



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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

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

MARCH 2007

MARCH PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Presentation

by John Jung, Ph.D.

John Jung is a retired psychology professor from California State University, Long Beach who received his BA from U. C. Berkeley in 1959 and his Ph.D. in experimental psychology at Northwestern University in 1962. Over a long academic career, he enjoyed a balance between teaching and conducting research in diverse areas including memory, addiction, and health psychology. He directed a program for mentoring minority students to pursue doctoral training in psychology with funding for the past 25 years from the National Institute of Mental Health. Under a new grant from the same federal agency, he now directs a mentoring program for young faculty researchers.

Entering retirement, he reflected on how the lives of his immigrant parents and his siblings, the sole Chinese family in town, were influenced by operating a laundry in Macon, Georgia, from 1928 to 1956 during the pre-civil rights era. These reflections led to the 2005 publication of "Southern Fried Rice: Life in A Chinese Laundry in the Deep South." This memoir describes their family's isolated existence running a laundry, enduring loneliness as well as racial prejudice for over 20 years, why and how it moved across the continent to live in a Chinese community, and how each family member adjusted to the challenges and opportunities of their new lives.

Currently, he is extending his newfound interest in Chinese immigrant history with a book to be published in 2007, "The Chinese Laundry: Ticket to

Gold Mountain," that documents the significant role of the laundry in the history of Chinese Americans which includes accounts of the experiences of laundrymen and their families.

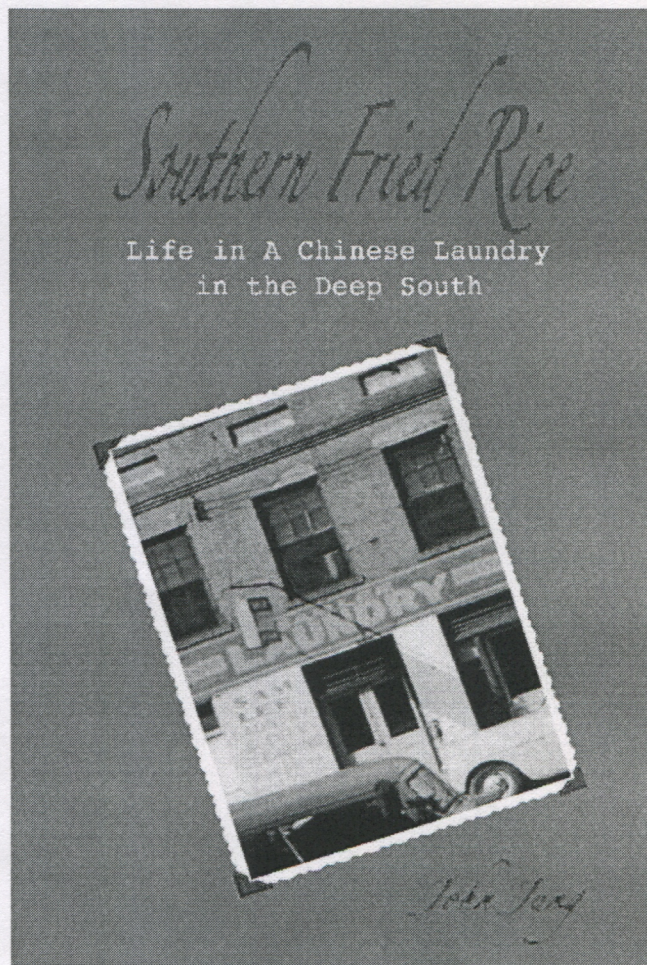
CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Multipurpose Room

