



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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January 2009

December Program



We normally have our monthly program on the first Wednesday of the month. Due to the fact that Castelar School will not be open on the originally scheduled date, we have postponed the program to the second Wednesday of January.

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

Video Screening and Update

Los Angeles Chinatown Remembered Project

Castelar Elementary School

840 Yale Street

Los Angeles Chinatown

Enter from College Street between Yale and Hill

This video had been shown twice since the completion of the project. If you missed it here is another opportunity to view it and the project manager, Will Gow, will be there to answer questions. In addition to an exhibition of the project, we have launched a website, www.chinatownremembered.com.

On Friday, January 24, Jean Pfaelzer, Professor of English, E. Asian Studies, Women's Studies and American Studies at the University of Delaware will give a reading of *Driven Out: The Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans*. The presentation will

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Around CHSSC

Portraits of Pride Book II

A Pop Quiz -

Here are some of the amazing accomplishments of Chinese Americans from the research of Portraits of Pride - Book II, how many do you know?

1. Who sold his invention in 1956 to IBM for \$500,000? He also marketed the world's first Word Processor.
2. Who is the discoverer of the most prescribed medication for depression and what is the name of the drug?
3. His water-color paintings have been collected by over 60 museums around the world. Who was he?
4. He designed 14 postage stamps for the U.S. Postal service. One of them was a best seller in China? Who is he?
5. How many Nobel Prizes have Chinese Americans won?
6. Who designed the iconic Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall)?
6. Whose studies made artificial insemination possible? He is considered father of in vitro fertilization.
7. Who discovered the first effective treatment for anemia?
8. What is the name of a pioneer microsurgeon who re-attached the severed arm of a musician in New York?
9. Who is the UN peace ambassador with the cello?

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11. Who is the Hollywood cinematographer who won two Academy Awards and has done close to 100 motion pictures?
12. Who is the Chinese-American Madame Curie of Physics?
13. How many Chinese immigrants died building the Transpacific Railroad?
14. What is the name of the pioneer rocket scientist who is a co-founder of the Jet Propulsion Lab. (JPL)?
15. What did the Chinese immigrants do to contain the annual flooding of the Sacramento River?

Do you know the answers to the above? Do you want your children and grand children to know them and be proud of their Chinese-American heritage? The above stories and much more are contained in our new book PoP - II. Reserve a copy or more now.

Portrait of Pride - II - Chinese American Legacies - First 160 Years will be published early 2009. **We need your financial support to carry out our Free-to-Library book program. Your gift is 100% tax deductible.**

One donor gave CHSSC a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from her IRA fund taking advantage of two new laws, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 and the Pension Protection Act of 2006 as amended. Ordinarily, distributions from a traditional IRA will be taxable to the recipient, who may not be able to offset the income fully because of the percentage limitations on charitable contribution deductions. A QCD made directly by the trustee of the taxpayer's IRA to a charitable organization **would not be included in taxable income** if the following conditions are met:

1. The taxpayer must have been at least 70½ years old when the distribution was made.
2. Total QCDs for the year cannot be more than \$100,000.
3. If the IRA includes nondeductible contributions, the distribution is first considered to be paid out of otherwise taxable income.
4. The taxpayer cannot claim a charitable contribution deduction for any QCD not included in income.
5. A QCD counts as a distribution for required minimum distribution rules purposes.

The above is as explained to CHSSC staff by our financial advisor. Please consult your accountant regarding your situation. We welcome any type of donation, QCD or not. You may specify whether the gift is for CHSSC's general fund or any specific area such as the PoP project, education, outreach, etc. We accept QCD, stock transfer, VISA or MC, check or cash. Our contact information is in the heading of this newsletter on page 1.

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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.

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PORTRAITS OF PRIDE BOOK SERIES: AN IMPORTANT PROJECT FOR THE PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

By Marian Chew

After spending almost three years in researching, writing and editing the second book in a series, "Portraits of Pride-Book 2: Chinese-American Legacies—First 160 Years in America", L.P. Leung, Director of Portraits of Pride Book 2 (PoP 2), along with our PoP Team can breathe a sigh of relief as the book was turned over to our production layout editor.

