



May/June 2006

CALENDAR OF CHSA EVENTS & EXHIBITS

May 2 Featured APA Month Author: Li Keng Wong reads from *Good Fortune: My Journey to Gold Mountain*. CHSA Learning Center, 2 pm.

May 7 Chinatown is Burning! Performance by Charlie Chin. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak Street, Oakland, 2 pm, free with museum admission.

May 12 Featured APA Month Author: Belle Yang reads from *Hannah Is My Name*. CHSA Learning Center, 2 pm.

May 15 Reception for James Leong: *Confronting My Roots*. CHSA Museum, 6 pm.

May 18 Extending: *Sharing Art & Culture in China* panel discussion. Participants from the October 2005 China Art/Culture Exchange will talk about their experiences. CHSA Learning Center, 7 pm.

May 20 Featured APA Month Author: Paul Yee reads from *The Bone Collector's Son*. CHSA Learning Center, 2 pm.

All CHSA events in May free to the public

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

THANK YOU!!

By Sue Lee, CHSA Executive Director

Our 1906 Earthquake project is a rousing success! With the help and support of many individuals, families, organizations, and funders, CHSA was able to take full part in an opportunity that only comes around every 100 years. Thank you for helping us share the stories of Chinese American quake survivors, and the long-neglected story of what happened to San Francisco Chinatown.

Local, national, and international media have visited CHSA to cover our exhibition **Earthquake: The Chinatown Story** for their audiences: print media such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, local TV broadcasts on KPIX, NBC11, ABC, and KTSF, and NPR radio commentaries on Talk of the Nation and local affiliate KQED. *Sing Tao Daily*, one of the nation's largest Chinese language newspapers, has been an especially

active partner in relating stories about the quake. Working with our quake project research, *Sing Tao Daily* published a quake centennial booklet that was inserted in their April 15th Bay Area edition.

CHSA's outreach through the Centennial has helped us build relationships with other historic Chinatown institutions and historical societies, such as First Chinese Baptist Church, Gum Moon Women's Residence, the California Historical Society, and the Society of California Pioneers.

After learning about our Quake Project, history authors Douglas Westfall and Henry C. Koerper connected CHSA with a woman from Southern California who had a special donation. During our April 10th exhibition reception, Mrs. Pat Williams "returned" a sugar and creamer set that had been looted from Chinatown and then given to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

SEE OUR PHOTO SPREAD OF CHSA'S MARCH/APRIL EVENTS PAGES 6 & 7



Opening reception for Earthquake: The Chinatown Story on April 10th.

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In Memoriam: Jade Snow Wong

The Chinese Historical Society of America mourns the recent passing of Jade Snow Wong, author, ceramicist, and native San Franciscan. Born in 1922, Wong grew up in Chinatown and attended San Francisco City College and Mills College. A class in pottery introduced her to the livelihood and the craft that she would work in for the rest of her life. Wong's pottery and enamelware gradually gained nationwide acclaim, and she moved from Chinatown to a studio and travel agency on Polk Street on Russian Hill. In 1945, Wong penned her autobiography *Fifth Chinese Daughter*, still widely read as classic Asian American literature. Women around the world identified with Wong's struggle to forge an identity outside of her family and cultural expectations; the book became a PBS special in 1976. In 2002, Wong exhibited at the Chinese Historical Society of America in *Jade Snow Wong: A Retrospective*. ❧

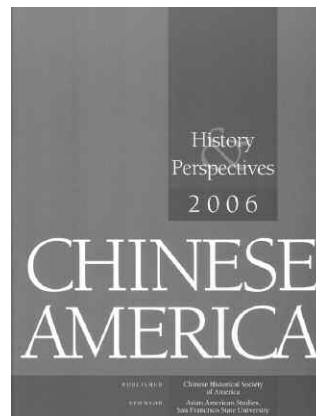


Source: *San Francisco Chronicle*, Mills College

Chinese America: History & Perspectives

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Have you had a chance to read the insightful articles in this year's *Chinese America: History and Perspectives*? The 2006 edition of the "H&P" is made possible through the expertise and hours of critical review by the volunteer editorial committee. CHSA thanks Colleen Fong, Marlon K. Hom, Madeline Y. Hsu, Him Mark Lai, Laurene Wu McClain, Ruthanne Lum McCunn, Russell Jeung, and Lorraine Dong. ❧



2006 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

AUTHOR APPEARANCES AT CHSA



Li Keng Wong

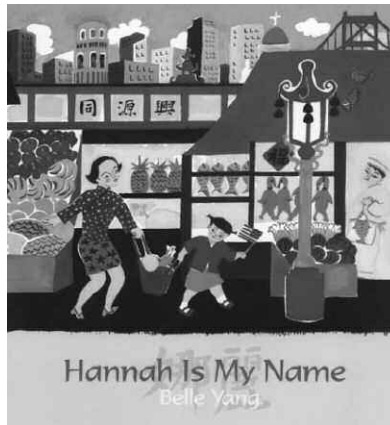
GOOD FORTUNE: MY JOURNEY TO GOLD MOUNTAIN

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2 PM

AGES 9 AND OLDER

In *Good Fortune: My Journey to Gold Mountain*, a book for young readers, Li Keng Wong shares the account of her journey to the United States from China through Angel Island Immigration Station, and her family's settlement in Oakland Chinatown.

