



# Bulletin

# 簡報

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM

Summer 2011 | Vol. 47, No. 1

## CHSA Impacts National Legislation Remembering 1882 inspires US Congress & Senate

CHSA acknowledges House Resolution 282 and Senate Resolution 201, as introduced by Congress on May 26, 2011 expressing regret for the passage of discriminatory laws that restricted the civil rights of Chinese immigrants. The resolutions reaffirm Congress's commitment to protecting the civil rights of all people, regardless of race, and ethnicity.

U.S. Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA), Judy Biggert (R-IL), Mike Coffman (R-CO), and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) introduced H. Res. 282 while Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) put forward S. Res. 201, as co-sponsored by Senator Scott Brown (R-MA).

In introducing the resolution, Senator Feinstein remarked: "The enactment of Chinese

exclusionary laws is a shameful part of our history that must not be forgotten. I hope this resolution will serve to enlighten those who may not be aware of this regrettable chapter

in our history, and bring closure to the families whose loved ones lived through this difficult time. Despite these hardships, Chinese immigrants persevered, and they continue to make invaluable contributions to the



Photo by Dr. Larry Shinagawa, courtesy of Ted Gong

Congresswoman Judy Chu (third from left) poses with dignitaries and students in front of the *Remembering 1882* exhibit.

development and success of our country."

CHSA's *Remembering 1882* exhibit explores the historical debate around the Exclusion

newspaper commentaries, political cartoons, and other objects in CHSA's collections, the *Remembering 1882* exhibit showcases the passion and poignancy

of this dramatic chapter in American history. Launched in San Francisco, the exhibit travels throughout the United States to civic institutions and community organizations.

*"The Remembering 1882 exhibit has had and continues to have a significant impact educating the public about the Chinese Exclusion Laws. The House and Senate resolutions were direct results of efforts . . . after reviewing a public display of Remembering 1882 in Washington DC."*  
—Ted Gong, Co-Chair of the 1882 Project

Act from its origins through its full repeal in 1968, the civil rights struggle of Chinese Americans and allies, and the historic importance of habeas corpus in the Chinese American community.

Drawn from photographs,

The CHSA Museum is proud to have developed the *Remembering 1882* in 2007. Since then, the exhibit has impacted legislation on a nationwide level and also toured the country in col-

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### UPCOMING EVENTS:

*Soliloquy of a Young Artist*  
Second Saturday Presentation  
AUGUST 13, 2011 1 PM AT CHSA

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*Voice & Vision:*  
CHSA Gala 2011 Dinner  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 6 PM  
AT FOUR SEASONS HOTEL,  
SAN FRANCISCO

See back page

*Chinatown Music Festival*  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2011 1 PM  
AT PORTSMOUTH SQUARE  
IN SF CHINATOWN

See page 5

*"Sun Yat-Sen and the Three People's Principles"*  
*New History Alive!*  
Presentation Series

OCTOBER 9, 2011 AT 2 PM  
AT DR. MARTIN KING, JR.  
LIBRARY IN SAN JOSE

OCTOBER 20, 2011 7 PM  
AT DE ANZA COLLEGE HISTORY  
CENTER IN CUPERTINO

DECEMBER 3, 2011 2 PM  
AT SF PUBLIC LIBRARY,  
MAIN BRANCH

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Free Admission to CHSA!  
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2011

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*Happy Birthday to CHSA!*  
*Celebrating a Decade at the Historical YWCA Building*  
NOVEMBER 12, 2011 1PM

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## CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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Photo by Amy Lam

The series of Jake Lee paintings that once hung in Kans Restaurant are currently displayed in CHSA's Yick Gallery.

Following the opening of *Finding Jake Lee: The Paintings at Kan's* earlier this year, CHSA received much press coverage in national & local media, including: *New York Times*, *San Francisco Bay Citizen*, *SF Weekly*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Sing Tao*, & *World Journal*, NBC-TV, KCBS-TV, KTSF, and Comcast Newsmakers.

The exhibit has been an astounding success, with increased visitors to the museum, plus many other Jake Lee watercolors donated to CHSA.

May Louie generously donated rare private paintings by the artist, such as the "Wizard of Oz," "Men on Horses," "Saints Peter & Paul Church," "Shang Dynasty Wine," "Shang Dynasty Horses," "Rhinoceros Wine Vessel," "On Lee Grocery."

