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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:

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Dues are \$15 annually.

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*We wish you and your family
Happy Chinese New Year!*

Chinese New Year's Banquet 2007

The Chinese New Year's banquet held at Wong's King was another successful event hosted by the C.A.C.A. It was held on February 26th with about 280 people in attendance.

The atmosphere was festive and the eight-course meal was delicious. During the meal, several speakers shared their involvement with C.A.C.A. Jamie Lo, a past scholarship winner, spoke about her participation and experience in the scholarship program. Cyrus Lee and Randy Choy spoke about their involvement with the youth basketball program, which, once again, was very successful this year. Paul Van Mai spoke about his active role with the Asian American Youth Leadership Conference (AAYLC), a great opportunity for future leaders in the Asian community. Helen Ying spoke about C.A.C.A.'s stand on civil rights and also acknowledged other groups', such as the JACL, participation in this area as well.

A raffle and silent auction were also held at the annual New Year's dinner. Items were donated from local area merchants and individuals. Almost \$900 was collected from the raffle and \$870 from the auction items. Proceeds help fund the many programs that C.A.C.A. offers to the community. The silent auction became an live auction with Stephen and Helen Ying as co-auctioneers. Both did a great job of involving the crowd to be enthusiastic about bidding. Items auctioned included packages for Chinook Winds Casino, a Chinese floral scroll painting from China, an acrylic and sand painting, and two Chinese down silk jackets. Thanks to all that participated, the raffle and auction were a success. The turnout for the Chinese New Year banquet was excellent and we thank everyone for attending and their continued support. Wishing you and your family a happy new year, Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Scholarship Awards and Recognition Banquet

Our annual scholarship awards and recognition banquet will be held on June 10, 2007, 5:30 PM at Lum Yuen Seafood Restaurant.

We look forward to meeting all scholarship applicants, essay contestants, and their family members at the banquet. Basketball coaches will also be recognized at the banquet. Please mark your calendar and join us for a wonderful evening of fun and comraderie.

June 10, 2007, 5:30 PM

Lum Yuen Seafood Restaurant

28 NW 4th Ave

Portland, OR 97209-3802

\$10.00 per person, R.S.V.P by May 31 to Juanita Lee (503-775-8127)



Essay by 2nd Place Winner, Rachel Poutasse, in 2006 Essay Contest

Essay Question: Strong family bonds formed the most important relationship in traditional Asian societies. In modern America, however, some observers have maintained that these family ties are coming under increasing stress. How has this tension between tradition and modernity played out in your own family and community? How would you expect Asian-American family structure and values to change in the coming years?

Rachel's Essay:

My parents moved to Ohio from Portland, Oregon in 1985, far from any Chinese community or indeed any Chinese family. I only saw my mother's Portland family in the summer. During the rest of the year, it was softball, cheeseburgers, and school for me.

At the expense of the extended family, my parents had come to Ohio in pursuit of the American dream. Even after we moved back to Portland in 1999, new opportunities seemed to keep the family apart. My adult cousins went to Michigan, Washington, and California to become scientists, nurses, business women, and most importantly, individuals. This drive for individuality coupled with the yearning to stick together as a family affects many Chinese families in America as a new generation heads off in search of their own identities.

In the following years I expect the emergence of new Chinese American communities across the United States. I expect many more new arrivals and new Americans. But I do not expect a major shift in Chinese Americans' values or a drastic change in the setup of our families. Even though today young Chinese Americans appear more prepared than ever to leave family and tradition behind to chase their dreams, family relationships are still of utmost importance. Regardless of what we decide to do with our lives, we know we can always count on our families for love and support. I know that my Chinese American family will be there to cheer me on (and occasionally, dare I say, nag) as I go my own way. Sometimes I may even wish that they could stay out of my life for one second, but I have the odd suspicion they will not stay out. I also suspect that after I go to college, begin my career, and start a family of my own, I will find myself drawn back to Portland and to family, just as my mother was.

