



# NEWS 'n NOTES

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Chinatown Heritage & Visitors Center: 323-222-0856

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May 2009

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## May Program

Wednesday, May 6, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m.

There will be a presentation of a slate of nominations to serve on the Board of Directors for 2009-2010. Please see page 2 for the slate of nominations and how members of CHSSC can submit additional nominations

After the business meeting will be a presentation by Bill Chin, broker and realtor. He will talk about breaking the barriers to fair housing in Southern California. Restrictive covenants had prevented many minorities including Chinese Americans from buying or renting a home in many neighborhoods. In the late '40's and early '50's, the legal barriers were beginning to be removed, but political and social barriers still existed.



That was the environment that a young Bill Chin found when he moved to Southern California from his native Detroit. Bill Chin had obtained his Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He joined Kashu Realty, a pioneering real estate agency, and over the subsequent years, helped many Asian American and other families buy a home in the Crenshaw and other previously inaccessible areas.

Still active in and enjoying his profession, Bill Chin will share his insights from over 50 years in the real estate industry. He has been a Director, Member of the Executive Committee, and President of the Los Angeles Association of Realtors, and has been recognized with numerous awards, including by his peers, the Board of Supervisors, and the California State Assembly.

*(continued on page 4)*

## Around CHSSC

### Ch'ing Ming at the Evergreen Cemetery

This year's CHSSC Ch'ing Ming observance was attended by almost 100 people. The day began at the Los Angeles Crematorium with a presentation on the memorial plaque to be dedicated to the forgotten Chinese pioneers of Los Angeles with the hope that they will always be remembered. The group then walked to the Chinese Shrine where a Ch'ing Ming ceremony was performed, and was followed by a dim sum feast with a roast pig.

Members of the Boyle Height Historical Society joined CHSSC members and friends for the day. After the feast, they visited a few gravesites, notably the site where Donaldina Cameron was buried. Miss Cameron was a social justice advocate who devoted her life to the rescuing and education of as many as 3,000 Chinese girls and women in San Francisco from 1895 to 1934 (see article on page 6).

The day's events was organized by Gilbert Hom. Linda Chong, Gordon Hom, Gene Moy, Susan Dickson, Irvin Lai and several others also helped. Irvin Lai and Susan Dickson ordered food and organized the luncheon feast.

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CHSSC's 34th Anniversary Celebration

Donaldina Cameron, Social Justice Advocate



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

## May 2009

### **Nominations to the CHSSC Board of 2009-2010**

The following have been nominated to the CHSSC Board of 2009-2010:

#### **Officers**

President—Gordon Hom  
 Vice President—Susan Dickson  
 Vice President for Programs—Mei T. Ong  
 Secretary—Winifred Lew  
 Membership Secretary—Albert Chang, M.D.  
 Treasurer—Dennis Lee, C.P.A.

#### **Members at Large for 2-year term**

Kenneth L. Chan  
 Irvin Lai  
 Donald Loo  
 Eugene Moy  
 William Tong

#### **Members at Large for 1-year term**

Open

#### **Members at Large returning for second year of 2-year term (not for election)**

Jean Chan  
 Jenny Cho  
 Henry Leong  
 Diane Poon

Board members serve from July 1 to June 30. The Board meets on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Board members have the opportunities to serve on committees such as the Archive Committee, the By-Law Committee, the Finance Committee, the Membership Committee, the Programs Committee, the Nomination Committee, the Outreach Committee, etc. Committees meet at various agreed upon dates and times.

Members of CHSSC are encouraged to submit nominations to CHSSC by calling 323-222-0856, email to [chssc@earthlink.net](mailto:chssc@earthlink.net), or at the May 6 general meeting. Election will take place at the June 3 meeting.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Officers**

Kenneth L. Chan, President  
 William Gow, Vice President  
 Eugene Moy, V.P. for Programs  
 Albert Chang, M.D., Secretary  
 Mei Ong, Membership Secretary  
 Dennis Lee, C.P.A., Treasurer

#### **Members at Large**

Jean Chan  
 Pete Chinn, CPA  
 Jenny Cho  
 Susan Dickson  
 Gordon Hom  
 Irvin Lai  
 Henry Leong  
 Betty Wong Oyama  
 Diane Poon

*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

## May 2009



### New Books on Chinese American Experience



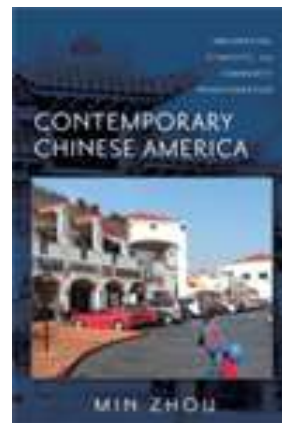
***OUTSIDE THE PAINT: When Basketball Ruled at the Chinese Playground*** by Kathleen S. Yep is a new publication of the Temple University Press.

