



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;

August 2008

August Program

Screening of Chinatown Remembered

By Will Gow

Please join the CHSSC on Saturday, August 9th @ 5:30 p.m. in Little Tokyo for an evening of short video documentaries produced as part of the society's newly established Chinatown Remembered Project. Created by local college age youth, these documentaries are part of an on-going effort to document the history of Los Angeles Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s.



The older generation of Chinatown residents shared their life histories and memories with our youth volunteers who edited the stories down into short video life histories. This special launch event will preview videos that will be part of our up-coming Chinatown Remembered website. The program will include discussion with project participants.



CALIFORNIA
STORIES

The California Council for the Humanities

This project is made possible, in part, by a grant from the California Council for the Humanities as part of the Council's statewide California Stories Initiative.

The event is free and open to the public, RSVP with the CHSSC at chssc@earthlink.net or call 323.222.0856

Chinatown Remembered
David Henry Hwang Theater
At the Union Center for the Arts
120 North Judge John Aiso Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Saturday August 9, 2008 @ 5:30 pm

Around CHSSC

The CHSSC Reference Library

The CHSSC library has several new additions thanks to the generosity of donors. The library is open to the public, books and articles can be checked out during our office hours, Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday 12:00 noon to 4:30 p.m. (323-222-0856). The new additions are:

- *California's Chinese Heritage: A Legacy of Places* by Thomas A. McDonnold. Donated by Camille Wing of Hanford, California.
- *The Accidental Asian: Notes of a Native Speaker* by Eric Liu. Donated by Susie Ling of San Gabriel, California.
- *The Temple of Kwan Tai—Celebrating Community and Diversity, Mendocino, CA.* Written and donated by Jonathan H.X. Lee of Ventura, California
- *Auburn's Joss House: Preserving the Past for the Future.* Written and donated by Jonathan H.X. Lee.
- *Hanford's Taoist Temple and Museum (#12 China Alley): Preserving a Chinese American Treasure.* Written and donated by Jonathan H.X. Lee.



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(“Library,” continued from page 1)

The books in CHSSC’s library are broken down into four categories:

1. Chinese Americans
2. Asian Americans
3. Regional U.S. History
4. China/Chinese

In addition to books we also have a collection of articles. They are broken down into eight categories:

1. Chinese American History—Los Angeles
2. Chinese American History—California
3. Chinese American History—Other than California
4. Chinese Americans—Culture/Community
5. Los Angeles History
6. California History
7. Asian Americans
8. China/Chinese—History/Culture

—Yvonne Chang, CHSSC Staff

Family History Preservation Workshop and Presentation Series

On Aug 23rd, we will have a speaker from the Southern California Genealogy Society--how to properly fill out the family trees (follow protocol so others can correctly read the information), what software to use, what tables are useful for tracking your research, etc. It is likely that we will be able to do this at the Chinatown Branch of Los Angeles Public Library.

We will be separating the presentation programs from the workshops, so that in the workshops we can get into actually doing work on our individual projects. Interest groups may form as part of this. We will continue to get speakers with expertise from various areas of public history to lay a foundation for what we do in the workshops.

—Anna Gee

Correction

In the July 2008 News ‘n Notes, Betty Wong Oyama’s name should have been included in the article on 2008-2009 Board of Directors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Kenneth L. Chan, President
William Gow, Vice President
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Henry Leong
Betty Wong Oyama
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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.

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Photo: Courtesy of Flickr website/Bisayan Lady's Chinatown Collection

Los Angeles Chinatown Attained Preserve America Status

Preserve America is a White House initiative that encourages and supports community efforts to preserve and enjoy our priceless cultural and natural heritage. Neighborhoods in municipalities with a population of more than 200,000 can apply for Preserve America Neighborhood designation.

Spearheaded by Sharon M.Y. Lowe in March 2008, the Friends of the Chinese American Museum (FCAM) Board voted to be the applicant of Preserve America Neighborhood Designation. Assemblymember Ed Reyes introduced Chinatown's Resolution on May 2 and was heard in Council Chambers at City Hall on May 9. On May 29, Chinatown's application was transmitted and received at 10:21 a.m. EST in Washington, D.C.

On July 14, Sharon Lowe notified everyone by email that both Los Angeles Chinatown and Thai Town have been designated Preserve America Neighborhoods. On July 11, 2008 First Lady Laura Bush, honorary chair of Preserve America, sent a letter of designation to FCAM. Among the many benefits of Preserve America Community designation is eligibility to apply for Preserve America grants.

