





The *CHSA Bulletin* is published multiple times throughout the year. To contribute articles about Chinese American community and historical news and events, please submit articles to [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org).

Written By: CHSA Staff | Design: Amy Lam

## CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

965 Clay Street  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
tel. 415.391.1188  
fax. 415.391.1150  
[info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org)  
[www.chsa.org](http://www.chsa.org)

time dated material

Nonprofit Org.  
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San Francisco, CA

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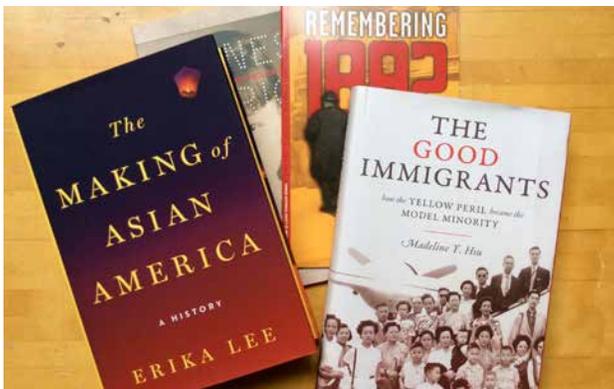
**Bulletin**  
CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM

## Highlights from CHSA's Gift Shop: Visit Today

May 6, 2017 will mark the 135th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act. Our latest exhibit, *Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion* considers the Chinese immigrant's struggle over freedom and the right to be part of the formation of American society. It is a story of extraordinary individuals, fearful and courageous

acts, and unexpected twists and turns that have surprising relevance to our world today.

For further information about the The Chinese Exclusion Act and its lasting impressions, browse these staff picks from the CHSA gift shop:



Visit CHSA's gift shop at 965 Clay Street, San Francisco, or call (415) 391-1188 x101 to order. CHSA members receive a 10% discount on gift shop purchases. All proceeds directly support CHSA.



**DONATE TO CHSA TODAY** at [chsa.org/support](http://chsa.org/support), or by calling (415) 391-1188 or emailing [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org). Employer-matches are encouraged! All contributions tax deductible (Federal tax ID #94-67122446).

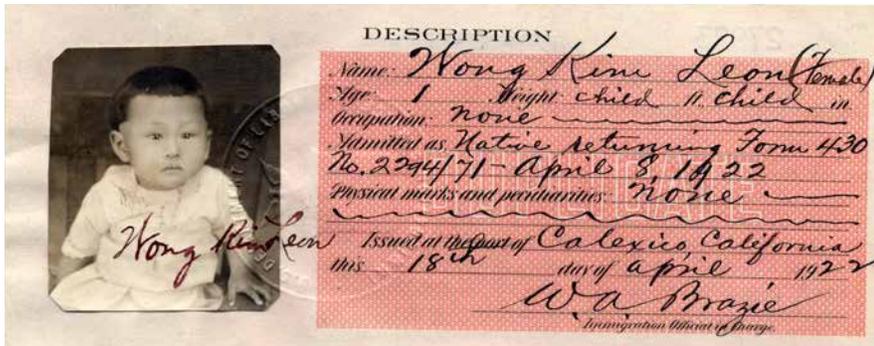


# Bulletin 簡報

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM

May 2017 | Vol. 53, No. 1

## Remembering 1882 in 2017 A call to action on Chinese Exclusion Act anniversary



National Archives

By **Connie Young Yu**

HISTORIAN & CHSA BOARD EMERITUS

**W**e remember 1882 in 2017 with fervor and resolve. This is another watershed year in American history. 2017 will be remembered by how we respond to the edicts of President Trump—the travel bans, orders for a wall against Mexico, the barring of refugees, and the immigrant raids in our communities. Our cause is to resist all the Administration’s rulings that are unconstitutional, inhumane and wrong.

The public’s acceptance of immigration restrictions stem from racism institutionalized by the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. Deep-seated nativism was brought to the surface and legitimized for the 21<sup>st</sup> century by candidate Trump’s campaign slogan, “Make America Great Again,” with the underlying message of *make America white again*.

