

PASSAGES

AIISF GOES TO WASHINGTON, D.C

For a whirlwind three days in May, AIISF Executive Director Katherine Toy, along with Immediate Past President Felicia Lowe, traveled to Washington, D.C. in an effort to rally federal support and funding for the Immigration Station site. If secured, this federal funding would be used for renovating the site, including the creation of an education and genealogical center to provide digital access to Angel Island records. In addition, AIISF is spearheading a letter-writing campaign, urging constituents nationwide to be a part of this effort by contact-



Representative Lynn Woolsey (second from right) meets with Irene Bueno, Katherine Toy and Felicia Lowe. Rep. Woolsey is taking the lead to secure federal funding for the Immigration Station.

Angel Island Immigration

Station Foundation is a non-profit organization whose primary goals are:

- a) to lead the effort to preserve, restore and interpret Angel Island Immigration Station, a National Historic Landmark, as the Pacific gateway for U.S. immigration; and
- b) to promote educational activities that further the understanding of Pacific Rim immigration in American history.

ing their Senators and local Representatives to ask that these funds be appropriated for the site.

While in Washington, Toy and Lowe visited the offices of various members of Congress including House Whip Representative Nancy Pelosi, Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Representative Tom Lantos and Representative Lynn Woolsey. Angel Island falls within the Marin County District Woolsey represents, and she has agreed to take the lead on a request for federal appropriation. Federal funding for the Immigration Station has garnered the support of all the members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

A highlight of the trip was a special screening of Lowe's "Carved in Silence" in the Capitol co-sponsored with the Organization of Chinese Americans-National and the Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership (CAPAL). Representative David Wu, chair of CAPAC and Representative Woolsey made opening remarks. Legislative staffers, government employees and friends viewed the documentary about the experiences of detainees at Angel Island Immigration Station and engaged in a lively dialogue following the screening.

"The screening and back to back meetings were both exhilarating and exhausting", Lowe said, "but I'm confident that Katherine and I made many new allies in our effort to raise federal monies to preserve the Immigration Station."

Toy added her heartfelt thanks to Irene Bueno, our Washington D.C. consultant and strategist who set up many of the meetings.

While California State is the custodian of the site, the Immigration Station is part of American history and as a National Historic Landmark qualifies for federal funding. Registered voters are encouraged to fax or email letters to their local member of Congress. For a sample letter, contact AIISF at info@aifs.org, or call (415) 561-2160.

RECLAIMING THE LEGACY

On May, 2002, nearly 400 people attended the "Reclaiming the Legacy: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in United States History" conference held at the University of San Francisco. The conference was presented by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) – Pacific Region. AIISF, along with the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum, Filipino American National Historical Society, and National Japanese American Historical Society were among the organizations that partnered with NARA to plan the event.

The idea for the conference was a response to a recent Presidential study which indicated that the experiences of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders were missing from U.S. history. The conference goal was to promote the U.S. history of these under-represented groups. The day featured keynote speakers, performances, and panel presentations. More than 45 historians, visual artists, filmmakers, writers, and community members gave their time and talent as presenters. Keynote speakers included Congressman Tom Lantos, writer Helen Zia, and poet and performance artist Ginny Lim. Many of the presenters shared how they have utilized NARA archival holdings for historical and family research.



Congressman Tom Lantos welcomed nearly 400 participants to the conference.

President's Message

Summer 2002

Supporters Near and Far

Dear Friends:

In this issue, you'll read about friends and partners near and far.

Close to home, volunteers came to Angel Island and worked throughout the island, including at the Immigration Station, during Earth Day 2002. Also in the Bay Area, we continue to collect stories of people who were detained, as well as those who lived or worked at the Immigration Station. One such worker is profiled in this issue.

