



Saratoga Historical Foundation

PO Box 172, Saratoga CA 95071

September 2014

Mid-Autumn Festival Comes to the Saratoga History Museum on September 7

The Organization of Chinese Women, Silicon Valley Chapter presents the Mid-Autumn Festival on September 7 from 2-4 PM at the Saratoga History Museum. The free event will include live entertainment, arts and crafts, traditional moon cake tasting and more.

According to Mayor Emily Lo, "This event serves as a bridge to bring the community together. Apart from celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival, people can enjoy an exhibit on "Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley", as well as wish Richie Sun good luck in the International Wushu Competition in China this October."

Annette Stransky, President of the Saratoga Historical Foundation, "We are very happy to help bring this festival to Saratoga. It is a great opportunity to learn about the traditions of the festival."

Free Entertainment

The Mid-Autumn Moon Festival celebrates a tradition dating back thousands of years in many Asian countries honoring a good harvest, youth, families, and community. The Mid-Autumn Moon Festival is often compared to America's Thanksgiving tradition, and is a time honored Asian holiday that marks the end of the summer harvest.

The Mid-Autumn Festival will highlight Richie Sun who will give a demonstration of Wushu martial arts. Sun recently earned three first place titles and the grand championship in the Tiger Claw Kung Fu Magazine tournament. He is qualified for the US Traditional Wushu Team Championship and will be competing in October in China at the Sixth World Wushu Championship.

Other entertainment includes story telling of the legend of the Mid-Autumn Festival by Ping Li for the delight of young and old; calligraphy and brush painting demonstration by Zhongyang Lu, music, and other traditional activities. Many arts and crafts opportunities for

children will also be available. Lanterns, symbols of the event will also be there.

People can also enjoy seeing "Pioneering the Valley: The Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley." The exhibit provides the history of the Chinese American Community in the Santa Clara Valley from the 19th century to today with highlights of community achievements. Partnering with the exhibit will be local information on Saratoga people and history

Moon Cake Tasting

On Mid-Autumn Festival night the moon is supposed to be the brightest and fullest, which is why the festival is also known as the "Moon Festival"

When watching the full moon, eating moon cakes is a significant part in celebrating the festival. The cakes are very rich and are traditionally cut into pieces in the size of each family. Today, moon cakes are given as gifts to friends and relatives and represent wishes that they could be together during this time.

History of the Festival

Celebrated for more than 1,000 years in Asia, the Mid-Autumn or Moon Festival marks a time to reflect upon the bounty of the summer harvest, the fullness of the moon, and the myth of the moon Goddess, Chang O (or Chang E). There are several legends about the moon goddess involving immortality, a jade rabbit, and the moon. Come to the festival and find out more!

Where's the Fun?

The Saratoga History Museum is located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga. The museum is open from 1-4 Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Museum admission is free.



Circle the Date: We're Honoring Saratogans!!



On September 21, the Saratoga Historical Foundation is honoring four Saratogans for their community service, interest in history, and contributions.

Come and help us thank these people for their contributions to making Saratoga great:

- George Cooper

- Warren Heid
- Amy June Jorgensen
- Jackie Welch

Good Food, Music and Conversation

The event will take place from 4:30-6:30 on the patio of the Saratoga History Museum (20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road in Saratoga). A tasty meal of BBQ, vegetarian dish for those who order in advance, wine, and dessert will be served buffet style. Live music will provide ambience along with honoring these key Saratogans.

How to Reserve Your Place

Limited seating so don't wait to reserve your place. Tickets are \$35 for SHF members and \$45 for non-members. Please pay by cash or check. You can secure a ticket by calling 408-867-4311 or sending a check to: Honoring Saratogans/SHF, PO Box 172 at Saratoga, CA 95070.

Saratoga Historical Foundation Officers

The mission of the Saratoga Historical Foundation is to preserve the unique history of Saratoga for the education and enjoyment of the community.

