



PEACE * LOVE * JOY

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Annual Christmas Potluck Party

DATE: Wednesday, December 1, 1993

TIME: 6:00 p.m. sharp!

PLACE: Castelar School
Multi-purpose Room
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles Chinatown

RSVP/Information: Ella Quan (213) 255-6487

Parking is available on school playground
(enter on College Street between Hill and Yale Streets)

COME AND HAVE FUN ...

BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH
(Serving 8-10)

One dish admits two people!

If you can't bring a dish, \$5/adult and
\$3/child (under 12)



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

NOVEMBER 1993

DECEMBER 1 - The week after Thanksgiving, you'll want to come by and just relax and enjoy our **Annual Christmas Potluck Party**. The dish you've been waiting to prepare to serve 8-10 has come true. As you'll recall, admission is by bringing a dish (prepare it or buy it) and sharing it with us. If you don't have the time, we'll be happy to accept your \$5 for adults and \$3 for child(ren). Mark your calendar as the get together is soon approaching! We'll be starting at 6:00 p.m. at Castelar School in the Multi-purpose room. Come and relax and enjoy the good company of your fellow members, family, and friends as well as the good food, music, Christmas carols, etc. (see flyer)

1993-94 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| President | Sue Yee |
| Vice President | Don Loo |
| Secretary | Ella Quan |
| Treasurer | Eugene Moy |
| Financial Secretary | Franklin Mah |
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Directors

Randall Bloch
Eugene Cooper
Susan Dickson
Elmo Gambarana
Beverly Horn-Tsao
Irvin Lai
Robert Large
Cy Wong

General meetings are held
the first Wednesday of every
month except July and August.

CHSSC Office
(213) 621-3171

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January 5, 1994 will be our first general meeting of the year. Prior to our program for the evening, we will discuss and vote on the By-Laws presented and amended at the Board meeting of November 17, 1993.

Chinese American Citizens Alliance Los Angeles Lodge, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, and Friends of Chinatown Library present **BATTLING EXCLUSION -- A COMMEMORATIVE EVENT ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF REPEAL** -- Department of Water and Power, Auditorium, Level A, 111 North Hope Street, (between Temple and First Streets), downtown Los Angeles. Reception at 5:30 p.m., panel discussion at 6:30 p.m., and video documentary premiere at 7:30 p.m. Exclusive Southern California Premiere "Separate Lives, Broken Dreams" -- the impact of Exclusion on Chinese American families, yesterday and today. Produced by KPIX San Francisco and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Grand Lodge. The Panel consist of YESTERDAY: Munson Kwok, "The Alliance"; PERSONAL: Ben Fong-Torres, "Out of the Rice Room"; and TODAY: Stewart Kwoh, "Immigration Rights, 1993". Community co-sponsors are Friends of Museum of Chinese American History (MCAH) and Organization of Chinese American Women (OCAW). Admission is free. Parking available in the adjacent DWP lot entering on Hope Street. Then follow the signs! For information or volunteering, call Suellen or Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369.

Note: December issue of Gum Saan Journal commemorating repeal will be available for examination.

FALL DINNER DIGEST - The food at the Society's Fall Dinner was the usual fine fare at the Shangri-La Restaurant on November 6, but it was the entertainment program that Saturday evening that had the over 70 guests watching wide-eyed at the one-man performance of Dan Kwong. While the show can be described in different ways depending on the viewer perspective, Dan and his sound man Ricardo appeared to tell about the awakening and awareness of a young Chinese male of his grandparent's contribution-message to his generation in emotion-laden flow of montage scenes. The audience response was enthusiastic.

It was made more enthusiastic by the numerous prizes given out at the active raffle held during the evening. Many thank yous go to the generous members and Society friends who donated the many prizes -- anonymous friends, Alan Bergman, Marvey Chapman, Lupe Chee, Lucille Choy, Tom Eng, Lillian Fong, Elmo Gambarana, Judy Joe and Houghton-Mifflin Company, Margie Lew, Ruth Lung, Johnny Yee, and Susan Woo-Yamasaki. One of the prizes was a free dinner and night's lodging at the historic inn in Independence, California run by its old friends, Marvey Chapman and Alan Bergman. Come to the Christmas potluck meeting to hear who won it.

