



NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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NOVEMBER 2006

DECEMBER PROGRAM

Potluck Holiday Party

And

Presentation by Angi Ma Wong



Bitter Roots: A Gum Saan Odyssey is written by the late Dr. Arthur W. Chung, an uncle of long time supporter of CHSSC Norman Wong. "It is 1875,. With boundless hope and bright dreams, a young Chinese couple board a trans-Pacific steamship to meet their destiny. This is their story...and California's."

Angi Ma Wong, publisher of *Bitter Roots* and wife of Norman Wong, will talk about the book after we enjoy a potluck holiday feast.

Potluck will start at 6:30 p.m. The Society will provide a few dishes but we look forward to the dishes that you all will bring! As a matter of organization, we have designated specific groups of people to bring certain items. If your last name begins with the letters below, you bring the corresponding dish:

A - F: Beverages

G - M: Entrees

N - T: Vegetable dish

U - Z: Dessert

There will be a White Elephant Sale. Please bring your goodies to help CHSSC raise needed funds.

Date and location of December Program:

Wednesday, December 6, 2006 @ 6:30 p.m.

Multipurpose Room, 840 Yale Street, Los Angeles

REVIEW OF NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The Early Ventura County Chinese Community

By Albert Chang, M.D.

Will Gow, a fifth generation Chinese-American educator, filmmaker, and CHSSC Board member discussed the history of his family in Ventura County from the mid-1880's to the present. His great-grandfather, Wong Ah Gow (1853-1929) left an impoverished district near Canton, China and worked in San Francisco for 2 years. After earning some money, he returned to China, married and had two sons. He then returned to the United States alone settling in Oxnard, a small community in Ventura County where he became a successful entrepreneur.

Starting with a dry-goods store, he soon was able to buy commercial properties. His second son was able to join him in Oxnard. After his first wife passed away he married again and the children of this marriage were born in the U.S. Local newspaper clippings describe how the Gow family was accepted and respected by the residents of Oxnard and the larger community of Ventura County. With Wong Ah Gow's growing family he expanded his business ventures including a shared ownership of a large beet processing factory. Some prejudice against the Chinese residents always existed and there was a tense rivalry between them and Japanese and Mexican laborers. In spite of this bias the Wong family prospered. Following his death in 1929 and the market crash, the family scattered to other parts of the U.S. Today the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society takes great pride in the heritage of Wong Ah Gow.



AROUND CHSSC



Raffle Winner

We did not sell enough raffle tickets to award the 2006 Mazda 3 car. The winner took home \$1,000 in prize money. Mr. A Balfour Chinn, Jr., of San Francisco came to the Heritage Center for a visit the day of the

drawing. We asked him to honor us with drawing the winning ticket. The photo above shows him handing it to CHSSC President John Wong. Looking on are his wife and daughter, and Yvonne Chang. The winners are Ernesto and Nety Con. Congratulations! Ernesto is responsible for painting of the Heritage Center and was a speaker at the October 2006 program.

Membership—With the end of 2006, it is time to renew your membership for 2007. With your support we can continue to fulfill the Society's mission. Please use the enclosed application form and self-addressed envelope.

Scholarship—CHSSC is proud to announce its scholarship program. There is one \$1000 award for an undergraduate students and another \$1000 award for a graduate student in Chinese American studies. Visit www.chssc.org for criteria and application form or call 323-222-0856.

Gum Saan Journal 2007 Edition—CHSSC has completed its newest edition of Gum Saan Journal (GSJ), our annual semi-academic publication. This is our Hanford, California issue. Richard Wing of Hanford was a cook for General George Marshall before becoming proprietor of a 5-star restaurant. Hanford also boasts a Taoist Temple and a Confucian School. You can use the enclosed membership application to order the Gum Saan Journal.

