



News 'n Notes

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

www.chssc.org ♦ (323) 222-0856

JUNE 2001

— NO MEETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST —
(The next News 'n Notes will be sent in AUGUST)

The Mortgage, my Friend, is Blowin' in the Wind

Energized mingling, lively entertainment and delicious food combined as a typical prelude for the ever-anticipated, climatic event of CHSSC's May 11th Spring Dinner: burning the mortgage for the Bernard St. property. Held at the LA Chinatown Empress Pavilion Restaurant, this year's Spring Dinner was attended by over 200 people and graced by a special spirit of excitement.

In the main banquet room, the hour of greeting and chatting came to an end as President Irvin Lai welcomed the guests and presented the evening's theme. After introductions were made of new CHSSC staff and other attendees, several young dancers from the Formosa Dance Group dressed in colorful costumes energetically performed traditional Chinese folk dances.

Finally, after the entertainment, came everyone's favorite part of any dinner program: the food. The cold platter, shark fin soup, shrimp with cashews, scallop with asparagus, filleted carp with ham & mushroom, crispy-skinned chicken, & Peking duck were not only delicious, but also tastefully presented.

story continued on page 3

History of the Chinese Fishing Industry in California

At our May program meeting, CHSSC members and guests heard informative presentations from not one, but two, individuals at the leading edge of Chinese American historical research.

Linda Bentz, a graduate in anthropology from UCLA who considers Roberta Greenwood her mentor, shared some of her findings, which resulted from extensive research in the Channel Islands, in the communities of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Cambrria, and from the CHSSC's own Robert Nash Collection on Chinese in the shrimp fishing industry. We learned about some of

story continued on page 3

JUNE PROGRAM

Wednesday, June 6th

7:00 pm

Castelar Elementary School

Multipurpose Room

840 Yale Street

Los Angeles, Chinatown

*Note: Park on the playground and enter from
College St. between Hill & Yale St. Please
don't park pass the line running
parallel to Hill St. on the playground.*

co-sponsored by

CHSSC and

Friends of the Chinese

American Museum

♦♦Mr. Neville Agnew♦♦

presents

**"Preservation of Murals of
Mogao Cave Temples on
the Silk Road"**

Mr. Neville Agnew is a principal project specialist at the Getty Conservation Institute and a research fellow of the Dunhuang Academy in China. We are fortunate to have this chance to learn from his experience and knowledge.

—————CONTENTS • June 2001—————

- Spring Dinner Review • 2001 Scholarship • Walking Tour • PCC Exhibit •
- CHSSC Elections • Letter from James Hong • Upcoming Summer Exhibits & Activities •



Special Thanks to 2000-2001 Officers and Board Members

President, Irvin Lai
Vice-President, Eugene Moy
V.P. Program, Gilbert Hom
Secretary, Henrietta Yuan
Treasurer, Ella Y. Quan
Financial Secretary, Franklin Mah
Membership Secretary, Cy Wong

Board of Directors:
Chair of Board, Susan Dickson
Pete Chinn
Munson Kwok
Ruth Lung
Wing Mar
Ben Nakayama
Jeffrey Tung

A Call for Service on CHSSC Board

As a non-profit educational organization, CHSSC relies on and is grateful for years of member and community support. Several positions are open on the Board of Directors, service that includes If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors or as V.P. of Programs from July 2001 to June 2002, please contact Ella Quan at (323) 255-6487 or Munson Kwok at (310) 645-1369.

Slate for 2001-2002 Officers and Board Members

President, Irvin Lai
Vice-President, Eugene Moy
V.P. Program, **OPEN**
Secretary, Henrietta Yuan
Financial Secretary, Franklin Mah
Membership Secretary, Cy Wong
Treasurer, Ella Quan

Board of Directors:
Chair of Board, Susan Dickson
Pete Chinn
Winifred Lew
Dr. Wing Mar
Ben Nakayama

Belated 'Thank You' for April 3 Refreshments

Natalina Chew
P.K. Lee
Margie Lew
Winifred Lew
Ruth Lung
Ben & Doreen Nakayama
Sylvia Soo Hoo
Cy Wong
Dolores Wong
Johnny Yee
Martha & Yen Wei Yee
Donna Young
Noel Toy Young

