



September/ October 2006

CALENDAR OF CHSA
EVENTS & EXHIBITS

September 9 *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution*

book discus-
sion panel.

CHSA Learning
Center, 3 pm.



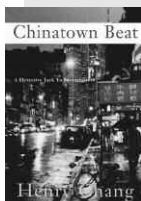
September 14
**Confronting Asian-American
Stereotypes** discussion panel.

Asia Society, 500 Washington St.,
5th Fl., San Francisco, 5:30 pm. \$5
CHSA members, \$10 non-mem-
bers, (415) 421-8707.

September 22
"Chinatown Then and Now"

panel with Chinatown Beacon
Center, Community Educational
Services, and Chinatown Com-
munity Development Center. Also
featuring Phil Choy and Judy Yung.
CHSA Learning Center, 4 pm.

September 30
Chinatown Rising Gala. San
Francisco Marriott Hotel, 55 Fourth
Street, 6 pm.



October 26
Chinatown Beat book
reading with author
Henry Chang. CHSA
Learning Center, 7 pm.

**All CHSA events in
free to the public**

For more info, call (415) 391-1188
or visit www.chsa.org

Chinatown Rising

CHSA 2006 Gala Dinner and Dance

CHSA celebrates the resurgence
of Chinatown in its 2006 Annual
Gala Event, **Chinatown Rising**, on
the evening of Saturday, **September
30, 2006** at the **San Francisco
Marriott Hotel**.

When entrepreneur Look Tin
Eli unveiled the Sing Chong build-
ing on the corner of Grant Avenue
and California Street in 1909, he
was launching a new vision for
Chinatown. Rows of new buildings
rose from old foundations, crowned
with the Sing Chong and Sing Fat
buildings that would become San
Francisco icons. Many merchants
and organizations, having endured
the devastation of the 1906
Earthquake and Fire and narrowly
escaped forcible relocation, bet

their livelihoods on the "new look."
But with the recent efforts to elimi-
nate Chinatown, business and com-
munity leaders focused on shaping
a Chinatown for the new century.

Look Tin Eli, performed by
CHSA Artist-in-Residence Charlie
Chin, will be the emcee host of
Chinatown Rising, sharing his
Oriental City with guests through-
out the evening. He brings with
him a cadre of other History Alive
players, who are part of an ongoing
CHSA initiative that introduces fig-
ures from Chinese American history
to audiences young and old.
Special guests include aviator
Katherine Cheung (Cecily Chow),

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"Join me in raising San
Francisco's Chinatown, a
sparkling new Oriental City!"

Look Tin Eli



Credit: San Francisco Examiner

Credit: CHSA, Daniel K.E. Ching Collection.

**CHINESE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA**

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Chinatown Rising

CHSA 2006 Gala Dinner and Dance

vaudevillian Hugh Kwong Liang (Todd Nakagawa), and early Hollywood star Anna May Wong (Pearl Wong).

The evening's main program focuses on the people, places, and events of Chinatown's century. Images from the newly published pictorial book, *Images of America: San Francisco's Chinatown*, are interwoven in a video presentation accompanying a live performance by internationally acclaimed jazz pianist and composer Jon Jang. Chinatown Rising guests will receive autographed souvenir copies of the book at the end of the evening.

This year's traditional silent auction is expanded into themes such as travel, sports & leisure, fashion, and art & culture. Of particular interest to collectors and art connoisseurs is a set of works by NYC-based glass artist Arlan Huang. Previously commissioned by the City of New York and the National Endowment for the Arts, Huang's works on auction are simi-

Saturday, **September 30**, 6:00 pm
San Francisco Marriott Hotel
55 Fourth Street
Info: **415 391-1188. x101** gala06@chsa.org

lar to those exhibited at the Museum of Chinese in the Americas in NYC. Another featured auction item is a vacation stay at the Kona Kohala Coast vacation townhouses, overlooking the Mauna Lani championship golf course on the Big Island of Hawaii.