840 Yale Street

Los Angeles Chinatown

Enter parking area on College between Yale and Hill Streets





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

MARCH 2007

AROUND CHSSC

- **Books for sale** have been moved to the front exhibition room for easier access. They include those published by CHSSC and others relevant to the experiences of Chinese Americans, particularly in Southern California.
- The ball is rolling on the planning of CHSSC's signature fundraising event, the **annual spring gala**. It will be held May 12 at the Empress Pavilion. Please join us in honoring Chinese American banking pioneers of Los Angeles.
- Members of CHSSC will soon receive information in the mail from the Metropolitan Transportation Agency on the matter of reburial of remains found by them. The remains, many believed to be Chinese, were discovered during excavations to for an extension of the Gold Line.
- In January and February of this year CHSSC docents gave **historical tours of Los Angeles Chinatown** to students of Chinese language and culture from Soka University, 100 second graders from Los Encinos School of Encinos and John Marshall Elementary School of Glendale, and members of a book club. The docents are William Chun Hoon, Eugene Moy, John Wong and Elsie Chan. Tours are by appointment for groups of at least 10 participants. Call 323-222-0856 for more information.
- Come and see us at the **108th Annual Golden Dragon Parade** in Chinatown on Saturday, February 24 starting at 2:00 p.m.
- Come visit our booth in the Central Plaza on February 24 and 25, starting 10:00 a.m. until early evening. If you would like to volunteer to man the booth for 2-hour segments please call the CHSSC office at 323-222-0856.
- We encourage all members to invite families, friends, associates, and neighbors to our 2007 Spring Gala Dinner May 12, 2007, at the Empress Pavilion. Invite your mothers to a pre-Mothers' Day dinner.
- Please help the CHSSC with solicitation of raffle prizes, silent auction items and sponsorships of tables. Tickets are \$100, tables are \$1,000, \$2,000, \$3,000 and \$5,000.

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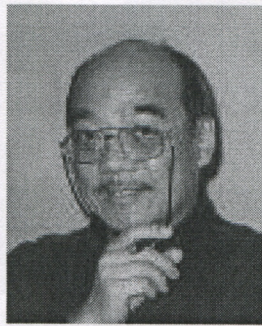
MISSION STATEMENT

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.



Message from the President of CHSSC

We have just finished celebrating our thirtieth year as an organization. All the vision and hard work exercised by our founders and subsequent dedicated membership and volunteers have taken us from a room above Phoenix Bakery to the Heritage Center. In thirty years, the Society has been able to establish itself as a premier organization in government recognition, in community service, and in uniting the present generation with a perspective of how far they have come.



J.W. Wong, President

We now stand on the threshold of the next thirty years. Dare I say the next hundred year and beyond? Yes. As long as there is a vision and a plan.

Thirty years, or even a hundred years is a big chunk of time. I have proposed that the society take small bites of say five years to ensure the stability and longevity of the society. Your society is looking at a five year plan now and adopting budgets that will help us meet our goals.

In the next few months I will be detailing that vision and asking you to help me accomplish building a solid foundation to move us through this new century. Some of the things I look forward to are a Speaker's Bureau, a Book Club, an CHSSC Scholarship to advance Chinese American Studies, and many programs that will serve the membership and the Community.

We will be looking at an extensive outreach program to bring in a younger generation of dedicated historians. We will be creating new exhibitions, oral histories, a new "Portraits of Pride II", youth media projects, and meeting our neighbors in the ever growing Chinese American Communities of the South Bay, Monterey Park, Alhambra, Rosemead, and Rowland Heights.

Chinese Culture and Language schools on the Westside, Palos Verde, Torrance, and San Marino are crying out for speakers on Chinese American History. This is my wish list, I hope you can embrace it's purpose and importance to our legacy and to our community.

Ch'ing Ming Festival To Honor Los Angeles' Chinese Pioneers



On Saturday, **March 31, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.**, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California will host Ch'ing Ming (Chinese Memorial Day) Festival at the historic Chinese shrine in Evergreen Cemetery. Roast pork and *dim sum* will be served and a ceremony explaining the festival's significance will be held at noon. **The**

event is free to the public.

