



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;

June 2008

June Program

Wednesday, June 4, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Castelar Elementary School Multipurpose Room,
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown.
Open to the public: free admission and parking.
Enter: College Street between Yale & Hill Streets

A Glimpse of Eden:

Sketches and Memories of a Chinese American Boyhood

by Duncan Chin

Duncan Chin, currently a resident of Ontario in California, will present a very personal look at his early surroundings in Watsonville Chinatown. He will show in words and hand drawn illustrations some intimate views of daily life in a multi-cultural, working-class community during the Great Depression. Starting from the 1880's, the community was built around services and housing for agricultural and food processing plant workers. We'll meet some of the people, such as "Doc" Wing, the gambler, Tony, the Filipino barber, and Ruby Chan, the exotic dancer. We will also see scenes of everyday life, at the Chinese School, working on the conveyor line, and Grandma working in the garden.

The story we will hear has been captured in a book, *Growing up on Grove Street, 1931-1946*, published by Capitola Book Company, with a forward by Professor Sandy Lydon. We will have a chance to purchase signed copies by the author after the talk.

Note: There will not be general meetings in July and August of 2008. However, there will be activities at the CHSSC Heritage Center in the summer.

Around CHSSC

- Exhibition of Chinatown Remembered will open Sunday, June 29, 2008 @ 1:00 p.m. at CHSSC Heritage and Visitors Center, 411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, California. The exhibition is the culmination of an oral history project by UCLA student interns under the guidance of community historian and CHSSC Board Director Will Gow. Admission is free. Street parking available.
- A film on Chinatown Remembered will debut on August 9th at the East/West Players Theater in Little Tokyo. Stay tuned for more details.
- Preserving Family History Workshop Series—Free admission, RSVP 323-222-0856.
 - Saturday, June 21 @ 1:30, 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles Chinatown. Free demo of Photoshop, bring your photos for individual consultation.
 - Saturday, July 26 @ 2:00, location to be announced. Paul Wormser, Director of the National Archives at Laguna Niguel will speak about materials of general genealogical interest as well as holdings which relate specifically to people of Chinese ancestry.

Save the Date CHSSC Summer Open House

Barbecue Picnic

Saturday, July 12, 2008
4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

June 2008

Slate of Nominations for CHSSC Board of Directors 2008-2009

President: Ken Chan
Vice President: Will Gow
Vice President for Programs: Eugene Moy
Treasurer: Open
Financial Secretary: Open
Secretary: Albert Chang
Membership Chair: Mei Ong

Members at Large:

Gordon Hom
Jenny Cho
Henry Leong
Diane Poon
Open (3)

Returning to the Board

Irvin Lai
Susan Dickson
Pete Chinn

Chinese American Stories: My Mother

By Linda Chong

Tributes, musings and satire filled Pasadena's Pacific Asia Museum on Mother's Day as a group of 14 writers and performers shared their personal tales in the latest incarnation of a creative workshop that started in CHSSC's conference room.

The hour-long program was titled "Chinese American Stories: My Mother," with the working subtitle of "Stories For and About the Mothers of Chinese Americans." The program included an interpretive dance, a few slide presentations and comedy sketches, and a poetry and narrative reading honoring the men and women who were detained at Angel Island during their long journey to the United States. The latter piece, "The Women of Angel Island" by Anna Gee, was tied most closely to the Pacific Asia Museum's new "Chinaman's Chance" exhibit which features modern art renderings

("My Mother," continued on page 3)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kenneth L. Chan, President
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Eugene Moy, V.P. for Programs
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Susan Dickson
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Jeannie Liu
Donald Loo, Ph.D.
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.



June 2008

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of the lives and experiences of 19th-century Chinese laborers who contributed much to the development of America's economic infrastructure. The exhibit will be on display through July 27, 2008, was the driving force behind the museum's initial invitation to the group to perform.

"Chinese American Stories: My Mother" was directed by actress-producer Andrea Apuy, with directorial and logistical assistance from playwright Judy Soo Hoo and Anna Gee. The Mother's Day program was conceived after Pacific Asia Museum leaders learned of the culmination of last fall's workshop titled: "Chinese American Stories." Led by playwright Henry Ong, those eight sessions of collaboration and brainstorming were made possible in part by a grant from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and co-sponsored by CHSSC. The fruit of that labor was a performance on January 9, 2008, at Castelar School during the Society's monthly general meeting.

Although not every member of the cast of January's program was involved in the Mother's Day performance, the playbill did contain some similar materials. Ong participated in the My Mother program, but this time, as an emcee, a consultant and a reader. He was the male voices in "The Women of Angel Island" and voiceover on the finale poem, "My Mother Is..." by Elizabeth Sung. He also loaned his creative pen for the spoof "Dim Sum and Then Some," which featured Andrea Apuy and Joyce F. Liu as a pair of meddling, superstitious mothers and Howard Ho and Denesa Chan as their respective, bemused offspring.

