



Special: Washington, D.C. Wrap-Up

D.C. Legislative Education Trip

Perspectives from Munson A. Kwok and Charles Mau

With its largest delegation since its inception, Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) sponsored 28 members from 13 local lodges for the annual Legislative Education Trip to Washington, DC from May 1 to 6. Including 15 first-timers to this delegation, also a watermark figure, C.A.C.A. National President Ed Gor coordinated the daily activities (often behind the scenes), covering major events for the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and congressional office visits by team members. Cathy Lee (Seattle) did a great job scheduling and updating the congressional office appointments while Charles Mau (GSGV) helped assist the new-comers in all other aspects drawing from his previous experiences. Munson and Suellen Kwok were instrumental in anchoring the team spirit by providing thoughtful advice to the newer members.



The primary objectives of the annual trip are to enunciate to our members of Congress the significant concerns and issues affecting Chinese Americans that C.A.C.A. can represent and to demonstrate our serious intent for support and action by personally visiting each of our own district's elected officials. In a couple of cases, team members would access a national leader. For example, the San Francisco Lodge trio would work not only with



Picture: DC Team at the Department of Labor Wall of Honor. Kneeling, L-R: Cindi Q. Lofton, Joe Dan Yee, Suellen Cheng, Ai Cheng Goh, Esther Lee, Hui-Lim Ang, Haipei Shue, Ming-Ming Tung-Edelman. 2nd row, L-R: Munson Kwok, Siu Wong, Cathy Lee, Ed Gor, Sherman Tang, Emily Jones, Lily Huang, Eva Li, Dep. Secr. Chris Liu, Paul Chang. Back row, L-R: Susan Dickson, Ted Gong, Eddie Wong, Erwin Wong, Camille Gong, Charles Mau, Fred Yee, Les Gin.

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Washington, D.C. Trip *(continued from page 1)*

staffers for the Bay Area and Northern California, but would see senior office staffers of Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic Minority Leader. (Pelosi is also representative for S.F. Chinatown and C.A.C.A. Headquarters). The Southern California group would see the staffers of Rep. Judy Chu. We had strong coverage in the Pacific Northwest by Portland and Seattle Lodges, the Sunbelt area by Phoenix, Albuquerque, and the Texas Lodges, and the Midwest by Chicago Lodge members. Though Congress was in recess that week, we met with the key staff representatives in the legislators' offices.

Birthright Citizenship and Historic Preservation Fund

This year, we had two talking points to present. The first issue concerns birthright citizenship (GSGVL-2015 Convention Resolution), at one time a contentious topic in the primary election season, and we wanted to get assurance from the Members to preserve this fundamental constitutional right should future immigration deliberation question its legality. If this right had not been verified in the Supreme Court in an historical case of a Chinese during Exclusion, it is possible none of us would be here today, and C.A.C.A. would not have begun. There are recent examples of individuals taking shameless commercial advantage of this Right; it is also a responsibility of C.A.C.A. to assure that current laws are not violated and that new, just regulations be defined to protect birthright citizenship for the vast majority of native born.

The second issue centers on a Congressional Bill HR-2817 that would renew the expired Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) to 2025, for which we would ask the Members to support and be a co-sponsor. For example, the Preserve America program declaring the five Asian Towns of Los Angeles, including Chinatown, was part of such programs. However, the refusal of the House majority to act in 2015 allowed the HPF law to lapse and all funding and such programs ceased. The argument was that this was a waste of federal budget, but fewer than \$60 million was ever allocated on an annual authority of \$150 million, all this on a federal budget nearing a trillion (10,000 times bigger). Many Representatives, particularly from urban communities, were not even aware of the issue. As part of that preservation effort, the Southern California group visited the offices of Adam Schiff, Judy Chu, Ted Lieu, Grace Napolitano, Edward Royce, and Xavier Becerra and spent considerable time to get the progress update to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA) bill and the Bay study bill.

The general impression is that the staff members of both parties were all very receptive to our presentations, perhaps because these issues were not perceived to be controversial in this Presidential election year. ■



The 2016 C.A.C.A. Legislative Education team at the 22nd Annual APAICS Awards Gala (above) and visiting author and attorney Martin Gold (below)



Oakland: Celebrating 104th Anniversary and Presence in Oakland Chinatown

The Oakland Lodge held its 104th Anniversary Celebration and Scholarship Award Ceremony banquet on June 12, 2016. This year, \$8,000 in scholarships were awarded to 6 college-bound high school students: Kylie Chang (attending University of California, Los Angeles), Xue Ying Zheng (attending University of California, Irvine), Shengmin Xiao (attending University of San Francisco), Jenny Cai (attending San Jose State University), Lucy Liang (attending University of California, Irvine), and Allison Du (attending Yale College).