During the past five years, Dr. Wing Mar and L.P. Leung, with the help of staff, worked tirelessly and persistently to raise over \$300,000 to fund our PoP Project. To date, over 7,000 complimentary copies of PoP-Book 1 have been distributed to selected school and public libraries across the United States.

What is the catalyst behind L.P. Leung's commitment to take on such an ambitious project? According to L.P., he and Dr. Wing Mar, Founder and Director of PoP 1, were compelled by Wen-Ho Lee's case to tell the stories of the positive contributions Chinese Americans have made to our country. The Chinese Americans not only "rose above great legislated obstacles to overcome racial prejudices, they succeeded in their professions."

One reason the books are distributed to school libraries is due to the fact Chinese American history is not being taught in schools. Another reason, in LP's words, is "We want our youth to feel the *pride* about our contributions as we do. And to understand that, given the opportunity, they can accomplish great things just like any American."

PoP 1 focused on 39 Chinese American individuals from the Great Depression and World War II era. PoP 2 expands the book scope to include *Unsung Heroes* such as M.C. Chang, co-inventor of the oral birth control pill; James Wong Howe, a two-time Oscar winning cinematographer; and Mrs. Lily Chin, an unlikely heroine who fought racial injustice on behalf of her son, Vincent Chin. The book will also feature a special *group portrait section*, highlighting the hard work of our

forgotten heroes such as Chinese Americans who built our railroads, reclaimed many acres of fertile farmlands, and were pioneers in the fishing industry. To top it off, *Superstars* such as Michelle Kwan, I.M. Pei and several of our Nobel Prize winners, including recently esignated Secretary of Energy, Steven Chu, will be spotlighted.

L.P. Leung thanks all of the participants in the PoP-Book 2 Project. "Putting 160 years of Chinese-American achievement in a 300-page book is indeed a very challenging task. I believe the final product will more than justify our effort."

In order to continue this very important historical project to educate the present and future generations of the struggles and accomplishments of the Chinese Americans who paved the way for us, we need necessary funds. Please contact me by email at popchssc@yahoo.com or by phone (323)222-1918 for information on how you can make a stock or monetary donation to us.

The author is PoP Project Manager and Distributor.

Steven Chu Nominated Secretary of Energy



Steven Chu, Ph.D.

Dr. Steven Chu, 1997 Nobel Laureate in physics has been nominated for Secretary of Energy by President-elect Obama. Dr. Chu was born in the United States to highly educated immigrants from China. Currently he is the Director of Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He is profiled in PoP Book 2.



Online Oral History of Chinese-Canadians of the 19th Century

The Chinese-Canadians and Chinese-Americans share not only a common ancestry but common experiences in their adopted countries. The first Chinese migrants to British Columbia was by way of San Francisco lured by discovery of gold on the Fraser River.

The Vancouver Public Library, in partnership with Library and Archives Canada developed a wiki-based project that creates a portrait of the early Chinese-Canadian community. (A **wiki** is a page or collection of webpages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content.) The project, **"Chinese-Canadians: Profiles from a Community,"** was officially launched May 28, 2008. The goal is to collect and share individual stories of those who were born in Canada to parents of Chinese origin before 1901.



Chinese men washing for gold, 1880s.

Near North Bend, B.C. Baily Brothers. VPL# 19977.

Photo courtesy of Vancouver Public Library.

Under Section 18 of Canada's 1923 *Chinese Immigration Act*, all Chinese including those born in Canada were required to register. As a result of this registration, a listing of Canadian-born Chinese was produced and forms the core of this Chinese Canadian history wiki. The lives of these early immigrants are very sketchy at this time. The

