



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.

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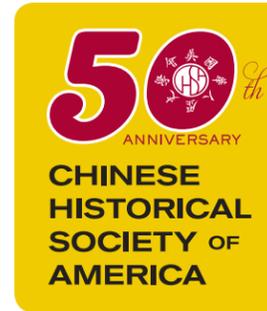
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Bulletin 簡報

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM Summer 2013 | Vol. 49, No. 2



Saluting CHSA's Founders: H.K. Wong & Thomas Wu

Part one of a two-part series highlighting our founders



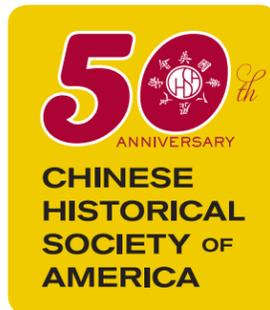
簡報

Bulletin

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM

Join us for our 50th Anniversary Voice & Vision Gala — Saturday, September 21st

The Chinese Historical Society of America invites you to celebrate our continuing work with an extraordinary dinner and program. **We will honor retired Justice Harry Low, activist and writer Helen Zia, composer and musician Jon Jang.** Each has been a pioneer and experienced being the “first Chinese American” in their respective professions. Each has dedicated themselves to giving back to the community and building paths for the future. Please join us in honoring these exemplary individuals and in launching CHSA’s next 50 years!



As we look forward to our next 50 years, our challenge is to recover the forgotten and lost accounts of the Chinese community, interpret stories, weave them into the American historical narrative, and grow our presence in the cultural fabric of America.

Please contact Alisa Wong at 415-391-1188 x107 or alisa@chsa.org for tickets and sponsor information. Thank you in advance for your generosity and look forward to seeing you on September 21, 2013!!

PLEASE RENEW OR PURCHASE A CHSA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

We also invite you to make a donation of \$1,000 / \$2,500 / \$5,000 or more. Employer-matches are especially welcome! All contributions are tax deductible (Federal tax ID #94-67122446). Contact us at (415) 391-1188.



by **Laurene Wu McClain and Sue Fawn Chung**
CONTRIBUTORS

Founded in 1963 by Thomas W. Chinn, C.H. Kwock, Chingwah Lee, H.K. Wong and Thomas W.S. Wu, the Chinese Historical Society of America is the oldest and largest organization in the country dedicated to the documentation, study, and presentation of the history of Chinese in America. But what do we know about the founders? In this issue of the *Bulletin* we’re going to highlight H.K. Wong and Thomas W.S. Wu DDS. The second part will be coming out in the next issue.

H.K. WONG

Henry Kwock Wong (born April 29, 1907 in Portsmouth Square, San Francisco, died January 13, 1985 in San Francisco), better known as H.K. Wong, was heavily involved in Chinatown’s business and civic associations. Between 1957 and 1984 he worked for associations such as the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (known as the “Six Companies”) and Chinese Chamber of Commerce, just to name a few. He was a journalist for many publications such as *Chinese Digest*, *Chinese World*,



CHSA COLLECTION

Left to right: Thomas W.S. Wu, Thomas W. Chinn, H.K. Wong, and C.H. Kwock. Four of five of the CHSA founders, 1983.

East West, and *Asian Week*. He was also a businessman: he owned several businesses including Ti-Sun Company Hardware & Furniture store and the Polk Pacific Building Supply Company. Most importantly he was a founding member and enthusiastic supporter of the Chinese Historical Society of America in 1963. Wong had a long standing interest in Chinese American history: along with friend William Hoy, he wandered through gold mining sites of the late 19th century, abandoned Chinatowns, and old Chinese temples, often collecting artifacts that served as

the foundation of the CHSA Museum’s collection. His great passion was doing oral interviews, something that was hardly done prior to the 1960s. He collected some of his favorite interviews in *Gum Sahn Yun* (Gold Mountain Men), published posthumously 1987.

Wong’s contributions certainly did not go unnoticed. In 1978 he received the Jefferson Award from the American Institute for Public Service and the *San Francisco Examiner* named him one of the 101 most memorable San Franciscans for the 1887 to 1987 centennial year.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 13, 1PM
Summer Sports Program
Before Linsanity there was Norman Owyong. Join Rick Quan and Norman Owyong in conversation about some good ol’ fashioned basketball.

JULY 27, TIME TBA
Meditate on Creative Spaces
Artist Leon Sun returns to lead a guided meditation and tour of his artwork. Meditation will be followed by tea and informal chat about art and identities.

AUGUST 10, 1PM
50th Anniversary of the March on Washington
Charlie Chin and Laurene Wu McClain will hold a discussion about the legacy for Chinese Americans in the Civil Rights Movement.

SEPT 21 - SAVE THE DATE!
CHSA's 50th Anniversary Gala
At the Four Seasons Hotel, 757 Market Street, San Francisco

Event details at chsa.org/events. All events held at the CHSA Museum unless otherwise stated.

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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Profile of CHSA's Founders

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And in 1992 he was in the Hall of Fame of the NorCal Tennis Association.

THOMAS W.S. WU, DDS

Born in San Francisco on April 22, 1915, Thomas Wai Sun Wu was always very proud of his Chinese heritage, and at the same time, embraced many of the fundamental values of the United States. He grew up in Chinatown, lived as a child and young man at the True Sunshine Church which his father Rev. Daniel G. C. Wu co-founded on Clay Street, played in Chinatown bands and orchestras, and for over 50 years, practiced dentistry in Chinatown. Dr. Wu married Helen Hoh, the daughter of a Chinatown merchant.

