



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

FEBRUARY 1998

1997-1998

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PROGRAM

Wednesday, March 4, 1998

7:00 P.M.

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

Speaker:

BEVERLEY JACKSON

Author of SPLENDID SLIPPERS - A THOUSAND YEARS
of an EROTIC TRADITION

For a thousand years Chinese women had their feet maimed and miniaturized in the name of beauty. Beverley Jackson will show the world of the women with bound feet. Ms. Jackson will discuss the origins of footbinding, how the binding was done, and the focus on the beautiful shoes and display slippers from her own collection.

Ms. Jackson was a society columnist for the Santa Barbara News-Press for 24 years, while lecturing nationally at museums and universities on 18th and 19th Century Chinese life and dress and on Chinese footbinding.

THANK YOU for all the delicious refreshments at the February meeting to Susan Dickson, Gilbert Horn, Margie Lew, and Noel Toy Young.

CHANGES IN AREA CODE, TELEPHONE NUMBER, ADDRESS, ZIP CODE, etc. Please let us know when you have any changes so that we may update our roster information. Many times we don't know until the mail is returned or we can't get through by phone.

Last Reminder - MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Our CHSSC membership year is from January - December. If you have already sent in your membership renewal fee, we thank you. If not, please send in your renewal as soon as possible in order not to miss any of the exciting programs to follow. Remember, LIFE members, in order to receive the Gum Saan Journal, you need to send in a total of \$5 for the June and December 1998 issues.

IT DID NOT RAIN ON OUR PARADES!!!

As in years past, CHSSC took part in two Chinese New Year parades. On Saturday, Jan. 31, 30 members were joined by 30 students from UCLA in the march in Los Angeles Chinatown. The students were recruited by Eric Chen, President of the Fraternity.

As usual, the marchers with the American flags waving in the breeze made a very impressive sight, and the group received much applause and support from the spectators. Being one of the first units in the parade, the group was fortunate to have missed the rain, which started to come down minutes after the unit disbanded.

HOORAY!!! WE ARE #1. NUMBER ONE. NUMERO UNO. AND A - O.K.!!!!

On Saturday, Feb. 7, the Society participated in the Alhambra-San Gabriel celebration on Valley Blvd. Parade Coordinator Johnny Yee led the group with his usual fervor, followed by Paul Chace. Both men carried massive American flags. Next came the CHSSC banner, held by Phyllis Chace, Margie Lew, and Paul's father, Gale (87 years young). The only other Society member was Paul Yee, who was joined by 40 marchers, all members of various service clubs from Alhambra High School, recruited through the courtesy of Ms. Candie Collins, Activities Director at the school.

Fortunately, it did not rain on this parade, either. And better yet, the Society was awarded a trophy for being #1 as a marching unit. What a great (and deserving) surprise for Johnny Yee, who worked so hard, as he does every year, to coordinate this annual event.

The Society extends thanks to Johnny and to all members and participants for making these two events as impressive and successful as in years past.

FEB. 19, 1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS DECISION: Irvin Lai, Chairman of the Board, announced that on February 19, 1998, the members of the Board of Directors voted to extend more time (90 days) for the Building Committee to achieve its goal in raising the necessary money for the mortgage. The vote was 8 yes, 3 no.

A MESSAGE ABOUT THE HERITAGE CENTER from Irvin Lai, Chairman of the Board.

As we enter the new year, we should briefly take a look back at the past year's achievements. We have continued to work toward our mission of education and historical recognition by continuing to offer monthly speakers and authors; completing the World War II Chinese American Veterans registration effort; completing the restoration of and dedicating the 19th Century Shrine at Evergreen Cemetery; leading New Year's parades in Chinatown and Alhambra; hosting major dinner programs; and giving guided tours to many school children. This was achieved by volunteers working together.

In addition, the Heritage Center project has moved forward with continued facility improvements, and funds have been raised toward ongoing mortgage payments. We are mindful of the Society's investment in the project. President Jeff Tung and I, along with the rest of the Board of Directors, have been continually evaluating the progress on this major financial commitment. Building Committee leaders Gene Moy and Ben Nakayama have been exploring ways to quickly reduce or eliminate the debt load, and I am confident that if we focus our energies on fundraising, we can complete the purchase of the Heritage Center property. We can then move on to the tasks of developing educational exhibits and programs, which will be easier to fund. I urge you now to contact Gene and Ben with your ideas, donor contacts, and enthusiasm. By working together, we can achieve our goals.



