



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

SEPTEMBER 1997

PROGRAM

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

7:00 P.M.-SOCIAL HOUR

7:30 P.M. - BUSINESS & PROGRAM

Castelar School - Multipurpose Room
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown
(Park on playground. Enter on College Street)
between Hill and Yale Streets

BOOK TALK: FLOWER NET

by

Lisa See

Lisa See, freelance journalist and author of *On Gold Mountain: The One Hundred-Year Odyssey of My Chinese American Family*, returns to present her latest book, *Flower Net*. Paramount Pictures has bought the movie rights to this riveting story of a murder investigation in today's China. Some of the controversial, real-life issues in *Flower Net* include the trade in illegal wildlife, the endless troubles of illegal immigration out of China, and China's complex and ancient history of organized crime.

Lisa will discuss how she has transformed her personal experiences in China researching her first book into a novel that has sold foreign rights to 14 countries.

SAVE THE DATE – FRIDAY, November 7 – CHSSC's Fundraising Dinner

"How to be Successful in a Small Business" will be the topic to this evening's speaker. **Wesley Ru**, a pioneering Chinese American entrepreneur, will be discussing his fast track to success. Since 1985, Wesley Ru has acquired four additional companies and now employs close to 500 people. He is an active community leader and role model for young Asian Americans.

WELCOME, 1997-1998 CHSSC OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

The following CHSSC members were voted in and installed at September's monthly meeting:

President	Jeffrey D. Tung
V.Pres./Programs	Susan D. Dickson
Secretary	Henrietta Yuan
Financial Secty.	Franklin Mah
Membership Secty.	Cy Wong
Board members:	Randall Bloch
	Eugene Cooper
	Elmo Gambarana
	Munson A. Kwok
	Irvin Lai
	Winifred L. Lew
	Ruth Lung
	Eugene Wong Moy
	Stanley Mu
	Ben Nakayama

THANK YOU for the September Meeting refreshments: Dorothy Lew, Ruth Lung, Sylvia Soo Hoo, Noel Toy, and Dolores Wong.

DEDICATION TO SAN LUIS OBISPO CHINATOWN & AH LOUIS STORE - Historical

Landmark 802. In attendance on Thursday, September 18, to represent the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California were Paul Chace, Johnny Yee, Johnson Yee and Rosalyn Yee. True to Chinese tradition, the dedication included the loud crackling of 50,000 firecrackers, and a lion dance group and a ribbon dance group from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The mosaic mural for the Historic Chinatown District of San Luis Obispo unveiled at the dedication was in the form of two huge Chinese characters measuring 15' x 35' and painted on the outside wall of a new parking structure adjacent to Ah Louis' store. Johnny Yee said that inside the character (愛) were images of Chinese coming to the United States and crossing the oceans. Inside the second character (樂) were images of Ah Louis, the Ah Louis store, a locomotive, farms, brick yard, gold mining, and quicksilver mining. **The Chinese characters symbolize the duality of the Chinese immigrants experience: their LOVE for the land of their birth and JOY for their hopes in a new land.** A truly wonderful sight to behold!

This dedication was held in conjunction with a celebration of the Moon Festival, and San Luis Obispo's weekly Thursday night Farmer's Market held from 6 - 8 p.m which draws hundreds of late shoppers and participants.



The Chinese characters for
"LOVE" and "DOUBLE JOY"
 symbolize the duality
 of the Chinese
 immigrants' experience:
 their **LOVE** for the land of their birth
 and **JOY** for their hopes in a new Land.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!!!

- Members to serve on the November 7th Dinner Committee
Call Susan Dickson, 818-792-8454, 213-621-3171
- Raffle Prizes valued at \$25 and over for November 7th Fundraising Dinner. Call Susan Dickson, 818-792-8454, 213-621-3171
- Editor for monthly News 'n Notes
Leave message at 213-621-3171
- Coordinator for Walking Tours
Leave message at 213-621-3171

CHSSC FUNDRAISER CHARITY NIGHT on Tuesday evening, September 9, was a success. "Thank You" to all those who ate dinner at **Carmine's Italian Restaurant** in South Pasadena. CHSSC netted \$168.00. Everyone enjoyed the cuisine and many took ample leftovers home for the next meal. Watch for the next date at Carmine's. Thank you, Elmo Gambarana & Ruth Lung for welcoming the guests, and to Sylvia Soo Hoo for arranging the dinner.