At Ch'ing Ming, a family visits a loved one's burial place, cares for the site, and may enjoy a rest or picnic in the setting. The Chinese Memorial Shrine in Evergreen Cemetery stands at the center of what was once a 19th century Chinese cemetery. Built in 1888 by the people of Los Angeles' Old Chinatown, the Shrine is considered the earliest extant Chinese structure in Los Angeles. Though few Chinese are still buried there, the site remains culturally and historically significant and has been designated Los Angeles Historic/Cultural Monument No. 486. It is owned and maintained by the Chinese Historical Society.

The Society's seven year project to preserve and restore the monument was completed in June of 1997. The Shrine Preservation Project has been recognized by a California Assembly Resolution by Antonio Villaraigosa and a Governor's Historic Preservation Award.

Evergreen cemetery is located at 204 N. Evergreen Avenue in Boyle Heights. From downtown Los Angeles, drive east on 1st street through Little Tokyo, and over the 1st Street Bridge into Boyle Heights. Proceed 1.5 miles and turn left onto Evergreen Avenue. The cemetery is on the right side. Once inside, proceed along the road that runs on the right perimeter of the cemetery until you reach the monument site.



Portraits of Pride II

Progress Report

Target date of first draft is June 2007 and publication December 2007. The criteria for inclusion is "Chinese Americans accomplishments that brought pride to us as American citizens." There is a working index of contents. The project team is still open to suggestions and nominations.

Section 1—Group Portraits

Agriculture, railroad, engineers, military, fishing industry, and academics.

Section 2—Portraits of Unsung Heroes

Section 3—Portraits of Superstars

Nobel Prize winners, entertainers, arts, athletes.

Condolences

Condolences to Norine Dresser on the passing of her husband Harold on February 2, 2007. He was buried February 5, at Mt. Sinai West Hollywood Hills. Norine is a Charter Member of CHSSC. She wrote a column for Los Angeles Times entitled "Multicultural Manners" and has published books on this same subject. She is a folk lore expert and has given talks on both of these subjects, including at two of the meetings of CHSSC.

Condolences to Holly Rose Lee on the passing of her son Warren A. Lee on January 3, 2007. Holly is a longtime CHSSC member and is a daughter of Tom Leung. Their family's story is published in the book "Sweet Bamboo: A Saga of a Chinese American Family" by Holly's sister, Mamie Louise Leung Larson.

Acknowledgements

- **Ann Lau** donated a computer system that will enable CHSSC to show documentaries about the Society and its activities. It will be placed in the media room.
- **Ruth Lung and Margie Lew** provided refreshments at the February program meeting.
- **Eugene Moy** and his wife **Susie Sing** labored hard at maintaining the landscape at CHSSC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Susie Ling, an editor of CHSSC's Gum Saan Journal, is the guest speaker at the Alhambra Historical Society's program meeting at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 28, at the Masonic Center, 9 W. Woodward Avenue, Alhambra, California. The title of her talk is "**The Chinese Community in the San Gabriel Valley: Then and Now.**" A special feature of the program is a "show and tell," highlighting Asian items collected by members. The Society is located at 1550 W. Alhambra Road at Bushnell in Alhambra is open on the second and fourth Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Reminders

CHSSC's 2007 scholarship applications for one undergraduate and one graduate student are due March 23, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. PST. To download an application form go to www.chssc.org. For further information email shling@pasadena.edu.

National Art Competition entries for students from grade 1 through 12 are due March 9 at 5:00 p.m. local time in your city. To download entry form please go to www.chssc.org.

Words of Wisdom

From Cy Wong
Past President of CHSSC

Sometimes a man with money meets a man with experience, the man with experience ends up with the money and the man with money ends up with the experience.



