



THE HALO



NEWSLETTER FOR THE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF OF ANGEL ISLAND STATE PARK

Welcome back Halo!

Angel island's newsletter is back, with a new look and new contributors! For many years the halo was a monthly newsletter for the park's volunteers. Today it returns with a similar purpose, but information for everyone whether you are staff or volunteer.

We have ambitious plans for interpretive programs in the park beginning this spring and summer. There will be hikes offered every weekend in the high season, cannon firings at least one weekend a month, and an emphasis on pre-scheduled weekend programs which will help our visitors plan their island trips.

We also have a few new park events planned for the year, we'll be gearing up for Homer's "the Odyssey" put on by WE Players, and of course the *America's Cup* sailing race.

Now we can't do all of this alone, we need our volunteers! On page 6, you will find partial lists of programs and activities we have planned, if you're interested in participating we would love to hear from you.

Along with updates on programs and activities, you will find some useful information on ferry schedules, parking garage information, important phone numbers, plus updates on happenings both on and off the Island. As we move into the high season, a calendar of events will also be added so you can plan to join us in the fun!

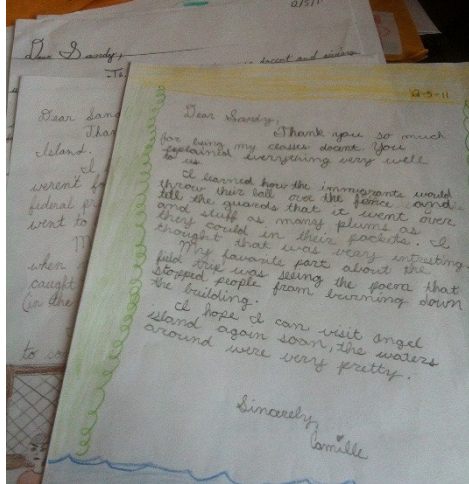
As always the Halo is for **you**, so if you have topics you would like to see covered or would like to contribute an article or a question, our email box is always open.

Thank you for all you do to make Angel Island State Park a great place to visit.



Great Job!

We love our Island volunteers, whether you are a tour guide at the USIS, a baker or gardener at Camp Reynolds, or a student with Chico State Field School, all of you make the experience of our visitors and school kids great. Once in a while we hear from our visitors, so we just want to say thank you to everyone for everything you do. Here are some recent thank-you letters received from a school group who visited the Immigration Station and had Sandy McKeowan for their tour guide. Great job Sandy!



Small Changes

Small changes are happening here and there around the Island. At the USIS we have added an information desk in Room 105 for staff and volunteers to help visitors, also added is a new television in the WWII Mess Hall. Come by and check it out!



USIS Hospital Rehab Project Update

The first phase of the USIS Hospital Rehab project is winding down. In the past year we have seen abatement work done for bats, lead paint, and asbestos throughout the building. Much of the plaster inside the building has been removed as well as portions of the building that had collapsed from water damage. The building has also been stabilized from the foundation up, and a new roof has been put on to prevent further water damage.

Representatives from Angel Island, State Parks headquarters, the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation staff and board have already begun preliminary work on an Interpretive Master Plan for the Hospital.

For now the building will remain off-limits. Access to the monument, which has been closed for safety reasons, should be reopened in the next few months. For more information on the project, feel free to contact Ben Fenkell, Interpreter I if you have questions.

Blast from the Past

Former USIS Park Aide Ryan Mayeda, visited the Island recently. He, along with a few friends stayed at Quarters 10 for a night before heading to Yosemite. Ryan is currently working at an outdoor education camp east of the Los Angeles area.



Voices from the Wooden Building

Professor Charlie Egan gave a wonderful lecture on some new poems and carvings found in the barracks this past Saturday. About 50 people gathered at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC) in San Francisco to see and hear from Professor Egan. The talk covered a number of poems by Chinese detainees, but also included poetry and readings from Japanese and Korean detainees. The lecture was sponsored by the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation along with the JCCCNC. The lecture was filmed and the Foundation hopes to have parts of it available on Youtube for viewing soon, we'll let you know when that happens. Professor Egan is expecting to publish a new book with his findings in the very near future which will become another great resource for us here on the Island.

Interpreter I, Ben Fenkell, attended this great event along with a number of USIS volunteers like Sam Louie, Jeannie Choy, Myrna Lee, Michael Hanrahan and Marian Seiki who did a great job at reciting some of the readings with Professor Egan. The new information will be part of refresher training for all volunteers, new and old planned for sometime this spring. More information to follow.

