



# NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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MAY 2006

## JUNE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Multipurpose Room

840 YALE STREET

LOS ANGELES, CHINATOWN

(PARK ON PLAYGROUND, ENTER ON COLLEGE STREET BETWEEN HILL AND YALE STREETS)

### The Erhu, A Traditional Music

The voice of the ancient Erhu comes from deep within Chinese history and consciousness. It's vibrant chords have sung of loneliness, celebration, and the human condition for as long as any one of us can remember in our memories of traditional Chinese music. It has started to make its way into western music as well. World famous cellist Yo Yo Ma has successfully brought its melancholy sound into his work.

Our June first Wednesday presentation will present the erhu and its almost other worldly sound played by a newcomer to the society, master Chung Min Chu. Master Chu was deeply attracted by the sound of a Erhu performance in a Chinese Spring Festival gathering in Los Angeles about five years ago. He started learning Erhu with Professor Gau Yau Hwua in Monterey Park. He is currently an active member of the Los Angeles Chinese Music Orchestra, playing Erhu and Chinese bamboo flute.

Master Chu is a finance manager at the port of Los Angeles. He has economic and finance degrees from Taiwan National University and his MBA from the University of Oregon. Numbers have always been an integral part of music form. Here is an opportunity to hear the theory proven.

I am sure we are in for a special treat next month as we meet the sweet music so little understood by us who grew up under European classical music and rock and roll. Hey, about introducing the Erhu to that native American born music, jazz! How American can you get?

## AROUND CHSSC

### Demands to MTA by CHSSC



Chinese head stones (photo by Sean Song)

**Markers from Chinese American graves** unearthed during excavations for the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension Project near Evergreen Cemetery are being **disgracefully used as "decorative lawn liners"** at the Los Angeles County crematorium. Some of the head stones are over 100 years old.

Listed below is a summary of CHSSC's demands to MTA:

- 1) MTA will honor the skeletal remains that were unearthed:
  - The 128 skeletal remains will be reburied in Evergreen Cemetery in separate graves in front of the Chinese burial shrine. (MTA will assist CHSSC in the retrieval of the Chinese grave markers from the LA County Crematorium so the markers can be placed with these skeletal remains.)
  - MTA will erect three memorial monuments at the excavation site, reburial site, and the Puente Hill Landfill.)

(Cont'd on page 2)





# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

MAY 2006

("Demands to MTA" from page 1)

- MTA will have a proper reburial ceremony at Evergreen with the highest-ranking public officials in attendance.

2) Since MTA did not notify the Chinese community in a timely manner when they discovered the graves containing the Chinese artifacts and skeletal remains, MTA will apologize to the Chinese community and execute corrective actions on policy and personnel.

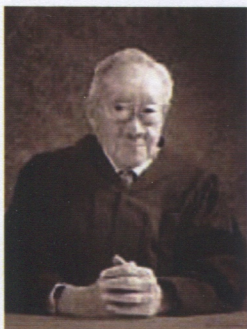
3) MTA will return all cultural resources, other than human remains, to CHSSC or another appropriate educational institution for curation, preservation, and reference, together with funds for shelving, maintenance, and accessioning.

4) Since the County Hall of Records documents show that the Chinese graves were paid for; the families of those who owned the empty coffins deserve restitution as the MTA has built on private property. If the related families do not claim monies from this fund, these funds will be donated to qualified Chinese community organizations for educational outreach to the general community on the Chinese culture and history in the USA.

## Tribute to Judge Delbert Wong

*By Cy Wong*

*Past President of CHSSC*



Ole Soldier, defender of his country; lawyer, defender of his fellow man; judge, you made decisions; and as family man, Del, you did bear your burden in the heat of the day. Through the sands of time you have put your sword away.

We knew and loved you, but God loved you best. When he waved his right hand, Del, you had passed his test. You left your ideas and philosophies here on earth, with hopes that an offspring to them would give birth.

When your children were young and not understanding at the time, perhaps some things you taught, they kept in mind. Now they are older and can see the light, they realize the words that you spoke turned out to be right.

