



Jan/Feb 2006

CALENDAR OF CHSA EVENTS & EXHIBITS

Jan 5 Family Appreciation Day. CHSA & other city museums free for families who live in San Francisco. More info at www.sfgov.org.

Jan 17 Opening of Dragons, Drums, Floats, and Firecrackers, an exhibition of the history of the San Francisco Chinese New Year Parade. Philip P. Choy Gallery.

Jan 19 Book reading of John Jung's *Southern Fried Rice: Life in a Chinese Laundry in the Deep South*. CHSA Learning Center, 7 pm.

Jan 21 CHSA Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Empress of China Restaurant, 838 Grant Avenue, SF. 12 pm, \$35 member, \$50 non-member.

Jan 26-29 Chinese New Year events and programs with Rosemary Gong, Oliver Chin, and Charlie Chin. CHSA Learning Center. See *Bulletin* article on page 4 for details.

Feb 4-5 Chinese New Year events and programs with Charlie Chin. CHSA Learning Center.

Feb 16 Conversations between Generations: Collecting Stories for the Angel Island Oral History Project, presented by the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. CHSA Learning Center, 1:30 pm.

Feb 23 Exhibition reception for Talk Story: An American Family, with artist Flo Oy Wong and curator Lenore Chinn. CHSA Museum. 5:30 pm.

Feb 25 In Search of Roots Presentation by 2005 Interns. Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, 750 Kearny Street, 3rd Floor. Time TBA. More info: (415) 986-1822, www.c-c-c.org.

All CHSA events are free to members, except as noted

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

CHSA 2006 Spirit Award

HONORING LORRAINE DONG, PHD
FOR EXTRAORDINARY DEDICATION

CHSA is very pleased to honor **Lorraine Dong** with our **2006 Spirit Award**

for her astonishing dedication to CHSA. Beginning in 1990 as a newly-inducted CHSA board member, Lorraine's tireless and energetic commitment to CHSA spanned fourteen years until her retirement from the board in 2004. During these years, she served as president for six terms, not to mention a number of other board offices, as *Bulletin* editor, chair of numerous committees and annual galas, and as CHSA's volunteer interim executive director in 2003. She also served on the leadership group that coordinated CHSA's transition period, culminating in the move to the Julia Morgan-designed YWCA building.

Lorraine was born, raised, and educated in San Francisco Chinatown. She received her BA (*summa cum laude*) and MA from San Francisco State University, and her PhD from the Dept. of Asian Languages and Literature from the University of

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1906 Earthquake Centennial

LOOK FOR THESE UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Chinatown is Burning! Historian/performer Charlie Chin will bring 15-year-old Hugh Liang to life, sharing the quake survivor's life experiences with audiences of all ages. Check performance schedules on www.chsa.org or arrange a group performance (schools, churches, etc.) through Leonard Shek at lshek@chsa.org.

Earthquake: The Chinatown Story will present the impact of the quake on Chinatown and its residents. Scheduled for the Philip P. Choy Gallery beginning in April, look for updates in future *Bulletins*.

Earthquake Centennial Dinner
April 17, Palace Hotel, San Francisco.



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Conversations Between Generations

**COLLECTING STORIES FOR THE
ANGEL ISLAND ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1:30-3:00 PM, CHSA



Since fall 2004, college students have been conducting interviews to collect the experiences, recollections, and impressions of immigrants who came through Angel Island Immigration Station during its years of operation, from 1910 to 1940. Interviewees and their interviewers will be reunited for a conversation about the process of recording first-hand experiences of immigrating to

the United States through Angel Island. Speakers will share their process of recording oral histories, lessons learned, and how these personal narratives will be used for future generations. This program is co-sponsored by CHSA, Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, and the Pacific Regional Humanities Center based out of UC Davis. For more information, contact AIISF at (415) 561-2160 or info@aaisf.org.