Li Keng Wong was the first person in her family to attend college. An elementary school teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than thirty-five years, she frequently speaks to groups about her family's immigration experience. Ms. Wong is currently involved in the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation and was featured in the Disney documentary "American Tapestry." This is her first book for young readers. ☞



Belle Yang

HANNAH IS MY NAME

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 2 PM

AGES 4 TO 8

Based on the author's journey to the United States as a child, *Hannah Is My Name's* Na-Li comes to America from Taiwan in 1967. While adjusting to her new "American" name, "Hannah," the young immigrant waits with her parents for the green cards that will allow them to remain in their new country.

An author and painter, Belle Yang has developed a remarkable style that draws on her rich cultural background, influenced not only by childhood memories of Taiwan and Japan and her experience of immigrating to the United States at age seven, but also by her studies in Scotland and China. Yang has written and illustrated four books and has participated in solo museum shows. She lives in California. ☞



Paul Yee

THE BONE COLLECTOR'S SON

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2 PM

AGES 12 AND UP

In *The Bone Collector's Son*, 14-year-old Bing-wing Chau is forced to help his reckless father, the community's bone collector, dig up skeletons to send back to China for burial. Set at the moment of the anti-Chinese riot in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada in 1907, Bing learns to settle troubled ghosts and heal his father.

Third-generation Chinese Canadian Paul Yee is the author of several books on the experiences of the Chinese in Canada. A historian by training, he has produced award-winning works of non-fiction (including *Saltwater City*, winner of the Vancouver Book Prize) as well as fiction for children, such as the collection of ghost stories, *Tales From Gold Mountain*. Yee's books explore such themes as discrimination, identity, assimilation, and other realities of living between two cultures. Born in Saskatchewan but raised in Vancouver, he lives and writes in Toronto now with his Wheaten Terrier, Baxter. ☞

CHSA Annual Gala

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2006 ☞ San Francisco Marriott Hotel ☞ 4th & Mission

Exhibitions at the Chinese Historical Society of America

EARTHQUAKE: THE CHINATOWN STORY

CHSA is excited to report that **Earthquake: The Chinatown Story**, the first exhibit to tell the story of San Francisco's 1906 Earthquake and Fire from the Chinese American perspective, has received widespread press and scores of visitors since opening April 3. Timed with the centennial of the quake, **Earthquake: The Chinatown Story** features the stories of earthquake survivors in photos, artifacts, and multimedia features. The exhibit also tells the story of the attempt to relocate Chinatown, and of the Chinese community's fight to remain. When you come to see **Earthquake: The Chinatown Story**, don't forget to pick up a free special commemorative centennial button pin, sponsored by Connie Young Yu. Open through September 18 in the Philip P. Choy Gallery. ☞



Earthquake: The Chinatown Story in the Philip P. Choy Gallery.

JAMES LEONG: CONFRONTING MY ROOTS

Curated by Irene Poon Andersen, James Leong: **Confronting My Roots** shows the latest work of painter and San Francisco native James Leong. Leong, who painted the mural *One Hundred Years' History of the Chinese in America*, permanently installed in CHSA's Learning Center, worked in Europe from the 1950s-1980s. After the Tiananmen Square student uprising in 1989, Leong returned to the United States and began to reconnect with his Chinese American identity. A catalog, featuring an autobiographical essay by James Leong, is available in the CHSA bookstore. Open through August 20 in the Frank H. Yick Gallery.



James Leong's Tiananmen, 1989

For more information about CHSA exhibitions, please contact Exhibitions Coordinator Marisa Louie at (415) 391-1188 ext. 104, mlouie@chsa.org. ☞

Share Your Earthquake Stories

Are you the descendant of an earthquake survivor, or do you have an earthquake-related story to share? CHSA welcomes your stories as we continue to compile and collect these pieces for our "Since the Quake" project. Please contact Marisa Louie at mlouie@chsa.org, (415) 391-1188 ext. 104. ☞

Extending: Sharing Art & Culture in China

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 7 PM

CHSA WELLS FARGO FOUNDATION LEARNING CENTER

In October of 2005, Flo Oy Wong, a Sunnyvale-based installation mixed media artist, led an arts and cultural exchange to the People's Republic of China. The delegation, composed of artists, writers, business people, and an urban planner, presented at universities, colleges, and art academies in Beijing, Xian, and Shanghai.

