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# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

**National Lodge**  
ESTABLISHED 1895

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **C.A.C.A. Remembers Civil Rights Giant Grace Lee Boggs**

San Francisco, California—In 1915, the re-chartered Native Sons of the Golden State adopted its present name, Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A). In that same year on June 27, Grace Chin Lee was born in Providence, Rhode Island, in a room above a restaurant owned by her father. Both the organization and individual would literally spend the span of a century in parallel courses in the march for human rights, social justice and equal opportunity.

Earlier this month on October 5, the veteran author, social activist, philosopher and feminist passed away in her home in Detroit. Grace Lee Boggs, as she was widely known, was 100 hundred-years old. C.A.C.A. acknowledges the breakthrough achievements of Mrs. Boggs in battling racial discrimination and defending civil rights and mourns her loss.

“In earlier decades, C.A.C.A. and Mrs. Boggs took fundamentally different approaches on improving the human condition for minorities in this country,” states Ed Gor, national president of C.A.C.A., the nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights and social advocacy organization. “The Alliance and Mrs. Boggs both sought social change for the better in their respective communities of influence. As a woman of Chinese descent, she experienced the great challenges of discrimination and racial bigotry in African American life and her effective activism certainly influenced greater numbers of people who were first enslaved, then marginalized. It’s often said with great truth that any and all civil rights advances made in any of the communities of color, whether by African Americans, Asian Americans or Hispanics, are victories for us all.”

A graduate of New York’s Barnard College and Bryn Mawr College where she received a doctorate in philosophy in 1940, Mrs. Boggs would embrace far-left political leanings and a revolutionary zeal in community activism. Her lifelong efforts would be largely focused on



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championing equality on behalf of the black community when she moved to Detroit in 1953 and married black autoworker, writer and radical activist James Boggs.

The Boggs were friends with many prominent black figures, including Malcolm X and Angela Davis, who once declared that Mrs. Boggs contributed more to the black struggle than many black people. The steady economic decline and rising police brutality compelled Mrs. Boggs to adopt a radical approach to addressing the plight of disenfranchised. The Federal Bureau of Investigation reportedly monitored the Boggs' activities.

It wasn't until later in life when she adopted nonviolent protest strategies inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. in the efforts for racial and economic justice through community-building and nonconfrontational methods. Mrs. Boggs advocated civic reforms through dialogue, and created food cooperatives and support groups for the elderly. She established a youth program that attracts volunteers from all over the country to repair homes, paint murals, organize music festivals and turn vacant lots into community gardens. In 2013, she started a charter elementary school.

“Grace’s passion for helping others, and her work to rejuvenate communities that had fallen on hard times spanned her remarkable 100 years of life, and will continue to inspire generations to come,” said President Barack Obama in a released statement.

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1044 Stockton St.  
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Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA), Tucson (AZ), and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.