



May/June

CALENDAR OF CHSA EVENTS & EXHIBITS

May 5 "2005 United States of Asian America" Gala Opening. Join the cast and crew of San Francisco's premiere APA arts festival. SomaArts, 934 Brannan, San Francisco, 5pm.

May 7 "Between the Bricks," a free youth concert for APA Heritage Month, featuring local singer Natalise, hiphop & spoken word artist Denizen Kane, and Ill-Literacy. Joice Alley, next to CHSA, 1pm.

May 14, 21 & 28 "Becoming American" screenings. View the three parts of Bill Moyers's series examining the Chinese American historical and cultural experience. Presented by the San Francisco Public Library. Chinatown Branch Library, 1135 Powell, San Francisco, 2:30pm.

May 18 "Searching for Asian America" screening. This 2003 documentary profiles former Washington State Governor Gary Locke and actress/illustrator Lela Lee on a journey across the U.S. in search of Asian America. Presented with NAATA. CHSA Learning Center, 7pm.

May 22 Asian Heritage Street Fair, the largest all-Asian event in San Francisco, featuring community and vendor booths, live entertainment, and food & drink. Japantown (Post between Laguna & Fillmore), San Francisco, 11am to 6pm.

Current Events

"The Art of Win Ng: A Retrospective," through July 24

"Trading on Fear" Trade Cards from the Daniel K.E. Ching Collection, through July 31

CHSA Board Meetings

CHSA Board meets 4th Tuesday of every month, Wells Fargo Learning Center, 6:30pm

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

For more information, call (415) 391-1188 or visit our website at www.chsa.org.

FRANK H. YICK & COMPANY

Chinese Restaurant Equipment Manufacturer

By Calvin Fung

Frank H. Yick (1890-1970)

was born January 29, 1890 in San Francisco Chinatown as the eighth of fourteen American-born children.

For many years his father ran a cigar manufac-

turing business on Pacific Street (now Avenue) only a block from where his son would relocate his sheet metal shop a half century later. As a youth, Frank worked at his father's shop and learned the carpentry trade, carrying his toolbox with him, doing repairs throughout the neighborhood.

Following the earthquake and fire of 1906, the family was

As part of the CHSA Naming Opportunity Program, we are proud to announce that Mabel Yick Louie has secured the prominent Stage Gallery in honor of her father Frank H. Yick. The Stage Gallery will be permanently named the Frank H. Yick Gallery. An event will be announced in the coming months to introduce the new gallery. Mr. Yick was honored by CHSA in the 2003 Gala "Woking Through Time: The Chinese Food Experience in San Francisco." For information about naming opportunities, contact the CHSA office.



Frank Yick sporting a new look.

without a home with only a few personal belongings survived. Frank left behind his treasured toolbox to carry his younger sibling who was injured from falling debris. The Yick family relocated to Oakland, California and Frank opened a hardware store and carpentry business later run by his younger brothers. By 1925, he completed his license and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**CHINESE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF
AMERICA**

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**HONORING APA HERITAGE MONTH:
Between the Bricks Youth Concert**

To celebrate **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**, the Chinese Historical Society of America will present **Between the Bricks**, a free youth concert from 1 to 4pm on May 7 in Chinatown's Joice Alley (next to the CHSA building). The concert will feature hip hop and spoken word poet **Denizen Kane** of I Was Born with Two Tongues and Typical Cats, the nationally-renowned youth poetry group **Ill-Literacy**, and pop singer **Natalise**. CHSA hopes that **Between the Bricks** will inspire youth to explore art, music, history, and poetry.

Coinciding with Cameron House's annual Carnival, the concert will draw in youth as CHSA opens its museum doors to the public for a free admission day. CHSA Program Coordinator

CHSA ONLINE!

With thanks to the industrious **Allen Yee** of **cloudred multimedia**, CHSA has expanded its website to include a weblog (popularly known as a blog, for the internet savvy.) Click to **<http://www.chsa.org/blog>** for regular news and updates concerning Chinese America. We'll post news releases from sister organizations and other bits that come across CHSA's radar.