On July 4, 2016, Oakland Lodge held its annual Independence Day Celebration and Senior Luncheon where the lodge held a flag-raising ceremony to honor local veterans, served free lunches and gifted tote bags to 300 elderly people in Chinatown. In an effort to ensure all large-scale developments in the City of Oakland effecting Chinatown respects the integrity of its community, neighborhood, history, and culture, Oakland have officially joined the Oakland Chinatown Coalition, a partnership amongst local organizations and leadership dedicated to ensure Chinatown's strength and growth. In the meantime, the Oakland Lodge building remains under construction. ■



National Essay 1st Winner: Iris Wang, and Local Scholarship Winners: Kylie Chang, Xue Ying Zheng, Shengmin Xiao, Jenny Cai, Lucy Liang & Allison Du

Mississippi: Accomplishments and Achievements

Mississippi Lodge members had many things to celebrate at the June 26th meeting, held at the Super Buffet in Greenville, Mississippi. President Cindi Q. Lofton, Sentinel Joe Dan Yee and MS Delta Chinese Heritage Museum Archivist, and C.A.C.A. member, Emily Jones were honored to represent MS lodge at the D.C. legislative education trip in May. They spoke to members of congress about the importance of birthright citizenship and his-

toric cultural preservation. Much interested, attendees asked questions, made comments and launched into enthusiastic quasi-political discussions.

Lodge members were very proud to celebrate Mrs. Jing Rosella's recent attainment of her American Citizenship! Compliance Officer Brunswick Wong accepted for Ana Ibay, a recognition award for being the Medical-Surgical Nurse of the Year at Delta Regional Medical Center. C.A.C.A. family members work hard to succeed and are being recognized at so many levels!



MS Lodge President, Cindi Q. Lofton and Member, Mrs. Jing Rosella

In sweet remembrance of their daughter, Dr. Mikela D. Kwan, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kwan (Shirley, National Representative) awarded a special scholarship to one of the Mississippi participants of the National Essay Contest. Vice President Helen Hong shared a few of the many outstanding accomplishments and talents of the late Dr. Kwan. MS Lodge honor and appreciate Mr. and Mrs. Kwan for their contribution to help others, in remembrance of their daughter. ■

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Portland: Project to Increase Voter Registration

Portland Lodge applied for and received a grant from APANO (Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon) to initiate and deepen civic engagement in the Chinese American communities. The grant of \$20,000 will fund voter registration efforts, provide forums for ballot and candidate discussion and organize drives to get ballots returned on Election Day. The lodge hired Randy Choy, a former C.A.C.A. board member and C.A.C.A. basketball coordinator to help manage the project. The goal is to register 300 voters by October 18 and provide education and assistance in insuring ballots get returned. Oregon is on track to sign up more than 200,000 new voters through the Oregon Motor Voter system. Getting communication and education out to eligible voters who may not even know they are registered to vote is a primary concern as well as outreach to 17-year olds that they are eligible to register to vote. Portland lodge will also be working closely with APANO and Oregon Voice to initiate phone banks and canvassing closer to the election.

May was a busy month for Portland Lodge. On May 13, Portland presented the 24th Asian American Youth Leadership Conference at Concordia University. This year's theme was "Have a Voice." Over 350 attendees of various ethnic backgrounds came together to learn through social exercises and discover their voices to lead future change.



Seattle Lodge members standing in back row. Portland Lodge members kneeling in front left to right – Molly Cochran, Kittle Kong, Gloria Lee

May 21, Portland hosted its sister Seattle lodge to view the Oregon Historical Society exhibits "Chinese American Inclusion/Exclusion" (on loan from New York) and Portland's own "Beyond the Gate, a Historic look at both Portland Chinatowns." Members enjoyed a group conversation with historic writer John Jung.

Portland Lodge annual awards banquet was held on June 5.

San Antonio: Film Screening of *Mississippi Delta Chinese*

San Antonio Lodge hosted a May 7, film screening of *Honor & Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese* by authors Drs. Gwendolyn Gong and John Powers and director/filmmaker Samantha Cheng. Approximately 50 people attended the screening. The documentary film tells the story of early Chinese immigrants to Mississippi, the 182 Chinese men who joined the U.S. WWII efforts, and documents contributions by Chinese Delta families as their children became professionals. Copies of the book *The Mississippi Chinese Veterans of WWII: A Delta Tribute* by Dr. Gwendolyn Gong and the film were available for purchase for those wanting to keep a piece of Chinese history.

