



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

415 Bernard St., Los Angeles, CA 90012; Voice: 323-222-0856;

Fax: 323-221-4162; Email: chssc@earthlink.net; Web: www.chssc.org;

Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-0856

FEBRUARY 2007

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2007, 7:00 P.M.

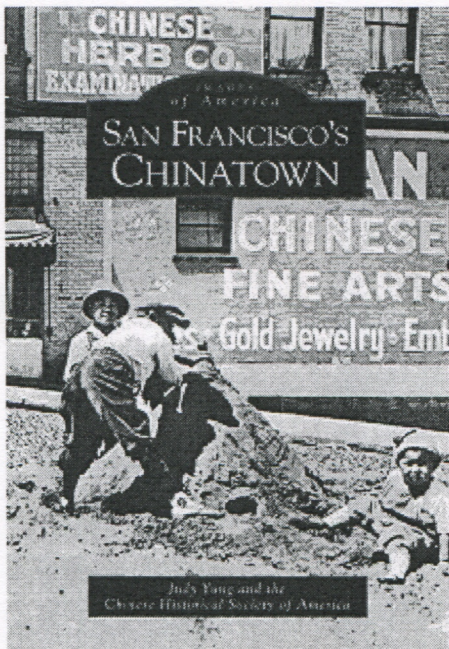
CASTELAR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Multipurpose Room

840 Yale Street
Los Angeles Chinatown

Park in playground

Enter on College between Yale and Hill Streets



Author and historian Judy Yung will give a slide talk of the new pictorial history book, *San Francisco's Chinatown*, co-authored by the Chinese Historical Society of America. Spanning over 150 years of history, the book reveals how a place visitors see as foreign and exotic is, in fact, a vibrant Chinese American neighborhood with a complex history and rich cultural legacy.

AROUND CHSSC



Dr. Wing Mar, second from left, former Board of Directors member and a friend of benefactors Bob and May Wong, presenting generous donations from them to CHSSC and the Portraits of Pride Project. Accepting donations are CHSSC President John W. Wong, left, Gilbert Hom, second from right, and Eugene Moy, Vice President for Programs, right.

Portraits of Pride (PoP) Project Manager Marian Chew reports that recently she and volunteers have mailed over 1,200 complimentary copies of PoP 1 to libraries and universities throughout the United States and twenty two copies have been sold. The distribution to libraries and universities is continuing.

The PoP Committee had another meeting January 13, 2007, discussing the next phase of publication of Portraits of Pride II. With the gift from our benefactors Bob and May Wong the project is in full swing.

(Continued on page 3)



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

FEBRUARY 2007

100 x 100 CLUB YEAR-END CAMPAIGN

The Society has set a target of 100 people joining the 100 x 100 Club by year's end. The good news is we are well over halfway there! 100 x 100 Club members lend an extra hand to our important activities and programs—many free to the public—through a special \$100 annual contribution.

We have 74 members in 100 x 100 Club thus far. Since the publication of the last issue of News 'n Notes the following have joined the Club:

Grace Anderson	T.K. Lin, M.D.
Bond Companies	Donald Loo
Albert Chang, M.D.	Linda Lum
Bruce Chin	Ken Gene Mar, DDS
Dr. Andrew Chong	Claudia Oshida
Ben Fong	Eleanor Sue
Dr. William Fong	Dr. Gregory Sue
John Gault	Deanna Toy
Gilbert Hom	
James Hong	
Sue Chow Hoy	

Correction. In the last issue of NNN, the name Howard W. Chan should be Howard Y. Chan.

Acknowledgements

- **Ann Lau** donated many hours of her time and energy translating Chinese grave markers found near the Los Angeles County Crematorium. Her effort included driving to Hemet where Applied Earthworks is located and to Oroville's Chinese Temple and Museum to do research. Applied Earthworks has been contracted to take care of the grave markers.
- **Ruth Lung, Margie Lew, John and Esther Yee, Susie Sing, and Margie Lew** provided refreshments at the January program meeting.
- **David H. Wong** made a donation to CHSSC in memory of his mother Helen L. Wong.
- **Diana Wong** donated two book shelves.
- **Parents of CHSSC staff Marian Chew** have been volunteering their time and efforts at packing and mailing Portraits of Pride 1 to libraries and universities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

JW Wong, President
Kenneth L. Chan, Vice President
Eugene Moy, V.P. Programs
Ben Nakayama, Treasurer
Marlynn Ma, Financial Secretary
Dr. Albert Chang, Secretary
Pete Chinn, Membership Secretary

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Susan Dickson
Dr. Betty Gaw
William Gow
Dr. Munson Kwok
Irvin Lai
Jeannie Liu
Dr. Donald Loo
George Yin

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.



