Message from the President

As we begin the lunar new year, let us pause to reflect on the accomplishments and blessings that the Year of the Dog brought us.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly the passage of the Chinese-American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act. After a two-year effort, led by Senate co-sponsors Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirano and Thad Cochran and House co-sponsors Ed Royce and Ted Lieu, both houses of Congress passed their respective bills. First, the Senate approved S.1050 on September 12, followed by passage of H.R. 2358 in the House of Representatives on December 12. President Trump gave final approval to the measure on December 20, 2018.

As the principal organizer of this effort, C.A.C.A. is extraordinarily grateful for Congress’ recognition of the loyalty, service and sacrifice made by Chinese American veterans. The bestowal of this highest honor is deeply satisfying and yet bittersweet. Notwithstanding discriminatory treatment under the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was still in effect at the time of the war’s outbreak, tens of thousands of Chinese American men and women enlisted in the military during their country’s hour of need in World War II.

We acknowledge the steadfast leadership of Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition’s Project Director E. Samantha Cheng and National Veterans Project Manager and Past National President Edmond Gor, who both contributed countless hours to ensure passage of the bills during the 115th Congressional Session.

We also recognize that this long-sought goal could not have been attained without the dedication and support of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance membership, their family and friends from across the country, a group of dedicated retired Generals and military personnel, and veteran and community groups who reached out and encouraged support.

The passage of the Act was momentous, and its timing historic. Just days before becoming law, communities across America observed the 75th Anniversary of the Magnuson Act—also known as the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act.
of 1943—which finally ended restrictions that prevented Chinese from realizing U.S. citizenship through naturalization. To commemorate this historical occasion, a number of lodges across the country worked with city officials ensuring that the day was remembered and memorialized.

Throughout the year, C.A.C.A. partnered with several organizations on events and issues of mutual concern. These collaborations included the Golden Spike Conference (presented by the Chinese Railroad Decedents Association), the Asian & Pacific Islander Americans in Historic Preservation (APIAHiP) Historic Preservation Forum, and Asian Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote) Celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Members of the 116th Congress.

During our Fall meeting, C.A.C.A. conducted a pilot cultural preservation and heritage tour of the Chinese fishing villages of the Monterey Bay. National board members were guided through the historic establishments and remains of the villages past by fifth generation decedent and Salinas Lodge member Gerry Low-Sabado.

Now that we have entered into the Year of the Pig, we anticipate even more milestones for the first half of 2019. Most notable, perhaps, is the 150th Anniversary of completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Commemorations marking this historical event include the “Harmony Through Union” float featured in the 130th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. Sponsored by the Chinese American Heritage Foundation and Union Pacific and passionately spearheaded by Boston Lodge members Wilson and Esther Lee, the one-of-a-kind entry was seen by millions of parade viewers worldwide. The iconic float reenacted the historic joining of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads, which united the east and west coasts of the country. That same event will be ceremony located at Promontory Summit, Utah.

Finally, join us as our National Convention heads to New England for the first time in our organization’s long and storied history; this will mark only the second convention held on the eastern seaboard. Boston Lodge welcomes attendees to our 55th Biennial National Convention, July 3-7, 2019. This year’s convention theme, “Contribute • Advocate • Celebrate • Advance” celebrates the attributes and values that the Chinese American Citizens Alliance has embodied for more than 100 years. Needless to say, a full range of educational and entertaining activities are planned for our time in Boston as the nation celebrates its birthday on the Fourth of July.

I extend my gratitude and appreciation for your continued involvement and support with the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. As you can see, we are making a difference in our communities, both locally and nationally.

Davace Chin
C.A.C.A. National President
January 29, 2019 marked a historic day for five Chinese-American World War II veterans at an event convened by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) and Executive Director Holly Ham at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC. This group represented the almost 20,000 Chinese Americans who served in various branches of the U.S. military during World War II and will be presented with the Congressional Gold Medal under the new law signed by President Trump on December 20, 2018.

As the co-chairs of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao delivered remarks at the ceremony hosted by General Counsel, performing the duties of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary, James Byrne. Secretary DeVos also initiated a special private meeting with the five Veterans prior to the ceremony.

"I'm just so proud of all of the veterans that have fought and served and so many who have given their lives so that we can enjoy our freedom today," Sec. DeVos said.

