



波特蘭同源會

Portland C.A.C.A. Times

A Publication of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Portland Lodge

Website: www.cacaportland.org

Fall 2008

Information:

Phone:
503-925-5226
Website:
www.cacaportland.org
Email:
info@cacaportland.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
Clackamas, OR 97086

Membership:

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

Dues are \$15 annually.

2008 Portland C.A.C.A. Officers:

President

Stephen Ying

Vice President

Cathy Chinn

Secretary

Betty Jean Lee

Chinese Secretary

Becky Lui

Treasurer

Randy Choy

Auditor

Fred Wong

Marshall

Dr. Kent Lee

Sentinel

Dr. Cyrus Lee

Collector

Diana Davis

Grand Rep.

Franklin Quan

Board of Directors:

Helen Ying
ChiEn Montero
Juanita Lee
Leonard Lee

ANNUAL AWARD BANQUET

On June 8th, the annual award banquet for the scholarship applicants and National Essay Contest was held at Wong Kee Restaurant. Applicants, family, members, and friends were welcomed. Our keynote speaker was Cynthia Johnson Haruyama, the new Executive Director, of the Classical Chinese Gardens. She told the students "do not be afraid of change" explaining of her own career.

This year we had twenty four applicants for the Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship. We were fortunate to have Asian American Journalists Association help us select the three finalists. The winners are: Ellen Wang, \$4,000, Lakeridge High School, Richie Day, \$2,000, South Salem High School, and Cheryl Truong, \$1,000, David Douglas High School. Both Ellen and Richie will be attending the University of Pennsylvania, and Cheryl Oregon State University.

Every year our National Lodge sponsors an essay contest for high school students. The topic usually relating to current events, and their Chinese heritage. We were extremely proud that Portland Lodge won the 1st prize of \$1,000. This award was given to Valerie Chia who also won the 1st prize of \$100 at the local level. Second and third place awards of \$50 were given to Tiffany Diec, and Yanni Ma.



Left to Right: Ellen Wang, Cheryl Truong, Richie Day



SURVEY RESULTS REFLECT LIFE IN CHINA

Ellen Wang, C.A.C.A. First Place Scholarship Recipient featured in Lake Oswego Review

Lake Oswego Review, Lake Oswego, OR, August 2, 2007

As one of the few minorities at Lakeridge High School, I often think that not enough is done to stretch the awareness of different cultural backgrounds. So when I went back to China last summer, I conducted a survey at a high school in the small Jinan community. After collecting a hundred responses, I calculated the percentages of every answer for each of the questions asked. Because I wanted to compare the students of the Jinan high school and of Lakeridge and Lake Oswego high school on a community level, I figured there was no better place to share my findings than in the Lake Oswego Review.

Some responses were unsurprising, given what I already knew about Chinese culture. After a never-ending baby boom that left the country home to billions of people, China's government established a "one child" law that prevented each family from having more than one child. It has been a stringent birth control method since the 1980s. Expectedly, 87 percent of the Jinan students interviewed indicated that he or she was an only child (certain tricky loopholes and special circumstances can explain why the other 13 percent showed that he or she had siblings). It is understandable that many people here don't realize these restrictions, especially because no such limits are placed on American families. Generally it is more common for students at Lakeridge and LOHS to have at least one sibling, if not two or more.

For most Chinese students, the academic competition is fierce and draining. 58 percent indicated they spend around three to five hours on homework each night; 24 percent marked that they spent more than six hours. 67 percent said they were involved in only one or two extracurricular activities, and 14 percent answered that they participated in none (of the students that had outside activities, 35 percent put in three hours or less each week and 52 percent put in four to eight hours). Without much time to socialize, 83 percent indicated they did not have a boyfriend/girlfriend. While these statistics may not sound dramatically different from student life in Lake Oswego, the education system in China greatly amplifies the intensity of how these Jinan students view their studies. Students here have endless opportunities and choices for college, but getting into college for the students of Jinan is similar to getting into the Ivy League universities here. In fact, the only things that determine an acceptance or rejection for Chinese students are test scores. Those that do not make it past high school (where there is an application process as well) are forced to find any labor jobs available. This situation is reflected through many Chinese and other Asian students here who generally put much more stress on school and the SATs than anything else.