Angel Island at the BAEER Fair

Interpreter Is, Casey Dexter-Lee and Ben Fenkell both attended the Bay Area Environmental Education Resource (BAEER) Fair on January 21st at the Marin County Fairgrounds to let potential visitors and educators know all we have to offer at Angel Island. A lot of questions about park closures were mixed with excitement about the possibilities for classes and more opportunities

Ranger Cecilia Rejas and Regional Interpretive Specialist Sam Toffoli, representing the rest of the Marin District of State Parks, also attended making a large presence by California State Parks. These events are not only great for getting the word out about Angel Island but a great networking opportunity to meet other agencies, vendors and organizations who could be possible partners for events in the future.



History Comes Alive at the USIS

This past week a production company visited to film pieces for a show that will run in China about the Immigration Station. Day one included an interview with a former detainee, Mr. Lee and Judy Yung. The film crew returned a couple of days later to film a piece with Grant Din from the Foundation and with Mr. Alexander Weiss. It was wonderful to finally meet Mr. Weiss after hearing about him and talking about him on so many tours.



Staff Training

Park staff recently went through CPR training with Tiburon Fire Department to help us be better prepared in emergency situations. This training also presented a great opportunity for everyone to meet and get to know the staff from each department.

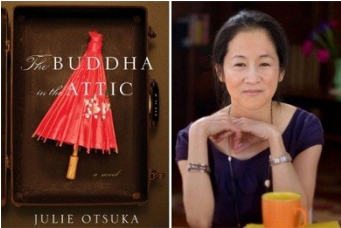
Most staff on the Island are now CPR certified, this is extremely valuable for the upcoming busy season.



Reading List

THE BUDDHA IN THE ATTIC

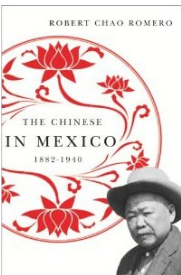
By Julie Otsuka



A tour-de-force about a group of women brought from Japan to San Francisco in the early 1900s as mail-order brides.

CHINESE IN MEXICO

By Robert Chao Romero

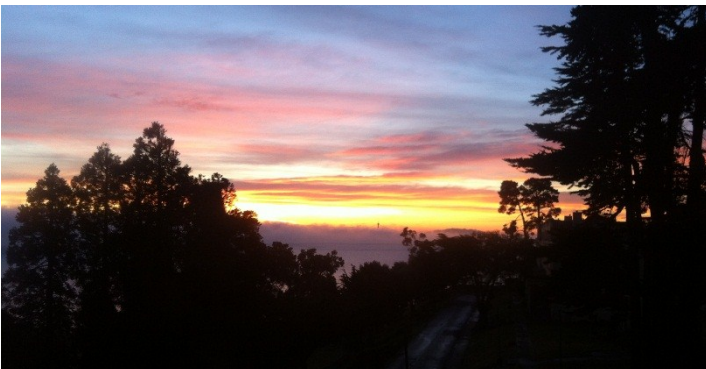


In "The Chinese in Mexico 1882-1940" Robert Chao Romero examines a little known realm of United States-Mexico social history. It's a safe bet that very few Americans know about the rich, intriguing (and sometimes unsettling) story of Mexican Chinese.

An Interpretive Moment

"There is danger that we study only the stones that were left from parts of the building of the Maya, forgetting that they represent a people still living in the region."

This excerpt from Freeman Tilden's *Interpreting Our Heritage* reminded me of the power of relevance. The USIS barracks are a very powerful reminder of a time that has passed, but without making them relevant to our visitors and the stories of today through our interpretive talks and tours, the meaning of the building loses that power and cannot continue to be a symbol of where society has been and a beacon of change for the future.



Ferry Schedules

We are still in the slow season for ferries. Below are the departure and arrival times for the Angel Island, Blue and Gold, as well as our State Boat.



