



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Appreciation of our Chinese American heritage * A non-profit organization *
P.O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, CA 90086-2647 (213) 621-3171

DECEMBER 1996

PROGRAM

1996-1997

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Wednesday, January 8, 1997 - 7:30 P.M.

Castelar School - Multipurpose Room

840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

(Park on playground. Enter on College Street)

between Hill and Yale Streets

FROM CHINATOWN to INDOCHINATOWN:

A Comparative Perspective of
Northern & Southern California

Joe Chung Fong will discuss social changes, immigration and identity among recent immigrants in the Los Angeles area. Mr. Fong will share the results of his Lincoln Heights study. His discussion will focus on his insights about Lincoln Heights: the problems, the support of the community and the changes. Also, Mr. Fong will compare the migration of the recent Chinese immigrants in Southern California to that of Northern California.

Joe Chung Fong has a B.A. from U.C. Davis on Political Science. He has an M.A. in American Studies from U.C.L.A. and an M.A. in Anthropology from U.C. Berkeley. Currently, Mr. Fong is a U.C. Berkeley Ph.D. candidate tracking Asian Immigrants at Lincoln High School.

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!! Our membership year is from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31

If you have not sent in your renewal for 1997, please do so as soon as possible.

Remember to add \$5 for the Gum Saan Journal. Tell a friend about our Society. Bring in a new member. We will be "bigger and better" than ever if each member brought in one new member. 1997 will find the completion of the World War II Project in a book form, the completion of Phase Two of the Shrine Preservation Project, along with more informative and interesting monthly programs, dinners, field trips, etc.

SALE ITEMS AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS AND OTHER CHSSC EVENTS:

Linking Our Lives

Sweet Bamboo

Origins & Destinations

CHSSC SOUVENIR CUPS

An American Chinatown - 2 volumes

Thousand Pieces of Gold

Wooden Fish Songs (1 hardbound)

DONOR ALERT - We are a purely volunteer outfit and sometimes we miss a few. In this case, we are talking about three generous donations to the Building Fund around January 1996 or early February. We have lost the page with the copies of the checks and have only the bank numbers and the amounts. Whoever you are, you **MUST** have an acknowledgment letter of the correct type from us, sent to you by Winifred Lew, to legally file an income tax deduction. Please, if you donated to the Society Building Fund this year in January or February and have not received an acknowledgment, please call Munson Kwok at (310) 645-1369 or write to CHSSC at P.O. Box 862647, Los Angeles, 90086-2647. Include a deposit slip from your account so we can verify that you are the correct person. Our listings are as follows:

<u>Bank No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
16-7038	\$200
16-66	\$500
91-2	\$500

WELCOME BACK - We welcome back Walt Wheelcock to the member ranks after so many years. Walt, 87 now, was among the earliest members of the Chinese Historical Society and loved our dinners then. He is still studying the earliest presses and printing shops in California.

MOTHER CABRINI REMEMBERED - Member Munson Kwok has had recent occasion to assist Prof. Gloria Lothrop, one of our past speakers, in salvaging a piece of American history in Chinatown. On the Chinatown site of the Cabrini School for Girls, corner of Cesar Chavez Blvd. and Hill Place, are the remnants of a grotto to the Virgin. Although historic, just as is our Cemetery Shrine, it has been ruled by experts as not adequately significant for site preservation. A prompt alert by Kwok has facilitated the movement of the shrine to a church and facility honoring Mother Cabrini, located on Imperial Blvd. The removal and restoration will be funded by artisans of the Italian American community. The Chinatown site itself will become a Community Redevelopment project for much needed affordable income housing. An appropriate historical memorial to Mother Cabrini will be installed on the project site by CRA and the developer. Why is this important to us? CHSSC is the preserver of the area's history. Mother Cabrini herself founded this school. Because of a life of good works, Mother Cabrini became the first American Roman Catholic Saint. She is therefore one of the prominent personages who lived and worked in what is today's Chinatown prior to the turn of the century.

CONFERENCE - Mark your calendars for the next **Chinese American Studies Conference on October 11-13, 1997, Columbus Day weekend in New York City**. Remember the great conference we ran in 1992? This is one of that series.

