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Guide to the Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County Records

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Collection number: MSS-2004-02



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Processed by:

Amytha Willard, revised by Danelle Moon and Deb Sica

Date Completed:

2005

Encoded by:

Bernard Yeh

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County Records

Dates: 1962-1999

Collection number: MSS-2004-02

Creator: Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County

Collection Size: 2 cartons, 8 boxes, and 1 half-box(6.5 linear feet)

Repository: San Jose State University. Library.

San Jose, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County Records (1962-1999) documents the activities of a civic club whose mission is to "preserve Chinese culture and traditions and serve [the] community where needed." The collection materials include correspondence, meeting minutes, personal notes, awards and plaques, newsletters, news clippings, photographs, scrapbooks, printed matter, event planning materials and donation records.

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation

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Processing History

Preliminary processing and guide prepared by Amytha Willard, 2004. Final processing completed by Deb Sica and Danelle Moon, 2005. EAD encoding by Bernard Yeh, 2006.

Organizational History

The Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County (CAWC) was founded in 1962 by a group of women who were brought together by the common thread of preserving Chinese culture through educating their children. While their children attended a weekly Chinese school and learned Chinese languages, the mothers would meet and discuss different topics. The weekly meetings soon became a discussion about starting a cultural club; a club that would support, educate and befriend the entire community.

CAWC's mission is to "preserve Chinese culture and traditions and serve [the] community where needed." The founders combined cultural activities with fundraising to create opportunities to educate the community and generate revenue for future organizing efforts. They formed and strengthened existing alliances by combining efforts with other Bay Area Chinese organizations.

In March 1978, CAWC learned of a new project to rebuild the Ng Shing Gung Temple, but the project was in need of financial support. The Ng Shing Gung Temple, also known as the Joss House and the Temple of the Five Gods, was built in 1888. In 1941, it was under threat of demolition by the city of San Jose and in 1949 the city finally demolished the dilapidated building. Community organizations planned to raise enough money to build a replica in History Park at Kelley Park in San Jose. CAWC, and other local organizations, raised the money to fund the project, and the temple is now open to the public.

The CAWC sponsored a number of cultural events, including the Autumn Moon Festival at the San Jose Historical Museum Site. The first festival was held on Sunday, September 24, 1978. The event included arts, crafts, a food fair, a temple run (marathon), an artifact exhibit and a performance by the Chung Ngai Dance Troupe. In 1979, the Autumn Moon Festival was held on Sunday, October 7th and included a martial arts demonstration, a fine arts exhibit, fashion show, musical performance and dance recital.

In 1987, celebrating its 25th anniversary, the organization planned and hosted a large-scale fashion show luncheon called "Lasting Legacy." This well-planned and executed event combined the efforts of many local organizations. The San Jose Historical Museum prepared a slide show and contributed a historical exhibit of artifacts. The event was attended by Chief Assistant Secretary of State, Jenece Long, Santa Clara County Supervisor, Tom Legan, San José Vice Mayor, Lola Williams, Councilwoman, Blanca Alvarado, Los Altos Mayor, Roger Eng and various presidents and diplomats from leading Bay Area Asian organizations. The organization continues to promote Chinese cultural heritage, and many of the members are now third and fourth generation Chinese-Americans.

Scope and Content

The Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County Records documents the organization from 1962 to 1999. The collection materials include correspondence, meeting minutes, personal notes, awards and plaques, newsletters, news clippings, photographs, scrapbooks, printed matter, event planning materials and donation records. The collection documents the organization's promotion and preservation of Chinese culture and service to the larger Bay Area Chinese community. The collection is arranged in three series: Series I, Administrative Records, Series II, Community Activities and Programs, Series III, Outreach and Publicity.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

Subjects

Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County.

Chinese American women--California--Santa Clara County--History--20th century--Sources.

Chinese Americans--California--Santa Clara County--History--20th century--Sources.

Chinese Americans--California--Santa Clara County--Social life and customs.

Index Terms Related to this Collection

San Jose State University. Library. Special Collections & Archives.

Series I: Administrative Records 1962-1992**Physical Description:** 1 Box**Series Scope and Content Summary**

The contents in this series represent the organizational, fiscal and administrative records of Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County (CAWC). This is the smallest series in the collection, but it contains important, targeted information for researchers looking to obtain factual information about the constitution and by-laws, the organizational structure, the framework for decision-making and documented accounts of planning and execution of administrative tasks. Papers include financial records, the constitution and bylaws, membership rosters, meeting agendas and approved minutes, membership applications, memoranda and other records that illustrate the daily management of the group.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by date within each folder. The first folder contains financial records from multiple years, whereas the remaining folders are organized by year.