In April, Lodge members helped the San Antonio Fiesta Commission with safety compliance of Fiesta Flambeau parade floats. They enjoyed boarding the floats for safety inspections.

Lodge members also volunteered and helped the Chinese School and Community Center at its annual fundraiser at the Texas Folklife Festival held on June 10-12, 2016. Members sold Chinese food and snacks at the Chinese booth.

San Antonio Lodge Grand Rep, Camille Gong, accompanied National and other Lodge representatives on the 2016 Legislative Education Trip to Washington DC May 1-5. ■



A float at the Fiesta Flambeau parade in San Antonio. The local Lodge assisted with safety inspections of the floats.

Continued from Portland

The evening event honored the many volunteers with the Asian American Youth Leadership Conference and this year's essay and scholarship winners. Local essay winners were: 1st- Mitchell Robert Yep, 2nd-Margot Flynn, 3rd-Melani Huynh.

The Tiffany Wang Arts Scholarship winner was Symphony Koss. The winners of the Fred G. Lee Memorial Scholarship: Xingling Guan (\$4,000), Margot Flynn, \$1,000 and McKenna Kerr (\$1,000). ■

San Francisco: Grand Opening of Chinese Hospital New Patient Tower

After years of planning, preparation and fundraising, a new state-of-the-art Chinese Hospital proudly celebrates the grand opening of its Patient Tower on April 18, 2016. The Grand Opening date was chosen to commemorate the reopening of Tung Wah Dispensary as Chinese Hospital on April 18, 1925. The original Tung Wah Dispensary was destroyed during the Great Earthquake of 1906.

The grand opening celebrations took place over four days with receptions and guided tours for physicians and staff, donors, and founding organizations including Chinese American Citizens Alliance. Hundreds of people from the community attended the event including San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and former mayor Willie Brown, both long-time supporters of Chinese Hospital. Other distinguished attendees include Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Scott Wiener, Jane Kim, Norman Yee, Assessor Carmen Chu, Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White, Assemblymen Phil Ting and David Chu, and other political leaders. There were many lion dancers to chase away evil spirits and bring in harmony and good luck. The Hospital Trustees and elected officials collectively cut a long red ribbon to officially open the new Patient Tower.



Located in front of the new hospital tower, the “Community Wall” is a tiled mosaic in the shape of a dragon, a symbol of strength and courage. The dragon is made up of 403 tiles of different colors and sizes. They were sold from \$1,500 to \$150,000 each depending on the tile’s location on the dragon. San Francisco Lodge and National Lodge each bought a \$5,000 tile and their respective names were inscribed on the tiles. San Francisco Lodge donated another \$50,000.00 to sponsor a room on the floor of the emergency entrance (*pictured above right*). There was a lighting ceremony to bring the dragon to life on the evening of April 16.

State-of-the-art architectural and design elements enhanced the new hospital’s attractive structure. The colors of the wall and fixtures emit warm and soothing feelings for visitors and patients while beautiful Asian inspired art works are attractively displayed throughout the hospital. Each patient room is tastefully adorned with silk wall paper with hand painted cherry blossoms. In addition, most of the patient rooms have a million-dollar view of the bay and the bridge.

Chinese Hospital in San Francisco is the only non-profit, community-owned hospital in the country. The new hospital has 88 beds including a 23-bed skilled nursing facility, with the most up-to-date technology and equipment. C.A.C.A. was one of the 15 community organizations that worked together to meet the health care needs of the Chinese community for over 100 years when they were denied health care by the mainstream health care system due to racial discrimination.

The new Chinese Hospital is poised to provide the highest quality care through the 21st century and beyond. It stands as one of the greatest accomplishments of the Chinese community. ■

Washington DC: Talk Story Events and Community Outreach

After the visit from National and the annual 1882 Symposium, DC Lodge sponsored a Talk Story event at the Anacostia Museum. This unique community museum serves as Smithsonian’s de facto black history museum until the new African American Museum opens on the National Mall. The over-flowing Anacostia event screened *April 1968* and conducted a community discussion on race relationship. The next screening and discussion will be held at the MLK Library in January.

With the Chinatown Church, other Talk Story events include Urban Food Foraging by Ava Chan, APA Literature by several authors, and Student Activism by OCA intern Teofanny Saragi. Lodge VP Michael Dee presented awards to essay merit winners Lucy Zeng and Audrey Huang. A third merit winner Bill Tang could not attend. Lucy and Audrey read their essays to the Talk Story audience.