("Around CHSSC," from page 1)

Ching Ming

'Ching' means clear and 'Ming' means bright. Spring starts and nature looks bright and clear. Ch'ing Ming Day known as Tomb Sweeping Day celebrates the rebirth of nature, while marking the beginning of the planting season and other outdoor activities.

Ching Ming rituals include grave sweeping, weeding of the grave area, cleaning of the headstone, and replacing the wilted flowers with fresh ones. The ritual also involve the lighting of incense and burning of imitation paper money. The burning of the money is for the deceased to use in the afterlife. In addition, food is laid out in front of the headstone as an offering to the spirits of the deceased.

The head of the household or the oldest son usually leads the family by bowing three times. This procedure is usually repeated three times. Each member of the family comes in front of the headstone and bows three times. Some families will then share a meal together with the deceased at the grave site.

The tradition of grave sweeping is carried on in the Chinese immigrant communities throughout the world. The rituals are likely to be simplified offerings of only the incense, paper money and flowers.



Ching Ming Festival

March 31, 2007

With the passing of time, this celebration of life became a day to the honor past ancestors. There will be an annual public event in Los Angeles to commemorate Chinese American pioneers on March 31, 2007. Time and program details will be announced on the CHSSC website, www.chssc.org and in the next issue of this newsletter.

Open House for College Students

On January 27, some 30 college students came to CHSSC for an Open House to learn about volunteer opportunities, scholarships, and other various programs offered by CHSSC.

The Open House began with a walking tour of historical Los Angeles Chinatown, sponsored by The Studio for Southern California History, led by Eugene Moy. The participants were all impressed by his knowledge of Chinese American history particularly relating to Southern California.

After the tour a barbeque lunch was served by John Wong, CHSSC's President. It started to drizzle but it did not dampen anyone's spirit. The students visited CHSSC's Heritage Center and many signed up to be trained as docents to give historical tours of Chinatown, internship and other volunteering opportunities.

In March the Director of Pacific Asian Students Services of Loyola Marymount University will be taking a group of students, faculty and staff for a similar field trip. Other schools are welcome to participate in a similar event. Please call 323-222-0856 for additional information.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Current issue and past issues of News 'n Notes dating back to 2002 are available online at www.chssc.org/NewsNotes/NN_Master.htm. In order to **save a few trees and money** for CHSSC we are notifying those who have provided an email address the online publication of News 'n Notes each month.
- For those who wish to receive hardcopies instead of reading online please send an email request to chssc@earthlink.net or call 323-222-0856. For those who are receiving hardcopies and prefer not to please also notify the CHSSC office at the above mentioned email or telephone number. Thank you all for your consideration.
- CHSSC Life Membership has not been offered for the past 4 years. Those who joined are still life members with all the benefits of Silver level membership. The benefits are the monthly newsletter, discount on field trips to Chinese American historical sites, discount on publications and products, and admission to Heritage Center during non-public hours by calling the office in advance.
- Regrettably the inclusion of free copies of **Gum Saan Journal** for life members can not continue due to the high cost of publishing.
- SJ 2007 Edition is about the Hanford Chinatown Alley. Included in this edition is an article by Richard Wing who served as personal cook for General George C. Marshall when he headed a mission in China in 1944. Later Richard Wing's family ran the renowned Imperial Dynasty Restaurant in Hanford until its recent closing.

