



# 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 90086-2647 (213) 621-3171

## 1994-95 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Irvin Lai
Vice President	Sue Yee
Secretary	Pauline R. Wong
Treasurer	Munson Kwok
Financial Secretary	Franklin Mah
Membership Secretary	Cy Wong

JUNE 1995

## DIRECTORS

Randall Bloch  
Kenneth Chan  
Eugene Cooper  
Susan Dickson  
Elmo Gambarana  
Eugene Moy  
Ella Quan

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

CHSSC Office  
(213) 621-3171

## SEE YOU ON SEPT. 6

CHSSC 's monthly meetings will  
return in September. We wish all our  
members and friends a happy and  
safe summer.

Your next issue of the News n' Notes  
will be sent towards the end of August  
to announce the September Program.  
Plan to be with us then.

## SPEEDY AND COMPLETE RECOVERY TO RUTHANNE LUM MCCUNN.

who was seriously injured in a head-on collision on  
May 26. Ruthanne suffered internal injuries, and both legs were  
broken in several places. She had been scheduled to be the  
speaker at the June 7th meeting to talk about her latest book,  
"WOODEN FISH SONGS". She had been looking forward to  
seeing her friends in the Society, and meeting new members.

The latest update on Ruthanne's recuperation is a  
favorable one. Although in pain with extensive bruises, her spirits  
are high. The internal injuries have been taken care of, and the  
doctors have begun to perform minimum amounts of microsurgery  
on her legs.

And, thanks to the generous donations of a number of Society members,  
the amount of \$125.00 was forwarded to Ruthanne to be used at her discretion.  
Cards and letters may be sent to: 1007 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94141.

(A note received recently by Margie Lew from Ruthanne states that "I'm  
pretty much smashed up like Humpty Dumpty. But the doctors are slowly and  
patiently putting me back together. Please thank the members of CHSSC for  
their good wishes and for the generous check. Everyone has been so kind."

Copies of WOODEN FISH SONGS were purchased from the publisher at  
a discount with a percentage to benefit our Society. All the books were sold on  
June 7. More copies have been ordered and will be available at the Sept. 6  
meeting. Call Ella, 213-255-6487, if you wish to reserve a copy in advance.



### **1995-1996 CHSSC OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The following members were elected and installed at the June 7 meeting. We thank them for getting involved and volunteering to help the Society move forward with its many activities.

President	Irvin Lai
Vice President	Sue Yee
Secretary	Henrietta Yuan
Financial Secretary	Franklin Mah
Membership Secretary	Cy Wong
Treasurer	Munson Kwok

Board of Directors:	Randall Bloch
	Kenneth L. Chan
	Susan Dickson
	Jim Fong
	Elmo Gambarana
	Winifred Lew
	Ruth Lung
	Eugene W. Moy
	Stanley Mu
	Jeffrey Tung

**THANK YOU TO OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS** Eugene Cooper, Ella Quan, and Pauline Renee Wong for all their support and hard work during their year(s) of service. They will remain active in the various Society activities even though they will not be on the Board.

**THANK YOU FOR THE JUNE 7th REFRESHMENTS** to Aurora Bahou, Lillian Fong, Tim Siu, Ward & Sue Yee, and Noel Toy Young.

**HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO LILLIAN LEE KIM**, CHSSC LIFE member from Baltimore, Maryland, for winning the prestigious J.C. Penney Golden Rule Award. The award was presented by Maryland Governor Parris Glendening on April 26 at the well-attended ceremony. The governor stated he was "most impressed with your volunteer work with immigration problems, filing petitions, interpreting, and many other situations associated with newcomers to our country. The State of Maryland is certainly a brighter place in which to live with people like you contributing to our community. You are an inspiration to all of us."

The Golden Rule Awards are presented to groups and individuals who have performed volunteer service for their local communities, and signifies the tradition of community service established by James Cash Penney in 1902 when he opened his first store, "The Golden Rule". Lillian received a check for \$1,000.00 for Grace & St. Peter's Chinese Ministry/Chinese Language School. She has been volunteering here and in the Baltimore community for over 50 years.

Congratulations, Lillian, for receiving this well-deserved award, and.....Thank you for your generous donation of \$500.00 to the Building Fund for the Society's Heritage and Visitors' Center.



