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EXCERPTS FROM ASIAN WEEK: CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE MEETS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Carolyn Gan, Aug 10, 2007

Last week, members of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance met in San Francisco for its 49th Biennial National Convention.

Born in 1895, in an era of the worst racial discrimination, the alliance was formerly a part of the Native Sons of the Golden State. After 112 years, the group's goals and principles still hold forth today: self-improvement, a better community, fighting racial discrimination, political empowerment, the right to vote, civil rights and the preservation of Chinese history in America.

Walter U. Lum, Kenneth Fung, Y.C. Hong and William Jack Chow, would be proud to see the third and fourth generations of leaders.

Hundreds of delegates from across the country enjoyed a fine dinner at the elegant San Francisco City Club; I bet no Chinese dared think they could walk through those marbled halls even two generations ago.

Guest speaker state Controller John Chiang, the highest-ranked elected Chinese official in California, delivered a rousing speech on advocacy and political empowerment, and diners watched a documentary about Chinese immigration to the United States titled Carved in Silence, produced by filmmaker Felicia Lowe. Afterwards, Lowe related her father's experience in Angel Island and her first time meeting her grandmother in China. **(Continued next page)**



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The conference included sessions on immigration, veterans' issues, health care, education and historical presentations. Updates were presented on the organization's coalition-building efforts, youth-development projects such as the Youth Councils and Asian Students in Action (A.S.I.A.), national essay and art contests, scholarships and plans for the future.

This year, the convention partnered with three other important groups: Chinese Hospital, Chinese Historical Society of America and Angel Island Immigration Station.

The 16 chapters of the alliance focus on different community services: Albuquerque Lodge focuses on cultural festivals; Mississippi is working on a museum; Houston sponsors youth education programs, as well as an annual beauty pageant; and Oakland focuses on community service and veterans' affairs. San Francisco emphasizes voter education, youth and social activities, while Los Angeles Lodge is active in public policy. Portland favors youth leadership development programs.

Convention activities included a reception at the Chinese Historical Society of America, where an exhibit titled, To Enjoy and Defend Our American Citizenship, traces the alliance's fight against racial discrimination and the violent attacks in the 1880s. Author and historian Judy Yung also presented her latest work, "Chinese American Voices — From the Gold Rush to the Present."

At the closing banquet, the alliance presented the Spirit of America Award to three honorees for distinguished service and leadership: pioneer agricultural scientist Dr. David Hsi, Ph.D., of Albuquerque, N.M.; scholar and "Roots" program co-founder Him Mark Lai of San Francisco; and former Houston City Councilman Gordon Quan. The Lifetime Service Award was presented to Paul K.J. Hu, for over 40 years of dedicated service as a Grand Board officer.



Portland Delegation with Houston Lodge Members



The three Co-Chairs of Host Lodge San Francisco. Joanna Tom, Davace Chin, and John Hui



Munson Kwok (Grand President) and Collin Lai (LA Lodge member)

SHARE YOUR GIFTS

Our annual Toy and Food drive will culminate in December. We welcome gifts of any amount. All gifts received dedicated to 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.

IMPRESSIONS OF THE CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZEN ALLIANCE 49th BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION IN SAN FRANCISCO

By Franklin Quan and Hansel Liu

The presentations at the 49th Convention were both inspiring and encouraging. It was consistent with the convention theme "POWER of CITIZENSHIP", and all presentations centered around the historical struggles of the past. Significant progress that have been made, as well as future challenges and opportunities surrounding such issues such as civil rights, immigration rights, citizenship, culturally sensitive treatment and portrayal of ethnic communities (the Chinese American community in particular).

Guest speaker: John Chiang, the current California State Controller is a success story in his own right. The dynamic speaker offered a heart warming portrayal of his growing-up years in mid-western America. It was evident that every attendee at the convention and all Americans of Chinese descent could easily find commonalities in the experiences that he shared.

