



Special Year of the Monkey Edition



National President's New Year Message

Greetings Members and Supporters,

2015 marked the end of 120 years since the founding of the now Chinese American Citizens Alliance and, as significantly, the 150th anniversary of the Chinese railroad workers laying down the tracks for the Transcontinental Railroad. And yet without this singular event of joining the east and west that would contribute greatly to the emerging economic growth of our country, many of us as Americans of Chinese descent may not even be here, but for the need of Chinese manual laborers willing to toil in dangerous conditions in search of better opportunities. And yet without these railroad laborers, who were underpaid, over-worked, subjected to harsh conditions, then beaten, scapegoated or killed, C.A.C.A. would not be here either.



In 2016, that history is still our reality and the reality is our history hasn't been communicated sufficiently enough to where we are acknowledged as major contributors of the "yellow" weave in the fabric of our country's existence. We're making significant strides in that direction with the commitment of our 100-plus years of archives to Stanford University under the guidance of our National Archive Committee, led by National Historian Suellen Cheng and a dedicated group of volunteers from San Francisco and Los Angeles Lodges, the work of our Civic and Public Affairs group, led by National VP, Ted Gong, to continue community conversations about the effects of the Chinese Exclusion Acts through collaborations with educational groups and the 1882 Foundation and the infusion of ideas to increase our education outreach programs under new NVP, Robert Gin.

As you've already noticed in the last 2+ years, our Membership activities have had a great upswing thanks to NVP, Helen Ying. Not only should we have our Red Egg Party for the now 1 year old, Boston Lodge, whose memberships have already increased at least 10% under President Esther Lee, but also, our other two most recent additions, Seattle Lodge and Chicago Lodge, are demonstrating their "can do" attitudes. Led by President Ming-Ming Tung Edelman, Seattle hosted a very successful convention in the Emerald City and was subsequently recognized and awarded for their community impact. And in 2017, we'll visit the Windy City as guests for the biennial convention led by President Yick Yeung Chiu, Ivy Lam and Lily Huang. Looking forward to great food, great venues and shopping!

However, like all national organizations of our tenure and objective, we must also address matters of declining numbers in memberships, increasing

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C.A.C.A. historical documents prepared for new home at Stanford University. See Page 7.

Boston Lodge: Fair for the Future and Vigil for an Innocent

Limitless & Beyond, 2015 Greater Boston Creative Innovation Career Fair

Chinese Americans seem to be overly represented in professions like engineering, computer science, healthcare, education, and underrepresented in fields like acting, arts, dancing, journalism, media, music, news, and singing. Hence C.A.C.A. Boston decided to reverse the trend, one student at a time.

On Saturday, October 10, 2015, C.A.C.A. Boston held “Limitless & Beyond” a Creative Innovation Career Fair for students from more than 40 greater Boston area high schools with presentations and college information booths from over 25 New England colleges and universities.

The highlights of the fair were the inspirational and motivational talks by the two keynote speakers Brian Yang and Keith Chow. Brian Yang is most known for his acting role as “Charlie Fong” on the TV show *Hawaii Five-0* and the producer of the movie *Linsinity* about Jeremy Lin. Keith Chow is the Founder of “The Nerds of Color” and Co-Editor of the graphic novel anthologies “Secret Identities and Shattered.”

Emmy Award-winning reporter Susan Tran (*pictured below at left*) moderated the discussion sessions by college students, parents, admission officers and working professionals. The event was sponsored by C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge and supported by the Boston Centers for Youth & Families, the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and Ink Design.



Memorial Candlelight Vigil Held for Assault Victim Ms. Yuzhen Lei

On the early morning of Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 72-year-old Chinese-American elderly woman Yuzhen Lei was brutally assaulted and shoved to the ground directly across the street near her apartment by 24-year-old Tajanetta Downing of Lawrence.

Boston police said Miss Downing, with two other open assault cases, kept walking after the incident according to witnesses. They gave a description to the police and directed them to Downing. The attacker was arrested blocks away from the crime scene.

