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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

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

Information:

Phone:
503-925-5226
Website:
www.c.a.c.a.portland.org
Email:
info@c.a.c.a.portland.org

Tax-Deductible Contribution:

Please make your check to "C.A.C.A. CIF"

And mail to:
C.A.C.A.
11453 SE Hazel Hill Rd
Happy Valley, OR
97086

Membership:

Use the form at:
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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With spring quickly approaching, this is a good time to reflect back on the early part of 2012. The annual Chinese New Year Banquet celebrating the Year of the Dragon was held on Feb. 6 at Wong's King Restaurant, and it was another successful fundraising event!

Over 220 people attended, including several current public officials (e.g., Secretary of State Kate Brown, Sen. Chris Edwards, Rep. Brian Clem, Rep. Mary Nolan, Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, Rep. Lew Frederick, City Commissioners Nick Fish and Amanda Fritz, among others). Several expressed their commitment to working with C.A.C.A. on issues important to the community. The event is our lodge's biggest fundraising activity every year, bringing together friends, family, members, and other supporters of our programs.

I want to thank all of the C.A.C.A. board members and other volunteers who did a tremendous job in planning the banquet, and for helping out during the banquet. A special thanks goes to Franklin and Sharry Quan for providing the delicious birthday cake that everyone enjoyed! If you attended the banquet, we welcome your input on how we can improve the program to better accommodate the interests of our membership and our community.

The beginning of 2012 also saw the start of the basketball season, which includes our teams playing in the City of Portland Recreational League. The annual C.A.C.A. Portland Invitational will be held March 31-April 1 at Oregon City High School, with teams from Seattle coming down for the tournament. I encourage you and your family to come out and enjoy some of the friendly basketball competition.

Portland teams will return the favor and travel to Seattle for the annual Al Mar Invitational, sponsored by the Seattle Chinese Athletic Association, scheduled for April 14-15 at Rainer High School. The Portland-Seattle basketball competition has been alive and well for nearly 40 years!

Thank you for your interest and commitment in strengthening the local Chinese-American community. Hope springs eternal as we enter the Year of the Dragon!



Citizens Award Honoring Asian Health Service Center, Dr. Erik Szeto, Holden Leung, and Christine Lau by Betty Jean Lee

Our "HONORED CITIZENS AWARD" is to emulate education, leadership and civil rights. It was hard to select one person as the board decided to award our 2nd annual award this year to the ASIAN HEALTH and SERVICE CENTER, honoring, Dr. Erik Szeto, Founder, Holden Leung, Executive Director, and Christine Lau, Chief Operating Officer.

Dr. Szeto founded the organization back in 1983. AHSC's mission is to bridge the gap between Asian and American cultures in an effort to build a better community. The center's vision is to reduce health disparities and increase access to high-quality health care for all Asians. Toward this end, the center provides an array of high-quality and culturally and linguistically relevant care to Asians, including outpatient mental health services, disease education and management, cancer prevention and screening, immunization and education, and senior programming.

Holden and Christine oversees all their programs in their two facilities. One in S.E. Portland, and the other in Beaverton. They work closely with partners such as OHSU, National College of Natural Medicine, Multnomah County, and hold community programming for seniors and immigrants. In addition, they also have a preschool. Twice a week they have Chinese meals for low-income seniors. If you take a tour of the center, you will see Chinese Calligraphy, art, dance, and opera classes in session. The center has become an area for socialization and needed help to assimilate in a new country. The staff at AHSC speak English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean Taiwanese, and Vietnamese to accommodate their clients.



Portland Lodge wants to thank Dr. Erik Szeto, Holden Leung, Christine Lau, and their staff for all their hard work in blending the Asian and American cultures for a better community.





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C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge Scholarship Opportunities by Dr. Kent Lee

Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship – applications due by April 1, 2012

For over 30 years the Portland Lodge of the C.A.C.A. has sponsored the Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship. And it is one of our signature events available to qualified Oregon and Clark County of Washington State graduating high school senior students. This scholarship is awarded on the merits of academics, leadership, and community involvement. The winner receives a \$4000.00 scholarship and two runner-up amounts are for \$1000.00 each. Applications for this scholarship are due by April 1, 2012.

This scholarship is open to qualified students regardless of ethnic background. All applicants must have a parent/guardian who is a member of the C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge. Chinese Ancestry is not a requirement to be a member. At least one of the three scholarships will be awarded to a student who attends a college in Oregon or Washington State. Scholarship and membership applications are available at www.cacaportland.org.



Getting involved in the democratic process... by Helen Ying

The C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge organized a Voter Registration Drive on February 11, 2012 at the Portland Chinese Times (PCT) Chinese New Year Cultural Fair. It was supported by the PCT and co-sponsored by APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon) and OCAPIA (Oregon Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs). Thousands of people attended the festive event that was held at the Oregon Convention Center. Along with promoting the importance of getting involved in the democratic process by voting, we also took the opportunity to educate people about the 1882 Project. Many expressed their support for the project and promised to take action. Over 300 TAKE ACTION cards were distributed.

