In commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition (PPIE), the Chinese Historical Society of America will present the new exhibition “Underground Chinatown,” a penetrating look back at a troubling aspect of PPIE, also known as the 1915 San Francisco World’s Fair. The exhibition focuses on a popular attraction in the 1915 Fair’s “Joy Zone” that fascinated visitors with false portrayals of the Chinese community. With this presentation, CHSA explores persistent racial myths and stereotypes and their complex impact on our community. The exhibition will open April 2, 2015 at the Chinese Historical Society of America Museum.

“Underground Chinatown” depicts a veiled view of an opium den, presented as a mix of myth and reality, an ambiguous portrayal of American Chinatown. CHSA’s Learning Center will be transformed into a scenic environment with backdrops of opium den imagery, prop furniture and real opium-smoking paraphernalia. The scene will be viewed by visitors from the other side of a scrim wall. Text on the scrim will present commentary from various perspectives about “Underground Chinatown” at the PPIE. The setting will be enhanced by dramatic lighting, sounds and smells. Elsewhere in the gallery, a small television monitor will play news clips of events that connect past to present, such as the Chinatown “tour guide rant” of 2014.

Exhibit interpretation will be presented in the form of excerpts from actual reports in the local press at the time of the exposition. This will be the sole form of explanatory text with no additional editorial or curatorial writing. The goal is to present this controversial story from PPIE through 1915 voices and perspectives.

Top: Underground Chinatown: Racism at the Fair - The 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) will open April 2, 2015 at the CHSA Museum. Above: Entrance to the Underground Chinatown attraction in the “Joy Zone” at PPIE. Left: The image of the opium den, such as this one, formed the basis of the “Underground Chinatown” attraction at PPIE.

JOIN US MARCH 7, 2015, BEFORE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE, TO WELCOME THE YEAR OF THE RAM! See pages 2–3 for details about the museum’s planned celebration and exhibit openings.
Upcoming CHSA events

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, ALL DAY
Celebrate the Year of the Ram

Before the Chinese New Year Parade, come to CHSA Museum for a full slate of talks and exhibition openings. We’re starting the day with a dragon dance by Kei Lun Martial Arts. Frank Wong is stopping by to talk about his much-celebrated Chinatown miniatures. Honor our donors with the Donor Wall unveiling. Last but certainly not least we will open two new exhibitions: “The Forgotten Art of Lion Dance Puzzles” and “From Manchu to China Chic: The Evolution of Qipao.” Admission is free but donations are encouraged.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 1-2:30 PM
“From Both Shores” - book reading

From Both Shores is an anthology of six Senior Japanese and Chinese American women’s memoirs chronicling their immigrant family lives from Japan and China to the U.S. from World War I up till post-World War II. The book is edited by poet-playwright Genny Lim, the author of the play Paper Angels, and co-author of Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island. Featured writers include: Daisy Satoda, Harumi Serata, Florence Dobashi, Brenda Chinn, May Chung, and Leslie Yee-Murata.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6 AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY
The Chinese and the Iron Road: Building of the Transcontinental

Save the date for a conference at Stanford University to pay tribute to descendants of Chinese railroad workers! We will update our website chsa.org with further details.

Roots exhibit finds new home at CHSA

The Roots: Him Mark Lai Family History Project opened its annual exhibition at our Yick Gallery on January 17, 2015, attended by an enthusiastic and supportive gathering of family, friends and Roots alumni. This is the latest edition of the Roots program, co-founded in 1991 by the late Him Mark Lai and Albert Cheng, with a mission to guide Chinese American young adults to research their roots in America and to visit their ancestral villages in Guangdong, China. For the 2014 Roots interns, this exhibit was the product of a year of research and a journey into their ancestral roots. Following the exhibit opening, a presentation by Roots interns of their findings was held at the Chinese Culture Center on January 31st. The 2014 Roots interns are: Candice Chin, Frances Kwong, Derek Lee, Ryan J. Lee, Steely Morneau, Ryan Ng, Christine Phung, Caitlyn Wong, Tracy Zhu.
Two new exhibitions premiere March 7th for CHSA’s Chinese New Year Celebration

Dedicated to recovering lost stories and tradition in our community, we are excited to bring you two exhibitions about two beautiful art forms this Spring.

