



Upcoming Events

June 16

CHSA will co-sponsor a lecture and book signing for *Driven Out: The Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans* at California Historical Society, 678 Mission, 6-8 pm. This event marks the beginning of a collaboration with CHS. Look for future events & exhibits!

June 27

The SF Town Hall for Hate Crimes commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Vincent Chin's murder is co-sponsored by CHSA, Chinese for Affirmative Action, and APAs for Progress at CAA's office at 17 Walter U. Lum Place at 6:30 pm. Panelists include journalist Helen Zia, SF Police Commissioner Yvonne Lee, Asian Law Caucus attorney Malcolm Yeung, and Kavneet Singh of Sikh American Legal Defense & Education Fund.

July 21

Artist Alice Fong will present a slide show & talk featuring pieces in *Alice Fong: A Retrospective* at CHSA's Yick Gallery at 2 pm.

August 3

Celebrate our new exhibit *To Enjoy & Defend Our American Citizenship* about the Chinese American Citizens Alliance with a reception at CHSA from 4-6 pm.

August 22

Images of America: Angel Island book event with author William Wong, co-presented with Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, at CHSA, 7 pm.

All CHSA events are free to the public

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

Remembering 1882: Fighting for Civil Rights in the Shadow of the Chinese Exclusion Act



More than a hundred attendees commemorated the 125th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act with CHSA's *Remembering 1882: Fighting for Civil Rights in the Shadow of the Chinese Exclusion Act* panel and reception on Wednesday, May 9 at the Ceremonial Courtroom of the Northern California District Court in the Phillip Burton Federal Building.

The panel was an enormous success with a standing-room only crowd, widespread community participation, and expansive media coverage by *The Associated Press*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Jose*

The Remembering 1882 exhibit was viewed by thousands in the lobby of the the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit during APA Heritage Month.

Mercury News, Contra Costa Times, AsianWeek, World Journal, Sing Tao Daily, KPIX-TV, KTSF-TV, KQED-FM, and KPFA-FM, and more. In total, the combined circulation and reach of these press outlets garnered nearly 1.5 million media impressions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Remembering 1882 traveling exhibit has been on display at the Phillip Burton Federal Building and the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. It will be at the California Historical Society in June. Please email exhibits@chsa.org if you'd like to bring the exhibit to your organization or are interested in sponsoring this landmark traveling exhibit.

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William Poy Lee Wows the Crowd



Author **William Poy Lee** and his mentor, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, catered to a maximum capacity crowd at CHSA's Learning Center on Thursday, April 26, for a performance reading & book signing of *The Eighth Promise*.

More than 130 attendees filled the room for the special presentation of readings by Lee in English and Toisanese, clan sisterhood songs by Wilma Pang, and a *ToiZounz' & Riddimz'* performance of Toisanese linguistic tones and rhythms with percussionist Layton Chan. Alice Walker, along with her niece Kim Walker, sat in the audience visibly

Author William Poy Lee, Kim Walker, and Alice Walker pose happily in the aftermath of a successful book event.

moved, as was Lee's mother, Poy Jen Lee, who was the inspiration behind the book.

The Eighth Promise provides a rare glimpse of the Chinese-American immigrant experience from a mother-son perspective as his affecting tale criss-crosses both time and place from his mother's war torn childhood in China during the 1930s, immigrating to the housing projects of San Francisco's Chinatown in the 1950s, and finally to the counterculture of North Beach in the 1960s. ☺

Annie Soo Spirit Award Presentation



Friends, family, and supporters feted longtime CHSA board member Annie Soo with the unveiling of the Annie Soo Spirit Award plaque on Saturday, May 12 at CHSA. The annual volunteer

award was renamed on Annie's 80th birthday last year commemorating her many decades of activism at CHSA as board director, *Bulletin* editor, and monthly lecture manager. Congratulations, Annie! ☺

Driven Out: The Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans

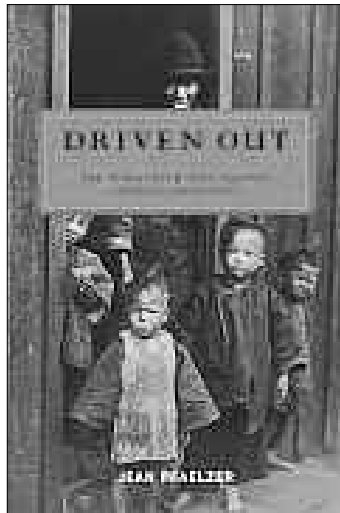
*Book Reading and Lecture
Co-hosted with the California Historical Society*

CHSA, in collaboration with the California Historical Society, hosted a book reading and lecture of *Driven Out: The Forgotten War Against Chinese Americans* by author Jean Pfaelzer on Monday, June 18, from 6-8 pm at the California Historical Society.

