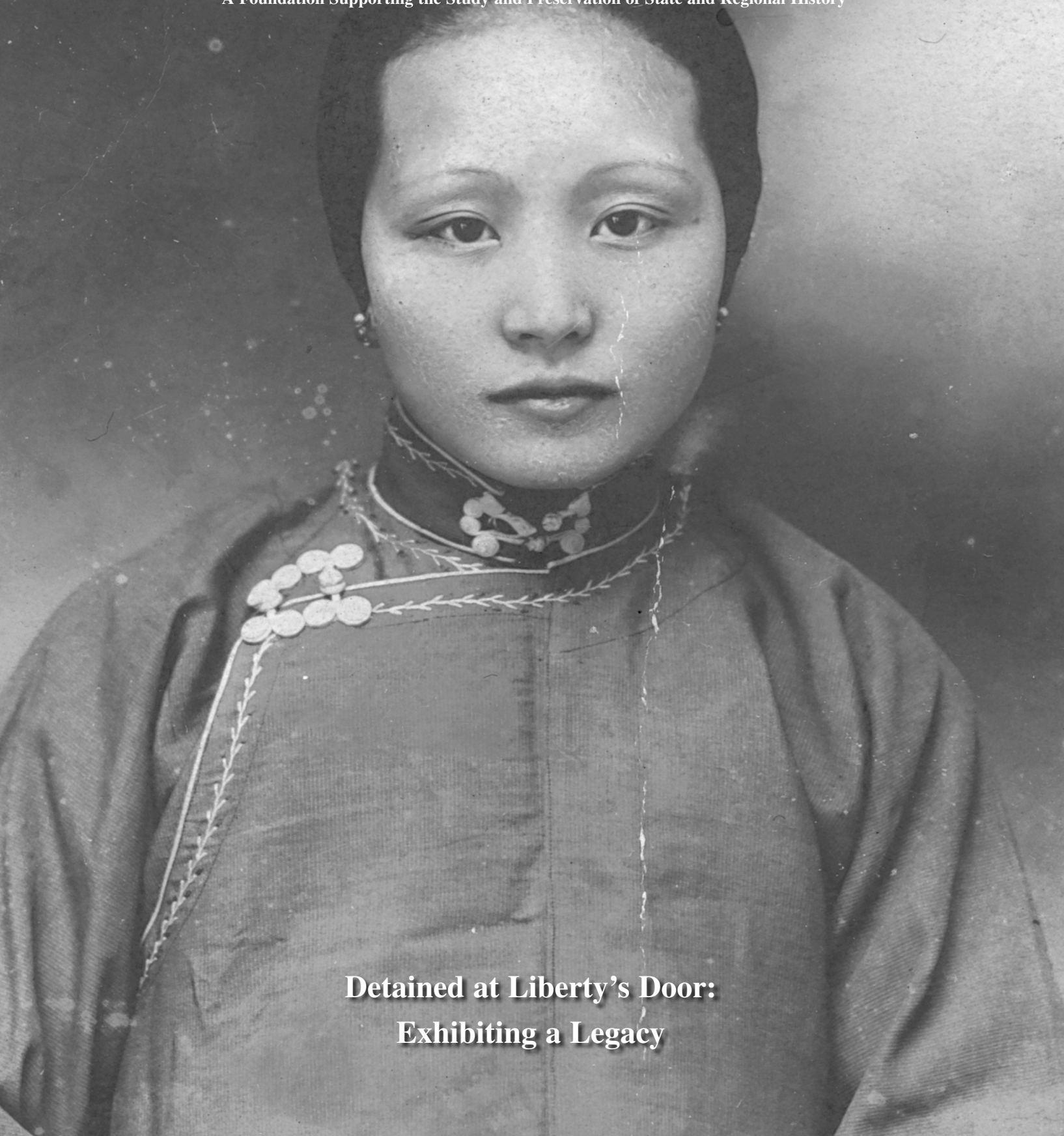


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# CALIFORNIA THE ORNIAN

Magazine of the California History Center Foundation/De Anza College—  
A Foundation Supporting the Study and Preservation of State and Regional History



**Detained at Liberty's Door:  
Exhibiting a Legacy**

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Things Fall Down



Tom Izu

Many of you probably saw the photographs and read about the collapse of the East Cottage adjacent to the Trianon building, the one surviving “Mission Revival style” structure on the De Anza College campus. On June 2, 2010, one of the cottage’s chimneys fell and took the entire remaining roof structure with it. The building was right in the midst of undergoing extensive rehabilitation work, having endured

years of neglect and related damage from water, mildew, and various vermin. It had survived the first stages of its rehabilitation, including a complete strip-down and removal of its plaster, wallboards, columns, brick arcade, and a large section of its roof covering. Most dramatic of all, it even survived a temporary trip up into the air of about 12 feet where it rested on pilings while the workers created a new foundation for it below. After the crew had successfully lowered the cottage and had just begun the next phase of the work, it fell. Thankfully, none of the work crew was injured when this happened and curious passers-by were also kept at a safe distance.

This incident shocked me and left me numb for days. The cottage, one of the few remaining examples of Willis Polk’s Mission Revival style architecture in the entire region, was gone in a matter of moments. But most of all, for me, it seemed a most tragic ending for what amounted to decades of dedication aimed at preserving the remaining historic structures on the De Anza College campus. In my rather depressed state I kept thinking, “there goes 50 years of effort to save this building, begun by community leaders and the faculty and staff of the college district, now turned into a pile of rubble!” When the college district first purchased the land that would become De Anza College back in 1959, there were those with vision who began to ponder the possibilities of the historic structures—part of the 1890s Baldwin estate—that came with the property. These physical reminders of a past seemingly so different in nature from the relentless, high-speed, technology-based industrial rampage that was literally consuming the landscape and preparing the ground for what was to become Silicon Valley—could these structures be saved and live on to serve an educational purpose—one that reminds future students and community members that there is a past to ponder and from which to learn?

Their work led to the saving of the building known as the “Trianon,” now the home of the CHC. But always in the back of their minds was the unfinished business of saving the “cottages,” the two modest, Mission Revival style buildings that housed servants, workers and guests of the original Baldwin estate. In 2006, one of the structures, the West Cottage, was demolished



Cottage collapse. Photo by Rodney Fernandez, 6/02/2010.

to make way for roadwork. All that remained was the East Cottage. Fortunately, it was spared with the promise that it would be saved and repaired for a new life of service for the college.

With its collapse, it now seemed that an entire era of preservation work had ended in a traumatically inglorious way, all under my watch as director. What would I say to those who worked so tirelessly to save these buildings? Compounding this overly dramatic sense of guilt was my deep fear that I was actually not, nor had I ever truly been, a “preservationist.” Local history was to be used to understand a deliberately buried past—a type of advocacy that helped uncover dynamics that needed to be brought to light to help make our society better. It wasn’t just about old buildings, especially those that seemed to engender more of a sense of grand entitlement than social awareness.

Fortunately, my disturbed state of being made me remember a conversation many years ago I had all but forgotten. The memory left me with a new feeling of distance and oddly enough, comfort. Destruction is always a good way to confuse and alter one’s thinking, and bring out the contradictions within that need to be addressed (although I wouldn’t recommend it lightly).