Linda Sorensen & Daniel Rohlfling also contributed a framed watercolor of "Hummingbirds" while Tom & Jeannette Hsieh loaned "Chinatown Rooftops" to the museum.

## CHSA on Groupon & Local Deals & Google Offers



Without history museums, the study of the past would be relegated to musty shoe-box dioramas and the Internet's teeming archive of cat videos. Browse cultural history with a one-year contributing membership to the CHSA.

Founded in 1963, the Chinese Historical Society houses a remarkable array of cultural and historical artifacts, providing Chinese-Americans and generally hungry-brained humans an opportunity to explore a rich cultural legacy. A year-long contributing membership to the society nets unlimited admission to the museum for up to two adults and two children and/or grandchildren, two additional guest passes, a 10% discount at the museum bookstore, a subscription to the Bulletin newsletter, the ability to fly through spread toes, and invitations to members-only events.

The museum's collection includes enlightening heirlooms such as Frank Wong's miniature Chinatown scenes and James Leong's mural of regional Chinese-American history. *Finding Jake Lee* is among the fresh-faced exhibits, providing an overview of the titular water-colorer's region-focused imagery. The museum's Julia Morgan-designed building is itself a work of historic merit, blending Chinese and Western elements into an aesthetically pleasing casing.

In 2011, CHSA has expanded its boundaries for greater outreach of membership and events into social media realms with promotions on Groupon, Facebook Deals, Google Offers, and The Bay Citizen's "Citizen Deals."

Through Groupon alone, a couple hundred new members were added in February, lured by the enticing copy about CHSA.

# Come Visit a Revived CHSA Museum!

Throughout the course of the past year, CHSA has been making continual changes and improvements in the Museum with the expertise of award-winning museum & exhibit designer Gordon Chun.

In the main gallery, new items have been added in the section about China Trade for increased visibility and further interpretation. New labels in both Chinese and English have also been added to give background information about the U.S.'s initial participation in the China Trade. Flip boards in the Americana area invite visitors to learn what is considered Chinese or Chinese American.

An interactive feature to the suitcase section has also been added. One of the suitcases is open and displays replicas of items that a Chinese laborer at the time probably had—encouraging visitors to touch the items and think about what they would have brought if they were traveling under similar circumstances. Below the census map, visitors are also asked to



Photo by Amy Lam

The CHSA Main Gallery (left) is refreshed with new exhibit items in the trade section (lower right).

interact with the exhibit by inserting buttons into the slot of when their families immigrated to the U.S.

Under the Transcontinental Railroad section, Gordon has added a photograph, a new coat

of paint, as well as a bilingual label depicting the completion of the railroad. Furthermore, the railroad piece can now be lifted from the platform for increased visitor participation.

As visitors enter through the

main lobby, they will also notice more lighting, larger and clearer labels, and a decorative lion's head—making the Museum more welcoming. All directional signs are now bilingual and the "In Search of Roots 2011" exhibit is also set in the main hall way.

In the wings of the museum, the Choy Gallery has been transformed into a more living room-like space where visitors and their families can learn about CHSA as an institution. Real-life objects and publications depicting the history of CHSA and San Francisco Chinatown are on display.

Entering the Y Room: the Julia Morgan panel now resides here, as well as her drawings of the Chinese YWCA. The relationship between CHSA, YWCA, and Julia Morgan is now also more obvious to the first-time visitor. The room will focus on the world-renowned architect and the women who were involved with establishing the Chinese YWCA in the early 1900s.

## Remembering 1882 Exhibit Impacts National Legislation in Washington

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

leges, museums, and civic institutions such as: Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, California State Capitol, United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in San Francisco, US Department of Justice in Washington DC, and Philip Burton Federal Building of the Northern California District Court.

This summer, in Astoria, Oregon, *Remembering 1882* exhibit will be showcased during the city's bicentennial celebration. In honor of the city's 200th anniversary,

they are building and dedicating the Garden of the Surging Waves, complete with sculptures made by a Chinese artist—all to commemorate Chinese laborers who helped build the city with the introduction of the railroad, building of the wharves that were home to a fishing industry, and a flourishing international trade, and many other things the Chinese did before they all left as a result of the Chinese Exclusion Acts. *Remembering 1882* will be on display in Astoria until October 1, 2011.