For regular e-mail updates about our events, subscribe to CHSA's **e-newsletter**. Send a blank e-mail to **chsa-news-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**.

Leonard Shek will co-host the event with Jane Kim, Chinatown Community Development Center's Community Organizer and Youth Programs Coordinator. As part of the event, the two will pose trivia questions on Asian Pacific American history. Those with correct answers will receive prizes donated by local companies.

Sterling Bank and Trust and **Portsmouth Plaza Garage Corporation** are proud to foster the creative energy of youth through their financial support of CHSA's Heritage Month events. For information, to volunteer, or to donate, contact **Leonard Shek** at **(415) 391-1188 x107**.

**INFORMATION
WANTED ON
SUEY B. WONG**

Irene Poon Andersen, professor at SF State University and CHSA board member, is researching artists who were part of the **1935 Chinese Art Association exhibition** at the M.H. de Young Museum in San Francisco. The material will be for a show in 2007 at CHSA. I am seeking information and examples of work by **Suey B. Wong** who was active in Chinatown in the 1930s. Please contact **Irene Poon Andersen** at **(415) 338-1166** or email **Andersen@sfsu.edu**.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

2005 Biography Contest for 4th & 5th Graders Poetry Contest for High Schoolers

To celebrate **Asian Pacific American Heritage Month**, CHSA is sponsoring contests to raise student awareness about the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans, and the voices of young Asian Pacific Americans.

Students in **4th and 5th grade** are invited to participate in our **biography contest**, which will prompt them to research, illustrate, and write about a prominent Asian Pacific American. Through the **poetry contest**, Asian Pacific American **high school students** will be encouraged to reflect upon the question: "What does it mean to be Asian American?"

All participants who submit entries to our contest will receive a certificate of participation. Winning entries will be chosen by late May, and will receive recognition and a prize.

Entries must be submitted by **Friday, May 20** to CHSA, 965 Clay Street, San Francisco, CA 94108. Forms, guidelines and rules are available for download at www.chsa.org. For more information, please call **(415) 391-1188 x107** or send an email to apabioccontest@chsa.org.

Sterling Bank & Trust proudly supports CHSA's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month programming. ♻️

ART OF WIN NG



Win Ng's family at the April 13 opening of The Art of Win Ng

Over 200 guests joined CHSA, curator Allen Hicks, and the Win Ng family for the opening of **The Art of Win Ng: A Retrospective**, on April 13. Many who had known Mr. Ng personally or professionally shared their memories of him, and those unfamiliar with his work as an artist made an instant connection upon seeing signature **Taylor & Ng** ceramicware pieces.

Win Ng's family and friends met with his admirers and searched for a sponsor who will financially support the effort to travel this landmark exhibition to museums nationwide. Also in attendance was Dr. Emily Sano, Director of the Asian Art Museum. Negotiations are currently pending to accept Mr. Ng's work into the Asian Art Museum, which would render Win Ng the first American-born Asian artist in its collections.

The exhibition, which includes ceramic sculpture, paintings, and kitchenware from private collections and the Win Ng Trust, unveils many pieces which have never been publicly displayed. **The Art of Win Ng will be open through July 24 in the Stage Gallery.** ♻️