EXCERPTS FROM "The Artifact" San Luis Obispo County Archaeological Society courtesy of Roberta Greenwood.

"In 1987, an excavation project took place on Palm Street in San Luis Obispo. The site was one block from the Mission and in the heart of what was SLO's Chinatown. The excavation uncovered more features and artifacts than anyone expected. Approximately 5 tons or 35,000 artifacts were recovered. The budgeted funding ran out before 1/3 of the collection has been cataloged..... In 1997, with the help of SLOCAS and the SLO Cultural Heritage Commission, the City decided to allow the public to have a major hand in the sorting, cataloging, and analysis of the artifacts.....The City of SLO, Cal Poly, and Parker & Associates have formed a partnership to undertake the archaeological research project. **Cal Poly** is providing a lab facility, **The City** is providing funds for start-up and coordination costs, and **Parker & Associates** is providing training and technical specialists to run the project. But the most important part of the partnership is the **volunteers**.....To date, more than 150 people have signed up to be trained as volunteers. The technical direction and final analysis is being driven by five experts, (one of whom is our own member) Roberta Greenwood of Pacific Palisades who is a specialist on Chinese archaeological materials. Both Chinese and early Mission Period artifacts will shed light on the daily lifestyle of the people who settled and made SLO their home. The civic accomplishments of the Chinese community were left out of the history books written in the 1800's. Finally, 100 years later, these accomplishments are coming to light and being appreciated."

NOTE: Visitors or volunteers from our Society would be welcomed.

MTA / Web Page Coming Soon

According to Roberta Greenwood, Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) is in the process of developing a web page which will feature the excavation and artifacts from Los Angeles Chinatown. They expect that this will be up and running by December. The media people have already photographed many of the historical photographs and CHSSC artifacts.

COMING EVENTS

Sept. 26-Oct. 2
Laemmle Grande
4-Plex
345 S. Figueroa
Sheraton Hotel Complex

My America (..or honk if you love Buddha)
A documentary film by Renee Tajima-Pena
Featuring Victor Wong. For info on discounted group movie/
dinner packages, contact CRA (213) 977-2633.

Wednesday
October 1
7:00 p.m.

CHSSC Monthly Meeting
Castelar School's multipurpose room

**Fri., Sat., Sun.
Oct. 3, 4, 5**

**Conference of California Historical Societies
"Siskiyou's Resources, Then & Now"**
Yreka, CA Registration: \$45
Info: 818-792-1048 (Christie Bourdet)

**Tuesday
October 7**

**Chinese American Faculty Association
Banquet to honor Dr. David Ho
TIME magazine's 'MAN OF THE YEAR'**
\$50 per person
For reservation, call 213-239-6688

**Saturday
October 18
9:00 a.m.**

**Associated Historical Societies of L. A. County
Mini-Conference**
University of LaVerne - Wilson Library
\$8 - lunch included
Info: 626-792-1048; 909-593-5994

**Wednesday
October 22
6:00 p.m.
Regal Biltmore Hotel**

**A SHOWCASE for OUR HISTORY: Celebrating the New Achievers
Museum of Chinese American History**
First Annual "Historymakers" Awards Gala Banquet. A Major Fundraiser
in support of the Museum at Los Angeles' El Pueblo Historical
Monument. For info / reservations, call David Lang (213) 239-6688.

**Friday
November 7**

**CHSSC's FALL FUNDRAISING DINNER
Empress Pavilion
Flyer to follow**

**Saturday
December 6**

**VETERAN'S TRIBUTE / BOOK RECEPTION
Patriotic Hall, downtown Los Angeles
Flyer to follow**

NEWS 'n NOTES DEADLINE : All articles must be in to the P.O. Box by the 15th of the month to be considered in that month's News 'n Notes.



CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

P.O. BOX 862647 • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90086-2647

September 22, 1997

Dear CHSSC Members:

Over two years ago, the Society closed escrow on the Heritage Center property on Bernard Street. The seller carried back financing until we could obtain the major funding to eliminate the loan. Our fundraising efforts up to this summer have reduced the principal on the note by \$35,000 but we have paid out \$60,000 in interest costs (like a home loan, a larger proportion of the early monthly payments is allocated to interest).

