



Dim Sum

Quarterly Newsletter of the Chinese American Council of Sacramento

華美協進會



Fall 2002

President's Message

October 2002. I can hardly believe we are approaching the holiday season and this year will be another successful chapter in the honorable history of the Chinese American Council of Sacramento. I would like to thank the CACS board and the general members for helping make this year a most rewarding experience. We've managed to accomplish several projects this year, and much of it can be credited to the support of the board and the general membership.



Johnston Lau

Things have changed and yet one thing that will remain constant is ...change. Our Asian Pacific Islander American population is clearly a thriving community and we will continue to grow stronger by maintaining what we have achieved and to build upon it. There is still a tremendous amount of work ahead and CACS is committed to maintain its leadership role in the API community to make a difference. In the past year, we have strengthened our partnership with the various diverse community based organizations and C.A.P.I.T.A.L. advocated civil rights issues; demonstrated the richness of our heritage by participating in the Gold Rush Days held in Old Sacramento and held a successful dinner/lecture featuring Professor Susie Ling.

CACS is also an active appointed member of the Locke Community Advisory Committee to revitalize the Delta town of Locke to assure Locke's cultural and historical integrity. We also invested in our future by partnering with the RMHC/CAPITAL scholarship program to award four \$1,000 scholarships to Sarah Kurien, Kenny Lee, Bich Truong and Kimberly Won.

On November 22nd, CACS will host our annual membership dinner to provide everyone the opportunity to renew their membership or enroll as new members and enjoy a delicious dinner.

I am personally encouraging everyone to attend to help us continue to carry forth the vision of Frank Fat..."**Make a Difference...Get Involved.**"

The world cares very little about what a man or woman knows; it is what the man or woman is able to do that counts.

Booker T. Washington

CACS Sponsors Gold Rush Days 2002

By Karun and Doug Yee

For the second year in a row the Chinese American Council of Sacramento Historical Committee has participated in "Gold Rush Days", the annual four day event in Old Sacramento over the Labor Day Weekend. "Gold Rush Days" is a living history event that depicts Sacramento in the 1850's.



(L-R) Frank Chin, Merlayna Yee-Chin, Shiley Sekeres, Judy & William Yee, Bob Chan, Franc Martinez, & Doug & Karun Yee

Our exhibit was in the centerpiece area called the "Ethnic Village". The EV is comprised of five ethnic camps : Europeans, Hispanic, African-Americans, Native-Americans, and Chinese. Our camp was aptly named "Gold Mountain Village". Our village was very authentic looking . Old historical photographs were used to aid in the design of the Chinese camp. We also took great pains to collect many real antiques to use as props.

Gold Rush Continued on Page 2.

Gold Rush Continued...

The camp was populated with volunteers in period costumes. We had an herb shop with an herbalist on duty, but quite often he would share his office with a palm reader or fortune teller. Another tent was used as a Chinese store where you could purchase many beautiful gifts, burn incense to Buddha, or learn how to use chopsticks. A third tent we used to house our many talented Chinese musicians, calligraphers, and brush painters, . Everyone seemed to want to see their names in Chinese.



**John Cho & Pearl Chang
attend the Herb Shop**



**Judy Murphy with Penny Pedman
and Doug Yee**

Unfortunately, we ran out of tents and had to relegate our poor gold miners and railroad workers to the blazing sun. Fortunately, they are quite use to such poor treatment. Our week-end was highlighted by performances by the Lee Jet Don Lion Dancers, tai chi demonstrators, and the Ngai Sing Band.



**The Ngai Sing Band
performed Chinese Ballads**



**The Camp Sonora Band
provided Musical Entertainment**

Over 120,000 people came to Gold Rush Days and our "Gold Mountain Village" was one of the most popular exhibits. This was probably due to our 40 enthusiastic and entertaining volunteers. Most would agree that the volunteers had more fun than the visitors. Emails from many of the volunteers expressed the fun they had over the week end and how gratifying the event was to them.