*OUTSIDE THE PAINT* focuses on San Francisco's Chinatown from the 1930s to the 1950s, when basketball was a source of pride and temporary relief from an oppressive lifestyle for the Chinese community. Through Yep's retelling of five particular stories ranging from the success of the Mei Wahs, a women's amateur basketball team, to the individual achievements of the talented Helen Wong, this book captures just how male and female athletes alike used their physical attributes to challenge their social status and build community.

"Prodigiously researched and vividly realized, *Outside the Paint* tells a story previously all but unknown. Kathleen Yep has made an important contribution to the scholarship of the city game."—Jeremy Schaap, New York Times best-selling author

For more information on the book, how to order it, etc., contact Marketing Director, Ann Marie Anderson, at (215) 204-1108 or by email at [anderson@temple.edu](mailto:anderson@temple.edu).

The Temple University Press website is [www.temple.edu/tempress](http://www.temple.edu/tempress)



***Contemporary Chinese America***, by Min Zhou, is a comprehensive sociological investigation of the experiences of Chinese immigrants to the United States—and of their offspring—in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. The concluding chapter, "Rethinking Assimilation," talks about the paradox of "Model Minority" and "Perpetual Foreigner." Also included are an extensive bibliography and a list of recommended documentary films.

While this book is suited for a college class in Chinese American studies, it is also interesting to the general audience who wants to better understand the experience of the contemporary Chinese Americans.

"Through her sociological insight, Zhou's new book deepens our understanding of many aspects of contemporary Chinese America such as family, education, or enclave economy. Pushing the field to a new level, her scholarship is a must in race, ethnicity, and immigration studies."

—**Haiming Liu, Professor of Asian American Studies, Cal Poly Pomona**



Min Zhou is Professor of Sociology and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of *Chinatown (Temple)* and *The Transformation of Chinese America*, co-author of *Growing Up American*, and co-editor of *Asian American Youth and Contemporary Asian America*.



### Acknowledgements

1. Many thanks to Lupe Chee, Mary Mu, Winnie Lew and Ruby Ling Louie for bringing snacks for the April 1 program meeting.
2. Donation by Mary Wong in memory of Jim Fong.
3. Donation in memory of Johnny Yee by Margie and Albert Lew.
4. Donation by Hayward Fong in honor of Miss Pre-Teen of Temecula of 2009, Jordi Toy, his great grandniece.

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### Corrections to News 'n Notes April 2009 edition, Johnny Yee article:

"George Yee did not serve in the US military, but he was indeed a past president of the CHSSC. The youngest of the Yee brothers, Bill Yee is an active and long serving member of the CHSSC, along with his wife Margie. Moreover, Bill was formally a Manager with the Savon Drugs Group, which is among other things, a retailer of American flags. Many of the American flags in John Yee's collection, and subsequently donated to the CHSSC, were from Bill's store."

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### May Program

*(continued from page 1)*

He's spoken before professional organizations and on radio and television on subjects such as fair housing and code of ethics. In the community, Bill has been very active in Optimists International, which he credits is aligned with his outlook on life.

Castelar Elementary School  
840 Yale Street, Los Angeles Chinatown  
Enter on College Avenue between Yale and Hills  
The public is invited. Free admission.

### An Appeal for Donations to the May 3 Fundraising Event

While CHSSC's 34th anniversary dinner is almost sold out, costs have gone up and donations have been less than in previous years. Please support CHSSC by making a donation using the form on the next page.

In the past 34 years our core activities included a monthly speaker program, a monthly newsletter, journals and books on Chinese American experiences that enhance the understanding of Chinese Americans contribution to the development of United States. We have collaborated with the Asian American Studies Center, University of California at Los Angeles, in a conference, an oral history workshop and publication of a book on Chinese American veterans of WWII. We participated in activities that protects the Chinese American history from being destroyed, forgotten, distorted or dismissed as unimportant. We also have a scholarship program for those pursuing studies in Chinese American history.

In order to continue our mission we need your generous donations of any amount. The annual dinner is CHSSC's only major fundraising event. It raises the necessary operating expenses for the next fiscal year. We accept donations any time of the year, for either general operation or any specific activity such as education, outreach or publication.