Marc Imlay led families to the National Zoo to see monkeys; a continuation of the lodge’s annual zodiac animal outing. Ted Gong worked with Fairfax County first responders at a public outreach picnic. He joined DC officials in a “neighborhood walk” through Chinatown and in discussions on neighborhood preservation. At the July Smithsonian Folk Life Festival, Ted presented on panels on Immigration and Exclusion Laws and the history of DC Chinatown. ■

Seattle: Celebrating 5th Anniversary

Seattle Lodge has been busy celebrating its 5th anniversary, visiting with sister lodge in Portland and joining the greater Seattle Asian community to raise funds for the Asian food bank.

On April 30, Seattle Lodge celebrated its 5th anniversary and honored three people for this year's Citizens Award. Those honored included Assunta Ng for founding the Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation and building bridges in the community; Herb Tsuchiya for his decades of community service and civil rights involvement; and the late Donnie Chin for his 50 years of service to the people in need in the Chinatown International District. Citizens Award honorees personify C.A.C.A.'s mission to develop leadership, serve the community, and promote civil rights. The gala was attended by over 150 individuals and was held at the China Harbor Restaurant in Seattle. Local winners of the C.A.C.A. National essay contest were announced as well.

Nine Seattle Lodge members visited Portland to see the amazing "Chinese Inclusion/Exclusion" Exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society on May 22. The traveling exhibit was extraordinary as was the local exhibit showcasing Portland Chinatown history. Portland extended warm hospitality to its Seattle brothers and sisters who were treated to a delicious multi-course dinner in Chinatown.

On June 25, many members of the C.A.C.A. Seattle Lodge participated in the Asian Counseling Referral Service (ACRS) 2016 Walk for Rice. Over 1,000 participants walked 2.5 miles in Seattle's Seward Park to raise funds for the ACRS Food Bank. The Seattle Lodge raised over \$450 for the cause. Seattle Lodge support Walk for Rice to help the most vulnerable families in the Asian American Pacific Islander community. Walk for Rice makes it possible for ACRS to purchase and distribute staples of the Asian American Pacific Islander diet, including rice, tofu, noodles and bok choy. Participating Seattle members include Ming-Ming Tung Edelman, Fred Yee, Jerry and Charlene Lee, Phyllis Lee, Cathy Lee, Greg Lee and Julie Sun. ■



At the 5th Anniversary Celebration of Seattle Lodge, Assunta Ng, Herb Tsuchiya and the late Donnie Chin were honored with its Citizens Award.

Los Angeles: Celebrating Lodge Building Anniversary

On July 10, Los Angeles Lodge held a boisterous dinner to fete the historic anniversary of its headquarters' groundbreaking and completion. More than 160 Lodge members and guests crammed at the Capital Seafood Restaurant in Monterey Park nearly to its capacity. Dignitaries included several C.A.C.A. National officers, notable elected officials, Chinatown organizations, and members of sister Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge. Construction and completion of L.A. Lodge took place 60 years ago in early 1956. However, the official dedication for L.A. Lodge would not take place until September 1957. At the Anniversary event, Past Grand President Munson A. Kwok delivering some of the history of the Lodge, now in its 104th year. His talk focused on the building's creation, examining the years and months leading to the installation. Dr. Kwok found eye-witness accounts from L.A. Lodge archives and also accounts prepared for the official dedication of the building on Bamboo Lane in New Chinatown. Dr. Kwok said that even in 1910, Los Angeles was a center of activism, based on newly discovered documents in the National Headquarters archives. The evening program continued with C.A.C.A. National President Edmond Gor, who presented a survey of the Alliance's current actions and ongoing activities. He promoted the newly launched "C.A.C.A. Photo Days," which emphasizes photos that reveal stories, our history. As part of the Alliance's Chinese American heritage preservation efforts, President Gor explained that C.A.C.A. was meeting with major stakeholders in an effort to design and launch cultural and heritage bus tours as a key piece of the preservation thrust. ■



The L.A. Lodge Anniversary event was attended by C.A.C.A. National officers, elected officials, Chinatown organizations, and members of GSGV Lodge.

