

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

SEPTEMBER 2011

Dr. Sun Yat-sen, Homer Lea and the Chinese Revolution



Presented by

Pedro Chan & Roger Yung

Wednesday, September 7, 2011 - 6:30 p.m.

*Castelar Elementary School
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012*

Free parking - enter via College Street

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



Pedro Chan & Roger Yung will be giving a joint presentation of "Sun Yat-sen, Homer Lea and the Chinese Revolution". The contents would be Sun Yat-sen, the revolutionist seeking oversea Chinese commitment to his campaign. Homer Lea, a supporter of the reformist, Kang Yu-wei would alter his course to assist the revolutionist.

Visit Roger Yung's website: www.homerleasite.com for additional information regarding Homer Lea.



SEPTEMBER 2011

Presented by Chuck Quon and Greg Fong

The Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps

Wednesday, October 5, 2011 - 6:30 p.m.

*Castelar Elementary School
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012*

The Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps (LAC)—later known as the “Imperial Dragons”—was a very successful award-winning youth performance organization. The LAC continued a tradition of community performance organizations that began with the Mei Wah Drum Corps in the early 1930s and the Chung Wah Drum and Bugle Corps in the 1950s.

Comprised of Asian American youth between 10 and 21 years of age, the LAC in the early 1970s became one of the largest Corps organizations in existence, fielding 140 members for competition. In addition to regular appearances at Chinese New Year celebrations and other Chinatown events, the LAC proudly represented their community with performances and in competition throughout California and also grew to achieve national distinction and recognition.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Members and Donors (August 2011)

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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.



SEPTEMBER 2011

Tim & Annie Siu

A-List Supporters of Portraits of Pride

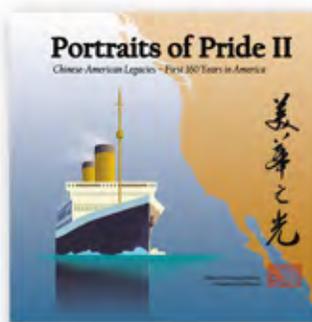
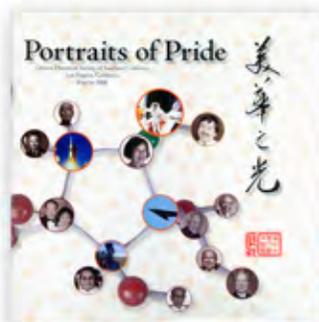
By Randy Bloch

On December 17, 2004 in Los Angeles Council Chambers, a cadre of Portraits of Pride (PoP) supporters presented the newly-published book to the assembled councilmembers. Attending from CHSSC were president Kenneth L. Chan, Dr. Annie Chin Siu, and a host of other PoP profilees and Society members. The profilees were majestic with their medallions before the interested spectators in the marbled chamber. What we achieved at City Hall fell little short of a Portraits of Pride public relations coup!

The day PoP visited City Hall, Portraits of Pride volume two was a twinkle in the eye of PoP's visionary and founder Dr. Wing Mar. Yet, a gentleman named L.P. Leung embraced the vision, stepped to the fore defeating tremendous obstacles, and *Portraits of Pride II: Chinese-American Legacies—First 160 Years in America* is now a gleaming reality.

Drs. Tim and Annie Siu have been tremendous supporters of PoP since the outset. Both are profiled in Portraits of Pride volume one in a piece titled Daring to be First and Original.

Annie Siu was the only woman in her class of 60 at UC San Francisco Dental School in the 1950s. She opened her own practice and became one of the first Chinese American female orthodontists and a faculty member at USC School of Dentistry. Distinguished anesthesiologist Dr. Tim Siu served the City of Alhambra on its planning and civil service commissions and rose to chief of staff at many hospitals he served. He successfully battled to cap punitive medical malpractice damage awards, keeping malpractice insurance affordable for California's physicians.



The Sius remarked upon the Portraits of Pride book series:

“PoP I was delightful, as we attended UC Berkeley with many people featured in the book. We didn't know about many of their great accomplishments. PoP II made us equally proud to realize the extraordinary feats of our kin. We applaud the efforts of the editors to gather the information for these books to document and disseminate Chinese American history for all generations.”