Sec. Chao also expressed similar sentiments while also noting the multitude of challenges faced by Chinese Americans before, during, and after their service mostly due to the harmful, discriminatory effects of the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Veterans James Eng (TX), Harry Jung (PA), Henry Lee (TX), Robert M. Lee (VA) and Elsie Seetoo (MD) were all recognized by VA Deputy Secretary James Byrne, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos and Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao on behalf of the White House for their service in World War II as Chinese-Americans.

During emotional and tearful moments, each of the five spoke of their service and personal experiences and used this ceremony as an opportunity to express their "deepest gratitude" upon acknowledging they too will be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal Tuesday at ceremonies later this fall.

"Whatever you hear from me or any fellow veteran of that vintage -- you may not be exaggerating or embarrassing, but that's the way we remember it," said Robert M. Lee, who served as a private in the 14th Air Force of the U.S. Army Corps. "I know at our gatherings and reunions we will try to recollect what we went through ... our experiences."

As a 1st Lt. and one who just celebrated her 100th birthday, Ms. Seetoo was the highest ranked and oldest among the group on Tuesday. During her service, she trained Chinese soldiers as medical orderlies and in 1944. She joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps as a first lieutenant. She celebrated her 100th birthday last September.

"I'll wear it when I go out," Seetoo said about her Congressional Gold Medal. "Or maybe, just to impress the other folks that live in the retirement community, I would just wear it once."

Acknowledged as an early champion of the effort, former Rep. Ed Royce (CA) helped introduce the bill to Congress and attended the ceremony Tuesday. (Note: Also co-sponsoring the bills were Senators Tammy Duckworth (IL), Thad Cochran (MS), and Mazie Hirono (HI), while in the House, including Mr. Royce (CA), Ted Lieu (CA), and Grace Meng (NY).)

"Despite the discrimination that they were facing in the United States, [Chinese-Americans] enlisted in very high numbers immediately after Pearl Harbor," Royce said. "I want to recognize each of you for serving in this struggle that determined that human freedom would not be defeated by fascism across this globe."

The Chinese-American World War II Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act was unanimously passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate in 2018 and signed into law by President Donald Trump in December. Its approval was due to a national campaign by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.). Executive Director Ham offered praise and admiration for the 2 year effort of the leadership and members of C.A.C.A. which initiated the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project in 2017 under the direction of now Past National President Ed Gor and Project Director Samantha Cheng.
Albuquerque - 2018 in Review

The Albuquerque Lodge was the lead on the ABQ Museum Exhibit: *From Invisible to Visible, the Chinese American Experience in Albuquerque*. This was the first time the Chinese American community was showcased in the ABQ City Museum. This exhibit allowed the Chinese American community an opportunity to educate the public, and share our story and contributions to the building of this country.

The Exhibit was divided into four theme areas - Education, Community, Civil Rights and Making a Living - and exhibited 70 objects provided by our membership and other community members. Over 200 people attended the June 9, 2018 grand opening which included a Lion Dance, speeches from the Mayor’s office and performances.

In September, Past National President Munson Kwok and Suellen Chen provided an illuminating lecture *Becoming Chinese in ABQ*. In December, Ted Gong, DC Lodge President, spoke on *Remembering 1882 in Today’s Immigration Debate*. This event also included an ABQ City Proclamation read by Assistant Mayor Gary Lee, *Executive Order from the Office of the (ABQ) Mayor on the 75th Anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act*.

Lastly, the Exhibit received good support from the media with spots on local TV and newspaper articles. The Exhibit ended January 6, 2019 after a successful 6 month run.

The 3rd Annual ABQ Chinese American Film Festival continued its great track record. The theme for the September 2018 Festival was “We are Americans”. The line up included the PBS Chinese Exclusion Act documentary, a lecture by Marion Kwan who was one of the freedom fighters who went to the south during the 1960’s, and *Finding Cleveland* with Baldwin and Larissa Chiu. We also hosted a civil rights panel discussion which included representation from the Mayor’s Office and Chinese, Muslim, African, and Hispanic American communities.

