



# NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-0856

JUNE 2007

## June Program

Wednesday, 6 June 2007

7:00—Check-in and Social

7:30—General Meeting and Election of CHSSC Board

8:00—Chinatown Remembered Oral History Project

This program will unveil the first in a series of documentary shorts to be produced by the CHSSC about life in **Los Angeles's Chinatown during the 1930s and 1940s**. Created by the society's current UCLA interns, this documentary short was produced as part of the society's newly established, **Chinatown Remembered Oral History Project**.

Over the course of the last 8 weeks, the project interns, Jennifer Tang, Scott Chan, James Lee and Nancy Thai worked closely with prominent Chinese Americans who lived in Los Angeles during the 1930s and 1940s. These residents: David Lee, Jennie Taylor, Charlie Quon and Peter Soo Hoo Jr., shared their life histories and memories with the interns who then edited their stories down into a short video project.

The interns will discuss their work on the project. Project director and CHSSC board member, Will Gow, will also speak about the importance of working now to preserve our communities' history.

—Will Gow

Note: There will not be formal monthly meetings in July and August. There may be informal activities, to be announced on the CHSSC website [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org) and in the July News 'n Notes.

## AROUND CHSSC

The Nominations Committee presents the following slate of nominees for Board Officers and Directors-at-large for the year 2007-2008. Board members serve from July 1 to June 30. Officers' term is one year and Director-at-Large's term is two years.

### Officers

President—Kenneth Chan

Vice President—Gilbert Hom

Vice President for Programs—Eugene Moy

Treasurer—Benjamin Nakayama

Secretary—Albert Chang, M.D.

Financial Secretary—Open

Membership Secretary—William Gow

### Directors-at-Large

Pete Chinn

Ernesto Con

Susan Dickson

Irvin Lai

One 1-year position

One 2-year position

William Gow's position to be filled if vacated

Three Directors will serve out their second year: Jeannie Liu, George Yin and Donald Loo, Ph.D.

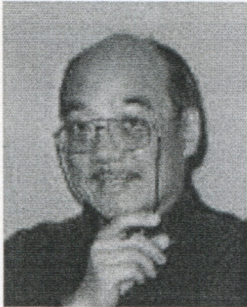




# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

JUNE 2007

## Message from the President of CHSSC



J.W. Wong, President

There is only one word to describe how I feel after the Spring Gala Dinner this past month, Fantastic! We had a very successful fundraiser this spring that will be the focus of discussion for the near future. I congratulate everyone on the Board and everyone on the Dinner Committee who dedicated their time and enthusiasm in making it a success.

The final numbers haven't been tabulated yet, but our preliminary estimate is that we are close to matching last year's record making fundraiser. This is truly a great ending to my term as your President.

We also owe a great deal of gratitude to the banking institutions we have so recently honored. They should also be recognized for their generosity, community leadership, and community participation. They have created jobs as well as loans for homes and businesses.

The PoP project has completed distributing its first phase of books and has ordered its next lot of this very popular publication. The feedback from libraries, schools, and targeted institutions has been positive and confirms the project's mission.

Will Gow has been instrumental in establishing an Historical Society intern program at UCLA. He has also started an oral history project with several students interested in using video recording of our disappearing history.

We have had outreach booths at the Moon Festival, Lunar New Year Celebration, Heritage Festival at Long Beach, Cherry Blossom Festival in Little Tokyo, Boeing's Pacific Asian Heritage Celebration, Museum of Natural History's Pacific Asian Culture Celebration, and at a birthday celebration for the city of Los Angeles.

On the practical side we still need off site storage so we can dedicate the space we have at 415 Bernard to exhibit, meeting, and public space. We are still looking for contributions of air conditioners, video projectors, flat computer monitors, and cash. There is still need to repair the archive building roof, resealing our skylight, and repairing or replacing our cracked driveway.

We have accomplished much but we can accomplish much more. As I leave this office please know that I am not leaving my enthusiasm for the mission of the Society. There is a history to be remembered, a history to be told, and a history yet to be established. I encourage the establishment of an endowment to support the society and to create more outreach programs. The future is in good hands and I congratulate all those who will guide the Society for the next thirty years.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

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

### Members at Large

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.