The performance was seen by a receptive audience of about 100, the full capacity of the museum's auditorium.

Here is a roll call of the cast: Henry Ong, Judy Soo Hoo, Anna Gee, Marshall Wong, Linda Chong, Ann Lau, Jocelyn Wang, Denesa Chan, Joyce F. Liu, Ewan Chung, Andrea Apuy, Regina Cheng-Sheu, Elber Traister and Howard Ho.

UPDATE ON CHINESE GRAVE MARKERS

FOUND AT LOS ANGELES COUNTY CREMATORIUM

By Randy Bloch

On Saturday, April 26, 2008, a community meeting was held at Ann Street School near Chinatown to discuss the storage and access of historic burial records and 36 partial and whole Chinese burial markers. The markers were discovered being used as lawn liners along the driveway of the Los Angeles County Crematorium in 2005. This issue is separate from the 2005 burial disturbances by MTA, but the two are linked because they both involve burials in the historic Los Angeles indigent cemetery and the Chinese cemetery that was inside its borders. The CHSSC has taken on the role of protagonist in preserving the records and ensuring respectful treatment for the markers, and is dealing directly with the County Department of Health Services (DHS). The meeting was organized by DHS, and was attended by its officials, members of the Chinese community, local government officials and their representatives, and the community at large.

Representing CHSSC at the April 26th meeting were Vice-President Gilbert Hom; VP of Programs Eugene Moy; Board member, Susan Dickson; Randy Bloch, CHSSC staff; Andrea Marie Milly, a graduate student of anthropology at California State University at Los Angeles; and other members. Also present were community activist, Sharon Lowe; dispute resolution consultant, Stephen N. Thom, Boyle Heights Historical Society members; South Pasadena City Councilman Mike Ten; Senior Field Deputy Suzanne D. Manriquez from Supervisor Gloria Molina's office; and others.

Fred Leaf, Deputy Director of DHS led the meeting. No issues were in dispute, and the meeting's tone was conciliatory. The County seems sincere in respecting the wishes of the Chinese community in what had been a patently disrespectful display of the grave markers.

First to speak was Danny Amaya, an associate administrator with the LAC/USC Medical Center and the County. Mr. Amaya stated that data in the indigent

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Announcements

CONDOLENCES

Long time CHSSC supporter and past member of CHSSC Board of Directors Stanley Mu passed away April 29, 2008. He was born in Gwangtung, China and immigrated to Los Angeles at age 3. He attended Belmont High School and joined ROTC where he rose to the rank of Captain. He served in the Army in England during WWII. After an honorable discharge Stanley worked for Hughes Aircraft Company while studying for an engineering degree at UCLA.

His life story is featured in *Bridging the Centuries: History of Chinese Americans in Southern California*.

In 1992, Stanley served as the director of Conference on Chinese Americans, a 3-day symposium on the past, present and future of the Chinese American experience. A collection of 41 essays were presented and published in 1994 in a book, *Origins and Destinations*.

Stanley is survived by Mary, his wife of almost 60 years, daughters Pat, Kim, Geri, and son Ken, three grandsons, one granddaughter, and brothers Stanton and Stanford. The Mu family has requested that in lieu of flowers please make a donation to the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Foundation Scholarship in memory of Stanley. The Foundation's address is 415 Bamboo Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Get Well Soon

Past CHSSC President and current Director Irvin Lai is recovering nicely. Upon returning home after testifying in Sacramento on behalf of AB 2514, Irvin was rushed to a hospital. We missed him at the 33rd Annual Fundraising Dinner May 3, 2008. He is one of the generous table sponsors.

UPDATE ON ASSEMBLY BILL 2514

California Assembly Bill 2514 was prompted by Assemblymember Mike Eng's concern with the lack of a protocol in 2005 when human remains, mostly of Chinese origin, were discovered and there was a long delay before any Chinese American organization was contacted.

The bill was introduced February 21, 2008, cleared the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media April 8th. Shortly after, it passed through the Assembly Local Government Committee and the Assembly Fiscal Committee.

As *News 'n Notes* goes to press, the proposed legislation is scheduled for an Assembly Floor vote on May 27th or 28th. The measure is currently under attack from a coalition of the California Chamber of Commerce, the Coroners' Association and the California Building Industry Association.