Block 14: Portland's Chinese Cemetery within Lone Fir

By Marcus C. Lee, C.A.C.A. member and Chair of CCBA Museum and Archives



Located at the corner of SE 20th and Morrison in Portland, 30-acre Lone Fir Cemetery was founded in 1855. Listed on the National Historic Register, it is one of Portland's oldest Pioneer Cemeteries.

Those buried at Lone Fir include diverse ethnic groups, members of Portland Fire and Rescue, early City founders and developers of Portland with familiar names such as Curry, Hawthorne, Dekum, Lovejoy, and Macleay, as well as former Governors.

Block 14 was purchased in 1891 by the City and Suburban Railway for the burial of its Chinese workers; gradually, Chinese immigrants from throughout Oregon and the Pacific Northwest were laid to rest in this segregated section of Lone Fir. These ancestors who left China in search of work to provide for their families back home were reviled, demonized, and persecuted here, and yet, suffering intense discrimination, forcible expulsion from their homes, and murder, continued to work on Oregon's railroads, in the mines, fish canneries, and fields, and on road and dike construction. Many worked as merchants, gardeners, servants, launderers, and cooks. This burial ground for Oregon's early Chinese sojourners was managed by Portland's Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association which oversaw the burials; in accordance with tradition, the CCBA also conducted the subsequent disinterment and preparation of the remains of the adult males for the return to China and the planned reinterment in their ancestral villages.

Interred adjacent to Block 14 are numerous patients from the Oregon Asylum Hospital, established by Dr. James Hawthorne. Dr. Hawthorne was widely respected and revered for his caring and humane treatment of his patients, which included personally paying for the burial of over 200 of them who had no families or whose families could not afford to do so.

Multnomah County subsequently acquired the Block 14 property for the construction of its maintenance building and adjoining parking lot in 1952. By 2004, with the facility vacant and listed by the county as surplus, the property was scheduled to be sold for commercial and residential development.

Alarmed by the news of the proposed sale and development, members of the community groups, Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery and Buckman Neighborhood Association, quickly mobilized to garner support for the preservation of the southwest corner of Lone Fir. One of their first calls went out to Portland's CCBA where member Rebecca Liu was given the responsibility of becoming involved on behalf of that organization. Through her research in the CCBA records, specifically with the Chinese burial ledgers of 1917 and 1928, it was determined that not all remains of the Chinese immigrants were disinterred. (cont. page 5)

Youth Leadership Conferences

We are excited to announce two upcoming youth leadership conferences:

AAYLC.org The 20th Annual Asian American Youth Leadership Conference organized by the C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge with a team of community leaders and volunteers will be held on Friday, May 18, 2012 at Concordia University. The goal of the conference is to help our youth achieve their potential by promoting education, imparting leadership skills and instilling self-confidence. This year's theme is "Be the Difference." Mr. Hoan Do of Succeeding in the Real World will be the keynote speaker. More details about the conference is available on its website – AAYLC.org.

The 2012 Youth Leadership Council (YLC) will be held the weekend of June 22 -24 at Rice University in Houston.

The conference is open to high school students. Its mission is to empower youth and young professionals by promoting leadership development, civic engagement, and multicultural understanding while building awareness of issues facing the Asian American community. The estimated cost for registration, travel, meals and lodging is \$600. The Portland Lodge is offering three scholarships of \$300 per scholarship to help defray the expenses. Selection criteria: GPA of 2.5 and a 250-word essay on the topic: What are the most important elements for leaders in the 21st century and why should you be selected to attend YLC? **Applications are due on April 1, 2012.** More details about YLC are available on its website: <http://ylc.net/>. Interested students should submit a letter of interest along with a copy of their official transcript and the 250-word essay to C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge, 11453 SE Hazel Hill Road, Happy Valley, OR, 97086 by **April 1, 2012.**

(cont. from page 4)



Based on these documentary findings and input from citizens, a formal archaeological investigation of the site was ordered by then-Commissioner for Multnomah County Maria Rojo de Steffey, a vital champion for the preservation of Block 14 as sacred ground. After identifying a number of anomalies during the January 2005 test through the use of ground-penetrating radar, the archaeological team discovered among their exploratory digs intact burials, one of which was located under the asphalt pavement of a parking area, which lay below the overhanging upper floor of the building. With the blessings of an attending Buddhist ceremony, the remains were sensitively and carefully re-covered and at that point the early, historical Chinese cemetery became a protected site.

