Support CHSA’s 50th Anniversary Donor Campaign!

Please consider making a special gift to CHSA’s 50th Anniversary Campaign Fund! This special fund will be a part of the CHSA Museum’s Endowment which is used toward maintenance of the CHSA Museum—such as the replacement of the roof and repair to the Clay St. masonry in 2010—and special initiatives such as the acquisition and exhibition of the Jake Lee Collection. The Endowment has been critical to the Museum’s continued growth since opening in 2001.

For your gift there are a variety of forms of recognition available depending on the level of contribution. All gifts $5,000 and above will be acknowledged in a special donor wall to be displayed on the Main Museum Gallery Floor. Donors will be able to dedicate their gift in honor or in memory of a family member or friend.

Please visit chsa.org/support/50th-anniversary-donor-campaign, call 415-391-1188, or email info@chsa.org. Thank you for your support!

**CHSA Bulletin**

**Chinese Historical Society of America Museum**

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**Upcoming Events**

**October 19, 11AM-3PM**
Market Days: Heirlooms Visit the CHSA booth at this free, family-friendly event exploring traditions that make human culture rich. At the Exploratorium’s public plaza at Pier 15, SF.

**November 2, 11AM-4PM**
Celebrate CHSA’s 50th Anniversary! Featuring: performance by Koi Lun Martial Arts and Eisa Base; Frank Wong sharing stories of his Chinatown miniature diorama; and Charlie Cho’s “Men Who Conquered Mountains.”

**November 8, 7PM & November 9, 8PM**
The Escape and Rescued Memories: New York Stories By Lenora Lee Dance with Koi Lun Martial Arts & Enshin Karate, South San Francisco Dojo. At the de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, SF.

**November 14, 5:30-7:30PM**
China Trade and Commerce & The Port of SF Discussion about the history of Chinese relationships with the Port of San Francisco on the occasion of the Port’s 150th Anniversary. Featured speakers: CHSA Historian Phil Choy, and author Hillary Don.

**November 21, 5-7PM**
Publication Party for Paul Franzney’s Chinatown Sketches Join us for a celebration of Book Club’s 230th book. With remarks by the book’s author, Claudine Chalmers, and preface author, Nostirian Philip P. Choy. Event details at chsa.org/events. All events held at the CHSA Museum unless otherwise stated.
Profile of CHSA’s Founders

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films including China Smith and Flower Drum Song. Additionally, Lee’s involvement in Hollywood wasn’t limited to only consulting; he also had the distinction of being one of the few Chinese American actors of his time, starring in films such as The Good Earth, Rainbow Pagu, and Daughter of Shanghai.

In 1964, Lee began teaching weekly symposiums on Chinese art and culture at his studio. These symposiums continued throughout the 1970s, even after Lee’s passing on January 2, 1980.

THOMAS W. CHINN

Thomas Wayne Chinn was born in North Bend, Oregon, on July 28, 1909. Being one of only two Chinese families in North Bend, Chinn’s parents wanted their children to grow up knowing their Chinese heritage and so in 1919, they made the decision to move their family to San Francisco. In keeping with a trend of the time, Chinn

1965 dedication of CHSA’s headquarters at Adler Place, the eldest son of his family, was sent back to China in 1934 for an education. While in China, Chinn met men who had returned from the U.S. as agricultural laborers and railroad workers for the Transcontinental Railroad. Chinn spent several months in China, but his experience there set the spark for his lifelong interest in Chinese American history.

Chinn developed a desire to record and preserve the history of the Chinese in America, along with the contributions of Chinese Americans. With this goal in mind, in 1959, Chinn, along with Chingwah Lee, founded the Chinese Digest, the first English-language newspaper for Chinese readers. In 1940, he also founded Chinese News, where he served as both editor and publisher. During this time, Chinn was also active in giving talks on Chinese American history to various groups.

In recognition of his work as an author and historian of Chinese American history, Chinn has been awarded numerous distinctions and honors including the Award of Merit from the California Historical Society and Laura Bridge Powers Memorial Award, which is given to individuals “for contribu-
tion to the cultural and historical renown of San Francisco.”

Editor’s Note: Stay tuned for the final installment where we profile CHSA founder C.H. Kwok.

Renovations Planned for Main Gallery

The CHSA Museum continues to engage its audience through its educational exhibitions. Staff and consultants continue to work on a more creative and innovative model for CHSA’s public presence. As part of this effort, Gordon Chun Design and CHSA staff have teamed up to develop a plan to change permanent exhibit areas of the museum.

Efforts have started in August as staff and consultants held meetings in the main gallery. In the future, we plan to build models and create drawings that can also serve as “in-process” displays for the public to view. This change will be very transparent to the public. We want the audience to be aware of our evolution, so steps will be taken to ensure their participation throughout this process. We will be collecting feedback and creating workshops open to the public. Essentially, we will hold special sessions where visitors can participate in our process of design and development.

CHSA Main Gallery as it looks today. The exhibit will be undergoing changes.

CHSA’s Voice and Vision Gala 2013 honors Community Leaders and History Makers

This year’s 50th Anniversary Voice and Vision Gala on September 21, 2013 was an historic night honoring community heroes. The night went without a hitch and was attended by more than 200 guests at the Four Seasms Hotel in Downtown San Francisco. The crowd enjoyed the musical stylings provided by Marcia Shelley and the stellar work done by Rick Quan who produced the honoree videos and emceed the event.

Community Leadership awards went to Supervisor Katy Tang and Assessor-Recorder Carmen Chu. Both Tang and Chu represent a proud tradition of younger generation Chinese Americans willing to step up to meet the challenges of public service.

Three History Maker awards went to remarkable people in their respective fields, each pioneers in their own way. Jon Jang has given a musical voice to a history that has been untold—that of the experiences of Chinese in America. His work in the past five decades since the 1970s is noted for both its artistry and commitment to social justice. Jang’s ensembles have toured at major concert halls and music festivals in China, South Africa (1997), Europe, Canada, and the U.S.

Helen Zia has created a remarkable political, professional, and personal legacy through her proctal role in the campaign for Vincent Chin, a trailblazing journalist and author, and for her ongoing commitment to equality. Zia is an outspoken advocate for civil rights, peace, women’s rights, LGBT and marriage equality, and countering hate, violence, and homophobia.

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Published by California Historical Society with support from Henry and Betty Chu

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