



## Fall 2005

### CALENDAR OF CHSA EVENTS & EXHIBITS

#### Oct. 29 & 30

Chinatown Haunts—the return of the ever popular ghost story walking tour of Chinatown with storyteller & researcher Alice Tam. Call (415) 391-1188, x107

to reserve. Meet at CHSA Learning Center, 6:30pm, \$5 members, \$15 non-members.

**Nov. 15** Book reading of Hunter College professor Peter Kwong's *Chinese America: The Untold Story of America's Oldest New Community*. CHSA Learning Center, 7pm, free.

**Dec. 5** Book reading of psychologist and professor Jean Chin's *Learning From My Mother's Voice: Family Legend and the Chinese American Experience*. CHSA Learning Center, 7pm, free.

#### Oct. 15–Dec. 3

Exhibit of "True Freedom: Photos and Poems from Jean Parker Elementary." Led by poet Genny Lim and photographer Kallan Nishimoto, two 4th grade classes from SF Chinatown's Jean Parker School explored topics relating to freedom through writing and photography. CHSA Museum Hallway, with museum admission.

#### Jan. 14, 2006

CHSA Annual General Meeting & Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Empress of China Restaurant, 838 Grant Avenue, SF. Time TBA.

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

For more info, call (415) 391-1188 or visit [www.chsa.org](http://www.chsa.org).

## Hundreds Gather Under the Banyan Tree

### 2005 CHINESE AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE WEEKEND REPORT

By Lorraine Dong, Conference Co-Chair

From October 6-9, 2005, the Chinese Historical Society of America sponsored **Branching Out the Banyan Tree**, with San Francisco State University's Asian American Studies Department, the 7th in the series of Chinese American conferences that it began thirty years ago. The estimated attendance was 800, with over 75 sessions, including 11 new book talks, 9 film sessions, and 4 field trips to sites of historic significance.

Conference presenters and participants came from around the country, as well as internationally (Canada, China, Taiwan, and Australia). Of the 290 participants, 60% came from the community, 30% came from the academe, and 10% were students from high school and college. Four high schools and 60 colleges/universities were represented. Additionally, 13 community-based organizations sponsored their own sessions or cosponsored sessions with

CHSA. Highlights included:

- ✧ A kick-off/pre-registration reception on October 6, co-hosted by CHSA and the **Manilatown Heritage Foundation**.
- ✧ Four bilingual and Chinese language panels acknowledging the importance of Chinese language to the understanding of Chinese America, sponsored by the **Lawrence Choy Lowe Memorial Fund** and the **Poon Foundation**.
- ✧ High school students participating in and attending the conference through panels sponsored by CYC (formerly Chinatown Youth Center) and **SFSU President Robert Corrigan's** conference scholarships.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



#### Conference & banquet:

(top) Him Mark Lai & Phil Choy honored at the Making History banquet; (1-r) Chancellor Charles Reed & Henry Der at the Town & Gown luncheon.

More photos on pages 4 & 5

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HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF  
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**A Pictorial  
History of San  
Francisco  
Chinatown**



**C**HSA has contracted **Dr. Judy Yung**, 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*, to write a pictorial history of San Francisco Chinatown. The book will chronicle 150 years of history from the Gold Rush to present day through 200 photos, captions, and brief introductions. Photos will illustrate how Chinatown has been transformed through the years by changing immigration patterns, race relations, socioeconomic and political developments, and globalization. Research will also show how Chinatown has existed simultaneously as a segregated ghetto, tourist attraction, cultural mecca, and a neighborhood where people work, live, shop, and socialize. *San Francisco Chinatown* will be published by Arcadia Publishing Company as part of their "Images of America" series in 2006. ✂

**In Search  
of Roots**

**CALL FOR INTERNS**

**T**he **In Search of Roots** program, co-sponsored by CHSA and the Chinese Culture Center, is accepting applications for 2006. Interns will have the opportunity to document their family history and relate it to the Chinese American experience, through lectures, seminars, and workshops on oral history and archival research. They will also travel to the Pearl River Delta in Guangdong Province in July 2006, where they will visit their ancestral villages and tour sites of significance to Chinese America. Interns should be ages 16-25 years old and must have ancestral origins in the Pearl River Delta. For more information or to obtain an application, visit [www.c-c-c.org/roots/roots.html](http://www.c-c-c.org/roots/roots.html) or contact Program Coordinator Albert Cheng at (415) 986-1822 or email at [alcheng888@aol.com](mailto:alcheng888@aol.com). ✂

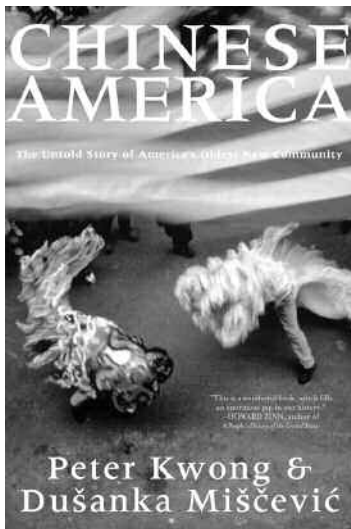
**CHSA Board**

**C**HSA's nominating committee is reviewing candidates for the Board of Directors for the three year term beginning 2006. We are looking for individuals to serve on a working board dedicated to promoting Chinese American history and culture. If you or someone you know possesses the time, interest, and talent, please submit a résumé or biographical paragraph to: Willard Chin, *Chair*, Nominating Committee / Chinese Historical Society of America / 965 Clay Street / San Francisco, CA 94108.