The San Francisco Marriott Ballroom space will be transformed by event designer Lewis Sykes and furnished with props and items from San Francisco Chinatown's Chinese New Year parade, courtesy of Dave Thomas of EastWest Float Design.

To join in this momentous celebration, please visit www.chsa.org for ticket reservation information, or call (415) 391-1188 ext. 101. Tickets and tables are still available, so purchase yours soon! ☺



Silent Auction Teasers

Our silent auction will evoke the Chinese bazaars of Sing Fat and Sing Chong offering chinoiserie. For art and culture connoisseurs, we have:

- ☞ Pink Flamingoes from renowned glass artist Arlan Huang's work "Smooth Stones for Grandfather" (to view samples on Web site: http://www.asianconnections.com/a/?article_id=510)
- ☞ Esther Hunt's Lotus Bud bust

For wine connoisseurs, we have 1987-89 Freemark Abbey cabernets.

We also have Big Island GetAway—a week in a 3br townhouse condo overlooking the world famous Mauna Lani golf course (hawaiiig4.com).



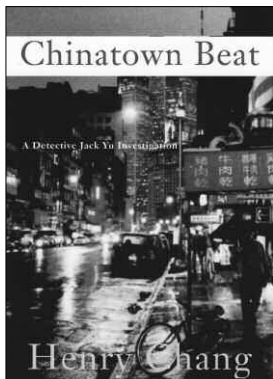
Chinatown Beat Reading

Thursday, October 26, 7:00 pm
CHSA Learning Center

New York Chinatown native **Henry Chang** comes to CHSA to read from his debut detective mystery novel **Chinatown Beat** (SoHo Press, 2006), a mix of urban intrigue, Chinatown cultural commentary, and classic genre characters.

Detective Jack Yu has just been transferred back to his old neighborhood, New York's Chinatown, where some of his childhood friends are now criminals and some are dead. His top priorities on the job are tracking down a serial rapist who preys on young Chinese girls and solving the murder of a respected leader of the Hip Ching, a bi-coastal society with thousands of members and a multimillion dollar bankroll. Interlaced with Jack's

hunt for the bad guys are the stories of Mona, a call girl, and Johnny Wong, a cab driver. This event is free to the public. ☞



Chop Suey on Wax: The Flower Drum Song Album

Arguably the most famous depiction of San Francisco Chinatown in the mid-20th century, the Rodgers and Hammerstein-produced **Flower Drum Song** sent Grant Avenue and its personalities around the world. Based on the novel by journalist C.Y. Lee, *Flower Drum Song's* story of generational conflict and romance grossed millions and was nominated for Oscars and Tonys for its film and stage productions.



Following the hit musical, record labels issued dozens of renditions of the score, in genres as varied as jazz, swing, classical orchestra, and pop. Filmmaker Arthur Dong (*Sewing Woman, Forbidden City USA*) has collected these albums, which will be shown in **Chop Suey on Wax**. By examining the imagery of the album artwork and musical arrangements, the exhibition shows some the ways that Chinatown and its residents were fantasized and often exoticized.

After you listen to jazz and pop versions of songs like "One Hundred Million Miracles" and "Grant Avenue," settle into our gallery in the CHSA "Living Room" to watch the film. Visitors will note one of the original Dong Kingman watercolors from the film on display above the television set, courtesy of the collection of Greg Chew. Other ephemera and media coverage from the productions are also part of the exhibition. ☞

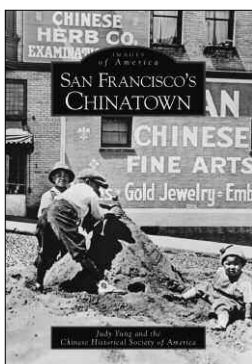
Chinatown Then and Now Panel Event

Despite summer vacation, three different groups of youth in Chinatown have dedicated most of their free time to create, learn, give back, and share what makes their community the vibrant place that they call home. Working with their respective community-based organizations and the Chinese Historical Society of America, the youth created videos and exhibition displays, gave tours, cleaned alleyways, and researched the history of Chinese Americans.