Greater San Gabriel Valley: Annual Essay/Scholarship Awards

The joint Greater San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles Lodges high school student awards ceremony was held on Saturday, June 4, at the Los Angeles Lodge. The event was to award thirteen \$500 scholarships to qualified high school seniors who applied for our scholarships and to recognize those high school students who are winners of the Alliance national essay contest. The 2016 scholarship recipients were Tiffany Cai, (Poh Tang Ong Yeow Memorial Scholarship); Abegayle De Castro (C.A.C.A. Foundation 751 Legacy Fund Scholarship); Chelsea Huynh, (Betty & Andrew Sit Scholarship); Sreymich Lach, (Suellen Cheng & Munson Kwok Scholarship); Tina Le (Fanny Chan Scholarship); Rachel Liu and Stephanie Yin (Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge Scholarships); Kyla Celine Quilos (Wolfpack Climbing Corp. Scholarship); Sandy Situ (George W. Tom Scholarship); Mirasol Sison (Winston K. Wu Scholarship); Helen Wong (Gladys Lowe Scholarship). There were 157 students representing 16 lodges from across the United States participated in this year's national essay contest. The judging criteria are adhesiveness to the essay topic, originality, grammar and English usage. The participating essayists were given 90 minutes (laptop) or two hours (blue book) to write a 500-word limit essay on surprise topic. This year's winners include Cory Wu (L.A. Lodge) and Nichole Sun (GSGV Lodge) in First Place and Andrew Lam (L.A.) and Sabrina Sy (GSGV) for Merit. Ms. Sun is also the National 3rd Place Winner. ■



Phoenix: Community Condemns Assault on ASU Chinese Students

A County Superior Court judge sentenced Kalie McIntyre Rutledge, 22, to three months in jail and three years of probation, for brutally assaulting Arizona State University (ASU) Chinese graduate student Xiaolin Shi, 25, and her friend on a light rail train. Rutledge was charged with a felony aggravated assault and misdemeanor assault. She pleaded guilty and received the least serious felony under the law.

About 25 supporters of Shi attended the sentencing hearing in Superior Court in Phoenix, which included President Raymond Tang of Phoenix Chinese United Association, National Executive Rudy Yee of Phoenix Chinese American Citizens Alliance (PCACA), President Amanda Chua of the Asian American Bar Association, Phoenix Police and Asian Community Liaison Chris Abril, and the ASU Chinese support group. The community support was important in making sure justice was done in the sentence of Katie Rutledge who committed, what the Chinese community feels was a racial hate crime. Rutledge's attorney had argued that his client suffers from mental illness.

Rutledge attacked the Chinese students because they were speaking Mandarin while riding the light rail and began yelling racial slurs at them. When Shi and her companion left the train, Rutledge got off with them and began punching Shi in the face and yelling more racial obscenities. Shi suffered a

severe concussion, a fracture near her right eye and currently has memory lapses and difficulty in reading and walking. She has incurred \$2,000 in medical costs and faces estimated future medical surgery costing \$7,500.

"I think it is a little bit unfair," said Attorney Bernard Wu who was instrumental in helping with the legal aspects of the case. He added that Shi's supporters were angered at the light sentence. At the court sentencing, Chinese community leaders were not allowed to speak about hate crimes or its impact on the community. ■



Supporters at Superior Court sentencing include PCACA members (L to R) John H. Tang, Joe Yue, Raymond Tang, Roland Lau, Cheak Yee, Bernard Wu, and Barry Wong.

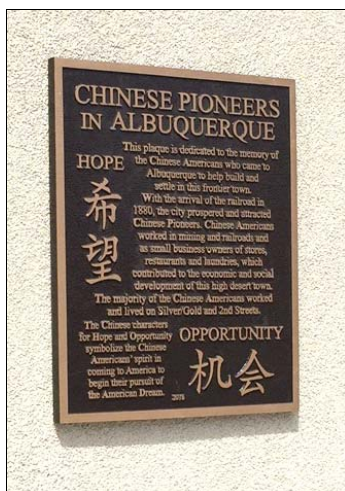
Albuquerque: Initiating Projects and Honoring Chinese Pioneers

The Albuquerque Lodge had their Annual Membership picnic in May and presented cash prizes to the 2016 essay contest winners and scholarship recipients. Essay contest winners were Andrew Chen (who also placed nationally), Jessica Le and Tammy Huynh. Scholarship recipients were Lawrence Leung, Adelle Ruan, Delys Ruan and Maya Stephenson.

Thanks to Cecily Yee, Scholarship Chair and Fay Yao, Essay Contest Chair. The picnic was again organized by Linda and Li Louie. The Lodge was honored to participate in the Grand Opening of the University of New Mexico Maxwell Museum Exhibit: "Earth, Fire and Life: Six Thousand Years of Chinese Ceramics." This exhibit also includes the "Chinese Americans in New Mexico" Exhibit which highlights a number of C.A.C.A. Lodge members who help build and shape Albuquerque in the early-mid 20th century forward.

