



Bulletin 簡報

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM Winter 2011 | Vol. 47, No. 2

Chinese Recreation Center To Be Renamed For 9/11 Hero Betty Ong

On October 20, 2011, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission voted unanimously to name the Chinese Recreation Center for Betty Ann Ong, a true American hero who acted selflessly and courageously during the 9-11 attack.

Betty Ong was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11 on September 11, 2001. She was reportedly the first person to contact airline ground control when the plane was hijacked and deliberately flown towards the World Trade

Center. In her calm and professional manner, she reported the dangerous circumstances on board and relayed seat numbers of the hijackers. Ong was also a San Francisco native who grew up in Chinatown.

CHSA is honored to have testified at the Commission in favor of this renaming. Chinatown's public buildings and institutions have for a long time carried the geographical appellation of "Chinatown" or "Chinese" in their names. Our community's personal or individual histories are by and large un-



Betty Ong Foundation
Flight Attendant & San Francisco native Betty Ong

recognized, and are not known by the general public. In naming the new Betty Ann Ong Chinese Recreation Center, we begin the process of recovering and reclaiming our stories.

Construction of the new center is expected to be completed in early 2012. Watch for the re-opening announcement.

NOV/DEC
is
FREE
at
CHSA



Free Museum Admission is sponsored by PG&E.

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We hope you enjoy a refreshed design of the Bulletin to mark CHSA's 10th Year Celebration.

California State Budget Cuts Affect Historic Chinese American Sites

Earlier this year, the Department of Parks and Recreation released a list of 70 California State Parks that will be permanently closed to the public as a result of the \$22 million budget cut.

This is the first time in the 100-year history of California's state park system that the closures will be implemented. The plan to close 25% of California's state parks in July 2012 will impact all regions of California and the natural and historical resources that the parks protect.

The list includes two state parks that hold irreplaceable significance in Chinese American history and the cultural heritage of California, the Weaverville Joss House & Temple, and China Camp in Marin County.



Photo by Jeffrey Rhea

Weaverville Joss House & Temple is one of the California State Parks scheduled to be closed on July 1, 2012.

WEAVERVILLE JOSS HOUSE

The Weaverville Joss House was built in 1853 by Chinese miners who came to seek their fortune during the Gold Rush and is still in operation as a

Taoist temple today. Destroyed by two separate fires, the temple was reconstructed in 1874. Weaverville once had a thriving community of approximately

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China Camp & Weaverville Sites Face Closure

FROM PAGE 1

2,000 Chinese immigrants. Due to anti-Chinese riots and discriminatory laws, the Chinese population diminished. By 1931, there were only 16 residents of Chinese descent left. In 1938, after the temple was robbed, local businessman Moon Lim Lee, a descendant of one of the original miners who built the temple, dedicated his life and savings to the preservation of this temple.

In 1956, the temple was donated to the State of California and became a part of the California State Park system. Since then, many of the historical objects have been restored and the structure itself stabilized.

Home to rare Chinese art objects, photographs, mining tools, and other artifacts, the Joss House now faces the threat of permanent closure in July 2012.

CHINA CAMP

Facing the same fate is China Camp State Park near San Rafael. With a population of 500 in the late 1870s, China Camp



Photo by Rob Dweck

China Camp State Park in Marin County, California faces closure in July 2012.

was a booming shrimping village that had its own legal, educational, and medical systems. It served as a temporary shelter for Chinatown residents fleeing the 1906 earthquake and fire. Eventually, laws banned shrimping during peak seasons and prohibited the export of shrimp, effectively putting Chinese fishermen out of business.

Frank Quan's grandfather stayed and ran a general store. The family later operated a cafe and rented boats to visitors. After a stint in the Navy, Quan returned to China Camp and continued the family business. Now 85 years old, Quan has re-

mained the sole resident of the camp. Facing eviction in July 2012, Quan said, "... this is the last camp ... where there was enough left to save. If they close it down, it'd be destroyed."

As Jerry Emory, Director of Communications California State Parks Foundation, points out, even though local efforts have begun to try to save these parks, there are no definitive plans yet. The closure of 70 state parks to "save" \$20 million dollars would mean that valuable resources, such as nature and living history, will be forever cut off from the public. The loss and ramifications would be devastating.

HELP SAVE OUR PARKS!

