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**CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
PRESENTS THE UNTOLD STORIES OF THE 1906 QUAKE**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – February 3, 2006 – In commemoration of the Centennial of the 1906 Great Quake and Fire, the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) presents “**Since the Quake: The Rebirth of San Francisco Chinatown**,” a campaign to educate the public through exhibits, programs, and events. The campaign will center on “Earthquake: The Chinatown Story”, an exhibition sharing the Chinese experience during and after the disaster of 1906, a pivotal point in Chinese American history. The exhibit will highlight several untold stories of Chinatown quake survivors, such as a young American-born Chinese boy who was bayoneted as he attempted to retrieve his birth certificate from his home, a seven year old girl fleeing the fire with her family from Chinatown, and Superintendent Carrie Davis’ account of evacuating Chinese orphans from the Oriental Home.

Items in the exhibit include photos of Chinatown before the quake, historical documents, and newspaper articles about how the small enclave was destroyed by the quake and fire. Visitors will also learn about attempts to relocate Chinatown from its current location, and about changes to Chinatown’s landscape after 1906. The exhibit opens on April 3, with a VIP Opening Reception for the exhibit on April 10, 2006.

To further enhance the story of the earthquake and its significance in Chinese American and San Francisco history, the Chinese Historical Society of America has partnered with numerous community organizations to present a series of performances and events that will coincide with the exhibit. “**Chinatown is Burning!**”, a living history performance of quake survivor and historical figure Hugh Liang, is performed by Charlie Chin, CHSA Artist-in-Residence. Charlie Chin will present his one-man show at a number of Bay Area schools and in public performances. These performances, which occur between April 1 – May 7, 2006 are presented in conjunction with the Asian Art Museum, Chinese Culture Center, San Francisco Public Library, San Francisco Unified School District and Oakland Museum of California.

On Tuesday, April 11, 2006, the **Chinatown Aftershock Treasure Hunt** will educate students grades 4-12 about the impact of the 1906 Great Quake and Fire on Chinatown and Chinese Americans. Through an interactive day of searching for clues through Chinatown, participants will understand how it has grown and changed since 1906. The hunt has been jointly organized by CHSA, Community Educational Services, Chinatown Beacon Center, Community Youth Center, Asian Women’s Resource Center, Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Association, Cameron House, and Chinatown Community Development Center.

In an unusual cultural connection, Dr. William Hu, respected Chinese culture expert, will lecture on the relationship between the **1906 Earthquake and Cantonese Opera**. The lecture occurs in conjunction with The New Cantonese Opera Heritage Project at the Chinese Culture Center, and is co-sponsored by the Chinese Performing Arts Association.

Following the exhibit opening, CHSA will host a reading with **Milly Lee**, author of children’s books *Earthquake!* and *Landed*, and talk about her family’s experience during the 1906 earthquake. She will also provide rare insight into San Francisco Chinatown at the turn of the century. On April 12th, CHSA will have **Erica Pan**, author of *The Impact of the 1906 earthquake on San Francisco’s Chinatown*, discusses the struggle to rebuild Chinatown following the 1906 earthquake.

On April 17, 2006, the eve of the earthquake Centennial, The San Francisco Museum and Historical Society and CHSA will jointly present the gala event **San Francisco Rising** at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, marking the 100th anniversary of the earthquake and celebrating the spirit and rebirth of the great city of San Francisco. Attendees have the opportunity to stay at the Palace Hotel overnight to fully commemorate the earthquake, which occurred at 5:13 am. For more information about the exhibition and special events, visit <http://www.chsa.org/quake>.

PRESS INVITATION

“Earthquake: The Chinatown Story” VIP Opening Reception

Monday, April 10, 2006, 6 pm
Chinese Historical Society of America
965 Clay Street, San Francisco

Members of the press are invited to attend the VIP Opening Reception on **Monday, April 10, 2006 at 6 pm**. Special guests in attendance include performer Charlie Chin, author Milly Lee, historian Philip P. Choy, and families and descendants of 1906 Chinese American earthquake survivors. More more information about the exhibition and events, visit <http://www.chsa.org/quake>.

To attend, RSVP with name and publication by Monday, April 3, 2006 to earthquake@chsa.org or **415.391.1188 x 105**.

ABOUT THE CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Founded in 1963, the Chinese Historical Society of America is the oldest and largest organization in the country dedicated to the documentation, study, and presentation of Chinese American history and culture. CHSA operates a Museum and Learning Center located in the landmark Julia Morgan-designed Chinatown YWCA building. Through exhibitions, publications, and educational and public programming, CHSA promotes the contributions of Chinese Americans and preserves the legacy of Chinese America. For more information, visit <http://www.chsa.org>.

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