Please visit our website at [www.chssc.org](http://www.chssc.org), come to our monthly speaker program (see page 1), or visit CHSSC Heritage Center at 411 Bernard Street in Los Angeles Chinatown. For more information, call 323-222-0856 or email [chssc@earthlink.net](mailto:chssc@earthlink.net)

# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

## May 2009



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

### 34th Annual Gala Dinner

Celebrating Chinese Americans in Sports

Sunday, 3 May 2009 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Empress Harbor Seafood Restaurant  
111 N. Atlantic Blvd., Monterey Park, CA

### Featuring Honorees:

1. The late **Richard Tom**, 1948 Olympic Bronze Medal winner in weight lifting, the first Chinese American to win an Olympic medal.
2. The late **Bob Chow**, rapid-fire shooter in 1948 Olympics
3. **Tiffany Chin**, Figure Skating Olympian in 1984
4. **Kevin Wong**, Beach Volleyball Olympian in 2000 and UCLA Volleyball player
5. **Michael Chang**, International Tennis Hall of Fame Inductee
6. **Charels B. Wang**, Owner of New York Islanders Ice Hockey Club
7. **Norm Chow**, UCLA Football Coach
8. **Kim Ng**, Vice President and Assistant General Manager of Los Angeles Dodgers
9. **Carol Jue**, Head Coach Chapman University Women's Basketball; only Chinese head coach in the NCAA
10. **Lawrence Hom**, USC volleyball player
11. **Cameron Inouye**, WNBA Referee
12. **Jon Soo Hoo**, Photographer for Los Angeles Dodgers
13. **Annie Yee**, former Laker Girl and Rams Cheerleader
14. **Chinese American Athletic Association**
15. **Chinatown Firecracker Run Committee**



I/We will not be able to attend. Enclosed is my donation of \_\_\_\$10 \_\_\_\$20 \_\_\_\$30 \_\_\_\$\_\_\_\_\_

I/We will attend. Please reserve \_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$125 per person . Table sponsorship levels are \$1,250, \$1,500, \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000 per table.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list or acknowledge sponsor as: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA/MC\* Account #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to CHSSC and mail to 415 Bernard Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Credit Card purchase can be faxed to 323-221-4162 or mailed to the same address as above.



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

## May 2009

### Donaldina Cameron Social Justice Advocate



*Donaldina Cameron, c. 1930  
Photo courtesy of the Cameron House*

Donaldina Cameron was born in 1869 on a sheep ranch in New Zealand. She and her family emigrated to California when she was 2 years old. In 1895, Donaldina was persuaded by an old family friend to spend a year helping out at the Presbyterian Mission House in San Francisco's Chinatown. In 1895 she became a sewing teacher working for the Mission House's superintendent, Maggie Culbertson. Two years later, Miss Culbertson died and Donaldina Cameron became the director until her retirement in 1934.

Donaldina rescued girls and women who were kidnapped or sold in China, then brought to the U.S. and forced to work as domestics and prostitutes in brutally abusive circumstances. To those who lost their "slaves", she was "Fahn Quai," which means foreign devil or white devil and to those rescued girls and women she was "Lo Ma" which means "old mother."

When Donaldina first arrived at the home, she was untrained and naïve but quickly learned how to find girls hidden behind trap doors or false walls. She also learned how to protect the rescued girls from writs of habeas corpus, a legally sanctioned ploy

wherein slave owners would accuse a girl of a crime and have her removed from the Mission Home.

In April 1906, the great San Francisco earthquake and fire forced Donaldina and her girls out of the Mission Home but she braved the fire and the military police and retrieved the girls' records that gave her guardianship rights. While the records were saved the Mission Home itself was destroyed. In 1908, the Home was rebuilt at the same site, 920 Sacramento Street and still stands today in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Donaldina continued to fight for the freedom of Chinese girls and women in the courts, at the podium, and to perform rescues in towns across the country until her retirement in 1934. While she was not the only force, Donaldina Cameron is credited with breaking the back of the Chinese slave trade in the U.S., and the rescue and education of nearly 3,000 girls and women. In 1942 the home was renamed "Donaldina Cameron House." and today it is a family service organization serving low income Asian immigrants.

Donaldina died in Palo Alto in 1968 and was buried at the Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles, just a few steps from the Chinese Shrine. On April 4, 2009, the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California held its annual Ch'ing Ming ceremony at the Evergreen and paid special tribute to Donaldina Cameron.