This is likely to hold true not just for myself, but for other Chinese Americans as well. Our families may become more scattered and more "modern" but they will never disappear. The Chinese American community will doubtlessly adapt to the increasing independence of younger Chinese Americans. I hope it will do more than adapt-I hope it will grow. There are so many opportunities out there. With our families to guide and support us and being resourceful enough to strike a balance between being "traditional" and being "modern", I see no reason why we should be unable to fulfill our great promise.

Our families will always be central to our lives, whether we like it or not. No matter how far away we go or how successful we become, we will never forget our families. We will never forget our place in the Chinese American community, and we will never lose sight of who we are.

49th Biennial National Convention to be held in San Francisco

Chinese American Citizens Alliance's 49th Biennial National Convention will be held in San Francisco from August 1st to 4th. The convention will offer practical, engaging sessions and workshops. Attendees will also have opportunities to network and share ideas with members from lodges across the nation. The meeting schedules have been adjusted to allow more recreational time to enjoy the many attractions of San Francisco. Delegates and non-delegates alike will have the opportunity to visit the historical immigration station on Angel Island, which is currently completing a multimillion dollar renovation. The convention will also kick off a six month exhibit at the Chinese Historical Society of America dedicated exclusively to the history of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. Please contact Helen L. Ying at (503) 925-5226 or discover2000@verizon.net for further information.



Fighting For Civil Rights in An Era of Terror

Our past president, Helen L. Ying, participated as a panelist in a heart-wrenching event organized by The Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) in observance of the annual Day of Remembrance. About 200 people attended the event held in George C. Hoffman Hall at Portland State University (PSU) on a sunny Saturday afternoon on February 17.

Five panelists opened the program, they included Peggy Nagae who paralleled the internment ordeal of the Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor to the experience of the Arab Americans as a result of 911. Charles F. Hinkle and William Funk each shared their expertise in regards to the Patriot Act and its impact on privacy and civil liberties. Brandon Mayfield spoke personally about being wrongly jailed for 14 days as a "material witness" in the deadly Madrid train bombings and commented on his home being placed under electronic surveillance without notification. Helen closed the panel presentation by addressing the topic of racial profiling.



After citing several examples including prominent cases such as Wen Ho Lee and our local Congressman David Wu, she went on to rally the audience to join in the fight in combating racial profiling. She asked, "What do we do to combat racial profiling?" and proceeded to present three points on the matter:

Be informed- know your rights.

Take a stand.

She continued by citing the outcome of Wen Ho Lee's case as reported in Wikipedia, the free on-line encyclopedia when he took on the media as well as the government. *"On June 2, 2006, it was announced that the government and five news organizations settled the privacy lawsuit with Dr. Lee. The government agreed to pay \$900,000 in legal fees and associated taxes, while the news outlets will pay \$750,000. Lee quoted 'We are hopeful that the agreements reached today will send the strong message that government officials and journalists must and should act responsibly in discharging their duties and be sensitive to the privacy interests afforded to every citizen of this country'."*

She also shared an excerpt from a report by ANGIE CHUANG in the Oregonian dated August 2, 2001 entitled CHINESE AMERICAN GROUP SEES THREATS TO RIGHTS when Brian Sun, an attorney who represented physicist Wen Ho Lee, was here as a guest speaker for a C.A.C.A. convention in 2001. His message was plain and simple:

Lee's case matters because it could happen to any of us. Many believe Lee, a scientist who was jailed by the federal government on spy charges, was scapegoated because he is Chinese American. "So many people have told me, 'It could have been me.' The challenge for us Chinese Americans is that we're Americans, but we're caught up in this vortex. . . . People who think they can hide are deluding themselves," Sun, who is Chinese American, is one of two Asian American attorneys on Lee's defense team. Taiwanese-born Lee, a former employee of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, was accused of stealing nuclear secrets.

Sun said the Lee case exposed a lack of cohesion in the Chinese American community, which he said was initially "reticent" in responding.