On Friday, September 22 at 4 pm, these youth will present their work in a panel moderated by historian Philip P. Choy. *San Francisco's Chinatown* author Judy Yung will also join the event, making a brief presentation about the history of Chinatown to complement the contemporary perspective.

Free to the public. Please call Leonard Shek at (415) 391-1188 ext. 107 for more information. ☞

San Francisco's Chinatown Book Launch



Judy Yung
(right) with
guests at the
August 12 book
launch.

Were you among the hundreds who came on August 12 to celebrate the launch of *Images of America: San Francisco's Chinatown*? CHSA has been overwhelmed by response to the Arcadia pictorial history book, authored and edited by historian Judy Yung. Media coverage has included a special feature on the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle's* "Datebook" section and articles in *Sing Tao Daily*.

If you missed Judy's presentation at the book launch, you can catch it (and buy an autographed book!) at these coming events:

- ☉ **Saturday, October 14**, 3:00 pm, Eastwind Books of Berkeley, (510) 548-2350
- ☉ **Saturday, October 21**, 2:00 pm, San Francisco Public Library, Main Branch, (415) 557-4400
- ☉ **Saturday, October 28**, 2:30 pm, San Francisco Public Library, Chinatown Branch, (415) 355-2888
- ☉ **Sunday, November 5**, 2:00 pm, Chinatown Photographic Society, 132 Waverly Place, San Francisco
- ☉ **Thursday, November 16**, 7:00 pm, El Cerrito Public Library, (510) 526-7512 ☞

Westerners Event *with Phil*

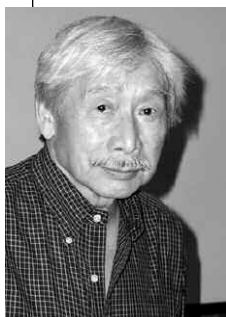
YOU ARE INVITED...

Members of the Chinese Historical Society of America are invited to join the **San Francisco Westerners History Club** for their monthly dinner meeting on **Tuesday, September 26, 2006**.

Historian and CHSA Board Emeritus Philip P. Choy is their guest speaker for the evening; he will be delivering a slide presentation on San Francisco Chinatown, touching briefly on the history of Chinese in the American West.

The dinner meeting will be held at Hungry Hunter Restaurant (180 South Airport Boulevard, San Francisco.) The meeting will begin at 5 pm, with dinner at 6:30 pm. The slide presentation will follow dinner. The event is \$28 per person, which includes dinner.

Space is limited; please contact CHSA staff person Marisa Louie for more information on how to reserve a seat at the Westerners' event: (415) 391-1188 ext. 104. ☞



Call for Volunteers: *Front Desk and Collections*

LEND YOUR TIME AND
TALENTS TO CHSA!

We are looking for individuals who can spare a few hours on a weekly or monthly basis to join our hard-working front desk volunteer corps. These friendly individuals are the public face of our Museum to visitors from around the world. No previous experience is necessary—just a positive attitude and a willingness to learn about the museum and to help in the bookstore. If you are interested, contact Candace Tom, Operations: ctom@chsa.org, (415) 391-1188 ext. 101. ☞

The Free China Junk Documentary

Production for the documentary “The Free China Junk” is now underway in San Francisco. “The Free China Junk” tells the incredible journey of six young men who, without prior sailing experience, sail an old Chinese junk called the “Free China” from Formosa (Taiwan) to San Francisco in 1955. The sailors filmed the four-month journey and made international front-page news upon their arrival.

The backdrop of their story is the increasing tensions and restrictions of life in Taiwan as a result of the Communist Revolution in mainland China. In an attempt to get exit visas from Taiwan, the five Chinese-born friends respond to an advertisement for an international trans-Atlantic yacht race. As luck would have it, the men find a daring Californian Vice-Consul who bends the rules to issue their visas with one stipulation—that he can come along and film the journey. Their next major hurdle is the trans-Pacific crossing to San Francisco.