Mrs. Lei died at Tufts Medical Center with a skull fracture and brain hemorrhaging 36 hours later.

After the traditional Chinese mourning period of 100 days, the C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge held a Memorial Candlelight Vigil for Mrs. Yuzhen Lei on Monday, October 19, 2015. Blythe Schulte, granddaughter of C.A.C.A. GSGV Lodge member Sophia Wong sang with the vigil. Boston Chinese Evangelical Church Senior Pastor Steven Chin gave the Opening Prayers. C.A.C.A. President Esther Lee and Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association of New England President Hung Goon delivered the Welcome Addresses. Boston City Council President Bill Linehan, Boston City Councilor At Large Michelle Wu, and Chinese-American community leaders remarked on the wonderful life of Mrs. Lei. BCEC Associate Pastor Daniel Chan closed with Benediction.

Friends, students, residents, workers, business owners, community organizers, and members of the Boston Police paid respects to Ms. Yuzhen Lei’s daughter and sons who were in attendance.

The following day, C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge National Representative Wilson Lee and CCBA President Hung Goon accompanied members of the Lei family to Miss Downing’s bail reduction hearing at Suffolk Superior Court.

Her defense attorney wanted her bail to be lower from \$10,000 to \$2,500. The judge denied the request. C.A.C.A. Boston will remain vigilant in this case until justice is served.

National President's New Year Message (cont.)

activity and visibility in local communities and assessing where and how we view our effectiveness as an organization with a rich history of advocacy and civic engagement in the next decade. While we are challenging our National Board members to individually do more with their talents and influence, I also charge the local lodge leadership of both the Presidents and the National Representatives with helping us with recommendations that fit your lodge. Especially the National Representatives! You are, by definition, a direct link between your Lodge and the National Board. You speak on our behalf at your local lodge meeting. So let's begin the crucial conversations with you, our local lodge leaders and members, to let us know what must take place to through your local leadership and those who are on the National Board.

And we're doing better communicating our messages to you and others who need to hear about you and your work. We're not quite where we need or want to be in using our social media, websites, and even print media. I assure you it's not from the lack of effort of a few dedicated, committed volunteers.

C.A.C.A. has always been fortunate to have a quality group of volunteer leaders and contributors, dedicated to a cause that we as Chinese Americans embrace because we remember our unique immigrant stories of sacrifice, hardship, perseverance and overcoming. If we believe our story is worth telling we must continue to launch those platforms that facilitate the telling. It really is about **T.I.M.E.**

Here's hoping you resolve to give more of your **Time, Influence, Money and Energy** to the Alliance in 2016! My best for your health, happiness and peace in the Year of the Monkey!

—Ed Gor

Houston Lodge Celebrates 61st

More than 150 people celebrated with the C.A.C.A. Houston Lodge on its 61st Anniversary on November 1, 2015, with a banquet at the Ocean Palace Restaurant. Vice President Henry Chan acted as master of ceremonies and Trinisha Fung sang the national anthem. After welcoming the guests, C.A.C.A. National President Ed Gor discussed the value of a Chinese life in America, relating the case of injustice where a driver killed a Chinese tourist in Oakland, California, and received only a one month suspended sentence. Philanthropist and special guest Dr. Anne Chao provided an update on the partnership between the Chao Center of Asian Studies at Rice University and C.A.C.A. Houston Lodge. The keynote speaker was Dr. Sonia Ryang of Rice University who talked about the promotion of Asian studies research at Rice. Sara Hwang, recipient of the Miss Chinatown Talent Award, performed a beautiful dance for the audience. Lastly, with four generations of the Gee family in attendance, the Houston Lodge presented a plaque to Mrs. Parker (Nora) Gee in honor of Parker. At the National C.A.C.A. Biennial Convention in Seattle last August, a resolution was passed in recognition of Parker Gee who, among many accomplishments, composed the C.A.C.A. theme song in 1953.



