



CHSA Annual Gala *Voice & Vision 2009* Showcases an Extraordinary Year



Photo by Leland Wong

Phil Choy, Jeanie WC Low, Jennie Lew, Connie Young Yu, Sue Lee, and SF Supervisor Bevan Dufty gather together onstage during the gala awards ceremony.

The Chinese Historical Society of America presented its annual fundraising gala *Voice & Vision 2009* on Saturday, September 12 at 6 pm Intercontinental Mark Hopkins Hotel in San Francisco.

A capacity crowd of nearly 400 people representing a grand mix of society—political figures, professionals, corporate and foundation sponsors, and community leaders—were present for the evening's festivities.

Presiding as Master of Ceremonies for *Voice & Vision 2009* was San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who presented CHSA's artistry and accomplishment through multi-media presentations of Artist-in-Residence Charlie Chin's *History Alive!* performances and a Tribute to Him Mark Lai. Musical performances by Pianist Jon Jang & Saxophonist Francis Wong accompanied the videos.

CHSA Board Emeriti Phil Choy and Board Vice President Connie Young Yu rounded out the evening by presenting honorees Jennie Lew & Jeanie WC Low, Communication Co-chairs of SONA (Save Our National Archives) coalition, with the History

Maker Award.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier also offered a congratulatory message to CHSA via a pre-recorded greeting. San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting welcomed the crowd while Assemblymember Paul Fong

GALA continued on Page 2

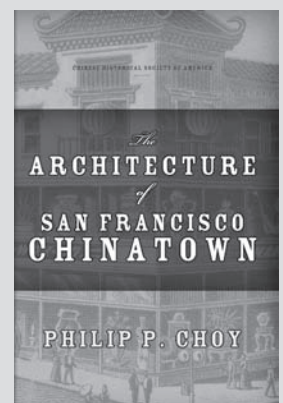
UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate the Lunar New Year!

Saturday, March 6, 2010 from 2-4 pm
CHSA Museum & Learning Center
965 Clay St, San Francisco
(415) 391-1188

Come celebrate the Lunar New Year with a reception & open house at CHSA! This special occasion will also feature the grand opening of the new exhibit: "The Architecture of San Francisco's Chinatown."

"Present-day visitors to Chinatown see it only as an unassimilated foreign community where cultural traditions are preserved and where the architectural forms are mere transplants from China. Transfixed by cultural exotics, few see that the social history of the community is intimately interwoven with its architecture." - *Phil Choy*



UPCOMING EVENTS continued on Page 7

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GALA continued from page 1

(D-Cupertino) presented a framed format of the ACR 42 bill passed by the California legislature in July that apologizes to Chinese Americans for past discrimination and unjust laws enacted by the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Voice & Vision 2009 rounded out the evening with a spectacularly successful raffle & silent auction. Items up for bidding included: 5-day/4-night stay at Hilton Waikiki Prince Kuhio Hotel; 2-night resort stay in South Lake Tahoe; 1-night stay at Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco; Yao-Ming autographed basketball; James Bond 007 Collection Special Edition DVD set; a dinner for ten by Google Chef Olivia Wu; specialty wines; and Gift Certificates to Medjool, Namu, Tru Spa, Avra Organic Spa, plus passes to California Academy of Sciences, Bay Area Discovery Museum, American Conservatory Theatre, Asian Art Museum, and more!

CHSA Congratulates the History Maker Awardees!

Jeanie W. C. Low & Jennie Lew

For Saving the Alien Registration Files, thus preserving an invaluable primary resource of Chinese American immigration heritage.

Working ten years on behalf of the Save Our National Archives Coalition,

Your Voice could not be silenced,

Your Vision could not be dimmed.

Chinese America is forever indebted to you and Jennie Lew.

Presented this 12th day of September 2009



Assemblymember Paul Fong (D-Cupertino) presented a framed format of the ACR 42 bill



Miss Chinatown 2007 Betty Hsu and Miss San Francisco Chinatown 2008 Illysa Lu flank Phil Choy during the reception



SF Supervisor Bevan Dufty & CHSA Executive Director Sue Lee grin happily during the festivities



The capacity crowd at the Intercontinental Mark Hopkins enjoys the dinner gala.

Photos by Leland Wong

Him Mark Lai (1925-2009)

The Dean of Chinese American History

Him Mark Lai, an internationally renowned archivist and historian of Chinese America and a highly respected leader of the community, died peacefully on Thursday, May 21, after a long struggle with cancer and other complications.

