



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).  
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**Bulletin**  
 CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM



**Be a part of our CHSA Donor Legacy Wall!**

Please consider making a special gift to the CHSA's Donor Legacy Wall Campaign Fund! New plaques for the CHSA Donor Wall and Donor Digital Display will be officially unveiled at the end of this year. **This special fund will be a part of the CHSA Museum's Endowment, which has been critical to the Museum's continued growth since opening in 2001.** Gifts of \$1,000 will be recognized in a special digital display in the Legacy Gallery. All gifts \$5,000 and above will also be acknowledged with a window tile on CHSA's Donor Wall.

Please visit [chsa.org/support/legacy-wall-campaign](http://chsa.org/support/legacy-wall-campaign) for more information, or contact us by phone at 415-391-1188 and by email at [info@chsa.org](mailto:info@chsa.org).

**PLEASE RENEW OR PURCHASE A CHSA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!** We also invite you to **make a donation of any amount.** Employer-matches are especially welcome! All contributions are tax deductible (Federal tax ID #94-67122446). Contact us at (415) 391-1188 or visit [chsa.org/support](http://chsa.org/support).



**Bulletin 簡報**

CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA MUSEUM

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Introducing our newest exhibit,  
*Living in Chinatown: SRO*

CHSA is pleased to present our newest addition to the Museum's permanent exhibit—*Living in Chinatown: SRO*. Inspired by the miniature diorama by Frank Wong, we replicated a life-size Chinatown residence in the Main Gallery. The installation depicts a unit in a single room occupancy (SRO) building here in the neighborhood. These rooms, measuring 8x10 feet, have served as home to many generations of residents. Early tenants were most often single males. Today, these rooms are home to elderly women and immigrant families as well.

It is our goal here to provide visitors to the Museum insight into Chinatown as a home for generations of immigrants—a living vibrant community that is much more than a tourist destination. The Chinatown neighborhood has a rich history, culture, and perspective forged through more than 100 years of struggle against tremendous obstacles. In presenting this glimpse into the living conditions, we hope to promote awareness and discussion of the challenges immigrants make in order to survive in the most expensive city in America as well as pay tribute to their aspirations and triumphs.



*Living in Chinatown: SRO* was a joint effort by Gordon Chun Design, Frank Wong, and CHSA. In reality, SROs are a bit more cramped than the one we've created in our gallery but we hope to spark a discussion about the affordable housing situation in the city.

**JUST A REMINDER: CHSA Museum admission is FREE!** However, **we welcome donations of any amount** to help us continue to create high quality programs and exhibitions and maintain our historic home in the Julia Morgan-designed Chinese YWCA Building. Please visit [chsa.org/support](http://chsa.org/support) or stop by the museum to make a donation. THANK YOU!

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# Upcoming museum events:

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, ALL DAY**

## Afternoon with John Jung

At 1pm, John Jung will discuss his book *Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton: Lives of Mississippi Delta Chinese Grocers*. He will speak on the social history of the lives of Chinese families in the Mississippi Delta and the role they played in their communities. What was their status in the segregated black/white world of that time and place? How did they preserve their cultural and ethnic identity?



John Jung

## #Chinatown: Leland Wong's Photographic Sketchbook

At 2:30pm, we will have an opening reception for Leland Wong's new exhibit *#Chinatown: Leland Wong's Photographic Sketchbook*. This photo grid series spans two decades of photography of people he comes across while walking around the neighborhood. There will be dumplings and light refreshments. Check our website at chsa.org for full details.



Leland Wong

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1PM**

## Poetry Readings with Genny Lim and Arlene Biala

Spend your October Second Saturday with Genny Lim, Arlene Biala, and CHSA. Genny Lim will read from *Paper Gods and Rebels*, her third collection of poetry culled from 25 years of mostly unpublished works. Arlene Biala will read from *her beckoning hands*, a collection of poems as prayer flags, offerings across the ocean, earth and sky.



Genny Lim

Genny Lim is a native San Franciscan poet, performer, playwright, educator and cultural activist whose artistic vision strives to express the uniqueness and universality of her experience as the child of immigrant Chinese, deeply engaged in the civil rights and Asian American arts movement since the early 1970s.



Arlene Biala

Arlene Biala is a Filipina poet and performance artist, born in San Francisco. She is the author of *bone*, her first chapbook of poetry published in 1993, and *continental drift*, published by West End Press (through University of New Mexico Press distribution) in 1999. She received her MFA in Poetics & Writing from New College of CA, and was the recipient of an artist residency at Montalvo.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, ALL DAY**

## Celebrate CHSA's 51st Anniversary

Join us for a day of performances and talks exploring the rich history and heritage of the Chinese in America. Featured will be: Birthday tribute to the late CHSA grand historian Him Mark Lai including reflections on the 45th anniversary of the publication of *A History of the Chinese in California: A Syllabus*, authored with Philip Choy and Thomas Chinn; and a special performance and presentation by Corey Chan and Kei Lun Martial Arts.



Him Mark Lai

# Chinese American experience told through the First Person Narrative

Over the past year, CHSA has continued to make progress updating its exhibits in the main Gallery. A particular emphasis has been on refreshing our permanent exhibit *Toward A More Perfect Union*. In pursuit of this process two years ago we began with *Remnants: Artists Respond to the Chinese American Experience* and followed up last year with *Creative Spaces*. Our objective was to insert personal reflection and commentary about our history utilizing artists' work.

What has evolved for us is to put first person narrative at the center of our efforts to tell our history. So for our section exploring

the Angel Island experience we focus on the stories of the family of CHSA Artist-in-Residence Lenora Lee. Inspired by the vision of artist Frank Wong recalling Chinatown's past through the miniature dioramas we have created a new installation entitled *Living in Chinatown: SRO*, a life-size version of Frank's diorama of local resident Peter Yamamoto's room in the 1990's. Also featured is photographer Leland Wong's Chinatown Studio in the Yick Gallery, which now displays a mural-sized photo collage capturing the daily life in the community. Never before seen Jake

Lee paintings are hanging at our Choy Gallery along with free screenings of his show from 1983 called *The Wonderful World of Watercolor with Jake Lee*, teaching viewers how to paint with watercolor. Capping off our efforts is a video "Tribute of the Chinese Railroad Workers" produced by journalist Rick Quan on the occasion of May 9, 2014 Department of Labor Wall of Honor induction ceremony in Washington, DC.

Come on down to the museum and take a look at all the new additions! We welcome your engagement, participation, and feedback.



*#Chinatown: Leland Wong's Photographic Sketchbook* comprises his works from 2002 to today



Outside of CHSA's Learning Center is Lenora Lee's *Passages: For Lee Ping To* (2012), an homage to her maternal grandparents.

## Angels Working at CHSA

The Angels Project is part of the Western Association for Art Conservation (WAAC) annual conference. Each year, WAAC members, who are professional conservators, provide expertise to museums with conservation needs. CHSA has been selected this year to receive conservation care to our collections. The Angels work day is on September 8, 2014.

Huge thanks to WAAC President Katie Holbrow, WAAC Coordinators: Victoria Binder, Peng-Peng Wang and Gawain Weaver and all the participating WAAC Angels. CHSA would also like to thank The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works for the generous grant to make this Angels Project possible at CHSA.



The Angels Project will focus conservation work on CHSA's photographs, scrapbooks, lantern slides and glass plate negatives.