



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

appreciation of our chinese american heritage • a non-profit organization • p. o. box 862647, los angeles, ca

OCTOBER 1993

NOTE: There is no general meeting Wednesday, November 3! Instead, we will have our Special Fall Dinner on Saturday, November 6, at Shangri-La Restaurant, 313 South Boylston Street, Los Angeles, 6:00 p.m. social hour and 6:30 p.m. dinner, followed by program.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

KNOWING YOUR TOWN - When was the last time you were able to take a leisurely walk in Chinatown? Do you remember details of its landmark buildings? Can you name the major shopping centers or restaurants?

Then come join us, with members of the L.A. Historical Society, on a Society Walking Tour, Saturday, November 6, from 9:15-noon. Meeting at the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) building at 415 Bamboo Lane, Los Angeles, for an overview slide show of Chinese-American history in L.A. We will start out on the stroll through the area we think we know but have forgotten a lot about. By noon, there will be an optional lunch at Hop Li Restaurant (corner of Alpine and Yale Streets). Free gifts to participants will be CHSSC's self-guided tour map and a copy of an elegant Chinatown souvenir book.

Speaking of tours, have you ever been a docent on one? With the expected turnout for this tour, CHSSC will need a few more docents. Don't worry about having to memorize a whole lot of facts and dates; you will need only a brief one-time training, and will be able to repeat what the docent ahead of you has just said on the tour, using your own words. Actually, if you're proud of the Chinese and Chinatown, enjoy meeting nice new people, and don't mind talking for a short time, you won't have any problem. Call Suellen Cheng today at work/(213) 626-5240 or home/(310) 645-1369 to inquire.

Advance reservations are required for the tour. Call Suellen now! Cost is mere \$5 (tour) plus \$8 (lunch), payable to LACHS. Mail to: Suellen Cheng, 5474 West 76th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90045 by Saturday, October 30. Join us in the outdoor fun that will also be revealing, November 6.

DINNER AT SIX - Are your plans all set for the Society's Special Fall Dinner, Saturday evening, November 6? More important, have you sent in your reservation(s)? Because you know, the early birds get the better table locations.

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Our nine-course banquet at the Shangri-La Restaurant is not only for us to have another memorable meal together. The food, plus the rousing raffle we're planning, is to help us meet the mounting costs of producing and mailing our various print materials. You get the News 'n Notes each month, right? You get the Gum Saan Journal twice a year, right? Also, we're going to print more copies of Linking Our Lives soon. (Remember it? Still available. It's great for gift-giving!)

But that's only the serious side of the event. We were lucky to nail down a rising young Chinese-American actor who has received glowing reviews on his one-man performance up and down the West Coast. Dan Kwong has agreed to do a special show at the dinner from his extensive repertory.

Oh yes, we will still accept donations for table favors and raffle prizes up to the dinner date. The more prizes, the more winners!

Dinner costs \$35 per person or \$350 per table; reservations sent quickly to: CHSSC, P. O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647 before October 29, check payable to CHSSC. Any questions, call Ella Quan (213) 255-6487 before the deadline.

Join us, with your family and friends, for dinner on the 6th (at 6 p.m.) for a memorable, satisfying dinner event.

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EARLY CHRISTMAS SPIRIT - This is probably one of the earliest Christmas announcements you'll be reading, so be sure to put it on your calendar today or you might forget. The first Wednesday in December (December 1), CHSSC will hold its traditional Christmas Potluck Dinner at its traditional Castelar location (Multi-purpose room). There will be plenty of good food -- if you do your part. Bring a dinner or dessert dish enough for 6-8 servings or pay \$5 at the door. Come, and we'll all have the chance to finish all those conversations with friends that we couldn't finish during our monthly meetings all year. Want music or entertainment? Phone Program Chair, Don Loo, with your suggestions or offerings today -- to give him time to schedule them (310) 208-5382. See you the first Wednesday of the last month of the year!

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CHINATOWN HERITAGE AND VISITORS CENTER - An ad hoc Building Committee is continuing to study the possibility of the CHSSC undertaking its most ambitious project ever. As discussed at prior monthly meetings, the concept is to purchase a parcel of land with two Victorian-era homes on Bernard Street, obtain historic/cultural designations from the Cultural Heritage Board, rehabilitate one or both structures, convert one into a public office and visitors center with displays and exhibits, and construct in the rear a multi-level Chinatown Heritage Research Center.