For his immense contributions to Chinese American history, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* deemed him “the Scholar who legitimized the study of Chinese America.” He was 84 years old.

Born on November 1, 1925 in San Francisco’s Chinatown, to immigrant parents, Him Mark grew up an avid reader and collector of books in both Chinese and English. Upon graduation from high school, he completed his mechanical engineering degree at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1947 and settled into a job at Bechtel Corporation shortly afterwards.

In late 1949, he started volunteering for the *Chung Sai Yat Po*, the first daily paper to support the new People’s Republic of China. He also joined the Chinese American Democratic Youth League, also known as *Mun Ching*, where he met Laura Jung, a young new immigrant, whom he eventually married in 1953. Laura became his life-time companion and steadfast supporter until he died.

In 1960, Him Mark enrolled in a course, “The Oriental in North America,” at the University of California Extension in San Francisco, which exposed him for the first time to the histories of the Chinese, Japanese, and Filipinos in America. He subsequently read a half dozen or so titles on Chinese in America published in the early 1960s and joined the Chinese Historical Society of America soon after its founding in 1963.



Photo by Leland Wong

Him Mark and Laura Lai leave CHSA after the Civil Rights Suite reception in May 2008

His most significant contributions to Chinese American history fall in three broad categories: research and publications; archival collections; and nurturing and mentoring of young Chinese American historians.

In all, he published and edited ten books and more than one hundred articles on all aspects of Chinese American life. His *East/West* articles—revised and annotated—became the basis for the classic *A History of the Chinese in California, A Syllabus*, coedited with Thomas W. Chinn and Philip P. Choy, as well as for the first Chinese American history course in the United States, which Lai team taught with Choy at San Francisco State College in Fall 1969. Their joint teaching resulted in another classic *Outlines: History of the Chinese in America*.

Lai’s first scholarly essay, “A Historical Survey of Organizations of the Left Among the Chinese in America,” published in the Fall 1972 issue of the *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, remain a standard reference. So do *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island 1910-1940*, co-authored/translated with Genny Lim and Judy Yung and *Becoming Chinese Americans: A His-*

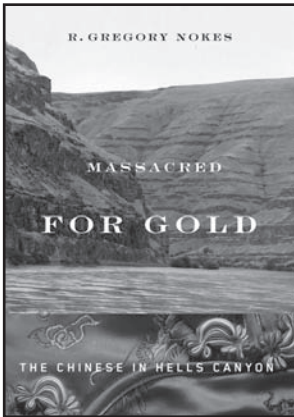
tory of Communities and Institutions (2004). Under his editorial leadership, the annual journal of CHSA *Chinese America: History & Perspectives*, has been published each year.

Besides being a historian and archivist, Him Mark taught occasional courses in Chinese American history in the Asian American Studies Programs at San Francisco State University and the University of California, Berkeley. He provided help to hundreds of graduate students and scholars across the globe. Virtually every dissertation and book on the subject in the past thirty years is indebted to him.

A memorial service and celebration of Him Mark Lai’s life was attended by nearly 500 people at the Chinese Culture Center at 750 Kearny Street in Chinatown on June 20. His family asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be sent to CHSA or the charity of one’s choice.

For more information on this remarkable figure, please visit CHSA’s The Him Mark Lai Digital Archive Project at <http://himmarklai.org/> or view “The Master Archivist” at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GikMU-T8jA>

You are cordially invited to a very special book event at CHSA: *Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon* Thursday, January 28, 2010 at 6 pm



In the closing event of the Year of the Ox, Author Gregory Nokes will talk about his new book, *Massacred for Gold: The Chinese in Hells Canyon*, in a special presentation at CHSA.

Nokes' nonfiction book is the first authoritative account of the long-overlooked 1887 massacre of as many as 34 Chinese gold miners massacre, which occurred at a Hells Canyon mining camp, now officially named Chinese Massacre Cove. The book traces the author's difficult journey in digging out the facts of the crime, including breaking through the reluctance of two long-time residents of Wallowa County to tell what they knew.

Nokes also steps back to explain why Chinese immigrated to the Pacific Northwest, what they did, how they were treated, and what became of them. Along with gold mining, the Chinese helped build the new railroads then spanning the West.

