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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

July/Sept 2012

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

Portland C.A.C.A. Joins Everyone Deserves Healthy Teeth Coalition



Portland is now the largest city in the United States without community water fluoridation, and our most vulnerable children are suffering for it. The rate of tooth decay in Oregon is almost double what it is in Washington State. Concomitantly, only one in four Oregonians receives fluoridated water while the majority of Washington residents receive this benefit.

Nearly one in three children living in low-income families in Oregon currently suffer from rampant decay (seven or more teeth with past or present decay). Additionally, tooth decay is a leading cause of school absenteeism, and disparities in dental health contribute to higher absenteeism among low-income children. Children in lower-income families suffer nearly 12 times more restricted-activity days due to untreated dental disease. 46% of Oregon Latino children have untreated dental decay as compared to 34% of their White counterparts. African Americans ages 35-44 have almost double the rate of tooth decay as Whites. Native American teens have more than double the amount of permanent tooth decay as their peers. And Asian children under the age of 2 are the least likely racial group to see a dentist. Community water fluoridation is a cost-effective preventative measure that saves an estimated \$38 in dental costs for every \$1 invested in fluoridation. This is also a health equity issue: our most vulnerable populations (low-income communities, communities of color, children) will have the same access to fluoridated water as the rest of the community. (cont. next page)



ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET by Betty Jean Lee

(cont. next pg)

We held our annual award banquet on June 3 at WONG'S KING RESTAURANT. Essay, scholarship applicants and their families attended the event along with AAYLC volunteers and scholarship winners, and Basketball coaches. Close to \$11,000 were awarded in scholarships.

Wisdom Ming, announced our local winners of the national essay contest. **Jiahui Zhang was the first place winner of \$100, Vivian Chan and Jacquelin Davis placed second and received \$50 each.**



Vivian Chan, National Grand Prize Winner

(President’s message cont.) During a time of national dialogue about access to health care and specifically the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Oregon is touted as one of the national leaders in health care reform, especially with its progress in development of Health Insurance Exchanges and Coordinated Care Organizations. However there is a significant discord between the portrait of Oregon as a progressive leader in the health care of its residents and the reality of its largest city lacking a community water fluoridation program, one of the “Ten Greatest *Public Health Achievements*” of the 20th century (as described by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

For all these reasons and more, the Portland C.A.C.A. Lodge has joined a broad coalition to support a Community Water Fluoridation Program for the City of Portland and other municipalities using the Bull Run Watershed. We join major health care systems (Kaiser Permanente Northwest, CareOregon, Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon), other communities of color (Latino Network, Native American Youth Association, Phillippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon African American Health Coalition), other Asian community based organizations (Asian Health and Service Center, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, Japanese American Citizens League), and many other organizations to support the formation of a Community Water Fluoridation Program in Portland.

Over the next few weeks there will be much news and debate about this issue, and we would like you to support the issue by talking about the benefits of fluoridated water to your family, friends and neighbors. More information can be found on www.upstreampublichealth.org. Thank you for your support!

(Annual Awards cont.)

Portland Lodge was honored to have received the first place award nationally of \$1,000 to **Vivian Chan**. The students had two hours to write a 500 word essay relating to how they can relate to their parents and grandparents through social media in this 21st century.



Jacquelin Davis

The Scholarship Committee, selected five finalists for our **Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship**. **Benny Zhao**, of North Clackamas High School, received \$100. **Alexander Tang**, of David Douglas High School, and **Grace Mary Jing-Jing Shum**, of South Eugene High School each received \$500. **Linda Yu**, of Lake Oswego High School, received \$1,000. **Emi Lee**, of Cleveland High School was the recipient of the \$4,000 award. Emi will be attending Smith College in Northampton, MA and will be majoring in engineering.



From left to right: Benny Zhao, Alexander Tang, Betty Jean Lee, Grace Shum, Emi Lee, and Linda Yu

AAYLC Scholarship winners were **Mai-Loan Nguyen** (\$1500) of Central Catholic High School heading to Santa Clara University in the fall, **Christine Nguyen** (\$1000) of Scappoose High School and **Phu Nguyen** (\$500) of Madison High School. Christine and Phu will both be attending University of Portland.

Jasmine Koss was selected to represent our lodge to attend the Youth Leadership Council at Rice University in Houston, TX with a \$600 scholarship.



Mai-Loan Nguyen Christine Nguyen Phu Nguyen

(Cont. next page)



A huge thank you is extended to our Keynote Speaker, Liani Reeves for an inspirational message. Fred Ing, a long time member commented, "It came from her heart and should have resonated with all the youngsters present. Sad, I thought, that her presentation was missed by those not in attendance. I think she has a story that should be repeated and preserved. There are many young Asians of mixed parentage that would benefit from hearing her story." (Visit cacaportland.org for full picture album.)