You kept your promise, until death you did part, through the years you loved Dolores with all your heart. Now the time has come to be recognized, there will be some with tears in their eyes. This was meant to be ever since your birth. Sometimes it happens after you've left this earth.

The heavyweight champ, Joe Louis, once said, "You can run, but you can't hide." Del, I know you're up there, serving as a cosmic ancestral guide.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers

Kenneth L. Chan, President  
Dr. Wing Mar, Vice President  
JW Wong, V.P. Programs  
Ben Nakayama, Treasurer  
Marlynn Ma, Financial Secretary  
Dr. Donald Loo, Secretary  
Peter Liang, Membership Secretary

### Members at Large

Dr. Albert Chang  
Susan Dickson  
Dr. Betty Gaw  
Mary Yee Kwok  
Dr. Munson Kwok  
Irvin Lai  
Jeannie Liu  
Eugene Moy  
Jack Ong

*News 'n Notes Editor,*

*Yvonne Chang*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November, 1975. The purposes of the Society are: 1) to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California; 2) to pursue, preserve and communicate knowledge of this history; and; 3) to promote the heritage of the Chinese and Chinese American community in support of a better appreciation of the rich, multi-cultural society of the United States.





### VISA AND MASTERCARD NOW ACCEPTED



CHSSC is ready to take your Visa and Master charge cards now, and board member Jack Ong rushes up to say "Charge it!" to Monica Merritt-Kwon as he purchases a Society gift membership for a friend at the CHSSC May 3 meeting. Jack thought he was our first charge customer. Not to fuel unnecessary controversy, we must note that another board member Dr. Betty Gaw, was actually the first to charge an item at the Heritage Center on May 1, while Jack was indeed the first to have his card actually processed in the new charge imprinter! Looking on is Society President Ken Chan, who made no claims at all. The most important claim, of course, is that everyone can now buy CHSSC books, gifts, memberships, donations...and enjoy the convenience of charging their purchases.

### NOMINATIONS FOR CHSSC BOARD

The Nominations Committee of the CHSSC has as members Albert Chang (Chair), Susan Dickson, and Betty Gow. They announced at the April 5 monthly meeting that nominations are sought for the 7 officer positions and for 6 Directors at Large. The seven officers positions are: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Vice-President for Programs, Financial Secretary, Secretary, and Secretary for Membership. At the May 3 annual membership meeting, **the Committee announced the following nominations:** **President:** JW Wong; **Vice-President:** Ken Chan; **Secretary:** Dr. Albert Chang; **Treasurer:** Ben Nakayama; **Financial Secretary:** Marlynn Ma; **Vice-President for Programs:** Eugene Moy; **Membership**

**Secretary:** Pete Chinn. The following were nominated for the **Directors at Large positions:** Jeannie Liu; Dr Don Loo; Will Gow; and George Yin. Additional nominations were requested at the meeting but none were introduced. The Nominations Committee therefore presents in this issue of News and Notes, the candidates for these positions. **The election will take place at the June 7 monthly meeting.**

### MAY REVIEW

### CHSSC 2006 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

By Susie Ling,  
CHSSC Scholarship Chair



At the May meeting, CHSSC was proud to present its two David and Pearl Louie CHSSC Scholarship winners. David and Pearl's daughter, Elizabeth Louie Chikuami, did the honors of presenting the checks to Cathy Dang and Lani Cupchoy. Cathy had rushed down after finishing a LMU final, stopping for a meeting at Asian Pacific American Legal Center, and had another paper to finish after the CHSSC meeting. Lani, the graduate student at UCI, brought her father from Hawaii, her Mexican American mother, and her fiancé to our meeting. Both women have exemplary academic and community service records. Both women expressed sincere thanks to CHSSC for believing in their goals. Soon, we begin our search for the 2007 Winners!