Across the country in Washington D.C., we've had a number of contacts with federal legislators and federal agencies to educate them about the significance of Angel Island Immigration Station and the need for preservation. Tying it all together, the "Reclaiming the Legacy" conference held locally in San Francisco this Spring was a wonderful partnership between AIISF, other community organizations and the National Archives and Records Administration, the Federal agency which houses the records from the detention period of the Immigration Station.

Continuing the work of preserving the site, we are asking our friends and supporters – near and far – to contact their Congressional representatives. Details of the information campaign are in this issue. Let me thank you in advance for your support in contacting your federal legislators about the significance of Angel Island Immigration Station and the need to preserve and interpret the site.

Have a great summer.

Kathy Lim Ko

P.S. Save October 3, 2002 in your calendars for our annual fundraising dinner.

A Guide for Charitable Donations

There are many ways to donate to Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation other than just giving cash. As we are a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization all donations to us are tax-deductible to the extent of the law. Here are some other ways for you to help us preserve the legacy of Angel Island Immigration Station:

Donations of Stock

Donations of stock are mutually beneficial. You can avoid paying capital gains taxes on appreciated stock and receive a significant tax deduction at the same time. For example, let's say you purchased 100 shares of Stock A several years ago at \$1.00 per share for a total value of \$100. Stock A is now worth \$50 per share for a total value of \$5,000. If you sold your stock outright today, you would have to pay capital gains on \$4,900 – your net profit. If you donated Stock A to us directly, you would get credit for a \$5,000 donation (the value of the stock at the time of donation), you could write the entire \$5,000 off as a tax deduction to the extent of the law and you would avoid paying capital gains on \$4,900. However, in order to take advantage of this tax deduction, you must donate the stock directly to us and not cash it in.

Charitable Trusts

It certainly doesn't hurt that gifts to non-profit organizations, within limits, can be written off on your tax returns. Planned giving can be particularly appealing to donors. Planned giving works like this:

- 1) You donate cash savings, stocks or land that have appreciated in value.
- 2) You win substantial tax breaks.
- 3) The charity invests your money for growth.
- 4) The charity pays you a lifetime income.
- 5) When the last beneficiary dies, the charity gets the remaining money.
- 6) If you like, you can replace some of the money you gave away by using your tax savings to purchase life insurance to leave to your beneficiaries.

By establishing a charitable trust, you will sidestep the capital gains tax on appreciated property, create an immediate tax write-off and lower your estate taxes at the same time. If you are planning to establish a charitable trust, you should consult an estate planner, attorney or accountant before proceeding.

Non-Cash Donations to Charity

Starting in October, AIISF will be listed as a

recipient charity at the Community Thrift Store, 623 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-1149, (415) 861-4910. If you have useful but unwanted items around the house such as clothing, furniture, housewares or jewelry, you can donate them to the Community Thrift Store for market donation value. Donation hours are from 10:00 a.m to 6:00 p.m. If you itemize your deductions, you will receive an immediate tax write-off on the market value of your donations. We, as a recipient charity, will receive a portion of the sales of your items from the Community Thrift Store. You must designate Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation as your recipient charity when you donate your items. In this way, you can clean your home and donate to your favorite charity, AIISF, at the same time without any cash expended.

Non-Cash Donations

AIISF also accepts donations of non-cash items for various needs. These might include donations of items and services to our silent auction at our annual fundraising dinner, office equipment, in-kind contributions of consultant services, or even airline miles for staff travel or auction packages.

United Way Donations

For anyone giving to the United Way, if you would like to designate your donation to the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation our United Way code number is 101945. Our code number is also listed in the United Way Community Giving Guide.

If you have any questions about donating to AIISF, please contact Katherine Toy at (415) 561-2161.

PASSAGES

A quarterly newsletter published by the
Angel Island Immigration Station
Foundation
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San Francisco, CA 94129-0237
(415) 561-2160
info@aiisf.org

Editor • Adam Wimbush
Design • Melinda Lau Donaker

AIISF is a non-profit organization fully qualified under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions (including Friends payments) are tax deductible to the maximum extent permitted by law. For those wishing to make larger gifts or contributions, please contact AIISF for more information.