A long round of applause go to Mistress of Ceremonies Angi Ma Wong, co-chairs Susan Dickson and Ella Quan, committee members Suellen Cheng, Elmo Gambarana, Don Loo, raffleman Cy Wong, President Sue Yee, and members who pitched in, Doreen Nakayama and Catalina Wong.

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CAL PAW FINAL FIGURES - It was a memorable hot summer this year for the members and friends who volunteered to help Suellen Cheng go out to public places to gather those necessary signatures on those green initiative petitions. Remember? They induced registered voters to sign to put the Cal Paw '94 measure on next June's California ballot, which has earmarked \$500,000 for the Chinese American Museum Suellen's group is working to build at historic El Pueblo Historic Park in Los Angeles.

Well, officially 720,900 signatures were collected in California, 90,677 in Southern California. We had promised 5,000 signatures, upped it to 6,000, then ended up with 7,000 -- way over the top! Once Secretary of State March Fong Eu certifies the results, it will move on to next year's ballot. Wee!

Suellen Cheng and assistant Elmo Gambarana wish they could personally thank each of the almost 60 petition volunteers in our group for their ready response when asked, and great spirit in facing a sometimes indifferent or hostile public. Stand and Be Proud!

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UPDATE ON CHINATOWN HERITAGE AND VISITORS CENTER - As outlined in last month's newsletter, an ad hoc Building Committee has been researching the feasibility of this project. The Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center could be a very exciting project in

which the CHSSC would establish: a permanent presence in the community within a historic structure, an outreach point for the many visitors to Chinatown, and a heritage resource center to facilitate our ongoing work in the research, collection, and interpretation of community and Chinese American history.

The CHSSC Board of Directors has met twice in the past two weeks to discuss further the possibility of taking on this \$1.8 million (estimated) project. The Board has now formally designated a special Building Committee to prepare a detailed scope of development and financial plan. Members of the Committee will be consulting with other non-profit community groups and with legal/financial advisors in the coming weeks to put together a financial plan. At upcoming monthly meetings, progress updates will be provided, and finally, the overall plan will be presented to the general membership for a decision on whether to proceed.

As noted last month, the planning effort will require assistance from a few good people in the following areas: public relations, fundraising, historic preservation (landmark designation), and planning/design/construction. Several persons have already volunteered their participation; we're hoping you will also! Please call Gene Moy (818) 289-2067 to find out more!

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SOCIETY DISPLAYS OLD CHINATOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES AT L.A. CONSERVANCY CELEBRATION AT UNION STATION - At the Los Angeles Conservancy's 15th anniversary celebration on October 17, 1993, Sue Yee, Randy Bloch and Jim Fong presented samples of the Old Chinatown archaeological treasures recovered near Union Station during Red Line construction a few years ago. The Museum of Chinese-American History also contributed displays including an overlay map depicting Old Chinatown, which stood upon the site of the train station.

The Conservancy's anniversary was a gala event, featuring a silent auction led by television personality Huell Howser, giant anniversary cakes in the shape of historic landmarks like Angel's Flight and the Bradbury Building, and various international cuisines, served outside.

The Conservancy enjoys a well-deserved reputation as the premier preservation organization in Los Angeles. We appreciate their extending us the opportunity to illuminate a side of the Union Station story that is too often lost in the dust of history.

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MAKING WAVES II - Asian Women United of California invites submissions and proposals for Making Waves II (working title), a new anthology of writings by and about Asian American women.

The format for this volume has not been finalized. (First volume included essays, poems, short stories, interviews, and memoirs covering a variety of themes and issues written by and about Asian American women.) Suggestions and submissions of proposals may be sent to: Asian Women United of California, c/o Elaine H.

NEWS 'n NOTES

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Kim, Asian American Studies, 3407 Dwinelle Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720. Fax is (510) 642-6456. Deadline: January 15, 1994. (Note: Submissions will not be returned.)