In January 2017 men, women and children from nine countries were abruptly refused entry at US airports because of their ethnicity and religion. They had valid visas and some



Courtesy Connie Young Yu

Top left: 1922 Certificate of Identity issued for infant. The era of Chinese Exclusion institutionalized identification requirements Chinese in the US. Above: Children at the Women’s March in San Jose, California, January 21, 2017.

had green cards. There was world-wide surprise that something so *un-American* could happen, but to Japanese Americans recalling Executive order 9066 and Chinese Americans remembering the myriad of exclusion laws, this was a nightmare recurring.

In 2017 there was swift action to rescue those barred from entry by President Trump’s executive order. Lawyers working

pro bono rushed to airports and set up legal aid stations. Judge James Hobart of Washington was the first to block the immigration order. President challenged the “so-called judge”, but the suspension of the ban was upheld by the unanimous decision of the 9<sup>th</sup> circuit court. President Trump was handed his first appellate court defeat. This showed to all he was not

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In memory of Philip P. Choy  
1926–2017

It is with profound sadness that CHSA acknowledges the passing of architect and historian Philip P. Choy on March 16, 2017.

Phil tirelessly devoted himself to research, preservation and education of Chinese American history. Together with the late Him Mark Lai, Phil taught the first Chinese American history course at San Francisco State University. Course material he co-authored, *The History of The Chinese in California, A Syllabus*, is a well-respected publication that is repeatedly referenced today. In the early 1970s, Phil hosted the groundbreaking series *Gum Saan Haak, The Chinese of America*, the first extensive documentary series about Chinese American history.

His passing is a great loss for the community. Phil was an activist. He

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# Philip Choy's Lasting Legacy



Photo: Kem Lee. CHSA Collection



Photo: Elaine Lee

Left: CHSA Board President Philip Choy (far left) commemorating Chinese railroad workers at the centennial of the First Transcontinental Railroad, 1969. Right: Sarah & Phil Choy, 2012.

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challenged the organizers of the Transcontinental Railroad Centennial in 1969 to recognize the role of Chinese laborers in its completion. Known for his preservation work, he submitted the case report for Angel Island Immigration Station which resulted in it being listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In Oroville, California, Phil designed the Temple Tapestry Hall to complement the adjacent historic Chinese temple and to house its extensive Chinese folk art collection.

Phil and his late wife Sarah (1925–2015) were both very

generous in their support of Chinatown activities and fundraising efforts, often recruiting other family members to help. He donated much of his time to the Chinatown YWCA, helping them to secure landmark status for the YWCA's Julia Morgan-designed building. His work would come full-circle, as he would later support CHSA's acquisition of the building. CHSA made the Chinatown YWCA building its permanent home and opened its Museum and Learning Center in 2001. He served as CHSA's Board President (1969-71) and as a long-serving Board member (1990-92, 1997).

We will miss Phil's contributions but more importantly, his friendship. He was always ready to give us his unconditional support and share his humor and wisdom. We will remember his humbleness, generosity, and devotion to humanity.

The entire Board, staff and extended community of the Chinese Historical Society of America expresses its deepest condolences to the Choy family.

Tributes & guestbook for Phil Choy can be found online at [chsa.org/2017/03/tributes-to-philip-choy-1926-2017/](http://chsa.org/2017/03/tributes-to-philip-choy-1926-2017/)

CHSA acknowledges these recent donors who have contributed in memory of Philip P. Choy. We are grateful for the public's support in continuing Phil's passion of studying and promoting the history and experiences of Chinese in America. (Partial list as of April 12, 2017)

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# Fight the New Exclusion!

Join CHSA in its *daily* efforts to shed light on the true human toll of racist and restrictive immigration policy. Through its major exhibition at the CHSA Museum in San Francisco Chinatown, *Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion*, its traveling exhibit *Remembering 1882*, and a suite of educational materials, CHSA shares the story of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and its implications for today's struggle over the proud contributions of immigrants to this society.