**OPEN HOUSE/WORK PARTY/BBQ at BERNARD ST.** Our big "work hard-play hard" project on Sunday June 25 was a success thanks to the efforts of many people. During the week prior to Sunday, a professional painter was hired to scrape and repaint the east side and front bays of each of the two houses on our property. This work was necessary to protect the over century old siding and trim, especially where the paint had peeled down to bare wood.

- **WORK:** CHSSC members were not without chores to do. In the morning, Brian Yamasaki (former board member Susan Woo Yamasaki's other half) led a team of Tom Moy, Ben Nakayama, and Eugene Moy in pruning shrubs and clearing out weeds in the rear of the property. At the same time, Susan Sing, Doreen Nakayama, and Mrs. Chan (Doreen's mom) prepared 411 Bernard for the afternoon public open house. They were joined by Beverly and Carlos Picazo, Anita and Bill Jeung, and Mai Diep in setting up exhibits and signs.

- **FOOD:** In the meantime, Cy Wong fired up the barbecues. With help from Carlos Picazo, Chef Wong's famous smoked ribs were ready for an early afternoon feast by all the workers. Other dishes were contributed by Irvin Lai, Tom Moy, Lillian Fong, the Nakayamas, the Picazos, Mai Diep, and Franklin Mah. The mild weather contributed to the relaxing outdoor repast.

- **FRIENDS:** In addition to the photo exhibit loaned by the Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History, open house visitors were treated to a sample of the Old Chinatown archeological collection, recently turned over to the CHSSC by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). On display were about two dozen items including 16th century coins from China and Vietnam, carved clay and soapstone figurines, a porcelain ink box, game pieces, and food and wine storage jars. In another room, historical videos were available for viewing. Our afternoon visitors included a contingent from our Bernard Street neighbor, the Gee How Oak Tien Association, led by Lun and Dorothy Chan; Mr. Chan is currently president of the Association. Another visitor was Julia Keh, Vice President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA).

- **WORK:** In the afternoon, the work crew got its second wind. Brian Yamasaki, a landscape contractor by trade, donated expertise and a truckload of donated redwood compost in leading the morning yard crew plus Cy Wong and Franklin Mah in making over the front yards of 411-415. Flats of allysum and vinca were planted, presenting a colorful and inviting entry for the newly repainted houses.

- **THANKS:** Our work-and-play day would not have been successful without the many contributions noted above. In addition, thanks are due to Suellen Cheng, El Pueblo curator, for facilitating the photo exhibit; to Roberta Greenwood and Jim Fong for preparing the artifact display; to the Chinese American Citizens Alliance for loaning grills and chairs; and to Ben and Doreen Nakayama for designing and hanging the banners announcing our open house.

**MORE OPEN HOUSES!** If you were not able to visit this open house, mark your calendars; we plan on being open the fourth Sunday of every month from Noon to 4:00 PM and more frequently if we have enough docents (these will not be work sessions). Anita and Bill Jeung served as our official docent greeters on the 25th and had a great time, as a few old friends walked through the door. In the fall, we will begin a formal docent training series, but for now, if you like people and would like to help, please call Gene Moy at (818) 289-2067 for details. Or, just come and visit. The next open house date is July 23. Bring or tell your friends!

**BUILDING FUND DONATIONS.** The CHSSC Building Fund gratefully acknowledges two recent donations: **\$1,000 from the Mei Wah Club**, and **\$100 from board member Susan Dickson**. A more detailed summary of all contributions will be provided in the near future.



**CONGRATULATIONS to GLADYS WADDINGHAM**, CHSSC member, who was awarded the Individual Award of Merit at the Conference Awards Luncheon on June 23 in Folsom. She was also nominated by the Associated Historical Societys of Los Angeles County for the Scholastic Award based on the historical books she has written since 1985. Those already published are "History of the First Presbyterian Church," "The Centennial of the Church," "Kaleidoscope of Memories," "History of Inglewood," "The 30th Anniversary of the Historical Society" and 13 booklets on the pioneers for whom Inglewood Schools were named. Awaiting publication is "My Memories of Inglewood High School."