Such a project would benefit the Society in a number of ways:

(1) From the visitors center, we could coordinate with a number of other organizations and business groups to promote the multicultural heritage of the area through tours and exhibits; (2) The preservation of a historic property would increase the public awareness of the architectural riches in the Chinatown area, and the Society would be recognized for its leadership role; (3) Construction of a high-tech library/archive and research facility will allow us to greatly increase and fully develop our information and artifact collections, which then can become the memory bank/resource for Chinatown history; and (4) Providing a permanent home for your Society, which has been one of the most active community organizations in Chinatown with its speakers, tours, publications, banquets, field trips, participation in festivals and parades, and support of the Museum of Chinese American History at El Pueblo Park.

The Heritage and Visitors Center project may cost as much as \$1.8 million, including land acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction over a 4-5 year period. We would have to upgrade our operations to the next level, including hiring of staff. Some members of the ad hoc Building Committee have been exploring the potential for government, foundation, and community financing (organizations and individuals), and have received considerable encouragement.

The Society has been successful over the years because of its active and dedicated membership. At this time, the ad hoc Building Committee is looking for good people who can help with the initial planning in the following areas: Public Relations, Fundraising, Historic Preservation, and Planning/Design/Construction. A number of volunteers have already stepped forward; but the subcommittees all need to be filled in order for the project to move ahead. The CHSSC Board of Directors has not yet approved the project, but some of us feel it can be done! Please join us in this exciting new venture! Call Gene Moy, ad hoc Building Committee chair (818) 289-2067 to let him know of your interest.

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GOING TO "THE JOY LUCK CLUB" - If you were one of the 100 people who went to the Society's quick fundraiser visit to "The Joy Luck Club" film and later Fung Lum dinner and discussion, you don't have to bother reading any further. You still have happy memories of the poignant faces on that Cinerama screen and the lively, long discussion about it after dinner.

We pushed through the Universal Studios crowds Sunday afternoon, October 10, to attend the 4:00 showing of the 2 1/4 hour picture, entering without the bother of having to stand in line for tickets. The outdoor PA system later informed us both the 4:00 and 7:00 showings had been sold out to the public. After the show, flashing our parking tickets to the box office earned us a \$2 refund. Pushing past the noisy crowds again around the shops and attractions of Universal City's commercial complex, we boarded their escalators down to our restaurant stop in the lower

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area. At Fung Lum's, down the short stairs to our private dining room, we took our seat at one of ten tables, with Society President, Sue Yee, giving us all a short welcome. At 7:00, the waiters brought out the first of seven courses to the hungry filmgoers.

The committee (Nadine Soo Hoo, Elmo Gambarana, and Doreen Chan Nakayama) couldn't get a leading cast member to lead the discussions because known cast members and production principals were either out of town promoting the picture all over the United States and England, or busy at home in San Francisco. But the surprise discussion leader they chose was better than anyone from the picture. Not only had she read the book when it was first published and had already seen the film twice, but she was the lively, educated society member, Majorie Lee, from the Asian American Studies Center at UCLA. It didn't take long before the ideas and impressions flowed fast from person-to-person, table-to-table. Regretfully, an event that was supposed to end at 8:00 had to be cut off at 9:00 for the workaday crowd to prepare for Monday morning calls.

Even the sudden rain on the way home couldn't dampen the satisfaction felt for a very stimulating, revealing day and night of moviegoing.

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WE COVERED THE MOON - Did you know your society had an information booth at Chinatown's '93 Moon Festival on October 2-3? It was staffed from 10:00-6:00 on Saturday and Sunday, telling the crowd who we are, what activities we have, and what we offer. Competing at times with the main stage sound, we signed up a few new members, sold some tour maps, and copies of Linking Our Lives. We also gained some signatures on the CAL-PAW petitions which can get some significant money for the Chinese-American Museum at El Pueblo. The petition drive ended October 16.

Saturday night gave us rest and a happy time, enjoying a buffet dinner out at the Central Plaza, with a refreshing breeze, mooncakes, and variety entertainment on a central stage. An enactment of the Moon Festival tradition also added cultural information as we watched the full moon ascend to the sky.

Thank yous go to the loyal volunteers working in the hot sun -- Randy Bloch, Susan Dickson, Cindy Fong, Charles Wong, Lillian Fong, Elmo Gambarana, Don Loo, Gene and Susan Moy, Ella Quan, and Cy Wong.

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - Please add the following change to your address/phone list: Clara Chu, 1725 South Garth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90035 (310) 838-9368.

Actress and society member, Beulah Quo, will be the featured speaker at the November 13 dinner banquet of the Conference on the 50th Anniversary of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Acts.