In a joint effort between county and city leaders, the building was carefully demolished in 2007 under the watchful eye of the archaeological contractor to ensure that the burial grounds remained undisturbed. The title to Block 14 was then deeded over to Metro Regional Government which was at that time under the leadership of David Bragdon, who very ably took the torch handed to him by Commissioner Rojo de Steffey, and continued to enthusiastically champion the project. Under his leadership, Metro in 2008 formed the Block 14 Work Group consisting of representatives from the CCBA, Friends of Lone Fir, Lango Hansen Landscape Architects, Buckman Neighborhood Association, Portland Fire and Rescue, the mental health community, elected officials, and neighborhood business associations. CCBA members Rebecca Liu and Marcus Lee were the volunteer representatives of the association and have been part of the Work Group since its formation, and continue their work as members of the Board of Directors of the newly-formed 501c3 Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation which is overseeing the development of the Heritage Garden and Memorial on the site. (cont. on page 6)

Member's Voice

by Janet Liu



I moved to Portland 20 years ago, from the Bay Area of California. From then until recently, I had been busy; with work and with raising my daughter. For community, I looked to my interest groups, such as outdoor recreation, eating vegetarian, and religious affiliation. Some of my friends were Chinese, but I did not seek out the Chinese community. The reason I didn't may be due to my background.

I was born in Taiwan and moved to America with my family when I was 10 years old. We lived in Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and then California; in white communities. There were rarely any Asians, let alone Chinese, in my schools. When I went to college, I didn't seem to fit in any of the Chinese groups; whether they were from China, Taiwan, or Hong Kong, or the native borns. Although my parents' friends were almost all Chinese, my friends were mainly white.

Some 5 years ago, my daughter left home to go to college. I sensed I was on the last segment of my life. I felt an urge to live in China; like the Chinese saying: "fallen leaves return to their roots". I lived for 3 months in Shanghai, near my mother's home town. I enjoyed my stay there; but I was often sick with colds, probably due to the pollution. This nixed any more plans for living in China because I value health. But I did come back with a deeper commitment to strengthen my Chinese roots and to contribute to the Chinese community here.

Recently I learned of the 1882 Project, a Congressional bill to raise awareness of the racial discrimination against the Chinese since their earliest days (more than 150 years ago), to recognize the contributions the Chinese settlers have made in America, and for Congress to express regret for passing the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. The 1882 Project resolution has passed the U.S. Senate and is working through the U.S. House. I wondered why this bill at this time? After all, the 1882 Exclusion Act had been repealed for almost 70 years. I thought a reason must be that Chinese-Americans have finally derived the means and the will to bring to light the injustices they suffered from racial discrimination, hatred, and violence. I wanted to help. Since C.A.C.A. was among the steering committee of the resolution, I contacted them to offer my help and subsequently joined the organization. I want to help make America a country that is of and for its people, where every individual is respected, including the Chinese-Americans.

(cont. from page 5)



The purpose of the memorial will be to honor the forgotten early Chinese immigrants whose labor and contributions helped build the city of Portland and who made many other significant contributions throughout the state of Oregon, as well as the many name less patients of Dr. Hawthorne who were scorned by the society of their day.

The members of the Lone Fir Cemetery Foundation continue to devote much of their time to the collective endeavor "to provide a place where Oregon's history can be told and serve as an expression of gratitude to the early settlers who built our city, as well as to those who cared for people in need."

C.A.C.A. Youth Basketball in its 38th Season by Randy Choy

The players and coaches are very pleased with their games throughout this season. While there are only a few more games remaining in the program through the Portland Parks and Recreational District, everyone is very excited about the upcoming invitational in Portland and the annual trip to Seattle.



The Portland C.A.C.A. Intercity Invitational will be held at Oregon City High School on March 31st and April 1st. The fifth annual C.A.C.A. High School Boys Tournament will be held along with friendship jamboree games against Seattle SCAA. We look forward to seeing you at the event. The SCAA Al Mar Invitational will be held at Rainier High School in Seattle on April 15-16th, 2012.



A Message from Wisdom Ming, Collector

Greetings C.A.C.A. members. Hope everyone's new year is going well. Please note that membership dues are now \$20 a year. While the membership dues are not tax deductible, donations to C.A.C.A. are tax deductible. You can make a general donation, donate to one of the scholarship funds, the basketball program or the toy and food drive that takes place near the holidays.

The C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge website has been enhanced to accept funds via PayPal. You can remit your membership dues via mail or via our website—cacaportland.org.

Via mail, please send your **\$20 membership** payment to:

C.A.C.A. CIF, 11453 SE Hazel Hill Road, Happy Valley, OR 97086

To submit via the website go to cacaportland.org and click on Membership. Choose to pay via PayPal or with a credit card. Paying online is fast, free and secure. We are always looking to add new members so spread the word about the Portland Lodge. Thanks to all of our members for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Dates for your calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location
March 11, 2012 April 8, 2012 May 13, 2012 June 10, 2012	Portland Lodge Board Meeting	5:00 to 6:30 pm Dinner to follow	Pure Spice Restaurant 2446 SE 87th Ave. Portland
March 31 to April 1	The Portland C.A.C.A. Intercity Invitational	TBA via our website	Oregon City High School
April 1, 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholarship Application Due Date 2012 Youth Leadership Council Application Due Date 		
May 18, 2012	Asian American Youth Leadership Conference	8:00 am to 3:15 pm	Concordia University
June 3, 2012	Scholarship Awards and Recognition Banquet	Save the Date	



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