



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

appreciation of our chinese american heritage • a non-profit organization • 1648 redcliff street • los angeles, ca. 90026

November 1986

ELECTION REPORT

November, being the traditional election month, was also the time for nominating officers for the coming year. The election will be held prior to the Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 3. The slate of candidates are:

President - Angi Ma Wong

Vice President - Mary Yee

Secretary - Al Soo Hoo

Treasurer - Kiphan Kan

Membership - Suellen Kwok

Board Members - Lillian Fong

Beverly Hom

Bob Large

Marjorie Lee

Mark Mehlert

FALL DINNER

How is it possible that each CHSSC event surpasses the one previous? Impossible, you say? -- but it did happen on the evening of Oct. 26 when the Society held its semi-annual Fall Dinner at the Golden Dragon Restaurant with 330 persons in attendance. The affair was a fundraiser for the future Museum of Chinese American History in El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historical Park. The museum will be located in the Garnier Building, a large, multi-story brick building built exclusively for urban Chinese use in 1890. A beautiful brochure, with photos, floor plans, and historical information, was designed by Gilbert Leong and the Museum Committee, and presented to each dinner guest.

As the evening's main attraction, CHSSC honored seven pioneers from the Chinese community:

- ...Sam Chang - at age 102, the oldest of the honorees, was a pioneer farmer in the San Fernando Valley in the 1920's. He was known as one of the "asparagus kings" in Los Angeles.
- ...Sam Gee --- prominent Old Chinatown businessman, owner of the Yee Hung Guey Restaurant.
- ...Billy Lew --one of the first CPA's in Chinatown. His family founded the Sun Wing Wo store in the Garnier Building in 1890, staying in business for 60 years.
- ...Margaret Quon Lew ---owner of the International Grocery on Spring St. and the Sing Lee Theater. She and her late husband donated the Kwan Kung shrine to be placed in the future Chinese American museum.
- ...Maye ---- community leader and member of early Chinese family. She was the Soo Hoo Wong founder of the Mei Wah Club and the Los Angeles Chinese Women's Club.
- ...Mrs. Him ---also known as "Mama Quon", proprietress of the famous Quon Brothers' Gin Quon Grand Star Restaurant. She is a member of a pioneer family dating back to the 1870's.
- ...Wilbur Woo--prominent Chinatown civic leader. He was one of the founders of Cathay Bank, first Chinese American bank in Los Angeles.

CHSSC member Marjorie Lee's warm and witty presentation, "A Salute to our Pioneers", delighted the audience as photos of each honoree's bygone days were flashed on twin screens. Marjorie stated that, "We honor these seven pioneers because they represent

our living connection with the past, as well as our bridge to the future. It is through their diligence and perseverance that the spirit of Chinatown is passed on to the younger pioneers of Chinese America."

It was truly a wonderful evening, and once again, many helping hands made this affair superb in every way. The Society thanks Kiphan Kan, Dinner Committee Chairperson, and her many assistants; Gilbert Leong and the Museum Committee for the beautiful brochure on the forthcoming museum; and very special thanks to Marjorie Lee for her very beautiful presentation which so touchingly reflected the love, warmth and respect the Chinese community holds for the seven pioneers honored that evening.

GONE, BUT NEVER TO BE FORGOTTEN

CHSSC members, as well as the entire Chinese community, were greatly saddened by the untimely death of Howard Quon on Oct. 20. Memorial services, attended by Mayor Tom Bradley and several government officials, were held at the Chinese Methodist Church on Monday, Oct. 27. The church was filled to overflowing with Howard's legion of friends, including many prominent leaders in the Chinatown community. Services were conducted by Rev. Leo Hsu.

Howard was a very concerned and caring human being. He worked diligently and selflessly to improve the Chinese community. He was as much interested in the past as he was in the present and future of Chinatown. Thus, he was an officer and member of many civic groups - the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (president in 1984 and 1985), the Chinatown Public Safety Association, the United Way, and CHSSC, to name but a few. Howard was a staunch supporter of the Society, serving on numerous committees. His untiring efforts brought a large measure of success to many of the Society's ventures. His latest involvement was being a member of the Chinese American Museum Committee. He and his four brothers are founding donors of the museum.

The Society sends deepest sympathy to his devoted wife, Marilyn, and to her family. Howard was well-loved and highly regarded by the Chinese community. He will be greatly missed by all whose lives he touched.

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

How sad it is to lose one good friend, but when three are gone, the sorrow is magnified that much more. The Society has lost three loyal and devoted friends within this past year -- last December, George Yee; then in February, Kaza Dong; and now, Howard Quon. These three will always be with us, somehow. How can we forget George and his great determination to build the Society into the BIGGEST and the BEST? And his wonderful witticisms that kept us laughing? And dear, sweet Kaza -- so generous, so caring, so dedicated to the Society. Whenever I wear my beautiful red-and-gold membership pin, I remember Kaza. And Howard -- deeply concerned about Chinatown, and always willing to help wherever and whenever help was needed. He had a warm and friendly personality, and will be remembered for his intense dedication to any good cause.

