

NEWS'N NOTES



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

411 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 323-222-0856 Email: chssc@hotmail.com
Website: www.chssc.org

FEBRUARY 2012

Long Way Home *Journeys of a Chinese Montanan*

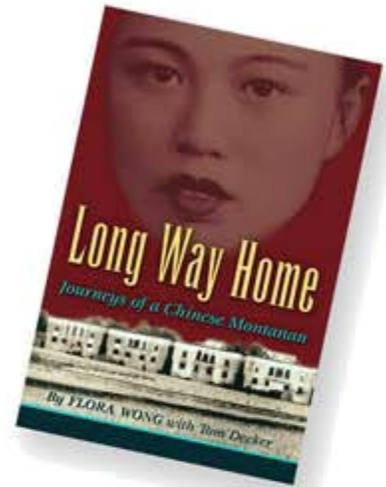
Presentation and book signing by author Flora Wong,
with Gloria Wong and Tom Decker

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 6:30 p.m.

Castelar School, 840 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

Free parking - enter via College Street.

The event is open and free to the public. Refreshments will be served.



Flora Lee, age 16 - "Picture Bride"
photo sent to husband Charlie, 1946

Lee Family Photo in Boston, 1936,
Flora is far left seated on stool.

Amid the turmoil of China in the 1930's and 1940's, Flora Wong's family lived a modest life in their small village of Lin Fong Lei. This young girl learned to tend rice and vegetables, sew simple clothes and trap frogs and beetles. In time, she also learned to dash to the safety of nearby bushes as Japanese planes flew low over her village.

At 18, Flora discovered she was engaged to be married. Flora's mother, Chen Sun Ho, had set in motion a plan of arranged marriages for her six daughters. Her goal was to return each of them to the safety of their home country, the United States.

Flora began a new life in Montana, far away from her tiny village. It was here that the timid girl grew into a wife, mother, business owner and athlete.

In *Long Way Home*, Flora Wong retraces her family odyssey, sharing insights, tragedies and triumphs. Hers is the story of an authentic, ordinary person facing extraordinary challenges.



FEBRUARY 2012

The Little Known History of Group Homes for Chinese Children



The first CHSSC meeting of the new year took place on January 11th. The event was highly anticipated and well attended. Presenter Lynne Choy Uyeda showed a documentary about the Chung Mei Home for Boys in El Cerrito and the Ming Quong Home for Girls in Los Gatos and Oakland. It was a captivating video. Several of the actual "boys and girls" were in attendance and participated on a panel fielding questions from the audience.



Photos by Moses Katz

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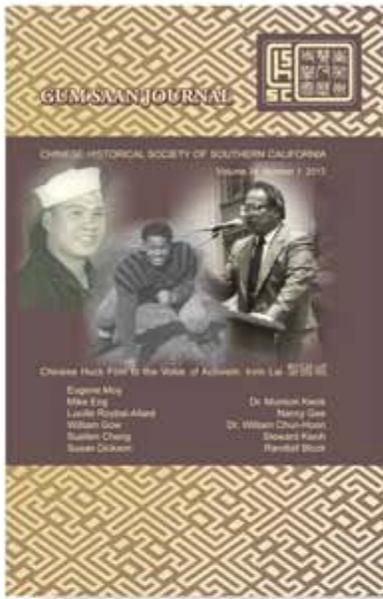
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Mission Statement

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, multicultural society of the United States.



Chinese Huck Finn to the Voice of Activism: Irvin Lai



The 2012 Gum Saan Journal, our yearly publication will be available in February. The topic is Irvin Lai, our past president. He was a prominent community leader, church elder, civil rights activist, and family man. Irvin lived during a time of change for Chinese Americans.

The issue could easily be named the Life and Times of Irvin Lai. Through excerpts of several interviews with Irvin, we learn of his life in Locke, CA, his life in L.A. in the 1940s, and his life in the service during WWII and the Korean War. Also, prominent community members share their remembrances of Irvin's impact on them and on historical events. The final section includes articles detailing Irvin's leadership in the community and in his church.

The Gum Saan Journal is a part of the membership fee for the 2012 Silver, Senior, and 100 X 100 members. On the other hand, Life members must purchase the journals. The Gum Saan Journals may be purchased or picked up at the February meeting at Castelar School. We also have previous issues of the Gum Saan Journal for purchase, call 323-222-0856 for more information.



