



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

January 2008

January Program

Wednesday, January 9, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.

Castelar Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
840 Yale Street
Los Angeles Chinatown.

Open to the public, RSVP not necessary

Enter from College Street
between Yale and Hill Streets.

Chinese American Stories

After eight workshop sessions, participants of Henry Ong's writing/oral history class are geared up to present "Chinese American Stories," an evening of community, family and individual memories and narratives.

Ong, a ten-time Department of Cultural Affairs grants recipient, is an internationally-produced playwright. He has conducted many oral history projects. The workshop and the presentation are made possible, in part, by a grant from the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs.

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- The French Immigrants in Los Angeles
- Community Calendar

Around CHSSC

The Forgotten Chinese Pioneer Sojourners

By CHSSC MTA Ad-Hoc Committee

Away from my village and away from my wells
With no home to return
Across the oceans and across the seas
Shifting beneath someone's fence
Hero of the iron road
The Pearl River in my dream
Leaving my wife and leaving my sons
Joining the Chinese railroad crews
Forging ahead without path
Leading to my homeland
Dreaming of arriving
Only to cry without tears
My homeland is fancy and the moon is round
My heart is an arrow aiming for my home
Seeking dreams in America the beautiful
Golden mountains in blood and tears
Men hike high mountains
Water flow down streams
Day and day my homeland fills my thoughts
My thought is eager and my heart aches
Immigrant's blood and tears
In desperation my thought changed
No hope of reunion
Upon me The Lord's grace
Heavenly gifts His loving kindness
Joy and happiness my daily bliss

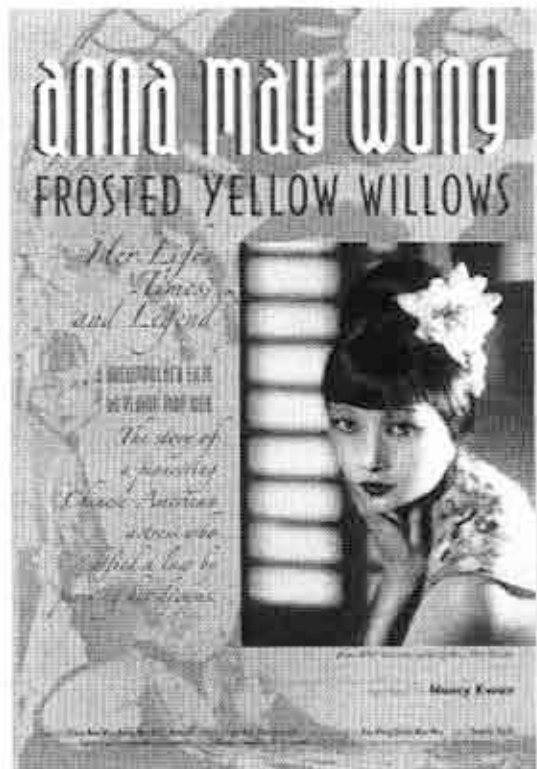
During the construction of Los Angeles Metro Gold Line eastside extension, human remains and artifacts believed to be Chinese were discovered. The above poem is for a proposed memorial wall plaque to be erected at



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"Anna May Wong" U.S. Premiere



University of California at Los Angeles Asian Studies Center presents the U.S. premiere screening of Elaine Mae Woo's film documentary, "Anna May Wong ~ Frosted Yellow Willows: Her Life, Times, and Legend."

Community Sponsors: CHSSC, Organization of Chinese Americans Greater Los Angeles Chapter

Date: Saturday, January 19, 2008

Time: 2:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Place: UCLA's Fowler Museum

Admission : Free, 50 seats reserved for CHSSC members

RSVP: Marjorie Lee, 310.825.5043

Parking on UCLA campus, \$8.00

There will be an awards ceremony including recognition of CHSSC's Vice President Gilbert Hom's recent gift to UCLA's Chinese American Studies Initiative. There will also be a celebration of Anna May Wong's 103rd birthday with cake, and VIP photos.

Renowned broadcast journalist and UCLA Anthropology/Asian American Studies Professor Tritia Toyota will emcee the event.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

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("Anna May Wong," from page 2)

Written, directed, and produced by Elaine Mae Woo, this biographical film documentary contains seldom-seen footage from some of her European films. Anna May Wong was the first Asian American actress whose stardom became internationally recognized during the Golden Age of Hollywood's silent film era and in the 'new' Hollywood era of sound to follow. From humble beginnings in a Chinese laundry, Anna May Wong went on to star in many pictures. While credited with having acted in over eighty films, Anna was rarely given roles deserving of her talents.

