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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

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Membership:

Use the form at:
www.c.a.c.a.portland.org/docs/C.A.C.A._Membership_Application.pdf

Dues are \$15 annually.

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It has been a busy year for the C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge, and with Thanksgiving right around the corner, I wanted to "give thanks" on several fronts:

Thanks for **The Garden of Surging Waves**. This project is the city of Astoria's bicentennial legacy gift as this north coast city marks the 200th anniversary of its founding (1811-2011). As stated on its website, the Garden will serve as a reminder not only of Chinese contributions to Astoria and the Pacific Northwest, but to Oregon's early ties to China that were first developed in the days of John Jacob Astor, and have flourished over the last 200 years. The Chinese played a significant role in the history of Astoria, working in canneries, building the city's sewer system, constructing railroads that would connect Astoria to Portland, and building the jetties at the mouth of the mighty Columbia River. I'm happy to report that members of C.A.C.A. Lodges nationally have contributed more than \$4,000 to support the Garden. On behalf of the Portland Lodge Board of Directors, I encourage you to make a year-end gift to support this special project that will benefit generations to come. For more information, please visit www.astoriachineseheritage.org.



Thanks for the **1882 Project**. This is a nonpartisan, grassroots effort spearheaded by C.A.C.A., the Committee of 100, the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Council of Chinese Americans, and Organization of Chinese Americans. The Project supports the passage of House and Senate resolutions that acknowledge and express regret for the Chinese Exclusion Laws, a series of legislative measures passed by Congress from 1879 to 1904 that violated the civil rights and liberties of Chinese people. To show our support for this Project, the Portland Lodge organized a successful program on November 5 to build awareness at the local level. For more information on the 1882 Project, please visit www.1882Project.org.

Thanks for the **C.A.C.A. Basketball Program** and all of our coaches, players, and parent volunteers. Another season is about to tip-off in our Lodge's signature and most long-standing program. We're excited once again to be participating in the City of Portland Recreation League and partnering with our friends in the Seattle Chinese Athletic Association. (See article on basketball program)

There is much to be thankful for at this time of year. I encourage all Lodge members and newsletter readers to get involved with C.A.C.A. and participate in any of these efforts. I think you'll be thankful you did. Have a safe and happy holiday season!



Now accepting nominations for the
2nd Annual C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge
Citizen's Award

Nominees should demonstrate
contribution aligned with our lodge's
mission: *develop leadership, serve the
community, and promote civil rights.*

Please visit our website—
c.a.c.a.portland.org and download the
nomination form. All nominations are due
on December 15, 2011.

C.A.C.A. ANNUAL TOY & FOOD DRIVE

Our Annual Toy and Food Drive will
conclude on December 17, 2011. We
raised \$650.00 last year and was able to
help 26 families in the Asian community.
Our goal is to exceed last year's giving to
help needy families during the continued
downturn in the economy. As in the years
past, we will be purchasing gift cards with
the donations and share the gifts with the
less fortunate Asian families. The gifts will
be distributed through the Asian Health
Service Center. Please send your support
toward this project. Make your check out
to C.A.C.A. CIF and mail to C.A.C.A.
Portland Lodge, 11453 S.E. Hazel Hill Road,
Happy Valley, OR, 97086.



**Celebrate Chinese
New Year with
Chinese American
Citizens Alliance
Portland Lodge**

February 6, 2012

Monday, 5:30 pm

**Wong's King Restaurant
8733 SE Division St.
Portland, OR**

\$50 per person (\$30 tax deductible)

\$500 for a table of 10

(\$300 tax deductible)

For reservations, please call

Mrs. Lee at 503-221-8773

or email info@c.a.c.a.portland.org

Please make checks out to: C.A.C.A. CIF

and send to: C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge

11453 SE Hazel Hill Road,

Happy Valley, OR 97086



*Spend a fun filled evening
together with friends.*

*All proceeds will go toward supporting
our youth and scholarship programs.*

Federal ID: 94-3175213

1882 Project Round Table in Portland, Oregon

Over 40 people attended the 1882 Project Round Table on November 5, 2011. A Portland Lodge member, Joyce Law shares her reflection from that gathering.

As the result of intensive and effective efforts by members of The 1882 Project, the United States Senate, on October 7, 2011, passed Senate Resolution 201, which acknowledges the injustices inflicted upon the Chinese in America as the result of The Chinese Exclusion Act and related discriminatory laws.