### Jeff Chan and the IMMORTALS : A Grand Cultural Performance

*By William Chun-Hoon*



Vice President for Programs, Gene Moy (Left) presents certificate of appreciation to Jeff Chan

Resting on top of Dragon Mountain in a cul de sac in Monterey Park, the mythical lions and dragons came alive as Jeff Chan described his life's story from his early years in his native village in China to Oakland and to Los Angeles. In his lighthearted, humorous manner, Jeff narrated scenes from his soon to be published book, *Once Upon a Time on Dragon Mountain*, presented in power point images by Eugene Moy, CHSSC VP of Programs.

Words of commendation came from Dr. Ruby L. Louie, Angi Ma Wong, Dr Allen Wong and Eugene Moy on Jeff's personal character and his professional accomplishment as the master of the Immortals in keeping alive the tradition and culture of the lion dance, dragon and martial arts performances throughout Southern California. Eugene Moy presented Jeff with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.

The audience was treated to a demonstration of the lion dance, complete with Jeff at the drums, Tim Lee on the gongs, and a bright red prancing lion artfully animated by Jeff's son Vincent, and assisted by Jeff's daughter Jennifer.

This event recognizing Jeff Chan was co-sponsored by the Friends of the Chinatown Library and the

CHSSC. Following Jeff's presentation in the spacious main reading room of the Chinatown Branch Library, the audience adjourned to the Wilbur & Beth Woo Community room for a reception hosted by Carol Duan, Lupe Chee, Jeannette Young, Winifred Lew and members of the Chinese Historical Society and Friends of the Chinatown Library.

### Acknowledgements

**Winnie Lew, Ruth Lung, Johnny and Esther Yee, Margie Lew, Dorothy Lew, and Mary Mu** provided refreshment at the May monthly program meeting.

**Sum-Sum Chan** designed the Spring 2007 Gala Flyer. She worked with the printer on the Program Brochure until 4:00 a.m. the day of the event.

**Sandy & Philip Young** of GS Printing & Graphics, Inc. generously donated their services, literally burned the midnight oil with Sum-Sum Chan the night before the Gala.

**The Chinatown Business Improvement District** hosted a VIP Reception and provided gifts for the honorees and their guests.

**Dinner Committee members**, John W. Wong, Eugene Moy, Irvin Lai, Susan Dickson, Jack Ong, Donald Loo, Susie Ling, Evelina Giang, George Yin, Jeannie Liu, Marian Chew and Yvonne Chang.

**Evelina Giang** recruited her friends to volunteer at the Gala. They did a professional job in running the raffle program, setting up the tables and bringing items to the Empress Pavilion from the Society's office and back.

**Susan Sing** and CHSSC staff ran a smooth check-in process at the Gala.

**Mia Riverton** served as Master of Ceremony.

**Angi Ma Wong** provided Feng Shui consultation on the auspicious placement of coins on the money tree and of money frogs around the tree. The money tree and three frogs made up the table centerpiece.





### CHSSC Honors Los Angeles Chinese American Banking Pioneers, May 12, 2007



Photo by Susie Ling

Back row, left to right:

**Dunson Cheng**, CEO of Cathay Bank

**Peter Wu**, Founder of General Bank

**Gregory Tse**, Founder of Golden Security Bank

**Jack Lee**, Founder of First Public Savings

**Ross Esguerra**, Founder of Far East National Bank

**Kelly Chan**, Director of Cathay Bank, also representing his father F. Chow Chan, Founder of Cathay Bank.

**Robert Huang**, Founding Director of Far East Nat'l Bank

**Kellogg Chan**, Founder of East West Bank, also representing his father F. Chow Chan, Founder of East West Bank.

**Peter Kwong, Jr.**, representing his father **Peter Kwong**, Sr. Founder of Golden Security Bank

**Michael Chang**, Secretary of Cathay Bankcorp, also representing his father **Calvin Chang**, an early Director of Cathay Bank

Front row, left to right:

**Paul Oshima**, representing his grandfather **Dan Louie, jr.** Founder of Standard Bank

**Jack Jue**, Founder of Standard Bank

**George Ching**, Founder and Vice Chair Emeritus of Cathay Bank

**Leslee Leong**, representing her father, **Gilbert Leong**, Founder of East West Bank

**Sophie Wong**, Founder of Golden Security Bank

**Betty Chu**, Founder of East West Bank and Trust Bank

**Wilbur Woo**, Vice Chair Emeritus of Cathay Bank, also representing his father **David Kitman Woo**, Founder of Cathay Bank

**Jason Chau**, Founder of Trust Bank

Not in the photo is Emily Wang, East West Bank's Director of Marketing, representing Dominic Ng, CEO.