The Lodge has initiated two projects: 1) Chinese American International Film Festival which is chaired by Paul Jew. A debut opening will be held on Veterans Day with a documentary on Chinese Veterans; 2) Asian American Chamber of Commerce which is a Pan-Asian collaboration, chaired by Francis Chang.

A plaque honoring the Chinese Pioneers who help settle Albuquerque has been installed on the Imperial Building, an \$18 million multipurpose building housing a grocery store, offices, retail, apartments and a roof top garden. The Imperial Building is located in an area that once had a number of Chinese American businesses in the late 1800s to the early 1900s. ■



The plaque inscription reads:

希望 机会

HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY

CHINESE PIONEERS IN ALBUQUERQUE

This plaque is dedicated to the memory of the Chinese Americans who came to Albuquerque to help build and settle this frontier town. With the arrival of the railroad in 1880, the City prospered and attracted Chinese pioneers. Chinese Americans worked in mining and railroads and as small business owners of restaurants, stores and laundries, which contributed to the economic and social development of this high desert town. The majority of the Chinese Americans worked and lived on Silver/Gold and 2nd Streets.

The Chinese characters for Hope and Opportunity symbolize the Chinese Americans' spirit in coming to America to begin their pursuit of the American Dream.

2016

Albuquerque: Academy of Performing Arts Opens for Classes

The Albuquerque Lodge welcomes it's first class of students to the CA-CAABQ Academy of Performing Arts where Chinese classical and folk dancing will be taught, with future plan for a drumming class for both genders. Academy Director Fay Yao said the instruction is aimed at the study of various dance forms from many regions of China and to instill in students the skills and confidence in performing professionally. Instructor Yanyan Cao led the class through basic dance techniques for a warm-up routine and proper dance postures to improve body physics. The second half of the class was centered on learning a choreographed dance of Mongolian origin to the music of a popular song *Swan*. Hand movements and body sway are key elements of this unique dance inspired by the rugged lifestyle of the Mongol steppe and tempered by the Dzungaria grassland and a central desert. A second dance the students are learning is Lotus in a Moonlit Pond. Lotus is a homonym of the word "harmony" in Chinese and the flower symbolizes purity. Performances are scheduled at community events and senior centers as an act of cultural goodwill enriching diverse populations of the city. ■



Phoenix: 2016 Scholarship Awards Luncheon

Phoenix Chinese American Citizens Alliance (PCACA) honored its 2016 outstanding high school seniors at its annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon on May 14 at the Hong Kong Gourmet Buffet in Phoenix. Members were thrilled to have National C.A.C.A. President Ed Gor as the keynote speaker for the event. On his first visit to Phoenix, President Ed Gor was presented a membership shirt by PCACA President Eva Li, making him an honorary PCACA member. ■



C.A.C.A. President Ed Gor (left) with PCACA President Eva Li, scholarship winners Connie Kwok, Derek Yu, Susan Chen, Woxin Zeng, Ashley Ong, Alan Gong, and Scholarship Chairperson Mary Tang

Boston: Hoar Award Gala Host Largest Gathering of Chinese American Elected Officials in Boston

Chinese American Citizens Alliance Boston Lodge hosted the 1st Annual US Senator George Frisbie Hoar Award Gala to honor Cambridge City Councilor Leland Cheung, Quincy City Councilor-At-Large Nina Liang, Former Newton City Councilor-At-Large Greer Tan Swiston and President of the Boston City Council Michelle Wu on Sunday, June 5, 2016, at the Empire Garden Restaurant in Boston's Chinatown.

The North Quincy High School ROTC Honor Guard presented the Colors, students from Boston Latin Academy led the Pledge of Allegiance, and students from Boston Latin School sang the National Anthem. C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge President Esther Lee delivered welcoming remarks Mr. Daniel Koh, Chief of Staff to Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh delivered opening remarks, and Pastor Ray Hammond of the Bethel A. M. E. Church delivered the Invocation. Connecticut State Representative William Tong introduced New York Congresswoman Grace Meng who delivered the keynote address. Massachusetts Congresswoman Katherine Clark and C.A.C.A. National President Ed Gor addressed the audience of more than 300 guests.

