

# Community Organizing: Self-Protection and Self-Preservation

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### SAVE CHINATOWN! yellow seeds newsletter

APRIL 1973 NO. 2


#### "WHERE'S THE MONEY WE DONATED TO P.C.D.C."

This is the question many business owners and community residents are asking. The money was collected for the Philadelphia Chinatown Development Association (PCDA) to help pay for the demolition of the Holy Redeemer Church and school. The PCDA has been unable to raise the money needed to complete the project. This newsletter is a way for us to keep you informed of the progress and to let you know where the money is being spent. We are currently in the process of raising the money needed to complete the project. We are currently in the process of raising the money needed to complete the project.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- PCDA General Meeting will be held on Sunday at 7:00 PM at the Holy Redeemer Church, 10th and Race Streets. Issues to be discussed include plans for housing in Chinatown.
- PCDA-PCDC Joint Meeting - PCDC Symposium on Chinese-American Relations, Saturday at 1:00 PM at Holy Redeemer Church, 10th and Race Streets. Admission \$2.00, but there is \$1.00 per person, afterwards.

### HELP SAVE CHINATOWN!



COME TO THE EASTER SUNDAY RALLY 12 noon - April 22, 1973 10th & Race Sts.

TOWN MEETING 8:30 PM - May 3, 1973 ON LEONG MERCHANTS ASSOC. 911 Race St.

CHINATOWN HAS BEEN PART OF THE PHILADELPHIA SCENE FOR OVER A HUNDRED YEARS. THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATED ITS CENTENARY IN 1972. 150 PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES CONTRIBUTED TO THE SOCIAL-CONCORD AS WELL AS TO THE CULTURE OF PHILADELPHIA.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE VINE STREET EXPRESSWAY AND THE MARKET STREET EAST DEVELOPMENT ARE DETERMINAL TO THE FUTURE OF CHINATOWN, AFFECTING BOTH THE RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL BENEFITS. AS THEREFORE, THE COMMUNITY HAS THE RIGHT AND THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF CHINATOWN. IN ORDER TO MEET THIS TASK, THE PHILADELPHIA CHINATOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION HAS FORMED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE COUSIDE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT, SUPPORT AND UNDERSTANDING IS BEING CHINATOWN BELONGS TO THE PHILADELPHIA COMMUNITY. CHINATOWN BELONGS TO YOU.

COME TO THE EASTER SUNDAY RALLY! COME TO THE TOWN MEETING!

SPONSORED BY: PHILADELPHIA CHINATOWN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AN AFFILIATE OF THE CHINESE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION 1000 RACE STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19107

### Jose Manuel News

Black and white photo of a group of people at a protest. A sign in the background reads: "BLACK, LATIN, ASIAN & WHITE LA MISMA LUCHA SAME STRUGGLE SAME FIGHT!"

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### yellow seeds 黄籽報

A Newspaper for the Asian Community in Philadelphia

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## CHINATOWN CONFRONTS GOV. SHAPP

On May 31, 50 members of the community, including representatives of a neighborhood coalition of Third-world communities with similar problems, organized a demonstration in Harrisburg, sponsored by J.O.C. (Save Our Church) to demand a "check" agreement with Gov. Shapp. The "check" came and passed in the governor's meeting room, two square inch high and flood lights. Confronting the governor's office.

## COMMUNITY HALTS CRANES

On July 30, without any advance notice to the community, the Dept. of Transportation began the demolition of two buildings at the corner of 10th and Vine Streets. The community responded immediately by organizing a picket and blocking off the traffic on 10th Street. The pickets continued for three days and succeeded in stopping all work on the site at the southwest corner. On August 2, the Hawthorne Construction Co. came to Chinatown at 6AM, two hours before the normal starting time, and began to clear the site. At 7:30AM, demonstrators consisting mainly of residents and people who worked in Chinatown, assembled around the site and asked the owner to stop the work. After being refused and ignored, the demonstrators (some on the rubble) of the running crane and tractor and the flying debris. The workers were forced to stop and the group remained on the rubble. In spite of repeated warnings from officials about the hazards of staying on the rubble, the takeover continued for the entire day. Other protesters remained on the street below to support those who were on the rubble. At 2PM, a meeting was arranged on the rubble between the protesters and officials of PennDOT. At the meeting many grievances were discussed and ten demands were presented to the state:

- 1) that all demolition be stopped until an environmental impact study is done concerning the effects of the Vine Street Expressway on Chinatown.
- 2) that the Holy Redeemer gym and church be left untouched and repaired as per plans.
- 3) that all lots vacating from the community be given to the community for temporary use as free parking lots or as sitting and playing areas for residents.
- 4) that all housing destroyed be replaced by new and comparable housing.
- 5) that a meeting be arranged between the community and Governor Shapp, Mayor Rizzo, Cardinal Krol, Sec. Assau, the Redevelopment Authority, PennDOT, and any other pertinent agencies.
- 6) that there be no more double talk from government agencies. This demand was made because demolition started contrary to Shapp's promise that no work will be done until the community had the opportunity to review the plan.
- 7) that if and when the demolition begins again, it will not start until a schedule is distributed to the community.
- 8) that all agreements and decisions be made on paper and published in the news media.
- 9) that all final decisions and agreements be subject to the community's approval.
- 10) that all of the above demands be met before any further demolition begins.

The pickets and the takeover of the rubble has clearly proved that nothing is more powerful than the strength of the people. PCDC tried for eight years to stop the Expressway and to get approvals for housing developments in Chinatown. Invariably their plans were either rejected or left sitting unless the bureaucracies of the government agencies. It was not until the people stood up themselves and demanded their rights as citizens that concrete actions were taken to assist to the community.

Another example of the strength of the people involves the Archbishop and Cardinal Krol. After years of phone calls and letters, it was not until the community came out and demonstrated at the Cardinal's house and at a dedication ceremony that a meeting was finally arranged. At this meeting, the Cardinal indicated his support for the community and offered to share the cost of an environmental impact study. The Cardinal also assured Chinatown that no settlement will be made with the State until the study is done.

PCDC is the recognized representative of the community by the City, the State, the Archbishop, and the press. It should speak out and act in the interest of Chinatown. In order to insure that the struggle to save Chinatown is carried out in a unified way, the people of Chinatown must not only support the efforts of PCDC, they must speak out and participate in its work. If everyone works actively together for the democratic rights of the community, then Chinatown can be saved.

### HOMES NOT HIGHWAYS

## Case Text

Del 13 al 19 de marzo / march 13-19 / du 13 au 19 mars

Todos con Viet Nam  
Together with Viet Nam  
Tous avec le Viet Nam