I had a great uncle who was very supportive of my efforts when I was involved in a community center capital campaign in the Japanese American community before I came to work at CHC and De Anza College. We were facing all sorts of hardships of a financial and political nature, and it was not clear if the building would ever be constructed, a prospect that left me feeling depressed and ashamed that I might end up letting an

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Cover photo: “The detained,” Mrs. Lee Yoke Suey, named Wong Shee in her immigration documents, was author Connie Young Yu’s grandmother. Official identification photograph, 1913.

entire community down. My great uncle was a prominent member of our community who had endured and accomplished much in his life so I would always listen to what he offered because I knew it was truly meant as a gift. He told me not to worry so much, and that things like buildings, with the passage of time, go up and come down, but the thing to focus on is the question, what is it you really want to build? Is it just a building or is it something else? What will truly last? Do you know? If you can answer this, it will happen. With much effort the building was built and along with it, a clearer and stronger sense of purpose for the community — the profound sense of what we wanted as our legacy—just as my great uncle had said.

Reflecting upon this, I then understood that the effort to save these reminders of the past—no matter who owned them, how they were used, or what they might now symbolize to others—is the striving of a preservationist. This effort can kindle thoughtfulness and be used to snap us out of the narrowing of vision we suffer when engulfed by destruction. Even if we are not ultimately successful, we create a movement aimed at gathering, collecting, and uniting those of different generations, backgrounds, cultures, and political outlooks to appreciate and grasp a sense of the place of which we are a part and which we must learn to share. Otherwise, heritage becomes a meaningless exercise in self-promotion on the way to oblivion, no matter how nice the building.

Since the collapse, we have learned that the college will build a replica of the East Cottage using materials salvaged from the original, and that there will be no additional costs to the project, with the contractors and other parties involved assuming responsibility. In addition, plans will continue on what we are calling the “historic corridor” —the area connecting the East Cottage, History Center, front entrance of the Flint Center, the old winery building, and the Sunken Garden. The corridor will include interpretive markers, and possibly a large-scale timeline or mural—all designed to help future members of our local and campus community understand the history and culture of the place. While the creation of such a project will not be simple or easy, it does seem like a wonderful opportunity to create a unique landscape that keeps traditional historic elements and serves the purpose of providing a special area, open to the campus and public, to reflect on, and connect with, a shared past.

Please see the article in this issue on the work the college is undertaking on the “Historic Corridor.” You can help shape, and make real, a lasting legacy that is “both beautiful and useful,” to borrow the words of architect Willis Polk, designer of the CHC building, Cottage and Sunken Garden. Please consider being a part of this most interesting preservation movement.

## EDUCATION

### California History Center Academic Program

*The following courses will be offered during the Fall 2010 quarter through the California History Center. Please see the History class listing section of the Schedule of Classes for additional information <http://www.deanza.fhda.edu/schedule/> or call the center at (408) 864-8986.*

#### **THE DONNER PARTY: AN EXPLORATION OF MYTHS AND REALITIES**

*Mary Jo Ignoffo*

HIST 53X95 ■ 2 UNITS

In the spring of 1846 a caravan of wagons set out from Independence, Missouri, for California. After a series of crucial decisions, a smaller group later known as the Donner Party after the leader George Donner, took a cutoff adding 150 miles to their journey and putting them hopelessly late in the season to cross the Sierra Nevada. Who were the leaders and members of the expedition, what motivated their trek, what factors contributed to getting stranded in the snowy mountain range, and did those remaining in the mountains survive by consuming human flesh? This class will look at primary source documents to evaluate the Donner Party and its historical legacy.

Lectures: Wednesdays, Oct. 20 & Nov. 3, 2010

6:20-10:00 P.M., CHC

Field Trips: Saturday, Oct. 30 & Friday Nov. 5, 2010 TBA

#### **PEOPLE OF THE MOUNTAIN: COMMUNITIES OF THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS**

*Chatham Forbes*

HIST 107X95 ■ 2 UNITS

Displacing the earliest Ohlone inhabitants, rancheros settled in the Santa Cruz Mountains in Hispanic times, followed by Americans in the 1840s. Distinctive communities have evolved over many generations, adapting to their upland habitat.

Lectures: Thursdays, Oct. 14 & 28, 2010

6:20-10:00 P.M. CHC

Field Trips: Saturdays, Oct. 16, & Oct. 30, 2010 TBA

#### **BAY AREA EARTHQUAKES: DESTRUCTION AND RENEWAL**

*Chatham Forbes*

HIST 107X96 ■ 2 UNITS

Earthquakes are constant in the Bay Area, at times enormously destructive, always difficult to predict but certain to strike our thickly settled communities. The physical, social, and economic effects will be studied in the classroom and the field.

Lectures: Thursdays, Nov. 4, & 11, 2010

6:20-10:00 P.M. CHC

Field Trips: Saturdays, Nov. 6, & Nov. 13, 2010 TBA

# EDUCATION

## California History Center State and Regional History Academic Program

The following courses will be offered winter quarter 2011 through the California History Center. Please see the History class listing section of the Schedule of Classes for additional information <http://www.deanza.fhda.edu/schedule/> or call the center at (408) 864-8986. Please note change in starting time; starting time is now 6:30 P.M. for most evening classes.

### LOCAL HISTORY THROUGH ORAL HISTORY

Anne Hickling

HIST 107X97 ■ 2 UNITS

Learn the history of local people and communities and help capture it! As you listen to and record life stories of Santa Clara Valley/Silicon Valley residents, specific topics will emerge including family life and family economics, immigration, education, employment, labor and business history, and military service, along with stories from agriculture, mining, technology, the arts, and religious life. The instructor will provide local historical context as well as question development and interviewing techniques. Student field study will consist of oral history preparation and interviewing of a resident of the Santa Clara Valley. Community service credit will be awarded. Sharing of completed oral histories will be the emphasis of the last class.

Lectures: Wednesdays, Jan. 19, Feb. 2, & Mar. 9, 2011

6:30-10:00 P.M. CHC

Field Studies: TBA

### CESAR CHAVEZ AND LA CAUSA

Rashi Jackman

HIST 54X-95 ■ 2 UNITS

Who was Cesar Chavez? How did the reform movement he spearheaded evolve? What forces of opposition and collaboration did Chavez encounter at the local and state level? This class will look at Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers' (UFW) fight for social justice. By exploring where the UFW was successful and where it fell short of its goals, we will gain an appreciation of how Cesar Chavez successfully fused the issues of civil and human rights through a campaign of grass-roots activism.

Lectures/Field Study: Thurs., Jan. 20, Feb. 3, Feb. 17, Mar. 3

6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., CHC

### ANGEL ISLAND: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON AN IMMIGRATION PROCESSING STATION

Mary Jo Ignoffo

HIST 53X95 ■ 2 UNITS

Angel Island, located in San Francisco Bay, was the processing station for over one million immigrants from Asia between 1910 and 1940. Some immigrants were forced to spend years on the island, awaiting admission to the U.S. This course will explore the social and legal barriers to entry to the U.S. from Asia in the early twentieth century. It will examine historical documents to evaluate the process the immigrants went through to be allowed entry, and assess the day-to-day life of those detained there.