"There was no Jesse Jackson of the Chinese American community," Sun said, responding to the often-made comparison with the African American community's ability to mobilize around cases of perceived racial bias. "A lot of good things and a lot of bad things came of the response to this case. This was a serious lesson of why we need to be better prepared to deal with these kinds of things."

In closing, she emphasized, "It matters when we stand up for our rights."

Her final point on combating racial profiling was, GET INVOLVED:

Join a local civil rights organization, i.e. C.A.C.A, JACL, KACL

Be an active participant in elections.

Contact your law makers and get involved in your community.

Hong Kong Externship Experience

As a third-year medical student at Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) I knew I wanted to specialize in Obstetrics and Gynecology (OBGYN) because I was drawn to the reward of being involved with people during the most precious period of their lives (pregnancies, before/during/after surgery, at the end of life when faced with cancer), the ability to engage with people about sensitive topics and the opportunity to pursue a field that combines the most appealing aspects of internal medicine and surgery. Most importantly, I wanted to be a part of the extraordinary display of humanism and compassion specific to OBGYN. With this in mind, I wanted to experience OBGYN in another country in order to immerse myself in a different healthcare system and to broaden my cultural experience. The OBGYN externship at Hong Kong University (HKU) met all the requirements and qualities I desired. As a result, I applied and subsequently gained admission to begin my HKU externship in November 2006.

My month-long rotation was at HKU's main teaching hospital, Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) and an affiliated hospital, Tsan Yuk Hospital. I spent each day rounding (examining in-house patients, discussing each case, and determining appropriate course of treatment) on the patients with the interns, residents, and attending physician. I participated in specialty clinics such as gynecology clinic, perinatology (high risk birth) clinic, pre-natal ultrasound clinic, and obstetrics clinic on a daily basis, assisted in Cesarean sections or gynecological surgeries, and attended numerous lectures with the faculty and medical students. The bulk of my time was spent working with patients in the perinatology and pre-natal ultrasound clinics because I am interested in pursuing these areas within OBGYN in the future and because QMH specializes in these OBGYN fields.

During my rotation, I observed that cultural practices often influenced the procedures performed and the type of medical care given. In the past few years, Hong Kong (HK) has experienced a greater influx of citizens from China who travel to HK to deliver their children and for pre-natal ultrasound and follow-up. According to HK physicians, their desire to deliver their children in HK was for reasons such as gaining HK citizenship. The value of a HK citizenship included unique education opportunities from which the child could benefit and avoid China's "one child policy," and would allow the family to have multiple children. I also learned that the drive for obtaining pre-natal ultrasounds in HK was because in mainland China, physicians are not permitted to reveal the gender of the baby (detected only by ultrasound) to avoid abortions influenced by China's "one child policy" and the cultural preference of sons. As a result, parents would travel to HK to determine the sex of their baby and if they opted for abortion, this was often done in China because it was both less expensive and an abortion could be performed at any stage of labor whereas in HK, abortions are performed until the 24th week of pregnancy.

Because of the increase of pregnant mainland mothers delivering in Hong Kong, there is a rise in the number of Cesarean-sections performed. This is because in China, it is popular to pick an auspicious day for your child to be born and thus parents want to control the delivery date either by scheduled induction of labor or by cesarean section. During my rotation, I would participate in one-half day a week assisting in scheduled and emergency Cesarean sections within that month, I was able to assist in over 30 cesarean sections, which was more than three times the number I was able to do during my month-long OBGYN rotation at OHSU.

Through my experiences in my HKU externship, I was able to see firsthand many diseases prevalent in Asian populations that are uncommon in the United States. I was also able to improve my medical Cantonese and have a better cultural understanding of the Chinese people and how the social mores and traditions of a population dictate the healthcare it receives. I was fortunate enough to be able to take away a better appreciation of the medical intricacies of OBGYN, learn new skills, and bring back my own observations of the healthcare system so that I may better serve my own patients as an OHSU medical student and as a future physician.

