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

We 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 21st 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 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 9th circuit court. President Trump was handed his first appellate court defeat. This showed to all he was not...
CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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PHILIP CHOY’S LASTING LEGACY


FROM PAGE 1
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/

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 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:

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.

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

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 19th 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.