



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-0856

February 2010

February Program



Meet John Jung, Ph.D.

Wednesday, February 3, 2009
@ 7:00 p.m.

Castelar Elementary School
All Purpose Room
Enter on College Avenue
between Hill and Yale St.
All are welcome.
Free parking.

**“The Historical Importance of Chinese
Laundries”**

Dr. Jung will talk about his book: *Chinese Laundries: Tickets to Survival on Gold Mountain*. Dr. Jung's book has made a significant contribution to the history of Chinese laundries in America. The story is best told by someone like Jung who experienced a `laundry life,' and understands its psychological impact on the Chinese laundrymen and their families. It is hard to imagine the difficulties that the laundrymen encountered in making a living in a harsh and hostile environment. Those who had families with them worked hard to ensure that their children would have advantages that the laundrymen could never attain here.

Dr. Jung is also the author of *Southern Fried Rice: Life in a Chinese Laundry in the Deep South* and several other books. He grew up in Georgia, then later moved to California and graduated from UC Berkeley. He received his Ph.D. in psychology at Northwestern University and taught at California State University at Long Beach for forty years.

For more information, please visit Dr. Jung's website at <http://jrjung.tripod.com/index.html>.

Around CHSSC

Gum Saan Journal 2010 Special Edition

Now available

Gum Saan Journal (GSJ) 2010 Special Edition is now completed and will be distributed to CHSSC members at the beginning of the year. Current members may pick up their copy at CHSSC, located at 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles Chinatown. Please call ahead before visiting because the office will not be holding regular hours due to staff changes. We will also distribute copies at our February meeting.

GSJ is included in your membership fee except for those who opted out. Each issue costs \$10.00. It is a semi-academic, annual publication of the Society. We welcome manuscripts that explore the historical, cultural, and humanistic aspects of Chinese American experiences, particularly those relating to Southern California. We also solicit articles exploring contemporary issues relevant to the Chinese American community. Manuscripts should be approximately 3000 words in length.

The 2010 Special Edition of GSJ is the culmination of an oral history project on Los Angeles Chinatown in the 1930s and 1940s, led by William Gow. There is an exhibition at the CHSSC Heritage Center and a website devoted to the project, www.chinatownremembered.com.

The Editorial Committee is Susie Ling and Icy Smith.

GSJ Volume 32, Number 1 includes:

Shaken As By An Earthquake: Chinese-Americans, Segregation and Displacement in Los Angeles, 1870-1938 by Isabela Seong-Leong Quintana

A History of the Los Angeles City Market: 1930-1950 by Tara Fickle

Building a Chinese Village in Los Angeles: Christine Sterling and the Residents of China City 1938-1948 by William Gow.



Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

February 2010

Presidential Proclamation—National Angel Island Day

By President Barack Obama

January 20, 2010

One hundred years ago, the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay opened for the first time, and an important chapter of the American narrative began. It would be written by those who walked through the station's doors over the next three decades. From the cities, villages, and farms of their birth, they journeyed across the Pacific, seeking better lives for themselves and their children. Many arrived at Angel Island, weary but hopeful, only to be unjustly confined for months or, in some cases, years. As we remember their struggle, we honor all who have been drawn to America by dreams of limitless opportunity. Unlike immigrants who marveled at the Statue of Liberty upon arrival at Ellis Island, those who came to Angel Island were greeted by an intake facility that was sometimes called the "Guardian of the Western Gate." Racially prejudiced immigration laws of the time subjected many to rigorous exams and interrogations, as well as detention in crowded, unsanitary barracks. Some expressed themselves by carving poetry and inscriptions into the walls in their native language -- from Chinese, Japanese, and Korean to Russian, German, and Urdu. These etchings remain on Angel Island today as poignant reminders of the immigrant experience and an unjust time in our history. If there is any vindication for the Angel Island immigrants who endured so many hardships, it is the success achieved by those who were allowed entry, and the many who, at long last, gained citizenship. They have contributed immeasurably to our Nation as leaders in every sector of American life. The children of Angel Island have seized the opportunities their ancestors saw from across an ocean. By demonstrating that all things are possible in America, this vibrant community has created a beacon of hope for future generations of immigrants. NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 21, 2010, as National Angel Island Day. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Angel Island and to observe this anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth BARACK OBAMA. Source: whitehouse.gov.

CHSSC has a new email address: chssc@hotmail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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News 'n Notes Editor
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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

February 2010

WORKS IN PROGRESS

at Nakano Theatre

Torrance Cultural Arts Center

3330 Civic Center Drive, Torrance CA 90503

The year 2010 will mark the 45th anniversary of the Immigration and Nationality Act that brought justice to America's immigration policy. This act has had a profound effect in reuniting families and vitalizing our nation's cities and industries. Nowhere has this national policy seen a greater impact than among our Chinese American community.