Although local residents may not appreciate coming to terms with this, drugs and alcohol are not unheard of at the Lake Oswego high schools. The 2006 Oregon Healthy Teen Survey reported that among 11th graders in the LO School District, 51.2 percent drank alcohol in the past thirty days and 30.2 percent admitted to binge drinking. But for the students in Jinan, the abuse of drugs and alcohol is incredibly rare. 70 percent indicated they had never touched alcohol, and 27 percent acknowledged they had had it before, but not often. While 29.9 percent of Lakeridge and LOHS students reported their use of marijuana, 87 percent of the Jinan students indicated that they did not know people who used drugs at all. Drugs and alcohol usage is at a low for students in the Jinan community, and the same patterns are evident across the entire country.

I started this project on a small level, hoping to just compare my past community with the one I live in now. One of my goals when I get to college is to expand this project to an even larger scale, focusing and elaborating on one aspect of student life. I leave the Lake Oswego community with what I have now, but this is certainly not the end of what I think will be a very valuable venture for both Chinese and Americans alike.

PORTLAND ESSAY CONTESTANT WINS LOCAL AND NATIONAL GRAND PRIZES**By Valerie Chia**

Considering the importance of domestic policies necessary to the well being of citizens of the United States and the maintenance of our nation as a world leader, discuss the qualities that you would prefer in the ideal President of the United States. Essay Question: Which current Presidential candidate best fits your criteria and why?

Everybody knows our 16th President Abraham Lincoln revolutionized politics with his altruistic motives, putting the well being of his citizens ahead of his own. Honest Abe brought an end to the Civil War and the issue of slavery that had plagued us for over 50 years. In moving forward, it is important to analyze the past because we can uncover the reasons why former presidents were successful. Lincoln set forth the traits of being able to relate to the public. Inspiration, cooperation and honesty, and we need to use these traits as guidelines for choosing our future leader.

In a democratic republic, where people are governed by representatives the success of the system hinges on the ability of the representatives to accurately portray their constituent's views. The most important quality our President can have is a genuine desire to help the people by putting them first. Often times, politics seem disconnected from the "normal" realm of everyday life, but as the ultimate representative of our nation to the world, our President must reflect the problems our citizens face everyday.

However, we know that we are not flawless people, and the idea of being led by one is intimidating. This is why the second most important quality of a successful President is the ability to inspire others. It is easy to lose hope when confronting all the problems the US encounters. With prolonged debates about tough issues, citizens doubt whether the issues will ever be resolved. As the leader of our country, the President needs to be able to put these fears to rest. Lincoln had this strength. His faith that slavery would not break the nation allowed him to win the war and prevent the South's secession.

Diplomacy and honesty are the last two traits Lincoln demonstrates. In his own words, "A house divided will not stand," so it is imperative that the President can overcome these divisions. Lincoln sets a great example with the polarizing issue of slavery and with the emergence of neo-conservatives and neo-liberals, the new President must be able to compromise with the radicals to make things work. Lastly, we need faith in our President. He must be someone the people can trust, especially in light of the Bush Administration's Patriot Act. Gaining trust is something new leaders have yet to master. Bush's low approval rate and sinking popularity undermine his policies, so having public opinion on your side is something every successful President needs.

When considering the three remaining candidates in the Presidential race, it is clear that only one of them embodies the four traits that I attribute to Lincoln's success. Barack Obama. Not only was he raised away from the world of politics, but he is inspirational, diplomatic and honest as well. He was not born into a legacy like the Kennedy family, but he saw problems in our world and wanted to solve them. His story alone is inspirational and coupled with the work he has done it is easy to see how this inspiration has translated into real change in real communities. Through it all, Obama has maintained his integrity, which is rare in politicians. He does not use negative propaganda or slander to win votes. He has gained my trust because he knows how to erect real change without losing sight of his original goals and morals. This is what we need in a leader and this is why Barack Obama is the ideal candidate in our 2008 elections.

**Valerie Chia**

CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE HELPS CONGRESSMAN HONDA PASS H. RES. 415 TO HONOR CIVIL WAR VETERANS OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER DESCENT

Almost five years of grass roots efforts by the Chinese America Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A. or the Alliance) Advocacy Team, national board members, local lodge leaders and members, and friends contributed to the successful passage of H. Res. 415 on Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

Introduced by Congressman Michael Honda (CA-15) on May 17, 2007, this resolution honors the heroic service of Chinese veterans Edward Day Cohota and Joseph Pierce and other veterans of the American Civil War of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. Passage of the legislation is important to Asian Americans because it helps to clarify and correct actions of United States history. Later history of many of these veterans was bitter because they were denied many veterans benefits, including receiving U.S. citizenship, during the 19th century age of severe discrimination against Asians, particularly Chinese.

