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Portland C.A.C.A. Times

A Publication of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Portland Lodge

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Membership:

Use the form at:
www.cacaportland.org/docs/CACA_Membership_Application.pdf

Dues are \$15 annually.

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Lingering thoughts of the 50th Biennial National Convention

By Franklin Quan, Grand Representative and Hansel Liu

The 50th Biennial National Convention of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance was held August 5 to 8, 2009, in the City of San Gabriel in beautiful Southern California. It was, as with all previous conventions, another successful historical event in terms of participation, inspiration, and determination. Delegates from all regions of the country congregated at the Pacific Palms Resort Hotel for the 4-day brainstorming sessions on issues, both large and small, relevant to the well being of the greater Chinese American Community and the preservation of its cultural values in a land that has, for too long, chosen to ignore.

One hundred and fifteen years later, since its inception in 1895, the C.A.C.A. has continued to be strong. The integrity of the organization remains sound, and its members today are just as vibrant and committed as its founding fathers. The discussions as well as debates on all issues were both spirited and productive, all for a common cause and for the common good.

Though no two person saw eye-to-eye on every issue, yet one sensed a true spirit of camaraderie was indeed present throughout the 4-day sessions. The struggle against racial discrimination, the safeguard of rights of the individual, the collective efforts of the member lodges for the betterment of their communities, down to the minutest details of organizational restructuring were all in place on the table for review and evaluation. No issue was regarded as too small or insignificant or not worthy of discussion at the convention.

Some of the highlights of the four day events include, but not limited to:

- (a) Past Grand President Nowland Hong illustrated and presented a film clip prior to a tour of the Huntington Library and Chinese Garden "Liu Fang Yuan; the Garden of Flowing Fragrance."
- (b) Viewing the documentary of "Vincent Who?" In 1982, Vincent Chin, an Asian American was clubbed to death in Detroit by two auto workers five days before his marriage. The murder has galvanized the Asian Americans throughout the country for equal civil rights. This recent inspiring documentary noted how Asian Americans have come since this incident 28 years ago and how far we have yet to go in regards to racism, hate crimes, and racial profiling.
- (c) Appearances of California State Controller John Chiang, California Congresswoman Judy Chu as keynote speaker and her husband California Assemblyman Mike Eng, during an evening event. Also, the first appointed Federal Judge Roland Lew was the keynote speaker for the final evening function.
- (d) Congratulations to Portland's own member, Helen Ying, who was elected as a member of the C. A. C. A. National Grand Board of Directors.
- (e) The next Biennial National Convention will be held late July 2011 in Houston Texas.

One leaves the convention satisfied, and with a sense of purpose and accomplishment.



Save the Date

Our Annual Chinese New Year Dinner will be held

on

February 22, 2009

Monday, 6:00pm

Wong's King Restaurant

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS - C.A.C.A. ANNUAL TOY & FOOD DRIVE

Our Annual Food and Toy Drive will conclude on December 18, 2009. Thanks to everyone who has contributed toward this project over the years. Our goal is to exceed our past targets to help needy families during the downturn of the economy. As in the years past, we will be purchasing gift cards with the donations and share the gifts with the less fortunate Asian families. The gifts will be distributed through the Asian Health Service Center. Please send your support toward this project. Make your check out to C.A.C.A. CIF and mail to C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge, 11453 S.E. Hazel Hill Road, Happy Valley, OR, 97086.

Scholarship and Essay Winners Honored at Our Annual Award Banquet

By Betty Jean Lee

On June 7, 2009, we held our annual award banquet at the Wong Kee Restaurant. There were approximately 120 parents, students, and other guests in attendance. Our keynote speaker for the evening was Joan Kivitka, Educational Director from the Classical Chinese Gardens. Helen Ying presented the essay and scholarship awards.

The local essay contest winners were Vanessa Lo, \$50, Yan Min Chen \$100, and John Lee, (grandson of Juanita and Leonard Lee) \$100. National Merit Award of \$100 was given to Yan Min Chen.

Winners of the scholarship were selected by the Asian American Journalist Association. The thirty five applicants were judged for their GPA, community involvement, and leadership. AAJA selected the finalists and then our board interviewed the students personally for the final selection. Kimberly Young, daughter of Wallace Young, graduate of Beaverton High School, was the \$4,000 Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship winner. She will be attending the University of Oregon. Deborah Silbowitz, daughter of Al and Virginia Silbowitz, graduate of Ashland High School, won \$1,000, and will also be attending U of O. Dana Li, daughter of Peng Li, graduate of Lake Oswego High School, also won \$1,000 and will attend USC in California. We are proud to announce that Kimberly has joined our Portland Lodge and is the newest and youngest member.