Other aspects of the island's history will also be discussed. During the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World Wars I and II, Angel Island was used by the U.S. military to pro-



"Hauling Wood with Oxen Team in Santa Cruz Mountains, Calif." Postmarked 1911.

cess soldiers. During World War II, Japanese and German POWs were held at Angel Island. The island has been designated a National Historic Landmark, and since 1954, has been a California State Park.

Lectures: Wednesdays, Jan. 26 & Feb. 9, 2011

6:30 -10 P.M., CHC

Field studies: Feb 4 & Feb, 12, 2011

### FELLING THE REDWOODS: MILL TOWNS OF THE BAY REGION

Chatham Forbes

HIST 107X95 ■ 2 UNITS

California's marvelous redwoods are valuable as lumber, and precious environmentally and aesthetically. Early exploitation has given way to a consensus for protection and conservation. Many Bay Area cities began as mill towns in the nineteenth century era of rapid growth.

Lectures: Thursdays, Jan. 27 & Feb. 10, 2011

6:30-10:00 P.M., CHC

Field Studies: Saturdays, Feb. 5 & Feb.19, 2011, TBA

### STEINBECK COUNTRY: SALINAS AND MONTEREY IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY.

Chatham Forbes

HIST 107X96 ■ 2 UNITS

John Steinbeck's Monterey County home region was formative to his personality and career. A place of great beauty, it has also been important in the political and economic life of California, to which he has contributed.

Lectures: Thursdays, Feb. 24 & Mar.17, 2011

6:30-10:00 P.M., CHC

Field Studies: Saturdays, Mar. 5 & Mar. 19, 2011 TBA

## Detained at Liberty's Door: Exhibiting a Legacy

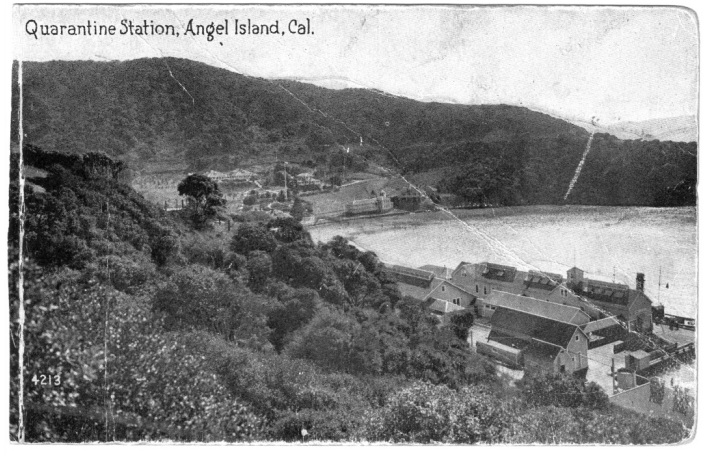
By Connie Young Yu

Connie Young Yu is a historian, author, and activist. In the early 1970s, she played a major role in organizing the campaign to save the detention barracks on Angel Island State Park. The barracks, a key part of the immigration station with walls etched with Chinese calligraphy accounting the detainees' experiences, had been slated for demolition. A founding member of the Angel Island Immigration Station Historical Advisory Committee, Yu helped secure support for preserving and later developing the site as an interpretive center for the public. She is the author of numerous publications including *Chinatown, San Jose, U.S.A.* She wrote this article for *The Californian*.

She is currently vice-president of the Board of Trustees of Hakone Foundation and First Vice President of the Chinese Historical Society of America. CHCF is working with this organization to bring a traveling exhibit to the center entitled, "Detained at Liberty's Door" on the history of the Angel Island Immigration Station. This exhibit is set to open at CHC on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

The year 2010 marks the centennial of the immigration station on Angel Island in San Francisco Bay. The anniversary is being observed with ceremonies, performances, and media coverage throughout the year and beyond. The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation (AIISF) is featuring exhibits and programs at the newly designed interpretive site and restored detention barracks on the island. In a videotaped message at a swearing-in ceremony of new citizens at San Francisco's Civic Center, President Barack Obama declared January 21 "National Angel Island Day."

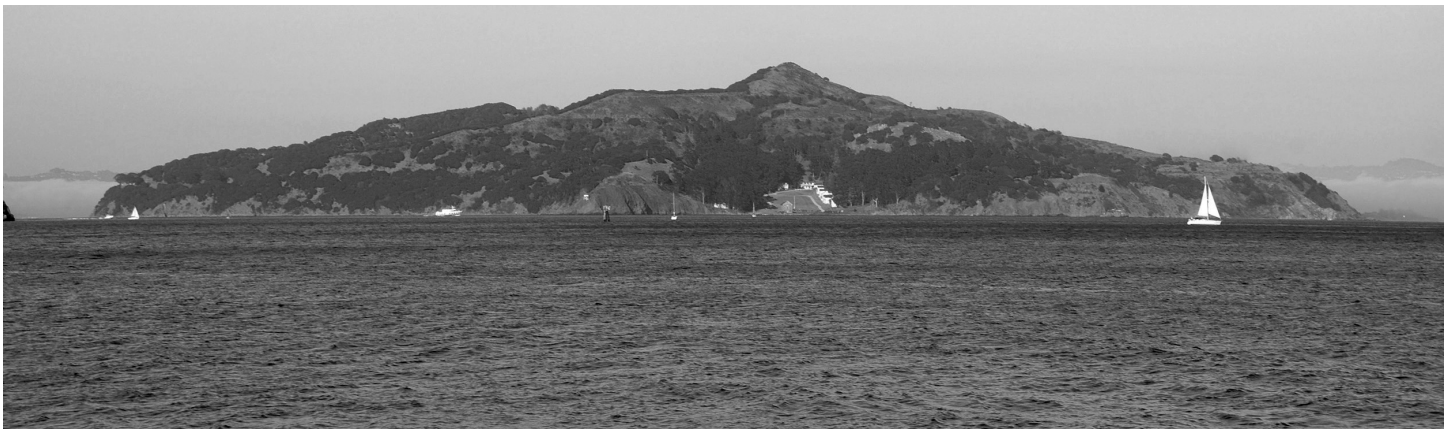
This is a unique recognition. While Angel Island has been called the "Ellis Island of the West," it is the symbol of immigrant detention rather than gateway to liberty. By 1910, when the station opened, Chinese laborers were excluded from the United States by