Executive Committee

Annette Stransky, President
Bob Himel, Vice President
Ron Hagelin, Recording Secretary
Yuchi Wang, Treasurer

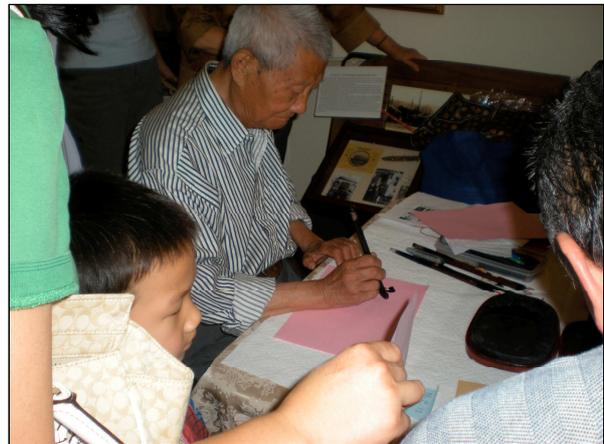
Newsletter

The Saratoga Historical Foundation newsletter is produced 6X a year. If you have comments or suggestions, please call 408-867-7468 or e-mail: annette@saratogahistory.com

How to Reach Us

The Saratoga History Museum, McWilliams House and schoolhouse are located at 20450 Saratoga-Los Gatos Road and open from 1-4 PM Friday through Sunday. Call 408-867-4311 to arrange group or docent-led tours. Be sure to visit our gift shop. Visit

Exhibit: Pioneering the Valley—the Chinese American Legacy in Silicon Valley



Over 150 people attended the exhibit opening and reception in July. The reception featured zither music, drum team, calligraphy, and Chinese snacks. The exhibit runs through October 26—free, so bring a friend!

Remembering the Big One—Earthquake!

On the morning of January 9, 1857 much of California experienced what seismologists believe was the largest earthquake in California's recorded history and in the US. Known as the "Fort Tejon" earthquake because of the damage done there, seismologists determined that it was a magnitude 7.9 with an epicenter near present-day Parkfield. Damage was focused along the San Andreas fault south of Parkfield, but residents in southern Monterey County ran terror-stricken out of their homes. One person died.

Happy Birthday, Willys Peck



Dressed in royal purple, Betty Peck recently invited special friends to lunch and to share their memories and favorite stories of historian Willys Peck. Letters written by Peck concerning the names of Saratoga buildings were also distributed.

Haagen Daz ice cream, a favorite was served for dessert. Since it was also Peck's father's birthday-- root beer floats were also served.

2014 Calendar of Events

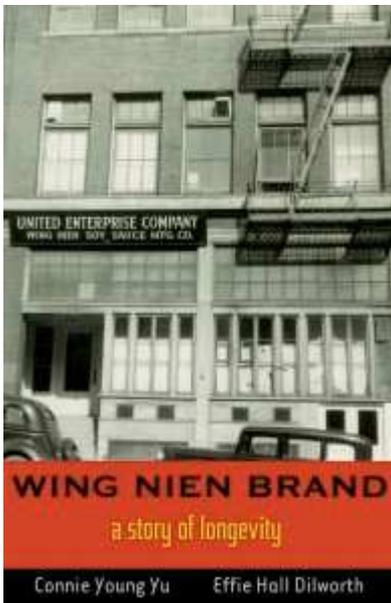
Now-Oct. 26	Pioneering the Valley: The Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley ---new exhibit at the Museum
September 7	MidAutumn Festival at the Museum
September 21	Honoring Saratogans at the Museum- Special dinner
September 29	Joint mixer at the Museum for the Saratoga Rotary, Chamber of Commerce
October 4	Heritage Day at the Museum
October 11	Saratoga Library 12-4 PM
November 28	Open House 6-8 PM Be sure to check out the Museum gift shop! Holiday exhibit debuts

Wing Nien Brand: A Story of Longevity

The Chinese Historical Society of America Museum recently announced the availability of a new book, *Wing Nien Brand* by Connie Young Yu and Effie Hall Dilworth about the famed food products company.

Wing Nien Soy Sauce Company, founded in San Francisco Chinatown during WWII, was the first manufacturer of soy sauce in the U.S. Brothers-in-law George Hall and John C. Young, the company's founders, realized their dreams of success, and participated in Chinatown's growth. Succeeding generations of Halls have grown Wing Nien into the company now known as Wing Nien Foods. Authors Connie Young Yu and Effie

Hall Dilworth, daughters of John Young and George Hall, respectively, drew from family archives, oral history and personal experiences in writing this unique story. The book is available for \$10.00 from the CHSA.



Celebrate Heritage Day on October 4 from 12-4

Come to the Saratoga History Museum and celebrate Heritage Day on October 4. The event will be held on the Museum patio with Brian Berg as emcee.



Among the attractions will be Portraits of the Past, a fashion tableau from 1850s forward, courtesy of History San Jose. History San Jose's "Portraits of the Past" presents shows that are visually stunning, educational, historically accurate, and amusing. The popular, fun loving, and talented volunteers make these programs an entertaining and educational view of days gone by in Santa Clara Valley.

Speakers will cover the timber industry, wine industry and more. Music will be featured along with children's crafts. Something of interest for everyone!!

