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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. Members Honored at Golden Spike 150 Fete

San Francisco, May 19, 2019 – Crowning a historic week of programs and activities that celebrated the 150th Anniversary of the completion of the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad, the 2019 Community Benefit & Awards Gala closed this year's Golden Spike Conference with a salute to individuals who have endeavored for the recognition of Chinese workers in the transformation of the American nation in the late 19th Century. The awards gala was held Saturday evening, May 11, at the Marriott Downtown City Creek Hotel in Salt Lake City.

The conference and gala organizer, the Chinese Railroad Workers Descendants Association (CRWDA), honored author/educator Dr. Gordon Chang, photojournalist Corky Lee and community activists Wilson and Esther Lee. Wilson and Esther Lee rechartered the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) Boston Chapter in 2014 after an absence of more than 50 years. Corky Lee is a member of C.A.C.A. Greater New York, which was re-chartered in 2016.

C.A.C.A. National Lodge served as a community partner for the Golden Spike Conference in 2018 and again this benchmark year.

Gordon Chang is Co-Director, Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project, and the Olive H. Palmer Professor in the Humanities and a professor of American history at Stanford University. Dr. Chang authored the recently-released *Ghosts of Gold Mountain: The Epic Story of the Chinese Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad*, a deeply detailed chronicle of the Chinese railroad workers drawing on family memories, government records, archaeological reports, and other materials.

Called the “undisputed unofficial Asian American photographer laureate,” Corky Lee combines documentarian and activist roles in recording the Asian American community’s most historic monuments, notably the protests following the 1982 murder of Vincent Chin in Michigan. He has organized annual pilgrimages to Promontory Summit, the site of the Golden Spike National Historical Park, to commemorate the anniversary of the historic railheads and the absence of public recognition of the Chinese, who made up nearly 90 percent of the workforce that built the Central Pacific's portion from Sacramento.



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Wilson and Esther Lee were recognized as founders of the Chinese American Heritage Foundation, whose core mission is to identify, verify, document, preserve, and share Chinese American contributions to the cultural, economic, and social development of the United States of America. The Lees are credited with fundraising for the Harmony Through Union float, which participated in the 130th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, earlier this year.

On the night of the gala, C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin presented Certificates of Appreciation to the honorees and to CRWDA President Michael Kwan and CRWDA Chairwoman Margaret Yee. “Congratulations to Corky, Wilson and Esther who have done much to raise awareness of the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad and the building of our country,” said C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin. “C.A.C.A. was honored to join CRWDA in the effort to ensure the achievements of the Chinese takes their rightful place in our national memory.”

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1044 Stockton St.
San Francisco, CA.

Web: 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), Greater New York (NY), 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) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.