**Lina Fat with Karun Yee &
Merlayna Yee-Chin demon-
strate use of chopsticks**



**Frank Martinez and Zoe
Sekeres stir the camp fire**



**Wayne Wong & Stephen Tse
demonstrate calligraphy**



**Martin Chan provided
palm reading**

Thanks to Sacramento Chinese Culture Foundation, Shirley Sekeres, John and Lucille Jang (Quails Nest), and Penny Redman (China Town Enterprises). Special thanks to Merlayna Yee/Chin and Karun Yee for their tireless effort.



**Pauline Chan & Helen Yee
demonstrate calligraphy**



**Pauline Chan demonstrates use of
chopsticks with Judy Yee
& Merlayna Yee-Chin**



**Jeanie Lee & Margaret Wong
demonstrating calligraphy**



**Kit Wang shares
calligraphy writing**

We would like to acknowledge our volunteers. We apologize if we have forgotten to mention your name. Douglas Yee, Frank Chin, Derrick Lim, Charlie Moy, Franc Martinez, Joyce & Alex Eng, Joyce Lee, Anna & James Chu, Kit & Nan Wang, Ruth & Martin Chan, Margaret Wong, Jeanie Lee, Wai & Hon Moy, Ruth, James, Tessa & Samantha Ku, Lana Chong, Lina Fat, Diana Gin, Pearl Chang, John Cho, Wayne Wong, Mike Kim, Betty & Glen Yee, Helen Yee, Judy & Bill Yee, Raymond Yee, Pauline & Robert Chan, Stephen Tse, Candice Yee, Mellissa Yee, Maria Lum, Teresa Lum, Mike Kim's son and daughter, Judy Murphy and Zoe Skeres.

**We couldn't have done it without you! Thank
You!**

Locke Victories for the Asian American Community

By Dr.Christina Fa



**Dr. Christina Fa
Addresses Locke Audience**

The work to revitalize Locke continues. There have recently been three major achievements for the Asian American community in regards to Locke's future.

A cultural and historic plan for Locke was adopted by the Locke Cultural & Historic Subcommittee. This plan advocates for the buildings to be stabilized but remain looking generally as they do now; Locke's overall "look" to accurately reflect its history; and the creation of a museum to honor contributions of Chinese Americans and Jungshang Chinese immigrants. Helping draft the plan were the Locke Community Advisory Committee (CAC)'s four Chinese American representatives: Jon Barnato (OCA), Alex Eng (SCCF), Derrick Lim (At-large member/CACS), and myself.

Rights of First Refusal for future property/land sales was finally approved by the CAC, albeit not in an ideal form. The original premise, as envisioned by Lim and Dr. Fa, was to symbolically right an injustice done to Locke's Chinese American residents. California's Alien Land Law prevented them from owning the land they'd lived on since 1915. If residents and descendants were given

Rights of First Refusal to purchase future land and property, they could finally own the homesteads of their families and ancestors. (The intention was largely symbolic, since CACS, OCA, and SCCF fully expected and supported current residents (generally non-Chinese) to purchase their land and buildings.)

In the end, the CAC voted to approve a scaled-down version of Rights of First Refusal, granting the Right to the future Locke nonprofit, with exceptions including relatives of current residents/building owners. Included was a simple plan for the nonprofit to contact former residents and descendants of pending sales. Many thanks to Jon Barnato, Vice President of OCA-Greater Sacramento Chapter, for his many hours of hard work in drafting the language for our proposal. Thanks also to Derrick Lim and the Asian American community activist attorneys and other attorneys for their valuable advice to the Chinese American organizations involved. Special thanks to attorney and law professor Jack Chin of the University of Cincinnati, a national expert on Alien Land Laws, for his timely, insightful, and invaluable advice

Lastly, not one, but two Chinese American organization spots have been proposed for the Board of Directors of the future Locke nonprofit, which will manage the town.