For 61 years -- between 1882 and 1943 -- the federal Exclusion Act of 1882, as well as more than a dozen similar laws, barred or greatly restricted most Chinese from entering the United States. Prior to 1882, the state of California had instituted a series of anti-Chinese laws. And, as early as in 1862, California excluded Chinese from public schools. The state also passed a law titled "An Act to Protect Free White Labor Against Competition with Chinese Coolie Labor and to Discourage the Immigration of Chinese into California." This law was later declared unconstitutional. Sixty-one years of hardship based on race and not nationality. The law was renewed for ten years in 1892; renewed again in 1902; and in 1904 the Congress reaffirmed and made permanent "all laws . . . prohibiting the coming of Chinese persons or persons of Chinese descent into the United States . . ."

So how were the Chinese men ever to be reunited with their families in China? If they returned to China for a visit, they would not be readmitted into the United States. And what of the bachelors who had left home with the intent of making enough money to bring a bride back to the States? And what of the impact upon the psyche of the descendants of these early immigrants?

To shed light on civil rights and other issues emanating for these exclusion laws, the Portland Lodge hosted a public Round Table in northeast Portland on Saturday, November 5. The 1882 Project was established to seek acknowledgement from the United States Congress that the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and all subsequent related laws were unjust and racist, and in spirit encouraged and condoned acts of violence toward the Chinese citizenry. Sponsors of The Project include the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, the Committee of 100, the Japanese American Citizens League, The National Council of Chinese Americans and the national Organization of Chinese Americans.

The Project's leadership, including co-chairs of the project Michael Lin and Ted Gong from Washington DC, and Paul Leung of the C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge, presented historic background of the discriminatory laws and indignities directed at the Chinese by local, state and federal governments. After informative presentations by Mr. Lin, Mr. Gong and Dr. Leung, questions and comments from attendees were encouraged. Several local and regional social justice advocates were at the Round Table, including Gregory Nokes, author of [Massacred for Gold, The Chinese in Hells Canyon](#) and Stephen Ying of the Oregon Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs. (Cont. on p. 4)



(Cont. from p. 3) The language of S.Res.201, especially the Whereases under the section "Resolution," is demeaning, insulting and infuriating, for example:

"Whereas the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 underscored the belief of some senators at that time that

"(1) the Chinese people were unfit to be naturalized;

"(2) the social characteristics of the Chinese were 'revolting;'

"(3) Chinese immigrants were 'like parasites;'

"(4) the United States 'is under God a country of Caucasians, a country of white men, a country to be governed by white men;'

Yes, that was the perception of the times. However, a reading of this Senate Resolution is a vivid reminder of what our ancestors endured so that we now can enjoy what we have today and of how their experiences shape who we are. Yes, this acknowledgment and expression of regret is bittersweet and overdue -- and welcomed.

C.A.C.A. Basketball Program kicks off its 38th Season

Randy Choy, C.A.C.A. Basketball Advisory Board Chair

The C.A.C.A. Basketball Program has a long and rich history. 2011-12 will mark the program's 38th year. This season, the Dragons are celebrating their 15th Anniversary Season. We are proud to have many former players returning as coaches and assistants.

5th grade boys - Dragons, Jack Mar (Coach)

6th grade boys - Tsunami, Phong Nguyen (Coach)

8th grade boys - Bullets, Chris Tang (Coach)

9th grade boys - Tsunami, Mike Nguyen (Coach)

9th-12th grade boys - Dragons, David Green (Coach)

10th-11th grade boys - Rebels, John Elbert Rillera (Coach)

10th-12th grade boys - Dynasty, David Noeun (Coach)

11th-12th grade boys - Hornets, Joseph Leung (Coach)

11th-12th grade boys - Rangers, John Chiit (Coach)

The mission of the Basketball is to help develop the participants into leaders and outstanding citizens within the community. We provide the opportunity for the players to interact and have fun with fellow players and adult volunteers and to follow the C.A.C.A. Basketball Program Code of Conduct. Indeed, many of our new assistant coaches are just a few years removed from having played in the program themselves and are now giving back to the program by coaching and teaching current participants.

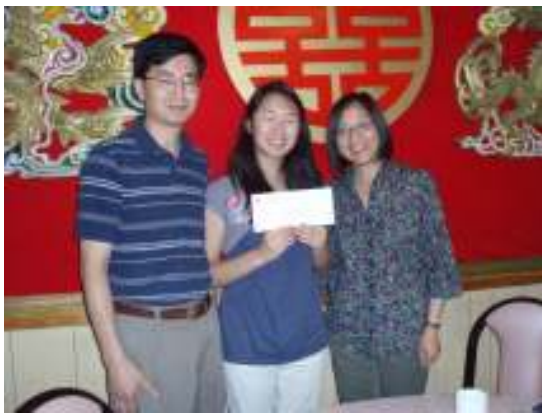
The program participates in the Portland Parks and Recreational District Saturday Youth Basketball League (SYBL). The SYBL consists of 5th through 12th grade boys and girls teams. The games and practices are held at Portland Public Schools middle and grade schools. There are a total of eight games played on Saturdays in January through March, with no playoffs. The games follow the official National Federation of State High School Association rules, with modifications for 6th grade and under. Practices start in late November and end in mid-March.