The film is narrated by award-winning and internationally acclaimed Asian American actor, Nancy Kwan. Following the screening will be a panel discussion to include Nancy Kwan, film director Elaine Mae Woo, members of the production team, other special guests and CHSSC's Board Director Will Gow who is working on an oral history project with UCLA interns.

The 109th Annual Chinese New Year Parade

CHSSC will participate in the 109th Annual Golden Dragon Parade, Saturday, February 9, 2008. This is the Year of the Rat 4706. The parade will be from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. .

Look for the CHSSC booth during the festivities. CHSSC's Heritage Center will be open to welcome visitors Saturday and Sunday.

For more information call the Chamber at (213) 617-0396 or the Chinatown Business Improvement District at (213) 680-0243.

The French Immigrants in Los Angeles

The New Chinatown in Los Angeles was once a vibrant Italian and French neighborhood. During March 1860, "thirty-three citizens of French origin met at the French Consulate in Los Angeles to form a mutual protection health society." In March 1861, the French Hospital began providing health services at the corner of College Avenue and Hill Street in Los Angeles at a site that is now the heart of Chinatown. Since 1991, it has been operated by the Pacific Alliance Medical Center. A statue of Joan of Arc still stands on the ground of the hospital (see photo below).



The French Hospital is featured in Gum Saan Journal's June 1986 publication. At that time, CHSSC charter member Ella Quan was the hospital's Director of Corporate Development. In 1986, CHSSC presented a resolution to the French Hospital for its 125 years and continued service in many languages to all people with benefit especially to the people of Chinatown.

A photo exhibition of 80 photographs and illustrates how the French colony was at the heart of city life in Los Angeles, with its numerous stores, businesses, newspapers and influential French organizations. The exhibition opened December 3, 2007, and will close January 13, 2008, at the Pico House in Historical Downtown Los Angeles, at 424 N. Main Street.



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Historical Chinatowns

The following is an unedited version of an email sent by Steve Yee, Chair of Friends of the Yee Fow Museum, reprinted with permission from the author.

Dear Friends of the Yee Fow Museum:

I wish to thank you all for the overwhelming response to the recent call to action.

In the past 9 months the API community, the city, Thomas Enterprises, and city commissioners have vetted the issue of the Chinese heritage at the Railyards and the grounds of the early API pioneers of Yee Fow. The API community was successful in establishing their important cultural heritage within the Railyards. The Mayor and City Council also agreed that the Chinese history must be addressed. All APIs must be commended for standing up for their history and engaging in the American process.

In recent weeks many API groups had become concerned with changes in the Railyards Specific Plan and the Railyards Design Guidelines that referenced to a Chinese garden in the largest infill redevelopment site in America, Sacramento's Railyards.

Tuesday, Dec. 11, Sacramento City officials received a flood of emails in support of our efforts to commemorate the region's rich Chinese heritage with a Chinese Garden and a Yee Fow History, Cultural and Trade Center. The Mayor's office was gracious enough to request to meet in efforts to come to a mutual understanding. We are most appreciative that the Mayor took the time in her busy schedule to address this issue.

During that evening's City Council meeting, leaders from over 20 Asian community organizations joined in unity and spoke in support of the efforts of the Friends of the Yee Fow Museum. With up to 40 API supporters in the audience, and many more watching from home, the Mayor and Council were firmly convinced that our project is community driven and widely supported.

City officials acknowledged the importance of the project and gave their assurances to work with the community to make it a reality.

Though the following day, Dec. 12, the Sacramento Bee newspaper article <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/561313.html> diminished our accomplishments stating:

"Before the vote, a parade of interest groups continued to take cracks at the development, a pattern that's persisted as the development proposal moved through myriad public meetings in recent months. Advocates for a Chinese center and garden pressed unsuccessfully for a pledge that it be built near the train depot where Chinatown once stood."

The negative press directed towards the Chinese resulted in another outcry from the community such as:

Ms Vellinga, Sacramento Bee,

"My comment concerns this passage from your article in today's (Dec. 12, 2007) paper.

Before the vote, a parade of interest groups continued to take cracks at the development, a pattern that's persisted as the development proposal moved through myriad public meetings in recent months.