We continue to be **grateful** for CACS Advisor Supervisor Illa Collin's and Supervisor Don Nottoli's unwavering commitment to Locke. Not only did they lead the way for the creation of the Locke CAC and for the rededication of the county to purchasing Locke, but they actually serve on the CAC – a testament to their sincere dedication to the project. Supervisor Collin's passion for Locke and its Chinese American history is well known. Instead of bicycling down River Road to visit Locke as she did in the past, she now drives to Locke and Walnut Grove up to every two weeks, along with the rest of us, to attend meetings. We look forward to many years ahead of working with them to revitalize Locke.

Please join us at our meetings. Here's your chance to enjoy good food, meet residents, and share your ideas about how to protect and preserve our National Historic Landmark! Upcoming meeting dates and locations are as follows. All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

Walnut Grove (Full Committee)

*Jean Harvie School Community Center
14273 River Road
Tues., Oct. 29
Thurs., Nov. 7
Tues., Nov. 19*

Locke (Subcommittees)

*Joe Shoong School
Corner of Main St. & Locke Rd.
Tues., Oct. 8*

Christina represents CACS as Chairperson of Sacramento County's Locke Community Advisory Committee, and serves as facilitator and member of Locke's Cultural & Historic Subcommittee



Dignitaries and guests meet and address the crowd

The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center Celebrates The 2002 August Moon Festival

By Jeanie Lee

As in the past six years, the Chinese American Council of Sacramento was a full moon sponsor to support the Sacramento Chinese Community Services Center at its 24th Annual August Moon Festival on Friday, August 16, at the Radisson Hotel. Over 500 guests attended the event to help the Center honored Carole Chong and Florence Fong as the 2002 August Moon Honorees and the Sacramento Bee as the Corporate Honoree.

In the last 23 years the Service Center has recognized and honored many outstanding leaders for their contributions to the community. Because of their work these individuals are highly visible and their contributions are well known. When the Service Center Board of Directors considered the possible honoree for this year, a unanimous decision was made to salute those unsung heroines who have worked equally hard behind the scene to do what is necessary and who often do so without any recognition. The SCCSC Board also want to thank them for their unselfish generosity in sharing their husbands with the community that they love.

The first honoree is the ultimate embodiment of a true lady. Her poise and her elegance have been the envy by many and admired by all who know her. She is Florence Fong, wife of retired County Assessor, Roger Fong. She worked alongside Roger to help with his campaign for the assessor's seat and



Pictured in the rear are Alisa, Ryan and Rachelle with Roger and Florence Fong

Roger are very excited expecting grandparents twice in the coming months. Congratulations, Florence & Roger!



**Serving the registration table are
(L-R) Dara Lee, Joyce Eng, &
Merlayna Yee-Chin**

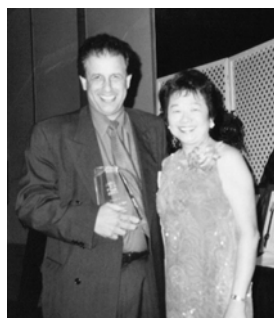
after he was elected, she continued to be the most dedicated partner. Florence attended countless fundraisers and community events. Her support made it possible for Roger to devote his time to the public. Now that they are retired, she is running alongside him at many marathon races. She and

The next honoree, Carole Chong, has been the strength behind long-time community advocate and leader, Jerry Chong. Carole is known to her family and friends as the "driving spirit" behind Jerry. She has always been the strong, quiet and unsung heroine who made things run



Pictured in the rear are Garrett and Jerry Chong with Grace Morimoto, Carole and Kristen Chong

smoothly for Jerry. Their families and friends unanimously agreed that Jerry would be lost without Carole's advice, support and help. Carole epitomizes the accomplishments, commitment and work of many volunteers in Sacramento who do much for the community with no expectation of return. She serves her community quietly, without fanfare and without public recognition. Many worthwhile projects would fail without volunteer support and spirit like those of Carole Chong. Carole is a true representative of the "unsung heroines" in Sacramento. As Jerry so eloquently stated, "They are truly the wind beneath the wings of our community." Thank you, Carole.