SAVE THE DATE

CHSSC ANNUAL GALA

HONORING "FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHINATOWN"

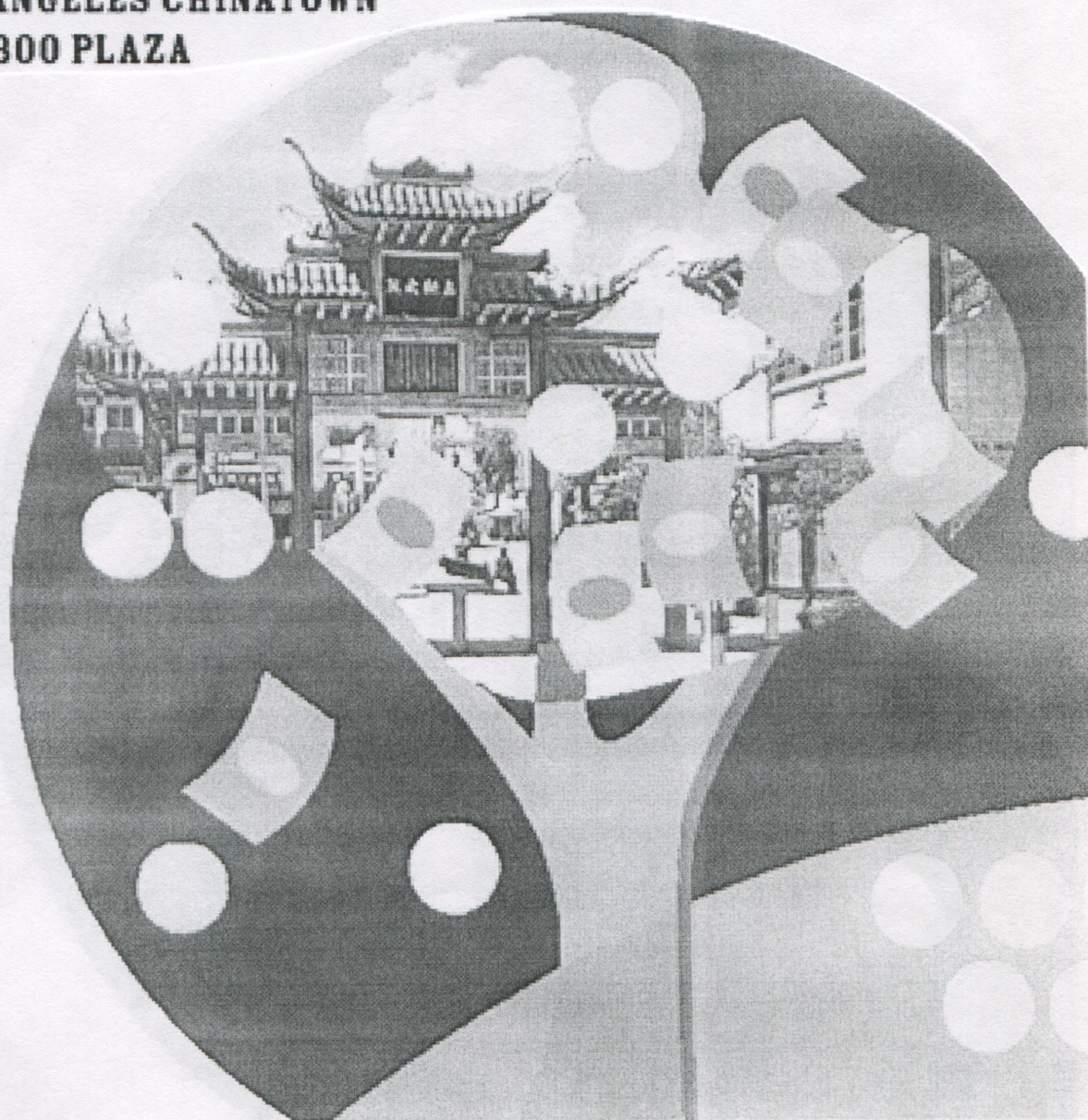
SATURDAY MAY 12, 2007

6:00 PM

EMPRESS PAVILION RESTAURANT

LOS ANGELES CHINATOWN

BAMBOO PLAZA





HISTORICAL CHINATOWNS

Woolen Mills Chinatown and Heinlenville of San Jose, California

On May 4, 1887, a fire of suspicious origin burned down the Plaza Chinatown in San Jose, California, where the Fairmont Hotel now stands. The *San Jose Daily Herald* of May 5, 1887, reported that "Chinatown is dead. It is dead forever." More recently, *The San Jose Mercury News* reported on February 24, 1986:

"Two month before the fire, Mayor C.W. Breyfogle had ordered the elimination of Chinatown's ramshackle tenements and shacks, which harbored gambling, prostitution, lotteries and opium traffic."