Erbon Delventhal: Bond Collector

By Adam Wimbush

From 1935 until the Immigration Station shut down in 1940, Erbon Delventhal paid monthly visits to Angel Island. A young employee of a surety company, Delventhal collected bond money from temporary visitors to the United States. The bond money served as an insurance policy that the visitors would return to their home countries once their allotted time had expired. During this five-year timeframe, Delventhal wrote and processed bonds for hundreds of visitors who passed through the Immigration Station.

Starting in the late nineteenth century, posting a bond was part of the administrative procedure under general immigration law. People coming to the United States could post a bond to overcome various exclusions in U.S. immigration law. People “targeted” for bonds would be those “targeted” by the law – those likely to become public charges. There were bonds for hospital treatment (sick immigrants), bonds for children (school bonds, ensuring the child would be sent to school until age 16), and many other categories. One category applying to Asian immigrants was transit bonds. For example, railroad companies regularly posted “blanket bonds,” a type of transit bond, to cover Chinese travelers coming from Mexico or Canada on their way to San Francisco to board a ship to China.

While the Chinese Exclusion Act prohibited large scale Chinese immigration to the United States, under certain provisions some Chinese were allowed to come into the country. The bonding procedure might apply to Chinese applicants who were exempt from exclusion such as merchants or students or travelers. If a merchant was admissible under the Exclusion Act, but excludable under the general immigration law because he was sick, or had insufficient funds, the general law might be applied. If so, the opportunity to overcome the exclusion by posting bond would be available.

In 1924, a new provision stated that temporary visitors were required to put up a bond, usually \$1,000, insuring that they would depart from the United States.



Erbon Delventhal today, sixty eight years after his first monthly visit to Angel Island.

Delventhal had been at the surety company one year when he was given the Immigration Station assignment. At twenty-one years old, or “just a kid” as he describes himself then, Delventhal would travel out to Angel Island once every few weeks after the Immigration Station had admitted enough visitors requiring bonds. Delventhal recently shared his experience on Angel Island with AIISF:

“The Department of Immigration would call us and say they had twenty or thirty people that were all ready to be cleared and had the money to pay. I remember getting off this big boat that brought me up there. I’d walk up to the hospital and go to the main entrance. The guy got to know me and he’d bring me up to the same office in the hospital building every time. Then I wouldn’t see him again. I was by myself with an interpreter.”

In addition to the one thousand dollar bond, the surety company would collect a forty-dollar premium for its services. All bonds had to be paid in cash. After Delventhal had collected this money and processed the proper paperwork, the visitors would be free to leave. Delventhal describes the process:

“One at a time the immigrants would come in. All I needed was their name and where they came from; my paperwork was simple. I would write the bond for them and hand the bond to the government man and they’d give me the thousand dollars in cash. God knows where they got the money. It was a stack of bills- a thousand dollars in fives and tens, a big stack of money. Some of it dirty and old but it was all U.S. money. I’d give them official receipts and I told them “don’t lose this, it’s worth a thousand dollars to you when you get back home.”

I often wondered – how did these guys get this money? Most of them were men, a few women. Where would they get it? They didn’t look like they did anything. It was just as if you went over to Calcutta and went to one of the poorer sections, that’s where I pictured them from, but I’m sure it was more than that.

A lot of them were here for business. I remember a princess and her servants came over from India. She was here for her government but she had to put a bond up and so did all her servants. That was about 1939.”

At the day’s end, after Delventhal had completed collecting processed bonds for the visitors, he would catch a boat back to San Francisco. The visitors would take this same boat with him to the mainland. On arrival, Delventhal would give each visitor a receipt and instructions on how to get the bond money back once they returned to their own country. Delventhal describes the end of his day:

“I had a leather satchel in which I’d bring all the stuff to write the bonds: company seals and things like that. On returning, it would be filled with money; I’d have as much as \$40,000 with me. I’d walk up to the office, on the corner of California & Montgomery, put it in the safe and then go home. By the end, we had quite a bit of money.”