Our new series ENDURING SPIRIT will present performing artists celebrating the story of Chinese Americans, both their early experiences and contemporary developments. And while these are stories of Chinese Americans by contemporary Chinese American writers, they are stories with which every American regardless of nationality will feel a powerful emotional connection.

The first of these events, all of which will be presented in the intimate Nakano Theatre, will be a short film and VIP reception available only to series subscribers. Presented at 7 PM, Saturday, February 20, is the 60-minute film Long Story Short directed by Christine Choy. This new film celebrates the story of Larry and Trudie Long, a popular husband-and-wife nightclub act of the 1940s and 1950s. Narrated and framed by the experiences of their daughter, renowned actress Jodi Long, the film traces the couple's rise from the Chinatown nightclub circuit to a coveted appearance on The Ed Sullivan Show. This is a one-time only experience.

The series will continue at 7 PM, Wednesday, February 24, with the solo performance of Uncle Toisan by Charlie Chin. Like Hal Holbrook as Mark Twain, the Smithsonian-celebrated storyteller Charlie Chin will portray this Chinese immigrant's unique life in the United States through the early 20th Century to give audiences of all ages a powerful, affective, and educational experience. This will be the Los Angeles premier of this work, and, again, it is a one-time only experience.

The third presentation at 7 PM, Wednesday, March 31, will be the play American Bamboo by Cherylene

Lee. This drama shows how a real life family, one of the most prominent Chinese American families in Los Angeles, copes with loss in the midst of the Great Depression. This is new work by the playwright who is among the most celebrated Chinese American writers in the nation—to say nothing of the fact that she was a child actress who won her way into the hearts of Americans with her film, TV, and stage performance in the 1950s and 1960s. Again, one time only.

Individual ticket prices (which include a \$2.50 handling fee) are \$25 adults and \$23 students / seniors. Purchase tickets directly at the Box Office or over the phone by calling (310) 781-7171.

Community Calendar

Sunday, January 31, 2010 2:00-3:30pm

Panel of Authors from Arcadia Publishing
CHSSC board member Jenny Cho will moderate a panel of authors from Arcadia Publishing. Panelists and their books include:

1. Jenny Cho, Chinatown in Los Angeles
2. Charles Fisher, Highland Park
3. Carina Montoya, Historic Filipinotown and Filipinos in Hollywood
4. Eric Warren, Eagle Rock
5. Mariann Gatto, The Italians in Los Angeles' Little Italy

Arroyo Seco Library
6145 North Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90042-3593

Wednesday, February 9, 2010 7:00pm

Lisa See—Shanghai Girls
Cerritos Library Skyline Room
Talk & Signing 18025 Bloomfield Avenue
Cerritos, CA 90703

Saturday, February 20, 2010

111th Annual Golden Dragon Parade
Celebrating the Year of the Tiger 4708
1:00-3:00pm

<http://www.lagoldendragonparade.com/>
CHSSC members meet at 415 Bernard Street at 1:30pm

Community Calendar

(continued from page 3)

Sunday May 2, 2010

Chinese Historical Society of Southern California Banquet



Sat FEB 20 7pm

LONG STORY SHORT

Film by Christine Choy written by Jodi Long

The story of Larry and Trudie Long, a popular husband and wife nightclub act of the 1940s and '50s



Wed FEB 24 7pm

UNCLE TOISAN by **Charlie Chin**

Enjoy this favorite uncle, as he shares stories of arriving and striving in America



Wed MAR 31 7pm

AMERICAN BAMBOO by **Cherylene Lee**

Experience how a real life family copes with loss in the midst of the Great Depression

Acknowledgements

Board member Winifred Lew has given a lot of her time in helping CHSSC during this transitional period between staff members. Playing Holiday music and making tea for Dec. & Jan. events.

Helen Chan recruited Aki Aleong for the January monthly program.

April Hong taught us a holiday Christmas carol game at the annual Christmas potluck.

Ben Fong has been coming in multiple times during the month to take out trash.

Eugene & Susan S. Moy spent hours on the weekend planting and paying for the new flowers. Susan also donated a wonderful cake for the January meeting.

Jenny Cho has been updating the website during our transition period.

Read Portraits of Pride Online

Portraits of Pride is now available via this link: <http://TinyURL.com/PoP-08-1>



**Chinese Historical Society
of Southern California**

415 Bernard St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703



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