Of course the colorful costumed Saratoga figures will also be in attendance at the Museum and positioned along Big Basin Way and sponsored by the SVDC.

Join us for an entertaining day.

Joint Event

The Saratoga Chamber of Commerce and the Saratoga Rotary, will conduct a joint mixer at the Saratoga History Museum patio on Friday September 29. The event will be held from 5-7 PM. The event has a \$5 charge.

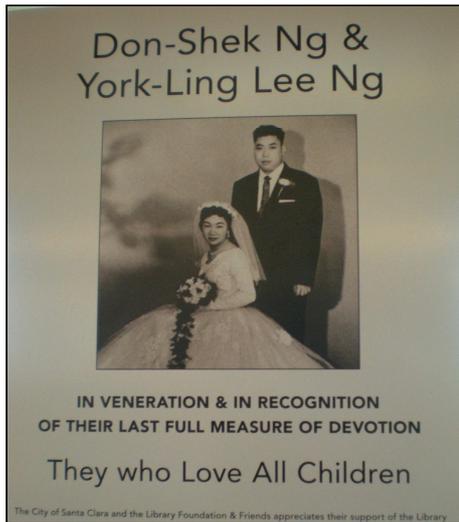
See SHF at the Library Centennial Event October 11

The Saratoga Historical Foundation will have a table of information at the Centennial celebration at the Saratoga Library from 12-4PM. Stop by and say "hello."



Silent Stories

When Mary Ng Dooley travelled from Santa Clara with



her father, Don-Shek Ng to see the exhibit at the Saratoga History Museum, Pioneering the Valley—the Chinese American Legacy in Santa Clara Valley, it was a sentimental journey to learn more about her roots.

Her great

grandfather came to the US to work on the transcontinental railroad. The US was considered a “Gold Mountain” or “Country of Paradise” as word of the gold rush in the US reached China. As he became established, he sent for his son — a tradition to send sons to the US to pursue a better lifestyle.

Dooley said her father, Don-Shek Ng left in 1959 while in his 30’s to escape the “war lords” of China and to settle in the US. He was the third generation to come and stay. Her father, Dooley said, could remember when the Japanese invaded China and when many atrocities took place

The Japan-China War started in July 1937 when the Japanese claimed that they were fired on by Chinese troops. Using this as an excuse, the Japanese launched a full-scale invasion of China using the conquered Manchuria as a launching base for their troops.

The horror of seeing a schoolhouse filled with skulls and body parts have been seared in his memory even today at 88 years of age. The first time he saw an airplane, according to Dooley, was when the Japanese dropped a bomb on China.

“The Chinese,” Dooley says in reflecting on some of China’s history “swallow the bitterness of their life. They do not complain. I think my ancestor’s stories are silent stories. Important stories filled with hardship and resilience that have not been told or documented.”

“Owning land is part of Chinese culture” said Dooley. “If you own land, you can better control your destiny.” So her father moved from state to state owning various businesses. A poultry warehouse, laundry, grocery store, and restaurants were all memories Dooley had of growing up. At one time they owned a food mart that her father had converted from a home in order to sell liquor and cigarettes.

His least favorite job, according to Dooley, was when he had to kill 200 chickens per day in a basement for 60 cents per day in 1959. But he was very grateful for a job.

Dooley remembers 4 adults and three children living in a two bedroom, one bathroom for 18 years while growing up. While living in Texas she could recall seeing the Ku Klux Klan burn a cross in front of the school. She was the only Asian in the school among 650 students.

Chinese Family Associations were one means the Chinese used when they came to the US to quickly assimilate. The associations would lend money, food, clothing or help the newcomers find a job.

She noted that her family has kept many of the Chinese traditions. In addition to celebrating the Lunar New Year, the Qing Ming Festival or Walk the Mountain is a traditional Chinese holiday that celebrates the arrival of springtime and the remembrance of ancestors. Families typically visit and tend to grave sites the month following the Lunar New Year and days before the Spring Equinox.

Jung, (sometimes spelled joong) or Chinese Tamales, is a favorite dish. Jung is made for certain occasions with a history revolving around the death of a famous Chinese poet and patriot named Qu Yuan. Jung can be either sweet or savory. Dooley said she makes it with bamboo leaves, rice and a filling such as pork. It can also be ordered at many Chinese restaurants.

And of course, preparing for the Mid-Autumn Festival—she remembers pickling eggs and making moon



cakes. Moon cakes, a cake she said is similar to fruitcake, was given to family as well as people such as

teachers and police chiefs in the fall. “I still celebrate with fire crackers and a ‘moon cake party’ each year,” said Dooley. “But I usually buy the moon cakes—too much work to make the rich cakes!”

