

NEWSLETTER FOR THE VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF OF ANGEL ISLAND STATE PARK

IMPORTANT DATES

March

- 3 Cove Café Reopens for Season
(Weekends Only in March)
- 3-4 SF History Expo—Old Mint Building (SF)
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 3i Cesar Chavez Holiday Observed

April

- 8 Easter
- 14 CA State Parks Foundation Earth Day Event
- 16 Tax Day!
- 22 Earth Day Observed

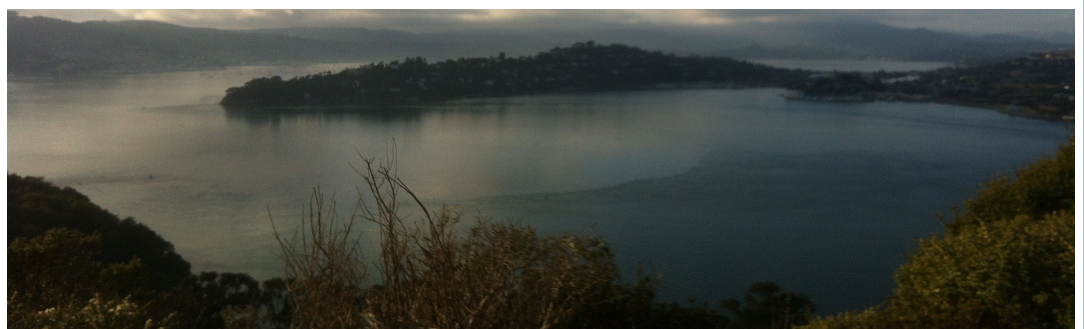
The spring season is almost upon us, although with one of the mildest winters in a while, it seems as though the spring weather never left us! The deer are out grazing, raccoons are in the trash cans, the geese are honking, wildflowers are starting to bloom, and the birds everywhere. The Island is definitely alive and as beautiful as ever.

Beginning this month, school groups come back to the Island in full swing, we are almost completely booked for tours at the Immigration Station and the ELP kids are coming every week at Camp Reynolds. Also this month the Cove Café reopens on weekends for food, bike rentals, Segway tours, and tram and shuttle operations.

We have some great activities coming up this spring starting with an island-wide production of *The Odyssey* in a special joint project with the WE Players, Angel Island State Park and the Angel Island Conservancy. Not only will this production bring new visitors to the Island, but will bring some new life to the Visitor's Center in Ayala Cove.

As we mentioned in the last issue, we are planning tons more activities beginning this May with hikes, cannon firings, ranger talks, tours at Camp Reynolds and Fort McDowell, baking demonstrations, and more. We would love to hear from everyone interested in signing up to lead any of these great activities, we may be calling some of you personally so keep your phones close!

This park is truly a special place and we can't wait to see our volunteers out to help all the Island staff share it with visitors far and wide this season.



Dragons meet at the Bok Kai Festival in Marysville

If you've never been to the Marysville, you wouldn't be the only one. If you don't go, you're missing out. Interpreters Ben Fenkell and Casey Dexter-Lee, both born in the year of the dragon, represented Angel Island State Park for the first time at the Bok Kai Festival on February 25th. The festival celebrates the water god Bok Kai as well as the diverse history of the town.

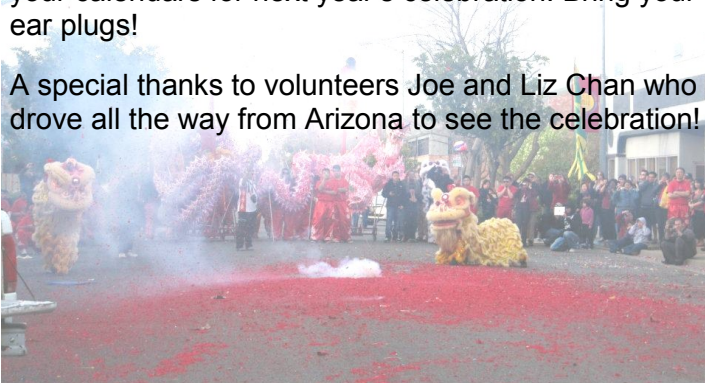
After many Chinese and Chinese-Americans were driven out of their communities in the late 19th century, many made Marysville their home and what were once Chinese traditions have become Marysville traditions.