To save our parks, California residents are urged to stay up-to-date on the status of these parks by visiting <http://mag70.calparks.org>

US Senate Passes Resolution of Regret For Chinese Exclusion Act Companion House Bill Awaits Committee Action

On October 6, 2011, Senate Resolution SR201 was passed unanimously! Expressing regret for the passage of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and other discriminatory laws that restricted the civil rights of Chinese immigrants, the resolution was sponsored by Senator Scott Brown (R-MA) and co-sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). Senator Brown's support for the bill was in part an acknowledgment to his state's history; Massachusetts's Senator George Hoar voted against the original 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act.

As reported in the Summer 2011 edition of the *Bulletin*,

CHSA's landmark travelling exhibit *Remembering 1882* provided a key rallying point for a national historic movement seeking an apology for the Chinese Exclusion Act. A coalition of national organizations, including the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the Committee of 100, the National Council of Chinese Americans, and OCA, united under the umbrella of the 1882 Project after viewing *Remembering 1882* in Washington DC.

Both the US House and Senate introduced resolutions apologizing for the Chinese Exclusion Act on May 26, 2011. The companion House bill HR 282, introduced by US Representatives

Judy Chu (D-CA), Judy Biggert (R-IL), Mike Coffman (R-CO), and Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) was referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Prominent Chinese American and civil rights organizations continue to lobby for its passage.

TAKE ACTION

The movement to seek a national apology for the Chinese Exclusion Act is not yet complete. Visit www.1882project.org to find out how you can help!

Rededication of the SF Chinatown/ Him Mark Lai Branch Library



Courtesy of the San Francisco Public Library

The Rededication of the San Francisco “Chinatown / Him Mark Lai Branch Library,” in honor of the late, renowned Chinese American historian Him Mark Lai took place on Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 12 to 2 pm.

Located at 1135 Powell Street in San Francisco’s Chinatown, the festivities included lion dancing and unveiling of honoring plaques, as well as speeches by City Librarian Luis Herrera and Germaine Wong on behalf of the Him Mark Lai Library Committee. Mayor Ed Lee and District 3 Supervisor David Chiu appeared at the event, and special presentations were made (see sidebar, right).



Courtesy of the San Francisco Public Library

This plaque will be displayed at the Chinatown / Him Mark Lai Branch Library in honor of the late historian.

Him Mark Lai: Autobiography of a Chinese American Historian Published

On the occasion of Him Mark Lai’s birthday this November, celebrate with his new autobiography that was just released posthumously!

In his own words, the renowned Dean of Chinese American History shares the moving story of his life, beginning with his childhood through his career as an engineer to his evolution as a community activist and historian. He also provides an intimate portrait of a San Francisco Chinatown family and community developments from the Great Depression of the 1930s to the McCarthy era

of the 1950s, through the Asian American Studies Movement of the 1970s, to the present.

According to UC Berkeley Professor Ling-chi Wang, HML’s rescue, collecting, cataloguing, preservation, and sharing of historical sources in both Chinese and English opened the field of Chinese American history to scholars and researchers in the US and across the Pacific. Generations of historians and writers have relied, and will continue to draw upon HML’s insights & prodigious scholarship.

The editors worked with

the UCLA Asian American Studies Center and CHSA to produce this posthumous volume, which features rare family portraits and supplementary research materials for students, scholars, and anyone interested in Asian American, American ethnic, and overseas Chinese history & life.

Edited by Judy Yung with Ruthanne Lum McCunn and Russell C. Leong. Foreword by John Kuo Wei-Tchen.

Copies are available at the CHSA Museum Store for \$18 (\$20 for non-members).

LIBRARY PROGRAM OF EVENTS

The Rededication of the San Francisco Chinatown / Him Mark Lai Branch Library on December 10, 2011 featured the following projects:

Book launch of *Him Mark Lai: Autobiography of a Chinese American Historian*

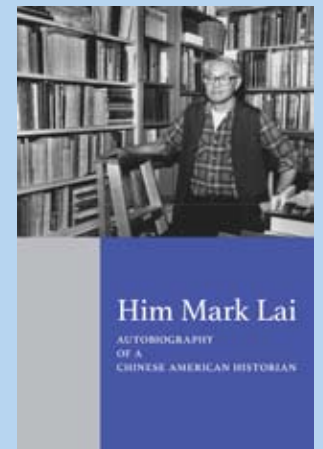
Edited by Judy Yung with Ruthanne Lum McCunn and Russell C. Leong; co-published by UCLA Asian American Studies Center and Chinese Historical Society of America, 2011. The book is being published posthumously & copies are available at the CHSA Museum for purchase (\$18 for members, \$20 for the general public).

