

# THE HERITAGE SOCIETY AT SAM HOUSTON PARK

When history organizations collaborate, we all win. I have always appreciated the fact that *Houston History* magazine provides its readers the opportunity to learn about all aspects of Houston's history. The articles seek to educate and entertain while exploring important aspects of the city's history and culture. The Heritage Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, has spent more than sixty years preserving Houston's past through the acquisition and preservation of historic buildings and artifacts. We also maintain a Museum Gallery that features permanent and changing exhibits focusing on the region's history. The historic buildings and museum offer visitors one of the most complete representations of Houston's cultural history. These two organizations are a natural fit to work together to tell the stories of the city's diverse history.

Therefore, we are excited to announce the partnership of *Houston History* and The Heritage Society to present the exhibition, *Asian Americans in Houston: A Kaleidoscope of Cultures*. The exhibi-

tion at The Heritage Society, like this magazine issue, focuses on the diverse Asian American communities in Houston and their many contributions to our city and its culture. The museum exhibit helps to bring to life the stories in the articles by featuring artifacts, personal mementos, photographs, and documents. It has been a privilege to work with the many people who contributed to the magazine, and who then loaned their personal objects to the exhibition. Additionally, I want to thank the amazing staff at *Houston History* who agreed that turning this issue into a museum exhibit was a great idea. It is my hope that through this collaboration, the people of Houston will gain a new appreciation of and insight into all that the Asian community has brought to our great city.

The exhibition is free and open to the public until January 16, 2016, at The Heritage Society, 1100 Bagby Street in downtown Houston. For information visit [www.heritagesociety.org](http://www.heritagesociety.org) or call, 713-655-1912.



Ginger Berni,  
Collections Manager,  
The Heritage Society

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Joseph A. Pratt, Editor

From their earliest days in Houston as laborers, shop owners, and rice farmers to becoming the business, community, and political leaders of today, Asian Americans have contributed to the growth and vibrancy of the region for over a century. All of the peoples and institutions highlighted in this issue trace their roots to the Asian continent. They represent unique cultures and traditions, some of which mirror practices in their homelands and others that have taken on decidedly local flairs in food, art, festivals, and expressions of faith. During the last forty years Houston has seen its Asian American population grow exponentially, contributing to its status as one of the nation's most ethnically diverse cities, a moniker we wear with pride. This issue celebrates the ways in which Asian Americans and their cultures have strengthened Houston as a community and enriched our lives as individuals.

It also celebrates the value of collaboration among those of us who have a passion for Houston's history. This issue and the exhibit based on its contents enabled us to cooperate with The Heritage Society in reaching out to broader audiences than either of us can reach individually. By combining the historical narrative in the magazine with the images, documents, artifacts, and personal items in the exhibit, our readers and the museum's visitors can gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the contributions Asian Americans have made to Houston.

A bonus for those of us who manage the Welcome Wilson Houston History Collaborative at the University of Houston is the chance to expose our undergraduate and graduate student interns to the process of putting together historical exhibits. This allows us to improve our performance in one of our key functions: the training of people to research, write, and teach about our region's history.

It has been a pleasure to work side by side with the staff at The Heritage Society and with all of the authors to bring the idea for this issue to fruition. Our thanks go out to all of you.