Beautiful, archival color 16mm footage of the journey will be inter-



The Free China sails in through the Golden Gate.

woven with tales from the five surviving junk-mates. Now in their 80s, four reside in California, with the fifth in New Zealand. “The Free China Junk” celebrates their adventurous spirit as it challenges new generations to define their own destiny.

The story first captured the imagination of director/producer **Robin Greenberg** while researching the life of the New Zealand-based junk-mate. She and co-producer Michele Turnure-Salleo are grateful for the Chinese Historical Society of America’s support and enthusiasm for the film, as well as to CHSA board member Connie Young Yu, who recently joined the project’s advisory board.

Interested CHSA members are invited to help by providing their own historical knowledge, in-kind resources, and/or donations. The nonprofit organization Film Arts Foundation is the fiscal sponsor for the documentary. Tax-deductible donations are welcome in any amount. Please send to:

Film Arts Foundation
145 Ninth Street, #101
San Francisco, CA 94103

(checks payable to Film Arts Foundation, for “The Free China”)

For more information please contact Robin Greenberg at robin-greenberg@attglobal.net. ☞

Shipmates Reno Chen, Paul Chow, Marco Chung, Benny Hsu, Loo-chi Hu (Huloo), and U.S. Vice Consul Calvin Mehlert aboard the Free China.



Collections Record, April 10–August 11, 2006

SUBMITTED BY ANNA NARUTA, COLLECTIONS CONSULTANT

In this *Bulletin*, CHSA introduces the **Collections Record**, a new regular feature. **Accessioned Donations** reports items accepted into CHSA Collections. **Deaccessioned Items** reports items removed from CHSA Collections due to the condition of the item, lack of fit with CHSA's mission, or inability to properly care for it. Descriptions have been edited for brevity.

DONATIONS ACCESSIONED INTO CHSA COLLECTIONS

Bruce Quan, Jr.: CACA Oakland medals, books, scans of photos, and letters, all relating to Lew Hing and family.

Douglas Westfall: Sugar and creamer acquired from Mrs. Pat Williams of Cambria for donation to CHSA on the centennial of the 1906 earthquake. Note from a previous owner indicates the ceramic set was looted from San Francisco Chinatown following the fire.

Alexander Akin: Two copies of bumper stickers promoting 1984 Presidential race Peace & Freedom Party candidates Sonia Johnson and Emma Wong.

Connie Young Yu: Original newspaper articles on establishment of Ping Yuen Housing Project: 1) Issues of *Chinese Press* (January 24, 1941; June 2, 1950; November 24, 1950; October 26, 1951) and *San Francisco News* (tear sheet, March 20, 1950) reporting on Ping Yuen housing project. 2) Photocopy of article "A History of San Francisco Chinatown Housing" by Connie Young Yu, *Amerasia* 8:1 (1981) 93-109

Ruth B. Stevenson: 1) Program for March 4, 1976 Stanford symposium, "Chou En-Lai: His Time and Impact" event held in San Francisco (at

Veterans Auditorium?). 2) Announcement for "Memorial Vigil to pay respect to the freedom martyrs in Beijing" June 10, 1989, City Hall Square, San Francisco, plus black armband.

Norma L. Miles: Two postcards—for Shanghai Low, 532 Grant Ave, and Club Shanghai, 453 Grant Ave, San Francisco—that were owned by donor's parents.

Edith C. Smith Trust (c/o Thomas N. Layton): 1) Four photos from Oakland's Lincoln School classes, 1909, 1910, and 1913, with names of students handwritten on reverse. 1909 (Miss E. Ogden's 7th grade class) and 1910 (Miss J. O. Meara's class) photos highlight the name of Elizabeth Hogan, possibly indicating the original owner. All photos by Hugo Weitz, 3005 Capp St., Fruitvale, Calif. 2) Fourteen photos of a Chinese cook managing the logistics of a fishing trip. California license plate visible on car dates photos to 1927.