CHSSC wishes to thank the following elected officials for their support in the application effort:

- Councilmember Ed Reyes
- Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
- Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard

- Senator Jack Scott
- Senator Gilbert Cedillo
- Supervisor Gloria Molina
- Assemblymember Fabio Nunez
- Councilmember Jose Huizar

With the support of Alexander Kim of the California Governor's Office, Steve Mikesell, Deputy Director of State Historic Preservation came down from Sacramento to Los Angeles. He reviewed FCAM's application and gave his support as well. The following organizations provided letter of support:

- CHSSC
- FCAM
- Chinese American Citizens Alliance Los Angeles Lodge
- Los Angeles Chinatown Business Improvement District
- Los Angeles Chinese Chamber of Commerce
- Office of Historic Resources for the City of Los Angeles' Department of City Planning

From now on the Los Angeles Chinatown community can use the Preserve America logo on signs, flags, banners, and other promotional material, as long as it is not used for commercial purposes.

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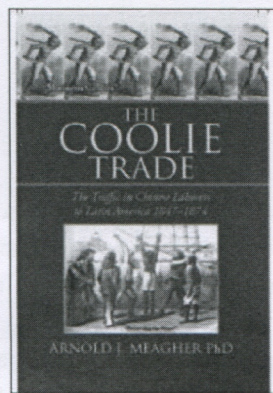
Notes on CHSSC Publications:

Portraits of Pride Book 1 are sold out, however, we still have the book in CDs. The CD costs \$10 plus \$2 shipping and handling. **Portraits of Pride Book 2** is rescheduled to be published toward the end of 2008.

Gum Saan Journal 1977 to 2002 are available for sale @ \$5 each plus \$1 shipping and handling. The entire set can be purchased for \$100 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

There is not a 2003 edition. **Gum Saan Journal 2004 to 2007** are available @ \$8 each plus \$2 shipping and handling.

Gum Saan Journal 2008 is to be published. Members who paid extra \$12 with their membership dues will receive them as soon as they are available. Others can purchase it at the same price (shipping and handling included).



The Coolie Trade: The Traffic in Chinese Laborers to Latin America, 1847-1874, by Arnold Meagher, Ph.D., is an in-depth study of the traffic in Chinese indentured laborers to Latin America in the mid-19th century. With the abolition of the African slave trade, the European entrepreneurs looked elsewhere for cheap laborers. The Chinese, along with other Asian Pacific Islanders were among their pool of indentured laborers.

Between 1847 and 1874, 20 western nations transported over 250,000 involuntary Chinese males to the Caribbean and South America. This migration

was initiated and sustained by deceit and coercion of emigration recruiters employed by western businessmen.

In Latin American, Chinese indenture laborers, much like the African slaves they replaced, were sold to the highest bidder, and kept in varying degrees of dehumanizing bondage. This mistreatment of the Chinese aroused China to promote diplomatic contact to look after the interests of its subjects in South America.

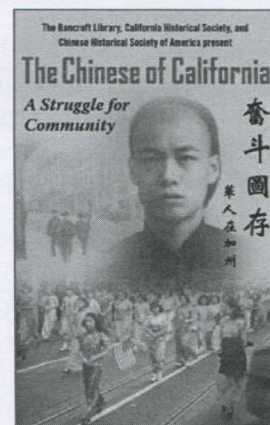


Photo courtesy of California Historical Society

The Chinese of California, 1850-1925 is part of the Library of Congress' American Memory project. It is on exhibit in San Francisco, presented by the Bancroft Library, California Historical Society and Chinese Historical Society of America. The exhibition tells the story of the Chinese American fight for civil rights and the formation of Chinese communities in California. The stories are told from within the experiences of the Chinese communities.

The Chinese of California, opened February 7, 2008 and will be on display through August 30, 2008, at the California Historical Society, 678 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA.

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("Chinese of California," from page 4)

There are two special events:

"Digging to Chinatown" Book Talk

Thursday, August 7, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Connie Young Yu will give a presentation of her book, *Chinatown, San Jose, USA*. Yu's grandparents owned and operated a store in historical Heinlenville Chinatown.

"The Chinese of California" Closing Reception

Thursday, August 21, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The closing reception will feature Charlie Chin's work-in-progress performance of "Uncle Toisan," supported by the California Council for the Humanities, San Francisco Arts Commission, and Zellerbach Family Foundation.

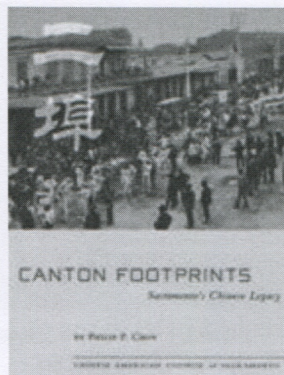
For more information please see chsa.org or californiahistoricalsociety.org.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks go to Dr. Albert Chang for organizing CHSSC's annual open house picnic. About 70 people drifted in and out throughout the afternoon and evening of Saturday, July 12, 2008. Many commented on the quality of the hamburgers. It was William Tong who recommended a new market. William and Albert did all the shopping.