The Sius have been loyal supporters of CHSSC over decades and examples to us all with the longevity of their generosity. Their support of Portraits of Pride extends to their donation to the initial traveling exhibit and their significant financial contributions to both volumes of the book.

Over 8,000 copies of PoP volume one have been distributed to public, school, and college libraries. With the

early encouragement of educators, academics and others, we declared the lofty goal of distributing 20,000 copies of PoP volume two nationwide—projected to cost \$500,000. We invite you on as our financial partner in the PoP Free Library Book Program, following the inspiring example of the Siu family. Financial supporters' names will be prominently shown on a special acknowledgments page in all future printings of PoP II, estimated at 17,000 plus copies. All contributions are fully tax-deductible.

The brand new PoP volume features the inspiring stories of architect I.M. Pei, architect and monument-builder Maya Lin, ice skating champion Michelle Kwan, Prozac's inventor Dr. David T. Wong, author Iris Chang, actress Nancy Kwan, the First Lady of Physics C.S. Wu and many, many others. Please order today by calling CHSSC at 323-222-0856 or use the PoP II order form online at <http://www.chssc.org/publications/publications.html>.



SEPTEMBER 2011

Finding Chinatown

CHSSC sponsored a Gallery Talk on Saturday Aug. 6 for "*Finding Chinatown*," a solo exhibition by photographer and CHSSC member Sara Jane Boyers at the Craig Krull Gallery in Santa Monica. The exhibition offers a selection of images from Boyers' journeys to many Chinatowns in the US and Canada over the past decade. Admitting that she is a "shy" photographer, Boyers commented to the gathering that she has attempted to document Chinatown by focusing on the detail of everyday life. Added commentary on the work at the Craig Krull Gallery was provided by John Jung and Sonia Mak. Here are some reflections by John Jung:

"Boyers' work avoids visual cliches, focusing her lens on less stereotyped images, in contrast to the often trite photographs portraying Chinatown as some type of exotic theme park. To refer to Boyers' images as "photographs" seems inadequate as many of them look more like museum paintings. Her work transforms ordinary Chinatown scenes and objects with artistic framing, mesmerizing arrays of contrasting colors, and subtle lighting that guide and capture the viewer's gaze. For example, consider her photograph of a Chinese icon, the wok. Instead of showing a chef stir-frying food with flames dramatically spilling over the edges of the wok, Boyers presents a far more subtle rendering of an unattended wok on a stove in a dingy restaurant kitchen, seemingly at the end of the day, above which floats an eerie cloud of light. The image might lead a viewer to reflect about the work and skill underlying the delicious dishes that come from the wok. Many of the other images similarly evoke thoughts that go beyond what the eyes see."

Independent arts curator Sonia Mak provided additional thoughtful commentary for the gathering. Additional commentary can be found at: www.sarajaneboyersphoto.com
www.findingchinatown.blogspot.com
www.detroitdefinition.blogspot.com
www.sarajaneboyersisaloud.blogspot.com
www.sarajaneboyers.com

Mark your calendars: Sonia Mak is the guest curator and project manager for an important upcoming exhibition at the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College entitled "Round the Clock: Chinese American Artists Working in Los Angeles", opening January 21, 2012. The exhibition will feature 60-70 works by George Chann, Jake Lee, John Kwok, Milton Quon, and Tyrus Wong, and is part of "Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980", a major initiative supported by The Getty Foundation and The Getty Research Institute to bring together an unprecedented collaboration of museums and cultural organizations across Southern California to celebrate the vibrancy of art in L.A. in the post-World War II decades.





SEPTEMBER 2011

Nancy Kwan

For Asian American Heritage Month, Brian Jamieson obtained the rights from Paramount Studios to screen "*The World of Suzie Wong*" while Cindy Yee was able to obtain a theatre at the new AMC Theatre-14 in Monterey Park. "*The World of Suzie Wong*" was Nancy Kwan's first movie that catapulted her to international fame. Mr. Jamieson, producer and director of "*To Whom It May Concern: Ka Shen's Journey*" also screened his latest documentary about Miss Kwan's life. It took Mr. Jamieson a year and half to convince Miss Kwan to share a tragic part of her life that no parent will ever want to face. Both the documentary and the movie showed breathless and beautiful scenes of Hong Kong that does not exist anymore. There were over 225 people that attended the movie screenings. This event was followed by a Chinese banquet dinner at the Empress Seafood Restaurant that included a fundraiser for the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, the Chinese American Museum, and Asian Pacific Aids Intervention Team. Brian Jamieson and Mr. Vidal Sassoon donated several of Miss Kwan's movie posters that raised close to \$2500 during the live auction.

