



Mar/Apr 2006

CALENDAR OF CHSA
EVENTS & EXHIBITS

March 30 Talk Story

Family Panel ■ Artist Flo Oy Wong discusses her family-oriented installation with her prolific siblings: writer Li Keng Wong, poet

Nellie Wong, journalist and author William Wong, and Lai G. Webster. CHSA Learning Center, 7 pm, free to the public.



April 2 Chinese American Voices Book Launch Party ■ Join co-editors Judy Yung, Gordon Chang, and Him Mark Lai in celebrating the recent publication of *Chinese American Voices*. See article in *Bulletin* for more information. Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearny, 3rd Fl., San Francisco, 1 pm, free to the public.

April 4 Earthquake: The Chinatown Story ■ Opening day of the exhibition, *Earthquake: The Chinatown Story*. Philip P. Choy Gallery, CHSA.

April 15 James Leong: Then and Now ■ Opening day of the exhibition, *James Leong: Then and Now*. Frank H. Yick Gallery, CHSA.

All CHSA events are free to members, except as noted.

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

James Leong Confronting My Roots

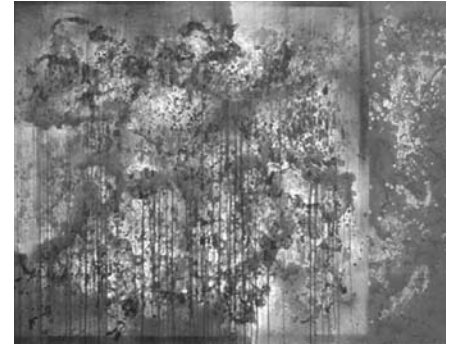
APRIL 18 - AUGUST 20, 2006
CHSA FRANK H. YICK GALLERY

In 1956, artist James Leong set sail for Norway, never to live again in his native San Francisco. His work returns to

Chinatown in the exhibition **James Leong: Confronting My Roots**, opening April 18 at the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum and Learning Center.

Curated by Irene Poon Andersen, the show features Leong's most recent paintings, which meld his guiding theme, nature, with the issue of Chinese ethnic identity in America.

James Leong was born in 1929 in San Francisco Chinatown. His work as reporter and ad salesman for the Chinese Press put him on the radar of Chinatown businessmen, who commissioned him to paint a mural for the newly built Ping Yuen Housing Projects. The mural, which now hangs at CHSA, was met with stiff criticism by the community for its depiction of the history of Chinese in America. Hurt by this backlash



James Leong's *Tiananmen*

and feeling stifled by an overstimulating Beat-era North Beach art scene, Leong sought opportunities to work and paint elsewhere. Following his graduation from the California College of Arts and Crafts, he received a Fulbright Fellowship to live and study in Norway. After decades in Europe, spent working out of a studio at the American Academy in Rome and dealing with mostly "Eurocentric" imagery, Leong began to grapple with the impact of the 1989 Tiananmen Square student uprising - and his dormant Chinese American identity. Leong returned to the United States and settled in Seattle in 1991, where he continues to work.

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See **SINCE THE QUAKE** calendar inside this issue for a listing of all 1906 Earthquake Centennial events. And look out for a special **1906 Earthquake Centennial** edition of CHSA's *Bulletin* in early April, with essays about the Great Quake and Fire and more extensive information about our exhibition, programs, and activities.

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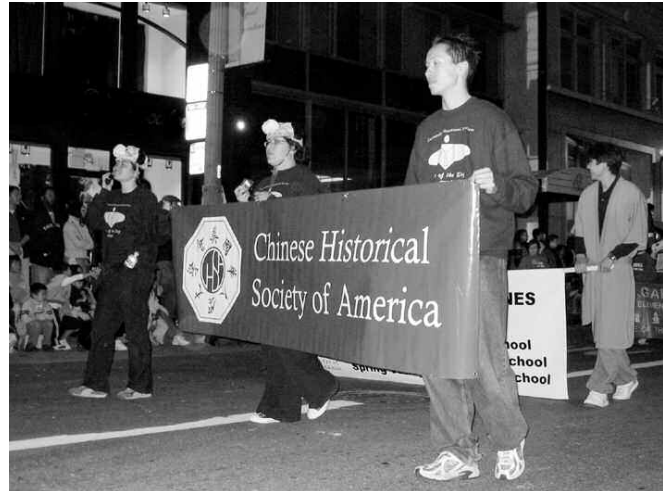
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Chinese New Year Parade



CHSA congratulates community partners **Chinatown Beacon Center (CBC)** and **Community Educational Services (CES)** on being judged the **"Best Community Organization Float"** in **San Francisco's 2006 Chinese New Year Parade**.