$275,000 was raised for a monument to the landmark Chinese American civil rights case *Territory of NM v. Yee Shun (1882)*. A nationwide call for artists drew 60 submissions and concluded with the selection of artists’ team Cheryl Leo-Gwin and Stewart Wong from Seattle. Their design *View from Gold Mountain* uses “symbols and metaphors that refer not only to Chinese culture and the Yee Shun case but also to those universally understood by cultures around the globe”. Today, the monument purpose has evolved to represent “justice, liberty and equality for all”. The monument will be located on the Bernalillo County Courthouse. We look forward to an unveiling ceremony in mid-2019.
Boston News

The C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge has been going full steam since re-chartering on December 13, 2014 (12/13/14). We host a number of free documentary screenings and book talks every year in Boston as well as at Wellesley College. We organized the first ever creative arts career fair for high school students in the Greater Boston area. We held the “Surging Waves Symposium” at the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th generation Chinese Americans from China, Hong Kong, Macau, Southeast Asia and Taiwan to discuss and work together on areas of common interest. The C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge led a large scale community demonstration at the rapper YG concert, protesting his songs promoting violence, breaking into Chinese American homes, and robbing families. We held a candid light vigil to bring awareness to Ms. Yuzhen Lei who was brutally assaulted across the street from her Chinatown apartment and eventually died from a fractured skull.

Each December we hold a candid light vigil in memory of the 200,000 victims of the Nanking Massacre by the Japanese Imperial Army. C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge's signature event is our annual U.S. Senator George Frisbie Hoar Award Gala. Massachusetts' Senator Hoar was the only person to vote against all the Chinese Exclusion laws. Our first year's keynote speaker was Congresswoman Grace Meng, 2nd year's keynote speaker was California State Treasurer John Chiang, and last year's keynote speaker was Major General William S. Chen, (U.S. Army Retired and the first two star general in the United States). This year we honored Former Boston Mayor and U.S. Ambassador Raymond Flynn.

We have been holding the C.A.C.A. National Essay Contest every year and the C.A.C.A. National Art Contest every other year. We are planning a youth leadership and social skills workshop for high school students to better prepare them for college interviews and life.

C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge members, Immediate Past C.A.C.A. National President Edmond Gor, Major General William S. Chen, Major General Robert G. Lee, Major General Darryl Wong, Major General Stephen Tom, Boston Lodge Charter President Esther Lee, and Boston Lodge Co-Founder Wilson Lee worked for over 2 years to advocate the passage of S. 1050 on September 12, 2018, H.R. 2358 on December 12, 2018, and signing by President Donald J. Trump on December 20, 2018. The Chinese American World War II veterans Congressional Gold Medal Core Team worked closely with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) to host a celebration at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on January 29, 2019 featuring U.S. Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, and five Chinese American World War II veterans.

C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge membership has grown from 15 when we submitted our original application to the C.A.C.A. National Board on September 2014 for re-chartering to 50 when we held our re-chartering ceremony and new officer installation. Our goal is to increase our current 75 members to 100 active members by July 2019.

C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge is very honored and blessed to host the C.A.C.A. 55th Biennial National Convention from July 2, 2019 to July 7, 2019. Boston members have been working the past year planning a week long celebration to welcome our brothers and sisters to the City of Champions.
Houston - 2018 in Review

We started 2018 with a dim-sum lunch at Kim Son Restaurant on January 21, to install the 2018 Board of Officers. Among the distinguished guests were TECO Director General Peter Chen and Deputy Director Yintso Lin, Cultural Center Director Sophia Chuang, Deputy Director Natalie Lee, Judge Jay Karahan, and Judge Theresa Chang. We received a surprise visit from C.A.C.A. San Antonio Lodge President Kin Hui who presented the Houston Lodge with a red envelope from National President Davace Chin.

On Saturday, April 21, 2018, at the Chinese Baptist Church, C.A.C.A. Houston and eight co-sponsors hosted a musical event and screening of the documentary film Finding Cleveland with Baldwin Chiu and Larissa Lam. Co-sponsors included Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), Asian Pacific American Heritage Association (APAHA), Asian Chamber of Commerce (ACC), Asian American Real Estate Association (AAREA), Chinese Chamber of Commerce (CCC) and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO).

The 2018 Miss Chinatown Houston Scholarship Pageant was held on July 21, 2018 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel with nine contestants. Karen Yen won the Miss Chinatown Houston Scholarship Pageant. First Princess/Miss New Year went to Heidi Shay, Carolyn Zhang won Second Princess. Miss Talent went to Sara Tin-U and Eleanor Yu McReynolds won the Miss Congeniality Award.

In conjunction with the Republic of China, Taiwan Double Ten Celebration, C.A.C.A. Houston Lodge invited former Judge Jay Karahan who gave a talk about the American Judicial System at the Taipei Economic and Culture Office on Saturday September 15.

The Houston Lodge participated in fund raising for the Boston Lodge by selling raffle tickets with proceeds going to the 55th Biennial National Convention to be held in Boston, July 2019. Winners were drawn on September 23 with four 5th-prize winners coming from Houston. Gift cards were sent out by Wilson Lee of the Boston Lodge.