'Thank You' for May 2 Refreshments

Mae Hom
Dorothy Louie Lew
Margie Lew
Anita & Richard Lim
Ruth Lung
Mary Mu
Ella Quan
Cy Wong
Frank & Eunee Yee
Johnny Yee
Donna Young
Noel Toy Young

Lecture by Prof. James Lee

June 17th is Father's Day and for those especially interested in the 'fathers' who came generations before them, Prof. James Lee of Cal Tech will be presenting a lecture on how to research personal Chinese family history. Currently researching in a remote village in China, Prof. James Lee is considered one of the world's leading demographers of Chinese genealogical records. He has published numerous articles and books not only on Chinese family history but also covering other aspects of Chinese culture and humanities.

The free lecture will be held at the Arcadia LDS church on June 17th from 6:30-8:30 pm. No smoking is allowed on the premises and Sunday dress is recommended. The lecture will be in English and Chinese, but they need to know in general how many people will attend. Call CHSSC office at (323) 222-0856 if you plan on attending. The Arcadia LDS church building is located at 614 W. Foothill Blvd., near the intersection of Foothill Blvd. and Baldwin off the 210 freeway. Hopefully, you'll be able to make it to this special lecture.

Thank You Letter From James Hong:

Dear Historical Society,

I wish to thank all of you for making your last meeting a success. At least, I think it was a SUCCESS. I never thought so many of my friends, family and fans would show up. Please print this letter if you can because I do want to thank them for taking the time to come downtown on a week-night. I apologize for being long-winded, but there was so much I wanted to share with you all. Maybe someday we can have a panel discussion gathering just to talk about movies and the Chinese Americans in Hollywood. There's a lot of history there. Just looking at the audience, I can see a lot of you from the industry and a lot of you are interested in it. We can invite a few more celebs and break up into groups etc. Right now, I'm a little busy, but maybe later on. The very best to you and thanks again for a fun and sentimental time.

- JAMES HONG

We'd like to extend an apology to Winifred Lew for neglecting to include her name on the Spring Dinner program as a table sponsor. Thanks for all you do, Winnie.



HISTORY (cont. from front page)

the technology, such as fishing junk and sampan design, and that there were many forms of junks, from single to multiple masts; this was richly illustrated with slides from old photographs that Ms. Bentz has collected. We also learned about the political and social climate during the time that Chinese fisherman were most active, from the late 1850's to the 1890's. Fishermen were accused of smuggling, despised for using small mesh nets, which were deemed too efficient, and were subjected to discriminatory tax policies.

John C. Muir, who is Associate Curator of Small Craft at San Francisco Maritime National Historic Park, followed with another richly illustrated presentation. In 1978, during a low tide in San Francisco Bay, two sunken Chinese fishing junks were discovered in the mud near San Rafael. Mr. Muir joined in the subsequent, very tedious archeological effort to photograph and document the design and construction details of these junks, probably dating back to the 19th century, and based on this research, completed his M.A. thesis in Cultural Resources Management with a paper entitled "One Old Junk is Everyone's Treasure: The Excavation, Analysis and Interpretation of a Chinese Shrimp Junk at China Camp State Park". The research team even traveled to China, in the Pearl River Delta, the region from which many fisherman emigrated, to try and locate possible sources of the boat technology found in the mud. One distinction of the China Camp junks is that the hulls were constructed using redwood, which were not native to China; thus these junks should be recognized as being built in California, specifically for use by our Chinese American pioneers.

At this point, sufficient detail has been compiled for the Maritime Museum to reconstruct a Chinese fishing junk. Mr. Muir closed by inviting the CHSSC and interested friends to join as volunteers in the project, scheduled for May-September, 2002. We are eagerly looking forward to planning an exciting journey to join in this effort, to reconstruct a historic Chinese American vessel!

Did you know . . . ?

A few weeks ago, Eugene Moy, Cy Wong & Kelli Allen had the opportunity to meet 92-yr-old Riverside resident, Dr. Kai Hoo Huang. He enthusiastically shared his knowledge with us about the meaning of his last name, Huang.