Others also contributed to the success of the picnic, Phoenix Bakery provided dim sum and their signature strawberry cake and Margie Lew provided cookies. Gene Moy, Susan Sing, Gilbert Hom, Susan Dickson, Will Gow, Yvonne Chang and many other attendees also helped with set up and clean up.

Calvin Toy, whose family owns the parking lot next door generously allowed us to use their parking spaces for free.



Susie Ling alerted us to the publication of a new book, *Canton Footprints*, written by historian Philip P. Choy. It documents the unique and immensely important role of the Chinese community in shaping Sacramento. It is a project of eight years of research. Included are over 40 oral histories covering the

Gold Rush era to present day. There are 178 never before published historical photographs. The 160-page book is available in soft bound and hard cover. For more information about the book, contact Doug or Karun Yee at yee911@aol.com.

Announcements

Chinese Community Night at the Dodgers



The Dodgers, fresh off from their historic Spring Training trip to China, invites all Southern California Chinese Americans to for this once a year festivity at Dodger Stadium. There will be a special pre-game ceremony. Save as much as 50% off per ticket. For more information go to

<http://losangeles.dodgers.mlb.com/la/ticketing/supergroup.jsp?group=chinese>

Wednesday, August 20 @ 7:10 p.m.

Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Colorado Rockies



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Historic Chinatowns

Tucson's Early Chinese Immigrants

The residents of Tucson's "Old Chinatown" were primarily Chinese railroad and mine workers who chose to remain in the Southwest after losing their jobs due to racism. They tried to become established in the hope of bringing their families to the United States or return to China. Many of them lived in run-down buildings. Many Chinese families settled in neighborhoods alongside Anglo and Hispanic families.

Opportunities were limited but some succeeded in



Unidentified children. Photo courtesy of Arizona Historical Society, Buehman Collection.

vegetable farming. The Chinese vegetable farmers filled a need for fresh vegetables which was not met by Anglo or Mexican farmers. Others found jobs as cooks and servants, some eventually opened businesses such as laundries, restaurants and grocery stores.

By the late 1890s, the Chinese Mission School was operating. The Ying Ong Association, a non-family group was established to assist members of the Chinese community such as countering discriminatory business practices or settling disagreements between feuding family groups. In 1893, a petition was presented to the Tucson City Council proposing segregation of the Chinese. The measure was defeated leaving Chinese businesses to locate wherever they were needed.



Richieau Café, 1931, believed to be owned and operated by a Chinese family. Photo courtesy of Arizona Historical Society, Buehman Collection

By 1893, Chinese were required to carry a photo ID that certified their residences. In 1901, Arizona passed a law prohibiting Chinese from marrying Anglos. The law stated that "the marriage of a person of Caucasian blood with a Negro or Mongolian is null and void." There were many other Anti-Chinese activities but in spite of this treatment many Chinese remained in the Southwest and became citizens. By 1908, 37 Chinese businesses were operating in Tucson.

In 1911, many buildings in "Old Chinatown" were demolished to make way for City Hall, a Women's Club, and new expensive homes. The Ying Ong Association grew large enough to own an entire block of buildings. This area became a second "Chinatown." The Association had its headquarter in a large building where they rented rooms to single Chinese men and provided a place for meetings and socializing. The building became a focal point for the Chinese community for nearly 31 years. The entire block that was owned by Ying Ong was demolished in the 1960s as part of Tucson urban renewal.

Reference: <http://parentseyes.arizona.edu/promise/>

—Yvonne Chang, CHSSC Staff

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CHSSC Gift Donation Form

_____ I would like to donate \$ _____ to CHSSC's general operating fund

_____ I would like to donate \$ _____ to _____

Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

VISA or MC # _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Please return this form to: CHSSC, 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Or if pay by credit card, **fax to 323-221-4162.**

Community Calendar

Through November 2, 2008

Saturdays and Sundays 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Historic Chinatown in Neon Postcards: An Installation

445 Gin Lin Way, Los Angeles Historic Chinatown

Admission: \$2.00

Contact DSR @ 213-628-7335

Through October 12, 2008

Exhibition - Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor

Bowers Museum

2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

General admission

\$27 / \$25—weekends/weekdays

Seniors (age 62 or older) and students

\$21 / \$19—weekends/weekdays

Thursday, September 11, 2008, 8:00 p.m.

Documentary movie, **Hollywood Chinese**, with introduction by director Arthur Dong

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91101

Free with museum admission

Refreshments will be served

RSVP, 626-449-2742 x 31

Thursday, September 25, 2008, 8:00 p.m.

Chinese silent movie made in 1929, **Red Heroine**, with live accompaniment by Devil Music Ensemble

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91101

Free with museum admission

Refreshments will be served

RSVP, 626-449-2742 x 31

**Chinese Community
Night**

At

Dodgers Stadium

**Wednesday
August 20, 2008**

LA Dodgers

VS

Colorado Rockies

See page 5 for details



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**
415 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