The Economic Espionage Education Forum was held on September 22 at the Crown Plaza Suites. The topic was Economic Espionage and Its Impact on Asian American Community. The event with sponsored by the United Chinese Association (UCA) with C.A.C.A. Houston as one of the co-sponsors. The purpose of the forum was to educate and activate our community about the seriousness and urgency of how researchers and scientists, especially of Chinese descent, have been targeted and accused of this Economic Espionage. Forum panelists included an FBI agent, attorneys, and various government committee members.

The Gee Family/C.A.C.A. annual picnic was held at Safari on October 14. Distinguished guests included TECO Director General Peter Chen, his wife Debbie and his two daughters, 2018 Miss Chinatown Houston First Princess and Miss Chinese New Year Heidi Shay, and her parents. The program included a barbeque lunch, cake walk goodies (homemade cakes, cookies, pies and more), raffle prizes, kids’ games and arts and crafts.

Locating WWII Vets - How you can help!

With the signing by President Trump of the Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2018 into law (PL 115-337), the Chinese American Veterans Recognition Project continues to seek those Veterans and their families to register their information at the Project’s website, www.caww2.org. Click on “REGISTER VETERANS” to then submit information for the application. At a minimum, a copy of the Veterans’ discharge papers (or equivalent showing details of their service record) should be submitted with the application. In the event of a name change from the military record to their name now, a copy of that document should be submitted at the same time to corroborate names. In the event no discharge papers are available, other supporting documentation and photographs can be submitted. It is understood that voluntary submissions of this information is for the purpose of verifying a Veteran’s military service during WWII for eligibility to receive this Congressional Gold Medal.

The time frame for the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) is contingent on how long the process of the design, approval, and manufacture of the actual Medal as well as subsequent replicas by the U.S. Mint will take. Based on conversa-
Greater New York - 2018 in Review

GNY's activities in 2018 ranged from marching in the Chinese New Year parade, to talks on college admissions, to our second Mid Autumn Film Festival with great films, to protests against a 40-story jail planned for Chinatown, to awarding scholarships to students (including two C.A.C.A. Detective Wenjian Liu Memorial Law Enforcement Scholarships), to calls to legislators for our WWII Vets, to getting a Resolution in the NYC City Council to commemorate the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act and more!

Most significantly, we led the fight when the NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and Educational Chancellor Richard A. Carranza targeted Asians in education, similar to when the Chinese Exclusion Act was enacted – the Chinese performed too well and had to be excluded.

GNY became a plaintiff in the lawsuit to challenge the Mayor and Chancellor's discriminatory plans to limit Asian-Americans at the top NYC high schools. As Chinese-Americans Citizens, we allied, rallied, and rose for our Constitutional rights, for us not to be excluded and discriminated against because of our race.

Asians currently make the majority of the top 3 NYC high schools, admitted by the single objective academic test (SHSAT) that disregards non-academic matters such as race or ethnicity. The schools and test have worked for generations, producing 14 science Nobel prize winners. A Department of Education-commissioned study also concluded the test worked. So the city covered up the study for years. The Mayor and Chancellor still attacked the schools for T.M.A. – Too Many Asians. They aimed to reduce Asian-Americans by nearly half. That is current Chinese Exclusion, Asian Exclusion.

It's racist to say Chinese, let alone Asians, all look alike or are alike, that our best schools in NYC, or elsewhere in American, are T.M.A., or that we're overrepresented – we may be disproportionate, but we're very different and diverse, and we're the right number, correctly represented by our ability and commitment.

It's racist to scapegoat Asian-Americans for the appalling failures in the educational system that poorly prepares most Blacks and Hispanics.

It's racist to take away seats from Asian-Americans, or any minority or group, merely because of race or ethnicity.

GNY, with like-minded organizations, led rallies, one with 5,000 at City Hall, headed two marches over the Brooklyn Bridge, and spoke at multiple forums. We defend the right of Asian-Americans to be judged by merit, and not by race or ethnicity. We support education and oppose division.

Alongside fighting discrimination, GNY strives to improve our broader community by promoting bills at both the city and state levels to raise students throughout the city, creating real solutions so poorly-served Blacks and Hispanic students could receive better education.

GNY continues to defend Chinese-Americans' right not to be excluded because of race and ethnicity, and we thank so many as we seek justice and protection in the courts. Together, fighting discrimination against Chinese and Asian-Americans and other groups, we will make a better America, 2019, and beyond for all.

