



波特蘭同源會

Portland C.A.C.A. Times

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President's Message by Dr. Cyrus J. Lee

It's certainly been an exciting and busy summer for the Portland Lodge of C.A.C.A.! A delegation from our lodge attended the 51st Biennial National C.A.C.A. Convention in Houston Texas from July 27th through the 30th. Members of the delegation included myself, Grand Executive Helen Ying, Regional Representative Betty Jean Lee, Portland Lodge Grand Representative Franklin Quan, and Portland Lodge Delegate Hansel Liu. The Convention was held at the Hilton Post Oak hosted by the Houston Lodge of C.A.C.A..

"Commitment: Our Future, Our Legacy" was the theme of the week. This theme was chosen in recognition of C.A.C.A. refining its role as a national leader in serving our communities and improving the quality of lives of Chinese Americans. The organization does this by fighting injustice and intolerance, exercising good citizenship and patriotism, developing leaders, and serving our communities.

On the convention's first day, Grand President Carolyn Chan (Albuquerque) welcomed delegates from all of the local lodges. Reports were given on the progress of actions made on previously passed resolutions and board approved directives on national issues. Announcements of national scholarship awards and introduction of "Fellows" (participants age 18-29) were made. Additionally, local lodges gave reports regarding their activities for the past two years. I am happy to report that our Portland Lodge was one of the most active Lodges. The Opening Night Dinner featured guest speaker, Angela Chen Button, State Representative of Texas.



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On the second day, delegates took either a tour to Galveston, Texas, or a tour of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library. The day wrapped up with "A Salute to Our Veterans", a BBQ hosted by the Houston Lodge honoring C.A.C.A. members who were Veterans in the U.S. Armed Forces. Ted Gong also made a presentation on the "1882 Project", which is the major focus of C.A.C.A. this year.

On Friday the 29th, most of the Convention's resolutions were discussed. Among resolutions passed was one supporting the appointment of more Asian Americans to the Federal Bench, one encouraging local lodges to support qualified permanent residents to apply for U.S. citizenship, and one supporting the San Gabriel Valley Lodge's redistricting plan for California State and National Representation. In addition to addressing resolutions, election for the Grand Officers was conducted, one of our own, Helen Ying was elected as the Grand Vice President for Communication. The Grand Ball was held that evening, with the highlight being the "Spirit of America" Awards. The three winners of the Award were Secretary of Commerce, Gary F. Locke, Pearle M. Tang, M.D., and Martha J. Wong, Ed.D.

The convention's last day was Saturday the 30th. The various lodges from around the country contributed funds towards the Garden of Surging Waves to be built in Astoria, Oregon. Approximately \$3,000.00 was raised due to the generosity of our fellow Lodges. The remaining resolutions were discussed and most importantly the site of the 52nd Biennial National Convention was chosen: Oakland Lodge will host the convention in 2013. I hope that many of you will come join us and other C.A.C.A. members from around the country in 2013!



Top: Spirit of America honorees: Dr. Martha J. Wong and Dr. Pearle M. Tang with C.A.C.A. members. Below: A happy reunion for Portland Lodge delegation and Seattle Lodge President, Ming Ming Tung-Edelman



Change Begins with A Whisper by Helen L Ying

The C.A.C.A. Advocacy trip to Washington DC in May was an experience that was amazing and inspiring. The trip was short, yet packed with richness beyond compare. It included:

- 1) Meeting with staff of the Congressional members advocating for issues that are pertinent to the Chinese and Asian community.
- 2) Observing the Senate in action debating and casting votes on the matter of Goodwin Liu's nomination.
- 3) Presenting the Spirit of America Award to former Commerce Secretary Gary Locke in his office.
- 4) Attending events at the various administration buildings including the Department of Education, the Department of Veterans Administration, and the National Trust.
- 5) Visiting the White House, the Smithsonian museums, the Memorials, and the Library of Congress.
- 6) Debriefing daily with team members and enjoying the warm hospitality of the DC Lodge members.

Each and every part of the trip was meaningful, insightful, purposeful, and educational. My personal highlights would have to be the affirming conversations with the Congressional members' staff in particular about the 1882 Project, spending time with then Commerce Secretary and now Ambassador Locke when we presented him the award, and getting to know fellow Alliance comrades at a deeper level.

These trips have been instrumental in bringing awareness of the efforts of C.A.C.A. to the lawmakers. I was elated to learn that the resolutions asking Congress to express regret for passing the Chinese Exclusion Laws were introduced both in the House and the Senate on May 26 a week after our visit. The efforts behind this project have been ongoing for more than a year and now the next phase of the work begins. Change begins with a whisper. It is incumbent upon each of us to share the compelling reasons why Congress should and must take action on the resolutions.