Dooley is looking forward to bringing her daughter to the Mid-Autumn Festival at the museum on September 7. She wants to show her daughter the exhibit as well as to enjoy the festival.

With A Little Help From My Friends



This year's volunteer appreciation party took place on the Museum patio with about 50 in attendance. Singing the Beatle's song, "With a Little Help from My

Friends", Singer Rob Briesch provided the lead into President Annette Stransky's speech thanking everyone for their help this year.

"The ability to be successful is directly related to the talent and enthusiasm of the volunteers," said Stransky. "Volunteers help make the programs and events happen—thank you very much."

"The success of the year is demonstrated with well-attended events-- a fruitful (pun intended) Blossom Festival in March with 4000 in attendance; standing room only for three membership programs and two very well-attended exhibits—the year is off to a great start," summarized Stransky.

"Membership continues to grow thanks to Membership Director Ann Waltonsmith . A first time open house and an advertising program in the Saratoga News was recently held," continued Stransky. "Over 10 new members have been added in the last few months."

The Education program, led by Director Linda Hagelin is also growing with new activities planned and directed to attracting fourth and fifth grades. Hagelin continues to recruit new docents for the popular education program.

The Museum docent program, led by Director Michael Whalen also has some changes. Scheduling will now be handled electronically using e-mail and coordinated by Arlene Bertelotti. Jenni Taylor will continue to help with docent training and is thanked for her many years handling scheduling. Taylor pioneered the Trunk program, originally an integral part of the education program, and is a long-time volunteer. Taylor, who missed the party, will be recognized at the September 18 board of directors meeting. Museum docents also now have a monthly newsletter providing a quick summary of changes in the museum so they can better respond to visitors.

Jane Asher was also thanked for coordinating the food and decorations for the event.

A commemorative book mark with photos and a quote from Historian Willys Peck was handed out as a thank you gift.

Estate Sale, A Success!

Fund Development Director Bob Himel announced that the recent estate sale held on August 23 garnered \$6000. Items for the sale were donated by Saratoga Historical



Foundation members and friends. Antiques, vintage jewelry, artwork, household goods, and more accounted for the high

yield from the sale. The one-day event was held on the Museum patio. The Museum opened early along with the sale so people could also enjoy the Museum exhibits. A big thank you to all of those who donated items, donated money or stopped by and bought a treasure.

New Treasurer

Yuchi Wang joined the Saratoga Historical Foundation board of directors as Treasurer in August. Wang is a Saratoga resident; has an MBA degree along with accounting experience in high technology companies. She has lived in Saratoga for over 12 years with her husband and two children. Welcome, Yuchi!!

New Museum Docent Scheduler

Arlene Bertelotti is the new Museum Docent Scheduler. She will be scheduling the museum docents each month. Bertelotti, a resident of Saratoga since 1971, lives in the



Golden Triangle. She and her husband raised three children in Saratoga. Bertelotti's children are grown, married and now live in various parts of California—but she says they still consider Saratoga, home.

Bertelotti is a former teacher and principal at Sacred Heart School on Saratoga Avenue. Since retiring she sometimes substitute teaches at local Catholic schools. She enjoys working with children and is also an SHF education docent. In her spare time, Bertelotti is a very talented craftsperson and exhibits at the Sacred Heart Boutique each year. She is looking forward to this new challenge of Docent Scheduler!



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Return service requested.

Jane Garrod Passed Away

SHF lifetime member Jane Garrod passed away in July. Matriarch of the family, Garrod was a community leader, accomplished painter and most of all, a friend to all. Her bright smile and hospitality will be missed by all.

In Memorium
Phyllis Ballingall
Jane Garrod

Social Director Position Open

The Social Events Director, plans and coordinates SHF social events. Works with Marketing Director, and various event committees as required. Events include 3 membership programs, Volunteer Appreciation, Open House, and annual BBQ. If interested, please call 408-867-4311 or e-mail annette022003@yahoo.com.

Remember to Save Water!

Drought conditions are not uncommon in California. 2013 was the driest year since 1895 when record-keeping began. The state's snowpack, the source of roughly one-third of the water used by California cities and farms, is hovering at only about 20 percent of its normal water content. The amount of water in certain crucial reservoirs is lower now than it was in 1977, which was one of the two prior driest years on record. One look at Lexington Reservoir confirms that statistic.

Conserve water in all your activities. Sweep driveways; bucket wash cars; shorten showers – and more.