Philip P. Choy: 1) "Draft Historical & Architectural Guide to San Francisco's Chinatown" by Philip P. Choy with photography by Brian W. Choy. San Francisco: Chinatown Neighborhood Improvement Resource Center, 1982. Photocopy. 2) "Proposal for: A Chinatown Historic District" San Francisco

Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board case report July 2, 1986. "The text of the report was substantially written by Landmarks Board member Philip P. Choy." Photography by Brian Choy. Photocopy. 3) Photocopy of 1881-1882 Sanborn map covering San Francisco Chinatown. 4) Photocopy of 1887 Sanborn map covering San Francisco Chinatown. 5) Commercial print of 1906 Theodore Kytka Telephoto "No. 1 - The Stretch of Ruin From Nob Hill to Russian Hill. Taken from the top of the Fairmont Hotel. ... Supplement to San Francisco Examiner, July 8, 1906." 6) Transcriptions and photocopies of SF Chinatown directories, 1850-1949. Photocopy.

Him Mark Lai: 1) Photocopy of index to *Chung Sai Yat Po*, July 1900-November 1909. Entries created selectively for historical research. 2) Photocopy of San Francisco Chinese-language newspaper indices, 1908-1935. Entries created selectively for historical research. 3) Photocopy of indices to San Francisco and miscellaneous Chinese-language and English-language newspapers, 1940s - 1960s. Created selectively for research purposes. 4) "U.S. Chinese-Language Newspapers 1854-1977." Compiled by Wang Shi [?] (Beijing, 1999) with updates by

Him Mark Lai (San Francisco, 2000). Printout of computer file for CHSA research use.

Garrett Chinn (In Memory of Florinda Huang): Arnold Genthe's *Old Chinatown* with text by Will Irwin (New York: Mitchell Kennerley MCMXIII).

Connie Young Yu: 1) 1969 *Time* magazine ad: "He Doesn't Have a Chinaman's Chance," showing picture of a young boy (Russell Leong) on street in San Francisco Chinatown. 2) "A Chinaman's chance... The Los Angeles Riot of 1871" article by Bruce Chan; in WINDS December 1976

Agnes Lam: Photos of 2006 CHSA volunteer appreciation luncheon, plus CD of images.

Judicial Council of California, Education Division (Michael Roosevelt): DVD of internal training broadcast: Continuing the Dialogue: Chinese Americans and the California Courts CJER #5510, some images provided by CHSA.

Agnes and Paul Lam: Photos of Dr. Rolland Lowe's retirement party, June 17, 2006, taken by Paul Lam.

Teledramatic Arts and Technology Department (TAT), California State University, Monterey Bay via Geraldine Low-Sabado: DVD *By the Light of Lanterns: An Untold History of Monterey's Chinese Fishermen*, produced by the donors.

Mimi Kwan (KGO-TV): VHS tape of KGO-TV/DT *Profiles of Excellence* broadcast, June 24, 2006 and filmed in galleries of CHSA.

Lorraine C. Kimlau: Club memberships and other identification cards of Leland G. Kimlau, the first Chinese American to work in the U.S. Postal Service. 6

documents of Leland Kimlau, ranging from 1897 San Francisco birth certificate of Leland G. Kimlau to mother Tong Shee and Thomas Y. Kimlau (Lau Ming Doc), dentist practicing at 760 Clay Street; 1919 U.S. Army Honorable Discharge, 1923 Civil Service report for P.O. Clerk exam, 1926 Los Angeles County certificate of marriage between Leland G. Kimlau and Ruby Lee, and 1931 Cathay Club San Francisco application for membership (with photo). 2 snapshots of cinematographer James Wong Howe, with table of friends (identification list provided) and at work in Hollywood studio. 1 8x10" black and white portrait of Lorraine Kimlau and other young women dressed in formal clothes for "Jiverret YWCA 1947" in photo taken by Chester Gan Studios, 1151 Grant Avenue, San Francisco.