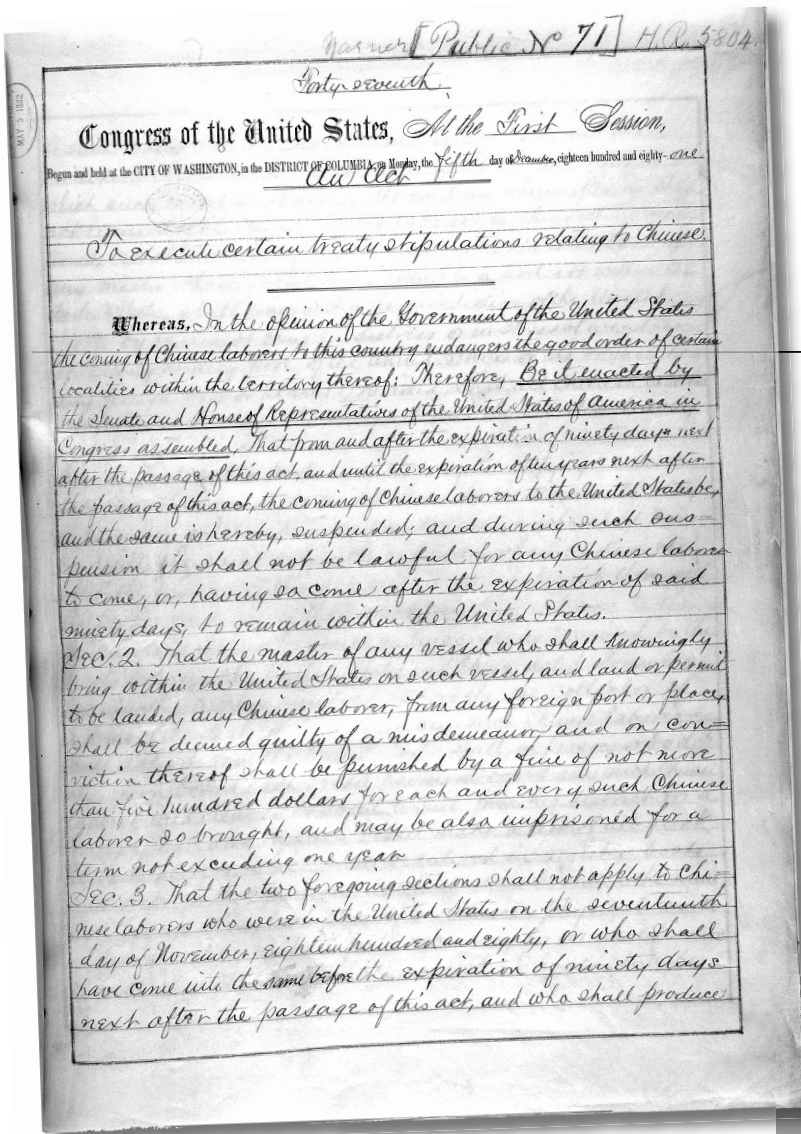


federal law, and all Asians entering were treated with disdain and suspicion. From 1882 to 1943, for the only time in U.S. history, one nationality—the Chinese—was barred from naturalization to U.S. citizenship.

The 1909 *Annual Report of the Commissioner-General of Immigration* (signed by Daniel J. Keefe, Commissioner-General who succeeded Frank P. Sargent following Sargent's death in office on September 4, 1908) proposed a major crackdown, stating "No other aliens that attempt to enter are so persistent in their efforts or so cunning in their devices or backed with such financial resources as the Chinese. No matter how poor in body and purse a Chinese may be, if he has a clansman, or tongman, or fellow 'company man' already in this country, the means will be found for his entry."

The Customs House on the San Francisco wharf for the processing of immigrants—squalid, fraught with corruption, and





Chinese Exclusion Act, first page, dated 12/5/1881.

allowing escape—was no longer suitable for use. Angel Island in San Francisco Bay, accessible only by an hour-long ferry ride, was regarded as an ideal place for receiving, interrogating, and detaining Chinese immigrants, and for discouraging visitors and witnesses on their behalf.

### Remembering 1882

This centennial provides an opportunity for a history lesson long overdue. In 2007, Sue Lee, Executive Director of the Chinese Historical Society of America, launched a series of programs with the theme *Remembering 1882: Fighting for Civil Rights in the Shadow of the Chinese Exclusion Act*, upon the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act. The impact and lingering effect of the Chinese Exclusion Act have never been fully grasped, and this year's CHSA exhibit—*Detained at Liberty's Door*—continues the process of remembering and resolving.

Although I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Californian I have lived in the shadow of the Exclusion Act all my life. On both sides of my family, hardship and suffering were caused by the injustice of discriminatory laws and immigration restrictions. Early on, I knew how Chinese had been excluded from America, hearing so often stories of my father's father who came to San José as a

child laborer one year before the exclusion law of 1882. On my mother's side the story was Grandma Lee's detention on Angel Island.

### The Case of Mrs. Lee, "the detained"

Returning to San Francisco from China with her American-born children in January of 1924, Mrs. Lee Yoke Suey (Wong Shee), the widow of an American-born merchant, was caught by the strict enforcement of a new immigration law. The 1920 hearings on Angel Island on the issue of Japanese picture brides led to the immigration law of 1924 prohibiting the entry of "aliens ineligible for citizenship." My maternal grandfather, Lee Yoke Suey, an agent for the Haas Brothers and Levi Strauss in China, had died of cancer on board ship en route to Hong Kong at the end of 1922. Immigration authorities declared that since her husband had died, Mrs. Lee no longer had any status and was "an alien ineligible for citizenship." She was separated from

Donated by Victor Bergeron, Jr., this granite monument to Asian immigrants was installed in 1979 at the site of the Administration Building. The Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation later moved it to a vista overlooking the bay. The English translation of the Chinese poem by Ngoot P. Chin reads:

Leaving their homes and villages, they crossed the ocean, only to endure confinement in these barracks, Conquering frontiers and barriers, they pioneered a new life by the Golden Gate.

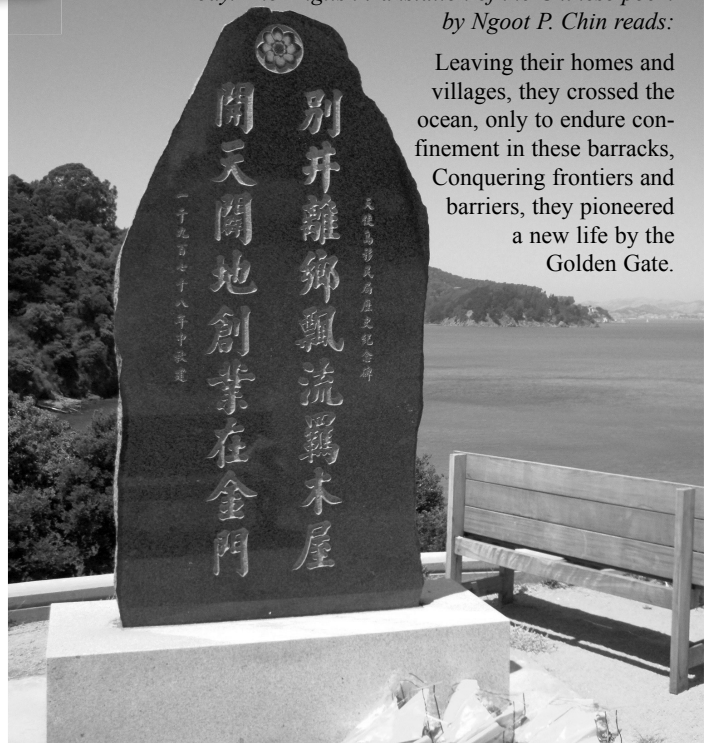
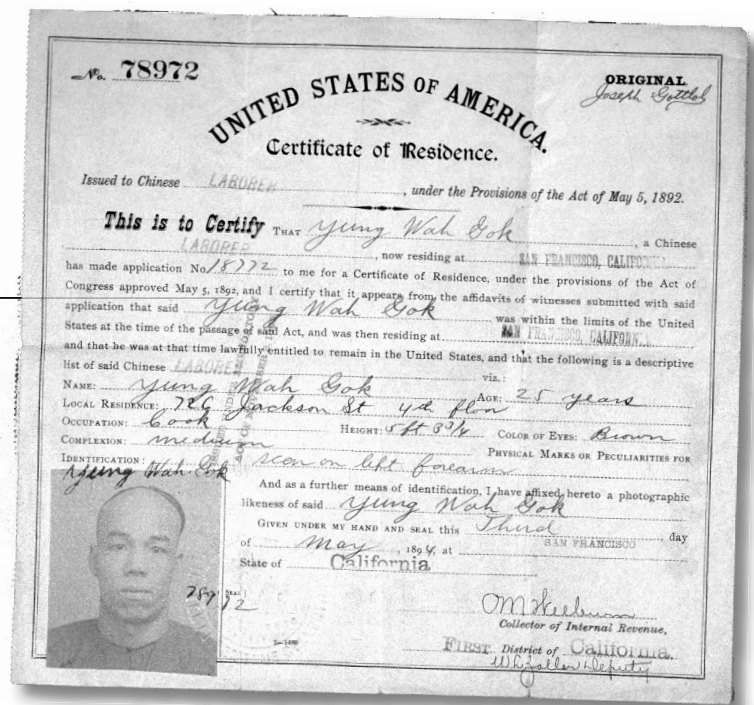