For more information, please contact Annie Lam in Assemblymember Mike Eng's Sacramento office: 916-319-2049

Acknowledgements

- Randy Bloch, past CHSSC Board Director and Administrator, came back to Los Angeles from South Carolina, from March 27 to May 26 to help with the 33rd Annual Dinner, to fill in during staff's vacation and to work on other CHSSC activities. Randy's dedication is much appreciated.
- May 7 program meeting snacks were provided by Winnie Lew, Annie Chin Siu, Susie Ling, Johnny and Esther Yee, and Tom Eng. As usual, Winnie was at the snack table serving tea, coffee and other goodies.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

June 2008



33rd Annual Fundraising Dinner

May 3, 2008

Nurturing the Roots of Our Community: Celebrating Chinese American Associations

- Honorees were:
 - Arcadia Chinese Association
 - Chinese American Association of Walnut
 - Diamond Bar Chinese American Association
 - San Gabriel Valley Chinese American Cultural Association
 - San Fernando Valley Chinese Cultural Association
 - South Bay Chinese Woman's Association
 - South Coast Chinese Cultural Association
 - South Pasadena Chinese American Club
 - Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society



Presenting certificates and commendations are Dinner Committee Chair Dr. Albert Chang, left, and CHSSC President Kenneth Chan. Accepting them is President of Chinese American Association of Walnut, Henry Hwang. Photo by Miranda Hoh.



South Pasadena Chinese American Club members and guests. Photo by Miranda Hoh.

- The Dinner Committee was chaired by Dr. Albert Chang. Other members are Ken Chan, Jeannie Liu, Dr. Don Loo, Marian Chew, Randy Bloch, Yvonne Chang, Hua Tang, Elizabeth Pan, Jack Ong, Will Gow and Sum Sum Chan.
- Auction/Raffle and Decoration Committee members are Jeannie Liu, Marian Chew and Yvonne Chang
- CHSSC members who donated to the auction and the raffle include Ken Chan, Gene Moy, Kyra Woo, Bob Lee, Hayward Fong, Jeannie and Richard Liu, Albert and Yvonne Chang.

- CHSSC members who could not attend dinner but gave cash contributions are Galen Ho'o, Sharon Sekhon, Dorothy and Hayward Fong, Munson Kwok, Tyrus Wong, and Bill and Jean Jong.
- Northrop Grumman is a Platinum Table Sponsor (\$4,000).
- Other table sponsors (Silver Sponsor, \$1,250) are:
 - Portraits of Pride Committee tables (2), Pete Chinn, Wing and Joyce Mar, Debra and Wendel Wye, and Marian Chew
 - Ken Chan and Miranda Ho
 - Albert and Yvonne Chang
 - East West Bank
 - HSBC
 - Gilbert Hom and Linda Chong
 - Kong Chow Benevolent Association
 - Irvin Lai and Susan Dickson
 - Gene Moy and Susan Sing
 - Jeannie and Richard Liu
 - George Yin
 - Peking Noodles (Stephen Tong)
 - San Gabriel Chinese Cultural Association
 - South Pasadena Chinese American Club

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(*"Dinner," from page 5*)

- Thank you to HSBC, Cathy Bank, Northrop Grumman, Chinatown Service Center, Peking Noodles, Galpin Motors and GS Printing & Graphics for their advertisements in the program.
- Others who donated to the auction, the raffle or cash were Plum Tree Inn, Disney (4 tickets and parking pass), Los Angeles Dodgers, Los Angeles Philharmonic (2 Hollywood Bowl tickets), JR Bistro, David Kamansky, Lion's Den, Phoenix Bakery, Duc Hiep Company, Michelle Chew Chiu, and Pricilla Wegar.
- San Gabriel Chinese Cultural Association's Youth Group performed Lion Dance as in-kind donation.
- Linda Chong and Marshall Wong gave readings from Chinese American Story, a performance presented at CHSSC program meeting January 9, 2008, and Pacific Asia Museum May 11, 2008.
- Sum Sum Chan designed the program booklet this year as in past years.
- Each honoree received certificate of appreciation from CHSSC and commendation signed by all five Los Angeles County Supervisors, thanks to the effort of Supervisor Michael Antonovich's staff. Other commendations are from Councilmember Ed



The gala fundraising event ended with a duet, "I Enjoy Being Chinese," by emcees Elizabeth Pan (left) and Jack Ong (right). Photo by Heidi Li.

Reyes, Assemblymember Mike Eng, Senator Jack Scott, and Board of Equalization Vice Chair Judy Chu.

- Volunteers are Evelina Giang, Danny Luu, Jenny Cao, Tiffany Chen, Jasmin Martinez, Emily Ahn, Shirley Sui, Leanne Dogoldogol, Jackson Lam, Riley Quan, Kyle Nakayama. Kenny Nakayama, Royce Kang, Renee Varnas, Johnny Oyang, Colette Honda, Hua Tang, Heili Li, Susan Dickson and Susan Sing.
- Audio-visual by Gordon Hom.
- Fundraising event was attended by 274 persons.