AAYLC volunteers (top), Basketball Coaches (bottom)



YLC Youth Leadership Council
Mentoring to bridge education and experience.

Attending the 2012 Houston Youth Leadership Council was such a great experience for me! I truly enjoyed myself and was able to make many new friends. Because this was my first time ever attending the conference, I did not know what to expect. But from the moment I arrived at Rice University, everything was so much fun! The counselors and conference coordinators were able to make every activity very interesting, as well as educational. On the first day of the conference, we were all put into groups. Throughout the next two days, we worked together with our group to create skits, to create commercials, to build bridges, and to discuss ideas, all the while learning about leadership and good communication skills. On the second day of camp, we had a formal dinner where we took group pictures, had Cafe Y, and then a dance. That entire night was so much fun! Cafe Y was very entertaining and I loved watching the special talents of the other campers. There were campers with card tricks, violin players, dancers, singers, and many hilarious jokes. After Cafe Y, we had a dance! The dance was a great opportunity to make many new friends, and I did! The next day, the very last day, was sad, because I didn't want to leave! This conference was such a fun experience for me and I didn't want it to end. Throughout those three days I had learned so much. I was taught different ways of communicating with others, discovered new ways to work in a group, and learned the qualities and traits of a good leader. I had also made many new and interesting friends that I still keep in touch with. Overall, the 2012 Houston Youth Leadership Council was an amazing experience for me, and I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to have attended such an awesome conference. Thank you!!! Jasmine Koss

The Winning Essay

by Vivian Chan



"Vivian!" I hear my mother call from her room. "Have you finished all your homework yet, or are you still wasting your time on Facebook?"

Almost every evening the same scene is replayed. It's almost as if there is a director hiding behind a curtain and waiting until 7:30pm to call action, at which time my mother and I will tactfully perform our roles. By now it's almost routine: she yells, I hear her footsteps approach, and I skillfully segue back to a canopy of black on white – my English essay.

Ever since the advent of electronic breakthroughs such as Facebook and texting, almost every teenager in America has been consumed by its presence. Most cherish it as a respite from a stressful day, while many of their parents condemn these mediums of communication as a lurid trap, obscuring the path towards success for their progeny. Despite its shortcomings, it's hard not to be immersed in the technological revolution of the 21st century: the drive towards interconnecting the whole world and transforming long distance relationships into personal ones with a simple click of a button. From a teenager's standpoint, the opportunity for a generation to experience these innovations is unsurpassable. One can even argue that these medias are analogous to e-mail. At their core, Facebook or texting is simply just another method of communication, as is e-mail. Therefore, it must be (cont. p4)

(Winning Essay cont.) realized that older generations who rely on e-mail should be able to respect the actions of this current generation.

Just last summer my family and I returned to China to visit my grandparents who I had not seen for many years. On the plane ride I began to recall my grandpa's personality. He was the type of grandfather who adored his grandchildren, the type who values his culture, and the type who went to great lengths in order to prepare me in my education down the road. In fact, at the age of seven, my grandpa had already taught me essential algebraic skills that allowed me to advance two grades ahead in math. Therefore, I was utterly dumbfounded when, at the airport, I saw him holding a cell phone. It wasn't even the free type that breaks in two months. This phone had a touchscreen, a stylus, and my grandpa was texting on it. The irony of this man who valued traditions and the conservative "Chinese-way" texting made me laugh. However, in retrospect, it was truly enjoyable to see the merge of these distinct eras.

Since then, I believe that the technology of the 21st century should not result in a demarcation, but rather, a conglomeration of the traditions of the young and old. In fact, both my parents now have Facebooks and realize the joy in rekindling long forgotten relationships. However, this certainly doesn't mean that the director has yelled cut and the curtain has been drawn, for my mother and I have not yet taken our final bow. As is expected, my mom will ask me tonight at 7:30 sharp if I have finished my homework yet.

"Vincent Chin 30: Standing Up Then and Now" by Joyce Lew

In observance of the 30th anniversary of the brutal murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit, Michigan, the Portland C.A.C.A. along with APANO and other Asian activist groups around the country gathered for a live video conference of "Standing Up Now and Then: Vincent Chin at 30" on Saturday, June 23, at Red Robe Tea House. Mr. Chin was the victim of racial hatred and beaten to death by automotive workers who were angry at the Japanese. He was killed the evening before his wedding.

This tragedy is recognized as the turning point and catalyst for the unification of the pan-ethnic/Asian-American movement against hatred, bigotry, bullying and discrimination in all of its manifestations.