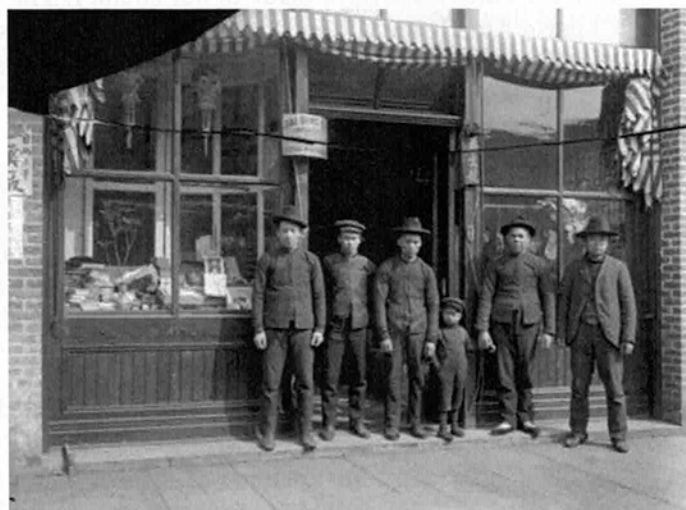


A group of Chinese men with the Reverend Hugh P. Hobson, first rector of Christ Church Cathedral, 1890s. VPL# 8587.

Photo courtesy of Vancouver Public Library.

profiles are designed to capture more details with the goal of completing their stories over time.

The wiki can be used as resources in searching for stories of these early Chinese-Canadians. Because of the historic trans-border migration of Chinese immigrants between the U.S. and Canada and the common origins of the Chinese population in both countries, the Vancouver Public Library staff notified CHSSC of this project.



Chinese men and a small boy in front of Tai Sing Co., Importers and Wholesale Dealers, General Merchandise, 19 W. Pender Street, Vancouver, B.C. Early 1900s.

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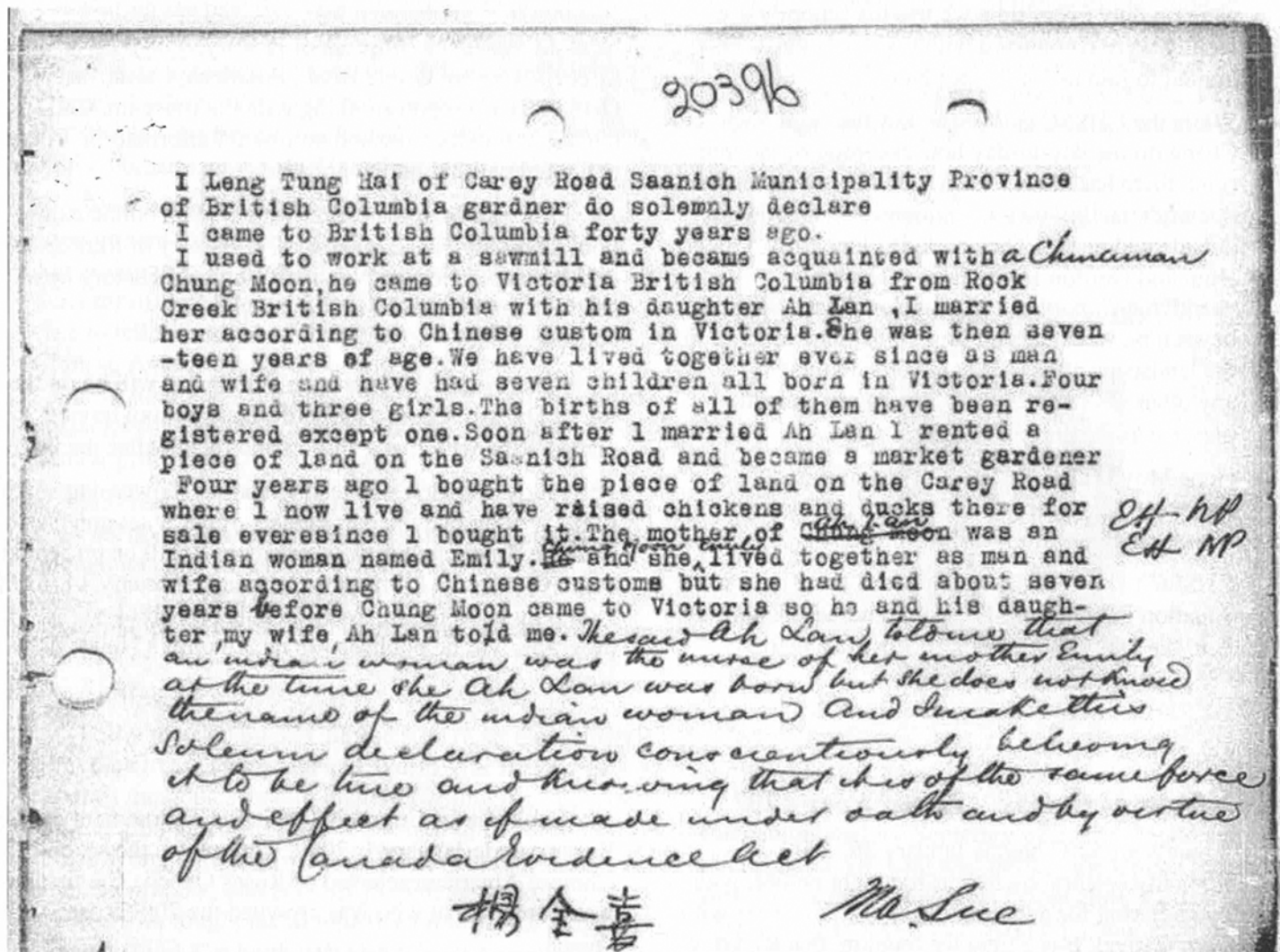


