2006 Through January 7, 2007
Huntington Library, San Marino, Los Angeles
Cost - general admission
Further information: (626)405-2128; www.huntington.org

Escape to a Dream Reality: Gardens in Chinese Culture
August 8th, 7:30 p.m.
Lecture by Wango Weng
Huntington Library, Friends Hall, San Marino, CA
Cost - free
Further information: (626)405-2128; www.huntington.org

Organization of Chinese American National Convention
August 10th to 13th
Convention
Wyndham Hotel
Philadelphia, PA
www.ocanatl.org

Annual Nisei Week Festival
August 12th and 13th
Little Tokyo
Los Angeles, CA
(213) 463-1602; www.niseiweek.org

Annual Tofou Festival
August 12th - 20th, Saturdays and Sundays
Little Tokyo
237 San Pedro Street
Los Angeles, CA
(213) 687-7193 www.niseiweek.org

Cold Tofu Comedy Improvisational Performance
August 19th, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center (Little Tokyo)
220 South Hewitt, Los Angeles, CA
Cost: Donation

Chinese Floral Arrangement Lecture and Workshop
August 27, Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
See article on page 5.



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Of a Brand New MAZDA3!**

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Drawing will be held November 25, 2006. Winner need not be present to win. If 151-250 tickets are sold, Prize: \$2,000. If 51 -150 tickets are sold, prize: \$1,000, Winner is responsible for all taxes, fees and licensing.

To pay by cash, check or money order payable to CHSSC , please complete this form and mail with payment to 415 Bernard St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Or to pay by Visa/MC, complete and fax this form to CHSSC: 323-221-4162.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date: _____ Tel.: _____

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Number of tickets: _____ Amount: _____

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**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

**415 Bernard St.
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