



News 'n Notes

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

WWW.CHSSC.ORG • (323) 222-0856

DECEMBER 2000

Holiday Potluck and Boutique

Over 60 members and friends attended the event at Castelar School on Wednesday, December 6th, 2000. Thank you to each and everyone who brought food or donated to the Potluck. Thank you to Ruth Lung, Winifred Lew, Margie Lew, Bob Lee and others who donated to the Boutique. It was a great success and the proceeds from the Boutique amounted to \$94.00 that evening. Thank you, one and all.

Johnny Yee, Jeff Chan and Icy Smith decorated the room with holiday decorations. Johnny Yee brought his bag of "props" and the "choir" and guests entertained each other with Christmas carols with Winifred Lew at the piano.

Johnny Yee and Jeff Chan were full of surprises. They brought Santa (Ed Low) who entertained young and old with his "Ho Ho Ho." Ed Low is now one of our newest members. Welcome, Ed!!

Ang Lee: The Hidden Dragon Turned Rising Phoenix

I was invited to a screening of Ang Lee's Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon at the Directors Guild of America for an inaugural event of the Asian-American Committee on December 4th, 2000. The movie was a constant reminder of what I had missed since my move to California. It was bringing back reminiscence of my childhood when most of my time was spent watching Hong Kong movies and TV shows. It wasn't the melodrama shows my mom loves to watch which were equivalent to soap opera in the states. It was fantastical stories with mixtures of historical facts and legends where the good and evil battle to show off their skills of flying tactics and swords abilities.

"Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" definitely dazzles American audience with applause one after another. I still feel that it was lacking a good story to tell, besides the obvious love story sub-text, as compared to Ang's previous movies such as "The Wedding Banquet." What I enjoyed most about this movie along with the well-choreographed fight scenes was the music score by Tan Dun along with Yo-Yo Ma cello solos. The beating drum and underscoring of the cello was very meditative especially during the scene where the two female characters played by Zhang Ziyi and Michelle Yeoh fought in a courtyard despite of their friendship. Chow Yun Fat gave a solid performance in his Li Mu Bai character where his convincing clueless expression toward his love interest Yu Shu Lien played by Yeoh illustrate a dynamic contrast between their roles.

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January Program

Wednesday, January 3rd, 2000

7:00 PM

Castelar Elementary school

multipurpose room

840 Yale St.

Los Angeles, Chinatown

(Park on playground. Enter on College St.
between Hill and Yale Streets)

Chinese American Portraits of Pride

Featuring interviews of two leaders in the technological age
Update by Dr. Wing Mar, Project Director

This evening's program features a videotaped interview of Dr. Allen Gee, discussing his family history and his work as a scientist in support of the U.S. space program. We will also have a live interview with Edgar Wong, sharing his experiences as a student at CalTech and as leader of a team at TRW which earned him front page recognition in the New York Times.

Dr. Mar will then report on the progress of the Chinese American Portraits of Pride (CAPP) Project, and how it has helped increase local awareness of the recent achievements of Chinese Americans. If time permits, he will also share information on a new candidate for recognition, a Chinese American woman pilot who flew all types of planes for the Army Air Force during World War II, and who later worked as a physicist for the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in Livermore.

Come join us at this free program, and share our pride in the achievements of local pioneers in their fields.

Contents • December 2000

• Calendar Events • Exhibits • CAPP Project • Job Announcement •



Thanks and More to Come!

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who emailed or called me up about the articles and the new face lift of News and Notes. Please keep the suggestions coming, Ella and I and everyone at the CHSSC staff would want to make 2001 newsletters to be outstanding for the new millennium and more exciting news and programs for everyone to enjoy. What you can do for CHSSC is to invite your friends to join and take them to our monthly meetings. As you can see we have programs lined up until April 2001 already. I am also proud to be a part of CAPP (Chinese American Portraits of Pride) project working with Dr. Mar on the first sets of display on Chinese American Scientists which was presented at the CHSSC 25th Anniversary Dinner. CAPP generated a lot of attention and we already have several locations with the first set of recognitions. We are also starting a new phase with many ideas coming as we meet and speak to many people about whom to recognize for their contributions to the Chinese Community in Southern California. We are also working on setting up www.chssc.org with current updates and keeping up with archiving what we have with photos, newsletters, and many more for members to access through the use of our current technology. If anyone wants to donate their postage for email updates / News and Notes for the new 2001 please email me at ychia76@hotmail.com or when you renew your membership or new membership please check the box "donate postage" and also don't forget your email address.

Thanks, Yvonne Chia

CHSSC Scholarship Funds Needed

How would you like to help a college student fulfill his dream? You can do so by contributing to the CHSSC Scholarship Fund. For the last several years, the CHSSC has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to a qualified and deserving undergraduate student in a college or university here in Southern California who shows a strong interest in Chinese American studies in the Humanities or Social Sciences. Donations are needed to continue this important program, which starts in December, so please consider contributing to the Scholarship Fund and know that you are helping to encourage a student continue his or her educational goals, especially in the field of Chinese American studies.

