



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;

Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-0856

MAY 2007

May Program

Wednesday, 2 May 2007 @ 7:00 p.m.

A video screening of "A Chinatown Banquet"

Mike Blockstein is the creator, lead artist and educator of *A Chinatown Banquet*, a community-based public art and education project about the forces which shaped and continue to influence Boston Chinatown. This project explores the intersections of artistic process and civic engagement. Mike's interdisciplinary projects utilize a "sense of place" as a mechanism to address social, cultural and built environments. Below is a quote from Mike:

"I have been working on this project in various stages for 6 years in partnership with the Asian Community Development Corporation. The project has involved work with high school students who worked in a curriculum that blended art, design, and new media with urbanism, history and leadership development."

Mike has a Masters of Public Administration from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He is currently leading a Los Angeles organization that brings together artists, urban planners, architects and oral historians to work with youth and young adults in projects that explore neighborhood history, character and context.

AROUND CHSSC

Call for Nominations for CHSSC Board

The Nominations Committee requests nominations from the CHSSC membership for the Board of Directors. A nominee must be a current member of the CHSSC. Officers may serve a 1-year term for two consecutive years. Directorship is from July 1 to June 30. The following positions are open:

President

Vice President

Vice President for Programs

Treasurer

Secretary

Financial Secretary

Membership Secretary

and

Member-at-Large (2-year terms, 5 positions open)

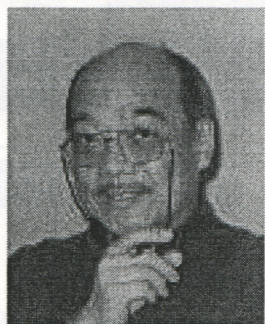
Please send your nominations by May 2, 2007, to Will Gow at wgow@ucla.edu, or call CHSSC at 323.222.0856, or fax to 323.221.4162. Nominations may also be made at the May 2nd general meeting. The nominations slate will be published in the June 2007 News 'n Notes, and the election will take place at the June monthly meeting.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

MAY 2007

Message from the President of CHSSC



J..W. Wong, President

If you haven't toured Chinatown recently, you probably wouldn't recognize it. The changes in the last twenty years has been truly amazing let alone in the past one hundred years. It certainly isn't your father's Chinatown; it most definitely is not your grandfather's Chinatown. Chinatown was a haven for Chinese immigrants escaping the discrimination of the larger society and a place to find a warm, friendly face in a strange land.

Time has seen changes in the purpose of having a Chinatown. It is still a familiar face in a strange land, but it also has become a real estate heaven, a developer's opportunity, and money in the bank. What began as an immigrant's first stop in America has become an investment paradise. What was once a neighborhood of low cost rentals, restaurants, and curio shops has become the home of restaurants converted to Jazz Clubs, fashionable café eateries, and a growing gallery of respectable art adventures.

Chinatown has become a "Concept". Though it still serves it's original raison d'être, it has now become an institution, a destination, a sort of living history. Its story has seen many chapters since the arrival of the first immigrants and for recent immigrants the story is still being written. I would predict that Chinatown will look very much different within the next thirty years and change in ways we never thought possible. It is not a question of whether change is good or bad, the question should be how will we adapt to it.

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.



Spring 2007 Gala



Here is a partial list of those who have accepted CHSSC's invitation to be honored at the Spring 2007 Gala:

- **Dunson Cheng, Wilbur Woo, and George Ching**, CEO, Vice Chairman Emeritus, and a founder of Cathay Bank respectively.
- **Jack Lee**, co-founder of First Public Savings Bank, the first savings charter given by California to a Chinese American institution. In 1996 it merged with Cathay Bank.
- **Peter Wu**, founder of General Bank that is now a division of Cathay Bank since 2003.
- **Kelly Chan**, an officer of Cathay Bank.
- **Kellog Chan and Betty Tom Chu**, two of the eight original organizers and founders of East West Bank.
- **Jack Jue and Dan Louie**, two of three co-founders of Standard Bank that was acquired by East West Bank in 2006.
- **The late Henry Hwang**, a founder of Far Eastern National Bank.
- **Robert and Elaine Chan**, co-founders of Eastern International Bank.

Please join us in celebrating Chinese American banking pioneers. Your prompt reservation and payment are most appreciated! Please use the RSVP form on the right.

Reservation Form

Please reserve ___ tables of 10 at the following level:

___ Diamond \$5,000 ___ Jade \$3,000
___ Gold \$2,000 ___ Silver \$1,000

Please reserve ___ seat(s) @ \$100 per seat

Total Amount _____

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Tel. number or email (in case we need to contact you): _____

Credit Card No. _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to CHSSC, 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, or fax credit card information to 323.221.4162.