Flo will be joined by Lenore Chinn, a San Francisco-based artist, curator, and consultant, and Allison Chop, manager of an environmentally sound grocery, to discuss the state of contemporary art in China and to share their art and cultural presentations. Flo and Lenore will show images of delegation artists and images from the



Delegation at 798 Factory gallery in Beijing, China.
Photo by Lenore Chinn.

798 Gallery District in Beijing, the ShanghART Gallery, District in Shanghai, and the Beijing Biennale. Allison will talk about her role as a manager of Whole Foods and share the information she presented to the audiences in China.

This event is co-presented with the Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center's United States of Asian American Festival. ✎

COMING THIS SUMMER...

"The Craft of Storytelling" Workshop with Master Storyteller Charlie Chin

MONDAYS FROM
JUNE 5-26, 7-9 PM
CHSA MUSEUM
& LEARNING CENTER



Learn storytelling skills and craft in this class offered by "Chinatown Is Burning!" performer Charlie Chin. After completing this program, which consists of four two-hour sessions, participants in the program can interview to be storytellers or re-enactors for CHSA programs. This workshop series is co-presented with Kearny Street Workshop (www.kearnystreet.org).

Workshop fees are \$40 per person for CHSA or KSW members; \$60 for the general public. For more information, please contact Program Coordinator Leonard Shek at (415) 391-1188 ext. 107 or lshek@chsa.org. ✎

Chinatown is Burning!

FINAL PERFORMANCE!

Even if the centennial has already passed, interest in hearing the Chinese American perspective on life in 1906 has not waned. **Chinatown is Burning!** is scheduled through May at various public and private schools in San Francisco. This **History Alive! Chautauqua** presentation developed by CHSA Artist-in-Residence **Charlie Chin** has amused and educated audiences from kindergarten to adults. Catch the last performance of Chinatown is Burning! in the "Shocking Stories" program at the Oakland Museum of California on Sunday, May 7, 2006 from 2-4 pm. ✎

MARCH/APRIL 2006

**AT THE CHINESE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF AMERICA**

PHOTOS BY FRANK JANG,
CHINATOWN BEACON
CENTER YOUTH



Flo Oy Wong's "Talk Story" Family Panel: The Wong siblings talk about their experiences growing up in Oakland Chinatown.



The audience listens to scholar Erica Pan speak about the rebuilding of Chinatown after the 1906 quake at her lecture, "The Reestablishment of Chinatown After the 1906 Earthquake."



(above) Chinatown Aftershock Treasure Hunters look for answers in a map of Chinatown alleyways.

(below) CHSA Program Coordinator Leonard Shek instructs an Aftershock Treasure Hunt group before they leave Gordon J. Lau Elementary School.

Charlie Chin performs in Chinatown is Burning! at the Chinese Culture Center





(above) **Descendants of earthquake survivor Lo Tuck pose for a family photo at the reception for CHSA's Earthquake: The Chinatown Story exhibition.**



Author Douglas Westfall 'returns' a looted sugar bowl and creamer to Chinatown during CHSA's Earthquake: The Chinatown Story exhibition reception.

EARTHQUAKE: THE CHINATOWN STORY OPENING RECEPTION

SAN FRANCISCO RISING GALA

PHOTOS BY FRANK JANG
CALVIN FUNG, MARISA LOUIE



(above) **Wilmer Fong, son of earthquake survivor Emily Lee Fong, points to himself in a family photograph from the 1930s. Wilmer shared his mother's story with Earthquake: The Chinatown Story researchers.**

(below) **Phil Choy and Wayne Hu during the San Francisco Rising Gala pre-dinner reception.**



(left) **CHSA guests at the Gala with Fireman's Fund Insurance Company CEO Charles Kavitsky (4th from right).**



CHSA guests at the San Francisco Rising Gala.

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Thank You!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her family. These items are now on display at CHSA.

The earthquake marked a new beginning for San Francisco Chinatown and Chinese Americans, and its Centennial is a turning point for CHSA. With our Quake Project as a springboard, we will renew efforts to share the stories of Chinese America, and explore the complexity of the community that emerged after the quake. CHSA invites you to continue helping us give voice to our history!

Many thanks to our "Since the Quake" project sponsors: AT&T, PG&E, Sterling Bank and Trust, Candelaria Fund, San Francisco Foundation, California Story Fund, Zellerbach Family Foundation, Grants for the Arts, Ambassador James C. Hormel. ✎

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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