Photo by Kou-ping Yu



U.S. A. Certificate of Residence. The Geary Act required that all Chinese immigrants carry a photo-passport. Chinese laborer Yung Wah Gok, Yu's fraternal grandfather, immigrated before the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

her children and sent to Angel Island's dismal detention barracks. Upon medical examination she was found to have clonorchiasis, an infectious, non-contagious disease cause by a liver fluke—easily cured—and was ordered to be deported immediately. The Haas Bros. attorney, Charles Fickert, was able to stop the deportation, but another hearing and court case would take many months. Only by a successful appeal in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit would Mrs. Lee finally be allowed to land. The ordeal ended after fifteen and a half months of detention on Angel Island.

This is the story that is told by the Chinese Historical Society of America in an exhibit that commemorates the centennial of the immigration station. The complex history of exclusion laws is the backdrop for the case of my grandmother, Mrs. Lee Yoke Suey. I had plenty to exhibit—family documents, clothing, photos, store furnishings, memorabilia, and copies of official records. I knew how to navigate the paper trail. Fellow CHSA board member and



Chinese at the Detention Barracks with San Francisco Commissioner of Immigration Edward Cahill, 1935. Photo by Hope Cahill.



Angel Island building, 1935. Photo by Hope Cahill, wife of San Francisco Commissioner of Immigration, Edward Cahill.

designer Barre Fong, however, had the daunting task of creating from all these things an exhibit about one individual's struggle that would embody an era of exclusion. It would require imagination as well as restraint to make an exhibit illuminating and engaging enough for the visitor new to this history.

### *The Exhibit: Detained at Liberty's Door*

The story is told in a gallery setting by eight panels with photos and text, an open trunk, a display case with memorabilia—photos, letters, and even the coaching books the Lee family used to pass the interrogation of Angel Island's Board of Inquiry, a wooden cabinet from the Chinatown store of Lee Yoke Suey, and a dress that Mrs. Lee wore. At the last minute, we produced a video to accompany the exhibit with a clip of Angel Island from a film made in 1974, *Jung-Sai: Chinese Americans* by Freida Lee Mock.

There was important information—mainly voluminous files from the National Archives at San Bruno—that could not be included, but provided primary documentation and helped us understand for ourselves the social and political climate of the times and character of the people. A few thousand words could make a picture.

For instance, there was a lengthy hearing of the Board of Inquiry in which Mrs. Lee said, "I do not know why I am not landed," and chairman H. W. Cunningham declared:

*This woman was originally granted a form 430 under the status of a wife of native. The death of her husband prior to her return nullifies that status and I can see no ground for this applicant's admission under the Chinese Exclusion Law. February 20, 1925*

From another document:

*To the Honorable United States District Judge, now presiding in the above Court –*

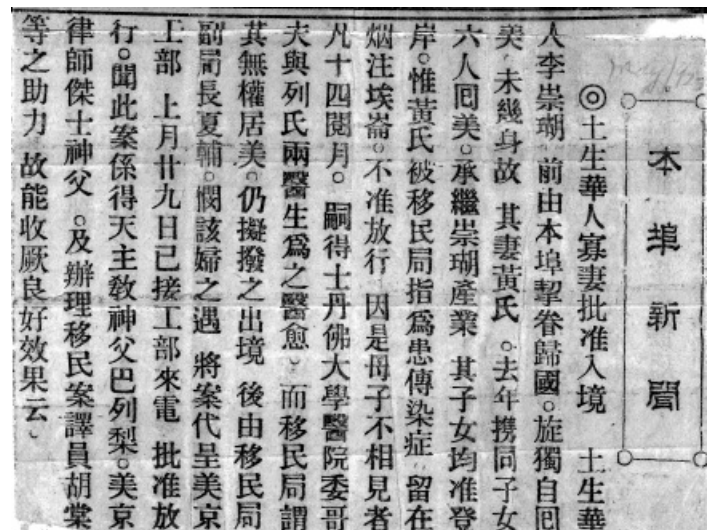
*It is respectfully shown by the petition of the undersigned that Wong Shee, who is hereinafter in this petition referred to as "the detained", is unlawfully imprisoned, detained, confined and restrained of her liberty by John D. Nagle, Commissioner of Immigration for the Port of San Francisco, at the Immigration Station at Angel Island, County of Marin, State and Northern District of California, Southern Division thereof; that the said imprisonment, detention, confinement and restraint are illegal....."*

Petition submitted by Charles M. Fickert, representing Lee King Show, daughter of Mrs. Lee (Wong Shee).

### *The Legacy of Exclusion*

After her release from Angel Island, Mrs. Lee, my grandmother, went to live in Chinatown with her two small sons and four teen-age daughters. They were no longer the well-off family of a merchant, and my mother and her sisters worked in a sewing factory. Even grandmother did piece work, sewing at home. The 2nd eldest daughter died of tuberculosis at the age of 18. Grandmother never stopped mourning for her.

Grandmother left her descendants a trunk packed with personal items (including bound foot shoes and slippers), pieces of material for sewing, and boxes of documents, albums



Newspaper article on the case of Mrs. Lee Yoke Suey upon her release from Angel Island, probably from the Golden Hills' News published in San Francisco. The date "May, 1925" is written in pencil.



and letters. My mother passed on to me what she felt was most precious—photos of Grandpa at the Haas Brothers’ banquet in his honor, personal letters from Charles and Walter Haas, and correspondence from the dynamic attorney, Charles Fickert. Without the help of these important associates of my grandfather, my grandmother would have been deported, and I would not be here telling this story.

Mrs. Lee Yoke Suey was the respected and much-loved matriarch of a large family. She was good and righteous, but I had never thought of her as someone who dealt a blow for civil rights. Tracking through to the last step of the paper trail, I find that her victory in court upheld the Constitution and set a precedent that helped other detained immigrants.