We'd like to pass on what we learned:

= modern
 = ancient
 ('Grass' above 'Fire')
 'Huang' means the color of
 browned grass

2001 Scholarship Winner Meredith Lee

The 2001 Scholarship Award for \$1,000 was presented to Ms. Meredith Lee of UCLA at our May 2nd general meeting. It was a pleasant surprise to meet her father, Ron Lee, who happened to be in town on business, and both Meredith and her father stayed and enjoyed our meeting.

Meredith was one of five finalists interviewed on April 14th for this year's scholarship, but she was the overwhelming choice of our three judges - Susan Dickson, Ella Quan, and Dr. Eugene Cooper.

Being a fifth generation Chinese American raised in Northern California, Meredith developed an interest in her roots after taking a class "for fun" at a community college entitled "The Asian-American Experience". She has found that researching her roots has been self-gratifying, especially with so rich a family background.

As a third-year transfer student with a double major in Chinese
story continued on page 5

Mortgage (cont from front page)

Because no Chinese banquet would be complete without dessert, bowls of mango pudding completed the meal. While guests ate their meals, the talented Michael Cladis walked around the tables performing popular guitar-(and sometimes banjo!) accompanied tunes.

The great food and entertainment helped create a lively atmosphere for the evening's pinnacle event. Before the burning of the mortgage, Vice President Eugene Moy covered the history of the project and Chair of the Board Susan Dickson presented fifteen plaques to those individuals and organizations whose contributions to the Building Fund Campaign allowed the society to pay off the mortgage the last week of 2000. After photos were taken of the honored guests with their plaques, the ceremony began with a wok placed on the table. Used properly, woks are meant to *prevent* things from becoming charred and burnt contents are ridiculed; however, this wok was special. With appropriate background rock music provided by Michael, Eugene Moy handed the deed and note to Irvin Lai, who then ignited them one after another with the flame of a candle. Excited with the reality of the burden of the mortgage being lifted from the society's shoulders, the officers and several others celebrated and the guests cheered.

The icing on the cake came when an announcement was made of Drs. Steve & Millie Liu's \$10,000 and Johnson & Rosalyn Yee's \$1,000 donations for beautification of the Bernard St. homes and grounds. This money will be used for new roofs, new exterior paint jobs, and eventually for landscaping. As the ashes and smoke of the mortgage blows away with the wind, the Chinese Historical Society looks forward to planning new projects and programs, as well as continuing current programs like the CAPP project. Thank you to all who attended the Spring Dinner and especially to those who helped the dream of owning this property become a reality.

• CHSSC Office Wish List •

If you would like to donate specifically to assist in the modernizing of our office here at Bernard St., please specify on the check or include a note. Donations will go towards the purchase of a new copy machine, DSL connection and monthly service, & other equipment.



Realizing & Enjoying Chinatown

Although an hour and a half tour through a community and history that has filled novels may not be enough to transform tourist into scholar, CHSSC walking tours continue to promote awareness of Chinese American history and culture, and participants leave the tour educated and usually ready for a big lunch.

Since March 2001, CHSSC docents have led over 200 people on tours through Chinatown. Well over 100 students from John Muir H.S., Ventura College, Loyola Marymount University, Chinese School of San Marino, and other schools have enjoyed the tours. In addition, groups such as the Los Angeles Navy Reserves and many individuals, both locals and tourists, have joined in. It seems that the \$3 per student or \$5 per adult charge is usually more than a fair donation for the knowledge and understanding participants glean from the experience.

Not only do the 'walkers' gain from tours, but docents can enjoy the feeling of helping others learn. About a week ago, I was leading a group of about ten adults through the Tin Hau Temple. Their questions and sincere interest were motivating, but when they wanted to learn how to greet the locals in Chinese - and greeted *everyone* once they learned - I was really impressed! The small stipend provided for each tour isn't much, but the reward of witnessing someone gain cultural understanding is a great benefit of being a docent.

If you are interested in becoming a docent for walking tours through Chinatown, can commit to 1-2 tours a month, and will be available for at least a year, please call our office at (323) 222-0856. We'd love to have you join in.