**CHSA IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING
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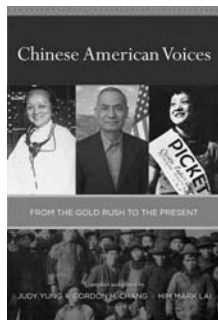
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Chinese American Voices: From the Gold Rush to the Present

BOOK LAUNCH PARTY | SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2006, 1 PM



Railroad builder Chin Gee Hee at work in Seattle, WA (Courtesy of University of Washington Libraries).

Chinese American Migration History Tour

CHSA will once again join the Asian American Studies Department at San Francisco State University for the next Chinese American Migration History Tour, tentatively scheduled for **December 27, 2006 to January 13, 2007**. The tour will trace Chinese America trans-Pacific cultural and ancestral heritage. Participants will travel on the original migratory path of the Cantonese people, from Meiling Pass (Tang dynasty) and Nanxiong Zhujixiang Settlement (Song dynasty) in northern Guangdong, to historical sites relevant to Cantonese migration and Chinese American history. If time permits, tour participants are taken to their ancestral homes/villages in the Pearl River Delta. Co-leaders Professors Marlon Hom and Lorraine Dong will provide onsite lectures. Among the places tentatively scheduled for the tour are:

- Representative Chinese American homes/villages and their unique gun towers
- Various overseas Chinese museums: Hong Kong History Museum, Macau History Museum, Nanxiong Museum, Jiangmen Overseas Chinese Museum, and Taishan Museum

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The Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco, Chinese Historical Society of America, and University of California Press will host a book party to celebrate the publication of **Chinese American Voices: From the Gold Rush to the Present**, co-edited by **Judy Yung, Gordon H. Chang**, and **Him Mark Lai**, at the Chinese Culture Center (750 Kearny, 3rd Floor, San Francisco Chinatown.) A program introducing the book and its contributors will begin at 2 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

Fifteen years in the making, *Chinese American Voices* is a diverse and illuminating collection of primary documents and stories by Chinese Americans from their arrival during the California gold rush to the present. Many of the letters, speeches, testimonies, oral histories, personal memoirs, poems, essays, and folksongs have never been published before or have been translated into English

for the first time. They bring to life the diverse voices of immigrants and the American-born; laborers, merchants, and professionals; ministers and students; housewives and prostitutes; and community leaders and activists. *Chinese American Voices* is published by the University of California Press (www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/10306.html).

Judy Yung is Professor Emerita of American Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and author of *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*; Gordon H. Chang is Professor of History at Stanford University and author of *Morning Glory, Evening Shadow: Yamoto Ichihashi and His Internment Writings, 1942-1945*; and Him Mark Lai is past president of CHSA and author of *Becoming Chinese American: A History of Communities and Institutions*.

For more information or to for advance book reservations, call CHSA at (415) 391-1188 ext 101. ☎

Gum San Shakes

APRIL 8, 1-3 PM | HISTORY PARK IN KELLEY PARK, 1650 SENTER ROAD, SAN JOSE

A lecture by *Chinatown, San Jose, USA* author and historian **Connie Young Yu** commemorating the 100th anniversary of the 1906 Earthquake and the impact on Chinese American communities from San Francisco to Monterey. For more information call (408) 268-2180 or email speakerserieschcp@yahoo.com. ☎

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2006 AT THE CHINESE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA**

PHOTOS BY FRANK JANG



Southern Fried Rice author John Jung signs a book for CHSA member Ernest Chann.



Reception for Dragons, Drums, Firecrackers and Floats: A Chinese American Tradition.

Above, CHSA Board Member Connie Young Yu admires the parade exhibit.

Artist Flo Oy Wong talks about her father's portrait with her grandson, Ben Halperin.

