

Chinese WhispersSM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unique Community Storytelling Event Celebrates Chinese Immigrant Heritage

Unique Lunar New Year Event Will Present Folk Memories Across Generations

Saturday, February 8, 2014, 2:00 to 4:00 pm aboard the 1886 *Balclutha* at Hyde Street Pier

San Francisco – In honor of Chinese New Year, *Chinese Whisperssm* in partnership with the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park will present “*Heritage of Hope*,” a unique afternoon of storytelling, presentations and interactive activities aboard the historic sailing ship *Balclutha*, on February 8th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The event will celebrate the spirit of hope and persistence in Chinese immigrant communities, and connect past and present in the ongoing immigrant experience. This program is accessible and appropriate for all ages, and free with a \$5 Park boarding pass (entry is free for accompanied children under 16, and to holders of [National Park passes](#)). Space is limited.

The multimedia event will feature stories from contemporary immigrants in San Francisco Chinatown, drawn from Chinese Whispers’ “Immigrant Voices” workshops with the Chinatown YMCA, alongside historic stories from earlier immigrant communities. Park Ranger Kristal Ip will recount her great uncle’s experience coming through Angel Island, from a chapter by historian Judy Yung in the upcoming second edition of *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigration on Angel Island, 1910-1940*, and Ranger David Pelfry will discuss the little-known, specialized role of skilled Chinese immigrants in the history of the cannery industry. To conclude the program, writer and cultural activist Arlene Goldbard will facilitate audience story sharing. The event will take place in the shelterdeck of the square-rigger *Balclutha*.

From 1904 to 1930, the 1886 *Balclutha* carried fishermen, cannery workers, and supplies from San Francisco Bay to Alaska. Exhibits aboard the ship include a re-creation of the Chinese cannery workers’ quarters from that era.

Chinese Whispers is a multi-site community storytelling project about the Chinese who helped build the Transcontinental Railroad, mines, and settlements of the American West, and brings this overlooked history to light through an innovative program of research, storytelling and artistic productions, and public engagement. To learn more about Chinese Whispers, please visit <http://chinese-whispers.org/> or <https://www.facebook.com/ChineseWhispers06>.

Chinese Whispers Artistic and Founding Director [Rene Yung](#) is an internationally exhibiting artist, designer and writer. Her cross-disciplinary works articulate the hidden and the overlooked by connecting community, history and place in creative forms. A native of Hong Kong, she has exhibited at venues including TransCulture, part of the 46th Venice Biennale, and has developed transdisciplinary projects with institutions including the Stanford Archaeology Center, Stanford University. Her installation “Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread,” is currently on exhibit at the San Jose Museum of Contemporary Art.

[San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park](#) includes a fleet of National Historic Landmark vessels, the Maritime Museum, a Visitor Center, the Aquatic Park Historic District, and a maritime library. The park offers regular programs, special events, and hosts a monthly Sea Chantey sing. For more information, call 415-447-5000, or visit the park online at nps.gov/safr or [facebook.com/SanFranciscoMaritimeNHP](https://www.facebook.com/SanFranciscoMaritimeNHP).

High resolution images available upon request. Click [here](#) for Face Book event page.

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