Have a Great Summer! Drive safely • Keep cool

Drive, Putt & Sink It for Charity

For the second year in a row, CHSSC was chosen as one of the organizations to receive proceeds of the Annual Cathay Bank Charity Golf Tournament. On Wednesday, May 16th, Irvin Lai, Eugene Moy, and Peter Wong attended a dinner held at Pasadena Brookside Restaurant hosted by Cathay Bank. Representing the Chinese Historical Society, they were presented with a charitable donation of \$5,000.

Headed by Cathay Bank co-founder and current Secretary of the Board, Wilbur Woo, this year's tournament benefited 4 organizations: The Friends of the Chinatown Library, CHSSC, International Institute of Los Angeles, and Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center. At a May 8th press conference luncheon, representatives briefly introduced their organizations and expressed gratitude for the generosity of Cathay Bank, a significant community institution since 1962. The tournament is meant not only to provide fun for the players, a Cathay Bank board member mentioned, but also to support and fundraise for community non-profit groups.

We are grateful to Cathay Bank for organizing the event and also to the patrons who participated in the tournament. We wish you all long lives and many 'hole-in-one's!

CURRENT & UPCOMING EXHIBITS & EVENTS

May 23 - June 17

Yankee Dawg You Die
East West Players
(213) 625-7000 ext. 17

June 3

China Yunnan Song & Dance Ensemble
Monterey Park
(626) 281-8500

June 10

"In Search of Los Angeles"
lectures by Leonard & Dale Pitt,
LA City Hist Society
(213)228-7000

May 25 - June 2

Pearl Harbor opening at
El Capitan Theatre
(800) 347-6396

June 3

26th Annual B-B-Q
Historical Society of
Centinela Valley
(310) 676-4363

June 16

Juneteenth Family Festival
Autry Museum, Pasadena
(323) 667-2000

May 18 - June 30

jamey garza-another story
Acuna-Hansen Gallery
Chinatown (323)441-1624

June 6

13th Annual Golf Classic
Chinatown Service Center
(213) 808-1700 ext. 207

June 17

Chinese Family History
Research lecture
Arcadia, (323)222-0856

June 1

6th Annual Grants Workshop,
must make reservations
(213) 628-9230

June 8 - July 15

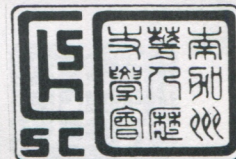
Atlantis movie adventure
El Capitan Theatre
(818) 845-3110

June 21

Chinatown Art Festival
Gala Reception
(reservations required)
(213) 680-0243

June 3

Family Festival at Getty
Museum, www.getty.edu



PCC Celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

One of the central goals for any historical society should be promoting and nourishing historical and, if applicable, cultural understanding among people of all ages and communities. CHSSC is no exception. In fact, in an effort to foster such awareness, we have been able to participate in Pasadena City College's celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Throughout the months of April and May, the CAPP project, examples of our archive collection, and numerous books and society literature have been on display at the PCC's Stratford Library. Around 50 students have expressed interest in the CAPP project and being involved with the society.

Besides displaying projects at the library, we also participated in an activity day and an exhibit social, both of which allowed us to publicize CHSSC goals. On the afternoon of April 19, the open plaza in the school was filled with booths from both student and community organizations. Wushu fighters and a traditional Chinese music group performed while students wandered from table to table. Although our table's displays and material were apparently less enticing than the bake sale booths, we still managed to share some information. The following week, on April 24, about 20 students and faculty, including Prof. Susan Ling, gathered to meet Archie Miyatake, son of a famous Japanese American photographer. Fortunately, I had a few minutes to explain the CHSSC exhibits in the library, as well as introduce the goals of the society.

Hopefully, the interaction we've had and the publicity of our goals and projects have increased PCC students' awareness of Chinese American history and heritage. Thank you PCC for inviting us to participate.

