Guide to the Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County Records
MSS.2004.02

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Title: Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County Records
creator: Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County
Identifier/Call Number: MSS.2004.02
Physical Description: 11 boxes (6.5 linear feet)
Date (inclusive): 1962-1999
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.

Vault 1, Range 20B
Language of Material: Languages represented in the collection: English
Processed by: Amytha Willard, revised by Danelle Moon and Deb Sica
Date Completed: 2005
Encoded by: Bernard Yeh

Access
The collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation
Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County Records, MSS-2004-02, San Jose State University Library Special Collections and Archives.

Processing History

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, Iola 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.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
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.
Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County
San Jose State University. Library. Special Collections & Archives.

Administrative Records Series I 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.
Community Activities and Programs Series II: 1969-1994

Physical Description: 4 boxes

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.
Community Activities and Programs Series II: 1969-1994

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Outreach and Publicity Series III: 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 9, Folder 5</th>
<th>Astrological Chart 1980</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 1</td>
<td>Cookbook 1971</td>
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<td>Box 10, Folder 2</td>
<td>Cookbook Administrative Records 1982-1997</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 10, Folder 3</td>
<td><em>Chinese Cooking Our Legacy</em> 1998</td>
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<td>Item added to collection August 17, 2006.</td>
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<td>Box 11, Folder 1</td>
<td>Marn-Ling Instrumental LP Record 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 11, Folder 2</td>
<td>Marn-Ling Lion Dance LP Record 1972</td>
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</tbody>
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