



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

May 1986

JUNE

MAY MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, June 4, 1986

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: Castelar School, 840 Yale St., Los Angeles Chinatown
(Park on school grounds -- enter on College St., between Hill and Yale Sts.)

AGENDA: Committee reports, San Francisco field trip, announcements

PROGRAM:

Felicia Lowe, producer of "China -- Land of My Father", will be guest speaker. She will show this moving film, which has been highly acclaimed both in and out of the Chinese community. Ms. Lowe will also show a 12-minute segment from her new project, "Carved in Silence", a work-in-progress documentary focusing on the experience of detention at Angel Island Immigration Station as a result of the Chinese Exclusion Laws (1882-1943). Passage of the first Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 by the U.S. Congress legalized restrictions for the first time, and became a model for further restrictive immigration policies affecting other nationalities, being unique in its racial selectivity.

The fact that we are a "nation of immigrants" makes the question of restrictive immigration a complex one. This examination of a critical moment in immigration history symbolized by Angel Island Immigration Station will give the public-at-large some perspective about the ramifications of such acts and raise questions about the treatment of our newest immigrants.

PLEASE NOTE!

NO MONTHLY MEETINGS FOR JULY AND AUGUST, and there will be no
NEWS 'n NOTES published in June and July.

A HAPPY SUMMER OF '86 TO ONE AND ALL!!

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: An updated CHSSC roster will soon be published. If you do NOT wish your phone number listed, please contact Mary Yee, 542-2409, Ella Quan, 291-5388, or Munson Kwok, 828-6911, by Friday, June 20, 1986. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that you don't mind having your number in our roster.

THE CHEW KEE STORE -- RESTORATION AT LONG LAST!

After years of debate and discussion, the historic Chew Kee Store in Fiddletown will finally be going through a period of restoration to repair and preserve the building, an authentic Chinese herb shop built in the 1850's.

On Sunday, April 27, Life Members Johnny, Joe and Johnson Yee attended ceremonies honoring Dr. Herbert Yee of Sacramento for his dedication in working towards the restoration of the Chew Kee Store. A long-awaited grant has been awarded, and work will start very soon. Members of the Fiddletown Preservation Society attended the event, along with officials from Sacramento and citizens from the surrounding area.

On behalf of the Society, Johnny donated a coffee mill to the Chew Kee Store, replacing the one that was stolen after the death of Jimmy Chow, who lived in the store for many years, and was the last Chinese resident of Fiddletown. The original coffee mill was used, not to grind coffee beans, but to crush herbs used by the Chinese settlers in the area. The replacement came from Valparaiso, Chile, but was made by the Enterprise Manufacturing Co. of Philadelphia, Penn., dated July 12, 1896 (before the Panama Canal was built, ships sailed around Cape Horn and on through the Straits of Magellan. The first major port of call was Valparaiso on the Chilean coast). On one of his work cruises to South America on the SS Santa Margarita, John picked up the coffee mill in Valparaiso and transported it to Fiddletown after waiting patiently for the right occasion to present it to the Chew Kee Store in honor of Jimmy Chow.

CHSSC has sponsored two field trips to the Mother Lode area, and each time a visit to Fiddletown was the highlight of the tour. On the first trip in 1977, the group, along with the citizens of the town, participated in ceremonies at the gravesite of pioneer Jimmy Chow.

WHO'S IN THE NEWS

-Congratulations to Life Member Lillian Lee Kim of Baltimore, Maryland, who was honored on May 13 as one of four "Women of the Year" in Baltimore County. Lillian was recognized for her service in the Chinese Language School at Grace & St. Peter's Chinese Church School, and other community activities.
-Congratulations to Ruby Ling Louie, president of Friends of the Chinatown Library, who was honored on May 6 at a luncheon sponsored by the Chinese Interagency Council.
-Speaking of the Friends group ---- a recent election resulted in the election and re-election of several Society members: Ruby Louie, president; Dolores Wong, vice-president for fund-raising; and Steve Leong, vice-president for building expansion (all three were re-elected). New Board members are Beverly Hom, Suellen Kwok, and Kiphan Kan. The Friends are planning to expand the library and build a new children's wing. CHSSC Life Member Grace Chow has become the first major donor with a \$1,000 donation.

THE SOCIETY THANKS.....

-Co-editors Munson Kwok and Ella Quan for the latest issue of the GUM SAAN JOURNAL, dedicated to the memory of Helen Young, who was a great believer and staunch supporter of CHSSC. Helen's life of caring and sharing, of loving and giving, of complete dedication to the community, was an inspiration of the highest degree. To those of us who knew Helen or worked with her (and there were many of us), this issue of the JOURNAL will have special meaning, a gentle reminder of the many ways our lives were touched by this remarkable woman. Thank you, Munson and Ella.



