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# Portland C.A.C.A. Times

A Publication of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Portland Lodge

Website: [www.c.a.c.a.portland.org](http://www.c.a.c.a.portland.org)

April/June 2012

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## Membership:

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[www.c.a.c.a.portland.org/docs/C.A.C.A.\\_Membership\\_Application.pdf](http://www.c.a.c.a.portland.org/docs/C.A.C.A._Membership_Application.pdf)

Dues are \$20 annually.

## 2012 Portland C.A.C.A. Officers:

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## The C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge

### Annual Scholarship Awards and Recognition Banquet

will be held on Sunday, **June 3, 2012** at

Wong's King Seafood Restaurant

We look forward to meeting all of the scholarship applicants and essay contestants as well as their family members at the banquet.

Basketball coaches and AAYLC volunteers

will also be recognized at the banquet.

Liani Reeves, General Counsel, Office of Governor Kitzhaber

will be the Keynote Speaker.

June 3, 2012, 5:30 PM

Wong's King Seafood Restaurant

8733 Southeast Division Street

Portland, OR 97216

**\$10.00 per person**

**R.S.V.P. by May 28 to Betty Jean Lee (503-221-8773)**

## The President's Message by Dr. Cyrus J. Lee



With spring about to turn into summer, this is an appropriate time to congratulate all students of C.A.C.A. members who are graduating from high school and college. Even with the economy making a slower-than-hoped recovery, dampening employment prospects along the way, it's important for all of our precious graduates to remain optimistic for their continued success.

To that end, I encourage all members to attend the annual C.A.C.A. Scholarship Banquet on Sunday, June 3 at Wong's King, beginning at 5:00 p.m. This is a wonderful time to celebrate the 2012 recipient of the prestigious Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship, other C.A.C.A. scholarship recipients, winners in our annual essay contest, and volunteers with the Asian American Youth Leadership Conference and our basketball program.

A special "thank you" must go out at this time for the C.A.C.A. Basketball Program and all of our coaches, players, and parent volunteers. Another season has concluded with teams participating in the City of Portland Recreation League, and partnering with our friends in the Seattle Chinese Athletic Association for the Portland Jamboree (cont. page 2)



(President's message cont.)

held at Oregon City High School and the Al Mar Tournament in Seattle. (See article on basketball program)

We could not have an active lodge without the collective commitment and effort from all of our volunteers, whether they serve on our board, support our annual New Year's Banquet, or participate in the basketball program. Volunteers are the lifeblood of any nonprofit or grass-roots organization, and C.A.C.A. is no exception.

We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you or anyone you know is interested in supporting a civil rights organization that honors our Chinese-American cultural heritage and develops Asian-American youth in a variety of ways, C.A.C.A. may just be the place to help out. Please contact us and we will be happy to work with you. Have a great summer!

## Our Voice: A Meeting with Suzanne Bonamici by Janet Liu



This past April, Helen Ying, Betty Jean Lee, and I met with a staff of U.S. Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici. We went to advocate for House Res. 282, a resolution that expresses regret for the series of unjust laws that excluded specifically the Chinese from immigrating to the U.S. and were revisited by Congress from 1882 to 1943. We were informed at that meeting that Ms. Bonamici has agreed to be the 39th co-sponsor of the bill. Hooray! Thank you Suzanne for your generous spirit and action. We now hope the resolution will soon pass the House and join the unanimously-passed Senate Resolution 201. These resolutions may yet give comfort to the last elderly Chinese-Americans, who were affected by these unjust Exclusion Laws.

Many Chinese-Americans have stories of how their families were affected by the various American immigration laws. My family was affected by the immigration Quota Laws that followed the earlier Exclusion Laws. The immigration quotas allowed 105 Chinese to immigrate each year to America. My father had come to America on a student visa. After he finished his degree, he decided to stay to work; but his family in Taiwan could not join him in America. We had to wait to qualify for the immigration quota. At a quota of only 105 Chinese each year, we would have to wait a long, long time. My father and other Chinese-American professionals took action. They appealed to then-U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy to alleviate the hardship of being separated from their families.