Advocates for a Chinese center and garden pressed unsuccessfully for a pledge that it be built near the train depot where Chinatown once stood."

I am not Asian, but I have strong sympathies for their cause. I was at the Council meeting last night and heard the speakers from the local Chinese community. Chinese people have been badly treated by Sacramentans for over a hundred and fifty years. Many of their ancestors are buried in poorly documented cemeteries on the UP site. What you negatively cast as a "pattern that's persisted," I call laudable participation in the public process.

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("Historical Chinatown," from page 4)

"At the meeting, these speakers were referring to a negotiated agreement to place the garden in a particular area. For unknown reasons, the Mayor penciled out the reference to the location of the garden at the last minute (outside the public process). That was why the Asian community was concerned. Rightfully so. To refer to this kind of community participation as "cracks" is both racially intensive and anti-democratic. Your tone and obvious racial bias are unacceptable and deserving of repudiation."

Respectfully,
John Oback
Elk Grove

Thursday's Bee editorial, Dec. 13, "When civic life works, Railyards brings community to the table* presents a more accurate account and can be viewed at: www.sacbee.com/110/story/566570.html.

Many question if we still are being taken seriously. You can help to take it one step further by posting a comment at the end the editorial. Your comments will go a long way in our efforts to win the Bee's support and help persuade them to continue reporting on this exciting community project. Additionally, your comments will be remembered when Friends of the Yee Fow Center meet with the Sacramento Bee Editorial Board in January.

As this project moves forward and critical public meetings are scheduled, you will be notified in advance. With your continued participation and our collective community efforts, Sacramento will someday soon be able to proudly point to its Chinese Garden and Yee Fow Center as a link between its past and yet to be told Asian and Pacific Islander history.

Thank you again for affirming your interest and support in this project.

Steve Yee
Chair, Friends of the Yee Fow Museum

The Railyards Project

The Railyards Project is a 240-acre transformation of downtown Sacramento, California. It is a master-planned, mixed-use development located on one of the nation's most historically rich sites – the western terminus of the 1869 Transcontinental Railroad. Hotel, office, residential, entertainment, plazas, historic renovations and cultural attractions will complement specialty shops, dining and other retailing in this historic revitalization project. Opening is expected in Spring 2009.

For more information on the Sacramento Railyard Project, please go to www.sacramentorailyards.com

Partners Involved

- Thomas Enterprises—www.thomasent.com/properties/ca6-1.asp (**Railyards Project Developer**)
- City of Sacramento — www.cityofsacramento.org
- Architectural Resources Group — www.argsf.com
- Bay Area Economics — www.bael.com
- Design, Community & Environment — www.dceplanning.com
- Diepenbrock Harrison — www.diepenbrock.com
- EDAA, Inc. — www.edaw.com
- Fleishman-Hillard — www.fleishman.com
- The Jerde Partnership — www.jerde.com (**Master Architect of Railyards Project**)
- Kimley-Horn and Associated — www.kimley-horn.com
- Nolte Associates — www.nolte.com
- The Partnership, Inc. — www.thepartnership.com
- Public Financial Management — www.pfm.com
- RSM Design — www.rsmdesign.net/home.html



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Acknowledgements

- Priscilla Wegars donated *Chinese American Death Ritual*, edited by Sue Fawn Lee and Priscilla Wegars, to the CHSSC's reference library. We now have 2 copies, the other donated by Roberta Greenwood
- Robyn Mar gave a donation to CHSSC in honor of her grandfather Dr. Wing Mar.
- Gordon Hom, brother of CHSSC's Vice President Gilbert Hom, donated a flat panel monitor to CHSSC's administrator's office.

Announcements

Year 2008 Scholarships

Scholarship applications for 2008 are being accepted. The scholarships are two \$1,000 awards, one for a graduate student and one for an undergraduate student. They are made possible by a generous donation from The David and Pearl Louie Foundation.

The criteria for awards are:

- Presently enrolled student in an accredited university in Southern California.
- Minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Academic emphasis related to Chinese American studies in the humanities or social sciences.
- A research paper approximately 1,000 to 3,000 words.
- A personal essay approximately 300 to 500 words.
- Copy of transcripts since high school.
- Letters of recommendation (optional).

Deadline is March 21, 2008, 1:00 p.m. at 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Finalist to be available for interview on April 12, 2008, at CHSSC's office in Los Angeles Chinatown (travel expense to be paid by students).