**MEMORIAL SHRINE REACHES HIGH POINT** - On a sunny Saturday on June 3, Society members gathered at Evergreen Cemetery with special guests to celebrate the completion of the first half of reconstruction of that very early landmark of Chinese American presence in Los Angeles. Ringing words of praise and dedication were delivered by guests: Dr. Po Ming Lin of Getty Conservation Institute; Takashi Shida, former vice-president of L.A. Cultural Heritage Commission; John Lee of L.A. Mayor Riordan's staff; Roella Louie, Grants Director of L.A. City Department of Cultural Affairs; Michael de la Torre, Chief of Staff of L.A. City Councilman Richard Alatorre; Chi Mui, Deputy to State Senator Richard Polanco; Jim Bickhart, aide to Assemblyman Antonio Villaraigosa; and, our project architect and advisor Barton K. Choy. Keynote speaker was our own Dr. Munson Kwok who superbly reviewed the shrine's historical significance.

The shrine itself, protected by a retaining wall and stone footings, and shining with a deep orange wrought-iron fence and gate, was wrapped in a gorgeous wide red ribbon ready to be cut, and with a large bronze plaque ready to be unveiled. The ribbon cutting was performed by Ms. Roella Louie and our president Irvin Lai. Shrine Sub-committee Chair Randy Bloch also added a grateful touch of potted white chrysanthemums atop two corner posts.

President Lai thanked individual Shrine Committee members for bringing the project to its present peak and invited everyone to bring their family and friends to come visit the shrine. The final phase of this significant project will not be long in coming.

Light refreshments and cold drinks quenched the thirsty crowd of about forty supporters.

**SECOND RUMMAGE SALE** was held Saturday, June 24, on the front lawn of Elmo Gambarana's house. Most of the shoppers were from around the neighborhood and purchased many of the unsold articles left from the Pasadena City College sale in May. Again, Elmo thanks all the members who volunteered their time in preparing and in selling the articles.

**CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF SING KEONG LEE.** Mr. Lee and his wife Gwen have been members of CHSSC. They are also the parents of members Marjorie and Evelyn Lee. Services were held at Rose Hills on June 28.

**CHSSC, HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY !!** - Plans are being made to celebrate CHSSC's 20th anniversary beginning with a Fall Dinner. Also needed are photos and articles of memorable events. Anyone interested and has ideas, energy and will spend time to help out, please call Sue Yee on 213-617-0396. We would like to make this milestone a memorable one.



# The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Shopping Guide



## ORIGINS AND DESTINATIONS: 41 ESSAYS ON CHINESE AMERICA

**NEW!!!**

The Society's newest book presents an engaging, and oftentimes moving, expression of the Chinese American experience. This collection of essays will be a valuable resource for scholar and layperson alike. 507 pp., 6"x 9", softbound. Coeditors: Munson A. Kwok & Ella Y. Quan, November 1994, Lib. of Congress Cat. 94-067955. ISBN 0-930377-03-6 ea. \$20.00



**Linking Our Lives** presents a rich aspect of the fascinating community of Los Angeles' Chinese Americans. Women, few in the beginning, played an increasingly major role in creating a well-rounded community, setting identity, and providing continuity for L. A. Chinatown. 138 pp., 6" x 9", 26 photos, softbound, Dec. 1984, reprint Dec. 1993, Lib. of Cong. 84-72431, ISBN 0-930377-00-1. ea. \$10.95



**SWEET BAMBOO** is a Saga of a Chinese American family. A fascinating and invaluable historical document that provides insight into the lifestyles of earlier families and sheds light on the Americanization process. 215 pp., 6" x 9", softbound, photos, Nov. 1989. Lib. of Cong. Cat. 89-062055, ISBN 930377-02-8 ea. \$12.95

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Gum Saan Journal @ \$2.00 each; volume _____ no. _____ month _____ year _____	\$ _____
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<b>TOTAL</b> (checks payable to "CHSSC" and mail with Order Blank to: CHSSC-Book Dept; P.O. Box 862647; Los Angeles, CA. 90086-2647. Allow 4 weeks for delivery. Thank you for your order.)	\$ _____

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**TO ALL CHSSC VOLUNTEERS, we dedicate the following thoughts,** copied from a Hallmark Card sent to Cy Wong and Ella Quan from 1993 Miss Los Angeles Queen Jeannie chan and her ESL students after a walking tour.

*There's a rare and special quality in the way some people live--*

*However busy they may be, they still have time to give.*

*Anything you ask or need, they'll do their very best.*

*No matter what the task is or how simple the request.*

*Kindness just comes naturally to this rare and selfless few,*

*Special, giving people -- people just like you !*

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**FIRST CLASS**

LIFE/Paid to Dec.31,9999  
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