More and more interest is being shown in the contributions of Chinese Americans to this country and to the world, and what better way is there to show your support and applaud their efforts? We will gladly accept donations of any amounts. Just specify "Scholarship Fund" on your donation and accept our thanks for helping in such a tangible way! Contact Winnie Lew, Scholarship Chair, for more information through the CHSSC office at (323) 222-0856.

Renew Your Membership for 2001 Today!

CHSSC membership year is from January - December. Don't miss out on the many events planned for 2001. Bring in a new member! Bring in a friend or relative! Let's make 2001 the year of many, many NEW members.

Writers Needed

Are you a writer? If you are we need you to become a part of our team. Writing about Chinatown and surrounding neighborhoods for our News 'n Notes. As a writer you can give another light to interesting issue and perspective to history and the present of the community. Please contact Yvonne Chia at (310) 393 9185.

2000-2001

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*Appreciation of our
Chinese American Heritage*

CHSSC

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Updates: Chinese Portrait of Pride from the desk of Dr. Mar

CAPP project showing our 6 senior scientist is being exhibited at the YMCA facility in Torrance and at the dining room wall of the Hong Kong Garden restaurant across from the Harbor/UCLA medical center. If you are in the area please drop by.

In January the CAPP project with the Duty and Honor Display will be shown at the Chinese New Year celebration by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce at the city's cultural center from 5 to 8pm on January 18, Thursday. There will be entertainment and food. This is a public relation event for the Chamber so there is no charge. Last year there was over a thousand attendees so the event is moved to a larger hall this year.

The Torrance South-Bay Family YMCA is finishing its 4 million dollar capital expansion program and will name the Cardiovascular and Wellness Center after our own Steve and Millie Liu in recognition of their contribution to their community as physicians and as philanthropists.

The CAPP project is the basis for this recognition. Your support of the CAPP project will make a difference as to how the general public will view Chinese Americans as to their contribution to their communities as a group as well as an individual. This recognition will benefit the diverse population living and working together as we do in southern California. We have to do for ourselves what the media in general have not done for us--that is to represent us without biases. Please support the CAPP project when asked. We need your whole hearted good will and wishes to be successful. Happy Holiday!

The Lonely Queue

The Forgotten History of The Courageous Chinese Americans in Los Angeles by Icy Smith. Foreword by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. This unprecedented pictorial history book presents the vibrant and diverse contribution of the 150 years of Chinese Americans in Los Angeles. The author worked with researchers and historians to document this remarkable history and to trace more than 200 vintage photographs, drawings and paintings depicting the struggle of making America their home. This first bilingual chronicle will be available in January 2001. For more information please call Heritage & Visitors Center at (323) 222-0856

25th Anniversary T-Shirts

A limited number of 25th Anniversary commemorative T-shirts are still available at \$20 each or two or more at \$18 each, sizes come in medium, large, and extra large for sale at the Heritage and Visitors Center. Or you can order them along with renewing your membership subscription.

News 'n Notes

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**Submissions of Calendar
Events and Articles must be
received by the 15th of each
month in order to be
considered in that month's
newsletter
contact
Yvonne Chia
ychia76@hotmail.com
(310) 393-9185
333 22nd Street
Santa Monica, CA 90402**

Programs for 2001

January - Chinese American Contributions to Science, Technology and Medicine - Chinese American Portraits Project

To counter negative portrayal of Chinese Americans in the media surrounding the Wen Ho Lee Case the Historical Society has embarked on a project to document the role of Chinese Americans in the sciences, from technology to medicine, aerospace to engineering, to demonstrate past and current contributions to the country and to society. This program will present a panel of distinguish scientist and engineers.

February - Cecilia Rasmussen

Los Angeles Times writer whose regular column on the third page of Sunday's Metro section brings to life Los Angeles' past. Her articles have chronicled the role of several ethnic communities in our city's history.

March - Gloria Lothrop

History of the Italian American community in Los Angeles. A slide show presentation with a preview of what's going on with the Italian Hall at El Pueblo.

April - James Hong

Presentation by the most recognized character actor whose roles have spanned the entire spectrum from comedy to dramatics.