(Continued from page 6: Locating WWII Vets)

For local lodges, this is an ideal opportunity to hold a community-wide meeting with American Legion posts, VFW, at senior care centers or similar places to REGISTER members and provide information about the process and progress of the Congressional Gold Medal effort. A “Frequently Asked Questions” document is being reviewed and will be distributed by the end of this month. Chinese American Citizens Alliance is reaping the rewards of community excitement, respect and gratitude from the many, many Chinese communities across the country. This is a prime time to boost your membership rolls! People will want to join your local lodge.
Los Angeles - Observing 75th Anniv of Repeal of Chinese Exclusion Act

Last December, the Los Angeles Lodge led a coalition of Southland community organizations in a news conference to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943, an important milestone in the history of Chinese and Chinese Americans and the saga of immigration.

The coalition included C.A.C.A. Los Angeles, C.A.C.A. Greater San Gabriel Valley (GSGV) Lodge, Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, Chinese American Museum, OCA Greater Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley Civic Alliance.

Repeal helped to end the severe legislative restrictions that prevented Chinese from realizing U.S. citizenship through naturalization and set the future course to uniting citizen husbands to their wives from China. The bill was passed by the Congress and signed by President Franklin Roosevelt at the height of the Second World War when the United States and China were allies. Far from being considered a victory for citizenship status, this Magnuson Act is considered significant because it overturned the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and marked a turning point by restrictive legislation on Chinese immigration. And, gradual relaxation in post-war U.S. immigration policy increased entry and eventually the abolition of an earlier quota system based on national origin through passage of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 (Hart-Celler Act).

Elected officials and community scholars gathered in a news conference organized by C.A.C.A. Los Angeles President Rick Eng and L.A. Lodge at the Sheraton Los Angeles San Gabriel Hotel to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act’s repeal and to warn against modern federal policies that target specific ethnic groups. The occasion marked the day of Repeal, December 17, 1943, but also the Day of Inclusion, a California day created by resolution by State Assemblyman (Bro.) Mike Eng in 2010. Inclusion could serve as the day’s inspirational theme as to how Californians could counter exclusion and xenophobic attitudes. Former Assemblyman Eng served as master of ceremonies. Eng praised the coalition of the community organizations in attendance Monday, December 17, 2018, for their work advocating on behalf of Chinese Americans. “History is not changed because an elected official stands and says it should be changed,” Mike Eng said. “History is changed because of hundreds, many times thousands, of unsung heroes who step up and say, ‘No more, never again.’” As leadoff keynoter, Congresswoman Judy Chu (D-CA-27) recounted that in her 2012 resolution the U.S. House of Representatives formally expressed regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act and other legislation that discriminated against people of Chinese origin in the U.S. Representative Chu said that while the repeal is important to the Chinese American community, it has importance to minorities across the country who are being targeted by current Trump administration policies. “It’s important to our country because we now face a president who’s promoting anti-immigrant policies, and we have to be ever-vigilant,” Rep. Chu said. “We have to make sure the American public is educated about the dangers of what could happen to our civil liberties if such an act is ever passed again.” A statement was read by Chief of Staff Daisy Ma on behalf of California State Assemblyman Ed Chau (D-Monterey Park), who had successfully passed a bill in 2017 making sure that the Exclusion experience of Chinese in America and California would be part of a California child’s education, in every textbook and history lesson, as object lessons against divisiveness.

“Openness of society is our national strength,” Assemblymember Chau summed up. Among other speakers, Mayor Jeff Maloney of Alhambra declared that 1882 Act betrayed the values of America to Chinese coming and that, “today, issues continue with other groups so there’s a lot of work to do [toward social justice].” San Gabriel Vice Mayor Jason Pu reminded all, “When one group is under attack, all are under attack.” Monterey Park Mayor Peter Chan announced that the Monterey Park City Council, and also that of the neighboring City of Rosemead, had passed resolutions commemorating the Day, thanks to the efforts of GSGV Lodge under the leadership of Lodge President Dr. Charles Mau.

Los Angeles Lodge’s Dr. Gay Yuen and Dr. Munson Kwok represented community speakers who were chosen to frame exclusion stories that must be told. Dr. Yuen recalled her personal experiences as a young immigrant still experiencing the consequences of exclusion years after Repeal. She pointed out it was unjust that others had to endure such hardships seeking an America of promise. “We must take action,” she declared. Dr. Kwok returned to the inspiration of the 2010 M. Eng resolution to sum up, “If Exclusion was the problem that we Chinese endured 170 years, and its practices are divisive today, then Inclusion should be the solution to unify us, find harmony for a better America!”