### Spring 2006 Dinner A Salute to Chinese American Actors



Standing on the left is CHSSC President Ken Chan, on the right is Mistress of Ceremony Miranda Hoh. Front row L to R, Tsai Chin, Lauren Tom, Lisa Lu, Elizabeth Sung, Freda Foh Shen, Jodi Long and Julia Nickson. Back row L to R, Alvin Ing, James Hong, Dana Lee, Chao-Li Chi, Russell Wong, George Cheung and Jack Ong.



From L to R. Third Princess Angela Chao Robertson, First Princess Nancy Kwong, Second Princess, Kaye Ponnusamy, and Queen Melody Cheng



On the right is CHSSC staff Marian Chew manning the silent auction table.



(“From Exclude” from page 4)



How much should I bid?



Ken Chan, President of CHSSC



Hard working volunteer Joanne Situ got her reward, a photo op with Russell Wong.

### From Excluded to Saluted: CHSSC May 6 Event Honoring Actors Emphasizes Chinese Progress in US Since 1882

By Jeannie Liu & Dr. Donald Loo

CHSSC's "Salute to Chinese American Actors" on Saturday, May 6, "raised the bar again" in the realm of Society fundraising events, according to President Kenneth L. Chan, who said the event – when all receipts and donations are present and accounted for – will most likely prove to be the most glamorous and successful in CHSSC history.

As co-chairs of the event, we humbly concur! Fundraising aside, the Society Board of Directors and our dinner committee colleagues are still in "seventh heaven" when we think of the smiles, cheers, laughter and joy that we saw and felt throughout the VIP reception sponsored by **Washington Mutual** as well as the dinner and honors program that followed, emceed by the beautiful **Miranda Hoh**, who was radiant in her turquoise, floor length cheongsam, keeping the proceedings smooth and lively.

Those of us behind the scenes (and we all know it takes a large team of dedicated workers and volunteers to pull off an evening like that) are convinced that much more money might have been raised for the important mission of our Historical Society if logistics at the San Gabriel Hilton Hotel had been professionally met; still, to accentuate the positive -- **a special endowment of \$100,000** plus the revenues from table sales, silent auction and raffle earnings and other donations make for a perfectly acceptable fiscal bottom line!

The **\$100,000 donation** for CHSSC's "Portraits of Pride" publications project, now directed by L.P. Leung, was made by the families of Eugene Moy, Peter Chinn and Dr. Richard Tenn.

As for the equally important second bottom line – "customer" satisfaction – we only need to remember again the ambience of pride and happiness and thrill of being there the evening of Saturday, May 6! Everything that "met the eye," **from the table centerpieces to point-of-purchase displays, was made possible by our dinner committee:** Sum-Sum Chan, Dr. Albert Chang, Marian Chew, Dr. Betty Gaw (raffle and silent auction director), Mary Yee Kwok, Peter Liang, Marlynn Ma, Dr. Wing Mar, Eugene Moy, Jack Ong, Joanne Situ, Helen Situ and JW Wong.

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*("From Exclude" from Page 5)*

Our "Salute to Chinese American Actors" was memorable in other significant ways as well: **124 years ago that same day, in 1882, the Chinese Exclusion Act was signed into law**, discriminating against Chinese in the areas of immigration, labor and citizenship. That racist Act was not repealed until December 17, 1943.

But before the Chinese Exclusion Act, when Chinese were recruited and imported as coolie laborers, there was another milestone date -- **May 10, 1869**, the official completion and dedication of the first transcontinental railway, the western half of which was built largely by those Chinese workers, who were completely excluded from credit for their backbreaking contributions.

A somber hush could be audibly felt during the screening of our Society's 30-year commemoration movie, "**Achieving Our Dreams**," during the scenes showing how CHSSC fighting again today for Chinese American justice in the matter of the 100-plus graves of early immigrants which were unearthed by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority last summer in its Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension light rail excavations in Boyle Heights. Our Society is at the forefront of community activism currently working to ensure the proper reinternment of the remains.