The festival includes street vendors (including must have kettle corn) a parade and perhaps more fireworks and bombs (very large fireworks) than you can imagine. The Chinese Museum of Northern California holds a symposium the weekend of the festival and AISP staff were asked to give a talk about the USIS past and present. The talk was well received, one audience member thanked them for "bringing the island to us".

The most moving part of a visit to this small town north of Sacramento is to visit the temple. The Bok Kai Temple is the oldest Chinese temple in the United States and absolutely beautiful. The community shows their commitment to the small building during the festival with offerings of fruit, candy and even whole cooked chickens which are then given away at the end of each day.

After a long day of parade watching and fire crackers exploding constantly the temple's quiet atmosphere is welcoming and warm, so if you haven't seen the small Bok Kai Festival of Marysville it is time to mark your calendars for next year's celebration. Bring your ear plugs!

A special thanks to volunteers Joe and Liz Chan who drove all the way from Arizona to see the celebration!





Angel Island Conservancy Teams Up with UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business

By Jacquie Klose, AIC

February 5, 2012 was a memorable day for Angel Island Conservancy (AIC)'s S3 team from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business: Thanks to AIC Board member Lisa Klairmont and her husband, Harold, the S3 team got a 360 degree view and personal tour of Angel Island State Park on their power boat "Andiamo".

Each fall ten nonprofits are selected to participate in Haas' Social Sector Solutions (S3) Program, a 15-week strategy consultation during which a team of consultants works with the nonprofit on a mutually agreed-upon project. As part of this S3 project, our team, in partnership with McKinsey & Company, is tasked with determining the staffing and funding components necessary for AIC's sustainable growth strategy. The tour of the island was intended to help the team members (Erin Koehler, Frank Ma, Kristian Lau, Shannon Fiala, and Uday Tennety) get a personalized in-depth view of the island, as well as its history and geography.

The day began with freshly brewed coffee at the San Francisco Yacht Club. Shortly, we were joined by AIC Board President Gail Dolton and her husband, Doug, and Park Superintendent, Amy Brees, and were off in our boat to Angel Island. We circled the island, and got a glimpse of the historical monuments and strategic locations of the important sites on the island. Once on Angel Island, we were able to see the operations of the island, and developed an understanding of the infrastructure needs. Amy gave us a detailed tour, narrating the entire history as well as explaining the significance of places and events.

What was eye-opening to the team was how close in proximity Angel Island is to San Francisco, and how it offers a quick get-away option from busy city life. We were amazed by the breathtaking views and the peacefulness of the island. The historical significance reinforced why it is critical to preserve, restore and enhance Angel Island State Park.

Thanks to Lisa, Harold, Gail, Doug, and Amy, the S3 team had a wonderful day, and is looking forward to working on this strategic project for the AIC.

A New Brand and a New Name

We are pleased to announce that we have changed our name from Angel Island Association to Angel Island Conservancy. A new name and brand. The same passion.

Angel Island State Park is on the cusp of a visionary revitalization. Angel Island Conservancy is positioning itself to help facilitate this transformation as well as the ongoing preservation, restoration and enhancement of Angel Island.

Through our new name and brand, we seek to convey the excitement and dedication of our cooperating association and reflect the fun and kaleidoscopic character of Angel Island and its community of visitors, volunteers, and supporters.

Join us as we build our community, take care of our island, and create our legacy

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR ISLAND. OUR LEGACY.



experience the hero's journey



May 12 - July 1, 2012

The WE Players have arrived

The We Players, a revolving collective of actors, dancers, and musicians, present performance events that transform public spaces into realms of participatory theater. The We Players bring communities together, reclaiming local spaces for public discourse and civic celebration through art. Extending the transformative powers of performance beyond the stage they invite collaborators and audiences to engage fully and awaken to the spectacular world around us.