The memory I have of my grandmother—and my siblings and cousins share this—is of a very somber but very sharp little lady—so tidy in black—who needed a grandchild’s assistance walking through Chinatown with her bound feet. She rarely left Chinatown and whenever she did, everyone stared at her bound feet as if she were an alien from another planet.

In 1953, ten years after the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, my grandmother decided to apply for American citizenship. I was surprised that she used her maiden name, Jeung Hing Tong. I remember sitting with her in the little apartment on Powell Street, helping her with the pronunciation of the three branches of government (she had trouble with *legislative*). Being a child, only wanting her to give me a dime for a comic book, I had no idea then what a big deal that citizenship application was to her, until now. Seeing her Angel Island story told in an exhibit created from a trunkful of artifacts and a paper trail of documents—I finally understand the meaning of her struggle and appreciate the legacy she left that can be shared by all.

For further information on this subject please consult the following websites.

<http://www.aiisf.org/> Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation

<http://angelisland.org/> Angel Island Association

[www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=468](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=468) California State Parks Angel Island State Park

<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=old&doc=47#> Our Documents—Chinese Exclusion Act (1882)

[http://library.uwb.edu/guides/USimmigration/1943\\_magnuson\\_act.html](http://library.uwb.edu/guides/USimmigration/1943_magnuson_act.html) Magnuson Act 1943 (repeal of Chinese Exclusion Act)

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-national-angel-island-day> Presidential Proclamation—“National Angel Island Day”

[www.civilrightssuite.org/1882/](http://www.civilrightssuite.org/1882/) Chinese Historical Society Presents: Microsite: *Remembering 1882: Fighting for Civil Rights in the Shadow of the Chinese Exclusion Act.*



Author Connie Young Yu and exhibit designer Barre Fong on the opening day of “Detained at Liberty’s Door” at the Chinese Historical Society, June 12, 2010.

## Saratoga was a good place to be poor

by Willys Peck

In honor of these hard economic times, we bring you a “Stereopticon” column by Willys Peck from the Saratoga News of June 16, 1996, also featured in Willys Peck’s and our latest publication, Willys Peck’s Saratoga.

Once upon a time, before the words “prestigious” and “Saratoga” were permanently conjoined in real estate ads, this was a pretty good place to be poor. I am aware of the inverse snobbery implied here, as in “My folks had less than your folks,” but that isn’t my point. What I am getting at is the fact that, in the era encompassing the Great Depression, everyone was pretty much in the same boat.

One of the plus factors was housing. There were, to be sure, well-to-do people who had permanent and summer homes here—Glen Una was synonymous with “high-rent district”—but there were houses available all the way down the economic scale. In the 1920s the \$15 monthly rent my parents paid for an old but comfortable house at the end of Marion Avenue probably was about average.

In an era of modest means, and even more modest expectations, it was axiomatic that kids would have to work for their spending money. If you wanted to support a bicycle, buy model-airplane material or have an occasional Coke at the Saratoga Drug Store fountain—even get something special in the way of school clothes—it was pretty much up to you; the folks had enough to handle in just getting by.

Those who grew up on the prune and apricot ranches of course had their work cut out for them. The rest of us had to find other employment. I entered the labor force at the age of 10, watering the garden and raking leaves at the home of a family friend for 15 cents an hour.

Yard work was one source of income. A *Liberty* magazine route was the other. Magazine routes went out of style a couple of generations ago, but in the 1930s, boy salesmen, as we were euphemistically called, went door to door, peddling magazines such as *Liberty* and the *Saturday Evening Post*.

These were not subscriptions; these were

*Known as the Hogg Building, for many years this was the most important building in town because it included the grocery, the post office and the Saratoga Drug Store.*  
(Photo: Jim Gensheimer)



weekly deliveries of a publication that cost 5 cents a copy.

Of this, the boy salesman was entitled to a commission of 1½ cents. I never really hit the big time, and I think I maxed out at something like 30 cents a week, but that was 30 cents I wouldn’t have had otherwise, and there was yard work on top of that.

One of the main lures of a magazine route though, was the array of premiums over and above the princely commission. These were awarded on the basis of coupons: for each five magazines sold, one got a green coupon, or “greenie.” For five greenies, one would get a brown coupon or “brownie.”

The merchandise available in exchange for brownies was described in a catalog that ranked somewhere between those of Neiman Marcus and Blue Chip stamps. The object of my desire in this book of dreams was a hand-cranked, 16-millimeter Keystone movie projector—a toy, really, but a workable toy.

To get it, I had to accumulate 95 brownies, which meant 2,375 magazines delivered. I had just shot my roll of brownies on a

Pocket Ben watch, but I was determined to get that movie machine.

It took about a year and a half, but I saved up those 95 coupons and got that projector. My pride in it knew no bounds, and I still have that machine in my collection of audio-visual memorabilia. That collection now includes a hybrid Simplex theater projector that had been the spare machine at the old Saratoga Theater.

One of the collateral pleasures in having that machine came from showing a 100-foot reel of film on the coronation of King George VI of England. One of the scenes was of the Royal Family on the palace balcony, a group that included Princess, now Queen, Elizabeth, on whom I had already developed an eighth-grade crush.

Hometown employment progressed from yard work though house-cleaning and reached some sort of culmination in driving a grocery delivery truck at 30 cents an hour during my senior year in high school and the ensuing summer. With a 60-hour week, I looked on the \$18 pay as not too shabby.

Prating about “when I was a boy” experiences is a sure formula for boredom, but I think it isn’t entirely amiss to summon up a time when people in an idyllic setting looked to hard work, simple pleasure and companionship of friends in the same boat in getting through a difficult economic period.

## FOUNDATION NOTES

### *In Memoriam — Betty Hirsch*

Betty Ava Hirsch, our well-loved colleague on the faculty of the California History Center, passed away on July fifth this year. She had served with distinction for thirty-five years. Betty was one of a very few remaining links to the pioneering personnel of the Center.

In the early days of the History Center, our gifted founder, Dr. Walter G. Warren, assembled a group of adjunct instructors to teach a new curriculum of courses in California history. Betty Hirsch was among those selected. Just as today, those courses dealt with many aspects of the California Experience.

Betty's background in social studies at the University of Florida, together with her prior teaching experience, was a good fit for Dr. Warren's new faculty. Beyond

these, her extraordinary passion for, and involvement in music, drama, and the fine arts enabled distinctive additions to our course offerings in California cultural history.

The History Center immediately became an exciting institution, unique among community colleges at the time. Today that same enthusiasm for its role in California Studies enriches the History Department's curriculum. Two regular adjunct instructors continue to carry forward a wide variety of academic offerings. Until her passing this summer, Betty Hirsch remained a highly valued member of that core group.

As one of her admiring colleagues, and as a very good friend, I am honored to pay tribute to this superbly talented and



resourceful teacher. Her contribution was unique and valuable. It is, and will continue to be, greatly missed.

Betty had three beloved, supportive sons, Douglas, Clifford, and Evan. To them, and her other relations, we offer our profound sympathy.