As for the 14 talented actors CHSSC honored on the evening of May 6 (six honorees were unable to attend), those men and women realize all too well the discrimination and lack of diversity that continues to plague the entertainment industry today. It really hasn't been that long since Asian roles were played by non-Asian performers. For example, Mickey Rooney, Alec Guinness and Ricardo Montalban as Japanese in "Breakfast at Tiffany's," "A Majority of One" and "Sayonara," respectively; Katharine Hepburn and Louise Rainer as Chinese in "Dragon Seed" and "The Good Earth"; Rex Harrison playing Siamese in "Anna and the King of Siam"; Warner Oland as "Charlie Chan"; and the list goes on and on.

So it was genuine respect and support we felt in the packed room of over 400 people who applauded and cheered as Society president Ken Chan draped the distinctive signature CHSSC medals on **George Kee Cheung** ("Rush Hour"), **Chao-Li Chi** ("Falcon

Crest"), **Tsai Chin** ("Joy Luck Club"), **James Hong** ("Big Trouble in Little China"), **Alvin Ing** ("Pacific Overtures"), **Dana Lee** ("X Files"), **Jodi Long** ("All American Girl"), **Lisa Lu** ("Last Emperor"), **Julia Nickson** ("China Cry"), **Jack Ong** ("Art School Confidential"), **Freda Foh Shen** ("Red Doors"), **Elizabeth Sung** ("Young and the Restless"), **Lauren Tom** ("A Chorus Line") and **Russell Wong** ("Vanishing Son"). **Missing honorees** (all were "in action" elsewhere, we're happy to report) who will receive their medals later were **Michael Paul Chan** ("The Closer"), François Chau ("Lost"), **Dennis Dun** ("Midnight Caller"), **Nancy Kwan** ("World of Suzie Wong"), **Tzi Ma** ("Akeelah and the Bee") and **Ming-Na** ("ER").

Speaking of Russell Wong, he won the "**Ladies Choice Award**" hands-down, judging by the screams of women when he was first introduced. **Miss Los Angeles Chinatown, Melody Cheng, and her court** (Nancy Kwong, Kaye Ponnusamy and Angela Chao Roberson) were no exception. And when it came time to collect the special poster exhibit that was on display in the hotel lobby, one board was lost – the one with Russell's photo, of course!

Another highlight of the event was seeing the honorees sign the special collector's poster created by Gina Leslie specifically for the CHSSC "Salute to Chinese American Actors" – a collage of unusual photos from each star's career. (See attached flyer to order your copy!)

Nor will we soon forget Broadway star **Alvin Ing** crooning "**You Are Beautiful**" to the "Joy Luck Club" ladies, Tsai, Lisa, Lauren and Elizabeth. And who could resist clapping along during the truly grand finale with **Jack Ong**, who brought us to a standing ovation with his rendition of "**I Enjoy Being Chinese**" – special lyrics he wrote to the catchy tune of "I Enjoy Being a Girl"! His tongue-in-cheek lyrics said it all about the Chinese American mystique, with humor, poignancy and dead-on accuracy. Encore!

*Editor's Note: Copies of the souvenir program book featuring exclusive photos and bios of the stars of CHSSC's "Salute to Chinese American Actors" are available for \$3 per copy at the Heritage Center.*





### HEALTH & WELLNESS

#### WHY EAT GARLIC?



*By Dr. Betty Gaw*

Garlic aids digestion and helps keep the stomach lining healthy. It has antibacterial, anti-fungal, and antiviral properties. Overuse of raw garlic may cause irritation to the gastrointestinal tract.

As an antiseptic, garlic has saved millions of lives in battlefields through the centuries when crushed garlic cloves were packed into wounds. It has been used to treat anthrax (a deadly bacterial disease) in cattle, to treat leprosy, smallpox, and the plague in 1722.

Garlic has immune system enhancing effects, protecting those who eat it regularly from colds, flu, infections, whooping cough, tuberculosis, asthma and allergies, epilepsy, and has been used as a vermifuge.