Rick Rodriquez, Sr. Vice President of the Sacramento Bee accepts award from Jeanie Lee

Sacramento Bee was selected as the 2002 August Moon Corporate Honoree because of their proven record in embracing diversity, not only in their reporting but also in their employment practices of hiring individuals to reflect the population it serves. Their sense of community is evidenced in many of their articles promoting various community groups. Over the years the Center's Mentoring Program and the Senior Companionship Program were featured several times. The Service Center Board of Directors, therefore, is proud to recognize this partnership with Sacramento Bee and to thank them for their sensitivity and contributions to our community.

The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center will be celebrating a special milestone next year—the Silver Anniversary. The Board of Directors, staff and clients are looking forward to seeing all of their supporters at its 25th Annual August Moon in 2003.

***Coming Soon Annual Membership Dinner
Friday November 22, 2002
New Canton Restaurant
\$20 for Non Members or \$12 and Dues
Free To Membership
Hawaiian Theme and Slide Show***

Continued August Moon Festival



Putu Knutte of CACS sets up her table for the Silent Auction



(L-R) Shirley Sekeres, Bernadette Chiang, Pearl Chang & Karun Yee share stories



(Back Row) SCCSC Board of Directors Henry Kloczkowski, Dora Lee, Franc Martinez, Jess Wong, Sylvia Tang, Jeanie Lee, President, Lauren Wolkov & Johnston Lau. (Front Row) Jerry Chong, Carole Chong, Florence



The CACS table (L-R) Charlie Moy, Pearl Chang, Doug & Karun Yee, Bernadette Chiang, Wayne Wong, Sherley Sekeres & Christina Fa

Empty Building Empty Heart

By Derrick Lim

Ping Yuen, a 72 unit senior housing complex in the heart of Chinatown at the corner of 5th and I Streets, has been vacant since the late 1990's when many immigrant Chinese and Chinese American seniors were relocated to other multi-family senior public housing.



Ping Yuen entrance

The tenants did not want to leave "home", but there was no choice because the building did not meet health and safety code. The Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) determined it would cost more to fix the building than to build a new one at a time when the city was still in an economic recession.



Ping Yuen is strategically located as a gateway to the Chinatown superblock and pedestrian connector to Downtown Plaza Shopping Mall, Old Sacramento, Sacramento Valley Station, and Federal Courthouse, which

has a permanent Chinese artifact exhibit CACS actively lobbied for and lead the community effort to design, develop, and dedicate "Chinese Pioneers of Sacramento".

Ping Yuen Continued..

City Economic Development convened interested stakeholders in a visioning process to look beyond the Ping Yuen building at the whole Chinatown super block as another option for the project. Several ideas were generated, but implementation was elusive because of financial challenges and the complexity of involving other buildings and property owners.

Today SHRA is negotiating with a private development team lead by A. F. Evans of San Francisco and architect Y. H. Lee Associates to rehab, own, and operate Ping Yuen as a vibrant senior housing facility and activity center (e.g., community room with kitchen and bathroom).

CACS has advocated for Ping Yuen and Chinatown since the mid 1990's when the building was evaluated and owned by SHRA. CACS showed community leadership by supporting the preservation of the building relative to its significance to Chinatown and shortage of housing for seniors. CACS emphasized the importance of language and cultural sensitivity during the relocation process, which SHRA implemented. CACS presence was also evident during the visioning process.

When the Request for Proposal (RFP) for rehabilitating Ping Yuen went before the City Council on February 26, 2002, CACS Vice President and Advocacy and Civil Rights Chair,

Dr. Christina Fa, consulted with me and other former CACS Board Members who previously worked on the project. She testified for CACS to be represented on the evaluation committee, to add language emphasizing the historical significance of Chinatown, and to direct staff to do a better job of notification and outreach to the Chinese American community.