January 7,14,21,28, Sunday

Heritage and Visitors Center
411 Bernard Street
12 noon - 4PM

January 1

"Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo" New year's Day
Celebration at Weller Court
11am - 3PM
Free
taiko drum show, sake barrel breaking, Miss
Nisei Week 2000

January 5

Chinese Chamber of Commerce networking
mixer / press conference co-sponsored by
Hong Kong Association, introducing the 2001
Miss LA Chinatown contestants
Empress Pavilion
5pm, \$10 members, \$15 non-members
(213) 617-0396

January 13-14

Asian American Expo
Pomona Fairplex
1101 W. McKinley Ave
(626) 350-7888

January 14

San Diego Chinese Historical Society &
Museum
5th Anniversary Banquet
Lucky Star Seafood Restaurant
\$35 per person
(858) 271-0385, Sawyer Hsu
(858) 271-6304, Donna Lee

January 19-25

Hong Kong Film Fest
Double Feature
Friday-Saturday: Chow Yun Fat Films
Sunday-Monday: Jet Li Films
Tuesday-Wednesday: Michelle Yeoh Films
Nuart Theater
11272 Santa Monica Blvd
(310) 478-6379

January 20

Miss LA Chinatown Fashion Show
Regal Biltmore Hotel
Noon Lunch
1pm Fashion Show
\$50 per ticket
(213) 617-0396

January 20

Little King and Queen contest of Chinatown
Castelar Elementary School
3:30pm - 5:30pm
(213) 617-5240

January 24

Chinese New Year Day
Year of the Serpent 4699

January 26

Friends of Chinese American Museum
Chinese New Year Banquet
Gourmet Carousel Restaurant
911 N. Broadway, Chinatown
(213) 625-5240

January 27

Miss LA Chinatown Pageant
Westin Bonaventure Hotel
7pm Dinner
\$125 per person
(213) 617-0396

Tracing your Roots Online

An email was sent to me in regards to a website called Chineseroots.com. I decided to find out more about the site. In a brief overview the site goal is very simple: they want to establish the largest genealogical database and research center online. They provide electronic database of 90,000 volumes of Chinese ancestry records from around the world and along with partnership with Shanghai Library (currently holding the largest Chinese family record).

They have a search link to meaning of surname with interesting information such as ranking, origin, evolution etc. It is very simple to use with pin yin and other dialects to choose from just as long as you know the character of your surname it will provide a list of possibilities in simplified and traditional Chinese.

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Thru 2001

Common Ground: The Heart of Community
Japanese American community
Japanese American National Museum
(213) 625-0414

Thru January 1st, 2001

On Gold Mountain: A Chinese American Experience
Autry Museum of Western Heritage,
Griffith Park, LA
(323) 667-2000 ext 234

January 31 - February 25, 2001

East West Player presents
The Year of the Dragon
120 Judge John Also Street
(213) 625-7000

Thru February 11, 2001

Allen Say's Journey: The Art and Words of a Children's Book Author
Japanese American National Museum
(213) 625-0414

Thru February 18, 2001

More Than a Game: Sport in the Japanese American Community, story of one immigrant group through the universally popular topic of sport
Japanese American National Museum
(213) 625-0414

continued from page 4 Roots online

On the same page there are trivial information and article about Chinese surnames. For example the "Bai Jia Xing" known as the Book of Hundred Surnames, was written during the 10th century with a record of 500 Chinese surnames.

With its sister site Chinesekin.com launching "a family oriented" website which provide easy to use messaging system to help keep family connected. Both sites provide Chinese and English usage, which is very convenient.

Check it out at www.chineseroots.com

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Ang Lee

Ang's ability to create strong female leads gives the movie another dimension away from the usual Jackie Chan's or Jet Li's martial arts movies. It is that difference which makes it even more enjoyable to watch that for once a girl can fight for herself and not need to have a man to protect her. I would definitely recommend watching this movie if you haven't been exposed to a different genre of Chinese cinema – wu xia pian.

After the movie I stuck around for the Q and A session with Ang Lee.

Ang was born and raised in Taiwan. As the eldest son in the family, it came with obligation to what he should do and what his career would be when growing up. His father is an educator teaching in Taiwan's most prestigious school and his mother is an avid movie watcher and would take him to see movies every week. Being a filmmaker was just a fantasy of his when he was a child and it was a big secret that carried on until he moved to the United States and graduated with a BFA from the University of Illinois theater school. His fate turned around when he continued his studies at NYU Film School where his senior thesis film "Fine Line" won best director and best film awards at the NYU Film Festival.

His trilogy of Chinese family stories was at heart all along in tribute to his father. Pushing Hands, The Wedding Banquet, and Eat Drink Man Woman are stories about family problems and struggles, and fathers always know what is best of any situations. Those films opened up doors for him to later lead him in directing Sense and Sensibility, Ice Storm and Ride With The Devil. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" is his way back to a story more close to home.

Ang's genuine storytelling opens up an international audience and with the years of pushing the envelope further in American Cinema. Whether the story is about a Chinese family or an American family, the emotion comes to be universal to cross cultural references. I am looking forward to more of Ang Lee's films in the near future in giving light to the next generation of filmmakers and storytellers.

--Yvonne Chia



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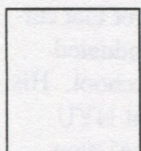
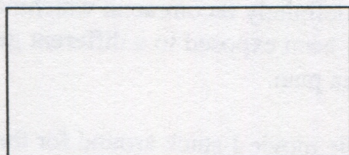
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