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There is a section on Chinese-American genealogy, at www.vpl.ca/ccg/American_Genealogy.html. Under this category are four sub-categories:

- Chinese-American History
- Documents and Records for Chinese-American Genealogy;
- Books for Chinese-American Genealogy and History
- Websites for Chinese-American Genealogy and History

If you have relatives who migrated to Canada from China or were born in Canada to Chinese parents and wish to participate, go to ccgwiki.vpl.ca to register. Below is an examples of a document in the wiki.





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Acknowledgements

- Annie Chin Siu, DDS, gave a most generous cash donation to the Portraits of Pride Project.
- A CHSSC holiday pot luck was attended by some 70 people December 3, 2008. Winnie Lew was in charge of the buffet table, brought more than her share of goodies and equipments, freshly brewed coffee and tea, and lemon bar. Santa's helpers were Sylvia Soo Hoo, Cindy Fong and Ben Fong (not related to Cindy). CHSSC provided 4 party trays of delicious entrees from Jade Wok Restaurant. Everyone else either made a contribution in food or cash. Two Castelar Elementary School staff who were on duty every time we use the school's facility were recognized with token cash gifts and invited to join us for the pot luck.
- While the CHSSC staff, Marian Chew and Yvonne Chang do the day-to-day housekeeping of the interiors, there has always been volunteers keeping the Society's facility well maintained and functional, outside and inside. They include Gene Moy, Gilbert Hom and Gordon Hom, three of the best "handymen" in all of Los Angeles. Susan Sing can be seen on weekends putting "finishing" touches to the landscape after paid gardeners do their work. If any other volunteer should also be recognized please call the office at 323-222-0856.
- Gene Moy is also the VP for Programs and the volunteer who keeps CHSSC open on Sunday afternoons year after year.
- CHSSC member Colonel Hayward Fong gave a donation in honor of his great grandniece Courtney Lee, the 2009 Tournament of Roses Queen.

Year of the Ox—Lunar Year 4707

Lunar year 4707 begins January 26, 2009. Traditionally celebration begins the night before, with family gathering for a feast and ends 15 days later with a lantern festival. It is a time for reunion, thanksgiving, forgiveness and renewal.

Reminders—Scholarships and student essay contest

Application for the CHSSC/David and Pearl Louie Foundation scholarship for 2009 can be downloaded from: www.chssc.org/Scholarship/2009application.pdf. Deadline is April 3, 2009.

Anyone in the 6th through 12th grade in any accredited school is eligible to enter a student essay contest sponsored by the Pacific Asia Museum. For details and to download a flyer go to www.pacificasiamuseum.org/calendar/pdf/Silk_Road_Essay_Contest.pdf. Deadline is March 31, 2009.

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be at the Pasadena Museum of History, 470 West Walnut Street @ Orange Grove Blvd., Pasadena, California. CHSSC is a co-sponsor along with the museum. Call 626.577.1660 for time and admission information. There is limited parking on the premise.