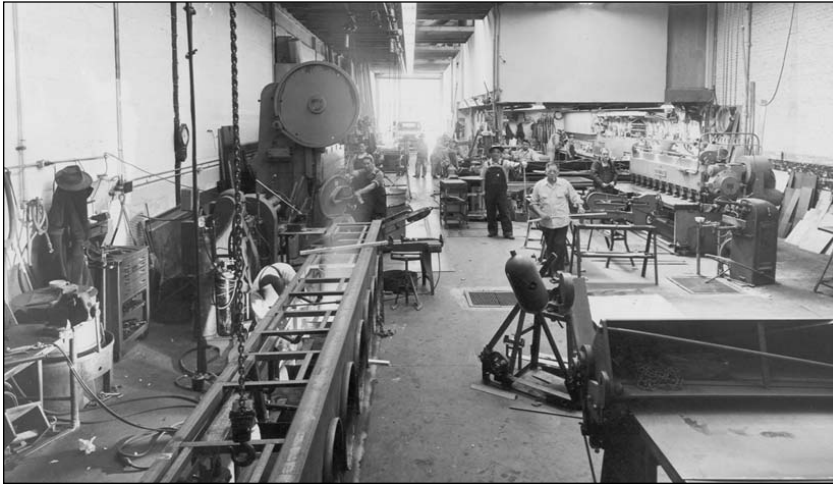
LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE!

The Chinese Americans' **Experiences with Racism Project** would love to hear your input!! The project is a four-year study being conducted by **Dr. Alvin Alvarez** of the **Department of Counseling at San Francisco State University**. The project is funded by the National Institutes of Health with a first year goal of examining Chinese and Chinese Americans' experiences with racism and its implications for their psychological well-being. It is hoped that the results of this project will sensitize clinicians, researchers, and professionals-in-training to the consequences of racism on Chinese Americans. Participants will complete a packet of surveys at a time and place convenient to you. The study is completely voluntary, confidential, and anonymous. To be eligible for the study, you must be: (a) 25 years or older, (b) identify as Chinese or Chinese American, and (c) have lived in the U.S. for 10 years or more. In return for your time and insights, you will be compensated with \$25.

To schedule a time and/or to ask more questions about the study, please contact us at race@sfsu.edu or **(415) 793-3164**. We would be happy to speak with you. ♻️

Frank H. Yick & Company

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Fabricating shop

started the Frank H. Yick & Co., a sheet metal and general contractor business on 300 8th Street.

At the time, restaurants cooked by brick stove fueled by wood or coal, a slow and arduous method. Yick was determined to make a more efficient stove and launched his vision of a gas range that would revolutionize the world of cooking, making the process more efficient, fast and clean. His first models made of iron had limitations since it would rust. By the time stainless steel became readily available in the late 1940's, he invented the first stainless steel gas fueled wok and began working entirely with this material, which allowed more flexibility in fitting customers' specifications.

In 1930, Yick relocated the company to San Francisco and set up a small fabricating shop at 670 Washington Street, just east of Kearny Street. Shortly after, Yick bought an empty lot on Nob Hill and in 1935 began building a large home to provide for his

growing family. Business thrived in the 1950's and Yick purchased an approximately 10,000 square foot building at 772 Pacific Street in the heart of Chinatown to expand the operation.

Though it took a while for Yick ranges to catch on, his innovative Chinese-style gas ranges were installed in over 300 restaurants in San Francisco and were shipped to Hong Kong, South America, Alaska, and the South Pacific. In 1965, Empress of China Restaurant hired Yick to install a 75-foot-long range, with water-cooled stainless steel counters, dozens of cooking surfaces, wells, and large exhaust vents. The Hunters Point Naval Shipyard had a 48-inch diameter range made to feed the military servicemen, and woks were used in California farms to cook large quantities of food for field workers.

Yick's expertise was not limited to ranges. He invented the circular gas heating element for the wok stove, manufactured gas-fired ovens that roasted whole pigs,

designed and built restaurants, built homes and much of the architecture that still grace many of the old buildings in Chinatown such as the classic Chinese roofs and balconies.

Over his lifetime Frank made many contributions to the San Francisco community. He was active with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce and for many years built elaborate floats for the annual Chinese New Years parade. He was instrumental in relocating the Kong Chow Association from Pine Street to the current site on the fourth floor of the Kong Chow building at 855 Stockton Street. Mr. Yick contributed his expertise to the building of the Buddha's Universal Church at 720 Washington Street. He fabricated sheet metal at his shop, trained workers on sheet metal work, contributed his trucks, lent construction equipment, and sent over his employees occasionally for specialty work.