"Standing Up Now and Then: Vincent at 30" was an opportunity for communities across the country to engage in a national panel discussion, via live videoconferencing on hate crimes. The discussion was moderated by Phil Yu of Angry Asian Man; and featured speakers included Congresswoman Judy Chu, who is Chair of the Congressional Asian-Pacific American Caucus. Mee Moua, President of the Asian-American Justice Center, also spoke. There was lively input from various attendees at participating local communities, indicating that racial hatred, bullying, threats of violence and malicious stereotyping are ongoing issues in cities across the United States.

The local Portland community was well-represented. Thanks go to APANO, Helen Ying and others of C.A.C.A. Portland and to Red Robe Tea Room for their efforts in organizing and hosting this event. Red Robe served tea and a variety of goodies to the group.



Lively input from attendees at the VC 30 Google Hang Out



HELLS CANYON, Ore. – 125 years later, 34 Chinese gold miners, victims of a long-forgotten massacre at Deep Creek on the bank of the Snake River, finally have a marker in their honor. Visit <http://www.examiner.com/article/chinese-massacre-victims-get-memorial-125-years-later> for full story.



Lessons Learned

by Edwina Leung, a 2011 scholarship winner

It has been one year since I was named a Fred G. Lee scholarship recipient. I remember clearly the moments leading to the award; the initial interview and teachings of Chinese American hardships in the late 1800's and early 1900's, the thought consuming moments of connecting myself with this history, and final moment of the scholarship award ceremony. In this year of new academic experiences, I made multiple self-discoveries. Perhaps the most profound discovery is in regards to my cultural identity. I understand that I am a Chinese American, not simply "Chinese" or "American", and this is the identity that makes me valuable in multiple situations.

Amongst my college peers, I have the reputation of being a shape shifter. My campus at George Fox University has less than 10 Chinese Americans. Some of these students prefer to converse with other American born students, while others like to mingle amongst international students from China. I am adaptable in both cultures; I particularly like to use my fluency in Mandarin and Cantonese to surprise the international students. Over this year, I have helped two international students with projects regarding Chinese Americans. They too realize that Chinese Americans differ from Chinese students and American students on personality, interests, etc. I was glad to share my perspective, and believe this sharing can lessen the cultural gaps between non-native Chinese and native Chinese students.

At George Fox, I had the privilege of studying in a course titled "Culture and Psychology". I am studying Psychology in my minor and was curious as to what this course entailed. I stood as the only Chinese American in the class, which included African American, Korean American, and a large number of Caucasian students. We studied the book "Why are all the black kids sitting together in the Cafeteria", a factual book based on research of minority groups' behavior versus the behavior of dominant, white society. Remembering what was shared with me during the Fred G. Lee scholarship interview, I voiced my concern regarding discrimination of the Chinese in America. Though there's a known history of African American discrimination, few know about the historical laws excluding the Chinese. Students and peers were respectful and very open to hear my opinions. The sharing developed an understanding and also opened more conversations about current racial issues in America.

Celebrating Diversity in US!

by Catherine Ngo, 2012 AAYLC Student Ambassador
from Parkrose High School

With the goal to help inform others about the C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge and Asian American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC), Karin Scott, Helen Ying, Janet Liu, and I attended the Celebrate Diversity in US! event organized by U.S. Bank Development Network on July 18. Held at the Ambridge Center, in attendance were around 150 U.S. Bank employees, as well as representatives of different cultural/ethnic groups providing information about their organizations. Being the first event to celebrate diversity US Bank has ever held, the expectations for the outcome were quite uncertain. However, as we entered the location, we were pleasantly surprised. Along with tables lining the room to represent each group, there were dishes from different countries to try, a handful of inspiring performances, and people that were genuinely interested in the diversity in the community. (cont. next page)



(Diversity in US! cont.) At our table, Helen, Karin, Janet, and I informed the employees about the C.A.C.A.'s events and projects, like the Youth Basketball and the 1882 Project. Providing business cards, brochures, and items from the AAYLC, many people who stopped by the table were impressed with the organization's many programs. Additionally, a few people were even interested in volunteering.

In brief, the Celebrate Diversity in the US! event successfully spread the importance of diversity in a welcoming and exciting way. Although gaining knowledge was aimed for the employees that attended, as a volunteer I was able to learn a lot as well. Through helping out, I got to know local organizations that I had not known before. In addition, talking with numerous individuals helped immensely with my confidence in speaking. Overall, it was enlightening to see that so many people have interest in supporting the differences in our community, and the event was an experience I would gladly do again.