Following delicious Chinese cuisine, Maryland State Senator Susan Lee introduced Boston City Council President Michelle Wu; Bellevue City Councilor Conrad Lee introduced Cambridge City Councilor Leland Cheung; Illinois State Representative Theresa Mah introduced Quincy City Councilor Nina Liang; and Los Angeles Community College District Trustee Mike Fong introduced Newton Alderman Greer Tan Swiston for the Hoar Award presentations.

C.A.C.A. National President Ed Gor, C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge President Esther Lee, Congresswomen Grace Meng and Katherine Clark presented the Hoar Award to the 4 honorees. The honorary Chairman of the Hoar Award Gala, Mr. Richard-Gavegnano Chairman, CEO and President East Boston Savings Bank delivered the closing remarks.

The idea for the Hoar Award Gala started in November 2015 when C.A.C.A. President Esther Lee shared with C.A.C.A. National President Ed Gor the amazing news that the 2014-2015 Boston Lodge Vice President Nina Liang won her first election to the Quincy City Council, missing the 2nd place finish by a few hundred votes. She is the first Asian American City Councilor in the history of Quincy.

The other Boston Lodge charter members Leland Cheung, the first Asian American to be elected in the City of Cambridge and Michelle Wu, Chinese American to be elected in the City of Boston also won their re-elections to the Cam-

bridge and Boston City Councils. Everyone agreed that Boston Lodge should celebrate these historical victories in a meaningful event.

All the pieces started to fall together as C.A.C.A. Boston held the *Forbidden Citizens* book talks by Attorney Martin Gold at Tufts University and Harvard University and the Surging Waves Symposium moderated by Greer Tan Swiston at Harvard University.

Attorney Martin Gold reminded members that George Frisbie Hoar was a Massachusetts Congressman and US Senator who voted against all the Chinese Exclusion laws. In Fact, he was the only United States Senator to vote against the 1902 extension of the Chinese Exclusion Act. "I hold that every human soul has its rights, dependent upon individual personal worth and not dependent up color or race... As this bill violates that principle, I am bound to record my protest, if I stand alone." - Sen. George Hoar (Republican-Massachusetts), April 16, 1902 - The yeas and nays were taken; and resulted - yeas 76, nays 1; Senator George Frisbie Hoar Stood Alone.

The Hoar Award Gala is not just to honor four young Chinese American elected officials but also to remember and honor the heroic deeds of US Senator George Frisbie Hoar and motivate and inspire the next generation of Chinese American leaders. It was the largest gathering of Chinese American elected officials in the history of the Boston Chinese Community. ■



C.A.C.A. National President Ed Gor and C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge President Esther Lee, Boston C.A.C.A., with dignitaries at its 1st Annual US Senator George Frisbie Hoar Award Gala. Photo courtesy of bostonese.com.

National: 2016 Youth Leadership Conference Stirs “The Fire Within”

Once again, the Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) achieved its mission by convening 144 high school students at Rice University in Houston to reach, teach and build relationships through teamwork and collaboration. Held during the weekend of June 24 – 26, 2016, this year’s theme, “The Fire Within,” challenged students to be leaders everyday: at home, in school, and in their relationships.

In a nutshell, students learned that to be a leader, they must develop the emotional intelligence (EQ) to read other people’s emotions and to react to them appropriately. EQ includes the motivational and interpersonal characteristics that make leaders great: self-awareness, eagerness to learn and adapt, empathy, and dedication. YLC wants to make students leaders at its very own YLC mini-Olympics, a three-day conference packed with activities and guidance to improve students’ EQ skills and to help our future leaders change the world!

Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) Lodges sponsored 33 students from various lodges in our lodge family to this year’s YLC. In attendance were:

From Los Angeles: Eloise Chan, Nichole Sun, Carleton Zhao

From Oakland: Linyi Yu, Yanting Li, Nicole Lau, Limsokpich Sung, Binh Nghiep Ong, Chun Kuen Chan

From Salinas: Richard Zheng, Justin Gin, Carmen Ced, Molly Ced

From San Antonio: Kaili Wirth

From Houston: Christopher Yee, Matthew Yee, Ashley Tran, Lance Chin, Jessica Shyi, David Joe, Lance Nguyen, Rachel Wang, Justin Panganiban, Alexis Chan, Michael Chan, Trinisa Fung, Yao Bin Chen, Alaina Lam, William Zhang, Audrey Fong, Jennifer Terry, Christopher Terry, Tyler Kao

The Voices of YLC Attendees

The success of this year’s conference and its impact on the student participants is best captured by the student comments following the conference. Among the excerpted comments are:



“I recently participated as a first-timer at the Youth Leadership Conference at Rice University. I had no idea how it would play out and figured it would merely be discourses about leadership, as it was a “conference” after all. When I arrived at the campus, I was nervous because I was in a building full of strangers.None of it made sense until Christina Ma explained in her presentation the lack of Emotional Intelligence (EQ) in each of the contestants. It was not until that point in time when I learned what EQ actually was. Emotional Intelligence is so important that I could not believe how little awareness of it is given at school. It is vital to succeeding in life because of the five categories: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. These five are necessary, as we must communicate and lead effectively with others’ thoughts and feelings in mind.

