

**Chinese Historical & Cultural Project and History San José
Presents**

***Pioneering the Valley: the Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley,*
Opening October 16 from 11 AM to 4 PM
20th Anniversary Celebration of Chinese American Historical Museum**

San Jose, CA --- September 15, 2011 --- The Chinese Historical and Cultural Project (CHCP) and History San José (HSJ) will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the opening of its museum with a new traveling exhibit. *Pioneering the Valley: the Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley*, at the Pacific Hotel Gallery and an all-day celebration on Sunday, October 16 from 11 AM to 4 PM at History Park in Kelley Park.

The Chinese American Historical Museum located in History Park, which is a replica of the Ng Shing Gung formerly located in downtown San Jose, is now 20 years old. In partnership with History San José, the CHCPS will present the exhibit at the Gallery in the Pacific Hotel at History Park that day.

“It is always an honor to partner with an affiliate like CHCP to present portions of the vast collection of History San José,” said Alida Bray, President and CEO of History San José.

Performing at the celebration will be the Far East Lion Dragon Dance Association, Chinese Performing Artists of America, Milpitas High School Musical Troupe, Berryessa Chinese School Instrumental Group, Shaolin Kung Fu Academy, Joy of Dancing Dynamic Dance Troupe, Crystal Children’s Choir, Orchard School Asian Cultural Dance Troupe, Jung Su Won Martial Arts Academy, and Pop Singer and Dancer Johnson Eung.

Authors Wendy Rouse, *The Children of Chinatown: Growing Up Chinese American in San Francisco, 1850-1920*, and Judy Wong, *Penguin Quest: Penguins Around the World*, will be presenting information about their respective books.

Opening Ceremonies of the anniversary celebration will begin at 11:45 AM with the Far East Lion Dragon Dance Association blessing the Chinese American Historical Museum with playful acrobatics lions. Founders Lillian Gong-Guy and Gerrye Wong will greet participants and guests before special recognition to the members of the Founding Boards of 1987-1991.

“This exhibit truly tells the story of the Chinese contributions to the Santa Clara Valley,” said Gong-Guy, Co-Founder of CHCP.

Also in attendance, Assemblyman Paul Fong is the 2011 recipient of the President’s Award, which is awarded to a person of Chinese descent who exemplifies commitment to leadership in promoting and preserving Chinese American history and culture. His actions support cultural diversity and community commitment in the Greater Bay Area and Santa Clara Valley.

History San Jose (HSJ) is the recipient of the Heinlen Award, given to a non-Chinese person or group, who like John Heinlen, a German immigrant, assisted the Chinese after the arson fire at

the Market Street Chinatown in 1887. HSJ continues to promote and preserve the Chinese American history and culture at the History Park.

There will also be children's arts and crafts activities highlighting Chinese fine arts in paper-folding, knot-tying, and Chinese Opera Masks . Students from Stanford University will be hosting "dig" activities, exposing children to the discoveries in archeological digs. Chinese and western foods will be available for sale.

The showing of the new 14 panels travelling exhibit, *Pioneering the Valley: The Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley*, will be unveiled in the Pacific Hotel Gallery, adjacent to the Lobby.

Doors of the Chinese American Historical Museum will be open all day for visitors wishing to learn more about the Chinese American pioneers of Santa Clara Valley. The Chinese American Women's Club of Santa Clara County, Inc. will assist as docents/interpreters for the day. Chinese Historical & Cultural Preservation Society is the governing Board of CHCP.

Pioneering the Valley: the Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley is also available to travel to libraries, schools, and Silicon Valley companies.

History Park at Kelley Park is located at 1650 Senter Road, between Phelan and Keys. Admission to this event is free.

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About History San José:

History San José is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the continuing history of the Santa Clara Valley. HSJ manages one of the largest and most comprehensive regional history collections in the State of California, from 1784 Spanish governmental records to twenty-first century Silicon Valley technology. History San José aspires to provide innovative national leadership in preserving and sharing regional history by engaging diverse audiences in exploring the varieties of human experience that contributes to the continuing history of San José and the Santa Clara Valley.

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The Chinese Historical & Cultural Project (CHCP) incorporated in 1987, with the goal of building a museum on the grounds of the History Park to showcase the Market Street Chinatown artifacts and share the stories of the pioneer Chinese Americans of the Santa Clara Valley. In their twenty-four years history they completed the first goal in 1991 gifting the Museum building to the San Jose Community, 1994 - gifted the Golden Legacy K-12 curriculum to Santa Clara Valley schools, funded the "Dragon of Heart's Delight", hosted many Chinese Summer Festivals, created a free Traveling Exhibit, co-authored a pictorial history book, *Chinese in San Jose and Santa Clara Valley*, and greeted thousands of students, individuals, and families at the Chinese American Historical Museum.

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