How to Get Involved with CHSSC

There are various ways to support CHSSC, to be a member, to donate cash, or become a Chinatown tour docent. At this time there is another way to support CHSSC. That is to purchase Rotary Raffle tickets for a chance to win a classic Corvette convertible.

The Society has a limited number of *L.A. County Fair Rotary Raffle* tickets for purchase at \$20 each. CHSSC receives \$5 for each ticket sold. You can increase your chances by buying a book of ten! Grand prize is the classic Corvette convertible and there will be "second chance" drawings for other great prizes. The drawing will be on September 28, 2008; winner need not be present. available at our monthly meetings or by phoning the CHSSC office at 323-222-0856.

L.A. COUNTY FAIR - ROTARY RAFFLE
SEPTEMBER 5 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2008
DRAWING SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

L.A. County Fair - Rotary Raffle
Tickets \$20.00 each * Winners need not be present
* Proceeds benefit the Foundations @ Fairplex and Pomona Rotary
L.A. County Fair where the 10, 210 & 57 freeways meet in Pomona

GRAND PRIZE
Classic 1965
Corvette Convertible
2nd Chance Drawings
For Other Great Prizes!!!

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California



June 2008

CHSSC Gift Donation Form

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

____ I would like to donate \$ _____ to CHSSC's 33rd Annual Fundraising Dinner

____ 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.**

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cemetery's burial register books is being added to a database which, once complete, will be fully searchable.

Mr. Amaya added that the grave markers are being stored at a County-USC Medical Center library as an interim security step. He stated that future custody of the markers may be temporarily or permanently transferable, but that the County must have an appropriate agreement with any displayer or holder of the items.

Community activist and attorney Sharon Lowe commented that capacity and sustainability are key requirements for housing the grave markers. She reminded the assembled group that the County has clear responsibility for custody and protection of the markers.

Next to speak was John Shubin, Chief Architect for DHS. Mr. Shubin and his family are descendants of immigrants to Boyle Heights (circa 1900), and he has a particular interest in and connection to the neighborhood. Shubin discussed alternatives for an appropriate memorial and commemorative wall,

honoring the largely unknown persons connected to the discovered grave markers. His overall design proposal includes fabricating near-identical facsimiles of the original markers, and embedding them in both sides of a memorial wall. Shubin said two potential monument locations are the most feasible: a patch of lawn abutting the south edge of the Crematorium driveway and overlooking First Street, and the front lawn of the former caretaker cottage. He noted that juxtaposition and proximity of the grave marker monument to another nascent memorial nearby—the soon to be built wall acknowledging the MTA burial disturbances—is a crucial consideration. Mr. Shubin spoke about possible design features for the grave marker memorial, for example, traditional curved forms, a moongate, and landscaping possibilities like the use of Chinese Elm. *Feng Shui* considerations and positioning of the memorial were also discussed.

One week after the meeting, on May 3rd at 9:00 a.m., a follow up site visit was held at the Crematorium in Boyle Heights. Many of the prior meeting's

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attendees were present. Also attending was Taoist master, Master E. Man, and his assistant. The site visit was coordinated by architect John Shubin who brought a detailed mock-up of a version of the memorial. Three alternative sites for the planned memorial were looked at and evaluated. Two sites had been suggested and discussed at the April 26th meeting: the lawn of the former caretaker cottage; and, the grassy strip south of the crematorium driveway. A third site at the east end of the crematorium parking lot was considered. Initially, the group was split. In the end, all favored building the memorial on the lawn in front of the caretaker cottage as it is relatively tranquil, set back from the street, and has less noise. It was also felt to be large enough to accommodate an appropriate memorial.

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Community Calendar

June 7, 2008 @ 1:00 p.m.

Lecture: Chinese Pioneers in the San Gabriel Valley

By Susie Ling of Pasadena City College

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California

RSVP, 626-449-2742 ext. 31

Free with museum admission

June 29, 2008 @ 1:00 p.m.

Exhibition Opening

Chinatown Remembered Oral History Project

CHSSC, 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, California

July 11, 5:00 p.m. —9:00 p.m.

July 12 and 13, 12:00 p.m. to early evening

Lotus Festival

Echo Park Lake, Los Angeles

CHSSC will have a display booth on Sunday

Echo Park Lake is located on Park Avenue between Glendale Avenue and Echo Park Boulevard, just north of the Hollywood (101) and Pasadena (110) freeway junction, near Dodger Stadium.



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

415 Bernard St.