As a community-based organization, we rely on your passion and generosity to continue our work. Contributions at any level provide for the costs of our educational booklets, maintenance and repair for the permanent and traveling exhibitions, and support for our knowledgeable

staff. This provides in person information six days a week about how the Chinese community and allies resisted Exclusion, and its lessons for today.

Visit [CHSA.org](http://CHSA.org) to learn more about our campaign to Fight the New Exclusion, to participate in the conversation on social media, and to contribute to the cause. We also invite you join us this May during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at the following events:



Courtesy Connie Young Yu

**MONDAY, MAY 1, 12PM**

**San Francisco City Hall**

San Francisco May APA Heritage Month kickoff. Opening of CHSA's *Remembering 1882* exhibit to be shown at City Hall throughout May.

**SATURDAY, MAY 6**

**Portsmouth Square, SF Chinatown**

"Rally for Inclusion" commemorating the 135th anniversary of the signing of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act

**SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1PM**

**CHSA Learning Center**

*AVIATRIX: The Katherine Sui Fun Cheung Story*  
Documentary screening and director Q&A

1930's story of a Chinese American woman with the dream of becoming a pilot

**THURSDAY, MAY 18, TIME TBA**

**CHSA Museum**

Night at the Museum: Save the date for an evening event commemorating APA Heritage Month. Details TBA at [chsa.org/events](http://chsa.org/events).

**SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1-4PM**

**Koret Auditorium, SF Main Library**

CHSA is co-presenting *The Chinese Exclusion Act* documentary by filmmakers Ric Burns and Li-Shin Yu, a film inspired by the exhibit *Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion*

For more information, please visit [chsa.org/events](http://chsa.org/events)

## Remember 1882: Fight Exclusion

**FROM PAGE 1**

above the law, and his orders are subject to legal review by judges and the people. A second travel ban involving six Muslim countries was issued, and was halted by the ruling of Hawaii's Attorney General Douglas Chin, who declared that President Trump violated the constitution with the redrawn executive order. More cities and states joined in to oppose the immigration ban. As the Administration relentlessly issues new travel bans and immigration restrictions, so the judiciary must keep up their challenges, with

people's support behind them.

It is critical now more than ever to remember that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Chinese in America were actively involved in the fight for civil rights, and their victories are what make America great.

Bearing the mantle of our ancestors who lived in the shadow of exclusion, we are prepared for the struggle. We've been here before, and we have the means and the will to resist. Each and every one of us can act to make a difference. We can make calls and write and use social media. We can march and we can join

the ACLU, and connect with organizations who show solidarity with Muslims and those who defend immigrants threatened with deportation.

The fight is not in the streets but in the courts, a battleground we know well.

We are in this for the long haul. Everything is at stake. We stand with you, the detained and disenfranchised, we fight for you the beleaguered immigrants, the mothers and fathers torn from their children, we fight for our communities, we fight for America.

**Remember 1882.**

## FRANK H. WU TO KEYNOTE CHSA'S ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

Preparations continue for "This Land is Our Land: Chinese Pluralities Through the Americas," CHSA's upcoming international academic conference on October 6-8, 2017. Law professor and author Frank H. Wu has been announced as a keynote speaker for the conference. He currently holds the title of Distinguished Professor at UC Hastings. Frank was appointed by the Federal Department of Education to its National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), and by the Defense Department to the Military Leadership Diversity Commission. Frank is the author of *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White* and co-author of *Race, Rights and Reparation: Law and the Japanese American Internment*. His work has appeared in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. He blogs regularly for the *Huffington Post*.



Courtesy Frank Wu

The conference will host over 20 panels, featuring panelists from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Europe, and the US. A pre-conference event will also be held at UC Berkeley on October 6. For inquiries, please contact Jonathan H. X. Lee at [conference2017@chsa.org](mailto:conference2017@chsa.org).

**Dates:** October 6-8, 2017

**Location:** Hilton San Francisco Financial District, 750 Kearny St., San Francisco, CA 94108

**For event details and registration, visit [chsa.org/conference2017](http://chsa.org/conference2017)**