George --- Kaza --- Howard --- greatly missed by all of us. We can ill afford to lose these three wonderful people, but of one thing I am most certain -- our great loss is Heaven's gain

Margie Lew

OPEN HOUSE FOR THE "FRIENDS"

Friends of the Chinatown Library will have an Open House to celebrate their tenth anniversary. The event will be held at the Chinatown Library on Sunday, Dec. 7, from 2-5 P.M., and will highlight the group's plans for the much-needed expansion of the children's area in the library. There will be tours of the building, entertainment, and an exhibit and sale of Chinese brush paintings and note cards by local artist Pat Tom, who will donate a portion of the proceeds to the Friends' building fund. Also on sale will be special children's books, in time for holiday giving, with partial proceeds also going to the building fund.

Everyone is cordially invited. Bring family and friends to see this very vital part of the Chinese community, which a number of years ago was just a dream, and now is a dream-come-true for the Friends group and its two dedicated leaders, President Ruby Ling Louie and Vice President and Fundraising Chairperson Dolores Wong.

For those who will be unable to attend the Open House, there will be a special opportunity to see the paintings and the books before the Society's Christmas party on Wednesday, Dec. 3. Dolores Wong will be at the library at 5 P.M. to assist with the exhibit and book sales.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

CHSSC membership is for the calendar year -- January through December. Only new members joining at the Fall Dinner will be considered paid through the following calendar year.

Now is the time to renew your membership. And think of surprising a family member or friend with an unusual Christmas gift, such as a year's membership in a really great organization.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (RENEWAL): CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SO. CAL.
 To: Mary Yee
 Membership CHSSC
 4721 Konya Drive
 Torrance, CA 90503

Please accept my application for membership as a _____ Member in the Chinese Historical Society of So. Cal.

ACTIVE, annual \$ 15
 ADDITIONAL(spouse/same h'se) 5
 CONTRIBUTING(senior citizen over 60 yrs; students)ann'l 5
 INSTITUTIONAL, annual 25
 LIFE 200
 LIFE & SPOUSE 300
 CORPORATE, annual 500
 LIFE PATRON 500

Enclosed is my remittance in the amount of \$ _____ for dues.

Name _____

Firm/affiliation _____

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City _____ St _____ Zip _____

The Society is a non-profit organization supported mainly by dues and contributions.

Phone () _____ Date _____

Interested in _____

I'll help with _____

LINKING OUR LIVES
 Chinese American Women of Los Angeles

An Important, Exciting New Book!!!

*A joint project of the Asian American Studies Center
 University of California, Los Angeles
 and
 Chinese Historical Society of Southern California*

1-5	\$9.95 ea.
6-30	\$8.46 ea.
31-50	\$7.96 ea.
51+	\$6.96 ea.

THIS new work presents for the first time a rich part of the fascinating community of Los Angeles Chinese Americans. Women, though very few in the beginning, played an increasingly major role in creating a well-rounded social community, in developing identity, and in providing a strong continuity for Los Angeles Chinatown. At the same time, these women were pioneers in defining social outreach and in exploring new ventures and professions. This beautifully designed paperback is founded on a collection of recent oral histories spanning 1890-1950. Period photographs from the collection are featured. The publisher, *Chinese Historical Society of Southern California*, is a non-profit organization; all proceeds from the book will go for future research.

LINKING OUR LIVES: Chinese American Women of Los Angeles

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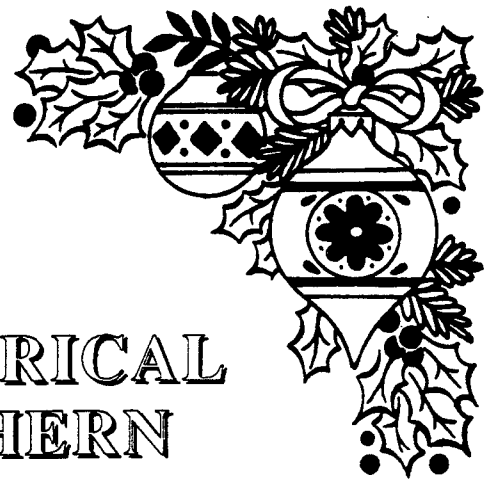
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**THE CHINESE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA**

**invites you to its Annual
Christmas Potluck**

Wednesday, December 3, 1986

6 p.m.

Castelar School

840 Yale Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

*Entertainment provided by members of
Association of Asian Pacific American Artists*

**\$5 for adults \$3 children under 10 or a potluck dish will
admit two persons (bring one of the following: cooked
vegetable, salad, drinks, dessert)**



FREE PARKING available on school grounds.

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