Featuring

Beverley Jackson

Author of Splendid Slippers:
A Thousand Years of an Erotic Tradition
at Castelar's Multi-Purpose Room

March 4, 1998
Book Signing at 7:00 p.m.
Book Talk at 8:00 p.m.

Co-sponsors: Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
Friends of the Chinatown Library

Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Chinatown Library



HERITAGE CENTER UPDATE by Eugene Moy, Building Committee.

Beginning in January, our interim Heritage Center, housed in the historic Victorian home at 411 Bernard Street, has been open every Sunday from noon to 4:00 PM. Many visitors have already stopped in to see our exhibits (including those on loan from the Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History), see our videos and slide show, browse through our small library, purchase books, or simply chat with our friendly volunteer staff. We also have a new office and research tool: a Pentium computer on loan from On-Time Computer, a local business which offers terrific prices. Coupled with internet access (have you seen the CHSSC's web site recently? It's at www.chssc.org) our research capabilities have been greatly expanded. If you have not been over recently, drop in; we'll provide the coffee and tea. For CHSSC members, if the driveway has room, just pull your car in and save on parking costs. For reference, our telephone number at the center is (213) 222-1918.

Our public relations effort received a boost with a very positive article on Chinatown by writer Anne Beatts in the Thursday January 29th Calendar section of the L.A. Times. Ms. Beatts shared her learning experience based on an afternoon at the Heritage Center with Gene Moy and Cy Wong, and as a result, we have had a number of visitors who had read the article seek out our location.

The fundraising campaign for development is continuing. A number of grant applications are in process, and key individuals are being sought to help eliminate the mortgage. Separately, mailings and contacts are being made with selected businesses. In the meantime, as income tax season is in full swing, we hope that you might consider a tax-deductible donation of cash or appreciated property/assets to the CHSSC Building Fund. Please call me at (626) 289-2067 for further details about planned giving.

This past month, notable donations were received from: Wing Mar, M.D.; Isobel and Chong Lew; Darryl Sue, M.D.; Fred Clement and Barbara Lee-Clement; and Suenn Ho, an assistant professor of architecture at the University of Oregon. Our sincere thanks to these and all other donors for their support. For 1997, a full financial statement with a list of all donors will be available soon.

We must recognize the members who have been contributing regularly toward maintenance and as docents/greeters: Gilbert Hom, Ben Nakayama, Barb Kercher, Victor Nicassio, Sophie Lafferty, Cy Wong, and Howard Hew. The vitality and appearance of the Heritage Center continues to improve with the assistance of our volunteers.

BUILDING CHINESE AMERICAN HERITAGE: ARCHAEOLOGY. HISTORY. MATERIAL ITEMS. PERFORMANCE.... & FOOD.

Saturday, April 11, 1998; Hyatt Islandia Hotel, San Diego, California

Some of the speakers include some of CHSSC's own members:

Paul G. Chace, Anthropologist / Heritage Consultant

Paul G. Chace & Associates, Escondido

"Symposium Introduction: Overview and Aims"

"An experimental approach, this symposium brings together project contributors from diverse heritage fields -- with an audience including concerned Chinese American, along with Chinese-language media, to enrich impacts and extend outreach. This milieu encourages more eloquent, thoughtful, and useful interpretations of Chinese American cultural history, situating specific data and theoretical orientations. As a current political concern, such reconstructed heritage reflects on both identification with Americans' personal citizenship, and with on-going international relations. Thus, even 'Overseas Chinese' vs. 'Chinese American' implies each local heritage project actually contributes new interpretations building on these important contemporary agendas."

Linda Bentz, Historian**Historical Researcher, San Pedro, California****"Overseas Chinese Fishermen of Santa Barbara and the Channel Islands"**

"Overseas Chinese fishermen were the pioneers of the commercial fishing industry in nineteenth-century California, involved in the harvesting, cooking, drying and exporting of fresh fish and mollusks. These industrious and persistent men occupied a niche that was undesirable to Euro-Americans. Archival and archaeological data shows that Chinese fishermen worked on and around Santa Barbara and the Channel Islands for approximately forty years. This paper examines Santa Barbara's Chinese fishing industry, and the role of the Chinese merchants who were responsible for the building or acquisition of the boats, the employment of the fishermen, and the exporting of the fish."