Box : Folder 1 : 1

Box 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

Folder 6

Folder 7

Folder 8

Folder 9

Folder 10

Folder 11

Folder 12

Folder 13

Folder 14

Folder 15

Folder 16

Folder 17

Folder 18

Folder 19

Folder 20

Folder 21

Folder 22

Financial Records 1962-1974**Administrative Records 1969-1992****1969****1970****1974****1975****1976****1977****1978****1979****1980****1981****1982****1983****1984****1985****1986****1987****1988****1989****1990****1991****1992****Series II: Community Activities and Programs 1969-1970 1976-1994****Physical Description:** 2 boxes, 2 cartons**Series Scope and Content Summary**

The contents in this series represent event planning and community participation. The main events represented in this series are the Autumn Moon Festival, Agnew Community Awareness Day, the Pageant of the Great Mandarin, Lasting Legacy Luncheon and various temple reconstruction fundraisers. Due to the original order, there are some administrative records interfiled into the event planning records in this series. The scrapbooks, historian notebooks, clippings, photographs, flyers and other event memorabilia contained in this series provide both textual and visual representations of community events.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically. Box 2 is chronological within each folder. Boxes 3, 4 and 5 are chronologically ordered according to the year the scrapbook or historian notebook was created.

Box 2

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

Community Activities and Programming**1969-1970****1976****1977****1978****1979**

Folder 6	1981
Folder 7	1982
Folder 8	1983
Folder 9	1984
Folder 10	1985
Folder 11	1986
Folders 12-13	1987
Folder 14	1988
Folder 15	1990
Folder 16	1991

Scrapbooks

Box 3	1971
	1973
	1974
	1975
	1976
	1977
	1979
	1980
	1981
	1982
Box 4	1983
	1984
	1985-1986
	1987-1988

Historian Notebook

Box 5	
Folder 1	1990
Folder 2	1991
Folder 3	1992
Folder 4	1993
Folder 5	1994

Series III: Outreach and Publicity 1965-1999**Physical Description:** 6 boxes**Series Scope and Content Summary**

The contents in this series represent Chinese American Women's Club's work in the larger Chinese community. The series contains newsletters, correspondence, awards and certificates of appreciation, news clippings, directories, county resource guides, photographic materials, a cookbook and cultural sound recordings geared towards children. A researcher looking to investigate the influence of organizational outreach efforts would find the materials in this series of great importance.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically. Box 6 is chronological within each folder for folders 1-18 with miscellaneous printed matter in folder 19. In box 7, folders 1-5 are arranged chronologically. For folders with multiple images from the same date, the original order has been maintained. The remaining folders contain undated photographic materials and are arranged alphabetically according to the description of the pictorial content.

Box 6	Outreach and Publicity
Folder 1	1970
Folder 2	1971
Folder 3	1976
Folder 4	1977
Folder 5	1978
Folder 6	1979
Folder 7	1980
Folder 8	1981
Folder 9	1982
Folder 10	1983

Folder 11	1984
Folder 12	1985
Folder 13	1986
Folder 14	1987
Folder 15	1988
Folder 16	1989
Folder 17	1990
Folder 18	1991
Folder 19	1992
Box:Folder 6:20	Miscellaneous Printed Matter n.d.
Box 7	Photographic Material
Folder 1	1965-1979
Folder 2	1983
Folder 3	1986
Folder 4	1987
Folder 5	1988
Folders 6-9	n.d.
Box 8	Plaques
	Heritage Club Plaque 1988
	Chinese Historic and Cultural Project Plaque 1988
	Golden Legacy Plaque 1990
	Patron's Club Plaque 1990
	Benefactor's Club Plaque 1991
Box 9	Awards
Folder 1	State of California Award 1987
Folder 2	City of San José Awards 1987-1988
Folder 3	Chinese Summer Festival Award 1999
	Miscellaneous Items
Folder 4	Agnews State Hospital Badge n.d.
Folder 5	Astrological Chart 1980
Box 10	CAWC Cookbooks
Folder 1	Cookbook 1971
Folder 2	Cookbook Administrative Records 1982-1997
Folder 3	<i>Chinese Cooking Our Legacy</i> 1998
	Item added to collection August 17, 2006.
Box 11	LP Records
Folder 1	Marn-Ling Instrumental LP Record 1971
Folder 2	Marn-Ling Lion Dance LP Record 1972