- To order a copy of GSJ 2007 Edition please send check or money order to CHSSC, 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles 90012. **The price is \$12 per copy including shipping and handling.** We accept Visa and MC. Account information can be either mailed to the above address or faxed to 323-221-4162.
- Back issues from 1977 to 2006 are available for publications/GSJ.shtml. **Past editions of years 2004, 2005 and 2006** are \$8 each plus \$2 shipping and handling. **A set of issues from 1977 to 2002** costs \$100 plus \$5 shipping and handling. There was no GSJ publication in 2003.

Condolences

CHSSC life member Robert B. Jung passed away on January 5, 2007. Bob was an intelligent, gentle, kind, and generous person. He is one of the financial pioneers of Los Angeles Chinatown. His outstanding achievements and contributions to the community had earned great respect from his peers and all who worked with him in many community organizations. He will be greatly missed. Funeral service was held on January 20, 2007.

Words of Wisdom

By
Cy Wong, Past President CHSSC

The highest courage is to dare to be yourself in the face of adversity, choosing right over wrong, ethics over convenience and truth over popularity.



FEBRUARY 2007

SAVE THE DATE

CHSSC ANNUAL GALA

HONORING "FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHINATOWN"

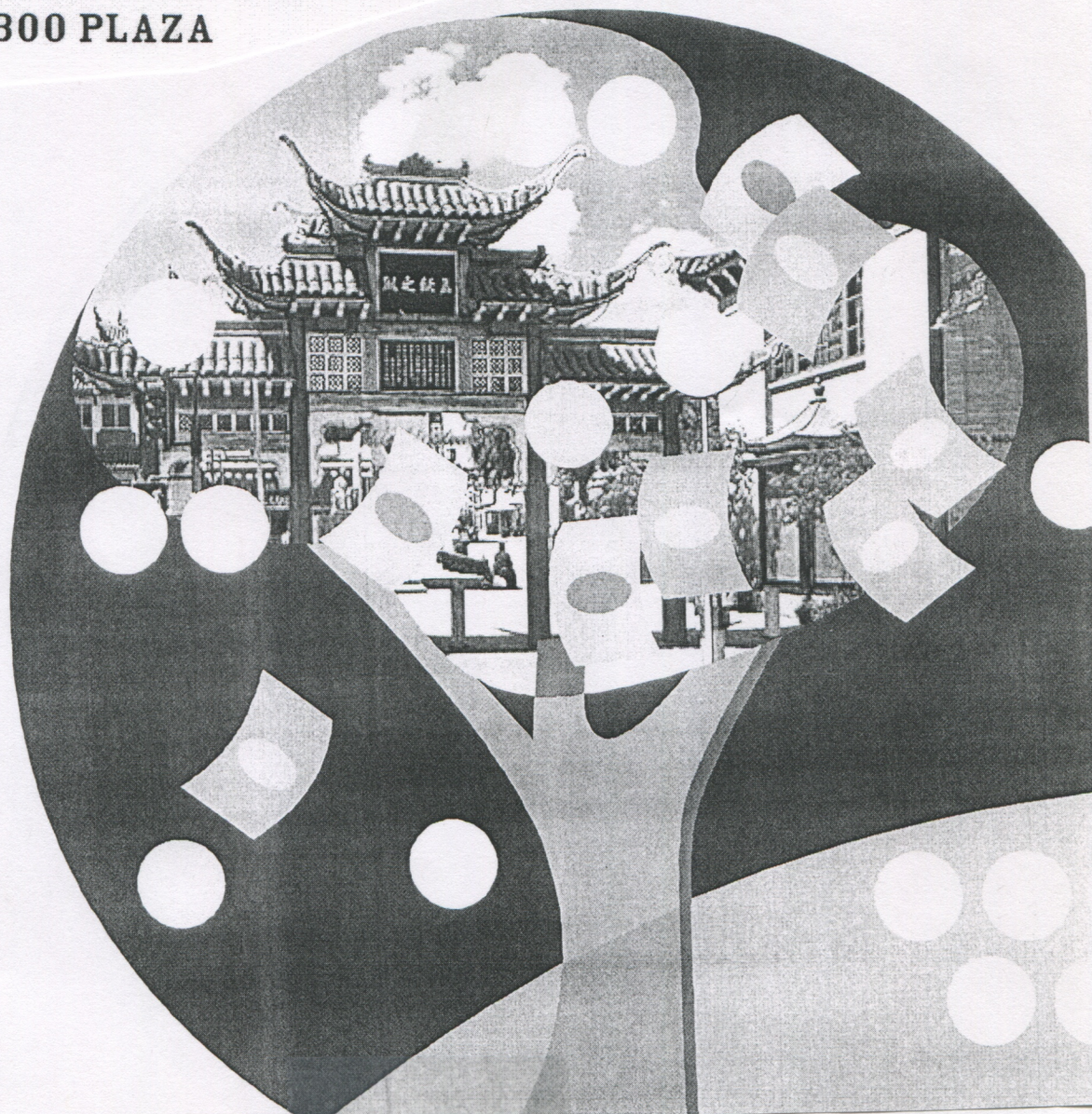
SATURDAY MAY 12, 2007

6:00 PM

EMPRESS PAVILION RESTAURANT

LOS ANGELES CHINATOWN

BAMBOO PLAZA

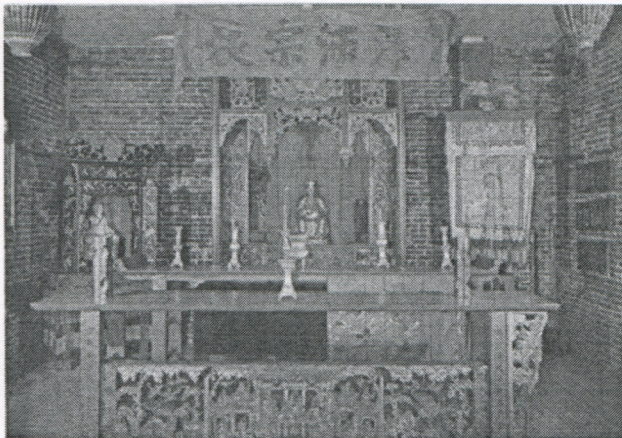




HISTORICAL CHINATOWNS

Oroville Chinese Temple and Museum

By Yvonne Chang



Buddha Room, the most holy room in the Temple.
Photo by Eastman's Studio

The Oroville Chinese Temple was built in 1863 by Chinese laborers. It served as a place of worship for a community of 10,000 Chinese residents in Oroville, California, which is about 120 miles north of Sacramento. A collaboration among the City of Oroville, Gloria Gee, the Library of Congress, and the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley has resulted in online access to a digital archive of the Oroville Chinese Temple treasures, <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/collections/oroville/>.