(Jan & Feb)

WEEKDAYS

By Charter Only

WEEKENDS

Depart Tiburon	Arrive/Depart A.I.
10:00 AM	10:20 AM
11:00 AM	11:20 AM
1:00 PM	1:20 PM
3:10 PM	3:30 PM



(Jan—May 13, 2012)

WEEKDAYS

Depart Pier 41	Arrive/Depart A.I.
10:05 AM	10:20 AM

Arrive/Depart A.I.	Arrive Pier 41
3:00 PM	3:20 PM

WEEKENDS

Depart Pier 41	Arrive/Depart A.I.
9:40 AM	10:05 AM/10:10 AM

Arrive/Depart A.I.	Arrive Pier 41
4:10 PM	5:20 PM

A.I. State Boat (DAILY)

Depart A.I.	Arrive/Depart Tiburon
8:00 AM	8:05 AM/8:30 AM
12:00 PM	12:05 PM/1:00 PM
5:00 PM	5:05 PM/5:30 PM



Times all subject to change. Holiday schedule not included on this list. Please make sure to have your ferry pass available, deckhands on all boats may ask for identification.

Angel Island Wants You!

We are looking for our old and new volunteers to help us fill out this spring and summer's list of programs and activities. Come out and help us bring this most amazing place back to life this year!

Below is a list that we would like to provide to our visitors this year. If you are interested in participating in any one or more, or if you have an additional idea please contact Casey Dexter-Lee (415) 789-1384 or calee@parks.ca.gov to let her know!

Camp Reynolds

- Baking Demonstrations
- Quarters 10 Tours
- Cannon Firing Demonstrations
- Civil War Days
- Living History
- Historic Gardening projects/demos
- History Talks (15 min talks)

US Immigration Station

- Ranger Talks (15 min talks)
- School Programs
- USIS Grounds Tours
- Barracks Tours
- Research Projects

Fort McDowell

- Chapel Interpretation
- Guard House Interpretation
- Walking Tour
- History Talks (15 min talks)
- Living History

Island-Wide/Ayala Cove

- Nature Hikes
- Jr. Ranger Programs
- Daytime Campfire Programs
- Litter-Getter Program
- Dock Talks
- Information Station
- Roving Interpretation (Perimeter Road)
- Visitor Center Information Window
- Visitor Center Interpretation

We are always looking for folks to help out with special events. If you have a busy schedule this may be the perfect way that you can volunteer.

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Volunteer Bakers Needed!

The Environmental Living Program (ELP) at Camp Reynolds is recruiting for more bakers! If you are interested in teaching fourth and fifth grade students how to bake in the 1860s Bake House, or you have friends, relatives, or acquaintances who would be interested, we are recruiting!

Full training is provided, so no experience is needed! Just a willingness to learn, and then pass that knowledge on to our mini-Union troops. The program runs on Wednesdays and Thursdays, so you must be available at least one of those days, a couple times a month. Bakers come out on the 10am ferry and generally leave on the 5pm staff boat.

A background check is required. If interested, or have questions, contact the Camp Reynolds Coordinator, Teri Pope, at aielp@parks.ca.gov or (415) 435-3161.



Everything Changes

Some more staffing changes have come to Angel Island. As you may know, Ranger Jack Duggan retired this past Fall, he is now enjoying time with daughter Paloma and out a traveling the world to places he put on the backburner.

Supervising Ranger Donna Turner has also left the Island and has gone back to the Sacramento area, now working at Folsom Lake State Recreation Area. Donna is happy to be back with her doggies in one place. Throughout her time on the Island, Donna commuted back and forth to the Sacramento area to see her dogs who were being cared for by a friend.



Donna Turner

The next folks leaving the Island are Cheryl Jones and Ranger Eric Knapp. Cheryl is heading off to Orcas Island in the Puget Sound area, a dream she has had for a long time. We will all miss Cheryl greatly, she will be departing the Island mid-February. Ranger Eric will be leaving next month as well, he is transferring to the San Luis Obispo coast. Ranger Eric will be working at the coastal parks and campground as well as helping at Hearst Castle.



Cheryl Jones

We will hopefully have some new law enforcement Rangers in the near future. Until then we are all pulling together to make sure visitors, volunteers, and staff are all safe while on the Island.