"The *Remembering 1882* exhibit has had and continues to have a significant impact educating the public about the Chinese Exclusion Laws. The House and Senate resolutions were direct results of efforts made by a coalition of national organizations brought together because members had sought each other out after reviewing a public display of *Remembering 1882* in Washington DC," Ted Gong, Co-Chair of the 1882 Project, said.

For more information, visit: [www.civilrightssuite.org/1882](http://www.civilrightssuite.org/1882)

### ABOUT THE 1882 PROJECT

The 1882 Project is a nonpartisan, grassroots effort focused on the impact the Chinese Exclusion Laws and such legislation had on our history. The 1882 Project aims to work with Congress to pass resolutions expressing regret for the passage of these laws, and to increase national awareness of the laws. Several national civil rights organizations spearhead the 1882 Project: the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the Committee of 100, the National Council of Chinese Americans, and OCA. For more information, visit [www.1882project.org](http://www.1882project.org)

# Sun Yat-sen and the Three People's Principles

## A new *History Alive!* program debuting this Fall

Featuring the unique story of Dr. Sun's life in America before returning to be the first provisional President of the Republic of China, Dr. Sun is a *Chautauquan* museum theater presentation by renowned writer, historian and performer, CHSA Artist-in-Residence Charlie Chin.

This project will illuminate the linkage between the modern history of China with the history of Chinese American communities as well as the commonality between the democratic ideas pursued in the post American Civil War era and the aspirations of Chinese both in China and here in America.

The performance will educate younger generations and the public at large of the place of Chinatown in history as well as the roots of the complex relationship between US and China that continues today. By upholding the achievements of the past, it creates the foundation for the future of the community.

Dr. Sun is considered the founding father of modern China. He was born Hakka in Guangdong, and an older brother, who had become a merchant in Hawaii, arranged for him to go to the Iolani School in Hawaii. There he became deeply impacted by the writing and words of both Alexander Hamilton and Abraham Lincoln, later basing his Three Principles on Lincoln's words, "a government of the people, by the people, and for the people."



Designed by Amy Lam

CHSA Artist-in-Residence Charlie Chin in character as the historic revolutionary Sun Yat-sen

His interpretation was the Three People's Principles: Nationalism (China should be ruled by Chinese), Democracy, (the people should choose their leaders), and Equalization (proper distribution of

pan, and Britain.

While in exile, he repeatedly spoke about his dream of a Chinese Democracy wherever he went. He spoke often in Chinese American communities.

Thousands of Chinese men, who had been forced to leave China because of the poverty, oppression, natural disasters, corruption, and mismanagement of the Qing Dynasty, after

attending one of his speeches willingly gave Dr. Sun their life-savings to support the founding of a Chinese Democracy. He referred to these Overseas Chinese as the "Mother of the Revolution."

While in New York, Chi-

cago, and San Francisco, he stayed with friends at their homes and at the headquarters of organizations that supported his proposals.

As a child and teenager in the 1940s and 1950s, Charlie Chin listened to Chinatown seniors whose eyewitness accounts, anecdotes, and legends about Dr. Sun were repeated and passed on to another generation.

Sun Yat-sen based his Three Principles on Abraham Lincoln's words: "A government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

the country's wealth). Because he advocated the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty, and because he proposed the founding of a Republic of China, the Qing Dynasty put a price on his head and he spent 16 years in exile in the United States, Canada, Ja-

### UPCOMING SUN YAT-SEN EVENTS

De Anza College History Center  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7 PM

San Francisco Public Library  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2 PM

Dr. Martin King, Jr. Library  
in San Jose  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2PM

Stay tuned for more public events!