On August 22, the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "*Flower Drum Song*", Miss Kwan's second movie along with the new documentary. Prior to the screenings, Miss Kwan was faced with an entourage of well wishers, fans, and admirers and graciously took pictures and signed autographs. During the question and answer period, Miss Kwan invited the entertainers who appeared in the movie or Broadway performances in front of the theatre for a group shot. Some of the performers in attendance were James Hong, Alvin Ing, Dana Lee, Peter Kwong, Jack Ong, Virginia Lee, Alvin Ing, Helen Funai Erickson, Patricia Lu, and Esther Lee Johnson. You can see the pictures on Facebook by searching OC Lee's site. There were approximately 350 people for the late evening screenings.

Presently, a couple of VIP members of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California have been assisting public libraries by screening for free to the general public "*To Whom It May Concern Ka Shen's Journey*" and presenting a donation of the new book "*Portraits of Pride II*". The first venture through publicity and emails at the Torrance library attracted almost 200 people. The goal of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is to donate the new book to 20,000 libraries across the United States.





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Help us save paper and postage, email us for your online newsletter at chssc@hotmail.com

Community Calendar

Special Exhibition Tour

Commemorating Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Visits to Los Angeles

Sponsored by: Chinese American Museum, National Association of Chinese Americans, Chinese American Professors and Professionals Association, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and Sun Yat-sen Memorial Museum, Guangzhou, China

Sept 6 – Oct 24 Cerritos Public Library

October 26 UC Irvine

Oct 27 – Nov 10 Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association

Nov 14 – Nov 29 Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library

Nov 30-Dec.8 Asian Pacific Resource Center, Rosemead Library

December 9 UCLA

Contact: Pedro Chan at 323.721.0774 or pedrochan@aol.com

Monday, September 12, 2011. 6:30 pm – Free

To Whom It May Concern – Ka Shen's Journey

Presented by CHSSC and Cerritos Library - A special screening of the definitive and true life story of NANCY KWAN, who as a young Eurasian girl from Hong Kong captured the hearts and minds of cinemagoers around the world in her stunning motion picture debut role in THE WORLD OF SUZIE WONG (1960), then in her unforgettable follow up role as "Linda Lo" in the all Asian, Rodgers & Hammerstein Hollywood hit musical FLOWER DRUM SONG (1961). With just two pictures in two years, the Eurasian girl from Hong Kong would become one of the most sought after young stars in Hollywood.

Cerritos Library - 18025 Bloomfield Avenue, Cerritos, CA 90703

www.kashensjourney.com www.chssc.org

http://menu.ci.cerritos.ca.us/calendar/cl_calendar.htm

Thursday, September 22, 2011 - Chinese American Museum's 15th Annual Historymakers Awards Banquet.

Cocktails & Silent Auction 5pm; Dinner & Awards Program 6:30pm
RSVP by September 14, 2011

Support CAM, one of the preeminent museums in the United States, dedicated to researching, preserving and sharing the history, rich cultural legacy, and continuing contributions of Chinese Americans.

The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites, Los Angeles

404 S. Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071

For more info or pay by phone, please contact: 213-845-8484

www.camla.org

Wednesday, October 15, 2011 6:30 pm

The Los Angeles Chinese Drum and Bugle Corps (LAC) was a very successful award-winning youth performance organization in the Los Angeles Chinese American community for over 20 years. Guest speakers Chuck Quon and Greg Fong will discuss the significance of preserving an official institutional historic record. Castelar Elementary School 840 Yale St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
Free parking – enter via College Street

Now - October 23, 2011

40 Years of Building the Pacific Asia Museum Collection

In honor of its 40th Anniversary, the Museum will share the breadth and depth of its collection featuring some of its most exquisite objects.

Pacific Asia Museum

46 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

www.pacificasiamuseum.org