Acknowledgements

- Winifred Lew, Ruth Lung provided and served refreshments at the meeting November 1, 2006.
- Henry Sakaida gave a generous donation to the Portraits of Pride Project.
- Margie Lew packed hundreds of copies of PoP for mailing to schools and libraries throughout the United States, and Phil Hom delivered them to the post office.
- Tom Eng donated tea and two end tables to CHSSC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MISSION STATEMENT

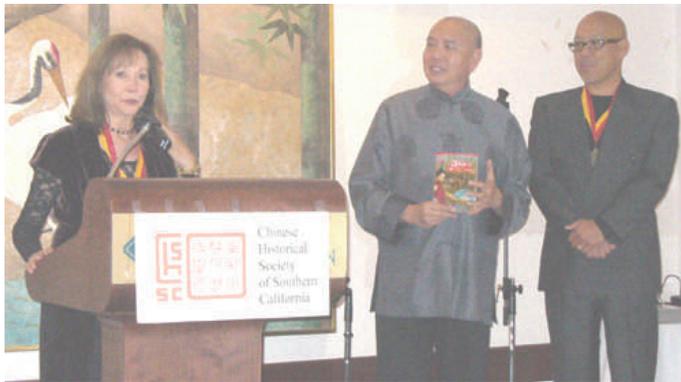
The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California was organized in November, 1975. The purposes of the Society are: 1) to bring together people with a mutual interest in the important history and historical role of Chinese and Chinese Americans in Southern California; 2) to pursue, preserve and communicate 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.



Fall 2006 Dinner



From L to R, CHSSC President John Wong presenting certificate of appreciation to Doctors Karen and Kwan Chan for being the keynote speakers at the Society's fundraising dinner November 12, 2006. Also on hand was former Board member Jack Ong presenting medals to Michael Paul Chan and Nancy Kwan who were unavailable at the Salute to Chinese American Actors dinner May 6, 2006. (Photos courtesy of Bill Jong)



CHSSC thanks the following:

- Pete Chinn negotiated the menu and price.
- Table sponsors Ann Lau, Kyra Woo, Hayward Fong and Eugene Moy.
- Printing of the dinner program provided by Eugene Moy.
- Centerpieces provided by Susie Ling.
- Susie Sing and Jeannie Liu manned the check-in table.
- Ernesto Con provided 100 cases of instant noodles.
- Donations from CHSSC members Louise Tang and Galen Ho'o.
- Susie Sing and Sum Sum Chan sold car raffle tickets



The Kong Chow Association Choir provided entertainment.



Accepting certificate of appreciation from John Wong is Kong Chow Association's President Sikee Louie (standing to the left of John Wong in photo).



John Wong accepting certificate on behalf of CHSS from newly elected Assemblyman Mike Eng (Left).

All photos above are courtesy of Tom Eng.

Announcement—Flower Drum Song starring CHSSC's honoree Nancy Kwan is now available on DVD. It features a look behind the scenes and commentary with Ms. Kwan and a film historian.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Ongoing

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

First Saturday of Every Month, 10:30 a.m.

"UNDISCOVERED CHINATOWN" TOURS

L.A. Chinatown

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

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

Reservation required: (626) 449-2742, ext. 12

December 1—10

Sandra Tsing Loh performs "**Sugar Plum Fairy**"

Cal State at Los Angeles Intimate Theater

5151 State University Dr., Los Angeles, CA

Cost: \$35; Information: 323-343-6600

Dec. 12., 2006 Tuesday @7:30 p.m.

"Social Status of Garden Craftsmen in 16th - 17th Century Ming Dynasty and Their Relationship with Garden Owners"

Alison Hardie of Newcastle University will examine the social status of Chinese garden craftsmen in the 16th- and 17th-century Ming dynasty and how they worked with garden owners.

Huntington Library

San Marino, CA

December 22, Movie opening in selected theaters

Curse of the Golden Flower. A period high drama that concerns the volatile balance of power between the King and the Queen and his three sons, which entails betrayal, deceit and passion--pitting the King against Queen and father against sons.

Directed by Zhang Yimou, starring Gong Li, Chow Fun Fat, Jay Chou.



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