Contact Willard at (415) 972-3797 for more information. ✂

## Peter Kwong's Chinese America

BOOK READING: NOVEMBER 15, 7 PM,  
CHSA LEARNING CENTER



Although Chinese Americans are one of the oldest immigrant groups in the U.S., little attention has been paid to their collective history. Focusing instead on either the wildly successful aspects of their integration into American society or on the painful discrimination and animosity they've experienced, narratives of the Chinese American experience have typically reduced it to simplistic tales of either celebration or victimization.

In the groundbreaking *Chinese America: The Untold Story of America's Oldest New Community* (New Press, October 20, 2005), Peter Kwong and co-author Dusanka Miscevic go far beyond these clichéd depictions, presenting an inclusive and comprehensive narrative of the Chinese experience in America that spans more than one hundred and fifty years.

Combining moving first-hand accounts with impeccable research, *Chinese America* traces the genealogy of the widespread and long-lasting animosity toward Chinese Americans that led to such phe-

nomena as the passing of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882 and their profiling as disloyal aliens during the McCarthy era. However, it also covers the Chinese American success story, including their contribution to building the infrastructure of the nation and their vital role in linking American corporations to China's market in today's globalized economy. Looking well beyond a strictly American context, *Chinese America* traces political changes in China, showing how these changes influence shifting attitudes in American society toward Chinese Americans.

Peter Kwong is the author of *The New Chinatown* (1987), *Forbidden Workers: Illegal Chinese Immigrants and American Labor* (1998), and *Chinatown, NY: Labor and Politics, 1930-1950* (1979). He is a professor at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. ✎

## Learning From My Mother's Voice by Jean Lau Chin

BOOK READING:  
DECEMBER 8, 7 PM,  
CHSA LEARNING CENTER

This fascinating book takes a new and different look at the immigrant experience of Asian Americans. Through the voice of her Chinese mother, the author examines perennial themes of separation, loss, guilt, and bicultural identity in the lives of immigrant families. Grounded in a historical context that spans events of more than a century—World War II, McCarthyism, Civil Rights, the Women's movement—this volume uses oral history to show how families rely upon myth and legend as they adjust to a new culture and illustrates how strong cultural and intergenerational bonds can both support and oppress Chinese American families. Through Asian mythology and symbols, we come to understand the psyche of Chinese Americans and their immigration experience, illustrating the contrasting world views of Asian and Western cultures.

Jean Lau Chin, Ed.D., ABPP is Systemwide Dean of the California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University in San Francisco. She is a licensed psychologist with over 30 years of clinical, educational, and management experience in health and mental health services. ✎

CHINESE AMERICAN STUDIES CONFERENCE

**Branching Out  
the Banyan Tree:  
A Changing  
Chinese America**

AND  
*Making History*

Dinner Banquet



**Pre-conference activities & pre-registration reception (clockwise from top)**  
Guests listen to curator Abe Ignacio's gallery talk; "Ka-TOON-ayan" exhibit at Manilatown Center; dedicated SFSU volunteers.



**Friday, October 7 sessions (pre-lunch)**

(l-r) Lim Mar's immigrant portraits collage; Joyce & Wing Mar of Chinese Historical Society of So. Calif.; Bill Wong lectures on Oakland Chinatown project; CYC-sponsored panel discussion.



**Town & Gown luncheon featuring CSU Chancellor Charles Reed & Henry Der**  
(l-r) Chancellor Reed & SFSU President Robert Corrigan greet guests; Leung's White Crane Lion & Dragon Dance Association; Sarah & Phil Choy with Henry Der & Jimmy Park Li.



**Chinese American Faculty & Staff Association reception for CSU Chancellor Charles Reed** (l-r) Chancellor Reed; guests at reception; Lorraine Dong chats with guests.