Film preview of Felicia Lowe’s work-in-progress, *Barefoot Historian*

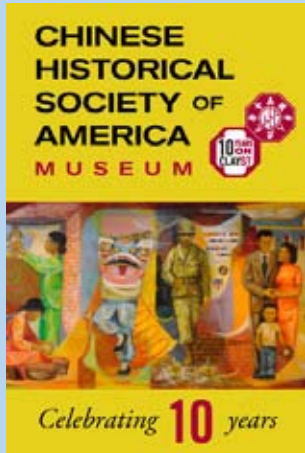
The story of Him Mark Lai and the particulars of documenting an excluded/marginalized group.

Book display of Him Mark Lai Collection

All of Him Mark Lai’s books and major articles on Chinese American history donated by his wife Laura Lai to the library.



**CHSA
MUSEUM
CELEBRATES
TEN YEARS**

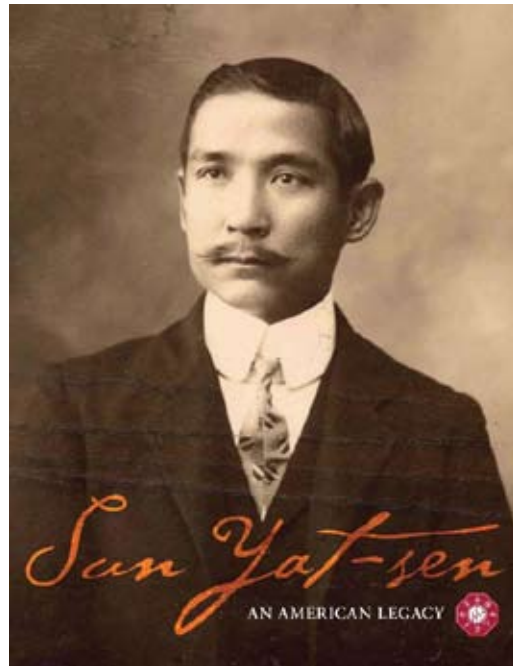


Ten years ago, The Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) opened a Museum in the landmark Julia Morgan-designed Chinatown YWCA Building at 965 Clay Street in San Francisco.

On Saturday, November 12, 2011, CHSA more than 200 people attended a FREE day-long 10th Anniversary Celebration from 11am to 4pm, featuring lion dancing, exhibits, music, refreshments, and talks on Chinese American art, culture, and history.

"Today, our stories are more important than ever. Our 10th Anniversary is a huge milestone to the community—celebrating a decade in our beautiful museum and a half century that CHSA has existed," CHSA Executive Director Sue Lee said. "From our humble beginnings as a historical society with invaluable collections, we are proud to have built up to a museum and learning institution. We look forward to many more years of sharing our remarkable stories."

Sun Yat-sen: An American Legacy



Design by Amy Lam

CHSA presents the latest exhibition in the Philip P. Choy Gallery, *Sun Yat-sen: An American Legacy* about the father of modern China, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, and his travels in America as he rallied financial and moral support from Chinese American communities to the cause of a new China.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the modern Republic of China, the exhibition was organized and curated by historian Connie Young Yu and features her family's collection of Sun Yat-sen memorabilia, including documents, historic photographs, and a brand-new documentary *Dr. Sun at Liberty's Door*. The exhibition weaves together an intricate narrative of Dr. Sun's profound influence on Chinese American families and their pursuit of a just and democratic society.

In conjunction with the exhibition, CHSA is pleased to produce a new *History Alive!* performance, "Sun Yat-sen & The Three People's Principles" (see story below). Copies of *Dr. Sun at Liberty's Door* are for sale at the CHSA Museum Store.

Sun Yat-sen & the Three People's Principles *History Alive! Performances run through June 2012*

This fall, CHSA premiered the unique story of Dr. Sun Yat-sen's life in America before returning to be the first provisional President of the Republic of China. This *Chautauquan* museum theater presentation features renowned writer, historian and performer, Artist-in-Residence Charlie Chin.