## “Soliloquy of a Young Artist” A special History Alive! performance portraying the artistry of Jake Lee

Inspired by the Jake Lee paintings, CHSA is presenting the first public performance of *Soliloquy of a Young Artist* on Saturday, August 13, 2011 at 1 pm. A brief preview of the performance follows:

*To be or not to be. Isn't that how it goes?*

*To be an artist or not to be an artist.*

*I ask the question, and I know the answer.*

*Jake Lee is my teacher, my mentor, and he says I'm an artist.*

*Painting is all I know. I went straight from Galileo High in San Francisco to the Art Institute in LA. My parents didn't stop me. They have a son, the engineer, and a son, the doctor.*

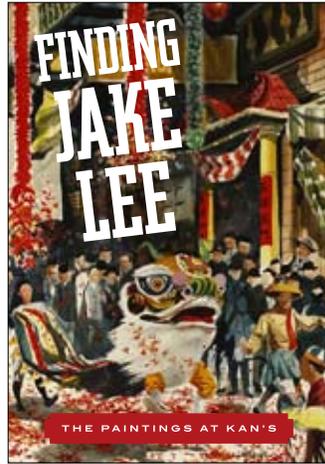
*My master accepts a commission from a restaurant owner—Johnny Kan in San Francisco—makes a deal to paint scenes about Chinese people in the pioneer days Jake goes and studies up on the gold rush days and railroading and farming, you know, HISTORY. This goes on for a year before he even puts brush to canvas.”*

“Soliloquy of a Young Artist” will be performed

by Jaemyong “Jay” Lee, of Saratoga High School. Jay played the lead in *Jekyll and Hyde*, a musical play performed at Saratoga High School Theatre this spring. He also portrayed Sgt. Sing Kee, WWI hero for Heritage Day in Saratoga, May 20, 2011.

CHSA Executive Director will offer remarks on the recovery story of the Jake Lee paintings in advance of the soliloquy.

This event is free with admission to the CHSA Museum. Please call (415)391-1188 x101 or email [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org) to RSVP or with any questions.



CHSA Collection

## CHINATOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011  
1-7 PM AT PORTSMOUTH SQUARE IN SF CHINATOWN  
ADMISSION IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Come enjoy a day of great music, an exciting new visual arts exhibition, and hands-on arts activities in celebration of Chinatown's stunningly diverse and vibrant culture.

From Latin jazz to Old School R&B to traditional Chinese music to the innovations of Chinese American composer Jon Jang, the second annual festival promises to be a highlight of San Francisco's music scene!

CHSA Artist-in-Residence Charlie Chin will offer a sneak peek of his new *History Alive!* program “Sun Yat-Sen and the Three People's Principles” later that afternoon.

CHSA is co-sponsoring the *Chinatown Music Festival* in association with the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, Asian ImprovArts, API Cultural Center, Chinese Community Development Center, and Chinese Progressive Association.

## Presenting “Reflections” by Lenora Lee Dance

**R**eflections, the new interdisciplinary work by Lenora Lee Dance, will be performed at CounterPULSE in SF from September 8-11, 2011.

The piece explores the experiences of creating community and a sense of place by succeeding generations in Lenora's family and community, beginning with her grandfather, who immigrated through Angel Island in 1922. In honoring his efforts to achieve dignity and self-realization, Lenora also address today's challenges for Chinese men facing assimilationist pressures in the mainstream American culture.

Lenora Lee Dance in collaboration with Kei Lun Martial Arts & Enshin Karate, South San Francisco Dojo. It features



Courtesy of Lenora Lee Dance

media design by Olivia Ting, music by Francis Wong, text by Genny Lim, and videography by Ben Estabrook.

*Reflections* is presented through the CounterPULSE Artist Residency Commissioning Program, in partnership

with Asian ImprovArts, API Cultural Center, Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, & Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation.

For more information, please visit [www.counterpulse.org](http://www.counterpulse.org) or email [lenora@asianimprov.org](mailto:lenora@asianimprov.org).

## FREE ADMISSION TO CHSA

In celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the Museum, during the month of November–December 16, the CHSA Museum is thrilled to offer free admission to the general public!



Free Museum Admission is sponsored by PG&E.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO CHSA!

Celebrating a Decade at the Historical YWCA Building!

Asian Improv aRts Salutes the 10th Anniversary of the CHSA Museum With a musical performance by Francis Wong and special guests

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1PM  
CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM  
965 CLAY STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108

Free with museum admission. Please call 415-391-1188 x101 or email [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org) to RSVP. A discussion with the musicians will follow the performance.