F. Chow Chan, 1910-2001  
Photo courtesy of the Chan Family.

F. Chow Chan, was the founder of East West Bank, Cathay Bank, and Phoenix Bakery which became an icon in Los Angeles Chinatown. For about a decade Chan organized the Chinese American community to apply for a bank charter. The application to begin a savings and loan was turned down two or three times by California State regulators. Finally, Preston Martin advised that Chan and his associates apply for a commercial bank instead and thus Cathay Bank was started.



Honorees from the Cathay Bank From left to right, George Ching, Wilbur Woo, Michael Chang and Dunson Cheng.  
Photo by Susie Ling



From left to right, John W. Wong, CHSSC President, Betty Chu and Jason Chau, Co-founders of Trust Bank.  
Photo by Susie Ling.

Certificates of congratulations were presented to the banks. Supervisor Molina's Field Deputy, Suzanne Manriquez represented the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Daisy Ma, District Director for the 49th District, represented Assemblymember Mike Eng, and Mike Fong, Field Deputy for the 1st District represented Councilmember Ed Reyes.

Board of Equalization Member Judy Chu, Ed Reyes and Mike Eng found time to stop by to convey their congratulations to CHSSC and the honorees.

Betty Chu said that as recent as the 1960s and 1970s, many Chinese Americans were not even given the privilege of being turned down for loans because they were denied the loan application.

Honorees who were not able to attend the event and were not represented are:

- Dorothy Hwang, widow of Henry Hwang, Steve Bubalo and Hai C. Tan of Far East National Bank.
- John Lee, Founder of Standard Bank
- Robert Gee, Founder of First Public Savings Bank
- Robert and Elaine Chan, Founder of East International Bank
- Richard Quan, Founder of East West Bank
- Lyle Low, Founder of Trust Bank





(Gala, " from page 5)

We are truly grateful to the far sighted entrepreneurs who saw the need to serve the Chinese American community and filled that need. We came a long way from **carrying cash in money bags and hiding it in the mattress.**

All pioneers have one thing in common, they take risks in investing in the unknown. One can only imagine how much work, trust, ambition went to the establishment of each institution. In the process they helped individual Chinese American immigrants in pursuing the American dream. They have now expanded to serve their larger communities.

The Cathay Bank Foundation was founded in 2002 for the purpose of raising funds for community based nonprofit organizations. These projects are in the states where Cathay has offices—California, New York, Massachusetts, Texas and Washington. The grants focus on five categories: Community and Economic Development, Education, Civic & Community, Health & Welfare, and Culture & Arts.

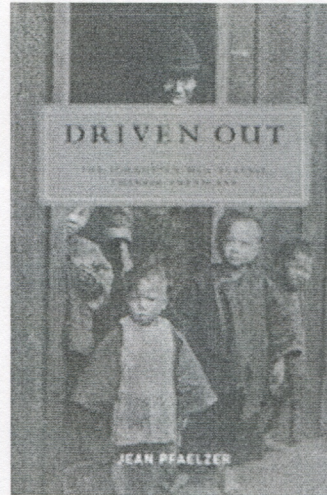
Recently East West Bank has made donation to the Chinese Garden that is under construction at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. Additionally, a East West Bank Gallery was recently built in the Bowers Museum.

Golden Security Bank has a strong commitment to the communities they serve. Their Board of Directors, Officers and Staff provide volunteer service to local community service clubs and civic organizations as well as support other community events. They provide financial support to those in their area to help build a better community. They foster an environment where employees and customers are welcome to support the many community initiatives.

The CHSSC plans to mount an exhibition on the Chinese American banking pioneers at CHSSC's Heritage Center in the near future.

—Yvonne Chang

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



- On 10 June there will be a book reading and signing of *DRIVEN OUT: the Forgotten War Against the Chinese Americans* by Jean Pfaelzer. There was brutal and systematic "ethnic cleansing" of Chinese Americans in California and the Pacific Northwest during the Gold Rush era of the 18th Century. It is a shocking, unsettling, and virtually unexplored chapter of American history. In this eye-opening, disturbing, and

important book, Jean Pfaelzer sheds a harsh light on America's past while addressing profound issues—illegal round-ups, secret detentions, racial violence—that have deep resonance today. Jean Pfaelzer is a professor of English and American Studies at the University of Delaware. The location of the book reading has not been determined. It will be announced on [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org). Or you may call 323-222-0856, or email [chssc@earthlink.net](mailto:chssc@earthlink.net).