Application can be downloaded online at <http://www.chssc.org/Scholarship/Application2008.pdf>. For more information, contact Scholarship Chair, Susie Ling, at shling@pasadena.edu.

Archival Preservation of Your Family History

Date: Saturday, January 12, 2008

Time: 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Place: CHSSC Conference Room

Topic: Preserving, digitizing and caring for your home archives

Speakers:

Michelle Light of University Archivist for University of California at Irvine

Lance Watsky, Program Coordinator of Moving Image Archive Studies program at UCLA

The presentations will wrap with a mini consultation session where the audience can get advice on how to care for particular items they have brought from home. The speakers are not appraisers and will not give advice on the monetary value of items.

If there is interest, there will be an on-going monthly meeting for those working on their family histories to provide support and resources particular to doing Chinese American family histories.

Cost: Free for CHSSC Members, \$10 for others. RSVP, 323-222-0856.

Adult Beginning Conversation Mandarin Class

Organized by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA). Class will be on Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, starting date to be determined, at CACA's office, 415 Bamboo Lane, Los Angeles Chinatown. Tuition is \$40 per month. For

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

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Membership	Application
Name: _____	Membership and Other fees (Membership is from January 1 to December 31)
Address: _____	_____ New _____ Renew
City: _____	Senior (60 +) and Student
State: _____	With Gum Saan Journal + S/H* \$32
Phone: _____	Silver
Email: _____	With Gum Saan Journal + S/H* \$57
Visa/MC #: _____	100 x 100 Club
Expiration Date: _____	With Gum Saan Journal + S/H* \$112
Signature: _____	Diamond
	With Gum Saan Journal + S/H* \$312
	Donation (tax deductible) \$ _____
	Total _____ \$ _____
	* For membership without Gum Saan Journal, subtract \$12.

Join us today by filling out the form above and mail to CHSSC, 415 Bernard St., Los Angeles, CA 90012
Or fax it to our office, 323-221-4162. **Make an year-end donation** to CHSSC by December 31, 2007.

Community Calendar

Through January 27, 2008

Rank and Style: Power Dressing in Imperial China

Pacific Asia Museum
46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA
\$7 general admission, \$5 seniors and students
(626) 449-2742

Through February 10, 2008

China on Paper Exhibition

An exhibition on cultural exchanges between Chinese and Europeans from the 16th Century to the 19th Century
The Getty Center
1200 Getty Center Drive, Los Angeles, CA

January 19 and 20, 2008, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Oil painting exhibition

The Disappearing Cultures of Rural China

Sponsored by the Chinese Consulate
The Wilshire Ebell Fine Art Gallery
743 S. Lucerne Blvd
Los Angeles, CA

January 27, 2008

Chinese New Year Festival

Bowers Museum
Santa Ana, CA

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February 5, 2008, 7:30 p.m.

Chinese Garden Lecture: Poetry and Calligraphy in the Garden

Lecture by Yang Ye, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at U.C. Riverside.

The Huntington Library

Friends Hall

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, CA 91108

Free

February 8, 2008

The Chinese and Korean Galleries reopen

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Wilshire Boulevard at Spaulding Avenue

Los Angeles, CA

February 16, 2008, 1:00 p.m.

Lecture on Feng Shui by Angi Ma Wong

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

Lecture is free with admission to the museum

\$7 general admission, \$5 seniors and students

RSVP: 626-449-2742

February 23, 2008, 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

The First Phase Chinese Garden, Liu Fang Yuan opens to the public, and

Chinese New Year Festival

The Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Road

San Marino, CA 91108

\$15 Adults

\$12 Seniors (age 65+)

\$10 Students (age 12-18 or with student I.D.)

\$6 Youth (age 5-11)

Free for children under 5.

Groups of 15 or more: \$11 per person

(626) 405-2100

Wishing You
A Happy New Year

From CHSSC Board and Staff



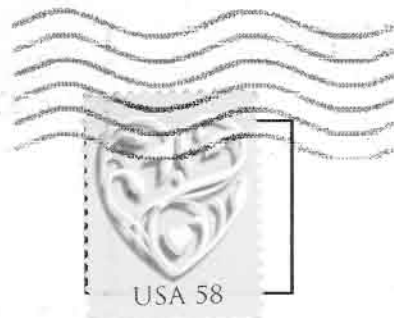
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