Photographer and past CHSA exhibitor Benjamen Chinn with Flo Oy Wong.



CHSA ANNUAL MEETING & VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

JANUARY 21

EMPRESS OF CHINA RESTAURANT

PHOTOS BY FRANK JANG

CHSA volunteers Sylvia Joe Louie and Mamie Moy at the check-in table.



2006 CHSA Spirit Award recipient Lorraine Dong with daughter Laureen and husband Marlon Hom. Below, in her acceptance speech, Lorraine honors the volunteers who worked alongside her.



Philip Choy recognizes his grandson Michael Choy's Eagle Scout project work improving CHSA collections storage space with a certificate at the luncheon.



Above, 2006 CHSA Spirit Award recipient and past CHSA President Lorraine Dong with outgoing 2005 CHSA President Willard Chin.

Charlie Chin performs as earthquake survivor Hugh Liang in a preview of the original performance "Chinatown is Burning!"



Left, longtime CHSA members Emma Woo Louie and Paul Louie enjoy Charlie Chin's "Chinatown is Burning!"

Since the Quake

PREVIEW CALENDAR OF 1906 EARTHQUAKE CENTENNIAL EVENTS & PROGRAMS

In 1906, Chinatown was a bustling, diverse center of activity in the heart of San Francisco. On Wednesday, April 18, at 5:12 am, the City experienced the worst natural disaster in U.S. history—the 1906 Great Earthquake and Fire. The Chinese Historical Society of America invites you to commemorate the century **Since the Quake** as we celebrate the rebirth of San Francisco Chinatown. Discover more about the event that changed and galvanized the future of Chinese Americans in the United States.

“EARTHQUAKE: THE CHINATOWN STORY” EXHIBITION

APRIL 3–SEPTEMBER 18, CHSA MUSEUM

Explore the Chinese experience during the 1906 Great Earthquake and Fire through documents, survivor stories, photographs, and artifacts in this landmark exhibition. Hear from Chinatown’s own residents and families who survived the devastation and witnessed the rebuilding of an even more vibrant community.

“CHINATOWN IS BURNING!”

Thrown awake by the earthquake, 15-year-old Hugh Liang evacuated his home in Chinatown to embark on a courageous journey of survival in a city in crisis. Meet Hugh in this Chautauqua presentation featuring performer Charlie Chin as he recounts this amazing story and the rebuilding of Chinatown. Learn about Hugh’s vaudeville life with the Chung Wah Quartet and crooning over American radio airwaves.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1 PM Performance at Family Art Encounter, Asian Art Museum. Includes hands-on crafts activities for children. Program included in museum admission.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2 PM Premiere performance in Chinatown, Chinese Culture Center (750 Kearny, 3rd Floor, SF) Free for CHSA and CCC members, \$5 general public.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2 PM Performance at Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, Main Branch. Free to the public.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 3 PM Performance at the Oakland Museum of California’s firsthand accounts program in conjunction with “Aftershock!” exhibit. Program included in museum admission.

READING WITH MILLY LEE, AUTHOR OF EARTHQUAKE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2 PM, CHSA LEARNING CENTER

Learn about one Chinese American family’s experience during the 1906 earthquake through *Milly Lee’s Earthquake!*, based on her mother’s true story.

CHINATOWN AFTERSHOCK SCAVENGER HUNT

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 10 AM–2 PM

Participate in this educational scavenger hunt through Chinatown, which will highlight how Chinatown has grown and changed since 1906. For grades 4-12. Pre-registration required.

LECTURE WITH ERICA PAN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2006 7PM CHSA LEARNING CENTER

Erica Pan, author of *The Impact of the 1906 Earthquake on San Francisco’s Chinatown*, discusses the struggle to rebuild Chinatown following the 1906 earthquake.

CANTONESE OPERA AND THE 1906 EARTHQUAKE: LECTURE BY WILLIAM HU

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 10 AM, CHSA LEARNING CENTER

Meet Dr. William Hu, respected Chinese culture expert, who will lecture on the relationship and parallels between the 1906 Earthquake and Cantonese Opera.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.CHSA.ORG OR CALL (415) 391-1188

Willie Woo Woo Wong

HONORING THE "BIGGEST LITTLE MAN IN BASKETBALL"



AP / 1950

On Friday, February 10, 2006, San Francisco's Park and Recreation Commission renamed Chinese Playground on Sacramento Street as **Willie "Woo Woo" Wong Playground**. San Francisco City Supervisor Aaron Peskin, City Park and Recreation Commissioners, and representatives of the Mayor and Senators Boxer and Feinstein attended the dedication sponsored by Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the advocacy group which lobbied for the re-naming. A reception hosted by St. Mary's Chinese Day School was held afterwards at Far East Café.