At the beginning of the summer, your Board of Directors established some specific fundraising goals within a 90-day period for the Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center project. We did not quite reach our goals in that time frame, but did make significant progress, receiving over \$15,000 from members and over \$50,000 in outside cash and pledges. After some very serious deliberations at our September meeting of the Board of Directors, the majority decision was to continue our fundraising efforts, rather than abandon the project, especially in view of the many ongoing discussions with potential major donors, and the pending grant applications.

The many checks received will be deposited into the Building Fund. Funds will be used toward property payments or physical improvements. Donations for materials and services will be requested at every opportunity to offset our currently low expenses. The Building Committee will focus on raising outside monies, from individuals, businesses, government, and foundations. Regular evaluations will be made to determine adjustments in the strategy. Fundraising experts tell us: the money is out there; we just have to go after it.

When the Society decided to undertake this project more than two years ago, it was recognized that our organization was necessarily going to undergo a transformation in scope and scale. We had matured as an organization, and achieved a great deal, but had not increased our membership or resource base. In the meantime, we had accumulated many valuable historical documents and artifacts, but they were not publicly available, and we were missing opportunities to document our Chinese American history as our aging pioneers were passing on.

We are the people who have the responsibility to collect and share our heritage with the Southern California community. The location on Bernard Street is one of the best we have for visibility and quality traffic, one that will act as an effective bridge between Chinatown and the larger community. Our Chinese American World War II Veterans project was made possible with this convenient site. Drop-in visitors have become friends, members, and working volunteers.

The Building Committee and I feel very confident that we will achieve our relatively modest goals. We have already gained new friends and workers in addition to financial contributions. But ultimate success will require organized and sustained effort. It will require your ideas and energy. Most importantly, it will require our collective will and desire. We want your support as we grow and build for our heritage.

Sincerely,

Irvin R. Lai
Chairman of the Board

LOS ANGELES CHINATOWN HERITAGE & VISITORS CENTER.

Fundraising Summary. The Building Committee launched a summer fundraising campaign in July, and some very positive progress has been made:

- We received \$15,249.74 in cash in an 8 week period from our July mailing to members.
- We received a \$50,000 pledge through a contact suggested and coordinated by a CHSSC member.
- We have submitted two \$50,000 grant requests and are finalizing four others for mid-October.
- We are negotiating to reduce the principal on the property note, because property values in Chinatown have depreciated and we want to pay on a fair market value to retain equity.
- We have developed a fundraising strategy which was used successfully in our \$50,000 pledge. (read further to learn how you can help in this process)

The campaign continues. Substantial effort has gone into the process, with encouraging results. Although the initial cash goals were not quite reached, the Building Committee has expressed strong confidence in achieving our ultimate financial and development goals. Based on this potential, the Board of Directors has enabled the Building Committee to continue the campaign for another 90 days. The first goal will be to raise at least another \$50,000 of which a substantial portion should be in immediate cash. The major purpose of these funds will be to develop programs at the Center, some of which will require expenditures for physical improvements.

Your assistance needed. Building Committee chairman Eugene Moy needs your help! Much has been accomplished by a very small committee. To make our effort truly effective, you can assist by becoming a fundraising "advisor". Many of you know of or have some connection to successful individuals or businesses who have demonstrated their generosity through prior support of community programs. You would help by making an initial inquiry to the prospective donor, and a meeting with a key Board member would be arranged. We are not necessarily looking for large contributions; generating goodwill is equally important. The Society's programs are really very easy to sell; we who are closely involved may not realize how impressive the Society's dedication and vision is to others. We have found the process to be very personally rewarding--to be associated with the Society's achievements, and to learn about the lives and achievements of others. Through such quality communications, we can expand the image and financial base of our Society. To get started, we will train you and provide all the p.r. materials to be a part of our team. Please call Gene at (626) 289-2067 to help and to have fun!

Acknowledgements. The Building Committee extends its deep gratitude to the many members and friends who have donated during this critical campaign. We have received large donations and small donations, all of which express confidence and support for our Heritage Center project. Of special note is the pledge of \$50,000 received from Steve C.K. Liu, M.D. and Milly Liu, M.D. Drs. Liu both are clinical professors at the UCLA School of Medicine and are innovators and leaders in their respective fields of cardiology and pediatrics; we are fortunate to have their generous support. We should note that they represent an emerging group of successful Chinese Americans of whom we should be proud and who should be recognized. With your help we can identify and approach more such leaders who can assist the CHSSC in achieving its goals.

New bookshop item.