- The Los Angeles Central City Optimist Club honored **Angi Ma Wong**, a charter member and past president of CHSSC, for advancing Chinese culture at its annual Chinese New Year banquet on March 31, 2007.
- The CHSSC is seeking **four UCLA student interns** to work on an oral history project during the Fall Quarter, capturing on videotape the stories of Chinese Americans who lived in Los Angeles in the 1930s and 1940s. For more details and an application, due June 1, 2007, go to [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org) or email Will Gow at [wgow@ucla.edu](mailto:wgow@ucla.edu). **Please come to our June 6 Program Meeting to hear a presentation by the interns who worked on the Oral History Project during the Spring Quarter.** See page 1 for location and other details.





### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### **Bone Marrow Drives**

Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches  
Various locations throughout Los Angeles area  
Information: (888) 236-4673  
[www.asianmarrow.org](http://www.asianmarrow.org)

Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

#### **Chinatown Farmers Market**

727 N. Hills Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

Through August 2007

#### **Exhibition: Treasures from Shanghai: 5000 Years of Art and Culture**

Bowers Museum  
2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706  
Tuesday - Sunday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm  
\$19 general admission  
[www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org)  
(714) 567-3600

Through August 2007

#### **Exhibition: Daily Rituals: Himalayan Art in Practice**

Pacific Asia Museum  
46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA  
\$7 general admission, \$5 seniors and students  
[www.pacificasiamuseum.org](http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org)  
(626) 449-2742

Thursday, May 24, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

#### **Chinese American Museum**

Movie night, "Red Doors," about a dysfunctional contemporary Chinese American family living in a suburb.  
425 N. Los Angeles Street  
Los Angeles, Ca  
213-485-8567

Saturday, May 26, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

#### **Second Annual US-China Sister Cities Conference**

**Theme:** 21st Century Perspectives on China

**Sponsor:** the Pasadena Sister Cities

**Host:** Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Road  
San Marino, CA 91108

**Registration:** \$30 including lunch, download form at [www.socalsistercities.org](http://www.socalsistercities.org) and click on Members Coming Events button.

Information: Alan Lamson

[amlamson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:amlamson@sbcglobal.net)

Presentations on maritime China, the future of banking in China, and modern Chinese cinema.

Exhibits by sister cities of their exchange activities with China, and a presentation about the Huntington Chinese garden including a tour of the garden.

May 26, 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### **Asian Pacific American Culture Celebration Museum of Natural History**

Music, dance, hands-on activities such as origami and Chinese knotting. There will be stories on Asian American experiences in Los Angeles.  
900 Exposition Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3, 2007  
9:00 —5:00

Pacific Islander Festival

#### **Aquarium of the Pacific**

100 Aquarium Way, Long Beach, CA  
Free with museum admission  
(562) 591-3100

Saturday and Sunday, June 2 and 3, 2007  
10:00—5:00

#### **Northridge Ho'olaule'a 2007**

#### **Hawaii Cultural Festival**

Northridge Park  
10058 Reseda Blvd, Northridge, CA  
Free

Friday, June 8, 2007, 7:30 p.m.

KCET rebroadcasts "**China Camp**" with Huell Howser. This is a great piece on a Chinese fishing village near San Francisco.

*(continued on back page)*



(*"Calendar"*, from page 7)

Saturday, June 9, 2007, 11:00 am—3:00 pm

**Picnic**

**Organization of Chinese Americans Greater Los Angeles Chapter**

Almansor Park

(323) 250-9888

Saturday, June 16, 2007, 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

**Symposium: "Styles of Chinese Gardens"**

**Speakers:**

**Richard Strassberg**, Professor, Department of Asian Languages & Cultures, UCLA.

**Yang Ye**, Associate Professor of Chinese, Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages, UC Riverside.

**Philippe Forêt**, Researcher, Institute of Cartography, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich  
Topic: "The Imperial Style of Chengde"

**Alison Hardie**, Lecturer in Chinese Studies, University of Leeds, UK

Topic: "Shift in Garden Styles in Jiangnan around 1610"

**Huntington Library**

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

\$10, lunch optional, \$16.50

Registration: 626-405-3569

[www.huntington.org/Advancement/Programs.htm](http://www.huntington.org/Advancement/Programs.htm)

Thursday to Sunday, June 28 to July 1, 2007

**Organization of Chinese Americans National Convention**

Sheraton Sacramento

(202)223-5500

**HISTORICAL CHINATOWNS**

The regular featured column on Historical Chinatowns was not published in the May and June 2007 issues. It will return in the July 2007 issue. Stay tuned.



**Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California**

415 Bernard St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