Dolores C. Rutherford: Postcard found by donor's mother, Anna Smith Crumrine, during 1915 visit to San Francisco, showing Mr. & Mrs. Wong Sun Yu Clemmons in their "Relics from the Ruins" shop, 535 Grant Avenue San Francisco.

Connie Young Yu: Correspondence - 1) Lim P. Lee, Secretary of the Chinatown Housing Project Committee, on August 24, 1951 announcing to Committee members that Ping Yuen housing project will be ready for occupancy October 1951. Includes original envelope to Mr. John C. Young. 2) Resolution from the Housing Commission of the City and County of San Francisco in Honor of the Chinatown Housing Committee for working to create Ping Yuen housing project in San Francisco Chinatown. 3) Resolution Relative to Commending the Angel Island Immigration Station

**CHSA Collections is
CLOSED
for reorganization until
further notice.**

Historical Advisory Committee, dated January 1976, by the Honorable John F. Foran, 16th Assembly District of California State Assembly. 4) *Fifth Chinese Daughter*, by Jade Snow Wong, 1950 edition, signed by author, and marked with her chop.

Kevin Wong: Original programs from Chinatown theaters: Grandview, Sung Sing, World, and Pagoda Theatre, 1967-; collected by donor as a boy.

Charlie Chin: "Chinatown on Camera: A Photographic Presentation" Photographed, written, and published by Paul Won, 1973. Contemporary and historic views of San Francisco and Los Angeles Chinatowns.

CHSA [transferred from office material into archives]: "Him Mark Lai," a booklet created for his 70th birthday (November 1, 1995) and commemorating his achievements to date.

ITEMS DEACCESSIONED (REMOVED) FROM CHSA COLLECTIONS

CHSA Reading Room Project:
book: *Better Homes and Gardens: Pasta*; book: *Elegant Food* by Valerie Childs.

Shing Chong Collection:
matchboxes by Tai Kwong Company c.1935, from store stock, that had been water and mold damaged (nine boxes retained); matchsticks. ✍

CHSA *Transitions*

Best wishes to **Ruth Chan**, part-time Collections Manager since August 2005, as she seeks new collections work experience with the National Park Service. Ruth's work coordinating the loan of family artifacts from Milly Lee was highlighted on an NPR Morning Edition story about our earthquake centennial exhibit. (To see or hear the April 12 program, go to www.npr.org and search "Chinese Historical Society of America.") In April 2006, Ruth accepted a position at the Everglades National Park in Homestead, Florida. Living and working at the southern tip of Florida, she has been gaining experience with a massive collection that includes the archaeological remains of shipwrecks and items from Native American sites.

CHSA's work to organize and interpret more than forty years of artifacts and archival materials is now aided by new collections consultant **Anna Naruta**.

Dr. Naruta is a recent graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. Her research on the history and archaeology of early California Chinatowns benefited from the guidance of Dr. L. Ling-chi Wang, archaeologist Dr. Kent Lightfoot, and Dr. Rosemary Joyce, formerly of UC Berkeley's Hearst Museum and Harvard's Peabody Museum. She brings to CHSA experience in archival research that includes work supported by a Bancroft Library award and research with turn-of-the-century Chinese language newspapers supported by a federal Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship and the

National Science Foundation.

Anna has been working closely with CHSA since 2003 in our efforts to activate the existing legal protections for threatened archaeological sites and historic buildings significant in California history, including the last remaining building of Alameda's historic Chinatown ("Gim's Chinese Kitchen," September 2004 *Bulletin*), and the remains of Oakland's San Pablo Avenue Chinatown (May 2004 *Bulletin*). Elected to the Board in 2005, she represented CHSA at public meetings and worked to educate officials about the rich interpretative potential of the rediscovered historic resources.

If you are interested in donating to CHSA's museum or archival collections, please contact Anna at (415) 391-1188 x103, or anaruta@chsa.org. ☺

The CHSA *Bulletin* is published bi-monthly. To contribute articles about Chinese American community and historical news and events, please submit articles to mlouie@chsa.org.

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