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Portland C.A.C.A. Times

A Publication of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Portland Lodge

Website: www.cacaportland.org

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Membership:

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

Dues are \$15 annually.

2006 Portland C.A.C.A. Officers:

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Congratulations to Our 2006 Winners!

Fred G. Lee Scholarship Winners:

The Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarships are annual scholarships awarded to three graduating seniors attending an Oregon or Clark County high school based on their achievements in the following areas: scholarship, leadership in school, community activities and financial need. Our 2006 winners are:

\$4,000 - Wesley Loo, Lakeridge High School, attending Princeton University

\$1,000 - Karen Cheng, Sunset High School, attending Stanford University

\$1,000 - Jennifer Lo, Sunset High School, attending Harvard University

Essay Contest winners:

The C.A.C.A. Essay Contest is an annual national event that invites youths to share their voice and opinions regarding thought-provoking topics related to Asian Americans.

Winners from Portland for the National Essay Contest

2nd Place - Karen Cheng

3rd Place - Tiffany Wang

Winners for the Portland Lodge Essay Contest

1st Place - Tiffany Wang

2nd Place - Rachel Poutasse

3rd Place - Albert Pham

Gifts from Far and Near

We are very thankful for Mr. Keith Lee of Chin's Import Export Company for bringing Chef Martin Yan to Portland. Chef Yan and Lee Kum Kee donated 100 cookbooks for the event, which was held at the Portland Classical Chinese Gardens in August. The proceeds of \$635.48 from cookbook sales were donated to our lodge's scholarship fund. We also wish to acknowledge the staff at the Garden for their involvement in making this event a success.

Did you know we have an artist in our midst? Yes! Ms. Betty Jean Lee, successful business woman turned artist. She is designing custom made stationary cards. Dr. Kent Lee was captivated by the beauty of the cards and bought a set for his wife. The \$100 from this transaction was donated to our community involvement fund. Rumor has it that Betty may be offering lessons – stay tuned.

Share Your Gifts

Our annual **Toy and Food Drive** will culminate in December. We welcome gifts of any amount. All gifts donated towards this drive will be distributed to needy families through the Asian Health Services Center. It is a great way for us to reach out to those in need in the Asian community. Your donation to our community involvement fund will greatly support the many projects that develop leadership, serve the community, and promote civil rights.



C.A.C.A. Partners with The Oregon Community Foundation

In an effort to build long-term funding sustainability and greater prominence throughout the community, the Portland Lodge has established an endowment partnership with The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), the state's largest charitable organization.

Recognizing the importance of stable funding to C.A.C.A., our board will transfer a portion of our funds to OCF to continue providing operational support far into the future. Our new **Chinese American Citizens Alliance Community Involvement Fund** is overseen by OCF's board of directors and investment committee, and the assets are invested as part of OCF's professionally managed \$780 million asset pool. In turn, the C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge will receive distributions from our OCF fund, and can add to it at any time.

If you are interested in giving to the **Chinese American Citizens Alliance Community Involvement Fund** at OCF, please contact Randy Choy, C.A.C.A. Treasurer, at 503-227-6846 or email <rchoy@ocf1.org>. Contributions can be given either directly to The Oregon Community Foundation for our fund, or can be made to C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge.

In addition, our new endowment partnership offers our members and friends the option of making a planned gift – often called a deferred gift – that will ultimately benefit our endowment fund. OCF staff works with organizations and donors to plan gifts such as simple bequests, charitable remainder trusts, gift annuities, and gifts of real property. OCF can serve as trustee and manager of these planned gifts. In some cases, they can provide income to a donor(s) during his or her lifetime(s). The remainder of the assets at the end of the donor's life is then added to C.A.C.A.'s endowment fund. If you would like more information about such arrangements, please contact Randy Choy. For more information about OCF, visit their website at www.ocf1.org.

Basketball Season Begins Soon

As autumn approaches, it is not too early to think about the upcoming C.A.C.A. basketball season. The basketball program, which has served local Asian American and other minority youths for over 30 years, will be coordinated for a second consecutive season by volunteers Randy Choy, Cyrus Lee, and Melanie Ying.