The Chinese merchants made immediate plans to rebuild in the face of strong anti-Chinese sentiments. A German immigrant, John Heinlen, signed an agreement with the merchants to build a new community on his property. He immigrated to the United States in 1817 from Wurtemberg, Germany, became a rich landowner and rancher. Heinlen and his family were threatened and ridiculed.

Heinlen and his friend, Theodore Lenzen who was a famous architect and a fellow immigrant from Germany, designed and built a town in accordance with the wishes of the Chinese. The new Chinatown became known as Heinlenville. Because of constant threats Heinlen built a high wooden fence with gates around the town to protect his property and the residents.

Lenzen designed and built thirty brick structures of one and two stories high, beginning in July 1887 and completed in March 1888. The project cost \$30,000. The front of the one story buildings was used as businesses while the back was used as residences.

The Exclusion Act of 1882 prevented laborers' wives from entering the United States but merchants were exempt from this rule. Heinlenville started with some 300 people and grew to a vibrant community of about two thousand. Merchants with their families lived there with stores, restaurants and a temple serving the needs of the "bachelor society" as well. The single men worked on farms and factories nearby

and came into Heinlenville on weekends. There was a pharmacy operated by a herbalist, barbers and restaurants, grocery stores, dry good stores, a clothing shop and a meat market.

Heinlen charged reasonable rents and paid all the taxes. As the town thrived, the gates that were once locked every night could remain open. Eventually the original residents passed on and their descendants chose to leave and integrated into the larger community. In 1931 Heinlenville declared bankruptcy and became the property of San Jose. The city razed the entire area except the temple Ng Shing Gung. This last remnant of Heinlenville was dismantled in 1949. In 1991 a replica was build and dedicated to the community of the Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP).

In 1877 Woolen Mills Chinatown in San Jose was also built. Residents of this Chinatown were laborers who worked at the nearby Woolen Mills, Garden City Cannery, Angora Glove Factory and farms. To this day, there is no evidence of families who lived in Woolen Mills Chinatown.

A Sanborn Insurance map shows a community of buildings of which many were constructed in brick. Listed on the map are wood-frame houses, merchandise stores, a barbershop, two restaurants, a laundry, a warehouse, gaming and sleeping rooms, and roasting kettles. A Chinese theater was also noted.

By 1901 most of the residents of Woolen Mills Chinatown moved to Heinlenville and in 1902 it was destroyed by a fire believed of suspicious origin. Existing documents are sparse but suggest a community that protected its residents from outside threatened. Today Caltrans is sponsoring archaeological excavations at the former location of the Woolen Mills Chinatown. CHCP is working in conjunction with Caltrans on a forum for interpreting the historic past.

References:

CHCP website, <http://www.chcp.org/>
Billie Lee, Before J-Town: The Forgotten History of the Chinese in San Jose's Heinlenville. *The Nichi Bei Times Weekly* January 1, 2007
Chang-yu Lee, Ng Shing Gung—Symbol Against Racial Discrimination.



Chinese Grave Markers at the Los Angeles County Crematorium

By Ann Lau

In 2006 Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority led CHSSC to the Los Angeles County Crematorium where grave markers with Chinese characters were being used as retaining wall and decorative lawn lines. Since then Applied EarthWorks has been contracted to clean them and properly relocate them. I was asked to volunteer to translate the Chinese characters on the grave markers. I accepted the challenge and found that I needed to have Mr. Peter Ho to help me ascertain the characters as they are often blurred and sometimes only partial characters are shown on the photographs. Mr. Ho and I pored over the photos for many hours and often had to come to a consensus as to what the characters really are. After we finished our initial translation, we decided that we needed to travel to Applied EarthWorks in Hemet where the grave markers are stored to take a look at the actual pieces. To help us read the characters, Mr. Ho suggested pouring some powder over it. We found some detergents but the particles were still too large. We found some corn starch and it worked perfectly; the characters became much easier to discern.