The Oroville Chinese Temple is still used as a place of worship today. Many of the furnishings are over 140 years old. The complex consists of a Chinese courtyard garden surrounded by several buildings and a temple. In the courtyard is a pavilion and a fish pond. All its parts are symbolic reminders of the Tao religious principles. The essential elements are stones which represent mountains, and a pond, bordered by plants which are all originated in China. This garden is a memorial to the original Chinese families and the benefactors of the temple restoration. Most of this courtyard garden was created with donations from individuals and civic groups.



Oroville Temple Chinese Garden.
Photo by R. Warmack.

Opportunities to work brought 10,000 Chinese to Oroville between 1860 and 1870. An average Chinese family typically lived in a one-room shack. There is one on display at the Chinese Temple Museum.

In 1863 the Oroville Chinese Temple area was filled with buildings, stores and residences. This temple originally served as the only place of worship for different religions of the Chinese population. It evolved to primarily Taoist temple.

On the second floor of the Main Temple is the Moon Temple Room, built for the worship of Buddha. Below this room is the Council Room used for conducting the business affairs of the Chinese community. Many of the laborers could not read or write. They would come here to have letters written for them to send home or to settle disputes.

Among other buildings in the complex is the Tapestry Hall that was added in 1968 which holds a collection of Chinese embroideries and other objects of beauty the Chinese brought with them to Oroville.

In 1907 a flood decimated the Chinese community and most of them left for Sacramento or San Francisco. Some of them returned to China. A Chan family remained to look after the Temple until 1937 when it was deeded to the City of Oroville.