Felicia Lowe, educator, television producer-director, script writer, and author of several books spoke on the experiences and achievements of past and current Chinese immigrants. She presented an impressionable historical account of Chinese immigration dating from the early 1800's up to and through 1945 with the ending of the Second World War. The Portland Lodge has obtained a copy of "CARVED IN SILENCE" a documentary about the experiences of Chinese immigrants detained on Angel Island Immigration Station which Felicia produced and directed.



Carved At The Immigration Station

CHINESE HOSPITAL, located in the heart of San Francisco Chinatown, is a community hospital serving all people without regard to race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin. Many years ago, the National Chinese American Citizen Alliance helped advocate and support the establishment of the hospital from opposition forces. Currently, the magnanimous nature of the medical facility reflects the conscious awareness on the part of the Chinese American Community. It is of utmost importance of reaching out to people of all races as ours is a culturally diverse society.

The reports from all the Local Lodges were the most exciting part of the Grand Council meetings. All Lodges recounted their mission's accomplishments of the past two years with our own Helen Ying's awesome report on our Youth Program Activities. Upon hearing and viewing Helen's report, many delegates expressed the interest and desire to implement similar programs in their cities.

As in prior conventions, there were many Resolutions. Of particular significance was the one proposal by San Gabriel Valley Lodge opposing offensive and disparaging statements used as part of a political campaign against Chinese Mom and Pop business enterprises and restaurant operators. Of equal importance was the resolution submitted by the San Francisco Lodge calling for funding for the construction of a City College Chinatown Campus by the State of California. Support for the new Chinatown Campus, at cost of \$122 million, is coming from community organizations throughout the Bay Area. Another important resolution was to establish an A.S.I.A. Endowment Fund within the C.A.C.A. Community Involvement Fund (CIF). The funds would be available for all Lodges to have the opportunity to host the A.S.I.A Conferences or for other youth activities. **(Continued next page)**

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The initial campaign shall be targeted to all lodge members and friends nationwide and be designated as the "100 PLUS CLUB" where each member is encouraged to support A.S.I.A. with \$100.00 or more contribution. While waiting for the approval and passing of this resolution, contribution pledges of \$26,000 were raised within the convention halls.

All social activities must be ranked among the best of the activities. The visits to Angel Island and the Chinese American History Museum constituted as a trip back in time, reaching into the stark reality of a sad and incomprehensible period of American history. The senseless, harsh inhumane treatment of one individual to another ran contrary to the spirit of the founding fathers of this great Republic.

WE WANT YOU AT THE UNDER THE AUTUMN MOON FESTIVAL

Old town/Chinatown will be hosting the second annual Under the Autumn Moon Festival celebration on September 15th and 16th. It will begin with a parade at 10 am led by a 25-foot dragon and lions. Come join us for all the festivities including a spectacular firework show followed by a big screen showing of Chinese movies in the open air on one of the festival streets. Activities on Sunday will include free admission to the Classical Chinese Gardens. Also, come enjoy family entertainments on the World Stage featuring the Dragon Arts Puppet, Charlie Brown jugglers, Westside dance and Gymnastic Academy, and much more. Take a walk and visit all the booths along both festival streets featuring food, fun, music and shop in the global bazaar. C.A.C.A. Portland lodge is taking this opportunity to sell moon cakes to help us raise funds for our programs. We need volunteers, please contact Betty at bleepdx@earthlink.net or Stephen at Stephen.s.ying@gmail.com if you are available to help.



BASKETBALL PROGRAM CONCLUDES

SUCESSFUL 2006-07 SEASON AND LOOKS FORWARD TO 2007-08



By Cyrus J. Lee, C.A.C.A. Basketball Program Coordinator

The C.A.C.A. Basketball Program has a long and proud history. 2006-07 marked the program's 33rd year. The 2006-07 Season saw eleven teams participate in the Basketball Program. There were two high school girls teams, one 5-6th grade boys team, one 8th/9th boys team, one 10th grade boys team, and six 11th/12th grade boys teams. The two girls teams and the 5-6th and 8-9th grade boys teams were new teams for the season while all seven of the high school boys teams were returning teams. A total of 28 volunteers served as head coaches and/or assistant coaches for 105 players registered in the Basketball Program.