Honoring Lorraine Dong

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Washington in Seattle. Lorraine was also a former Rockefeller and Fulbright fellow. She wrote *Sewing Woman*, an Oscar-nominated documentary about a Chinese immigrant woman in America, and co-wrote two other award-winning Chinese American films, *Lotus* and *Forbidden City, USA*. In addition to publishing essays and articles, she co-authored the book, *The Coming Man, 19th Century American Perceptions of the Chinese*, with Philip P. Choy and Marlon K. Hom. Lorraine is currently professor and acting chair of Asian American Studies at SFSU.

The CHSA Spirit Award is one of our highest honors, established to acknowledge our volunteers and the unsung heroes who have given extraordinary time and energy to our organization. Please join us at our annual meeting to honor Lorraine's amazing dedication to CHSA and to the Chinese American community.

CHSA ANNUAL MEETING & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

**Saturday, January 21, 2006
Empress of China Restaurant
838 Grant Avenue, San Francisco
Reception 11:00 am, Luncheon 12:00 PM
\$35 CHSA member, \$50 nonmember**

Honoring Lorraine Dong, PhD
Featuring "Chinatown is Burning!"
a preview performance by Charlie Chin
For information, 415 391-1188 or www.chsa.org

Chinese New Year Dragon, circa 1948, courtesy of Benjamin Chinn



Dragons, Drums, Floats, and Firecrackers

CHSA EXHIBIT, JANUARY 17 – MARCH 19

Partnering again with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, CHSA presents the exhibit, **Dragons, Drums, Floats, and Firecrackers!** to honor the tradition and pageantry of the Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco.

One of the largest parades in

the world, San Francisco's Chinese New Year Parade is also one of the oldest in the nation—a uniquely Chinese American celebration with roots in old Chinese traditions.

Designed to attract tourism and business to Chinatown, the parade and the larger Chinese New Year festival draw participants from around the country.

Using photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts from CHSA's collections, the *San Francisco Chronicle* archives, the Chinese Chamber of

Commerce, and other contributors, the exhibit traces the historic and cultural roots of the parade and provides a behind the scenes look at this incredible event. The items and artifacts document the colorful history of a community celebration that represents the strong bond between San Francisco and its Chinese American identity and population.

Visit www.chsa.org for more information on "Dragons, Drums, Floats, and Firecrackers." @

Talk Story: An American Family

JANUARY 10 - APRIL 9, CHSA MUSEUM

San Francisco Bay Area visual artist **Flo Oy Wong** will open 2006 with her new installation, **Talk Story: An American Family**, at CHSA. Featuring monoprints, artist books, drawings, and her signature rice sacks, "Talk Story" acknowledges the influence of Gee Seow Hong, Wong's father, on her artistic calling.

Previously exhibited at many renowned institutions and galleries—such as the Angel Island Immigration Station, the Ellis Island Immigration Station Museum, and the Smithsonian, and local venues such as the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum, Chinese Culture Center, and Oakland Museum—Wong's art is again directly situated in San Francisco Chinatown after her December 2005 opening at the Flomenhaft Gallery in New York. The pieces featured in "Talk Story" evoke memories of family life in Oakland Chinatown, beginning with an incident that nearly took her father's life in Flo's infancy, and moving into her visual expressions of her older siblings' stories.

The exhibition text is bilingual, engaging both English and Chinese-speaking communities with themes of family, narrative art, and sharing family stories. A brochure, produced by "Talk Story" curator Lenore Chinn, includes educational activities for families and classes visiting the show and is available for free from CHSA.

The public reception for "Talk Story" will be held Thursday, February 23, at 5:30 pm. Wong's sisters and brother will also join her for a free family panel presentation on Thursday, March 30 at 7 pm. @



Gee Seow Hong

John Jung: Southern Fried Rice

JANUARY 19, 7 PM, CHSA LEARNING CENTER

What was it like to be a Chinese American child growing up in the deep South in the 1940s? Retired psychology professor **John Jung** recounts his youth in Macon, Georgia and the history of Chinese American communities in the South in ***Southern Fried Rice: Life in a Chinese Laundry in the Deep South*** (2005). His parents, both Cantonese immigrants, operated a Chinese laundry in Macon for over 20 years. Isolated from other Chinese Americans, the Jung family lived between white-black racial tension. Jung's story, crafted from personal memories and archival research, reflects upon the toll of the immigration journey and living in the South on his strong and resilient parents.