Co-Presented by Asian Improv aRts  
[www.asianimprov.org](http://www.asianimprov.org),  
[www.chsa.org](http://www.chsa.org)

# CHSA Photo Collection featured on History Pin website

CHSA recently began a project of digitizing its celebrated photography collection and posting it online to History Pin. History Pin is a global history project that allows you to compare historic photos to their modern day locations. While allowing you to explore the early days of Chinatown, this site also showcases neighborhood changes. Please check back often for new photos are regularly added.

History Pin has allowed the CHSA Museum to make available information that was previously only available to a select group of researchers. Sharing our vast photography collection and the stories captured in the images furthers our mission of presenting Chinese American history while promoting the



CHSA Collection

As seen on History Pin: Fong Fong Bakery, a beloved Chinatown institution located on Grant Ave between Washington & Jackson Streets, 1936-1985.

contributions and legacy of Chinese America.

Please view this online

resources at: <http://www.historypin.com/profile/view/CHSA%20Museum/>

## Frank Wong Miniatures displayed at Sonoma State University's "Art of Immigration"



Courtesy of Michael Schwager

Artist Frank Wong's charming scene of "Chinese Laundry" on display at Sonoma State University's latest exhibit.

**C**rossing the Invisible Line: *The Art of Immigration*, an art exhibit dealing with the immigrant experience in America, opened Friday, May 6, in the University Library Art Gallery on the Sonoma State University campus, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park. The show was organized by SSU students and runs through July 31.

"It will include the work of about seven artists, including Bay Area notables such as Enrique Chagoya, Hung Liu, and Favianna Rodriguez, as well as historical artifacts and objects from the Chinese Historical Society of America in San Francisco and the Sonoma County Museum," said Michael Schwager, SSU art history professor and director of the gallery.

# CHSA Hosts America's Cup China SF Team Reception



Photo courtesy of David Perry & Associates

A reception for the China Team in preparation of the 34<sup>th</sup> America's Cup was held on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm at the CHSA Museum.

## 2011 Second Saturday Programs Flourish at CHSA Museum

Throughout 2011, the second year of the Museum's Second Saturday programs have flourished with a series of relevant events.

January began with Professor Mae Ngai's "The Lucky Ones" Book Reading, moving into the exhibit opening of "Finding Jake Lee: The Painting at Kan's" in February, and Artist Frank Wong's presentations of his Miniature Chinatown Scenes in March.

Spring sprang in with Oliver Chin's "Year of the Rat" reading for children in April followed by a sold-out walking tour in May by Artist-in-Residence Charlie Chin "From the Gold Rush to the Gilded Ghetto: 1850-1950, An SF Chinatown Restaurant." Summer kicked off with an edifying "Empire of Silver"



Photo by Judy Hu

Artist Frank Wong shared his Miniature Chinatown Scenes at CHSA's Second Saturday Presentation in March 2011.

Film Presentation by Director Christine Yao in June and a

"Conserving Jake Lee Art" Talk by Karen Zukor in July.



## CELEBRATING THE ERA OF PING-PONG DIPLOMACY

CHSA was proud to co-sponsor, along with Asia Society and the Chinatown YMCA, a star-studded celebration of the 40th anniversary of "Ping Pong Diplomacy" at the main branch of the San Francisco Public Library on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

This event featured some of the original players—from both the US and the People's Republic of China (PRC)—from the 1971 delegation as well as today's champions play matches, and hear their thoughts on 40 years of sport, sports diplomacy, and the strong ties between the US and China today—what has become the most important bilateral relationship in the world.

40 years ago, the world changed for the better. Despite the long political divide between the U.S. and the PRC following WWII, China cracked open the diplomatic door and allowed in the first Americans in two decades.

What sparked this sudden opening? Ping Pong. The courage of two athletes—one from each country—started the process that led to President Nixon's historic visit to China in 1972. Now the Bay Area welcomes a Chinese delegation of table tennis Olympians and sports officials, including members of the team who played in the original matches in 1971.



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](mailto:judy@chsa.org).

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**Bulletin**  
CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM



The Chinese Historical Society of America presents

**voice &  
VISION**

**2011 GALA DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
6 pm Reception & Silent Auction  
7 pm Dinner



**FOUR SEASONS HOTEL**  
757 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

*Black-Tie Optional*

With Special Recognition of  
San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee  
United States District Judge Edward M. Chen

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Please call 415.391.1188 x101  
or email [judy@chsa.org](mailto:judy@chsa.org)