In His Own Words, (excerpts from interviews):

- Early life in Locke, CA during the Great Depression
- Life in L.A. in the 1940s
- WWII and the Korean War service



Remembering Irvin:

- Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard
- Hon. Mike Eng
- Stewart Kwok
- Dr. Munson Kwok



Making a Difference:

- Church elder
- Historic 1888 Chinese Shrine Restoration
- Asian American Education Commission
- Fighting MTA, Irvin's Last Fight for the Community



**Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
Members and Donors (January 2012)**

Allen County Public Library
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*The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
expresses its deepest gratitude to*

**Susie Ling
&
Icy Smith**

*for their years of dedicated service to the writing, editing
and production of the annual Gum Saan Journal.*

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
is currently seeking donations for the continuance of
the Annual Scholarship Fund. Please contact the office
for additional informaton 323-222-0856.

Please Renew
Your Membership Now!



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

南加州華人歷史學會

Membership

Silver

Monthly newsletter.
Free *Gum Saan Journal*.
Discount on field trips to historical sites.
Discount on publications and products.
Admission to Heritage Center during
non-public hours (call in advance)

100 x 100 Club

All benefits of Silver membership.
Invitation for 2 to special events.

Diamond

All benefits of 100 x 100 Club membership.
2 complimentary tickets to Annual Gala Dinner.

Student/Senior (60+)

All benefits of Silver membership.

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- 3) to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese American community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multicultural society of the United States.

New Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

Visa/MC # _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Silver	\$ 57.
<input type="checkbox"/> 100 x 100 Club	\$ 100.
<input type="checkbox"/> Diamond	\$ 300.
<input type="checkbox"/> Student or Senior (60+)	\$ 32.
Donation (tax deductible)	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 323-222-0856
Email: chssc@hotmail.com
Website: www.chssc.org

Make checks payable to CHSSC

We are a 501(c)3
non-profit organization,
tax ID: 95-3155357

I am interested in helping with:

- Programs
 Publications
 Research
 Publicity
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 Other _____



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Community Calendar

Wednesday, February 1, 2012 - 6:30 p.m.

Long Way Home - Journeys of a Chinese Montanan

The story of an authentic, ordinary person facing extraordinary challenges. Presentation and book signing by Flora Wong, with Gloria Wong and Tom Decker.

Castelar School 840 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Saturday, February 4, 2012 - 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Silk Road Storytime w/Sunny Stevenson

Pacific Asia Museum, 46 N. Los Robles Av., Pasadena, 91101
www.pacificasiamuseum.org 626-449-2742

Saturday, February 4, 2012 2:00 p.m. - Free

Sweet and Sour - Life in Chinese Family Restaurant

Featuring author John Jung

Katy Geissert Library 3301 Torrance Blvd., Torrance, CA
www.torranceca.gov 310 618-5959

Monday, Feb. 6, 2012 - 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m. sharp

How Chinese Mirrors Reflect Chinese Culture

By Lothar von Falkenhausen

The China Society of Southern California meeting
Golden Dragon Restaurant - 960 N. Broadway, Los Angeles
China Society members \$17, guests: \$20
RSVP to marystrother0@gmail.com or 323-257-9693

Saturday, February 11, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

L.A. Chinatown Firecracker Bike Ride

Start/Finish: N. Broadway, north of College Street

Sunday, February 12, 2012

L.A. Chinatown Firecracker 5K/10K Run

5K start 8:00 a.m.

10K start 8:30 a.m.

1K Kiddie Run 9:45 a.m.

Start/Finish: N. Broadway, north of College Street

www.firecracker10k.org

Saturday, March 3, 2012 - 12:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Chinese American Museum Lantern Festival 2012

Catch lantern fever at the 11th Annual Lantern Festival, celebrating an incredible decade of free arts, culture and educational activities! Experience a re-created traditional village street fair featuring exciting stage performances, a variety of interactive workshops showcasing Chinese traditional and culturally-diverse arts and crafts, and special activities in honor of this year! Free admission to all!

Chinese American Museum

425 N. Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
(The cross street is Arcadia) (213) 485-8567
www.camla.org