Randall Bloch, Historian / Legal Secretary**Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Los Angeles****"The 19th Century Chinese Cemetery Shrine, An Important Cultural Icon for Los Angeles"**

"Unprecedented for Los Angeles, in 1995 commemorative plaques in English and Chinese were placed at the Chinese shrine in Evergreen Cemetery, the earliest structural evidence of Chinese culture in Los Angeles. The shrine consists of an altar, a stele, and two ceremonial kilns for burning sacred items at burial and seasonal rites. Built in 1888, but used only rarely after 1965 and deteriorated, the shrine was to be demolished in 1990. The Chinese Historical Society organized a seven-year acquisition and preservation campaign, enlisting the support of the Los Angeles Conservancy, Getty Conservation Institute, a key City councilman, other officials, and many citizens. Today, the shrine stands fully restored, and the Society's work lies in awakening the public to this unique cultural icon."

Munson Kwok, Ph.D., Historian / Engineer**Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Los Angeles****"Collections of the Chinese Historical Society of So. California"**

"Through the generosity of the contracting agencies and the persuasive suggestions of Archaeologist Roberta Greenwood, the Chinese Historical Society has suddenly found itself with two significant collections of findings from digs in two California Chinatowns. These are the Los Angeles MTA - Old Chinatown collection recently compiled and studied by Ms. Greenwood and the Santa Barbara Chinatown study. How these collections came into the control of the society, how they are currently used, and how the Society, an all-volunteer community non-profit organization, intends to curate, maintain, and make the collections accessible will be discussed."

Murray K. Lee, Curator of Chinese American History**San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, San Diego****"San Diego's Asian / Pacific Historic District"**

"This eight block district, which overlaps the historic Gaslamp District, was the Pacific rim gateway to San Diego at the turn of the century. Chinatown was part of the notorious Stingaree District, San Diego's equivalent of the famous Barbary Coast. The area was characterized by violence and crime with fighting, killings, prostitution, gambling, drinking, and drugs. The Chinese had many legitimate businesses in the area, along with their own version of gambling, such as lottery and fan tan. The Chinese, who had no choice in where they lived, eventually began to raise families in the area, developed their own supporting organizations, assisted by the Chinese Mission. Today the Center City Development Corporation (CCDC) has created the Asian / Pacific Historic District and designated 21 remaining buildings as directly related to the Asian community."

For additional information, call Michael Sampson, SCA Convention Chair (619) 220-5323.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday
February 28
2:00 p.m.
Free

Teen"Scape presents "Lady White Snake"
Los Angeles City Public Library
 An original play based on an ancient Chinese folk tale, written and directed by renowned playwright Henry Ong.
 Central Library, Downtown, 630 W. 5th Street
 Info: Call 213-228-7290.

Sundays
Mar. 1,8,15,22,29
12 noon - 4 p.m.

Historical & Visitors Center
 Open to the public.
 Free

Wednesday
March 4
7:00 p.m.

CHSSC Monthly Meeting
"Splendid Slippers: A Thousand Years of an Erotic Tradition"
 See attached flyer

Sunday
March 8
2:00 p.m.

"The Super Metropolis" by Dr. Martin Schiesl
L.A. City Historical Society & History Dept. L. A. Public Library
 Emphasis will be the social & political development of Calif., 1950-2000
 Info: Call 213-228-7000 during library hours.

Tuesday
March 17
4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Carmine's Italian Restaurant & Bar Fundraiser for CHSSC
 Meet your family and friends for an enjoyable & delicious Italian dinner on St. Patrick's Day.
 Info: Call Elmo 213-733-2927 or Ella 213-255-6487

Wednesday
March 18
6:30 p.m.

CHSSC BOARD MEETING
969 North Broadway (above Phoenix Bakery)
Everyone welcome

Sunday
March 22
Noon
\$26

Mei Wah Benefit / Luncheon Fundraiser
"Spring Fashion Trends"
Free door prizes !!! Raffle prizes!!!
 Castaway Restaurant
 1250 Harvard Road, Burbank
 Info: Anna Chew (213-851-4160), Pat Mark (213-661-1334),
 Dora Soo Hoo (213-660-2254), Rose Tom (213-665-2840),
 Eleanor Yee (213-624-8984, Lorraine Yee (213-222-3252).

Saturday
March 28
6:00 p.m.
\$22

Elysian Park Committee
 Annual Chinese banquet fundraiser
 Fu Ling Restaurant
 Info: Call Marion Siu 213-661-3373

Saturday
April 11, 1998

Building Chinese American Heritage: Archaeology, History, Material Items, Performance,....& Food
 Hyatt Islandia Hotel, San Diego, CA

Friday
May 15

CHSSC SPRING DINNER - SAVE THIS DATE
Empress Pavilion

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.