

Note, there is a maximum of 10 persons per table and group reservations must be made in one application.

## CHINESE OF AMERICA EXHIBIT IN CHINA

by H. M. Lai

Although media coverage of the Chinese in America has improved in China in recent years, the thrust continues to be suc-

cess stories that project a stereotypical image of affluence among Chinese Americans. In an attempt to provide China with a more balanced overview of Chinese American history and society, the Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco donated the pictorial exhibit *Chinese of America, 1785-1980* to Beijing's Overseas Chinese Historical Society (OCHS), a part of China's Returned Overseas Chinese Association (ROCA), in early 1985.

During the summer, Chinese captions were added and the exhibit opened for 11 days as a cultural exchange activity of the San Francisco-Shanghai Friendship City program. Upon closing, the exhibit, stored in 13 crates, was forwarded to Beijing, where the ROCA officially unveiled the exhibit on September 29 in commemoration of the association's 30th Anniversary.

The exhibition was shown for two weeks through October 12 at the Art Exhibition Hall, opposite the Overseas Chinese Hotel on Beijing's busy Huangfujing Street. Close to the center of town, the location was ideal; however, it had to compete with four other exhibits in the same building. Moreover, viewers had to climb three flights of stairs, and the OCHS had chosen to substitute the more graphic and poetic Chinese title, *Sweetness and Bitterness: Vast Changes in Two Hundred Years*, with a title that was less exciting: *Exhibition of Historical Photographs of the Chinese of America*. Thus, attendance during the first few days was poor. But television coverage of the opening as well as favorable media reviews were effective in attracting significantly more visitors during the succeeding two National Day holidays.

Quite a few visitors read all the text repeatedly and jotted notes into their notebooks. Most were surprised by the magnitude of the exhibit and impressed by the quality of presentation. Professor Stanford Lyman, author of *Chinese Americans* and a visiting lecturer at the Foreign Language Institute, personally guided his students through the exhibition. Delegates from all over China who were attending the ROCA national

convention were also encouraged to spend a day at the exhibit.

The exhibit is scheduled to open in Guangzhou on December 15. Sponsored by the OCHS and ROCA of Guangdong Province, it will be shown for 50 days, or until February 5, after Chinese new year--the longest exhibition period thus far in China.

Other areas of Guangdong Province, and even Hong Kong, have expressed interest in having the exhibition. Hopefully, the tour of *Chinese of America, 1785-1980* is giving the Chinese a more well-rounded understanding of the history and society of the Chinese of America.

*Editor's Note* - Him Mark Lai, noted Chinese American historian and CHSA board member, is the project director of the *Chinese of America* exhibit and was recently in Beijing for the exhibit's opening.

## IN MEMORIAM

Member Kem Lee, historian,  
poet and photographer extraordi-

naire, died October 2. His studio was among the earliest in Chinatown, and he was the innovator of the deliberate double exposure, especially for photographs of bridal couples. He is survived by his wife, artist and teacher Nanying Stella Wong, two sons, Cheuk of San Francisco and Colin of New York, five grandchildren and a great-grandson.

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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**LIFE** William Jack Chow, S.F., CA; Debra A. Tom, Aiea, HI; **REGULAR** Sarah W. Chen, Millbrae, CA; Jennie A. Horn, S.F., CA; Trudy J. King, Ross, CA; Wing L. Lew, Boynton Beach, FL; Patrick Moore, Munich, West Germany; Bernard Wong, S.F., CA; Gloria Zernik, S.F., CA; **SENIOR** Peter Bury, S.F., CA; Priscilla Chong Jue, Seattle, WA; May M. Kwan, S.F., CA; Lowney D. Young, Concord, CA; **STUDENT** Catherine C. Baker, S.F., CA; Marilyn R. Baldwin, Vacaville, CA; **INSTITUTION** Global Education Marin, San Rafael, CA. **CHANGE OF STATUS** *To Life* Jane Marvin, S. F., CA; Vincent Tai, Sausalito, CA; *To Senior* Earl W. Calvert, Lompoc, CA; George J. Fong, Jr., Alameda, CA; Matthew Fong, S.F., CA; Richard Lee, Oakland, CA; Matthais Lu, Moraga, CA; Mary Ann Wong, Fair Oaks, CA; *To Student* Laura L. Wong, Oakland, CA.