The massacre was the worst of the many crimes committed by whites against the approximately 300,000 Chinese, most of them poor, who emigrated to the American West in search of work in the second half of the 19th century. While no one ever was convicted of the massacre, evidence pointed to an improbable gang of seven rustlers and schoolboys, one of whom was only 15 years old.

One of the ringleaders was quoted as citing patriotism as a motive for the killings: "We'd be getting ourselves some gold, and we'd be doing our country a favor by getting rid of the Chinamen." The crime wasn't discovered until bodies surfaced near Lewiston, Idaho, after floating 65 miles down the north-flowing Snake River, which winds through Hells Canyon, the deepest canyon in North America.

Six men and boys were charged with the murders after gang member Frank Vaughan, son of a well-known settler family, confessed and turned state's evidence. Three gang members—the probable ringleaders—fled, while three others were found innocent by a jury. One witness said the jury had little interest in convicting anyone for killing a Chinese. A cover-up followed, and the crime was all but forgotten for the next 100 years, until a county clerk uncovered long-forgotten records in an unused safe.

Nokes is a former reporter and editor, with more than 40 years experience in journalism, including with The Associated Press and *The Oregonian*. While with the Associated Press, he served as a foreign correspondent in Latin America and as a diplomatic correspondent in Washington, D.C. His travels as a journalist took him to more than 50 countries, including three trips to China. A native of Oregon, Nokes lives with his wife, Candise, in West Linn. For more information, please visit: www.rgregorynokes.com.

Spirit of Japantown San Jose Street Festival

CHSA Board Vice President Connie Young Yu participated in the Spirit of Japantown San Jose Street Festival on Saturday, September 26.

With the theme *Sharing the Spirit!* Congressman Mike Honda introduced the innovative drum ensemble San Jose Taiko. The San Jose Street Festival had three entertainment areas, food, art, crafts, silent auction, a raffle, cultural exhibits, displays, demonstrations, and much more!

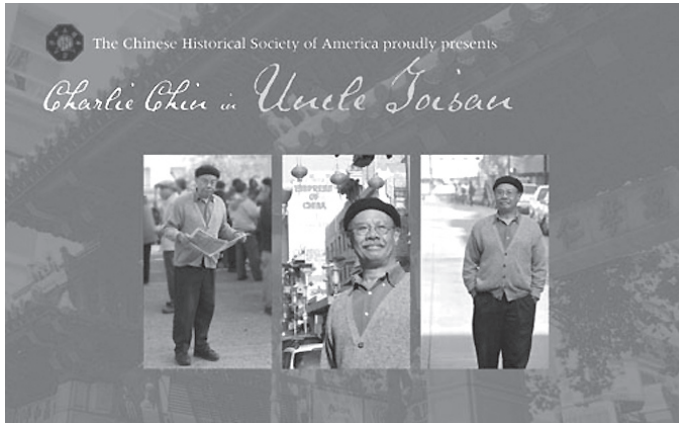
San Jose Japantown is one of the last three major Japantowns that remain in the United States. Japantown Community Congress of San Jose (JCCsj) was created to continue the cultural and historical preservation of our 119 year-old, multi-ethnic Japantown. Profits from this festival will be used to continue JCCsj efforts for the historical and cultural preservation of San Jose Japantown.



CHSA Board Vice President representing CHSA at the Spirit of Japantown San Jose Street Festival

Photo Courtesy of Connie Young Yu

History Alive! “Uncle Toisan” a Storytelling Success



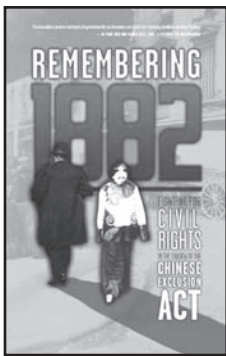
CHSA's original *History Alive!* performance of “Uncle Toisan” by Artist-in-Residence Charlie Chin this spring and summer was an astounding success. More than 8,000 people experienced the *Chautauqua*-style storytelling presentation of a Chinese American immigrant’s unique life in the United States.

Highlighting the Chinese Exclusion Act, Angel Island, World War II, and the civil rights movement, “Uncle Toisan” was a powerful, affecting, and educational experience for all audiences. The story of an immigrant who enters the country as a 17 year old “paper son,” he

then witnesses and experiences the tremendous changes stemming from the passage of the Civil Rights Act, the final lifting of Exclusion, the growth of Asian American political empowerment and the changing demographics of California.