This project illuminates the linkage between the modern history of China with the history of Chinese American communities. This Centennial of the 1911 Chinese Revolution is a key teaching moment shared by Chinese throughout the global diaspora.

As such, this project 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. This project not only upholds the achievements of the past, it creates the foundation for the

future of the community.

If you know of any schools, museums, or community groups that may be interested in a performance, please email info@chsa.org.



Designed by Amy Lam

This performance will be available to the public now to June 2012 throughout the Bay Area FREE of charge, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors:



Hanmin Liu & Jennifer Mei of the WK Kellogg Foundation

"Sun Yat-sen & the Three People's Principles" will also be presented on the following dates & times:

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2012
AT 1:30 PM
Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94607
(510) 238-2200

SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2012
AT 1PM
History Expo at The Old Mint
88 Fifth Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 537-1105 x110

Upcoming CHSA Programs in 2012

CELEBRATE LUNAR NEW YEAR AT CHSA!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2012
1PM AT CHSA MUSEUM

A surprise special musical performance will take place at the museum! Stay tuned for more information.

THE WORLD OF DONG KINGMAN

By James Wong Howe

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012,
1PM AT CHSA MUSEUM

This rare, exceptional archival film from 1954 showcases painter Dong Kingman at work in New York's Chinatown, as shot by master cinematographer James Wong Howe. Join us for this very special event.

NEW ART & HISTORY SHOW COMING 2012

CHSA will launch a new art exhibition in April 2012, with programming to coincide with Asian Pacific American Heritage month in May. Contemporary Chinese American artists will be invited to develop new works that are integrated within CHSA's historical exhibits. Further details will be announced soon.

Musings of a Pop Cultural Icon: A Talk with Ben Fong-Torres

Saturday, January 14, 2012, 1 pm at CHSA Museum

Join Author & Rock Icon Ben Fong-Torres as he speaks about his illustrious history with the rise of rock n' roll at the first Second Saturday of 2012 at the CHSA Museum on Saturday, January 14, 2012 at 1 pm.

Ben Fong-Torres was born in Alameda, California, in 1945, and raised in Oakland's Chinatown, where his parents owned a restaurant. He attended San Francisco State College from 1962 through 1966, majored in Radio-TV-Film and served as a reporter and editor of the campus daily.

Fong-Torres began writing for *Rolling Stone* magazine in 1968, in its eighth issue. Prior to that, he had a full-time job at another publication: Pacific Telephone's employee magazine and by night, he was a volunteer editor at *East West*, a bilingual Chinatown newspaper. In May, 1969, Ben joined *Rolling Stone* as news editor. His interview subjects included Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones, Ray Charles, Paul McCartney, Elton John, Stevie Wonder, the Jackson 5, Linda Ronstadt, Neil Diamond, Diana Ross, Marvin Gaye, the Grateful Dead, and Ike & Tina Turner.

He was the host of KQED-FM's live, weekly arts show. For Citv Radio, and has co-anchored



Courtesy of Ben Fong-Torres
Ben Fong-Torres (left) and Art Garfunkel (right) mimic a famous album cover.

KTVU-TV's coverage of the Chinese New Year Parades since 1997. He and co-anchor Julie Haener have won three Emmys. Ben left *Rolling Stone* in 1981 and has since written for dozens of magazines, including *Esquire*, *GQ*, *Parade*, *Playboy*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Travel & Leisure*, *American Film*, *TV Guide*, and *Harper's Bazaar*.

In 1983, Fong-Torres joined the *San Francisco Chronicle*, where he was a feature writer and radio columnist and where he continues to write the Radio Waves column on Sunday. He is also a prolific published author,

including his memoirs *The Rice Room: From Number Two Son to Rock and Roll* (1994), *Not Fade Away: A Backstage Pass to 20 Years of Rock & Roll* (1999), which was followed by a second collection, *Becoming Almost Famous*, in 2006. He wrote *The Doors by the Doors* (2007), *Grateful Dead Scrapbook* (2009), and *Eagles: Taking It to the Limit* (2011). He contributes articles to AsianConnections.com and writes a regular music blog at Wolfgang's Vault's site. He is a real-life character in *Almost Famous*, the 2000 film by Cameron Crowe.

The event is free with Museum Admission. Please call (415)391-1188 x101 or email info@chsa.org to RSVP.