-Jamie Lo, 3rd year medical student, OHSU

Proud sponsor for the 15th Annual American Youth Leadership Conference

The Portland Lodge is proud to continue its effort in supporting the Asian American Youth Leadership Conference. The conference will be held on May 9, 2007 at Lewis & Clark College. Please visit its website AAYLC.org for more details.

C.A.C.A. Basketball Program

The C.A.C.A. Basketball Program concludes its season with participation in Al Mar Invitational March 24-25th in Seattle, Washington. This season, the Program consisted of 11 teams, ranging from 6th grade girls to 12th grade boys. The teams began practices in late November, with at least one practice a week, and game play began in January in the Portland Parks and Recreation District Saturday Youth Basketball League. February 10-11 marked the 33rd Annual Basketball Jamboree, hosted by C.A.C.A., Portland Lodge. The event this year was held at The Hoop in Beaverton, Oregon, and featured 47 scheduled games.

The C.A.C.A. Basketball Program has a long and proud history, one that spans over 30 years. Thomas Phuong, former C.A.C.A. player, began coaching his Rebels team in 1995. This season marks the Rebel's 12th year in the program, with some current players having begun playing on the Rebels in the 2001-02 season. Cyrus Lee's Dragons are in their 10th consecutive season of C.A.C.A. play, with some of his former players over the past decade joining the coaching staff of this year's 8th/9th grade boys team. Most of the high school juniors on Keith Lee's Triple Threat began together in C.A.C.A. while they were in grade school, and similarly, Jim Watson coaches the Bozos, a team comprised of many high school seniors who began together while in grade school many years ago. Former C.A.C.A. standout player Phong Nguyen returned to coach the Tsunami, a junior/senior high school boys team, while Boun Bouma stepped up to take over the Jagz from departed coach Chun Kuo. Rithy Chean continued to soldier on in his third season with the Tigers, a senior boys team. This year also marks the return of a few coaches to the Program: former Program Coordinator and Coach Rex Wong returns this year with the 5th grade Wildboyz, Laura Le came back with an 11th/12th grade girls team, and Phong Thai returns to coach the Bulls.

The histories of our teams, players, and coaches demonstrate the positive outcomes of our Basketball Program. In the many years of the Program, there have been many instances of adolescents developing a strong sense of self, primarily because they identify with the deep and lasting relationships they've made in our Basketball Program. This can be seen in the return of many former players to volunteer and coach our younger generation of players. It is seen when players grow into leadership positions within their team over the course of a season. The positive role models from adults in the program, the sense of community and positive reinforcement from fellow players, and the friendships forged in the program—all give these adolescents, already at a critical juncture in their lives, additional support to make good life decisions and a greater ability to see the strength that is found within.



Reminder: Annual Membership Dues.
Mail to: C.A.C.A., 11453 SE Hazel Hill Road, Clackamas, OR 97086

2007 Scholarships & Essay Contest

Since 1979 the Chinese American Citizens Alliance - Portland Lodge has sponsored the [Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship](#). Every year high school senior students from the state of Oregon and Clark County in Washington State are eligible to apply. This scholarship is to inspire leadership qualities as well as scholastic achievement. And over the last 27 years our Lodge has awarded over \$148,500.00 in scholarships. Applications for this scholarship are now available and the deadline date is April 1, 2007.

This past March 3rd 16 high school students participated in the annual Chinese American Citizens Alliance National Essay Contest. The goal of the annual C.A.C.A. National Essay Contest is to invite Asian American youths to share their ideas in writing on thought-provoking topics related to Asian Americans. Look for some of these essays to appear in future issues of this newsletter.

Tiffany Wang Arts Scholarship applications are now available. Two pre-college student (grades 9-12) students will be selected to each receive \$500 towards a summer arts program. This scholarship also includes the performing arts. The application deadline is April 1, 2007.

Information and applications for all of the above mentioned scholarships plus other scholarships can be downloaded from our web site – www.cacaportland.org. All local area high schools should also have applications available.

Please send finished applications via regular mail (no fax accepted this year) to:

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Phone (503)925-5226



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