BOK KAI FESTIVAL at Marysville, CA, will be held Saturday & Sunday, March 15-16, 1997. Many of our Society members have participated in this memorable event. For anyone who is interested in participating, please call Paul Chace (619)743-8609 or leave a message at the Society office phone, 213-621-3171. Paul and Phyllis Chace will be in Marysville for the event and will be on hand to greet you.

JUDITH OWYANG, former member of CHSSC, sent Holiday Greetings to all our members. She also included the following article printed autumn 1996 in the USC Trojan Family Magazine, Alumni News section. Judith "is a museum scientific expert who is currently under contract by the German government to inventory and appraise World War II losses from Berlin museums. Among the treasures she is surveying is, appropriately enough, a stash of Trojan Gold.

"It's one of the most famous collections in archaeological history," she explains. Heinrich Schliemann, a German business tycoon and self-taught archaeologist, unearthed the treasure of gold goblets, plates and jewelry from the ancient ruins of Troy in Turkey in 1873. He purchased the treasures from Turkey and bequeathed them to Germany in 1880.

"In retaliation for the massive destruction wrought on the U.S.S.R. by the Nazis, Soviet forces in Germany at the end of World War II captured much of Schliemann's Trojan gold collection in a Berlin museum. The collection disappeared, but few knew to where. Recently, Russian officials finally 'fessed up: more than 1,500 golden objects excavated from Homer's legendary city had been trucked to Moscow and placed in secret storage.

"Now that the treasures have been found, the German nation would like them returned," says Owyang, who is assistant to Berlin curator and international art sleuth Klaus Goldmann. "When that happens it will be the happiest day of Professor Goldmann's life."

"The Trojan Gold collection is a big piece in the trophy-hunting puzzle left from the war, but the Red Army snatched an estimated two million other objects from German castles, museums and storage bunkers," says Owyang. Her take on who should get what is straightforward: "When any soldier or politician ripped something off, it should be returned," she says. "Stealing is stealing."

IKEBANA played by our Beulah Quo and the East West Players was enjoyed by 57 members and friends of CHSSC and the Friends of the Museum of Chinese American History. Our two groups originally reserved 50 seats, finally adding 7 more. More calls were received after the deadline, but East West Players had sold the remaining seats (total capacity = 99) and Pres. Jeff had to call some people back and give them the sad news.

HOLIDAY POTLUCK & BOUTIQUE was enjoyed by 80+ members and friends who attended. As usual, we had a variety of delicious food. Each year the food gets better and better. Background holiday music was supplied by Susan Dickson and Winifred Lew. Mae Hom, a Castelar teacher and CHSSC member, played the piano while Irvin Lai's "choir" of volunteers led the singing. The special evening was enjoyed by all.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!
HAVE A HEALTHY AND SAFE ONE.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, Jan. 4,
 Jan. 11, 18, 25
 9 a.m. - Noon

CHINESE AMERICAN WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF SO. CALIF. Research Project. L.A. Chinatown Heritage and Visitors Center, 411 Bernard Street, Chinatown. 213-222-1918 or 213-621-3171.

Thursday, Jan. 16
 7:30 p.m.

AMERICA AND CHINA - 1780 - 1900. San Marino Historical Society sponsors this very special lecture with the distinguished Professor Milton Meyer, teacher, author, and authority on Asian history. This will be held at Webb Theater, San Marino High School, 2700 Huntington Drive, San Marino. Free Admission.

Saturday, Jan. 18
 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

UNCOVERING THE PAST: RESOURCES FOR L.A. HISTORY. Second history conference by the Historical Society of Southern California at the Autry Museum. Reg. \$50, Member \$40, Teacher \$30. For info, call HSSC, 213-222-0546.

Sunday, Jan. 19
 2 p.m.

MIGRANTS WEST & THE PIONEERS OF SO. CALIF. Lecturer, Ronald C. Woolsey. Mark Taper Auditorium of the Central Library, 5th Street between Grand & Flower. Free and open to the public. For info, call 213-228-7400.

Sunday, Jan. 26
 Noon to 4 p.m.

HERITAGE & VISITORS CENTER OPEN
 411 Bernard Street, L.A. Chinatown
 213-222-1918
 Free Admission

NEWS 'n NOTES DEADLINE : All articles must be in to the P.O. Box by the 15th of the month to be considered in that month's News 'n Notes.