



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Iron Road Exhibit Comes to the Davis Branch Library in June

(Woodland, CA) – From June 3 - 30, The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building the Transcontinental exhibit will be displayed at Yolo County's Mary L. Stephens Davis Branch Library, located at 315 E. 14th Street in Davis. Participants will learn about the Chinese railroad workers who were instrumental in building the first transcontinental railroad in the United States. Produced by the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum and the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project at Stanford University, this exhibit utilizes graphic panels to feature historical and contemporary photos, illustrations, stories of worker descendants and bilingual Chinese/English text written by railroad workers to tell this fascinating history.

In addition to the exhibit, on June 11, the program, Chinese Railroad Workers and the Iron Road: Past, Present and Future, will be held in the library's Blanchard Room. This program includes a 20 minute looping documentary starting at 10:00 a.m. entitled, "Crossing Donner Summit: the 150 Anniversary of the Chinese Workers Building of the Continental Railroad", and concludes with an hour long special discussion at 1:00 p.m. with the following panelists:

- State Park Interpreter Phil Sexton, Capital District Sate Museum and Historic Parks
- Associate Professor Cecilia Tsu, UC Davis History Department
- Chinese railroad worker descendants Gene Chan and Freeman Lee
- Senior Advisor Fu Xu, China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation

"The library is excited to bring this exhibit to Yolo County," said Yolo County Librarian Patty Wong. "This exhibit showcases the diverse and rich history of Yolo County and California while highlighting the efforts of the Chinese railroad workers."

The Transcontinental Railroad was constructed between 1863 and 1869 by the Western Pacific Railroad Company, the Central Pacific Railroad Company and the Union Pacific. The railroad connected the Pacific coast with the existing eastern U.S. rail network in Iowa at an expanse of 1,907 miles. The labor intensive work to build the Central Pacific's roadbed, bridges and tunnels was done primarily by Chinese emigrant workers.

This program is sponsored and supported by the Yolo County Library, the Friends of the Davis Public Library, the U.S.-China Railroad Friendship Association and by Sun Group USA & Harmony City. This program is free to attend and does not require a reservation. For more information, contact Shuqin Jiao (shuqin.jiao@yolocounty.org) or Hualing Wan (hualing.wan@yolocounty.org). For more information on the Yolo County Library, visit www.yolocountylibrary.org or connect with the library on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/yolocountylibrary.org.

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