EVENTS (CONT'D)

June 23 - July 22

**Chinatown Art Festival
Hong Gallery, Chinatown
(213) 680-0243**

June 23

**MANAA Awards Banquet
(213) 486-4433**

June 23 - Sept 30

**John James Audobon in the West
exhibit, Autry Museum
(323) 667-2000**

June 29

**Louis Kahn Centennial Celebration
The Salk Institute, La Jolla
(800) 9-SAHSCC**

June 30

**OCA/SCCLA/APALA joint picnic,
Alhambra Park
(213) 250-9888**

July 14 & 15

**Annual Lotus Festival
at Echo Park**

July 28

**Beethoven Spectacular w/ Friends,
Hollywood Bowl
Hong Kong Association
(213) 622-3194 ext.201**

July 2 - Sept 26

**Summer camp, Workshops,
Family Sleepover; Autry Museum**

July 22 - Sept 30

**Films, Environmental Talks, Play
Readings
Autry Museum
(323) 667-2000 ext. 327**

August 31

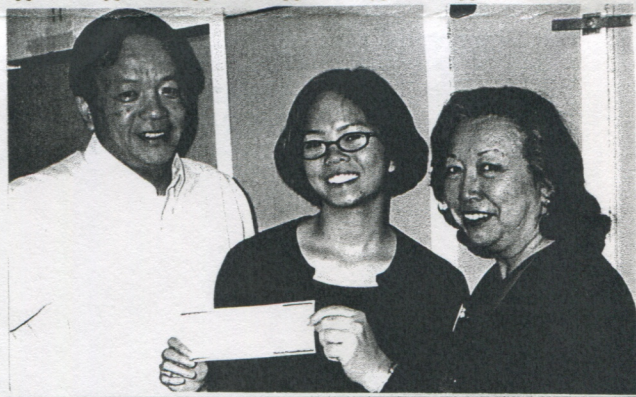
**Chinese American Community Day
at Dodger Stadium**

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Scholarship

(cont. from page 3)

American Studies and Sociology, Meredith has been volunteering at the Chinatown Service Center's youth tutorial program. She has been able to use her past family research for a workshop earlier this year, and is currently developing curriculum for an Asian-American studies class at the CSC.



Ron & Meredith Lee with Winifred Lew, Scholarship Committee Chair

Meredith's future plans include working with Asian-American youth as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and teaching Asian-American studies classes at the college level. The CHSSC has therefore awarded her this year's scholarship to help in her endeavors. Congratulations, Meredith, and best wishes with your studies at UCLA.

The Chinatown Files Screening, by Eugene Moy

On Sunday May 20th, the CHSSC was a co-presenter for the premiere screening of *The Chinatown Files*, a documentary by New York-based filmmaker Amy Chen, at the VC Filmfest, the Asian Pacific American film festival sponsored by Visual Communications, held at the Directors' Guild in Hollywood. The film artfully combines live interviews with old film footage to show how McCarthy-era hysteria and harassment impacted the lives of many Chinese Americans, including 21-year old Minnesotan Eleanor Wong Telemaque. With the assistance of Theodore Sorenson, then attorney for John F. Kennedy, Eleanor was exonerated but lost her job at UNESCO as a result. She and her husband Maurice, now both CHSSC members, attended the screening, along with a number of other CHSSC members. Afterward, Amy Chen and Eleanor moved to the stage and provided insightful responses to questions from the audience. Because of its potential interest and relevance to our members, we are working to schedule another screening of *The Chinatown Files* for CHSSC members in the future.



CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

- ☐ Please include me on the membership roster that will be available to members only

I am interested in helping with:

- ☐ Programs
☐ Publications
☐ Research
☐ Membership/Publicity
☐ Fundraising
☐ Volunteering
☐ Other _____

Membership:

- ☐ New
☐ Renewal

- ☐ Gum Saan Journal (2 Issues Annually) \$5.00
☐ Active Member, annual \$25.00
☐ Additional Member, annual \$10.00
(spouse, same household)
☐ Contributing, annual \$10.00
(senior citizen over 60 and student)
☐ Institutional, annual \$50.00
☐ Life \$300.00
☐ Corporate, annual \$100.00
☐ Life Patron \$1,000.00
☐ Donation: Please accept my tax-deductible donation(s) to the following fund(s)

General \$ _____ Scholarship \$ _____

Publications \$ _____ Office \$ _____

- ☐ 25th Anniversary Commemorative T-Shirt

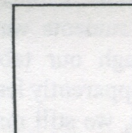
_____ \$20 for one _____ \$18 for two or more

sizes ☐ Medium ☐ Large ☐ X-Large

*Make checks payable to: CHSSC
We are a tax-exempt non-profit educational organization*



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California
P.O.Box 862647
Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647



FIRST CLASS