It was one of the most memorable and shortest three days of my life, and I am so glad I was able to learn about EQ with my new friends. The Youth Leadership Conference was an unforgettable experience, and I will definitely miss my team and all the mentors.”

—Jennifer, Houston



Front Row: Trinisa Fung, Michael Chan, Alaina Lam, Jennifer Terry, Audrey Fong, Yan Ting, Lim Sung, Nicole Lau, William Zhang, Molly Ced, Eloise Chan. Second Row: Kaili Wirth, Alex Tran, Justin Panganiban, Rachel Wang, Matthew Yee, Alexis Chan, Jacky Chan, Yaobin Chen. Third Row: Tyler Kao, Ashley Tran, Jessica Shyi, Binh Ong, David Joe, Lance Chin, Justin Gin, Richard Zheng, Carmen Ced. Top Row: Nichole Sun, Chris Yee, Linyi Yu, Carleton Zhao

National: 2016 Youth Leadership Conference Stirs “The Fire Within”

The Voices of YLC Attendees, continued:

“I learned a lot from YLC and I have seen everyone’s improvements which is something that we all expected. This year’s topic was about EQ, which were divided into five pillars: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills. ... I think one of the most important things we have done at YLC was establishing new friendships which is part of learning and improving social skills... Another thing I learn was motivation which is something that Asian Youth Services Committee (AYSC) needs and I will bring that into AYSC because we all need to be motivated by someone or something to take action. ... YLC is definitely a great program for youth to attend because it introduces positive things into your mind that might be life-changing. I am glad that I was selected to attend YLC.”

—Linyi, Oakland



“I was astonished by how much I have learned from the Youth Leadership Conference. It was such a great opportunity for teenagers to learn about leadership skills. I found it very important that students should not only focus on improving their school grades and academic skills, but also to focus on improving their self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, motivation, and as well as social skills. This conference had taught me so much, and provided me the best opportunity to meet new friends from all over Texas and other parts of the country as well. Overall, I loved this conference and I have really enjoyed the wonderful times I had in Texas.”

—Jacky, Oakland

“I had a blast at the Youth Leadership Conference. My mentors opened me up so much, I gained more confidence, and more social skills. I no longer felt shy in public. I can open up more to people instead of keeping everything to myself. My group made me feel I belong because I was only 2 out of 11 in the group from California. I learned so much from my former friends, they taught me so much and I also learned how to trust my team more, because those are the people I’m working with. They showed me what motivation is and showed me how expressing myself is really important to everyone.

Thank you so much for everything, for this opportunity and giving this chance to understand what leadership really means. I gained so much from this trip and, at the same time, I also gained so many new friends.

—Binh, Oakland

“Overall, I think the YLC was a fun, enjoyable, and enlightening experience to have been a part of, and I’m happy to have attended.”

—Christopher, Houston

“Thank you for your time and energy in organizing our trip to Houston. We enjoyed every moment of both the Youth Leadership Conference and the sightseeing. Hopefully, we can come visit you again in Houston one day. Thank you again for making our trip to Houston so comfortable. We appreciate everything you’ve done.”

—Nichole, Los Angeles

“The mentors and my peers there taught me many things on becoming a better leader and working with others to become one. It was difficult at first adjusting with different people and the place, but as the time past, I’ve learn to engage and interact with those different and unfamiliar to me. At YLC the mentors taught me to lead and open myself up of my ideas and share them to others, and I did. An important thing about leadership that I learned was being self-aware and having the ability to self-regulate as a leader and follower. It caught my attention because I learn that to be a leader you should understand yourself and be aware of yourself of how you react and work things out to be able to lead others. ... They also taught me to step out of my comfort zone by doing skits and performing in front of others.... It was a wonderful weekend and a great memory I will always remember.”

—Lim, Oakland



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2 At Sea		
3 Ensenada, Mexico	8:00 AM	5:00 PM
4 Los Angeles, California	7:00 AM	



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