Following the premiere performance of “Uncle Toisan” on April 18, 2009 (which was attended by an audience of 250), more than 50 educational and public events took place at **schools** (such as Chinese American International School, International Studies Academy, Guadalupe Elementary School, John Muir Middle School, and Aragon High School), **universities** (San Francisco State University Ethnic Studies program, Cal State East Bay), **a museum** (Oakland Museum of California), **libraries** (Main Branch of the San Francisco Public Library, SF Chinatown Branch, San Jose’s Martin Luther King, Jr. Library), and **street fairs** (Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration in San Mateo, Asian Heritage Street Celebration in SF’s Civic Center).

“Uncle Toisan” was generously supported by a grant from the James Irvine Foundation, California Council for the Humanities as part of the Council’s statewide *California Stories* Initiative, Zellerbach Family Foundation, and Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation.



The Chinese Exclusion Act Talk by Connie Young Yu

A dark theme of 19th century San Francisco was its racism, including the passing of anti-Chinese city ordinances, and

the participation in demonstrations and Congressional hearings leading up to the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Connie Young Yu, historian and vice president of the CHSA, discussed on Thursday, June 4, as part of the San Francisco Planning & Urban Research Association’s (SPUR) Lunchtime Forum series, how the Chinese survived in San Francisco in the era of Exclusion with the help of American friends and business partners.

Saving SF Chinatown After 1906 Talk by Sue Lee

CHSA Executive Director Sue Lee spoke about Chinatown’s critical role in San Francisco on Wednesday, June 24 at SPUR’s Lunchtime Forum series.



After the Great Earthquake & Fire of 1906, efforts to move SF’s Chinatown were resisted by the city’s Chinese populations. Shortly thereafter, the adoption of Chinese motifs prevalent in the architectural landscape along world-famous Grant Avenue was a territory-defining strategy.

Lee discussed how Chinese survived in San Francisco in the era after the quake and how that strategy defines the look of Chinatown today.

Julia Morgan and the Chinatown YWCA

Architectural Historian Karen McNeill spoke about the enduring cultural value of the Julia Morgan-designed building that currently houses the CHSA Museum and Learning Center on Thursday, September 17 at CHSA.



Presented in collaboration with the San Francisco Architectural Heritage, McNeill’s talk was part of the monthly lecture series held July through November; other lectures, workshops, seminars and architectural walking tours are offered year-round through which thousands of SF residents and visitors have discovered the city’s diverse built environment.

California Legislature and San Francisco Board of Supervisors Acknowledge Ramifications of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882

On July 17, 2009, the California legislature approved the a landmark ACR 42 bill that apologizes to the state's Chinese American community for past discrimination and unjust laws enacted by the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Assemblymember Paul Fong (D-Cupertino) spearheaded the bill, which paved the way for the San Francisco Board of Supervisors on September 15, 2009 to pass the Chinese Exclusion Resolution "acknowledging the regrettable role that San Francisco has played in advancing the policies of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the first federal law to discriminate against a specific group solely on the basis of race or nationality, and celebrating the significant contributions of the Chinese American community."

The following is an excerpted draft of what was passed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors earlier this fall

WHEREAS, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 passed by Congress and signed by President Chester A. Arthur severely curtailed immigration from China and denied to persons of the Chinese race naturalization to citizenship;

WHEREAS, this act caused untold suffering and hardship, separating families, creating a society of single men, and institutionalizing hostility, prejudice and isolation towards Chinese;

WHEREAS, the City of San Francisco was the site of anti-Chinese agitation and organizing by hosting meetings, demonstrations, and state-wide conventions;

WHEREAS, the Exclusion Law became the law of the United States on May 6, 1882;

WHEREAS, the role which San Francisco played in the persecution and exclusion of the Chinese and this chapter of American history has been long ignored and its significance neglected, and the City of San Francisco should take prompt action to educate the community and apply the lessons of the past to help the national debate over current immigration law and policies;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City and County of San Francisco recognizes the historical role that this City's government played in the anti-Chinese movement in California throughout the United States, the federal Chinese Exclusion Acts, and related anti-Asian legislation.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that by supporting educational programs, seeking opportunities to educate and celebrate the historic contributions of Chinese to the building of the American West and the United States, including this history in official literature, designating historic sites as reminders of, and memorials to, the era of Chinese Exclusion and its lessons for today, and assuring that the civil and human rights of all San Franciscans will never again be infringed on account of race or national origin.