The Oroville Chinese Temple is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and California Landmarks. It is at 1500 Broderick Street in Oroville. The Temple is open daily from noon to 4:00 p.m. For more information call 530-538-2497.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

BONE MARROW DRIVES by ASIANS FOR MIRACLE MARROW MATCHES

Various locations throughout L.A. area

Information: (888) 236-4673; www.asianmarrow.org

Thursdays, 3:00-7:00 p.m.

CHINATOWN FARMERS MARKET

727 N. Hill St., L.A. Chinatown

Information: (213) 680-0243; www.chinatownla.com

Thursday, February 1, 2007

Mr. Wu's Art Studio Artwork Display
Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library
Meeting Room
639 N. Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA

Saturday, February 3, 2007

Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library

10:00 to noon - Chinese knotting

1:00 - 2:15 Book Discussion

3:00 - 4:00 Tiger Kung Fu Demonstration

4:00 - 5:00 Chinese Cooking Demonstration

All day - Free Chinese name phonetic print-outs by library staff

February 3, 2007

2007 Annual Miss Los Angeles Chinatown

Pageant

Westin Bonaventure Hotel

Los Angeles Downtown

6:00pm Social Hour; 7:00pm Dinner;

8:00pm Pageant

Through February 4, 2007

Banquet — A Feast for the Senses Exhibition

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Las Robles Ave., Pasadena

\$7 for non-members, free for members

Parking on premise and paid parking at Westin Hotel

(626) 449-2742, ext. 12

Monday, February 5, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.

The China Society of Southern California

Lecture by Professor Kendall Brown of CSULB

Oriental Splendor—Grace Nicholson and her Treasure House

Dinner and lecture—\$13 members, \$14 non-members

Golden Dragon Restaurant

960 N. Broadway, Los Angeles Chinatown

RSVP—Mrs. Brown, 323-463-1396

Saturday, February 10, 2007

Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library

12:00 Jeff Chan's Immortal Gung Fu Lion Dance

12:30 Castelar Ribbon Dancers

1:00 acrobatic and balancing dishes performance

1:30 Tridung-Cheeyung Dance Troupe

2:00 - 3:30 Learn Salsa dance (sign up required)

3:00 - 4:00 Chinese calligraphy

4:00 - 5:00 Tai Chi demonstration 5:00 - 6:00 Teen

Council performance

Friday, February 16, 2007

Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library

3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library

Chinese New Year crafts with Margie Lew

February 18 through August 2007

Treasures from Shanghai: 5000 of Art and Culture

Bowers Museum

2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Tuesday - Sunday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

(714) 567-3600

www.bowers.org

Monday, February 19, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.

The China Society of Southern California

Lecture by Terese Tse Bartholomew, Curator of Chinese Decorative Art at the Asian Art Museum

Auspicious Symbolism in Chinese Decorative Art

Dinner and lecture—\$13 members, \$14 non-members

Golden Dragon Restaurant

960 N. Broadway, Los Angeles Chinatown

RSVP—Mrs. Brown, 323-463-1396

(cont'd on page 8)

(*"Calendar" from page 7*)

Feb. 20, 2007, Tues., 7:30 p.m.

Chinese Garden Plants and Their Symbolism

Terese Bartholomew of the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, will discuss the traditional significance of many plants and flowers in Chinese culture.

Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

Free Admission

(626) 405-2100

Saturday, February 24, 2007

Chinese New Year Festival

108th Annual Golden Dragon Parade

Los Angeles Chinatown

10:00am - 8:00pm Festival

2:00pm - 5:00pm Parade

Saturday, February 24, 2007

11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Chinese New Year Festival

Entertainment, arts and crafts.

Last chance to see the Chinese Garden.

Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

Cost: \$15, free to members of Huntington

Tel: (626) 405-2100

February 25, 2007

Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library

Meet and Greet Chinese American author Laurence

Yep. Optional \$30 dinner at Ocean Seafood

Restaurant, 747 N. Broadway, to follow)

213-620-9917.

Sunday, February 25, 2007

Car Show

Los Angeles Chinatown

10:00am - 8:00pm Festival

11:00am - 6:00pm Car Show

March 3, 2007

Chinese American Museum

Lantern Festival

Olvera Street (Main Street between Arcadia Street and Cesar Chavez Avenue)

12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m.

Free



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

415 Bernard St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