Please visit the 1882 Project website - www.1882project.org for more details. Also, feel free to contact me at discover2010@gmail.com should you be interested in participating in a round table dialogue or simply to have a conversation about the project.



ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

By Betty Jean Lee

On June 5th, 2011, we held our annual award banquet at Wong's King Restaurant to honor students who entered our Essay Contest and applied for the **FRED G. LEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**. This year we also honored our basketball coaches, the **AAYLC** planning committee, facilitators, and scholarship winners. It was exciting to see close to 160 people in attendance. Our keynote speaker was **Mark Yee** from the U.S. Bank. It was very fitting as Mark grew up in our basketball program, and now coaches one of the girls teams.

We felt honored to again place Nationally with our Essay entry. **Stephanie Wang**, from Corvallis won third place and was awarded \$500. Our local essay winners were **Stephanie Wang** \$100, **Gregory Chan** \$50, and **Mary Nguyen** \$50.

TIFFANY WANG Art and Music Scholarship donated by Tiffany Wang, awarded \$500 each to **Jordan Wu** and **Emi Lee**. Jordan will be attending a summer camp in Taiwan and Emi studying ballet in China.

The following graduating students received \$100 awards: **Melissa Choy, Jade Chang, Greg Chan, Stephanie Guo, Joanna Guo, Aida Behmard, Tracie Tran, Christopher Chen, Irena Chang, and Longguan Xie**.

The **Fred G. Lee \$4,000 Scholarship** was awarded to **Kemy Lin**, from Lake Oswego High School, who will be attending Princeton University. **Edwina Leung**, from Clackamas High School, won \$1,000, and will be attending George Fox University. **Patreece Suen**, Tualatin High School, also won a \$1,000. Patreece will be attending MIT this fall. The **AAYLC Scholarship** winners were Sherry Liao of Benson (\$1500), Thomas Kim of Southridge (\$1000), and Tanya Kang of Liberty (\$500).





At the Awards Banquet: left-Dr. Cyrus Lee and Thomas Kim, middle-Dr. Kent Lee, right- Dr. Cyrus Lee and Sherry Liao

“Vincent Who? What does it mean to you?”

By Susan Leedham

The makers of this moving, inspiring film went to a college campus and asked Asian students if they knew who Vincent Chin was. Nobody knew.

Vincent Chin was a Chinese immigrant who was brutally murdered in 1982 in Detroit, Michigan. Two laid-off white autoworkers beat Vincent Chin with a baseball bat, believing him to be a Japanese autoworker and thus responsible for taking away their jobs when Hondas and Toyotas were outselling US-made cars.

The two men were arrested and went before a judge, and, shockingly, the judge found them guilty of manslaughter and not murder because Vincent Chin died five days later. They received a \$3,000 fine and three years' probation. After protests throughout the country, the men were re-tried. One was found not guilty, and one was let off on a technicality. No jail time was served.

But the point of the film was to show how this injustice was a call to action, uniting not only the Chinese community but other Asians and people of color. It was clear that the judge found that a Chinese man's life was not as valuable as a white man's life. That begs the question, how much is a Japanese man's life worth or that of a Korean man or a Mexican man? Unfortunately, we know how poorly our black population has fared in our justice system.

The film focused on how young people, after learning of Vincent Chin's tragic story, were so moved that they are now community organizers and activists and speaking out for all of us.

After the film, we had an excellent panel featuring Hyoek Kim, commission member of the White House Initiative on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs; Wajdi Said, president and co-founder of the Muslim Education Trust; and Joseph Santos-Lyons, coordinator for the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon aka APANO.

Helen Ying did a wonderful job as moderator leading the discussion on the meaning of the film, racism today and what we can do. All of the panelists were very articulate, and each had a story to tell and a fresh perspective. (Streaming of the recording is available at mms://pdxwebcast.uoregon.edu/May_14_2011)

This was a collaborative effort. Many thanks to the University of Oregon for providing the wonderful space in the White Stag Building, Art de Cuisine for excellent food, The Duck Store for providing coffee, and the sponsoring organizations: C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge, APANO, and Portland JAACL.



Did you know?

Did you know the nation's Asian American population became the fastest growing race over the past decade, experiencing a 43 percent increase from 2000 to 2010, according to new figures from the 2010 Census Bureau.

Did you know Oregon's deep connection with China can be traced back to 1811 when Astoria - the oldest U.S. settlement west of the Rocky Mountains - was founded with the goal of trading directly with Canton, China. Soon afterwards, Chinese immigrants arrived, contributing their rich culture and traditions to Astoria and the Pacific Northwest .