While often feeling the hurt of prejudice and discrimination, "Tommy," as he was often called, believed that if he could present talks to various ethnic and religious communities about his own Chinese American community, racial tensions could be diminished. He spent his lunch and dinner breaks visiting many organizations in the City.

From the 1950s through the 1980s, he provided leadership on many fronts. He chaired the Board of Permit Appeals, presided over the Eng Family Association and the San Francisco Library Commission, joined the Boards of On Lok Senior Health Services, the Metropolitan and Chinatown YMCAs, Chinese American Citizens Alliance, National

Conference of Christian and Jews, headed the University of California Dental Alumni Association, became the Master of his Masonic Lodge, and chaired the Committee on Legislative Affairs for the United States Small Business Administration Advisory Council.

With a profound belief that the history of the Chinese in America needed to be perpetuated, Dr. Wu joined four other Chinatown leaders—Thomas Chinn, C.H. Kwock, Chingwah Lee, and H.K. Wong—in forming the Chinese Historical Society of America in 1963. The organization would reflect the co-founders' belief—that the Chinese community should be recognized as a major and integral part of American history.



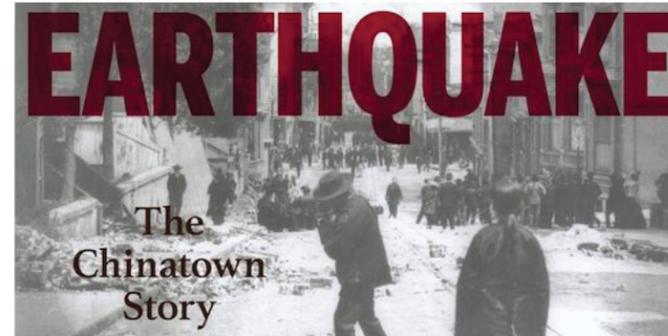
The CHSA Dragon Dance Team is comprised of current CHSA staff, fellows and interns.

CHSA 2013 Summer Internship

We are pleased to once again offer our CHSA Museum 2013 Summer Internship! Launched in 2012, this program provides experience and training in working in a community-based

museum environment. We received applications from many impressive candidates and this year's group is already hard at work. Accomplishments of our internship program include last summer's James Leong Mural Project, the uploading of selected works of Him Mark Lai to www.himmarklai.org, and the Julia Morgan legacy project. In addition, our interns have been providing docent tours of

the Museum and have been a tremendous help in holding our busy schedule of public events at the Museum such as our Lunar New Year Open House. Even more impressive, they have also been a part of the CHSA Dragon Dance Team. This program is an integral part of CHSA's effort to build our capacity to the share the story of Chinese in America to current and future generations.



Earthquake: The Chinatown Story Exhibit and Event

For our April Second Saturday event, the CHSA Museum hosted *Earthquake: The Chinatown Story*, our new traveling exhibit. A five panel retelling of the 1906 Earthquake and Fire, it includes eyewitness accounts, a plan by city leaders, politicians, and business to relocate Chinatown, how the Chinese responded, and how

they rebuilt Chinatown into a commercially viable tourist spot.

The panels debuted on April 13, 2013 with a performance by Charlie Chin and a book signing with Phil Choy. An online presentation is available online, which details the experiences of three Chinatown residents and the details of relocation.

Work of Giants highlights Chinese Railroad Workers



The *Work of Giants: The Chinese and the Building of the Transcontinental Railroad* is an online resource through the efforts of our newly minted Him Mark Lai Fellows and CHSA Museum Interns. This two-month long project culminated into an online page full of key stories, a timeline and an analysis of the struggles and ultimate success of the Chinese who built the Central Pacific

Railroad.

The *Work of Giants* is available for view on our website. Go to chsa.org/exhibits and then click on Online Exhibits to get to the page. While you're there, check out our other online exhibits. Through this project, CHSA is working towards the lasting recognition and an official acknowledgement of the contribution of the Chinese laborers.

Challenging History Online



At CHSA we continually find ways to educate the public and stay connected with our friends. Since hiring new interns last summer 2012, we have generated original content, shared our upcoming events, and kept our followers up to date on what else is going on in the city. In June 2012 we had 536 likes. In June 2013 we have 3,353 likes and counting. The secret to our success? Facebook campaigns. In July 2012 we honored past and present Asian American Olympians by

giving you each player's brief biographies. As recent as March 2013 we gave small bios to several Asian American women pioneers in celebration of International Women's Month. With each posting we earned a new Like, Share, or Comment or all three!

We will continue to do these Facebook campaigns and update our friends on what's happening in our museum and the community. If you haven't done it yet, like us on Facebook.com/chsamuseum.

FREE AARP MEMBERSHIPS FOR CHSA MEMBERS

Enjoy your complimentary one-year AARP membership courtesy of CHSA! From now through December 1st, 2013, when you redeem an AARP membership through CHSA, AARP will make a \$5 contribution for each membership back to the museum!

Already an AARP member? This offer will extend your membership. Under 50? Gift an AARP membership to a loved one at the same special discounted rates.

Go to chsa.org, click on "Support" then "AARP Community Program" for more details.

