



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

Spring 2008 Dinner

Saturday, May 3, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.

Almanson Court

Alhambra, California

See page 4

Serving Our Communities:

Celebrating Chinese

American Associations

April 2008

April Program

Portrait of a Chinese Diplomat:

Sir Chentung Liang Cheng

Wednesday, April 2, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m.



*Sir Chentung Liang Cheng
Reproduced from a photograph by J. E. Purdy
in the Library of Congress*

By Lorena Tong

This program was originally scheduled for November 7, 2007, but had to be cancelled due to technical difficulties. Fortunately, we can now present it on April 2, 2008.

As a diplomat Sir Chentung Liang Cheng was knighted twice by Queen Victoria. He mitigated the treatment of Chinese immigrants in the U.S. and negotiated a Boxer Rebellion indemnity from the U.S. that not only funded the prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing, but also enabled thousands of Chinese students to study in the U.S. Moreover, he was known for his great love of baseball.

Location—

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

Open to the public, free admission and parking, enter from College Street between Yale and Hill Streets.

May 2008 Program— Dora Ho, President of Chinese American Librarian Association, will give a presentation May 7, 2008 @ 7:00 p.m. at Castelar Elementary School.

Around CHSSC

Archiving Family History Workshop Interviewing Family Members

By Anna Gee

Members and friends who attended the “Interviewing Family Members” workshop received a couple of nice surprises. First, Teresa Barnett, long-time head of the Oral History Research Center (OHRC) of the University of California at Los Angeles Library, brought an additional resource person, Alex Kline. He is currently interviewing members of the Korean American community for an OHRC project, and described by Barnett as one of

(Archiving, continued on page 5)

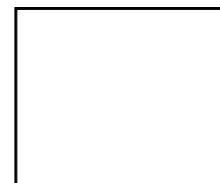
Inside this issue:

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- Ch'ing Ming Observation
- Historical Chinatowns
- Spring 2008 Dinner



Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California

415 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703





Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

April 2008

Ch'ing Ming Observation at the Chinese Shrine in Evergreen Cemetery



Come and learn about the history of the Los Angeles County Cemetery where Los Angeles' early Chinese immigrants and the poor were buried.

We will be honoring three people whose actions helped preserve the history of those buried in this cemetery and gave their memory dignity:

- Irvin Lai—Past President of Chinese Historical Society of Southern California.
- Mike Ten—Councilman, City of South Pasadena.
- Randy Bloch—Chairman, Chinese Shrine Preservation Committee.

WHEN: Saturday, April 5, 2008, 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.
WHERE: Chinese Shrine Evergreen Cemetery
 204 E. Evergreen Avenue, Los Angeles, CA
Admission: Free

After the Ch'ing Ming ceremony there will be a traditional feast of roast pork and dim sum.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

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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.

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

April 2008



Community Calendar

Bone Marrow Drives

Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches
 Various locations throughout Los Angeles area
 Information: (888) 236-4673
 www.asianmarrow.org

Thursdays, 3:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Chinatown Farmers Market

727 N. Hills Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

Saturday, April 5, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.

San Gabriel Valley Cultural Association Fundraising Dinner with raffle prizes

Empress Pavilion, Los Angeles Chinatown
 \$50 per seat or \$400 per table of 10
 Margaret Leong, Chair of Banquet Committee
 Telephone # 323-819-0577

Saturday/Sunday, April 5 and 6

11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Cherry Blossom Festival

JACCC Plaza
 Los Angeles Little Tokyo

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Lecture—Garden Beyond the Garden

Professor Louise Yuhas
 Huntington Library Friends Hall
 San Marino, CA

Saturday, April 26, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.

South Pasadena Chinese American Club Dinner Party with karaoke and raffle prizes

NBC Seafood Restaurant, Monterey Park, CA
 \$50 per seat
 RSVP, Alice Hwang, aliceyhwang@earthlink.net
 626-799-2760

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California is a 501 © 3 non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

CHSSC 33rd Annual Spring Dinner Gift Donation Form for Raffle or Silent Auction Saturday, May 3, 2008

Donor's name will be printed in the program if this Donation Form is completed and received by CHSSC Friday, April 25, 2008.

Donor Name _____

Title _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

___ Yes, I am donating a gift item or gift certificate to CHSSC's 33rd Annual Spring Dinner.

Description of Item/Gift Certificate: (Please complete one form for each item/certificate)

Value: \$ _____

___ Gift Certificate/Merchandise Enclosed.

___ Please create Gift Certificate for me using the information stated above.

Deadline for receipt of all donations is Monday, April 28, 2008.