C.A.C.A. Scholarship Opportunities



The C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge sponsors the Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship for qualified Oregon and Clark County of Washington State graduating high school senior students. This scholarship is awarded to graduating senior students 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. Application for this and other scholarships are available at www.c.a.c.a.portland.org.



Walter U. Lum High School Winner KEMY LIN

During our National Convention this summer, we were so proud to learn that **Kemy Lin**, from Lake Oswego won the \$500 award. We were told that the entries were submitted from all over the United States and Kemy's took the honor of the high school division. She left early September for Princeton University.

Thank You! WEST COAST BANK

On behalf of Portland Lodge, we want to thank **Li Hua Lennox**, Branch Manager of the MLK, and Pearl District Branches, for their generous donation of 18 new back packs for our basketball youngsters. President Cyrus Lee, distributed the packs to members of his Dragons Team.

Annual Essay Contest — March 3, 2012

Each year the Grand Lodge and our local lodge sponsors an essay contest. The goal of this contest is to build leadership skills for young community leaders of tomorrow by encouraging good English writing skills, and demonstrating the ability to present clear, logical thinking on an issue of current national relevance. Applicants are expected to prepare and write a 500 word English theme within two hours, on a topic given at the beginning of the contest. Judging is conducted by a national board of judges organized by the Grand Lodge of the C.A.C.A. The essays are evaluated for originality, clarity of thought and expression, and correctness of grammar and spelling. This contest is open to qualified Oregon and Clark County of Washington State high school students (grades 9-12). Application is available at www.c.a.c.a.portland.org. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winners

Support the commemorative efforts of the Chinese Massacre Cove

Next year will mark the 125th anniversary of the massacre of as many as 34 Chinese gold miners in Hells Canyon at Chinese Massacre Cove. The community cannot give the victims justice after so many years, but we can honor their memory. **The Chinese Massacre Memorial Committee** is beginning a fundraising appeal for a memorial at the massacre site. It will be a simple memorial of granite stone roughly four by five feet on a bluff overlooking the Snake River near walls built by the Chinese miners. The purpose is not to attract attention to the site, but to honor the victims. Engraved wording will be in three languages, English, Chinese and Nez Perce, with the English to read: **CHINESE MASSACRE COVE Site of the 1887 massacre of as many as 34 Chinese gold miners. No one was held accountable.** Their goal is to have the memorial installed and ready to dedicate at the next Chinese Remembering gathering in Lewiston, OR June 21-22, 2012. Please visit their website -www.chineseremembering.org for more details.

AAYLC.org
Asian American Youth Leadership Conference

Planning is underway for the 2012 AAYLC. We are excited to have many returning members for the planning team as well as several new members who are coming on board to help with this exciting event. Claire Flynn from St. Marys wrote an essay for her English class after attending the conference last April, here is an excerpt from her essay entitled, "The Mold"



Claire and her mother, Suenn

..."You're not who you are just because you're Asian," she says. "You're each, individually, different. Your culture has shaped you, definitely, but just because one of us is a bad driver doesn't mean that every single one of us is. Is this making sense?" We all nod. I think when people see me, they immediately notice that I am Asian. They don't think that I'm half Irish. When they find out I play piano they say, "Of course you do!" When I eat rice, they joke about it being "My People's Food." What does that even mean? I want my culture to be a part of who I am but I don't want it to define who I am. I'm torn between embracing it and fully becoming what it is and pushing it away so I break out of that mold. Many people think there isn't racism towards Asians. And maybe it's not as bad as some racism problems. But it's the expectations and the stereotypes that are so hard to break free of and also so hard to embrace. Maybe people don't mean badly by some of the things they say, but are there ever any jokes about white people? I'm proud of my heritage, but I wish I didn't have to be typecast into what everyone before me was. It seems impossible to find that balance that is truly needed. If there even is a balance.