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 ten 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 early November and end in mid-March. Additionally, C.A.C.A. Basketball also hosts and Intercity Jamboree, held in mid-February versus teams from the Seattle Chinese Athletic Association (SCAA) and other invitees. **(Continued next page)**

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The 2007 C.A.C.A. Intercity Jamboree was held at The Hoop, in Beaverton, Oregon. In return, C.A.C.A. teams participate in the SCAA Al Mar Invitational, which is held in mid March, in Seattle. Competition between Portland and Seattle has created over 30 years of long lasting friendships. A total of nine Seattle Chinese Athletic Association (SCAA) teams participated in the Intercity Jamboree, and seven C.A.C.A. teams traveled to Seattle for the Al Mar Invitational.

2006-07 marked the return of three veteran C.A.C.A. coaches to the sidelines, two new coaches, and six returning coaches from last season. Laura Le, Cyrus Lee, and Rex Wong returned to coach the respective newly formed teams: Hyphy Movements-HS Girls, Dragons-8th/9th grade Boys, and Wildboysz-5th/6th grade Boys. C.A.C.A. also welcomed new coaches David Tran (8th-10th grade girls) and Boun Bouma (Jagz-10th grade Boys). Additionally, the following coaches returned with their teams largely intact: Keith Lee (Triple Threat-11/12th grade Boys), Phuong Thai (Bulls-11/12th grade boys), Phuong Nguyen (Tsunami-11/12th grade Boys), James Watson (Bozos-11/12th grade Boys), Rithy Chan (Tigers-11/12th grade Boys), and Thanh Phuong (Rebels-11/12th grade boys). Also, the 2006-07 season marked the 11th consecutive season for the C.A.C.A. Rebels and the 10th consecutive season for the C.A.C.A. Dragons.

Randall Choy, Cyrus Lee, Melanie Ying, and Christine Tom will coordinate the program for this upcoming season and continue to evaluate the program and look for opportunities to add value to all stakeholders: our coaches and other volunteers, C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge and the surrounding community, and the youth participants themselves. This is truly an exciting time to be part of the basketball program!

The First Coaches Meeting will be held in late September/early October and used to distribute required forms, determine the number of participants/teams, and to survey coaches for areas of additional support from C.A.C.A.. If you would like to participate in the program as a volunteer, or know anyone who would like to participate as a volunteer or player, please contact C.A.C.A.. Players can either register individually or as a team. The cost for high school players averages to be around \$60.00 (fees are assessed to an entire team at the rate of \$600.00), and for middle school and younger players around \$50.00. Practices start in late November.



8th graders Chris Catabay (#15) and Quang Le (#9) look to start the C.A.C.A. Dragons fast break against their SCAA opponent at the Intercity Jamboree (The Hoop, Beaverton, Oregon)

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

On June 10th, students, parents, and C.A.C.A. members and friends congratulated essay and scholarship winners at the annual award banquet at the new Wong Kee Restaurant in Portland. Jamie Lo, a previous Fred G. Lee scholarship winner, now an Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) medical student, was our keynote speaker.

Winners of our local essay contest were: Cindy Lin, 1st place \$100, Greg Lee, 2nd place \$50, and Joshua Lum, 3rd place \$50 winner. The National Merit award of \$100 was also given to Joshua Lum. Two Tiffany Wang Music and Art Scholarship awards of \$500 were presented to Susan Wu, Corvallis, OR, and Evan Wu, Corvallis, OR. Monies for these were generously donated by Tiffany Wang. The Asian American Journalists assisted us in selecting the three finalists for the Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship. After personal interviews with our board, Jiying Zhang, of Lincoln High School, was selected as the \$4,000 winner. Since she was away in China with her father, her mother accepted her award in her place. Because competition was so keen this year, we decided to give Rachel Hui Matthews, of South Eugene High School, \$2,000 as the 2nd place winner. Leah Chan, of Lincoln High School, was awarded \$1,000 for 3rd place. Rachel and Leah were sent to represent Portland Lodge at the annual ASIA Leadership conference at UCLA in June. Students from all over the United States spent the week-end learning leadership skills.

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.



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