Please contact CHSSC to make pick-up arrangements, 323-222-0856, chssc@earthlink.net.

Please return this form to:

CHSSC
 415 Bernard Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012



National Association of Asian Publishers

A group of Asian American publishers met in Orlando, Florida in February 2008 to establish the National Association of Asian Publishers (NAAP).

According to the Newsroom of USAsian Wire, "NAAP's mission is to develop the Asian American market and to increase advertising share for Asian Pacific American publishers, including both English language and Asian language media." NAAP has identified over 400 Asian print, electronic and online publishers throughout the United States.

NAAP will focus on:

1. market research,
2. matching circulation verification and analysis with the needs of advertisers, and
3. developing new leaders in the field of Asian Pacific American publishing.

Buying power of Asian Pacific Americans is growing three times faster than APA population growth.* Attendees at NAAP's charter meeting included: Jay Chen, publisher and president of *Asian Fortune*; Ted Fang, editor and publisher of *AsianWeek*; Nghi Huynh, publisher and editor of *Asian American Press*; Greg Macabenta, publisher and editor of *Filipinas Magazine* and *Ang Panahan* newspaper; and Nhien Nguyen editor of *International Examiner*.

* Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation/San Jose Mercury News 2004, Selig Center for Economic Growth, InterTrend Communications, 2006.

Chinese American WWII Aviator Honored

On February 26, 2008, the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform unanimously approved David Wu's legislation to name a United States Post Office in Beaverton,

Oregon after Major Arthur Chin, a Chinese American World War II fighter pilot.

Chin was born in Portland, Oregon in 1913. He helped organize the Portland Chinese Aero Club and started taking flying lessons while still in high school. Chin fought valiantly and was severely burned when his Gloster Gladiator was hit by enemy fire and exploded.

For his bravery he received numerous medals, including the Distinguished Flying Cross. He returned to Portland in 1949 where he worked in the U.S. Postal Service. He died in September 1997. Later, he was inducted posthumously into the American Combat Airmen's Hall of Fame.

2008 Spring Fundraising Dinner Update

- Each current CHSSC member should have received a letter and registration form from the Dinner Committee Chair on the details of the fundraiser.
- For non-members please see page 4 of this newsletter for details.
- Some of the table sponsors to date include **East West Bank, Northrop Grumman, South Pasadena Chinese American Club, and San Gabriel Valley Chinese Cultural Association.**
- We need continuing support in order to run our programs, monthly speaker meetings, walking tours of historic Los Angeles Chinatown, and publications.
- Some of CHSSC's publications are *Duty and Honor, Bridging the Centuries, Linking Our Lives, Sweet Bamboo, and Originations and Destinations*. Every year we publish *Gum Saan Journal*, a semi-academic journal of articles that explore the historical, cultural, and humanistic aspects of Chinese American experiences.
- Last, but not least we publish a monthly newsletter and hold monthly speaker programs for members and the public.



Historical Chinatowns

Fiddletown Preservation Grant

The California Culture and Historical Endowment announced on February 27, 2008, that a grant of \$208,000 will be awarded to the Fiddletown Preservation Society (FPS) to restore 2 buildings.

Fiddletown, located 40 miles southeast of Sacramento in Amador County, was once a vibrant Chinese community. It is unique in having four gold rush era structures remaining from its 19th century Chinatown. A gambling hall and a general store were constructed around 1855-1862, and are in danger of crumbling from years of ravages. Across the street is the Chew Kee Museum, a historic Chinese herb store that was restored in the 1980s.

The Proposition 12 California Heritage grant was awarded to the PFS by the California Office of Historic Preservation in 2002. Additional funds were raised from local grants, Chinese organizations, and private donations. These efforts verify recognition for the importance in telling the story of the Chinese contribution to California's development.

The FPS will continue to seek funds for the restoration of these two buildings. The event will be held April 5, 2008 as part of the 4th Annual Fiddletown Heritage Day celebration to welcome the seasonal opening of the Chew Kee Museum--a historic Chinese herb shop that is open Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. during the months of April through October. It is one of the few places where visitors can find authentic artifacts and furnishings of Chinese life in the early days of California. Admission is free, although donations of \$1/child, \$2/adult and \$5/family are suggested. For further information, visit www.fiddletown, call Gwen Johnson at (209) 256-3222 or e-mail fiddletown_rocs@yahoo.com.

All proceeds from the event benefit the Restoration of Chinese Structures project. The Chinese were instrumental in building California, yet so little remains of their first settlements.