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Helen Ying (Portland)

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Paul Wong (Greater San Gabriel Valley)
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Rudy Yee (Phoenix)
Rick Eng (Los Angeles)

Boston Lodge: Celebrating History in Print and Film



C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 also known as the Hart-Celler Act by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Saturday, October 4, 2015, with a book reading and signing of *The Making of Asian America, A History* by award-winning author Erika Lee (pictured above, second from right) and Boston premiere screening of *April 1968: Through Chinatown Eyes* by filmmaker Penny Lee in Boston's Chinatown.

Professor Erika Lee tells us, that Asian Americans not only have deep roots in our country, but have played important role in shaping American life, from the arrival of the first Asians in the Americas in 1565 to the present-day. Professor Lee's book reaffirms the United States as a nation of immigrants.

The civil disturbances and street violence after the assassination of Civil Rights Leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a profound impact on all of Washington, D.C. It had no less an impact on D.C. Chinatown, which found itself caught between the black and white struggles. Miss Lee's 25-minute documentary film allows us to see, hear and feel firsthand the effects of the 1968 D.C. riots on Chinese-American families.

The event was sponsored by C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge and supported by the Chinese Historical Society of New England and the Boston Asian American Film Festival.

Los Angeles Lodge: Big Win for Mock Trial Team

The C.A.C.A. Los Angeles Lodge-sponsored Mock Trial Team scored a major achievement with a top ten finish at the prestigious Empire Mock Trial Competition held November 19-23, 2015, in San Francisco. Established in 2007 as a mock trial competition in New York City (hence "Empire"), the annual program expanded regionally to the West Coast and the Southeast (Atlanta). In its second year in San Francisco, the competition included for the first time a non-affiliated high school team—C.A.C.A.

The C.A.C.A. Los Angeles Lodge Mock Trial Team is composed of eight students from several San Gabriel Valley area schools (pictured below): Tommy Altamayer, Raquel Chavez, Christopher Cordero, Nicole Hernandez, Valerie Nea, Victoria Nea, Gabriel Pena and Edward Tran. Team Captain Victoria Nea as well as Team Coach George Carney are both members of C.A.C.A. Los Angeles Lodge.

In addition to earning Ninth Place among 26 nationwide and overseas entrants, the C.A.C.A. team also garnered two top individual performance prizes: Mr. Altamayer received the Best Lawyer Award and the Best Witness Award went to Miss Chavez. Plans are underway to raise support for the team to compete in 2016 competitions and to inspire other lodges nationwide to adopt similar programs into their youth leadership and educational efforts.



Mississippi Lodge: Sharing Memories of Life in the Delta

Mississippi Delta Chinese are being courted by documentarians who want to tell their stories, naturally, families of C.A.C.A. have been featured and involved: *Mississippi Chinese Veterans of WWII: A Delta Tribute* is written by Dr. Gwen Gong, husband John Powers and daughter Deveraux and is based on research and interviews provided by Chinese Veterans who served in World War II. *Our Honor, Our Duty: Stories of MS Delta Chinese WWII Veterans* is produced by Samantha Cheng, and expected to air on Mississippi Public Broadcasting in 2016. Mississippi Lodge C.A.C.A. member Randy Kwan was videographer for many of the interviews. *Leadway* documents life changes of Cindi Quong Lofton, after the murder of her father, Alfred Quong. Screened by film festivals nationally, *Leadway* is also shared by Cindi in grief healing presentations. Produced by and at the request of Robbie Fisher and Dudley Percy Olson.

Mississippi Lodge's December meeting featured guest David Walton, member of National Camps for Blind Children, who sang and played keyboard. John Streeter shepherded him. Beth and Jay Chow led children's crafts.



Cindi Quong Lofton, Mississippi Lodge President (left), with guests John Streeter, David Walton; and Shirley Kwan, Lodge National Representative.

Phoenix Lodge: Memorial Marker for Chinese Pioneers

Phoenix Chinese Community leaders gathered on November 21, 2015, to dedicate a memorial marker in memory of the Chinese pioneers who settled in the Phoenix area around 1886 to about 1914. The dedication of the memorial was the result of about two years of planning with the help of Phoenix Welfare Council, Chinese United Association of Greater Phoenix, and Phoenix Pioneer Cemetery Association. The joint memorial project also included members from Yee Fung Toy Association and Phoenix Chinese American Citizens Alliance (PCACA).