—Chatham Forbes

### *In Memoriam — Nettye Goddard*

Nettye George Goddard, educator, activist, and civic engagement proponent, passed away on June 21, 2010. A graduate of Talladega College, Alabama, B.A., and San José State University, M.A., Education (Supervision), Goddard was an English literature teacher extraordinaire. An administrator in the San José Unified School District, Goddard also worked as an educational consultant holding workshops in the Ravenswood and Cupertino school districts. Her long career as an educator included assignments at San José State University, Santa Clara University, California State University, Hayward (now called CSU, East Bay) and the University of Oxford.

Several years ago Goddard joined the faculty at De Anza College where she taught African American Literature in the Intercultural International Studies Division. A believer and supporter of student achievement, Professor Goddard was an advocate for education inside—and outside—the classroom. She was a pioneer in teaching the Black Experience, an approach to education to which she devoted many years.

Professor Goddard's long and varied background in education, community activism, and living abroad made her a proponent for education in both traditional and non-traditional settings. Perhaps this interest was the catalyst that led her to found the Nettye Goddard African American Cultural Center (NGAACC) in 2006. Among items included in the NGAACC collections were personal papers and African and African American memorabilia and artistic works. The center was located in her home in the east hills of San José with an unforgettable view of the valley. Above and below her home, which was constructed in 1961, grows a lush evergreen and deciduous botanical garden. After final exams, students were often invited to lunch at Professor Goddard's home.

I became acquainted with this remarkable teacher during the late sixties when she conducted a seminar on the Black Experience in the Cupertino School District where I taught. Soon after she returned from teaching at Oxford, she happened to drive into the De Anza College parking lot as I was about to leave. I walked over to greet her and discovered that she was not



familiar with the campus, I escorted her to the desired building, and showed her around. After a while, we realized that we were both teaching IIS classes at De Anza. We became close friends and I became an appreciative apprentice to a remarkable teacher. Whether it was the Bible, mythology, Shakespeare, the Civil War, the Harlem Renaissance, Toni Morrison, the Blues, or hip-hop, Professor Goddard could speak to and explain issues. She was forthright, sometimes blunt, always encouraging others to increase their knowledge and power.

—Cozetta Guinn

# FOUNDATION NOTES

## East Cottage collapses during restoration

On June 2, 2010, the East Cottage building collapsed while undergoing extensive rehabilitative work. This historic structure, designed by renowned architect Willis Polk and built in the 1890s, was one of only a few surviving examples of Mission Revival style architecture in the region. It, along with its almost-twin, the West Cottage, served as guest and workers' quarters for the original Baldwin estate.

"It was a tremendous loss for our campus and for the community. Its unique arcade and sublime beauty inspired the entire design motif for De Anza College. But I am thankful that no one was injured when the roof fell," stated Tom Izu, executive director of the CHC. "I am also grateful that the college is moving ahead with constructing a replica of the historic cottage building on the site that will closely follow the rehabilitation plans."

With support from bond Measure C, the college began rehabilitation of the East Cottage after the West Cottage was demolished and removed to make room for a road project.

The college plans to complete the replica of the cottage in spring 2011. The building will house the offices of the Institute of Community and Civic Engagement, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research and Resource Lab, and a new classroom for the campus.

While the Cottage project has suffered a setback, plans for the rehabilitation of the Sunken Garden and other parts of the "Historic Corridor" continue. Through funding provided by the last bond measure, the college will greatly improve the Sunken Garden area that faces both the Flint Center auditorium entrance and the CHC building. "The college, with community support and input from the CHC, can make this area truly 'useful and beautiful' to borrow a phrase from architect Polk. I believe it will become not only a wonderful place for improving student and campus life, but also a real asset for the local community. I can see all sorts of



Photo by Rodney Fernandez, 6/02/2010.

events and activities hosted here. It will be a real fitting tribute not only to the past and to those who worked hard to preserve the historic features, but a gift to our community that was willing to support this rebirth," explained Izu.

According to current plans, the garden and surrounding areas will have new landscaping, benches, and improved infrastructure elements such as lighting and electrical outlets. An effort will be made to save the balustrade that surrounds the garden area. Included in the design are places reserved for historical markers and interpretive signage with photographic images and information on the history of the estate, campus, and region.

The new East Cottage and rehabili-

tated garden area will complement work now proceeding on the Baldwin Winery building which used to function as the college bookstore. It will soon house the financial aid program, the campus printing services, and provide space for adjunct faculty offices. The work will retain the historic exterior appearance of what was once the winery and wine cellar for the original Baldwin estate. It is one of the oldest structures remaining in Cupertino, built by a prior owner before the Baldwins took up residence.

The CHC will be working with the college on the garden and historic corridor.

If you are interested in this project, please contact Tom Izu, (408) 864-8986 or [izutom@deanza.edu](mailto:izutom@deanza.edu).

### *In Memoriam*

Pat Loomis, journalist, author, historian, angler for trout, and beloved friend, family and community member, passed away on July 20, 2010 in her hometown of Arroyo Grande in Central California. The California History Center's Stockmeir Library/Archives contains folders bulging with her "Signpost" columns written for the *San José Mercury News* during her long career with the paper, along with copies of her book, *Milpitas: The Century of 'Little Cornfields' 1852-1952*, published by the CHC in 1986 as part of our Local History Studies Series. Pat has been recognized in both San José and Arroyo Grande for her many contributions to local history.

# FOUNDATION NOTES

## CALIFORNIA HISTORY CENTER & FOUNDATION

*“There’s a deep affinity between journalism and history, which may explain why so many ink-stained wretches are on our membership list.”*

*—Ward Winslow discussing a California History Center phenomenon on the occasion of our Santa Clara Valley newspaper exhibit, “The Early Edition,” Spring 1991.*

In the case of **Willys Peck**, our beloved “ink-stained wretch” jumped right off the list and into the life of the history center.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the California History Center Foundation, with deepest feelings of appreciation and gratitude, we bestow upon you, **Willys Peck**, member of the California History Center Foundation Board of Trustees, the title of

### *Trustee Emeritus*

for the many years of service you have provided to our organization in the pursuit of its mission to educate the public about California, its history, culture, and people.

You have served on the board for almost 20 years, beginning your tenure in December 1990. In addition, you have gone above and beyond the call of duty as a trustee. You have, as board member, committee member, and vice-president:

- Contributed your columns for two of CHCF’s publications, *Saratoga Stereopticon* and *Willys Peck’s Saratoga*
- Been deemed the official Town Character of Saratoga, an accomplishment no other board member has been able to duplicate for any locale, so far
- Acted with wit, wry humor, warmth, and courtesy at all board of trustee meetings no matter what evolved as the topic of discussion
- Supported numerous CHCF events with courage, demonstrating a contempt for the predictable while in service of the CHCF, including, but not limited to, the donning of your original World War II U.S. Army uniform, 60 years later (it still fit!); dressing and performing as a vintage late 19<sup>th</sup> century printing press operator; and wearing an outrageous top hat while playing an original 1910 Edison Home Phonograph
- Corrected patiently the numerous grammatical and factual errors in the organization’s minutes and official records, with much restraint, tact, and compassion, keeping in check the natural instincts of professional copy editor, “old school newspaperman,” and attorney-at-law, to chastise those responsible
- Hosted, with Betty Peck, numerous history center events at the magical, mysterious Peck mansion.