THE FORGOTTEN ART OF LION DANCE PUZZLES

In the last few years, we have enjoyed Corey Chan and Kei Lun Martial Arts performing crowd-pleasing lion and dragon dances. Now CHSA Museum and Corey Chan present “The Forgotten Art of Lion Dance Puzzles”, a new exhibition premiering on March 7.

According to Chan, lion dance puzzles are a lost art for three reasons: the background stories and arrangement methods of the lion dance puzzles are completely forgotten. The competitive side of lion dance had taken over, the youth, and the amount of lion dance groups willing to commit time to learn the traditional storytelling form of the dance has diminished.

The exhibition will feature a number of lion dance puzzles and information guides about the history of lion dance, historical usage, and the significance of the puzzles themselves.

FROM MANCHU TO CHINA CHIC: THE EVOLUTION OF THE QIPAO

Premiering on the same day: a stunning display of textiles featuring the origins and modern-day interpretations of the qipao (a one-piece Chinese dress from the Qing Dynasty), thanks to author and curator Sally Yu Leung. “From Manchu to China Chic: The Evolution of the Qipao” is an exhibit displaying robes, gowns, and accessories.

Leung was in the museum on February 14 to discuss Empress Wanrong’s influential style, the evolution of qipaos (also known as cheongsams in Cantonese), and the modern-day interpretations of these iconic styles during her talk “The Last Empress in Qipao: From Manchu to China Chic.” The crowd showed much interest in the dresses and were enthusiastic about this upcoming exhibition.

The exhibition will include stylish dresses and shoes from Leung’s collection spanning different eras, reflecting the evolving attitudes toward femininity and social standing. As Leung said, “what once was considered a peripheral and bourgeois item has now taken center stage and become a global fashion icon.”

Young Family collection on view thru March 29 at the Wing Luke Museum

The Young Family Collection of Qing Dynasty robes, first donated to the Tacoma Art Museum in the 1970s, are now on view at the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, Washington. These rare and beautiful Qing dynasty robes, aprons, pants, and skirts will be featured in the East Lightwell until March 29, 2015.

This special exhibit showcases the delicate craftsmanship it takes to embroider garments fit for a Qing dynasty emperor. These robes would often take twenty women and up to six months to make. Because of the time it takes to craft such clothing, it is only fitting that they now be celebrated as works of art.

From Manchu to China Chic: The Evolution of the Qipao
Support CHSA’s programs & exhibitions in the Lunar New Year!

Help CHSA launch the new year with a gift of $1,000 or more. Of course all levels of contribution are welcome. You may designate your gift to one of the following:

- **Donor Legacy Campaign**—supports Museum general operating expenses
- **Work of Giants Fund**—honoring the history of the Chinese railroad workers
- **Chinatown Memories Project**—sharing stories and videos about the Chinatown experience
- **Exhibitions Fund** – will support our 2015 exhibition schedule including:
  - *The Forgotten Art of Lion Dance Puzzles* - opening 3/7/2015
  - *From Manchu to China Chic: The Evolution of the Qipao* - opening 3/7/2015
  - *UNDERGROUND CHINATOWN: Racism at the Fair—the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Expo* - opening 4/2/14

Please send your gift today. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law (Federal tax ID # 94-6122446). Please contact us with any questions at (415) 391-1188 x 101 or info@chsa.org. Thank you!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DONATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:** call (415) 391-1188, email info@chsa.org or visit chsa.org/support. All contributions are tax deductible (Federal tax ID #94-67122446). Thank you for your continued support!