To preserve the story of the contributions of the early Chinese immigrants, Astoria's Mayor and City Council have designated *The Garden of Surging Waves* as the city's Bicentennial Legacy Gift. The Garden is designed to engage visitors with the stories, struggles and influences that the Chinese brought to the area. To be prominently situated in the town square fronting Astoria's City Hall, *The Garden of Surging Waves* will literally be a centerpiece of the city.

Watch for details how you can help to make this part of the history come alive.

Reminder:

Our **Annual Food and Toy Drive** has begun - Please send your support toward this project.

Remember to remit your **Membership Dues** (\$15.00) for 2011

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.

Top: AAYLC Planning Team

Middle: Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship Applicants

Bottom: Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship Winners

Edwina Leung

Kemy Lin

Patreece Suen

What you can do to support the 1882 Project by Past Grand President Munson Kwok

Purposes of the 1882 Project:

1. To seek recognition that the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and subsequent related acts were bad racist laws by the Congress from the United States, which served as a cover for many subsequent racist laws at lower levels and subsequent racist acts in the communities;
2. To educate the people of the United States that in its history, bad laws or good laws may be created and that it is the responsibility of citizens to be vigilant and assure its elected representatives create positive legislation.

Background:

Currently, the Congress has introduced House Resolution 282 and Senate Resolution 201, and the two resolutions are respectively seeking co-sponsors of the Members in both houses of Congress. A minimum number are required before the resolutions can be moved through committees onto the floor for vote. Current supporters in the House, the most critical body, are:

Rep. Judy Chu (CA), introducer, Rep. Judy Biggert (IL), co-introducer, Rep. Mike Coffman (CO), co-introducer, Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (CA), Rep. Becerra, Xavier (CA-31), Rep. Carney, John (DE), Rep. Davis, Danny K. (IL-7), Rep. Doggett, Lloyd (TX-25), Rep. Heinrich, Martin (NM-1), Rep. Honda, Michael M. (CA-15), Rep. Lee, Barbara (CA-9), Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. (CA-38), Rep. Van Hollen, Chris (MD-8), Rep. Woolsey, Lynn C. (CA-6), Rep. Wu, David [OR-1]

Action

How can you help?

Write a letter or email to your OWN Congressperson and two Senators, asking them to sign on the bills as co-sponsors and later vote to support this NON-PARTISAN or BIPARTISAN legislation. It is of righting a "wrong" perpetrated a century ago, and view it as an important "lesson learned." Even today in the Chinese American community, the impact of Exclusion affects and troubles families through survivors and descendants.

1. Write a letter or email. Samples can be provided upon request or found on the website - www.1882project.org.
2. Include your name and address so you can get a response.
3. Please send a copy to Congressperson Chu's office via Allison.rose@mail.house.gov and also to C.A.C.A.'s Ted Gong, on the Project 1882 Committee, tkgong@aol.com.
4. Review the 1882 Project website at 1882Project.org for information, templates and latest developments.

Sometimes, it is necessary to follow-up to get a response or successfully persuade the Member to become a co-sponsor or at least sign-on. Follow-up may require

1. A visit with a staff member for a discussion.
2. Even better, a direct contact with your elected Member is immensely effective.

For a Congressional member who has signed on or agreed to support the bills, please be motivated to write or email a "Thank You". Members always appreciate feedback, which they do not hear as easily as obvious critiques. Expressions are especially gratifying if you are in the district of a supporting Member. Thank you for your support of this important national Project!

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT ("WIZ") WONG by Betty Jean Lee and Randall Choy

In early May, we lost one of our past presidents and a founder of the C.A.C.A. Basketball Program, Robert (Wiz) Wong. Wiz, as he was affectionately called by his friends and relatives because he was so fast as a young basketball player himself, devoted many years both as a coach and as a coordinator in the program. This involvement began more than 40 years ago when Wiz and a few other Chinese community leaders saw the need to create athletic opportunities for Portland-area Chinese youth.

This vision is alive and well today . The program continues to field boys and girls teams competing in the City of Portland Parks and Recreation League, continues to hold the annual Portland Jamboree featuring local teams and teams from the Seattle Chinese Athletic Association, and continues to send C.A.C.A. teams to Seattle to compete in the annual Al Mar Invitational. None of this would have occurred without the vision and dedication of community leaders like Wiz.

Needless to say, this program has impacted many young people in our community throughout the years. The C.A.C.A. Board is extremely proud of our signature program and of the ongoing support from many of our members. Many former basketball players have come back to the program as coaches, and now even some of their own children are playing in the program.

The C.A.C.A. Board would like to thank everyone who has made a financial contribution to the basketball program recently in memory of Wiz, especially his children Leslie Look, Art Wong, and Rick Wong. Even though he will be sorely missed by all, Wiz's legacy continues to live on.



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