Ron, Marie Scofield (President of Fiddletown Preservation Society), & Johnny Yee checking out coffee mill.

D O N O R ' S P A G E

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

On this page we pay tribute to all the generous people who have supported the Society's projects with cash donations during February-May 9. Many contributions are in remembrance of our beloved, departed, members George Yee and Kaza Dong. The Society expresses gratitude to all.

	FOUNDING DONORS	
	EL PUEBLO CHINESE AMERICAN MUSEUM	
	February to May 1986	
IDA L. EADS	\$1000	
GILBERT and FLORENCE LEONG	\$1000	
ALBERT and MARGARET LEW	\$1500	
TOM and JOAN McDANNOLD	\$1000	
ANGELA and NORMAN WONG	\$1000	
In addition, Al Lew has offered three months of construction work, equivalent to approximately \$15000 in in-kind services.		
At \$10710, we are at the halfway mark in our initial goal. For further information on joining this special group of Founding Donors, who are providing the seed money to start the Museum project, please contact Howard Quon, Founding Donors Chair, at (213) 393-7339, or write the Society for further information.		

KAZA DONG MEMORIALS

ALLEN DONG, \$300 in memory of wife Kaza

Frank and Lupe Chee
Dorothy Siu
Chuck and Mary Yee
Howard and Marilyn Quon

John and Esther Yee
George and Clara Tom
Al and Margie Lew
J.F. and M. Low

GEORGE YEE MEMORIAL FUND

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Earl & Patricia Ryder
Gilbert & Florence Leong
Johnson & Judy Yee
Nancy Yee
Betty Tong
Robert & Edith Jung
Bing & Pearl Yee

Paul & Emma Louie
John & Esther Yee
Ed & Evelyn Cucchiarella
South Bay Aikido Club
Dorothy Siu
Henry & June Behrens
Wong Y. & Stella Louis
Mrs. Walter Chung
Aerospace Toastmasters401

BOOK SALE

The Friends of the Chinatown Library will be sponsoring a Book Sale on the Castelar School playground on Saturday, June 28, from 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. All donations of books, both hard-bound and paperback, are welcome, as well as books in Chinese. Strong paper bags are also needed. Book will be accepted on Monday, June 23, through Friday, June 27, from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M., and may be delivered to the Multi-purpose Room at Castelar School. Parking is available in the school yard for all deliveries.

The Friends group is asking for volunteers. If you can donate a few hours during the week of June 23-27, or help with the sale event on Saturday, June 28, please call Kiphan Kan, committee chairperson, at (213) 839-9233.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CORNER Margie Lew

To many of us, books play a significant part in our lives -- we use them as "armchair travelers" to take us to exotic places; romance and adventure are a great means of escape from our humdrum, everyday world; from books, we learn about the earth beneath us, the world around us, and the skies above us; we read books for the history of yesterday, the happenings of today, and the hopes and dreams of tomorrow. In short, books are like friends -- they are there when you need them. So it was with great sadness that I, and thousands of others, learned of the devastating fire at the Los Angeles Central Library on April 29. What a tragedy! It was like losing a friend, and I wanted to help in some way. When the call for volunteers came, that was my opportunity, so off I went. My first duty was to sign up the volunteers, who were coming in a steady stream. Invariably, everyone expressed the same thoughts -- "I've used this library for so many years, and I just want to do something to help". Later on in the afternoon, I volunteered to work in the "stacks", helping to remove books from the shelves, separating the "wet" ones from the "dry". It was heartbreaking to see the inside of the library partially destroyed by fire, water and smoke, but it was heartwarming to see so many concerned citizens working together so beautifully with one single purpose. Inspiring, to say the least. Perhaps the fire's only redeeming factor is that it brought us all together -- all kinds of people helping each other in the good, old-fashioned American tradition.

Still fresh in our memories is the tragedy that befell the seven courageous astronauts aboard the space shuttle CHALLENGER on Jan. 28. During the memorial services, President Reagan read several lines from the poem, "HIGH FLIGHT", written more than four decades ago by a 19-year old airman, an American who volunteered for service with the Royal Canadian Air Force. This young flyer was killed on Dec. 11, 1941 while piloting a Spitfire during the Battle of Britain. Following a bit of research, I was able to locate the complete poem at the Alhambra Library. I would like to share these hauntingly beautiful verses with you, if I may

HIGH FLIGHT

John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds -- and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of -- wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there,
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air

Up, up the long delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace,
Where never lark, or even eagle, flew;
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

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 _____

Address _____

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.
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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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