In the years before and after the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the brutal and systematic ethnic cleansing of Chinese Americans across the West is a shocking and virtually unexplored chapter of American history. A startling new book, *Driven Out*, unearths this forgotten episode in our nation's past as author Jean Pfaelzer reveals how lawless citizens and politicians purged thousands of Chinese residents—and how the victims bravely fought back.

In town after town, Chinese miners, merchants, lumberjacks, and field workers were gathered up at gunpoint and marched out of town, often thrown into railroad cars along the very tracks they had built. From the port of Seattle to the mining towns in California's Siskiyou Mountains to Nigger Alley in Los Angeles, the first Chinese Americans were hanged, purged, and banished. Chinatowns across the West were burned to the ground.

But the Chinese fought back: They filed the first lawsuits for reparations in the United States, sued for the restoration of their property, prosecuted white vigilantes, demanded the right to own land, and, years before *Brown v. Board of Education*, won access to public education for their children.



Chinese Americans organized strikes and vegetable boycotts in order to starve out towns that tried to expel them. They ordered arms from China and, with Winchester rifles and Colt revolvers, defended themselves. In 1893, more than 100,000 Chinese Americans refused the governments order to wear photo identity cards to prove their legal status—the largest mass civil disobedience in United States history to that point.

In *Driven Out*, Jean Pfaelzer sheds a harsh light on America's past. This is a story of hitherto unknown racial pogroms, purges, roundups, and brutal terror, but also a record of valiant resistance and community. This deeply resonant and eye-opening work documents a significant and disturbing episode in American history.

This book reading marks the beginning of CHSA's collaboration with the California Historical Society that will culminate in a grand exhibit next year entitled *The Chinese in California*. ❧

2007 American Association of Museums Annual Meeting in Chicago

From May 12-18, 2007, I attended the American Association of Museums (AAM) annual meeting in Chicago, the largest conference for museum professionals nationwide. My trip was funded by AAM's Diversity Fellowship program, which sup-

I met new friends and fellow colleagues from among the over 6,000 in attendance.

ports those who encourage diversity among museum staff or museum audiences. In addition to attending sessions and workshops on topics such as museum education, developing docent and volunteer programs, and telling immigrant stories in museums, I also met new friends and fellow colleagues from among the over 6,000 in attendance. I learned about professional resources and standards offered by AAM, and I heard about the experiences of veteran museum staff in "A Day in the Life of" development sessions.

I visited the Chinese American Museum of Chicago (CAMOC), where representatives from the Angel Island Immigration Station, the Chinese American Museum of Los Angeles (CAMLA), and I were graciously hosted by CAMOC volunteers. CAMOC's exhibit on Chinese American involvement in Chicago's Two World Fairs was particularly interesting and well-designed. Special thanks to Soo Lon Moy, Grace Chun, and Chuimei Ho for their hospitality! ❧

MARISA LOUIE, CHSA STAFF

Remembering 1882: Fighting for Civil Rights

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

Featured panelists include: Justice Harry Low, Attorney Michael Lee, Law Professor Bill Ong Hing, Immigration Attorney Donald Ungar, and Historian Connie Young Yu. The panel kicked-off with a specially crafted Museum Theater performance of *A Statement for Non-Exclusion* featuring Dr. Ng Poon Chew (1866-1931), the legendary crusading newspaper editor and leader in the fight against Exclusion, as portrayed by Artist-in-Residence Charlie Chin.

The following community co-presenters were also a tremendous support: Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Asian American Journalists Association, Asian Improv aRts, Asian Law Caucus, Asian Pacific Bar Association of Silicon Valley, Asian Pacific Democratic Club, Chinese Culture Center, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Equal Justice Society, Japanese American Citizens League, Judicial Council of California,



Top photo: Panelists from left to right: Bill Ong Hing, Michael Lee, Connie Young Yu, Donald Ungar, and Harry Low during the standing room only panel discussion.

Left photo: Audience members listen intently during the May 9th panel at the Phillip Burton Federal Building.