*Photo courtesy of O.C. Lee  
Photo April 4, 2009, O.C. Lee*

—Yvonne Chang, CHSSC Staff



# Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

## May 2009

### Community Calendar

#### Ongoing events

##### **Chinatown Farmers Market**

727 N. Hill Street  
Los Angeles Chinatown  
Thursdays, 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

##### **Masters of Adornment: The Miao People of China**

Bowers Museum  
2002 N. Main Street, Santa Ana, CA  
This important collection of exquisite textiles and silver jewelry on loan to and from the Bowers Museum's permanent collection highlights the beauty and wealth of the Miao peoples of southwest China. More than an examination of masterful techniques and beautiful style these objects reveal hundreds of years of Miao history and tradition and, the patience and dedication to achieve beauty.

[www.bowers.org](http://www.bowers.org)

Open everyday except Mondays and major holidays.

##### **Liu Fang Yuan**

Inspired by the centuries-old Chinese tradition of private gardens designed for scholarly pursuits, Liu Fang Yuan, or the Garden of Flowing Fragrance, combines the scenic beauty of nature with the expressiveness of literature to give deeper meaning to the landscape. A walk through its paths enriches the mind and spirit alike.

Huntington Library

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108

[www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)

Open everyday except Tuesdays and major holidays.

Saturdays, 8-9:30am

##### **T'ai Chi Classes**

Veteran instructor and CHSSC honoree actor Chao Li Chi will lead you through the steps of the 'yang' style in the peaceful surroundings of Pacific Asia Museum's courtyard garden. New participants are welcome.

Saturdays, 10am-12noon

Pacific Asia Museum

46 N. Los Robles Avenue

Pasadena, CA 91101

\$6 for Museum members and \$7 for non-members.

For more information, call 626-449-2742 ext. 31.

##### **Chinese Brush Painting Classes**

Respected instructor Guang Li Zhang offers students demonstrations, lessons and workshops.

46 N. Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91101

The ongoing six week session is \$90 for museum members and \$99 for non-members, free parking

For more information, 626-449-2742 ext. 31.

Sunday, May 24, 2009 1:00 p.m.

##### **Visual Artists Guild presents at the House of Blues**

8430 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069

Spirit of Freedom - Tiananmen Square to The Berlin

Wall, 20th Anniversary. A commemoration, a

celebration, and a multicultural performance in

addition to the famous House of Blues Gospel singers.

Brunch at 1:00 p.m. Advanced ticket \$35.00 prior to

May 15; \$42.50 at the door.

Call Ann Lau at 310-539-0234 or 310-433-0697

[alau@visual-artists-guild.org](mailto:alau@visual-artists-guild.org)

Thursday, June 4, 2009, 6:00 p.m.

The Nat'l Center for the Preservation of Democracy

111 N. Central Avenue, Little Tokyo

Los Angeles, CA

Metamorphosis Theatre Company

in association with Add Word Productions,

The National Center for the Preservation of

Democracy, and Visual Artists Guild present

##### **LETTERS TO A STUDENT REVOLUTIONARY**

A Play by Elizabeth Wong

Directed by Peter J. Kuo

A Special One Night Only Benefit Performance to

Commemorate The 20th Anniversary of the Tiananmen

Square Massacre, a historical event.

\$25 for General Admission

\$20 for Students, Seniors, Group (10+), Affiliated APA +

Theatre Groups and Japanese American National

Museum Members

Online: [letters.metamorphosistheatrecompany.org/](http://letters.metamorphosistheatrecompany.org/)

Email: [metamorphosis.theatre@gmail.com](mailto:metamorphosis.theatre@gmail.com)

Phone: 1- 877 - MTC (682) - 8777

*(continued on back page)*

## Community Calendar

(Continued from page 7)

May 2, 10, 31, and June 14 and 27, 2009

2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

### Chinatown Cultural Performance

Stunning martial arts and Chinese acrobatic acts. Chinatown's Shaolin Warriors (monks from the famous Shaolin Temple in China) will be showcased, together with acrobats from China.

Free

Central Plaza

Broadway between College Avenue and Bernard Street, Los Angeles Chinatown

Parking around the area is plentiful, and is also easily accessed via Metro Gold Line rail from the Chinatown Station.

Sunday, May 31, 2009

### Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA)

Celebrating 120th Anniversary

Entertainment in the morning

Central Plaza

Banquet venue to be determined

Saturday, June 27, 2009, 5:00 p.m.—11:00 p.m.

### New Chinatown 71st Anniversary

Central Plaza, 943-951 North Broadway

Los Angeles Chinatown

Celebrate the 71st anniversary of New Chinatown with entertainment, music, food and more.

Free

Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.

July 11, September 12 and December 12

### Chinatown Art Galleries Opening

Concurrent opening of 32 Chinatown art galleries.

Free



## Chinese Historical Society of Southern California

415 Bernard St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-1703