Frank's company was a true family business. He and his four sons, Robert, Leroy, Arthur, and Albert, ran the lucrative business with great success. His daughter, Mabel Yick Louie, was also an active member of the company primarily in operations. Frank Yick's concept of the gas-fueled wok is still being manufactured by the company he founded and is now owned and run by the next generation of family. ♣

Interviews with Mabel Yick Louie, Arthur Yick, Sandy Louie, and Jackson Fung assisted in the writing of this article.

2006 LEGACY WALL CAMPAIGN

CHSA is beginning its annual campaign for the Legacy Wall, inviting individuals, families, and organizations to make a tax-deductible contribution towards a special project chosen for the year. This year's Legacy Wall campaign will be dedicated to programs and exhibitions that will showcase the impact of the 1906 quake on Chinatown and the rebuilding of the Chinese community.

Organizations throughout the City will observe the centennial of the 1906 Earthquake next year. CHSA's

commemoration will focus on the aftermath of the quake. In many ways, the 1906 San Francisco earthquake was a defining moment for Chinese America. The destruction of public records at City Hall opened the door for many Chinese to enter as paper sons and daughters of American citizens. Without this act of nature, Chinese American communities would not have been revitalized with the new influx of family members. The earthquake also destroyed Chinatown's buildings, which led to the reconstruction of a new Chinatown catering to tourists. The now "classic" look of Chinatown's

architecture is clearly a Chinese American invention, a re-imagined public face of our community.

Last year's Legacy Wall campaign generated donations to help make the Daniel E. Ching Collection more accessible to the public. As promised, "Trading on Fear" an exhibit of trade cards from the Daniel E. Ching Collection is currently showing in the Philip P. Choy Gallery through July 2005.

Those wishing to contribute or obtain more information should contact Russell Ow at row@chsa.org or 415 391-1188 x 104.

YES! I would like to contribute to the CHSA 2006 Legacy Wall at the following level:

- Platinum Level \$10,000 +
- Gold Level \$5,000 +
- Silver Level \$2,500 +
- Bronze Level \$1,000 +
- OTHER AMOUNT \$ _____

Name of donor(s) _____

Address, city, state & zip _____

Check enclosed payable to **CHSA** in the amount of \$ _____

If paying by VISA or Mastercard:

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Signature _____

Please return form to: CHSA, Attn: Legacy Wall, 965 Clay St., San Francisco, CA 94108.
Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID #94-6122446.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR ROTATING GALLERIES

Our exhibitions continue to draw interest. In the Philip Choy Gallery, we began 2005 with "Parade in the New Year," now replaced by "Trading on Fear," an exhibit of advertising trade cards dating from the 1800's. Later this year, we will

show political cartoons from the 1800-1900s. In the Stage Gallery, we began the year with our New Acquisitions, followed by Indigo Som's "Mostly Mississippi," and now "The Art of Win Ng: A Retrospective." Chinese brush painter, C.C. Wang will be fea-

tured in our Stage Gallery (soon to be Frank Yick Gallery) in the second half of the year. Our rotating galleries are an important outreach tool for CHSA. The exhibitions in and of themselves are an important statement that these works by Chinese American artists deserve to be viewed and enjoyed by the public. They also help to attract new audiences to CHSA. That's why we are placing so much emphasis on the commemoration of the 1906 Earthquake next year. We want to take advantage of the interest that will be generated throughout the City and to educate the general public about the role that Chinatown played in the rebuilding of San Francisco. ♻

Save the Date!

Chinese American Studies Conference

PRESENTED BY CHSA AND ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES
DEPARTMENT AT SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY

Branching Out the Banyan Tree: A Changing Chinese America

Oct 7-9, 2005, Radisson Miyako Hotel

CHECK WWW.CHSA.ORG FOR UPDATES

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

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