Jennie R. Quan, life member of CHSSC, has been elected as Chair of the Board of Directors for NEW START, a Santa Monica non-profit full-service counseling agency. Jennie has previously served as Treasurer and Vice Chair of Development and has been a board member since 1988.

Society life member, **Elsie Wong**, is in intensive care following open heart surgery. Those wishing to send cards can send them to: Little Company of Mary Hospital, 4101 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503. Society sends its wishes to Elsie for a speedy and full recovery.

THANK YOU to our members -- Lillian Fong, Ruth Lung, Cy Wong, Sylvia Soo Hoo, Wanda Leong, Helen Wan, and Dorothy Sui for providing reffreshments at the October 6 general meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 28: 1993 Miss Chinatown and Her Court invite you to the **FOOD & FILM FESTIVAL** - a benefit for the Asian and Los Angeles Communities - at Edwards Alhambra Place Theatres, 100 East Bay State Street (Garfield Avenue & Main Street), Alhambra. Evening begins 5:30 p.m. with catering by Panda Inn Restaurant, 6:30 p.m. Opening Ceremonies, and 5:30-midnight movies, movies, and more movies! Cost: \$25. For information, call Chinese Chamber of Commerce, (213) 617-0396.

November 1: **CHINA SOCIETY DINNER/PROGRAM MEETING** - Golden Dragon Restaurant, 960 North Broadway, Chinatown, 6:15 p.m. social hour and 7:00 p.m. dinner and program. Tonight's speaker is Teresa Sun. She is a member, past President, and board member of the China Society since 1975. At present, she is teaching at Whittier College and has been professor in Chinese language, literature, and culture at Cal State Los Angeles. She will speak on "Chinese People and Their Festivals". Cost is \$10 members, \$12 guests. Questions: call Rina Rae Sherman (213) 936-0327 or Lloyd Noakes (213) 663-9511.

November 3: **NO GENERAL MEETING!**

November 6: **CHSSC SPECIAL FALL DINNER** - Shangri-La Restaurant.

November 6: **L. A. CITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
... L. A. Chinatown Walking Tour

November 10: **EAST WEST PLAYERS** presents **INTO THE WOODS** at the Mark Taper Auditorium of the new Central Library. Program starts 4:00 with a tour of the new children's facilities and literature led by Library Docents, a reception at 5:00, and the presentation of the excerpts from this Tony Award winning musical. This production explores the lives of some of the world's most memorable folk tale characters (Jack and the Beanstalk, Cinderella, and Little Red Riding Hood). The total program is organized by executive producer Beulah Quo. The East West

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Players are planning to tour this musical to Shanghai, Nanjing, Beijing, Hong Kong, and Taipei next spring. The Friends of the Chinatown Library, with the support of the Friends of Children and Literature, will host some of the children and their families. For reservations, call ACT-7000 (Children's Literature).

November 12-14: THE REPEAL AND ITS LEGACY: A CONFERENCE ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPEAL OF THE CHINESE EXCLUSION ACTS (San Francisco, CA)

Thru November 14: EAST WEST PLAYERS present 1993/1994 Season of Women "29 1/2 Dreams -- Women Walking Through Walls" is a musical montage. This presentation is performed and written by women of Asian Pacific descent. They piece together a tapestry of their lives, examining the issues they face in the 90's through song, dance, comedy and drama. Questions? Call East West Players, (213) 660-0366 (Monday-Friday, 2:00-6:00).

November 17: CHSSC BOARD MEETING - 6:30-8:30 p.m., CHSSC Office, 969 North Broadway, Los Angeles. Parking is available at Mandarin and Bamboo Plazas.

Thru December 18: "Building, Art, and Text: The Los Angeles Central Library" at the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, 7th floor gallery, 401 Wilshire Boulevard, Santa Monica, CA 90401. Exhibition hours: 8:30-5:30 Mondays-Fridays, 10:00-5:00 Saturdays. Admission is free. For more information, call (310) 458-9811, X4172.

Items for News 'n Notes are always welcome! Please submit in writing no later than the 15th of each month to: Bev Hom Tsao, 15744-25 Tetley Street, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745. Items submitted after the due date may not always be included in this issue. If necessary to call regarding CHSSC business, please call before 9:00 p.m., Sunday thru Thursday.

Special thanks to contributors in this issue: Elmo Gambarana, Beulah Quo, Jennie Quan, Lillian Fong, and Gene Moy. Last month's mailing volunteer: Yours truly!