Ranger Eric



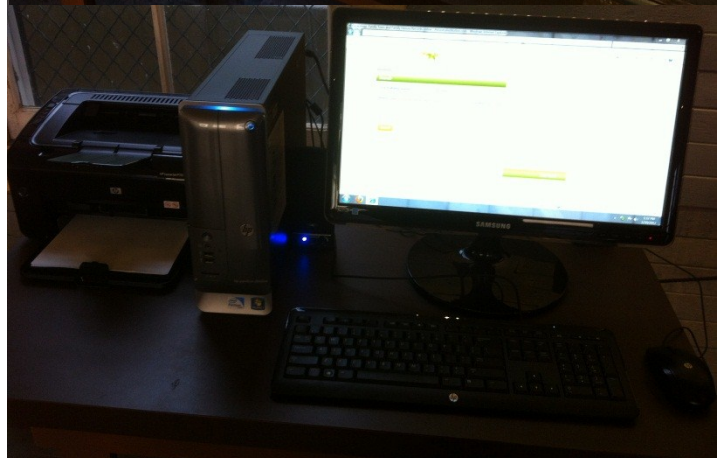
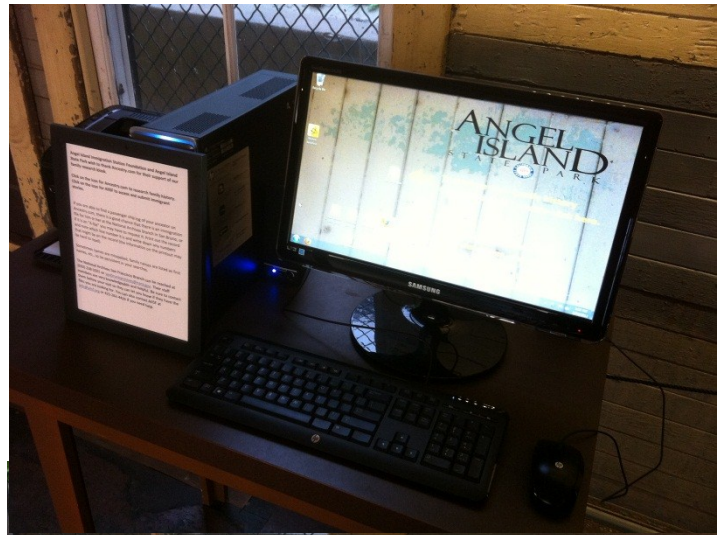
Ranger Jack

Your History Here!

Thanks to a partnership with the Angel Island Immigration Station and now with Ancestry.com, Room 105 at the USIS barracks has a new computer with an institutional account for Ancestry.com. Along with this new resource, many of the videos from the Foundation's Immigrant Voices program are available for viewing as well.

This amazing resource will provide our visitors with a head start on finding more information about their family members who may have passed through the USIS. As a tool for docents and staff, it provides another way for us to show the types of information visitors may find if they continue to research or head to the National Archives in San Bruno for more.

A printer is also available for visitors to print out any information they have found to take home. We encourage all volunteers and staff to come over and do some research of your own, who knows what or who you'll find!



Parking Garages in San Francisco



The next time you or family are planning to come out to the Island and you want to take the Blue & Gold Ferry, below is a list of parking garages in the Pier 39/41 area for your reference. Parking fees vary by location.

Anchorage Garage

500 Beach Street
415-673-7762

Fisherman's Wharf Parking Lot

100 Jefferson Street
415-441-4053

Northpoint Parking Garage

2355 Powell Street

The Wharf Garage

350 Beach Street

Beach and Hyde Garage

655 Beach Street
415-673-1735

Ghirardelli Square Garage

900 North Point Street
415-775-5500

Northpoint Shopping Center Garage

350 Bay Street

Cost Plus Garage

435 North Point Street
415-441-6932

Longshoreman's Union Hall

400 North Point Street
415-776-8100

PIER 39 Parking Garage

2250 Powell Street
415-705-5418



Important Names and Numbers to Know



There a number of new faces on the Island, that along with many volunteers coming back after taking the winter off may lead to a little confusion on who's who!

Below is a list of a few of the permanent staff on the Island and what we do:

Amy Brees—Angel Island Park Superintendent

abrees@parks.ca.gov
(415) 435-3149

Gerald O'Reilly—Maintenance Chief

goreilly@parks.ca.gov
(415) 435-1748

Casey Dexter-Lee—Interpreter I (Island-Wide)

calee@parks.ca.gov
(415) 789-1384

Ben Fenkell—Interpreter I (USIS)

bfenkell@parks.ca.gov
(415) 435-3522

Teri Pope—Interpreter I (Camp Reynolds/ELP)

tpope@parks.ca.gov
(415) 435-3161

School or Group tours—aitours@parks.ca.gov

Environmental Living Program (ELP) -
aielp@parks.ca.gov

USIS General Information—aiusis@parks.ca.gov

Email is probably the best way to contact staff as they are usually out and about on the Island and not in offices during the day.