**Friday, October 7 sessions (post lunch)**  
*(l-r) Youth Speaks; China City, Los Angeles panel; APA Politics panel; high school youth.*



**VIP reception for Gary Locke** *(l-r) Stephen Adams, Agnes Lam, Lillian Sing, & Scott Seligman; Phil Choy, Mona Locke, Gary Locke, & Him Mark Lai; Emma Woo Louie, Paul Louie, Willard Chin, Gary Locke, Sue Lee, Cathie Lam, & Agnes Lam*



**Making History banquet honoring Phil Choy & Him Mark Lai** *(l-r) Sarah & Phil Choy with SF Supervisor Aaron Peskin; Sue Lee honoring Gary Locke after his keynote speech; Him Mark Lai, Laura Lai, Sarah Choy, & Phil Choy; Him Mark Lai & Phil Choy cut the cake.*

**Chinese American Museum & Historical Society Caucus** *(l-r) Museum of Chinese in the Americas; representatives from the 20 historical societies and museums joining the caucus.*



## BANYAN TREE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

✎ Luncheon keynote speeches by community activist **Henry Der**, on what the Chinese American community needs to do to improve the current K-12 educational system, and **Chancellor Charles B. Reed**, who shared how the CSU system is responding to Chinese America's post-secondary educational needs.

On October 8, a caucus of 18 organizations involved in Chinese American history—including representatives from Canada and Australia—gathered to discuss common issues and challenges, such as fundraising and historic preservation. The organizations resolved to form a consortium that could more readily connect to share research and resources.

“Branching Out the Banyan Tree” showcased forty-plus years of growth since CHSA was founded in 1963 and since the Ethnic Studies/Asian American Studies movement's beginnings in the late 1960s. The conference's energy has now “branched out” around the world, and we look forward to the fruits of friendships and partnerships made among the academe, community historians, students, and others who attended. Deepest thanks to the 15-member **Conference Planning Committee** who began their planning in 2002 and to the volunteers and staff who made it all happen three years later!

### MAKING HISTORY

As the keynote speaker of the “Making History” banquet on the evening of October 7, **former Washington State Governor Gary**

**CHSA thanks** the generous donors and sponsors who helped to make **Branching Out the Banyan Tree** and **Making History** possible:

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**Locke** inspired the audience to acknowledge and make our own history. The evening came to a climax with the birthday celebration of Chinese America's **Grand Historians, Philip P. Choy and Him Mark Lai**. Before an audience of 550, CHSA President Willard Chin announced the Board's decision to

establish an **Emeritus Director** position, with Choy and Lai as the Society's first Emeritus Directors. SFSU also presented its **Presidential Medal of Honor** to Choy and Lai, making them the first Asian Americans to receive the highest honor a CSU president can bestow upon an individual. ✎

## Fall 2005 Grades K-12 School Programs



CHSA's school programs for students K-12 are free with a scheduled docent tour. To schedule a group visit or for an on-site visit to classrooms or assemblies, please call (415) 391-1188, x107 or email [tours@chsa.org](mailto:tours@chsa.org).

### READING ROOM STORYBOOK: GRADES K-3

The CHSA Reading Room holds a large and unique collection of illustrated children's books about the railroads, the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, and Chinese folktales. Students will join us on our reading rug to enjoy stories from authors such as Lawrence Yep, Milly Lee, and Clara Yen.

### CHINESE FOLKTALES (BEGINNING): GRADES K-3

Hear stories that have traveled over the sea from China to America. CHSA Artist-in-Residence and renowned storyteller Charlie Chin will entertain young children with stories and fables. 20 minutes to half an hour.

### CHINESE FOLKTALES (INTERMEDIATE): GRADES 4-7

CHSA resident storyteller Charlie Chin performs classic myths and legends in the traditional teahouse style. Hear stories of heroes and heroines of China's 4,000 year history. 30 minutes.



## CHSA Living History Program



A character based on oral histories and written accounts retells a life story containing different themes of Chinese American history.

### ANGEL ISLAND EXPERIENCE: GRADES 6-12

This 30-minute program draws from the stories of former Angel Island detainees to present a first person story of what it was like to be unfairly detained and interrogated on the island during the Chinese Exclusion Act. Students will be able to ask questions of the character to enhance their understanding of the experience.

### DR. YEE FUNG CHEUNG, CALIFORNIA PIONEER: GRADES 3-5

Dr. Yee Fung Cheung, noted Chinese herbalist and entrepreneur, visits with students from the Gold Rush days of California. This program, originally commissioned by the California Council of Humanities, is geared to State Standards for local, state, and U.S. History, respectively, for third, fourth, and fifth grades. 30 minutes.

### GUEST OF THE FLOWERY FLAG—THE EVOLUTION OF CHINATOWN: GRADES 9-12 & ADULTS

A Chinese American senior citizen recounts his life story, describing his arrival in the U.S. in 1935. His story will include working in a Chinese restaurant and hand laundry service and witnessing the changing profile of Chinatown from the early bachelor society period to the immigration arrival point and thriving community today. 30-45 minutes.

SAVE THE DATES  
APRIL 17 & 18 · 2006

1906  
CENTENNIAL  
SAN FRANCISCO RISING

San Francisco Museum & Historical Society  
and Chinese Historical Society of America

[www.sfhhistory.org](http://www.sfhhistory.org) & [www.chsa.org](http://www.chsa.org)

Celebrating The City's Unshakable Spirit

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](mailto:mlouie@chsa.org).

Editor: Marisa Louie || Design: Elaine Joe



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