A few years ago, K.G. Schroder, a post-graduate student at Arizona State University was conducting a study of pioneers buried at the old Phoenix cemetery when he came across a site where about 59 early Chinese pioneers were buried. The only headstone still standing was made of marble. Other headstones that were originally erected were generally made of wood and had rotted away.

“The special stone marker will last for many more years showing where the early Chinese pioneers were buried,” said Phoenix Chinese United President and PCACA Officer David Yee. “Chinese descendants can now come to a place where they can pay proper respects to those who lived here many years ago.”



Phoenix Chinese United President David Yee (right) and Phoenix Welfare Council President Homer Zhang (left) honoring the Phoenix Chinese pioneers at the memorial.

Oakland Lodge: Chinatown Health and Safety Fair Sponsorship

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance in Oakland continues to participate in local events to provide services to the Chinese community. This year, we sponsored the Chinatown Health and Safety Fair in partner with local law enforcement, fire department, city officials, and health services agencies. Additionally, the Oakland Lodge responded to the injustice of Bo Hu, a Chinese tourist killed by an attorney, Spencer Smith, who was charged with a misdemeanor for a hit-and-run accident. The work on this case remains pending at this time. For this holiday season, the Oakland Lodge held its annual toy drive for the Asian Immigrant Women Advocates (AIWA), who provides services for low-income immigrant women and youth through training and empowerment.



The Oakland Lodge has been participating in Chinatown summits as a collective effort with local community leaders to address issues related to city development and local policy, and discuss ways to preserve our community. In the meantime, our building remains under construction to bring the Lodge up to health and safety codes, and reinforce the foundation. The renovation of the first floor is expected to be completed this Spring.

San Antonio Lodge: “Through Chinatown’s Eyes” Screened

The San Antonio Lodge held its fall social in October with a showing of the short film, “Through Chinatown’s Eyes: April 1968,” produced by Penny Lee with Lisa Mao. The film examines the impact of the civil disturbances and violence in Washington, D.C. on Chinatown following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in April 1968.

After the film, San Antonio Lodge member Tommy Lew, Attorney and Counselor at Law (*pictured right*), gave a



seminar on “What Happens If You Don’t Have A Will or Any Estate Planning.” Attendees learned how things can go wrong if there is no will, incomplete wording, among a lot of other things.

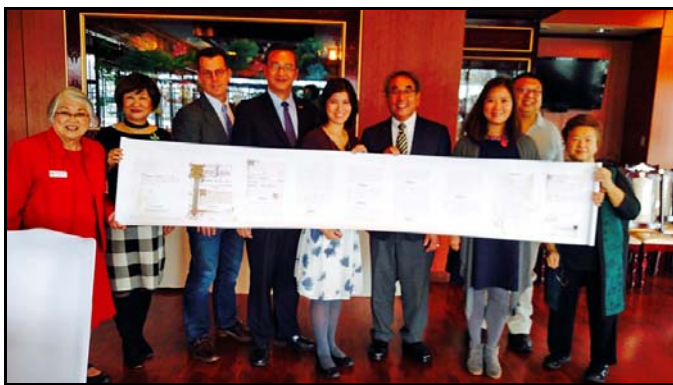


San Antonio Lodge Walter U. Lum Scholarship 2015 Winner

San Antonio Lodge President, Judy Wong, presents the \$1000 Walter U. Lum Scholarship check to Bethany Kennedy, granddaughter of longtime member and former San Antonio Lodge Grand Representative, Ruth Lew. Along with Bethany accepting the check is her proud mother. Bethany is a Senior at Texas A&M University studying Horticulture and Business.

Seattle Lodge: Not Resting on 53rd Convention Laurels

On October 29, 2015, C.A.C.A. Seattle presented on behalf of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office Director Andy Chin, a reproduction of the original Burlingame Treaty of 1868 to Seattle's Museum of History and Industry, pictured below.