The oldest date on the grave markers goes back to the 24th year of the Emperor Kuang-Hsu (1898). The latest date is the ninth year of the Republic (1920). The county of 寧邑 (Ning Yup) has the most markers with their county name. One must recognize that there is a Ning Yup in another province besides Kwongtung. Ning Yup was rename 台山 (Toishan) in 1914. The other three counties 會邑 (Wui Yup), 開邑 (Hoi Yup), and 恩邑 (Yin Yup) which together with Toishan make up the four counties 四邑 (Sze Yup) in the Kwongtung Province are also well represented on the markers.

Because Chinese names do not necessarily identify gender, it is impossible to ascertain whether a grave marker belonged to a man or a woman. There is a name with the character of female 女; it is probably a woman's grave marker. There are two married women's grave markers as the markers followed the

tradition of giving only the married women's maiden name and her husband's last name. An example is "From the Fung family by the name of Lee" depicts a woman with a maiden name of Lee married to the family of Fung.

In determining the dates of the markers, one has to be careful in verifying with the lunar calendar of that year. For the dynastic years of reign, it is based on the lunar calendar and it completes an entire year. The era of Emperor Kuang-Hsu is from Feb. 6, 1875 to Jan. 21, 1909 even though he ascended the throne on Feb 25 and died in Nov, 1908. Thus the 24th year of the reign of Kuang-Hsu would span parts of 1898 and 1899. Ms. Peggy Beedle of Applied EarthWorks gave a presentation at CHSSC's January program meeting on work in progress in the cleaning and the eventual disposition of the Chinese grave markers.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BONE MARROW DRIVES by ASIANS FOR MIRACLE MARROW MATCHES

Various locations throughout L.A. area

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

Thursdays, 3:00-7:00 p.m.

CHINATOWN FARMERS MARKET

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

Information: (213) 680-0243; www.chinatownla.com

Through August 2007

Daily Rituals: Himalayan Art in Practice

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

\$7 general, \$5 senior/student, Free to museum members

Information: 626-449-2742,

www.pacificasiamuseum.org

Through August 2007

Treasures from Shanghai: 5000 of Art and Culture Bowers Museum

2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Tuesday - Sunday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

www.bowers.org, (714) 567-3600

(cont'd on page 8)

(*"Calendar" from page 7*)

February 24, 2007

Chinese New Year Festival

Huntington Library

San Marino, California

11:00am—3:30pm

Lion dance, other dance performances, arts and crafts
for children, preview of Chinese Garden.

General admission—\$15, free to members

February 24/25, 2007

Chinese New Year Festival

Los Angeles Chinatown

10:00am - 10:00pm, 2/24

10:00am—7:00 pm, 2/25

2:00pm - 5:00pm, 108th Annual Golden Dragon

Parade on 2/24 only

February 25, 2007

Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library

Meet and Greet Chinese American author Laurence

Yep. Optional \$30 dinner at Ocean Seafood

Restaurant, 747 N. Broadway, to follow, 213-620-
9917.

March 3, 2007

Chinese American Museum

Lantern Festival

Olvera Street (Main Street between Arcadia Street
and Cesar Chavez Avenue)

Free, 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

March 9, 2007 @ 6:30 pm

Chinese New Year Banquet

Empress Pavilion, Chinatown

\$50 per seat or \$450 per table of 10 persons

\$100 VIP ticket per person

Reservations: (213) 617-0396. Send checks payable
to: Chinese Chamber of Commerce

977 N. Broadway, #E, Los Angeles, CA 90012

March 16, 2007

**Chinese Chamber of Commerce Golf
Tournament**

California Country Club

1509 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA

11:30am lunch, 1:00pm tee-off, 6:45pm dinner

213-617-0396



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

415 Bernard St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