Born in 1926, Willie "Woo Woo"



Wong, a graduate of St. Mary's Chinese Day School, was a pre-eminent basketball star of the 1940s and 1950s. He learned to play basketball at Chinese Playground as a youngster, with a tennis ball and then a basketball given to him by an uncle. Standing at 5 feet 5 inches tall, he started at Poly and Lowell high schools, led the prestigious San Francisco Saints Chinese Basketball team, and played for the 1949-1950 University of San Francisco varsity squad. Wong gained his nickname "Woo Woo" when fans called his Chinese name "Woo" in succession to encourage him. Wong became the first Chinese American to play in New York City's Madison Square Garden, in the elite National International tournament. Woo continued to play competitively, eventually working as a warehouseman and settling down in Newark, California with his wife Jennie and their children. Woo passed away on September 5, 2005 after a battle with leukaemia. ©

Sources: Chinese American Citizens Alliance, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Losing Chinese American History

SAN PABLO AVENUE
CHINATOWN DEMOLITION

In 1867, a fire of unknown cause destroyed Oakland's "official" Chinatown, at the site of today's Telegraph Avenue and 17th Street. According to the history recorded by Edward Chew, son of newspaperman Ng Poon Chew, city authorities denied the Chinese Oaklanders the right to rebuild, selecting a new "official" Chinatown location east of San Pablo Avenue, around 19th and 20th streets.

The northward extension of downtown development soon led to a number of politicians and businessmen setting sights on redeveloping the land of the San Pablo Avenue Chinatown. In the 1870s, at least two efforts to dislocate Chinatown had been attempted. Now the site is being again redeveloped, and the state-mandated archaeological protections—activated through the efforts of CHSA, the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, and others—mean we may finally have the chance to learn the story of these early Oaklanders.

Community members continued research about the site's history, which in the spring of 2005 led to a new discovery about the historic buildings on the former site of the Chinatown even while developer Forest City continues to demolish the small historic buildings on the edge of the redevelopment site.

A progress report on the current archaeological excavations is slated for the March 15 meeting of the Oakland City Planning Commission. For more details see UptownChinatown.org. ©

James Leong

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In his long career, Leong has exhibited widely, in institutions and events such as the Whitney Museum Annual, Gimpel Fils Ltd. (London), the Brooklyn Museum Biennial, Carnegie International (Pittsburgh, PA), the Princeton Art Museum, and the Corcoran Gallery. CHSA welcomes James Leong and his art back to San Francisco, in a show themed after Leong's struggle and reconciliation with identity and his native city.

A public reception, featuring artist and special guest James Leong, will be held Monday, May 15 at 6 pm at CHSA's Museum and Learning Center. For more information, call (415) 391-1188 or visit our Web site at www.chsa.org.

Volunteer at CHSA!

CHSA seeks enthusiastic, hard working volunteers with an interest in Chinese American history and culture to provide administrative and front desk support with our day-to-day operations. If you have good communication skills and a friendly manner with the public, and if you would like to help out on a weekly or monthly basis, please call Operations Administrator Candace Tom at (415) 391-1188 ext. 101 or email her at ctom@chsa.org.

Migraton History Tour

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

- Opium War Memorial and Museum in Humen
- 1893 Gold Mountain Charity Cemetery in Xinhui
- Sun Yat-sen Residence and Museum in Zhongshan
- Yellow Flower Hill 72 Martyr Memorial in Guangzhou
- Residence of Chun Afong (who was married to a Hawaiian princess) in Zhuhai
- Residence of Chin Gee Hee (a railroad builder from Seattle) in Taishan
- Garden Villa of Xie Weili (a Chicago merchant) in Kaiping
- Foshan Zu Temple and Huang Feihong Martial Arts Academy

For more information, please email info@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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