Now available at the Heritage Center bookshop is *Down by the Station: Los Angeles Chinatown, 1880-1933* by Roberta S. Greenwrod, eminent archaeologist and CHSSC member, with contributing work by Lynn C. Kronzek, also CHSSC member. Published by UCLA's Institute of Archaeology, this 232 page book, with color plates, has been hailed by scholars as "the best volume on a Chinese American community there is". The work summarizes the historical research, fieldwork, and laboratory analysis organized by Roberta Greenwood to document the portion of Old Chinatown, in the vicinity of Union Station, that was affected by Metro Rail subway construction. Price is \$40 plus tax, with 25% of proceeds going to the Building Fund.



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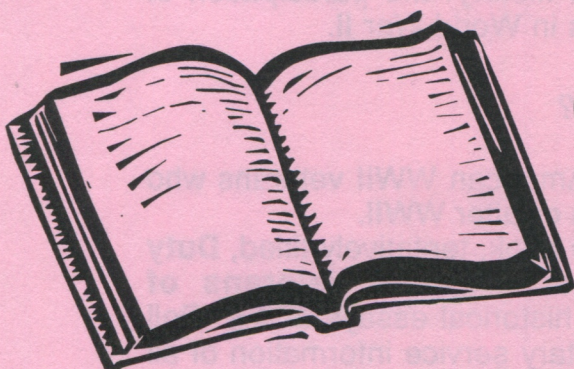
(213) 621-3171

PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

* Soon to be released— This is what you've been waiting for! *

DUTY & HONOR:

A Tribute to Chinese American WWII Veterans of Southern California



This is your chance to own a piece of history!
This special, limited edition, commemorative publication will feature 200 pages of essays and photos dedicated to Southern California's Chinese Americans and their experiences during WWII. Learn about these valiant men and women. Order your own copy today!

PRE-PUBLICATION PRICE

UNTIL **October 31, 1997— \$33.00** (add CA sales tax & shipping)

AFTER **October 31, 1997— Retail Price: \$36.00** (add CA sales tax & shipping, if necessary)

Pre-Publication Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

**HURRY! This offers expires
October 31, 1997!**

I would like to order _____ books x \$33.00 = _____

8.25% CA sales tax (\$2.73 x _____ books) = _____

SHIPPING & HANDLING:

1st copy is \$5.00 = _____

Each additional _____ x \$2.00 = _____

Pick up at Nov. 8, 1997 reception
or Dec. 3, 1997 CHSSC meeting = **NO CHARGE**

Thank you! TOTAL = _____

* Please make checks payable to: **CHSSC/WWII.** *

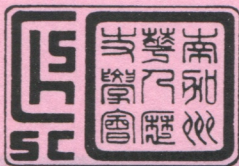
Send orders/payments to the address below:

WWII Veterans Project

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

PO Box 862647

Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647



CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

P.O. BOX 862647 • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90086-2647

"Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California" Research Project

• Project Description •

- ◇ **Why** is the Society searching for Chinese American WWII veterans?
- To re-claim a neglected part of American history: the participation of Southern California Chinese Americans in World War II.

- ◇ **What** are the goals of this Research Project?

- To locate and identify as many Chinese American WWII veterans who either lived in Southern California before or after WWII.
- To publish a limited edition commemorative book, tentatively titled, **Duty & Honor: Chinese American World War II Veterans of Southern California**, that will include historical essays and a "Roll Call" section containing photos and military service information of all veterans who come forward to register. (Publication will be filed with Library of Congress)
- To co-produce with the Museum of Chinese American History a slide module w/ accompanying audio-cassette narration (for presentation and educational purposes only).

- ◇ **How** does this Project intend to accomplish these goals?

- Will compile a Master Roster of Chinese American WWII veterans who lived in Southern California either before or after WWII.
- Will register veterans; also interview if time permits and veterans willing.
- Will copy & return borrowed photos and memorabilia for the Society's photo archives and commemorative book publication.
- Will create "A Polaroid Scrapbook of Veterans Today", with veterans' current addresses and phone numbers.

- ◇ **When** will this project be completed?

>>> July, 1997 ... if the Society can register at least 200 veterans! <<<

- ◇ **Questions?**

- Call Museum Curator Suellen Cheng (213/626-5240); WWII veterans Jim Fong (213/295-0616) or Irvin Lai (213/735-1331); Project Coordinator Marjorie Lee (310/825-5043 day or 310/676-4288 eves.); or Research Assistant Lili Yin Yee (310/824-7930).