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

'94 MEMBERSHIP DUES - Beginning January 1, 1994 the membership dues for the CHSSC will change as follows: Individual \$25 and additional member of the same household \$10, Contributing \$10, Life \$300, Institutional \$50, Corporate \$100, and Life Patron \$1,000. Membership dues are January 1-December 31. Don't forget to renew your 1994 membership!

Our newest life member is Albert Lew. **Congratulations, Albert!**

CHSSC GIFT ITEMS - As the holiday season approaches, why not avoid the hassle of crowded stores and standing in long lines waiting to make your purchases. CHSSC has the following items available for your holiday gift-giving:

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| . CHSSC souvenir cup | \$ 5.00 + CA sales tax + \$1.50 P/H |
| . <u>Dragon Legacy</u> | \$20.00 + CA sales tax + \$3.00 P/H |
| . Gum Saan Journals | \$ 2.00 + \$1.00 P/H |
| . <u>Linking Our Lives</u> | \$10.95 + CA sales tax + \$1.50 P/H |
| . <u>Sweet Bamboo</u> | \$12.95 + CA sales tax + \$3.00 P/H |

Mail checks payable to CHSSC, P. O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086. Save money and pick up the items at the monthly meetings. Call (213) 621-3171 to reserve the items.

Interested in receiving a copy of **ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1992 CONFERENCE ON CHINESE AMERICANS?** CHSSC intends to publish this 8 1/2" x 11", 300-page soft cover volume, with a target publication date of March 31, 1994. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact the Society at: CHSSC, P. O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647, (213) 621-3171.

"50 UNFORGETTABLE YEARS" - Society member, Lorraine Yee, and her husband Jim, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on November 13 at Shangri-La Restaurant in Los Angeles. They were married November 19, 1943 at the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles. **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, Uncle Jim and Aunt Lorraine!**

Good news! Member **Elsie Wong** is now recuperating from open heart surgery at the Pavillion of the Little Company of Mary Hospital, and may be back at home in several weeks. Get well cards can still be sent to her at 4101 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, CA 90503. See you soon, Elsie!

1994 CALENDAR - So that you can get a head start on your calendar, please note the following dates:

- . January 5: First general meeting of the year
- . February 5: Miss Los Angeles Chinatown Pageant
- . February 10: Chinese New Year Day (4692 - Year of the Dog)
- . February 19: Golden Dragon Parade
- . February 25: Chinese New Year Banquet
- . February 27: 5K/10K Race
- . March 12-13: Bok Kai Festival (Marysville)
- . April 3: Easter
- . August 19-20: National Conference: "From Memories to Aspirations: The Chinese American Experience" Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii
- . Note: For forms, contact Munson Kwok (310) 645-1369
- . September 17-18: 5th Annual Chinese Moon Festival

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REQUEST FOR HELP - (Received letter from Pat Saletore, 22610 Lilac Court, Saugus, CA 91350.) I would very much appreciate help on this project. I am at a loss to continue investigating it. Chinese History in the Santa Clarita Valley isn't just scarce, it isn't there. I can be reached at (805) 296-2517.

"The Mystery of the Chinese Miner" - This article is really sort of query. Actually, it is more of a plea for help. In the Santa Clarita Valley, we have been engaged in a war against a dump that is proposed in one of our nearby canyons. My contribution to the fight has included hiking around in the canyon, which is located in the Angeles National Forest. I have located an anomalous area which I refer to as the "Chinese Miner's Digs".

Deep in Elsmere Canyon, on a stretch of the creek which always has a little water, there is a doorway. It rests on a level with the creek near its threshold and is about five feet high and three feet wide. Brush camouflages its entry and you can walk by it without even seeing it. But it presents a mystery. Downstream from this door I found another anomalous item ... a black abalone shell. Elsmere is filled with marine fossils, but this was no fossil and the canyon is far from the ocean. Above this are some strange waterfalls, which look like rock walls. In this inaccessible reach of Elsmere Canyon, someone has constructed a series of rock walls across the stream. Aside from now being beautiful waterfalls, why? I took an archeologist to see them. He postulated that a Chinese miner has been mining for oil or gold there. At that, the archaeologist (who is paid by the dump developer) dropped the subject. There are two other human made holes on the canyon wall above the "mine". But the really strange part of this scenario is that the mine has been purposely backfilled -- why? With information so scarce on Chinese history in Southern California should we shrug and turn away from this anomaly? Were the rock walls really dams to facilitate mining? Was the mysterious abalone shell washed from the Chinese Miner's refuse heap? What is buried in his "mine"?