Photo by Gary Stroud

Paul Louie (September 10, 1918—October 18, 2009)

The Reverend Paul Louie was born in Seattle, Washington, where he grew up in Canton Alley, in the heart of that area's Chinatown. After graduating from Linfield College in Oregon and Harvard Divinity School in Boston, in 1948 he arrived in San Francisco to work at the Chinese YMCA.

From 1950 onwards, Louie served in various Presbyterian churches in northern and southern California. In 1970, he joined the staff of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, where he systematically collected information on Asian activities in the Southern California area before he retired in 1986. This collection of newspaper clippings and assorted information has since been donated to CHSA.

Louie's community involvement prompted the founding of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California in 1975. Him and his wife Emma, the author of *Chinese American Names: Tradition and Transition*, met Daniel K.E. Ching, an avid collector of Chinese American memorabilia and images, during this time. Ching eventually named Paul and Emma as executors of his Chinese American collection, which they subsequently donated to CHSA.

When he moved back to the Bay Area in the 1990s, he maintained his dedication to Chinese American history as a board member of CHSA. The Daniel K.E. Ching Collection contain invaluable historical items and CHSA is grateful for the support of the Paul and the entire Louie family.

A memorial service for Reverend Louie took place Sunday, October 25 at Tiffany Chapel in Colma. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the charity of one's choice or CHSA.

“Beyond the Arctic” Exclusive Film Screening

Thursday, November 5, 2009, 5:45 PM

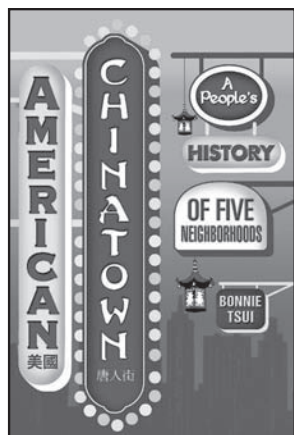
University of San Francisco Main Campus, Fromm Hall
(Enter on Parker Street between Golden Gate & Fulton)
Admission is free



Have you ever dreamed of an Arctic journey to the North Pole? The documentary “Beyond the Arctic” follows three Taiwanese adventurers (a CEO of an online games company, a marathon runner, and a college student) who take on the Polar Challenge. This race requires contestants to trek 600 kilometers on foot over 21 days from base camp to the Magnetic North Pole. After a crash course on essential survival skills—glacier skiing, navigation, treating dehydration and frost bite, warding off hungry polar bears—the trio set off.

Join us for an exclusive film preview, Q&A sessions with the director Li-Chou Yang & producer Michelle Chu. Wine reception to follow; Reservations recommended, please call (415) 422-6828.

The USF Center for the Pacific Rim and its Japan Policy Research Institute present this screening, co-sponsored by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, San Francisco Film Society, Asia Society, and CHSA.



American Chinatown Book Reading

with Author Bonnie Tsui

Tuesday, February 9th, 2010 at 6 pm at CHSA

Admission is free

In *American Chinatown*, acclaimed travel writer Bonnie Tsui embarks on a journey to find out what Chinatown means to its inhabitants – and what it means to America.

Tsui explores the lives, stories and struggles of those in the country’s five most famous Chinatowns: New York (the biggest), San Francisco (the oldest), Los Angeles (the film icon), Honolulu (the crossroads), and Las Vegas (the newest). *American Chinatown* is the first book to use stories from these iconic neighborhoods to illustrate the unique complexities established by a century and a half of Chinese immigration.

CHSA would like to thank the following for their generous support of the *Voice & Vision 2009* Gala:

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The CHSA *Bulletin* is published multiple times throughout the year. To contribute articles about Chinese American community and historical news and events, please submit articles to judy@chsa.org.

Writer & Editor: Judy Hu || Design: Cedric Cheng

2009 Silver SPUR Awards Luncheon

Monday, November 2, 2009, 12 noon

Moscone Center West

Howard Street (between Fourth & Fifth St), San Francisco



*Join us in honoring Historian & Architect Phil Choy as a Silver SPUR
(San Francisco Planning & Urban Research Association) Awardee.*

Given annually, the 2009 Silver SPUR Award spotlights individuals whose goals and achievements exemplify SPUR's mission of good planning and government in the San Francisco Bay Area through research, education and advocacy.

Please register online at www.spur.org/silverspur or call (415)781-8726 x119

Individual tickets begin at \$175

Reception begins at 10:30 am

Luncheon from 12 noon to 1:30 pm.