I (we) want to be seated with:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Nineteenth Century Los Angeles Chinese Pioneers Honored at Ch'ing Ming Ceremony

By Randy Bloch

CHSSC's commemoration of the springtime rite Ch'ing Ming or "pure brightness" (Chinese Memorial Day) was the most historically accurate and colorful event to date at the restored 1888 Chinese Memorial Shrine. About 80 people, including elected officials, attended the event in Evergreen Cemetery on the afternoon of March 31, 2007. This year marks the 10-year anniversary of restoration of the Shrine which the Society saved from demolition and continues to own and maintain.



March 31, 2007 - Ching Ming Ceremony

Irvin Lai paying respect to the Chinese American pioneers who are buried at the Evergreen Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Kevin Shen.



March 31, 2007 - Ching Ming Ceremony

Master E Man and his assistant. Photo courtesy of Kevin Shen.

It was the fifth time the Society has observed Ch'ing Ming Festival there and the first such event presided over by a legitimate Taoist master and two associates (ritual masters), all clad in the vibrant and beautiful raiment of the tradition. The Taoist priests placed ceremonial wine, gold chrysanthemums, and incense before the common memorial stone (stele), and chanted for an extended period. Master E Man's and his assistants' participation greatly enhanced the program.

Irvin Lai, community elder, activist, leader and two-time former CHSSC President presided over the event. Beginning about 1992, Mr. Lai co-lead the preservation and restoration of the historic Evergreen Cemetery Chinese shrine, including negotiating its purchase, overseeing the creation of a boundary fence and retaining wall, and orchestrating the Shrine's restoration.

Board of Equalization member Judy Chu, a longtime supporter of CHSSC's community efforts, presented a commendation. Assemblyman Mike Eng representing San Gabriel Valley area and Councilman Ed Reyes representing Chinatown both praised the Society's longtime efforts in the community and presented a certificate of appreciation.

Shrine Committee Chair Randy Bloch detailed the history of the nineteenth-century Chinese cemetery and the Chinese Memorial Shrine. Information on CHSSC's campaign to preserve the 1888 Shrine may be found at: <http://www.chssc.org/history/shrinefull.html>. Ann Lau, a founding CHSSC member and former Vice-President—delivered a poem by Tang Dynasty poet, Du Mu, titled "Ch'ing Ming." In keeping with tradition a feast of roast pork and dim sum was served to feed those paying respects and those departed.



CHSSC has sharply criticized the MTA for delays in notifying the Chinese community of these finds, and has presented the agency with a formal list of demands. (Please see: <http://www.chssc.org/currentevents.shtml>.)

After almost two years of public meetings, MTA has agreed to carry out a dignified re-interment of the remains and artifacts, erect fitting memorials, and to hold a formal ceremony attended by public officials that will commemorate the re-interments and acknowledge what took place. The reburial ceremony is scheduled for August 11, 2007 in Evergreen Cemetery at a yet to be determined location. Many in the Society believe the rightful spot should be adjacent to the Chinese Memorial Shrine.

Mr. Lai emphasized that the Chinese pioneers who built the railroad and worked in agriculture contributed significantly to the development of California. They deserve dignity in burial.

Correction—the correction in the April 2007 issue of News 'n Notes was not called for as the original statement as published in March 2007 is correct. It rightly stated that there were Chinese known to be buried at the Evergreen Cemetery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHSSC and Organization of Chinese Americans Greater Los Angeles Chapter

Cordially, invite you to join us in celebrating
Laura Tyson Li's insightful and penetrating new book

Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, China's Eternal First Lady

Saturday, April 28, 2007

2:00 – 5:00 PM

at

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Paid parking available across the street from CHSSC

Books will be available for purchase
Refreshments will be served

RSVP AT (213) 250-9888 or
Karen.oca.gla@gmail.com

Reviews

"Laura Tyson Li's incisive new biography... rises to the tall task of capturing this pivotal figure in all her splendor and humiliation, against a backdrop of war, revolution and unending political turmoil.... Li delivers a thoughtful portrait of a complex woman and resists the considerable temptation to crucify her."

—*Los Angeles Times*

"...fascinating and truly magnificent...a nuanced, balanced, and amazingly detailed look at one of the most admired yet polarizing women of the 20th century."

—Lisa See, author of *On Gold Mountain*

About the book

MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK, *China's Eternal First Lady* tells the story of an extraordinary woman who symbolizes America's long, vexed love affair with China, as well as China's own struggle to define itself as a world power. Brilliant, charismatic, and glamorous, she was both celebrated as "the world's greatest living woman" and condemned as a scheming and manipulative "Dragon Lady."

About the Author

Laura Tyson Li spent a decade living in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, during which she was variously a student, business reporter for the *South China Morning Post*, and Taiwan correspondent for the *Financial Times* (1994-98). She has also written articles for *The Economist* and many other publications. Ms. Tyson Li grew up in Cornwall, Connecticut and graduated from Dartmouth College, where she majored in East Asian Studies. She now lives in New York City with her husband and two daughters. *Madame Chiang Kai-shek: China's Eternal First Lady* is her first book.