I would like information on the Chinese community in Southern California in the late 1870's. I would like leads on a place in Santa Clarita called "China Gulch" which reportedly has been seen on old maps of the area. Even more important, I would like a well informed (and physically strong) Chinese historian to come and see what I may be missing. If this site proves to be significant, it will contribute to the pools of knowledge about a little known subject and it may stop the process of siting a 190 million ton landfill within a couple of miles of Santa Clarita Historical Society's Heritage Junction! Please help us!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 1: CHSSC's Annual Christmas Potluck Party (see flyer).

December 2-4, 10-11: Exit the Dragon (a three-man performance examining pop-culture's stereotyping of the Asian American male) at Harman Theater, 522 North La Brea, Los Angeles (between Beverly and Melrose) and on **December 14** at Highways, 1651 18th Street, Santa Monica (at Olympic). Tickets: \$12 adults and \$9 students/groups. To reserve tickets, call (213) 469-6424.

December 3-30: "The Way of the Brush" Yang Zhiguang & Ou Yang (Chinese brush painting and oil painting) - Reception: 6:00-8:00 p.m. on December 3 at Merging One Gallery, 1547 Sixth Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (310) 395-0033, hours Wednesday-Saturday, 10:30-6:00 p.m.

December 4: Pacific Asia Museum Holiday Bazaar - Rummage Sale, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Courtyard Garden, 46 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101 (818) 449-2742. Admission: \$1.00.

December 5: Old Fashioned Christmas Tea, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Garvey Room at Garvey Ranch Park, Monterey Park Historical Museum. Join us for punch, tea, and cookies!

December 13: Los Angeles City Historical Society Holiday Party and Annual Meeting - 6:00 p.m. social hour, 7:00 p.m. dinner, and 8:00 p.m. program - Les Freres Taix French Restaurant, 1911 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles. Cost: \$18.50 (after November 29, \$20). For information: (310) 831-1641 or (818) 792-1048.

December ____: (Date to be announced at December 1 meeting) CHSSC BOARD MEETING - 6:30-8:30 p.m., CHSSC Office, 969 North Broadway, Los Angeles. Parking is available at Mandarin and Bamboo Plazas.

December 15: CACA Los Angeles Lodge, CHSSC, and FCL present Battling Exclusion -- A Commemorative Event on the 50th Anniversary of Repeal (see page 1).

December 15: EAST WEST PLAYERS present Arthur and Leila (a play by Cherylene Lee). A humorous play of the symbiotic relationship between an aging brother and his successful sister in search of their family heritage. Arthur Chin is homeless, a gambler and a

drunk who supports himself by selling family heirlooms back to his wealthy sister. With each item, they barter money and memories. What does Arthur give up and how much will Leila pay? Proceeds from the dinner buffet and play benefit the L.A. Homeless Children Services and the Mary McKenna Foundation for the Homeless. Tickets: \$22 (includes dinner buffet 6:30 p.m. to 7:50 p.m./play 8:00 p.m.). Order early as seating is very limited! East West Players theatre is located at 4424 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles (4 blocks east of Vermont). For information/reservations, call (909) 860-6079. Make check(s) payable to Claudia Mark, 24130 Decorah Road, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

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: Susan Dickson, Ruth Lung, Pat Saletore, Elmo Gambarana, Gene Moy, Randy Bloch, Ella Quan, and Suellen Cheng, Munson Kwok. Last month's mailing volunteers: Hong Cao (my husband's niece) and yours truly!

CHSSC
P. O. Box 862647
Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

FIRST CLASS
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