On return to their country of origin, visitors had to go to the American consulate and present the receipts that Delventhal had given them. The consulate would then write a letter to Delventhal requesting that the bond money be sent to them. Delventhal’s surety company would send the consulate a check for the bond money, usually one thousand dollars, which

History Corner

the consulate would then return to the visitor. However, the process was not always a simple one:

"It took quite a while for us to send the money back to the American consul in wherever it was, India or China. We would deal through the consul, and he would probably charge them a bit of money too. In those days there was a bit of shenanigans."

It is important to note that this group of immigrants Delventhal dealt with was a small cross section of the hundreds of thousands who came to Angel Island. Unlike the majority of poorer immigrants, this select group likely represented merchants and other professionals who would have access to the money (\$1,000+) required to post a bond.

Generally the visitors were allowed to stay for one year. If they did not clear the country within this time frame, then the government

would contact Delventhal's company and collect the thousand dollar bond from them. Visitors overstaying their bond would lose this money. There was only one time Delventhal remembers having to pay the government money.

"I remember one group of entertainers from China. There were jugglers and circus performers and they went around the country. Then the war [World War II] came along and they just disappeared. I think there was about twenty of them so we had to pay the government \$20,000. But we didn't lose anything because we already had the cash from the immigrants."

Today's process for visitors entering this country is slightly different. It begins overseas with the visa application that visitors are required to complete. Thus the question of a bond usually arises before the immigrant actually arrives. They do not get the visa until everything is settled.

Erbon Delventhal's oral history provides one account of the bonding process; future research in this area can provide a more complete picture of immigration policies and protocol on Angel Island Immigration Station. One of the challenges is that most research into Pacific Coast immigration occurs on the West Coast, but many of the official records are only found on the East Coast, in Washington, D.C. Research by scholars and individuals is an on-going process. Efforts such as conducting more oral histories and examining official records will provide a better understanding of the range of activities that took place at the Angel Island Immigration Station.

If you know of someone who has a story or an experience to share or who is doing research about the Angel Island Immigration Station, AIISF is interested in hearing from you.

Special thanks to Marian L. Smith, INS Historian, and Erika Gee for their assistance with the article.

Form 553
CDM

Department of Commerce and Labor
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

BOND CONDITIONED FOR THE DELIVERY OF AN ALIEN

THE FOLLOWING RULES MUST BE PARTICULARLY OBSERVED AND COMPLIED WITH:

<p>1. This bond should be made and executed in duplicate.</p> <p>2. The full name and the residence of each party to the bond should be stated in the body of the instrument, and the signatures, which should conform thereto, should be witnessed by two other persons, who should sign their names as witnesses and state their places of residence.</p> <p>3. A wax or wafer seal used be affixed to the signature of each party to the bond.</p> <p>4. A married woman will not be accepted on the bond.</p> <p>5. All erasures and interlineations must be noted, word for word, immediately above the signatures of the witnesses, as having been made before execution of the bond. The general statement that "erasures and interlineations were made before execution" is insufficient.</p>	<p>6. The signers of the bond must justify in double the amount of the bond in the form for that purpose accompanying the bond.</p> <p>7. The affidavits of the signers of the bond must be taken and subscribed before an officer authorized to administer oaths generally, who must certify that he administered the oath, and affix his official seal. In case such officer is not provided with a seal, his authority to administer oaths and his official character must be duly certified.</p> <p>8. A commissioner of immigration or an immigrant officer in charge must certify that the signers of the bond are good and sufficient and fully responsible to insure the payment of the entire amount of the bond. In the absence of these officials, the certificate of solvency should be signed by one of the other officials designated on page 3 of this instrument.</p>
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Know all Men by these Presents:

1 *That we,* **UNITED STATES FIDELITY & GUARANTY COMPANY**
2 *residing at* **OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND**
3 *and*
4 *residing at*
5 *are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America, in the full and just sum of*
6 **FIVE HUNDRED - - - - -** *dollars (\$* **500.** *), to be paid to the United States,*
7 *for which payment well and truly to be made, we, and each of us, do bind ourselves, our heirs,*
8 *executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.*
9 *Sealed with our seals and dated this* **11TH** *day of* **AUGUST** **13**

Detail of top portion of immigration bond that was processed on Angel Island.