Professor Pfaelzer recently curated an online exhibition, *Chinese American Women: A History of Resilience and Resistance* for the National Women's History Museum. It can be viewed at www.nwhm.org/Chinese/1.html.

The monthly program on February 4 will be on the life of Dr. Lily Chou, a Julliard Music School trained pianist. She will give a short piano recital after the talk.

Judy Soo Hoo will lead a reading showcasing some of the writing that the participants of her 8-session Chinese American Stories workshop. It will be presented at the Chinatown Library on Saturday, February 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. More details on February programs will be published in next month's News 'n Notes.

Look out for Courtney Lee in the Tournament of Roses parade January 1, 2009. Courtney is the second Chinese American selected as Roses Queen. The first was Carolyn Hsu who was crowned the 2002 Rose Queen.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Community Calendar

Ongoing events

Masters of Adornment: The Miao People of China

Bowers Museum

2002 N. Main Street, Santa Ana, CA

This important collection of exquisite textiles and silver jewelry on loan to and from the Bowers Museum's permanent collection highlights the beauty and wealth of the Miao peoples of southwest China. More than an examination of masterful techniques and beautiful style these objects reveal hundreds of years of Miao history and tradition and, the patience and dedication to achieve beauty.

www.bowers.org

Open everyday except Mondays and major holidays.

Liu Fang Yuan

Inspired by the centuries-old Chinese tradition of private gardens designed for scholarly pursuits, Liu Fang Yuan, or the Garden of Flowing Fragrance, combines the scenic beauty of nature with the expressiveness of literature to give deeper meaning to the landscape. A walk through its paths enriches the mind and spirit alike.

Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

(626) 405-2100

www.huntington.org

Open everyday except Tuesdays and major holidays.

Saturdays, 8-9:30am

T'ai Chi Classes

Veteran instructor and CHSSC honoree actor Chao Li Chi will lead you through the steps of the 'yang' style in the peaceful surroundings of Pacific Asia Museum's courtyard garden. New participants are welcome. Classes are \$6 for Museum members and \$7 for non-members.

For more information, call 626-449-2742 ext. 31.

Saturdays, 10am-12noon

Chinese Brush Painting Classes

Respected instructor Guang Li Zhang offers students demonstrations, lessons and workshops.

The ongoing six week session is \$90 for museum members and \$99 for non-members.

For more information, please call ext. 31.

November 6 through December 21, 2008

East West Players

120 Judge John Aiso Street, Los Angeles, CA

213-625-7000

Play: **The Joy Luck Club**

Tickets - www.eastwestplayers.org

January 3, 2008 @ 11:00 a.m.

Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Los Angeles

Charity Fashion Show Luncheon

San Gabriel Hilton

Proceeds will benefiting CHSSC

Download flyer at www.chssc.org/fashshowres.doc

213-617-0396

Saturday, January 17, 2009 @ 8:00 p.m.

2009 Miss Chinatown Pageant

Westin Bonaventure Hotel

404 S. Figueroa Street

Los Angeles, CA 90071

January 31, 2009, 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

February 1, 2009, 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Chinese New Year Celebration

Golden Dragon Parade—January 31 @ 2:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Chinatown

January 31, 2009, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Chinese New Year Celebration

Live entertainment, games and cultural activities.

Host—The Tarzana Community Kids Club

Tarzana Community & Cultural Center

18102 Burbank Boulevard, Tarzana, CA

Anyone wishing to give financial support to the production of this event please call 818-481-3956.

January 31, 2008, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Chinese New Year Festival

Tarzana Community Kids Club

Tarzana Community & Cultural Center

818-705-1286

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Saturday and Sunday, February 7 and 8, 2009

**The 31st Annual Los Angeles Chinatown Firecracker
5/10K Run**

Celebrating the Year of the Ox

USA Track and Field sanctioned course.

www.firecracker10k.org

323-256-1363

Proceeds benefit Needs2Read Project and Los Angeles
Chinatown community organizations

Friday, February 27, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.

Chinese Chamber of Commerce New Year Banquet

Empress Pavilion

988 N. Hill Street

Los Angeles Chinatown

213-617-0396

CHSSC Board of Directors and Staff

Wish You All

Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

415 Bernard St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