In September 1961, my family of my mother, my brother, and I moved to America, to join my father. Our family was finally re-united, after being separated for six years. Six years was a long time to be separated. I watched my mother suffer the hardship of waiting all those years; being a single parent and not knowing if and when our family would be re-united. It was especially hard whenever she heard tragic news that a "waiting" wife in Taiwan had been abandoned by her husband. But our wait could have been much longer than six years. Many Chinese families had been separated for decades or longer by the earlier Exclusion Laws.

The wrongs of the past cannot be undone. But the past needs to be acknowledged and not forgotten. As President John F. Kennedy said, "We celebrate the past to awaken the future". Let us learn and understand our past so that it informs our future.

**AAYLC.org**  
Asian American Youth Leadership Conference



## Be The Difference by Helen L. Ying

Close to 500 students representing 37 high schools were in attendance at the 2012 AAYLC (Asian American Youth Leadership Conference) on May 18 at Concordia University. In addition to the schools in the Portland metro area, students also represented schools from Corvallis, Eugene, Hood River, and Vancouver, WA. We were especially delighted to have students joining us from 6 high schools for the first time: Columbia River of Vancouver, WA, McNary of Salem, North Eugene, Scappoose, South Eugene, and Tualatin. Moreover, we are thrilled that AAYLC has reached across the oceans with a student from Afghanistan applying to be a student ambassador and another from Indonesia who submitted an entry for the Logo contest (you could read more about them via our website: [AAYLC.org](http://AAYLC.org)).

Hoan Do of "Succeeding in the Real World" opened the conference with a keynote speech encouraging students to follow their hearts and listen to their inner voice. The program was designed to stretch the students' mind, extend their imagination, and expand their network in an experiential learning environment. They participated in teams with students from other schools to explore "Exhibits" and solve problems together. They also participated in a college and career fair.

We sincerely appreciate the hard work and dedication of the planning committee as well as the co-sponsors and supporters in making this conference a success. A BIG Shout Out is due for Concordia University for being a gracious host. The staff of Concordia University was simply amazing. We especially want to recognize the community members for taking time from their work to help as facilitators at the conference. We also appreciate the support from the schools in making this conference possible. Over 100 adults from schools and the community contributed to the success of the conference. It truly takes a village to raise a child.

Pictured below: Student Ambassadors (top), The Winning Team, Students in Action, and Our Volunteers (bottom)



# Another Successful Season for the Youth Basketball Program

by Randy Choy



The C.A.C.A. Basketball Program Winter Season concluded a little later this year, in mid-April. The season's final games were played at the Al Mar Invitational, hosted by Seattle Chinese Athletic Association, held at Garfield High School. There, four decades of friendship were celebrated as traditional C.A.C.A. and S.C.A.A. rivals played each other over the course of two days.

Weeks prior to the Al Mar Invitation, Portland C.A.C.A. hosted its annual Inter-city Jamboree at Oregon City High School on March 31st and April 1st. There the 2012 High School Boys Champions were



crowned. For the fourth time in five years, the Dragons (Varsity) emerged as C.A.C.A.'s best team, defeating Tsunami (HS) in the well attended Championship game. The head coaches of both teams were long-time assistants to veteran C.A.C.A. coaches: Brian Do took over for Cyrus Lee this year and Mike Nguyen relieved Phong Nguyen. Both teams also have feeder teams. The Dragons, led by Coaches Jack Mar and Thomas Phuong, had a 5th grade boys Junior Dragons, and a Junior Varsity Dragons teams. And Tsunami had a 6th grade boys team coached by Phong Nguyen. The feeder team concept has proven to be a best practice to improve consistency and quality of experience for C.A.C.A. teams. This is the fourth year the Dragons have had a feeder team, and the first year for Tsunami.

A couple C.A.C.A. teams will be extending their season this year. For the first time, Tsunami will be travelling to Nevada to participate in the Amateur Athletic Union Jam-On-It Memorial Day Tournament. At this event, over 700 teams will be participating over the course of three days. They will be joining the Dragons down in Reno. This will be the third year the Dragons have participated in this event. The Dragons also had three teams participate in spring leagues this year. Their Freshman Boys team, under Coach Khalid Osman, participated in the Hoopsource Spring league. The Dragons Junior Varsity Boys team, coached by David Green, participated for the second year of the Walter Dines Jr. League. And the Dragons Varsity Boys team (coached by Cyrus Lee), participated in the Hoopsource Spring league along with the Oregon Prep Basketball Tournament.