In a historic multi-year partnership with the California State Parks, the We Players will bring their unique site-specific, interactive performance work to Angel Island State Park. Through their production of the Odyssey, they will bring the major themes of Angel Island alive through a new and unique perspective.

We Players' adaptation of The Odyssey will unfold across Angel Island throughout the year, with education programs and performances beginning in May!

If you're a theatre nut and would like to be a part of this new endeavor, let us know! Contact Casey Dexter-Lee at calee@parks.ca.gov to find out how.

From the Archives...

A new addition to The Halo will be a special section called "From the Archives.." We will feature a special object or document not currently displayed for public view.

This edition's featured item *from the archives* is a rare photo of the 1940 Administration Building fire. This picture was taken from the dock at the United States Immigration Station (today this area is marked by a historic fog bell). Between 1910 and 1940, immigrants were detained and processed at this site if suspected to be part of an excludable class outlined in Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, or several other immigration acts that restricted immigration into the United States.

The dock area was used to unload and load immigrants arriving and departing to and from the Angel Island Immigration Station. Note the 'NO SMOKING ON WHARF' sign with a Chinese translation in the upper right-hand corner of the picture.

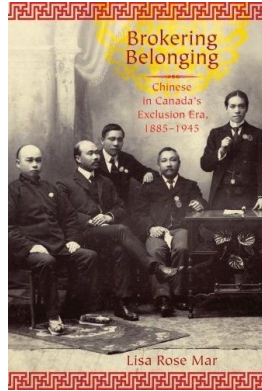
When the Administration Building burned due to an electrical fire, immigration operations were then temporarily moved to a Salvation Army training center at 801 Silver Avenue in San Francisco. The fire was under control approximately 12 hours after its initial discovery. Although it is believed that nearly everyone was able to safely vacate this building at the time of the fire (only 2 people were injured or killed), it is thought that an unknown number of immigration files and pictures were destroyed along with the rest of the building.



Reading List

BROKERING BELONGING
By Lisa Rose Mar

Brokering Belonging traces several generations of Chinese "brokers," ethnic leaders who acted as intermediaries between the Chinese and Anglo worlds of Canada. Before World War II, most Chinese could not vote and many were illegal immigrants, so brokers played informal but necessary roles as representatives to the larger society. Lisa Rose Mar's study of Chinatown leaders shows how politics helped establish North America's first major group of illegal immigrants. Drawing on new Chinese language evidence, her dramatic account of political power struggles over representing Chinese Canadians offers a transnational immigrant view of history, centered in a Pacific World that joins Canada, the United States, China, and the British Empire.



An Interpretive Moment
By Teri Pope, Interpreter I

Often when I tell people I am an interpreter, they respond by saying, "Oh, what language?" My reply to them is "History!" Other interpreters may reply, "Tree!" or "Nature!"

This is not as flip an answer as you might assume. We, as interpreters, ARE translators! Like language interpreters, we lend understanding when there is little comprehension. By revealing the stories of a building, a meadow, or a trail, we enable park visitors to understand its importance. Once the story is translated for them, people are able to see the relevance to their own lives.

To give an example of this, many Californians are not familiar with the importance of their home state to the Union war effort during the Civil War. When I am at Camp Reynolds and explain to visitors that much of the Union army's needs were paid for with California gold, it brings that far away and long ago event into sharper focus for them, giving them a personal connection. Many become even prouder of being part of this Golden State as a result!

Ferry Schedules

A few small changes in ferry departure times are highlighted below in **red**. Below are the departure and arrival times for the Angel Island, Blue and Gold, as well as our State Boat.



(March)

Mon & Tues—By Charter Only

Wednesday—Sunday

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
1:20 PM	1:40 PM
2:25 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.

New Ferry Cards

A new design has finally been determined and we are ready to get new ferry ID cards to everyone. The new card design will now include your picture on the front, so we need your photo!

We can get a photo in one of two ways: 1) you send us a photo of yourself (preferably with no sunglasses or hats on) by email to Casey Dexter-Lee at calee@parks.ca.gov. or 2) you catch one of the Island Interpreters—Ben Fenkell, Teri Pope, Larisa Proulx or Casey Dexter-Lee and we'll snap a photo of you on the spot!