Reaction to the Congressional Passage on the 1882 Project

by Janet Liu

On June 18, 2012 the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.Res. 683, expressing regret for 60 years of legislation, starting with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, that discriminated against the Chinese. The U.S. Senate passed a similar resolution on October 6, 2011. My first reaction was one of overjoy. Many of us have worked hard for recognition and passage of these bills. It's always an uphill battle to get the public's attention to hear the voices of those who are "invisible" or "second class". It is an incredible feat to have both U.S. Houses acknowledge the injustice done to the Chinese in this country.

My second reaction was that of gratitude. I felt grateful to be a part of this country that can acknowledge mistakes and express regret. I felt grateful for the many good people who worked hard and effectively for this goal and the many supporters who helped to push the bills through.

My third reaction was "what now?" The deeper goal of the bills was to educate the public about the Chinese American experience. Before we educate others, I believe we need to understand ourselves. Who are we? What are our stories? I've written my immigration story in a past issue of Portland C.A.C.A. Times. I'd like to hear from you. What is your compelling Chinese American story? How did you or your family come to America? What kind of work did you/they do? What struggles did you have? Your stories and accompanying photos may be published in our future newsletters. The other part of action-to-take is to celebrate. C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge is planning a gathering in October to celebrate this momentous event of the passage of Congressional bills on the 1882 Project. The date, place, and other details will be forthcoming



Announcing... "Flying Tigers: Chinese American Aviators in Oregon, 1918-1945" A project of the Northwest China Council www.nwchina.org



Chinese Americans in Oregon were extensively involved in aviation from the late nineteen-teens through the end of the Second World War. This period of roughly three and a half decades, what could be called a "golden age of Chinese aviation" in Portland, corresponded to significant developments in both China and Oregon. Mark your calendar and be a part of these momentous events.

Exhibition: Flying Tigers: Chinese American Aviators in Oregon, 1918-1945

Multnomah County Central Library Collins Gallery, Aug 30- Oct 28, 2012

801 S.W. 10th Avenue Portland, OR 97205

This exhibit highlights military and commercial Chinese American aviators in Oregon through the end of WWII, exploring the interweaving factors of the activism of Portland's Chinese American community, political tension and change in China and the US, and development and promotion of an aviation industry in Oregon. The exhibition of photos, documents, and memorabilia follows Portland heroes and heroines of flight, including teenager Henry Wong, who built a plane in 1918 and attempted to enlist in the US Army Air Corps in WWI; Major Arthur Chin and Hazel Ying Lee, graduates of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Society's Aviation School in 1932-1933, who distinguished themselves in service to both the US and China; commercial pilot and mechanic Leah Hing, the first Chinese woman to earn a commercial pilot's license in Oregon; and Pak On Lee, a new immigrant in 1935, who returned to China in 1941 as a member of the US military and one of just eleven Chinese members of the American Volunteer Group --the original Flying Tigers--under the command of General Claire Chennault.

The exhibit is co-curated by Dr. Ann Wetherell, Portland State University, and Jim Carmin, curator of the John Wilson Special Collections, Multnomah County Library, and draws materials from the Multnomah County Library, Oregon Historical Society, Portland City Archives, Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, Oregon Aviation Historical Museum, Museum of Chinese in America, and several private collections.



Workshop and Public Reception:

"Flying Tigers and Chinese America in Wartime"

**Saturday, Sept 8, 10- 4 PM, Smith Center,
Portland State University**

This event highlights the Chinese American experience of WWII both locally and nationally with presentations by invited speakers. Dr. K. Scott Wong, James Phinney Baxter III Professor of History and Public Affairs at Williams College, Williamstown MA, and author of *Americans First: Chinese Americans in the Second World War* (Temple, 2005), will speak briefly to introduce the event. There will be a public reception following the second presentation to allow the audience to meet and greet the speakers.

Dates for your calendar

Date	Event	Time	Location
Second Sunday of the month	Portland Lodge Board Meeting	5:00 to 6:30 pm Dinner to follow	Pure Spice Restaurant 2446 SE 87th Ave. Portland
September 22	Portland Lodge Retreat	10 am to 3 pm	Betty's home Please call 503-803-4555 for more details
October	1882 Project Celebration	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
November 1 to December 15	Toy and Food Drive		

Announcing... U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently launched its online [Multilingual Resource Center](#), a new feature on www.uscis.gov. The center provides a central location for USCIS resources in a variety of languages, to include Chinese, Indonesian, Japanese, Nepali, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Offering certain information in other languages helps ensure USCIS communicates across many cultures and reaches a broader audience, while also ensuring that customers obtain information directly from USCIS, and not from unofficial - and possibly unscrupulous - sources. Materials are available in up to 22 languages, covering information on USCIS application processes as well as frequently asked questions. The Multilingual Resource Center can be found on the USCIS website under the "Resources" tab.



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