Last season, the basketball program, which participated in the City of Portland's Youth Basketball League, consisted of 10 all-boys teams and only one all-girls team. Ideally, the coordinators hope to see a greater balance in the number of boy and girl teams this season.

Several season highlights consists of the annual Portland Jamboree Tournament, held in a weekend in February, and the annual March road trip where C.A.C.A. teams compete against teams in Seattle.

If you are interested in participating in the basketball program this season as a volunteer head or assistant coach, or if you have children who are interested in playing for C.A.C.A., please send an email to info@cacaportland.org and one of the coordinators will contact you soon. Current registration and program information can be found at the C.A.C.A. Portland website at www.cacaportland.org.

Youth Leadership Conference, Houston, 2006 - The Road Not Taken

Reported by 2006 Fred G. Lee Scholarship Winners - Jennifer Lo and Wesley Loo

In the days before the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC), neither of us was really sure of what to expect from the weekend. We had both attended day long workshops in past years, none of which were particularly memorable, and we thought that YLC would be similar in format. While the discussions may have held the same ideas, the experiences were completely different.

The main reason YLC was so successful in its experiences was the separate groups. Each had its name and poster (one of our first activities), giving the group an identity and an easy way to connect with one another. Our group, being the oldest, also had the experience of graduation and looking forward to college as a common trait. We also had the opportunity to meet and work with students from other CACA lodges around the country. As a result, we now have friends in Washington D.C., California, Arizona, and, of course, Houston.

Our first set of activities was mainly just discussions. We read articles about leadership and discussed what leadership meant to each of us. Common ideas were focus, charisma, and standing up for one’s beliefs. Another distinction we made was the difference between a leader and a dictator, that being the ability to hear other’s opinions and sometimes knowing when to actually let others take the lead. Leaders should also use their abilities to act in the best interests of others and their group instead of acting selfishly. These discussions were useful to break the ice, but the hands-on activities allowed the leadership qualities to show.

Hands-on activities demonstrate leadership, which is why the main event of the conference was the boat building contest. Boat building with set materials is a popular camp activity, yet YLC kept it challenging, forcing us to build a boat that was the tallest and able to hold the most nickels. When faced with such a challenge, it is difficult to know where to start. Our group was no exception to this rule, meaning the first few minutes were spent brainstorming ineffectively. However, in that “wasted” time, we all learned a little about how to compromise, to really combine all our ideas into a successful action plan. Once we started, everything came together. The activity revealed each person’s diverse leadership strengths, all of which contributed to the group’s project. Differences of opinion were handled tactfully by all involved, again by practicing compromise, a true leadership quality. By the end of the construction, we had not only built a sturdy boat, but also built strong relationships with each other. The challenge brought our group together, and together our group won the competition.

The sense of camaraderie between our group members was enormous. We made great friends over the course of a weekend, seemingly impossible considering our attitudes just two days before. Our last activity, writing and performing a skit exemplifying leadership and decision-making, gave us more practical application of our leadership skills and teamwork while being a fun and thoughtful culmination to the conference. YLC truly embodies the heart of leadership – the ability to connect with each other to overcome a common challenge. Through these connections, we also form great friendships.

We both had an educational and unexpectedly fun weekend in Houston. We learned leadership lessons that will help us far into the future, both in our careers and in our personal lives, while networking and enjoying new experiences. Thank you so much for helping us to go to the Youth Leadership Conference of 2006.

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Under the Autumn Moon Festival – Sat, 9/30 to Sun, 10/1

A major celebration will take place in Chinatown. The **Under the Autumn Moon Festival** is a two day multi-cultural event that will officially mark the completion of 3rd and 4th Avenue Streetscape Improvement Project in Portland Chinatown.

This festival will open with the Mid-Autumn Parade through Chinatown at 10AM on Sat, 9/30. Following the Parade, there will be a variety of music and cultural performances, a global bazaar, cooking demonstrations and food booths. Hours are 10AM to 8PM on Saturday 9/30, and 11AM to 5 PM on Sunday 10/1.

And everyone is invited to visit the Portland Classical Chinese Garden on NW 3rd and Everett Streets, free of charge, on Sunday 10/1.

Bring your friends and family to join the celebration!



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