Camp Reynolds Ablaze!

During the past couple of months, the California Conservation Corps has been working throughout the Island to help thin out the eucalyptus groves and prune back many other trees. Through this work, the risk of fire has been lessened in the areas where the trees have grown very dense. As you may know, eucalyptus burns fast and hot, and we definitely don't want a repeat of the fire of 2008.

If you have been anywhere near the vicinity of Camp Reynolds you may have seen the large brush piles and stacked logs throughout the area. The Marin Fire Department came out to do some prescribed burning of the brush piles recently, which gave both staff and the visiting ELP group something new to see.

There are still many more brush piles in the Camp Reynolds area, park staff will be clearing the logs and piles out throughout the next few months. The next area to be thinned, will be the eucalyptus trees located behind the Visitor Center along the road up to Perimeter Road.



Immigration Station Volunteers

As we get deeper into the school group season, staff is working very hard to keep things organized. It can get quite hectic making sure school groups have their reservations set, payments are made, ferries are scheduled all in the midst of less staff and no rangers on the Island.

In order to keep some organization with all the activities going on, here are a few requests to all of our amazing volunteers at the USIS:

- **Please check-in with staff for the day at the USIS**— As we get into multiple tour days, we will be resuming the assigned tours and writing names on the board in the office at the USIS. This is definitely a two-way street, we will do our best to communicate all information about the groups and any last minute changes when you arrive.
- **Keep an eye on tour lengths**—When checking in with staff, note the ferry departure time for both yourself and for the group and adjust your time as needed. We may not always have staff or other volunteers to sweep tours, so you may be pulling double duty as tour guide and timekeeper.
- **If you are privately contacted to lead a tour, or have a special group you have invited out for a tour**—We love it! All we ask is that you check with staff (Larisa or Ben) BEFORE you confirm that a tour is possible. We want to make sure that all groups who have already made reservation are covered, and to avoid any double-bookings.
- **Stick to the set tour times**—Currently tours run at 11:00 AM, 12:30 PM, and 1:45 PM. The first tour time is flexible due to ferry arrivals, all others are set to fit with departing ferry times. If there is any possibility of an alternate time to those listed above, check with staff first.
- **Thank You**— that's all, just thank you for all that you do.



Volunteer Refresher at USIS

Last month a number of USIS volunteers came out for what we plan to be an annual or bi-annual interpretive refresher at the USIS. The plan for the day was to revisit the themes and topics that are covered in interpretive tours and talks at the Immigration Station. Through some great discussion and sharing of ideas, we all were reminded of the power that the stories of the USIS bring not only to our many visitors and school groups, but to ourselves.

Everyone definitely had a unique perspective on how to make the stories relevant and, especially for those who have personal ties to the site, how to bring those stories out and really make the place real.

A special perk of the day was a tour of the USIS hospital and talk about the historic and future uses of the different spaces and wards in the building.

Thanks to Marian Seiki, Myrna Yee, Michael Hanrahan, Richard Kandel & guests, Emma Yee, Marshal Grimes, Marti Valentine, Lynn Eichinger, James Dexter-Lee, Larisa Proulx and Julianne Eng for making the day full of wonderful and new ideas for everyone to use at the USIS.

Another refresher will be planned for later this year, so if you were unable to attend, no worries, we'll get you next time!





IMPORTANT PARK NUMBERS

Amy Brees—Angel Island Park Superintendent
abrees@parks.ca.gov
(415) 435-3149

MaryJo Cogburn—Office Assistant
mcogburn@parks.ca.gov
(415) 435-5390

Ben Fenkell—Interpreter I (USIS)
bfenkell@parks.ca.gov
(415) 435-3522

Main Park Phone—(415) 435-5390
School or Group tours—aitours@parks.ca.gov
Environmental Living Program (ELP) - aielp@parks.ca.gov
USIS General Information—aiusis@parks.ca.gov

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

Teri Pope—Interpreter I (Camp Reynolds/ELP)
tpope@parks.ca.gov
(415) 435-3161