Following the book reading, Jung will meet guests and sign books. Free to the public. @

CHSA Programs Presents Family Fun Days for Lunar New Year

Bring your family to CHSA and celebrate Lunar New Year with us! Learn more about Chinese American history at the CHSA Museum and Learning Center and participate in fun activities for all ages.

JANUARY 28

2:00-3:00 PM: SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT!

Rosemary Gong returns to CHSA to talk about her highly acclaimed book, *Good Luck Life: The Essential Guide to Chinese American Celebrations and Culture*. With warmth and wit, Rosemary will share with you the rich traditions Chinese Americans pass on generation to generation.



3:00-4:00 PM: CHINESE AMERICAN FOLKTALES WITH CHARLIE CHIN

Enrich your children's imagination with master storyteller **Charlie Chin** as he skillfully weaves a rich brocade of folktales that have traveled over the oceans and through centuries from China.

JANUARY 29: LUNAR NEW YEAR DAY!



2:00-3:00 PM: THE YEAR OF THE DOG: TALES FROM THE CHINESE ZODIAC

Children's book writer **Oliver Chin** reads from *The Year of the Dog: Tales from the Chinese Zodiac*, his latest book celebrating the year of the dog. This book, the first in a series of twelve, highlights the bravery of a young pup while featuring all 12 animals of the Chinese Zodiac.

3:00-4:00 PM: CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Join us for some **traditional children's entertainment** of Chinese folktales, puppet shows, making paper lanterns, Chinese paper folding, and other activities where children learn auspicious symbols for the celebration of Chinese New Year.

FEBRUARY 4



2:00-3:00 PM: CHINESE AMERICAN FOLKTALES WITH CHARLIE CHIN

Enrich your children's imagination with master storyteller **Charlie Chin** as he skillfully weaves a rich brocade of folktales that have traveled over the oceans and through centuries from China.

FEBRUARY 5

2:00-3:00 PM: CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Join us for some **traditional children's entertainment** of Chinese Folktales, puppet shows, making paper lanterns, Chinese paper folding, and other activities where children learn auspicious symbols for the celebration of Chinese New Year.

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In Memoriam

DOROTHY CHINN WONG, LAWRENCE JUE, JOE YUEY

CHSA is saddened by the recent passing of **Dorothy Chinn Wong**, **Lawrence Jue**, and **Joe Yuey**, all endearing CHSA friends and community leaders.

Dorothy Chinn Wong was a long-time supporter of CHSA beginning in the early days of the organization's founding. She remained a charter member, serving on the board for a term, and providing stalwart support during our capital campaign period to acquire and renovate the YWCA building. Dorothy was also a member in long-standing of the Square and Circle Club.

CHSA recognized **Lawrence Jue** at our 38th anniversary luncheon in 2001 for Distinguished Community Service. A mechanical engineer and naval architect, he was an impassioned champion for the community, leading the fight to preserve Chinatown schools and serving on the committee to save the Angel Island Immigration Station barracks. He was also founder of the Geen Mun Neighborhood Center.

Joe Yuey was one of the major movers and shakers of Chinatown. His legacy includes the creation of the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco, the Chinese Culture Center, his participation on the board of the Chinese American Democratic Club, and his strong backing of Chinese for Affirmative Action. He was the owner of Imperial Palace and later established the partnership to open Tommy Toy's restaurant. ☹

Renew Your CHSA Membership!

Don't forget to renew your membership to the Chinese Historical Society of America! Membership benefits include free admission to the CHSA Museum, a 10% discount in our museum bookstore, invitations to special events, a subscription to our Bulletin newsletter, and a copy of the annual Chinese America: History and Perspectives. Member contributions and donations are essential to our organization. Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your dues for 2006. Thank you for your support of CHSA! ☹

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.

Editor: Marisa Louie || Design: Elaine Joe



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