The city Council supported her testimony. Councilman Tretheway moved the item with Dr. Fa's requested changes. He also called for Dr. Fa and CACS to be contacted about the project. Mayor Fargo and Councilman Yee pointed out the historical importance of the Chinatown super block. Councilman Jones expressed support for senior housing and the opportunity for former tenants to return to Ping Yuen.

Dr. Fa and I met outside the Council Chambers right after the Council meeting at City Hall to draft language addressing CACS concerns. SHRA incorporated this language into the RFP. I represented CACS on the evaluation committee for the RFP.

As SHRA continues to negotiate with the developer, it is important for CACS and the community to stay engaged in the process by advocating for an advisory group to the developer on all aspects of the project including community outreach, senior programming, building design and use, tenant outreach and preservation of the Chinatown Super block.

Ping Yuen is still vacant, but CACS has not forgotten the desire of former tenants to have the first chance to return to their home - in the heart of Chinatown.

Author/Lecture Dinner Features **The History of Chinese in Southern California**

By Doug and Karun Yee



Doug & Karun Yee
Welcome guests

On July 12, 2002, talented editor and professor Susie Ling came all the way from southern California to present, "Bridging the Centuries, History of the Chinese Americans in southern California. The New Canton Restaurant served as our meeting place, serving a light and healthy Chinese meal. This is the 7th annual lecture and as usual, it was well attended.

Miss Ling was raised in Los Banos, in the Philippine Islands. She is a member of CHSSC and is an Associate Professor of Asian Studies and History at Pasadena City College. This book is the most recent of many books published by the Southern California Historical Society. It is a compilation of 25 years of research done by this society.

It includes historical articles about Chinese in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Orange County and all of southern California even reaching over the border to Mexicali. This 200 page book has a selection of oral histories of famous and ordinary people in a wonderfully diverse collage reflecting the Chinese Americans experience.



Derrick Lim introduces
Professor Susie Ling

This book also looks at today's pioneers who are making great contributions to the city, state and nation. It also relates how the Chinese, who migrated to the south were able to retain their cultural heritage against strong adversity.



Receiving guests are Franc Martenz & Shirley Sekeres with Cecilia Lew & Vicki Beaton

During her lecture, she read a few excerpts from her book to illustrate certain individuals she has interviewed. Ms Ling answered questions and autographed books after dinner. Through our author lectures, we hope to share and explore our Chinese culture with the community. A better understanding of our people will evolve as we study those aspects of our culture that make us unique. Hopefully these lecture series are entertaining, educational and satisfying. Look for our next author/lecture/dinner next spring.

Continued Pictures of Author/Dinner Lecture



(L-R) Vicki Beaton, Helen Yee, Cecilia Lew, James Lew, Karun Yee, Han & Wai Moy



(L-R) Judy Yee, William P. Yee, Richard Lo, Min Lo, Lettie Hirose, Augustine Braga



(L-R) Tom Chinn, Barry Fowler, Nolan Lum, Heather Lum, Willy Lum, Helen Fong, Jean Chong, Judi Fong, Susan Fong & Lorraine



(L-R) Michael Yu, Winston & Jonathan Limhengo, Sandy & Gilbert Limhengo, Herbert & Inez Yee, Jim Y. Louie & Paul Cheung



(L-R) Mary H. Fong, John Cho, Pearl Chang, Barbara Moy, Lillie & Randy Shiroy, Edward Wong, Peter & Phyllis Wang



(L-R) Elaine Chan, Joyce Eng, Johnston Lau, Jeanie Lee, Dara Lee & Kazuyo Morishita



Karun Yee & Johnston Lau present gifts to Professor Susie Ling in appreciation of her presentation.



Doug & Karun Yee extend thanks to Kim Yuen of the New Canton Restaurant for the accommodations and a fine meal.