Kearny Street Workshop, Legal Aid Society/Employment Law Center, Manilatown Heritage Foundation, Mexican American Legal Defense

and Education Fund, National Japanese American Historical Society, Oakland Asian Cultural Center, and Third Thursdays. ❧

(H)API APA Heritage Month!

(H) API Hour, in conjunction with the Coalition of Asian American Government Employees (CAAGE), toasted the beginning of APA Heritage Month on Thursday, May 3 with the fundraiser at CHSA.

Luminaries including San Francisco Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting, Miss Chinatown USA 2007 Betty Hsu, and the Cho Brothers of CBS' *Amazing Race 10* mingled with the hoi polloi at the event. All proceeds benefited CHSA's *Remembering 1882* project. ❧



Miss Chinatown USA 2007 Betty Hsu, Miss Chinatown USA 1981 Rose Chung, and CHSA's Sue Lee pose prettily at CHSA

L. Ling-chi Wang: The Quintessential Scholar-Activist Reception

CHSA, in conjunction with the UCLA Asian American Studies Program hosted a reception Friday, May 18th in its gallery honoring UC Berkeley Professor Emeritus L. Ling-chi Wang and the publication of *L. Ling-chi Wang: Quintessential Scholar-Activist*.

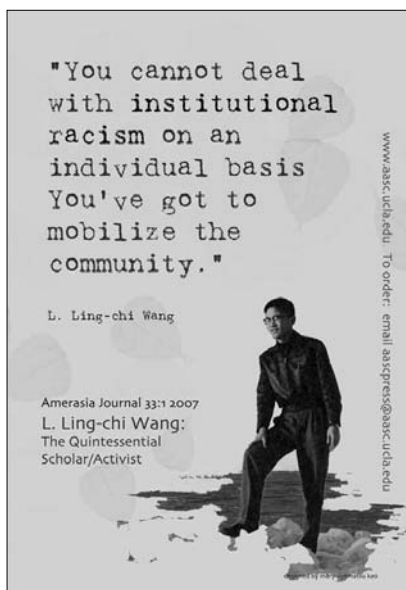
Nearly 100 people celebrated the commemorative edition from UCLA's *Amerasia Journal* by the former Chair of UC Berkeley's Department of Ethnic Studies and Director of Asian American Studies. *L. Ling-chi Wang: The Quintessential Scholar-Activist* showcases his groundbreaking writings on bilingual and higher education, Chinatown politics, and U.S./China relations.

L. Ling-chi Wang: Quintessential Scholar-Activist contains selected essays from the 1960s through 2006 and showcases how his impact as a scholar, activist, and public speaker actively shaped the domestic and global frameworks in the field of Asian American Studies. This international edition is also the first collection of Ling-chi's essays and contains an introduction in both English and Chinese.

Rooted intellectually in thinkers as diverse as the old Testament prophets, Soren Kierkegaard, W.E.B. DuBois, Mao Tse-tung, Sun Tzu,



Ling-chi thanks his supporters during his book launch party.



Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Ling-chi's vision is also grounded in Asian American communities and grassroots organizing. Since the 1960s, Professor Wang has been a scholar/activist at the forefront of Asian American politics and education, including bilingual education, admission quotas, the 1996 presidential campaign finance scandal, and the Wen Ho Lee debacle. ❧

A Century of Chinese American Progressive Action



CHSA proudly presents its newest exhibit *To Enjoy and Defend Our American Citizenship* honoring the history of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance.

More than a century ago, a group of Chinese American men seeking to assert their US citizenship organized themselves into a group called Native Sons of the Golden State. This formation was a direct counterpoint to the fraternal club Native Sons of the Golden West—a whites-only fraternal club that, for decades to come, would include California governors, mayors, legislators, and immigration officials.

This formation in 1895 of what would later become the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) in 1913 when it was established nationally, was a pivotal point in Chinese American history. C.A.C.A. is now one of the oldest civil rights organizations in the country and has championed the rights for all Americans through the aftermath of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, 1913 Alien Land Act, and Jim Crow segregation laws.

C.A.C.A. continues its progressive action today by advocating humane immigration policies based on family reunification, hate crimes, and voter rights. ❧



Chinatown Rising 2007: Glamour & Grace Gala Dinner

will be held Saturday, September 15 at the Four Seasons Hotel in San Francisco.

For more information, please email gala@chsa.org or call (415) 391-1188 x101.

Please note that the CHSA *Bulletin* is now published quarterly rather than bi-monthly. To contribute articles about Chinese American community and historical news and events, please submit articles to judy@chsa.org.

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