I think of my mother. She has done nothing to reject her culture, and everything to embrace it. But how she was raised was so much different than me. She grew up in Hong Kong, where people looked the same and were brought up very similarly. I'm growing up in America, the melting pot of races. She is deeply respected for her work in the Chinese community, not only in Portland, but also in Astoria. Yet, I distinctly remember her telling me about a client of her architecture firm who didn't want to work with her because she was Asian. And in high school, the environment where judging people is everything, people immediately start with what you look like, and then proceed to connect it to what they know of people who look like you. I know I have done it. I know my friends have done it. It's human nature to make assumptions. I don't want to reject the assumptions that people make of me that are related to my heritage because some of them are actually true. But I also don't want them to be the only way that people think of me. I must learn to walk the thin line. The line between attempting to become every stereotype because that is what people expect of me, and trying to go against every stereotype there is, just to prove that I am not like every other Asian.

As we wrap up the conference's last workshop of the day Jessica says something that sums up exactly what I've learned. "Just remember, you're not alone in such a complicated struggle. Everyone else in this room is going through exactly what you are. And that's one thing that will always tie you together."

Like Claire, 500 students from 37 high schools enjoyed being at and learned a great deal from the conference last April. All except the seniors indicated they would like to attend again in 2012 and 95% of them indicated that they would recommend the conference to their peers. We need your support in order to continue this good work. Your financial and personal support will help to make another wonderful conference in 2012.

Member's Voice by Wisdom Ming, Board member



I joined the Chinese American Citizens Alliance Portland Lodge to get a better sense of the Asian community in and around Portland. I grew up in Montana where there was not an Asian community at all as it was just my family and one other family that was related to us. My Asian community was basically the Chinese restaurant that our families owned. When I moved to Portland, I decided to get involved to learn about civil rights and Asian heritage; and I have always been fascinated with the stories of how immigrants of all races came to America.

Through the C.A.C.A. I have learned things that I was not aware of regarding civil rights issues. For example, I just attended the presentation/discussion regarding the 1882 Project. I was not aware of the specific exclusion laws put into place in 1882. When I learned about them, I realized that our ancestors went through a lot and worked hard to be successful in America. One of the great things that came out of the discussion, and other discussions like this, is that the stories of the immigrants come out. It is like a treasure chest of stories opening up! As many would agree, some of the stories that are heard are not ones that can be found in history books.

There is a lot of Asian history and civil rights issues in Portland that is being discovered and brought to attention. One can get involved and learn about various aspects through the C.A.C.A. The C.A.C.A. is a great avenue for learning and getting the word out. The organization also is working to get younger Asian Americans involved in various activities and emphasizes that it is important to learn about one's history and to be proud of one's heritage.

I encourage everyone to join the C.A.C.A. to learn and become involved in the Asian community. I have met many wonderful people and have heard many colorful stories. I'm not only having a good time at the events, but I'm also learning about history and heritage that is rich in culture.

Remembering ROY COE by Betty Jean Lee

December 22, 1919 — August 31, 2011

We were saddened this summer with the passing of our long time friend, Roy Coe. Ten years ago, it was Roy who helped us assemble and print our National Convention Booklet. He never hesitated to offer a helping hand. Working with new "electronics" was an exciting challenge for him until he fell ill. Roy also volunteered to be interviewed for our World War II Veterans project for the Library of Congress.

He is survived by sons, "Jay" and Darrell Coe; daughter-in-laws, Kristene and Mary Ann, 4 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.



Dear C.A.C.A. Members,

I can hardly believe that I am in my final year of college—I can vividly remember the day my parents dropped me off to Penn and it feels much too familiar to be ending so soon.

Yet so far there has hardly been time to dwell on such sentiments. In the midst of a closure to my college education is my preparation for my adventure to follow: the application process to medical school. My summer was consumed by my third year of research at the Knight Cancer Institute at OHSU and essays, essays, and more essays. Currently, my (or my parents') finances have been taking quite the hit, both in application fees and flights as I attend interviews. Yet despite the busy and sometimes chaotic moments, I have enjoyed each opportunity to learn about the excitement of the career path I have chosen for myself, and each school I have visited thus far has served as further confirmation of my decision. With a long cycle ahead, it is difficult to think about the end to this process, but I will be sure to follow up with an update on the final results.

One new thing for me that began last semester is my new position in the West Philadelphia Tutoring Project (WPTP) as Education Director. As my most involved activity at Penn, I was eager to take on this new level of leadership in an organization that I have learned so much from. As someone who benefited early from the lessons of tutoring and urban education, I have now turned the tables and taken on the responsibility of designing and managing orientation for all 300 tutors in our program as well as informative workshops on how to tutor better and education-based issues important for the School District of Philadelphia. WPTP will be one of the most important things I take away from my time at Penn.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank the C.A.C.A. members for all their support for these past couple of years. I am so grateful for the C.A.C.A.'s guidance and investment in my college education, and I will surely keep in touch and always remember this organization's generosity.

Ellen



C.A.C.A. Portland
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Happy Valley, OR 97086