

News Advisory



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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United States Immigration Station on Angel Island Re-opening

Poems on Detention Center Walls Now Available for All to See and Understand following Restoration

*"Imprisoned in the wooden building day after day
My freedom is withheld;
How can I bear to talk about it?
I look to see who is happy, but they only sit quietly."*

Who: Participating in the re-opening ceremonies will be actual immigrant detainees who were held at Angel Island between 1910 - 1940, along with state, federal, local officials and the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation.

What: For the first time following the extensive restoration, all areas of the detention barracks will be open to the public. The centerpiece of this re-opening is the nearly 200 poems of disappointment and struggle carved into the barracks walls. Most are Chinese, but there are writings by Japanese, Koreans, Europeans and Russians as well. These stories now come alive more vividly than ever before.

When: February 15, 2009 -- 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- 0830 -- **Press Boat departs** from Tiburon Ferry terminal for Angel Island State Park
- 1000 -- Press opportunity with dignitary tour of barracks building
- 1030 -- Ceremony commemorating the reopening
- 1130 -- Signing ceremony symbolizing the United States Immigration Station Register
- 1145 -- Lion dance and ribbon cutting, followed by public tours.
- 1230 -- Return to Tiburon for those on deadline, later boats available.

Where: United States Immigration Station, Angel Island State Park, San Francisco Bay. This island is accessible **ONLY** by ferry, or private boat. The press ferry will depart from the Angel Island Tiburon Ferry terminal in Tiburon. **TO SEE ALL EVENTS, DO NOT BE LATE FOR THE 0830 FERRY!**

The United States Immigration Station at Angel Island stands as the gateway of the Pacific and enjoys a proud sister park relationship with the Ellis Island Immigration Station in New York. More than one million immigrants of many nationalities were processed at the station. Chinese immigrants were seen as displacing American jobs and they were detained. California State Parks and its partner, the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, are proud to announce that the completion of Phase One is now nearly finished for this important national historic treasure. ##