This bill is a symbolic gesture of appreciation and healing, which is very important to Chinese Americans, even after all this time. Although nearly 40% of all Chinese Americans live in California, large and small communities throughout the nation benefit from the economic, scientific, and cultural contributions of their citizens of Chinese heritage.

Pleased with passage of the legislation, Munson A. Kwok, Ph.D., National Grand President, stated, "Chinese American Citizens Alliance congratulates and thanks the House of Representatives, and especially author Rep. Michael Honda, for the passage of this resolution, House Resolution 415: Recognition for Privates Edward Day Cohota and Joseph Pierce and Other Asian American Civil War Veterans. This House action is truly an historic moment to recall nearly forgotten historical deeds."

Rep. Honda and his staff completed the effort to qualify for passage, and H. Res. 415 accordingly passed the House of Representative on July 30, 2008. During the formal consideration on the House floor, Rep. Brad Ellsworth (D-IN-08) and Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA-02), Armed Services Committee members, and Mr. Honda, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, spoke on behalf of the bill and the many contributions Chinese and Asian Americans have made to America throughout history.

"The history of America would be totally different without the contributions of Asian Americans. From hard labor building the transcontinental railroad linking our coasts, to the academic contributions ranging from philosophy to medicine, Asian Americans have been an integral part of making our country great," said Rep. Mike Honda. "I am pleased that heroes such as Pierce and Cohota will finally take the place they deserve in our nation's memory. I thank all my colleagues in Congress who supported this long overdue resolution and I praise the Chinese American Citizens Alliance for their tenacity in correcting our history books."

Ms. Carolyn Chan, national executive VP and former teacher, added "Success of this bill celebrates the ability of ordinary, patriotic citizens and purposeful organizations to effect change. Educating our citizens about the contributions of our diverse populations will teach tolerance and strengthen our nation. C.A.C.A. will continue to do both."

"For further information: Carolyn Chan, Executive Vice President and Civic & Public Policy, alanzhc@aol.com, (505) 298-1727; Munson Kwok, Grand President, editorcaca@aol.com, (310) 645-1369.

Montgomery Hom has placed a two-minute trailer (video) of his forthcoming full-length documentary "Men Without A Country" on You Tube. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsQDk6OqToY> to view the video, which describes the Chinese who served in the American Civil War and H. Res. 415.

BASKETBALL PROGRAM SEEKS PARTICIPANTS FOR 2008-09 SEASON**By Cyrus J. Lee, CACA Basketball Program Coordinator**

On the weekend of March 29-30th, all seven CACA Basketball teams participated in the 2008 Al Mar Invitational, hosted by the Seattle Chinese Athletic Association at Franklin High School in Seattle. Competition between Portland and Seattle has created over 30 years of long lasting friendships. The Al Mar Invitation has traditionally marked the conclusion of the CACA Basketball Program Winter season.

Preparation will begin in the Fall for the 2008-09 Season. The Basketball Program participates in the Portland Parks and Recreational Youth Basketball League. The League consists of 5th through 12th grade boys/girls teams. There are a total of 10 games played with no playoffs. Practices start in November and end in mid-March. Games start in early January and commence in mid-March. All games are played on Saturdays within the City of Portland. Player participants can either form their own team and request a coach from CACA or individual participants can look to join an existing team. Additionally, there is always a need for volunteers (assistant coaches, scorekeepers, jamboree volunteers, etc.) Any players or volunteers interested in participating can e-mail basketball@cacaportland.org.



CACA Basketball Coordinator/Head Coach Cyrus Lee and his Dragons return this winter to defend their 2008 CACA Championship. 2009 marks the 12th consecutive season CACA has had a Dragons team

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks to everyone who has remitted the membership dues as well as contributions for the various programs. Please send yours in ASAP if you have not done so already. We will be supporting the less fortunate Asian families through our Annual Toy and Food Drive again this December. We look forward to your contributions in support of this project.



C.A.C.A. Portland
11453 SE Hazel Hill Road
Clackamas, OR 97086