Thank You

Friends of AIISF – Summer 2002

Special Acknowledgement

A special thank you to Mrs. Yeni Wong for her leadership pledge of \$100,000 through the Save America's Treasures program. AIISF received \$50,000 of this pledge this past quarter.

Grant

\$25,000 from the Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund

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In The News

Poetry In Motion

Save the date: On Thursday, October 3 from 6:00-9:00 p.m., AIISF will host its annual event at the Carnelian Room, atop the Bank of America Building. This year's theme: Poetry In Motion. Please join us as we honor Surrey Blackburn, Tom Layton, and Yeni Wong. Invitations will be mailed out this summer – for information email info@aiisf.org or call (415) 561-2160. We look forward to seeing you then!

AIISF's New E-Newsletter

AIISF now has a monthly e-newsletter designed to keep you up to date on important events, information and late-breaking news. To join: please send your email address to info@aiisf.org.

Earth Day: Uncovering New Pathways

On April 20, over one hundred volunteers journeyed out to Angel Island to participate in Earth Day clean-up activities. Led by California State Parks, volunteers helped with cleanup and restoration work at various sites across the island. Approximately seventy volunteers got to work at the Immigration Station. Among the day's accomplishments at the site:

- Clearing walkways adjacent to nine of the former employee cottages
- Exposing the circular pathway, and a previously buried bench foundation, in front of the hospital
- Uncovering a perfectly preserved brick path-

way behind the power plant leading to three cottage foundations up the hill.

Many thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work and their contribution to the Angel Island Immigration Station restoration process.



The brick pathway behind the power plant that volunteers uncovered at the Angel Island Earth Day event.

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Commemorative T-Shirt

Proceeds from the sale of the commemorative t-shirt honoring Angel Island Immigration Station as a National Historic Landmark will go toward the docent training program for the Immigration Station. Please contact the Angel Island Association at (415) 435-3522 for more information.



Wear a landmark! Specially designed for the Landmark event, these t-shirts are silkscreened in four colors and are 100% cotton. Available in adult sizes M, L and XL for \$15.00 (plus sales tax and shipping).

Would you like to plan a special visit to the Immigration Station? Please call AIA Volunteer Coordinator Ellen Loring at (415) 435-3522 and she will be happy to make the arrangements for your group.



Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation
P.O. Box 29237
San Francisco, CA 94129-0237

Become a Friend

Become a "Friend" and receive quarterly issues of our newsletter and/or exclusively designed items that show your support of Angel Island Immigration Station and its rich historical legacy.

Friend – \$50

- Receive the quarterly newsletter for one year

Heritage Friend – \$100

- Receive the quarterly newsletter for one year
- Commemorative t-shirt

Legacy Friend – \$250

- Receive the quarterly newsletter for one year
- Commemorative t-shirt
- A choice (please indicate) between the book, ISLAND by Him Mark Lai, Genny Lim and Judy Yung **OR** the video "Carved in Silence" by Felicia Lowe

Landmark Friend – \$500

- Receive the quarterly newsletter for one year
- Commemorative t-shirt
- The book, ISLAND by Him Mark Lai, Genny Lim and Judy Yung **AND** the video "Carved in Silence" by Felicia Lowe

Gold Mountain Friend – \$1,000

- Receive all the benefits of a Landmark friend
- A special VIP tour of the Immigration Station

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