(L-R) Glo Fong, Dan Yee, Jennifer Pawlowski, M.D., Eugene Lee, M.D., Joseph Pawlowski, M.D., Rosalie Yee, Margaret Masters, M.D., Joseph Masters, M.D., Mary and John Mar



Professor Ling autographs books purchases after the dinner

Chinese History Revealed In Trip To Hanford, California

By Doug and Karun Yee

Early morning on May 4th, we set out to find the town of Hanford, California with our talented guide, Sylvia Sun Minnick from Stockton. CACS received an invitation from the Southern California Chinese Historical Society to join them on a field trip to explore this site together. Due to other time constraints and commitments, we were not sure this date would be compatible for our group.



(L-R) Karun Ysee, Camille Wong, Sylvi Minnick, Doug Yee

Our friend Sylvia and Derrick Lim recommended we take a peek at this unusual little central valley town. This destination is four and a half hour trek south near the Harris Ranch turnoff from highway 5. We had a delicious lunch at the Harris Restaurant before turning east towards Hanford.

Hanford is a small farming community that is famous throughout California for its Chinese Restaurant that was started by four brothers after World War II. These men all held key positions in the intelligence corp of our government serving in China, India and Europe. One of the brothers served with Chiang Kai Shek during the Japanese invasion of China. When he returned from China with a boat load of Chinese antiques pieces, the restaurant served as an ideal showroom and museum. He and his brothers started an extensive wine cellar and people traveled from Los Angeles to sample the excellent Chinese food and wines.

The area around the restaurant is called China Alley where the Chinatown of Hanford was centered. There was a grocery store, herb shop, a barber shop, temple, general store, school and various other businesses that served the small Chinese community.

Sylvia arranged to meet with Camille Lai, the daughter-in-law who has been instrumental in preserving this Chinese section. She gave us a tour of the facilities which are open the first weekend of every month. There is a large temple and museum next door to the restaurant filled with artifacts found in the area. Much of the original material found on this site are carefully displayed. A small gift shop helps defray the maintenance costs.

While we were there, a girl scout troop arrived on a special Hanford tour bus to get a tour from Camille. There is only a handful of Chinese residence left in Hanford. Many of the young people moved to the cities to find better jobs. We had dinner in this restaurant that serves French cuisine and is famous for its escargot. We were told the restaurant lost all its good Chinese cooks because they learned special Chinese recipes and then opened their own restaurants.

Hanford Continued

The basement banquet room is lined with antiques and the walls of the restaurant have many famous paintings. In all, it was a great day spent touring Hanford



Doug & Karun Yee, Sylvia Minnick, & Fred Wing

Senator Mee Moua – Our People’s Champion

By Christina Fa, M.D.

All elections are important. But one of the most important to Asian Americans nationwide is occurring in, of all places, Minnesota. Yes, the same great state that elected former WWF wrestler Jesse “The Body” Ventura governor is a hotbed of activity of great Asian American historic significance.

On July 25, 2002, Senator Moua visited California as part of her re-election campaign. CACS board members met her at a fundraiser for the **Asian Advancement Association**, a local Hmong American organization.



(L-R) Alice Wong, Putu Knutte, Senator Mee Moura, Johnston Lau And Dr. Christina Fa Chhristina Fa

Minnesota State Senator Mee Moua, our nation’s first Hmong American legislator, is up for re-election. Moua, 33, was first elected in January 2002 in a special election in the state’s 67th district – the East Side of St. Paul. When the position was vacated by St. Paul mayor-elect Randy Kelly, attorney and community activist Moua decided to run for her first-ever public office.

Her election was no easy feat. St. Paul’s East Siders are notoriously parochial, so, as a young Asian American woman, Moua faced a tough battle with the political old guard. How did she do it? Essentially, she literally got out the vote – her staff succeeded in getting hundreds of local Hmong Americans to register and vote for their first time. In the end, she triumphed over three other candidates, garnering 51 percent of the vote in a campaign marked by tremendous grassroots community support. Her campaign was even highlighted in a **national news magazine** and The New York Times as an example of how community support can influence – and even upset – elections.