Garlic steeped in wine is said to be an effective hair tonic-stimulant for baldness. More recently, garlic was found to lower total cholesterol, triglycerides, and the bad LDL. Aged or deodorized garlic pills (which make it socially acceptable) are available for those who wish to modify their cholesterol levels without taking the man-made "statin" drugs fraught with numerous known side effects. Essential fatty acids, as found in fish/salmon oil may lower cholesterol and enhance brain function; link to the website [www.nordicnaturals.com](http://www.nordicnaturals.com).

Garlic has anti-platelet aggregation action (anti-blood-clotting) which is beneficial for people who have cardiovascular disease. For this reason people who are scheduled for major surgery should stop eating

garlic or discontinue taking garlic pills two weeks prior to surgery. Depending on dose, garlic may potentiate the anti-clotting effects of aspirin leading to easy bruising or bleeding.

The selenium in garlic is a potent antioxidant as well as anti-cancer agent which may suppress the growth of pre-cancerous lesions of the stomach and large bowel. Antioxidants are found in garlic, just as in fruits and vegetables, which are beneficial in helping fight free radical cell damage. The more antioxidants in your body the better is your reserve to deter aging and disease.

In using the BioPhotonic([www.pharmanexusa.com](http://www.pharmanexusa.com)) scanner to measure the antioxidant levels in people world-wide, it was found that Koreans have the highest scores. This is because they eat a big array vegetables, and especially kimchi which consists of pickled raw cabbage, raw garlic and chili. They also drink green tea, another potent antioxidant.

#### Conclusion

Garlic or *Allium sativum* is an unsophisticated white bulb, power-packed with nutrients for health and disease prevention. I have high esteem for garlic and enjoy its gastronomic-permeating aroma which often entice me to the restaurant from which this aroma emanates. It was Professor Benjamin Lau of the Immunobiology Department of Loma Linda University who first introduced me to garlic as an allergy modifier 15 years ago. He is a world-renowned researcher of garlic for decades. The benefits of allergy relief were quickly evident within days, making me a believer in garlic, thereby launching me into the field of alternative medicine and my pursuit of herbs for health.

When talking about the attributes of garlic we are reminded, "Let food be your medicine, and medicine your food".

*Part 1 of Dr. Gaw's article on "Why Eat Garlic?" was published in last month's News N' Notes.*

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**WORDS OF WISDOM FROM  
PAST CHSSC PRESIDENT, CY WONG**

It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain thought without accepting it.

Experience is that marvelous thing that enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**"YOU'VE GOT E-MAIL"**

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter by email, please let us know by emailing us at [chssc@earthlink.net](mailto:chssc@earthlink.net).

**WELCOME, NEW CHSSC MEMBERS!!!**

On behalf of CHSSC President Kenneth L. Chan, Membership Secretary Peter Liang and the CHSSC Board, we extend our warmest welcome to new members Edgar Wong, Helen Lang, Albert Toy, and Darryl Sue.

**MAY GENERAL MEETING SNACK DONATIONS**

The Society warmly thanks everyone who provided the delicious snacks for the May General Meeting.

**Third Annual Chinese Food Festival**

Shanghai spareribs, salty fish, lion's head, dim sum, Hong Kong sticky rice, homemade tofu and much more will be featured at the 3rd annual **Chinese Food Festival on Saturday and Sunday, June 24 & 25, 2006**. The festival will showcase Chinatown favorites such as Empress Pavilion, Mandarin Chateau, and Golden Dragon together with many smaller "best kept secret" restaurants. Performances by China's famed Shaolin Monks will take your breath away while the Chinatown Fear Factor will challenge your taste buds! The whole family will enjoy the acrobats, cooking demonstrations, cultural booths, casino-style games, and carnival rides.

The festival will take place at the corner of Broadway and College Streets and at Central Plaza. Additionally, a portion of Broadway will be closed to house the entertainment stage, a karaoke stage, vendor booths, traditional Chinese medicine practitioners, and a mini Chinatown farmer market. Festival hours are Saturday 12-8pm and Sunday 10:30-6pm.



**Chinese Historical Society  
of Southern California**

**415 Bernard St.  
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