*We, as members of the Board, will always hold in our memory, and in legend, your years of service and support for the California History Center Foundation. Our most heartfelt thank you!*

*Victoria Atherton, President*

*Tom Izu, Executive Director*

# FOUNDATION NOTES

## New Children's Teaching Garden Project Takes Root in Saratoga

*The plan for a teaching garden in Saratoga is becoming a reality. The new project will be called Saratoga Creek Heritage Farm and Garden. Its inspiration is taken from the Saratoga Community Garden, subject of CHC's recent exhibit, "Roots and Wings." Saratoga Community Garden founder Betty Peck is leading this effort, too.*

What do children need? Among the most important needs is a place to discover who they are in exploring the universe around them. All this is made possible in the garden.

In addition, it is in the garden they discover their role as caretakers of the soil, the plants, the trees, the insects, the birds,

and the animals. They discover their lives depend on the earth on every level. We adults are responsible for building a rich foundation for our children.

We have been given the opportunity to enrich children's lives by establishing a Children's Garden Farm and Creek Trail inspired by the former Saratoga Community Garden.

If you are interested in helping, contact me at 14275 Saratoga Ave., Saratoga, California 95070 or 408-867-3156 or BettyPeck@aol.com.

Our foundation is VIVA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Please go to our website: saratogagardenfarm.org/cms

—Betty Peck, Ed.D.



*A joyous visit to Saratoga Creek by local young people under the tutelage of Merina Rainville, Creekside Academy founder. The creek runs through the site of the planned garden farm. Photo by Merina Rainville.*

## MEMBERSHIP

December 2009–September 2010

### *Special Gifts*

Hugh Stuart Center Charitable Trust, Stella B. Gross Charitable Trust,  
William Cilker Family Foundation, Lisa Scheffer (in memory of Betty Hirsch)

### *Memberships*

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### *Foothill-De Anza Community College District Employee Payroll Deduction:*

*The following employees of the college district have generously given though the college's payroll deduction plan:*

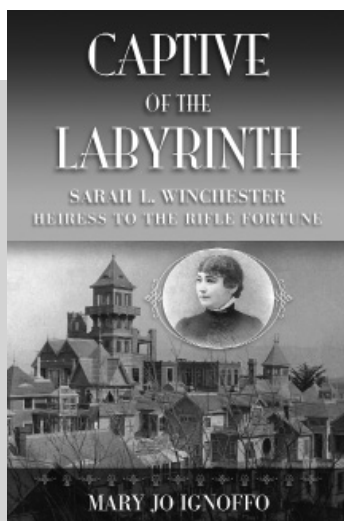
Gregory Anderson, Diana E. Argabrite, Mary Browning, Susan Bruch, Karen Chow, Tracy Chung-Tabangcura, Judy C. Coleman, Marc Coronado, Joyce Feldman, Denis Gates, Richard Hansen, David Howard-Pitney, Judith Mowrey, Hieu Nguyen, Diane Pierce, George Robles, Kristin Skager, John Swensson, Rowena Tomaneng, Renato Tuazon, Pauline Yeckley.

# CALENDAR

- October 14** Santa Cruz Mountains Communities class, 6:20 p.m.
- October 16** Santa Cruz Mountains field trip
- October 20** Donner Party class, 6:20 p.m., CHC
- October 28** Santa Cruz Mountains class, 6:20 p.m., CHC
- October 30** Donner Party and Santa Cruz Mountains field trips
- November 3** Donner Party class 6:20 p.m., CHC
- November 4** Bay Area Earthquakes class 6:20 p.m., CHC
- November 5** Donner Party field trip
- November 6** Bay Area Earthquakes field trip
- November 11** Bay Area Earthquakes class, 6:20 p.m., CHC
- November 12** Campus closed in observation of Veterans' Day
- November 13** Bay Area Earthquakes field trip
- Nov. 25—26** Campus and center closed in observation of Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 9** Author's Book Signing—Mary Jo Ignoffo on Sarah Winchester, 5:00 p.m., CHC

- December 10** Fall quarter ends
- December 20** CHC closed for winter break
- January 3** First day of winter quarter classes at De Anza, CHC re-opens
- January 17** Campus and center closed in observation of the Martin Luther King Holiday
- January 19** Local History through Oral History class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- January 20** Cesar Chavez and La Causa class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- January 26** Angel Island class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- January 25** New Exhibit—"Detained at Liberty's Door: The Story of Liberty Lost on Angel Island and a Legacy Regained"
- January 27** Felling the Redwoods class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- February 2** Local History through Oral History class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- February 3** Cesar Chavez field trip
- February 4** Angel Island field trip
- February 5** Felling the Redwoods field trip
- February 9** Angel Island class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- February 10** Felling the Redwoods class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- February 12** Angel Island field trip
- February 17** Cesar Chavez class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- Feb. 18—21** Campus and center closed in observation of the Presidents' Day Holiday
- February 19** Felling the Redwoods field trip
- February 24** Steinbeck Country class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- March 3** Cesar Chavez class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- March 5** Steinbeck Country field trip
- March 9** Local History through Oral History
- March 17** Steinbeck Country class, 6:30 p.m., CHC
- March 19** Steinbeck Country field trip
- March 25** Winter quarter ends
- April 4** First day of spring quarter classes at De Anza

Was Sarah Winchester as guilt-ridden and superstitious as history remembers her? Local historian, author, and De Anza College faculty member, Mary Jo Ignoffo, sets out to answer this provocative question in her new, soon-to-be-released book, *Captive of the Labyrinth: Sarah L.*



*Winchester, Heiress to the Rifle Fortune*. CHCF will host an author's booksigning and talk on Thursday, December 9, 2010, 5:00 p.m. at the center. Don't miss out on what Gary F. Kurutz, California State Library Curator of Special Collections, calls, "...an excellent read. Ignoffo finally sets the record straight on one of the most fascinating and misunderstood women in California history. A real page-turner!"

# DETAINED

## at Liberty's Door

"Detained at Liberty's Door," a traveling exhibit produced by the Chinese Historical Society of America in collaboration with the California History Center, traces the formation of the Angel Island Immigration Station and highlights the inspiring story of Mrs. Lee Yoke Suey, the wife of a native-born citizen who was detained for more than 15 months on Angel Island. Only an association with one of California's most powerful & iconic families secured her freedom.

The story of liberty lost on Angel Island  
and a legacy regained.

CHC Exhibit, Tuesday, January 25, 2011 — call (408) 864-8986 for more information



### California History Center & Foundation

A Center for the Study of State and Regional History  
De Anza College

21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014 (408) 864-8712  
Fax: (408) 864-5486 Web: [www.calhistory.org](http://www.calhistory.org)

#### Trianon Building Hours

##### Regular Hours:

Tuesday through Thursday  
9:30 a.m to noon and 1-4 p.m.,  
or call for an appointment.

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#### *The Californian*

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LeeAnn Nelson

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Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The value of goods received as a benefit of membership must be deducted from the amount of all contributions claimed as a deduction. CHCF members receive issues of *The Californian* magazine and members who contribute at the \$50 level and above also receive a yearly Local History Studies publication.

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