There are many opportunities in the C.A.C.A. Basketball program. These two teams are just a couple examples of the possibilities within the Program. The Program traditionally ran November through March, with 8 games in the regular Portland Parks Saturday League. However, both Tsunami and Dragons recognized the limitations of the original Program. Fortunately, they had the capacity to expand, and are now able to expand both the amount of participants they can involve (through multiple teams under the same umbrella) and expand the duration of their Program (by expanding the number of seasons they play). In order for the entire program to expand its capacity, more resources are necessary. The most valuable resource is volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity, please contact Randy Choy at [info@c.a.c.a.portland.org](mailto:info@c.a.c.a.portland.org).

# Meet Our Members

by Wisdom Ming

In this issue of the newsletter we are featuring seven Portland Lodge C.A.C.A. members. Bianca Chinn, Julia Fei, Janet Liu, Marcus Lee, Jenny Ou, Fong Phongsavath, and Peter Shum, some recently joined the organization.



Bianca is a Seattle native who moved to Portland from Bellingham after finishing college at Western Washington University. She heard about Chinese American Citizens Alliance via the Asian America Youth Leadership Conference. She then became interested in joining the lodge as a way to meet people in the community as well as to learn about the Asian American community.

Janet joined C.A.C.A. because she wants to contribute to the 1882 Project, which C.A.C.A. is on the Project's steering committee. She believes that the 1882 Project is a very important cause in order to raise awareness of Chinese-American history for all Americans. Although her family was not directly affected by the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, we as a people were affected by the subsequent immigration quota, which was also racially unjust.

Marcus Lee is a CCBA Board member and Chair of the CCBA History Committee. He is engaged in the ongoing development of the CCBA Chinese-American History Museum, and is also undertaking the Archival Operations of the historic resources of the CCBA. He also serves as a Board member of the Lee Family Association (Lee On Dong) in Portland and is the association's representative in the CCBA. Marcus authored the chapter 'Snake River Massacre' from the book 'Dreams of the West: A History of the Chinese in Oregon, 1850-1950', which is a joint project between CCBA and Portland State University's Capstone Project and published by PSU's Ooligan Press in 2007. He is currently involved with the '1882 Project' through the C.A.C.A., and has a long-term involvement in the Block 14 Project at Lone Fir Cemetery. Marcus is a board member of the recently-formed Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation, a non-profit organization working to create a Heritage Garden and Memorial dedicated to the pioneer Chinese who were, and are, interred in Block 14. Marcus is also a long-term member of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon where he specializes in researching Chinese family history.

Fong Phongsavath, Julia Fei, Peter Shum, and Jenny Ou, are new members and parents of students who applied for this year's scholarships. Fong Phongsavath's son, Alexander Tang, is a graduate from David Douglas High School and will be attending U of Oregon. Julia Fei's, daughter is Linda Yu who is a graduate from Lake Oswego High School, and has been accepted to Duke University this fall. Jenny Ou's son, Benny Zhao, recently graduated from Clackamas High School. Benny will be attending Oregon State University. Peter Shum is from Eugene, Oregon. His daughter Grace graduated from South Eugene High School and will be enrolled in the honors college at U of Oregon.

Look for additional new member features in upcoming newsletters. The Portland lodge welcomes all new members and looks forward to interacting with each of them. The more members we gain, the more ideas we can generate and bring to the table.

## Dates for your calendar

| Date                         | Event                                      | Time                                | Location  |
|------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| Second Sunday of the month   | Portland Lodge Board Meeting               | 5:00 to 6:30 pm<br>Dinner to follow | Pure Spice Restaurant<br>2446 SE 87th Ave. Portland                         |
| June 3,2012                  | Scholarship Awards and Recognition Banquet | 5:30 pm                             | Wong's King Restaurant<br>8733 Southeast Division St.<br>Portland, OR 97216 |
| June 22-24                   | Youth Leadership Council                   |                                     | Rice University, Houston TX   |
| September 22                 | Portland Lodge Retreat                     | 10 am to 3 pm                       | Betty's home<br>Please call 503-803-4555<br>for more details                |
| November 1 to<br>December 15 | Toy and Food Drive                         |                                     |   |



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