The Asian Pacific American Legal Center

Launches Inaugural Asian Pacific American Book Festival

Saturday, May 12, 2007
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free Admission

Japanese American National Museum
369 East First Street (corner of 1st and Central in
Downtown LA/Little Tokyo)

- * Book vendors selling one-of-a-kind materials
- * More than 30 authors discussing their works
- * Poetry readings and spoken word performances
- * Children's book presentations
- * Writing workshops for beginners and teens
- * Book signings-the perfect Mother's Day gift!
- * Panels, readings, performances, and workshops—
(all free)

For more information and to pre-register for the
writing workshops:
e-mail: apabookfest@apalc.org
or call 213-241-0254.

Upcoming CHSSC Programs

Date and time of June Program to be announced
on our website, www.chssc.org and, in the next issue
of the newsletter. There will be a business meeting
and an election of new Board Officers and Directors-
at-Large. There will also be a presentation on *Driven
Out: The Forgotten War Against the Chinese
Americans*, a book authored by Jean Pfaelzer. There
will not be monthly programs in July and August.

Books on Chinese Americans

*CHINESE HEART OF TEXAS; The San Antonio
Community 1875-1975* by Mel Brown received a
2007 Citation of Publishing Excellence from the San
Antonio Conservation Society on March 27, 2007.
The book is the story of why and how the Chinese
came to Texas a few years after the American Civil
War. The author talked about what enabled the
Chinese immigrants to stay in San Antonio at a time
when they were being driven out of many other places
in the United States. This book was published in 2005,
including over 80 photos in eight chapters which
chronologically explore the facts, fictions, myths,
legends, personalities and places that make up the first
century of the Chinese experience in Texas. The
author is a fifth generation Texan but claims to be also
Chinese American by way of more than 30 years of
marriage.

*The Opium Debate and Chinese Exclusion Laws in
the Nineteenth-Century American West* by Diana L.
Ahmad was published in March 2007 by the
University of Nevada Press. The author gives an
analysis of the evolution of the Chinese Exclusion Act
of 1882, plus important insights into the social history
of the nineteenth-century West, and racism in
American politics. Ahmad examines how the spread
of opium-smoking fueled racism and created demands
for the removal of the Chinese from American life.
For more information please visit University of
Nevada Press website,
<http://www.unpress.nevada.edu/books.asp?ID=2455>

*A Thousand Miles of Dreams: The Journeys of Two
Chinese Sisters* is an intimate biography by Sasha Su-
Ling Welland. Welland is the granddaughter and
grandniece of the two sisters. One of them arrived in
Cleveland in 1925 and studied medicine. The other
sister became a famous writer of short fiction in
Beijing. This is the story of two trailblazing women
who took different paths in their quest for independent
lives.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Bone Marrow Drives

Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches
Various locations throughout Los Angeles area
Information: (888) 236-4673
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, (714) 567-3600

Through August 2007

Exhibition: Daily Rituals: Himalayan Art in Practice

Pacific Asia Museum
46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA

May 8, 2007, Tues., 7:30 p.m.

Lecture: Rocks in Chinese Culture

by Robert D. Mowry, Curator of Asian Art, Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University Art Museums.
The lecture explores the use of rocks in Chinese gardens, where they serve as building materials, as sculpture, and as symbolic representations of mountains.
Huntington Library
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108
Free admission

May 10, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Lecture: Chinese Porcelain: The Ming Revolution

by Robert D. Mowry, Curator of Asian Art, Arthur M. Sackler Museum, Harvard University Art Museums
Pacific Asia Museum
46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA
Call 626-449-2742 x 31 for reservation

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 and click on Members Coming Events button.

Information: Alan Lamson

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.

Acknowledgements

- **Winnie Lew, Ruth Lung, Johnny and Esther Yee** provided refreshment at the March monthly program meeting.
- **Sum-Sum Chan** designed the Spring 2007 Gala flyer.
- CHSSC thanks the volunteers who made the Ch'ing Ming Festival of 2007 a success. We thank **Winifred Lew** for single-handedly managing the refreshments; **Phil Hom** for assisting with logistics; CHSSC Administrator **Yvonne Chang** for promoting the activities; **Linda Chong** for writing the press release and contacting the media; **Kwok Jang, So Ling** and **Eileen Chong** for procuring the dim sum and roast pig; **Irvin Lai, Gilbert Hom** and **Randy Bloch** for organizing the activity; Evergreen Cemetery Director **Glenn Wong** and his staff for their assistance; **Henry Leong** for providing and setting up the sound equipment; and all others who gave their efforts and time.

CHSSC Gala to Honor

Chinese American

Banking Pioneers

Saturday, May 12, 2007

Reservation form on page 3

East West Bank
Cathay Bank
Far East National Bank
Eastern International
Golden Security Bank
Trust Bank
General Bank
First Public Savings Bank
The Continental Bank

Call for Nominations

For CHSSC Board

2007—2008

See page 1

President
Vice President
Vice President for Programs
Treasurer
Secretary
Financial Secretary
Membership Secretary
Members-at-Large (5 positions)



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

415 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