The Burlingame Treaty represents the long history of friendship and cooperation between the U.S. and China. Members representing C.A.C.A. Seattle for this event were Lodge President Ming-Ming Tung-Edelman, Christin Chou, Maxine Loo, Bettie Luke, and Warren Yee. Also in October, C.A.C.A. Seattle co-hosted and provided funds for snacks and raffle prizes for the October "Mahjong Night" at the Kin-On Community Health Care Center. Ming-Ming, Ping Guay and Jerry Lee joined Kin-On members in several rousing games of mahjong.

Other important events attended/supported by C.A.C.A. Seattle throughout the past quarter include the Double Ten Celebration hosted by the Taiwan Benevolent Association of Seattle, the roast chicken and lopchung food drive and giveaway sponsored by the Asian Counseling Referral Service Chinatown Food Bank, and Ethnic Roundtable Discussions and Oral History Workshops hosted by the Ethnic Heritage Council. Finally, we are proud to announce that Ming-Ming was honored by *Northwest Asian Weekly* (www.nwasianweekly.com) as a Top Contributor to the Asian Community. *NW Asian Weekly* hosted a banquet honoring these community contributors on December 4, 2015.

San Francisco Lodge: Archiving A 100-Year+ Legacy

As part of the National Archives Documentation project, volunteers from the San Francisco Lodge convened to gather, sort, package, and label approximately 100 boxes of C.A.C.A. archival materials and documents. This endeavor took place October 11-14, 2015, under the leadership of National Historian Suellen Cheng and National Past President Munson Kwok. Volunteers were Virginia Gee, Suzanna Gunn, Gena Jee, Pam Jong, Rose Lum, Charles Sung, Joan Sung, Ellen Wong, Erwin Wong, and Larry Wong. They were joined by Susan Dickson and Robert Gin from the L.A. Lodge and GSG Lodge, respectively.

Subsequently, on November 6 and November 11, 2015, Joan Sung coordinated volunteers who used their data input and analytical skills to inventory 18 boxes of English materials, as required for C.A.C.A. and Stanford University records. Emily Dong and Mary Lee joined the volunteers for this inventory task.

The strategic planning and delivery of this portion of the Project required more than 200 hours of team effort and diligence. "We're proud to be involved in preserving the historical footprint of our organization and ultimately creating an archival repository of primary source materials that will inform and educate future generations. For all of us who volunteered, this was truly a labor of love."



Assisting with archival efforts are, from left, Susan Dickson, Ellen Wong, Robert Gin, Rose Lum, Gena Jee, Benjamin Stone of Stanford University, Munson Kwok, Virginia Gee and Joan Sung.



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**NEWSLETTER OF CHINESE
AMERICAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE**

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Washington, D.C. Lodge: History Drives Myriad Collaborations

As old Chinatown restaurants fade away, the Washington, D.C. Lodge moved its meeting site from the Taishan Restaurant (now closed) to the China Garden (itself under renovation to be less dependent on banquet business and more on powers lunches and bar-type business). After the general meeting, members moved to the Chinese Community Church for a screening of *Ricki's Promise* and discussion with film producer Changfu Chang. These monthly Talk Story Events, now in their fourth year, were the topic of a planning session led by Brother Stan Lou at the National Parks Conservation Association. D.C. Lodge President Ted Gong continued to chair monthly meetings of the 1882 Foundation at the Smithsonian Folk Life Center. He and Brother Ting-yi Oei (*pictured right*) completed a week of events with the Alexandria Black History Museum commemorating the Hart Celler Act and Civil Rights Movement. The lodge also joined with the 1882 Foundation and OCA to host a successive film screening of *Through Chinatown Eyes: April 1968* and a community discussion on race relationships at Busboys and Poets at the U Street Corridor. In other areas, Ted participated in Fairfax County Committee on building Communities of Trust and joined with area Chinese organizations on public health and voter registration issues.