Heinlenville Archaeological Excavation

Heinlenville is the third historic Chinatown in San Jose (See March 2007 News 'n Notes, page 6). For decades, the site lay buried under San Jose's Corporation Yard, but the public was treated to an archaeological excavation open house March 15, 2008.

Heinlenville was home to 2,000 Chinese immigrants from 1887 to the 1930s. Archaeologists from the Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University are working with the Redevelopment Agency, City of San José to unearth selected areas of Heinlenville and early Japantown. By the 1900s Japanese immigrants began to set up businesses along the edge of Heinlenville and Japantown was developed. It survived WWII internments.



Archaeologist Sandra Massey examines an item excavated. Photo courtesy of Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University.

For more information on the excavation project please see Sonoma State University's website, www.sonoma.edu/asc/projects/sanjose/SanJose.htm



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

2008 Spring Dinner

Honoring Chinese American Clubs for their Services to the Community

Saturday, May 3, 2008 @ 6:00 p.m.

Almanson Court

700 S. Almanson Street, Alhambra, California

REGISTRATION FORM (Deadline Monday, April 28)

Sponsorship Levels

- __Diamond \$5,000 (2 Tables for 20, VIP reception with honorees)
__Platinum \$4,000 (1 Table for 10, VIP reception with honorees)
__Gold \$2,500 (1 Table for 10, VIP reception with honorees)
__Silver \$1,250 (1 Table for 10)

Individual Seats

Number of Seats: ___ x \$ 125 = \$_____

I (We) cannot attend but would like to make a donation of \$_____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

VISA/MC Account #: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

Total Amount: _____

Please make your check payable to CHSSC and mail to CHSSC, 415 Bernard Street Los Angeles, CA 90012. Credit Card payment can be mailed or faxed to 323-221-4162.

Choices of Entrée: Steak-----Sea Bass-----Vegetarian

Name: _____ Entrée: _____

Name: _____ Entrée: _____

Name: _____ Entrée: _____

Name: _____ Entrée: _____

Name: _____ Entrée: _____

Thank you for supporting CHSSC !!



(Archiving, from page 1)

the most thoughtful interviewers she knows. Together, they took us, 18 people, through various pitfalls and problems which might arise in conducting interviews, especially of family members, as well as how to prepare ahead, the trade-offs of various recording instruments, the bottom line of permission forms and copy rights, and the uses of transcripts and various end products.

Then they had us interview each other to practice what we had learned, assigning the theme "growing up Chinese American". According to Chong Lew, "constructing a series of questions and interviewing each other was the moment of truth for each of us. It was not as easy as I had thought. An insight from this experience was the synergy of interviewer and interviewee plays an important part in helping the "truths" that comes forth."

If you missed the workshop, you can find a summary of helpful points by contacting the office. And---you can come to the next workshop. On April 19th, we will help participants develop a set of preparatory questions, informed by historical timelines and themes. Board members of the Society, who know their Chinese American history, will be there with various time lines with which you could synthesize a unique family timeline and to guide the brainstorming of themes, which would help inform the questions.

If you cannot make it, you can always begin on your own. It can be as simple as having a conversation with a family member and recording it. (Tips to get started from the workshop: remember to record the stories told at family gatherings; ask questions about the pages in a photo album or ask about a treasured family item.)

No matter how simply, it only matters that you

start! Recording oral history may be the hardest of the areas of gathering family history. The importance of preserving and organizing the photos and documents you have may be a no-brainer. Genealogy is something of a tradition, with Chinese families who can trace their lineages back through many generations. Oral history --not so much. Recognition is given to the history of emperors and important people. Stories of regular people, our viewpoints, our day-to-day realities have not been thought to be important. They have been lost, partly due to such circumstances as the distance of different shores, the chaos of wars and famines, and the chill of immigration circumstances, raids, and McCarthyism, and partly due to the pressure of survival. But if enough stories of grandmothers and grandfathers are recorded and eventually archived, a scholar will be able to piece them together to tell us more about a larger story of our pioneers beyond what we have now.

Acknowledgement

Thank you to Winnie Lew, Esther Yee, Lupe Chee, Mary Mu, Ken Chan, Frieda and Allan Wong, Tim and Annie Siu, for providing refreshments at the March 5, 2008 program meeting.

Announcements

There will be a presentation by Angi Ma Wong, Feng Shui for the Year of the Rat. It will be on Monday, April 21, 2008, @ 6:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Chinatown Branch Library. Limited parking available on premises.