"Reflections" Presentation by Lenora Lee

Saturday, April 14, 2012, 1 pm at CHSA Museum

Lenora Lee's interdisciplinary work "Reflections" integrates historical research, personal narrative, and artistic processes utilizing dance, video projection, martial arts, and Chinese lion dance.

Inspired by stories of three generations of men as they realize their identity and community as Chinese Americans, "Reflections" transforms perception into insight in a process that is at once provocative and affecting.

Lee will share insight into her motivations, artistic craft, and exploration of cultural themes embedded in the work through commentary and video. These themes include the struggle to find one's place and one's community in a rapidly changing cultural and global environment.

"Reflections" by Lenora Lee Dance is produced in collaboration with Kei Lun Martial Arts & Enshin Karate, South San Francisco Dojo, featuring



Courtesy of Asian Improv Arts

media design by Olivia Ting, music by Francis Wong, text by Genny Lim, and videography by Ben Estabrook. Please visit www.LenoraLeeDance.com for more information.

Chinese American Leaders Honored at CHSA's Voice & Vision 2011 Gala

Mayor Edwin Lee, Judge Edward Chen, and Attorney General David Louie Receive History Maker Awards For Their Achievements

The Chinese Historical Society of America honored the achievements of three outstanding Chinese Americans at a gala dinner on September 17, 2011, at the Four Seasons Hotel in San Francisco.

The "Voice & Vision Gala: Honoring the Spirit, Fortitude, & Enduring Legacy of Chinese Americans" gave tribute to San Francisco Mayor Edwin M. Lee, United States District Judge Edward M. Chen, and Attorney General of Hawaii David Louie, whose achievements are significant milestones in Chinese American history.

The program featured MSN-BCNews Anchor and San Francisco Chinatown native Richard Lui as Master of Ceremonies, with musical entertainment by Beach Blanket Babylon cast member Stephanie Harwood, who gave a spirited rendition of "San Francisco."

Attorney Dale Minami and Congresswoman Mazie Hirono of Hawai'i introduced the honorees. Multimedia presentations included a video greeting by Senator Dianne Feinstein and video interviews of Judges Harry Low and Edward Chen about the impact on Chinese American history of the US District Court for the Northern District of California.

Introducing the program, CHSA Executive Director Sue Lee described the three honorees as "emblematic of the generation who were influenced by the activism of the 1960s and 70s." All three became lawyers and shared a common dedication to public service, achieving positions that impact the lives of thousands of Americans.



Photo by Alan Ling

CHSA's Voice & Vision 2011 Gala luminaries: Presenter Dale Minami, Judge Edward Chen, Congresswoman Mazie Hirono, Master of Ceremonies Richard Lui, Hawai'i Attorney General David Louie, CHSA Executive Director Sue Lee, and Mayor Edwin Lee.



Photo by Alan Ling



Photo by Frank Jang

Top: Mayor Edwin Lee accepts the CHSA History Maker Award. Bottom: Attendees enjoy the dinner and gala festivities at Four Seasons Hotel in San Francisco.



Left: Stephanie Harwood of Beach Blanket Babylon sports a hat of the San Francisco skyline.

Below: CHSA Board Member Connie Young-Yu with retired Judge Harry Low.

Photo by Frank Jang



Photo by Frank Jang



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.

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Bulletin
CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CHSA!

We are inviting you to renew your CHSA Membership for 2012 with a contribution of \$50, \$100, \$250 or more. *Your participation is essential*—we could not survive without your support!

This is no ordinary time to actively carry out the stewardship of the Chinese American community narrative. This year, our visibility has reached new heights with the ascendancy of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and the appointment of Judge Ed Chen as the first Chinese American to the Northern District of the Federal Court.

Your generous donation to CHSA enables us to create and present exhibits such as *Remembering 1882*, *Finding Jake Lee*, Charlie Chin's *History Alive!* theater work "Sun Yat-sen and the Three People's Principles," and to care for both our historic building and our invaluable CHSA collections which serve as source material for our community's remarkable stories.



Photo by Barcelon & Jang



PLEASE RENEW OR PURCHASE A CHSA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

We also invite you to make a year-end donation of \$1,000 / \$2,500 / \$5,000 or more. Employer-matches are especially welcome! All contributions are tax deductible (federal tax ID #94-67122446). Contact us at (415) 391-1188.