Building Our Future Together

By Helen L. Ying

Members of our Board gathered for the Annual Retreat at Betty's beach house in Lincoln City on September 26. As always, our gracious host treated us to scrumptious meals and snacks. Along with enjoying each other's company and the good food, the group dedicated an extensive part of the day examining the vision and planning of our lodge.

The delegates to the 50th Biennial Convention shared highlights of the convention. Portland Lodge will apply to be a partner for Census 2010. Focused attention was devoted to improving our youth scholarship and basketball programs. Planning for the Annual Chinese New Year Dinner, a discussion for organizing a China Tour, sharing the story of Vincent Chin, and reviewing the financial health of the lodge concluded the planning



Membership Dues

By Randy Choy, Treasurer

Membership dues are important to the sustainability and growth of an organization. The dues that members pay for C.A.C.A. support our major programs, including the youth basketball program, higher education scholarships, and efforts to advocate for the Chinese and Chinese-American community in the Portland- Metro area.

For C.A.C.A. members who have already sent in their 2009 dues, a big thank you! For those who have not yet sent in their \$15 dues for 2009, there is still time, and we would appreciate your continued support. In fact, this would also be a great time to send in the dues for 2010—a terrific opportunity to get a jump on the new year!

Please send your dues to C.A.C.A., c/o 11453 SE Hazel Hill Road, Happy Valley, Oregon, 97086.

Basketball Program to Begin a New Season

By Cyrus J. Lee,

C.A.C.A. Basketball Program Coordinator

The C.A.C.A. Basketball Program has a long and rich history. 2009-10 will mark the program's 36th year. Last season saw nine teams participate in the Basketball Program. There were one high school girls team, one 7-8th grade boys team, and five 11th/12th grade boys teams. All but one were returning teams from the previous season. Approximately 15 volunteers served as head coaches and/or assistant coaches for 70 players registered in the Basketball Program.

The mission of the Basketball is to help develop the participants into leaders and outstanding citizens within the community. We provide the opportunity for the players to interact and have fun with fellow players and adult volunteers and to follow the C.A.C.A. Basketball Program Code of Conduct. Indeed, many of our new assistant coaches are just a few years removed from having played in the program themselves and are now giving back to the program by coaching and teaching current participants.

The program participates in the Portland Parks and Recreational District Saturday Youth Basketball League (SYBL). The SYBL consists of 5th through 12th grade boys and girls teams. The games and practices are held at Portland Public Schools middle and grade schools. There are a total of ten games played on Saturdays in January through March, with no playoffs. The games follow the official National Federation of State High School Association rules, with modifications for 6th grade and under. Practices start in late November and end in mid-March. At the end of the regular season, the C.A.C.A. Basketball Tournament was held for the five high school boys teams. The week after, C.A.C.A. participated in the SCAA Al Mar Invitational, which was held in mid March, in Seattle. Competition between Portland and Seattle has created over 30 years of long lasting friendships.

In July of this summer, C.A.C.A. co-sponsored the C.A.C.A./IRCO (Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization) Intercultural Basketball Tournament. Six teams participated: C.A.C.A. Dragons, C.A.C.A. Rebels, IRCO Africa House (two teams), NAYA (Native American Youth Association), and Seattle Union Gospel Mission.

This marks the first tournament C.A.C.A. has co-hosted outside of its traditional alliance with Seattle Chinese Athletic Association in the Spring.

Randall Choy and Cyrus Lee will coordinate the program for this season and continue to evaluate the program and look for key leaders: our coaches and other volunteers, C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge and the surrounding community, and the youth participants themselves. This is truly an exciting time to be part of the basketball program!

If you would like to participate in the program as a volunteer, or know anyone who would like to participate as a volunteer or player, please contact C.A.C.A. at basketball@CACAportland.org. Players can either register individually or as a team. The cost for high school players averages to be around \$65.00 (fees are assessed to an entire team at the rate of \$620.00), and for middle school and younger players around \$50.00. Practices start in late November.



ABOVE: The Rebels return as 11th/12th grade boys in 2010, the Rebel's 14th consecutive season as a C.A.C.A. team.



ABOVE: Second year coach Anh Tran returns to coach the Ronins in 2010.



ABOVE: The middle school boys (Tsunami) enter their second season under coach Phong Nguyen.



ABOVE: The C.A.C.A. Illicit will once again return with long-time coach, Thomas Phuong.



LEFT: Cyrus Lee's Dragons lose key players to graduation but re-load as they look to three-peat as C.A.C.A. Champions in their 13th season.