Present were a number of L.A. Lodge and GSGV Lodge members, included San Gabriel Councilpersons Denise Menchaca and Chin-Ho Liao, Bro. Winston Wu, National Vice President Charles Mau, and Regional Executive Suellen Cheng.
Mississippi - 2018 in Review

The Mississippi Lodge of C.A.C.A. celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year on February 11, 2018. Auspicious red and gold color lanterns and decorations throughout the Downtown Grille transformed this unique Delta restaurant to possibly one that could have located in San Francisco or New York City. A traditional Dragon dance, presented by Beth and Jay Chow, children of members Jim and Mary Blount Chow, opened the celebration while President Jing Rosella welcomed about 70 members and guests, including guests from a sister organization, the Mid-Delta Chinese Association.

The Downtown Grille’s talented chefs converted their kitchen to prepare the New Year’s feast consisting of “Lucky Foods”, with traditional symbolisms, some dating back to more than 1,800 years. The Celebration Feast consisted of General Tso chicken, Dong Bo Rou roast pork, fried rice, and variety of vegetables prepared by the Downtown Grille. The members and guests also had talented members who provided home-made dumplings, spring rolls, a Celebration Cake, and whole Red Snapper.

The Chinese-American community is very health-conscious, and welcomed its guest speaker, Dr. Kenneth Hahn, Cardiologist. Dr. Hahn presented an educational program on the “Evolutionary & Anthropologic Adaptations of the Heart in Modern Life”. He explained how the heart has evolved over the years and how current diseases are matched to current stresses. Dr. Hahn was happy to answer the many questions from the attendees after his presentation. President Jing Rosella presented Dr. Hahn with an appreciation plaque for his dedication and commitment to healthcare.

The Celebration and interview with President Jing Rosella was featured on the ABC and CBS affiliates evening news and in the Delta Democrat Times. The MS Chinese-American community is fortunate that it can celebrate New Year twice each year - on both January 1st and during the Chinese New Year!

The MS Chinese Association in Jackson, MS, hosted the annual Jackson Spring Festival on February 17, 2018, and our members were invited to participate. President Jing Rosella shared her vocal talent with a beautiful Chinese song, while Secretary Dana Gao Li performed the captivating Tai Chi Fan. Financial Secretary Louisa Huang and her daughter, Allison, hosted at the Welcome Booth and also assisted National Representative Shirley Kwan and Richard Kwan at the C.A.C.A. Booth. Members, Jim and Mary Blount Chow, with their children, Beth and Jay, assisted with the Pet Parade. Vice President Helen Hong serves on the Festival Planning Committee.

The Officers and Members of the MS Lodge extended its sincere appreciation to the Mid Delta Chinese Association for their kind invitation to join them for the Spring Picnic on March 30. MS Lodge values networking with sister organizations and other community groups!

On September 22, members heard keynote speaker, Greenville Fire Chief Ruben Brown share tips for “Fire Safety in Your Home”. We learned that a fire alarm should be in every room where someone sleeps. Chief Brown demonstrated how to use a fire extinguisher. Dana Li and Louisa Huang showed that they have mastered the steps of using the fire extinguisher. Questions were asked to make sure the members remembered the rules. Chief Ruben Brown gave the members a fire alarm. The new alarm has a built-in battery that lasts ten years. President Jing Rosella presented Chief Brown an appreciation plaque. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal.

On November 6, one of our members, Joe Dan Yee, who lives in Lake Village, Arkansas was one of five names on the ballot, running for Mayor of Lake Village. Joe Dan won with no run-off. Our lodge is proud of Joe Dan and wishes him much success in his new job.
Greater San Gabriel Valley
2018 A Memorable Year

The year 2018 has been a very fruitful year for the Chinese Community, and GSGV Lodge has accomplished a lot and contributed to the good things that happened.

On January 28, 2018, GSGV Lodge played host to a History Program presentation in the Monterey Park Library. The topic was the “Chinese Exclusion Act” and its consequences, and the main speaker was Hon. Peter Chan, Mayor Pro Tem of Monterey Park and a Charter Member of the Lodge. The event opened with Lodge President Charles Mau presenting a short history of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, with the purpose of re-educating the public on its historic role as a defender of Chinese American civil rights. Brother Peter Chan started his talk by recalling that the City of Monterey Park declared May 6, 2017 “Day of Inclusion”, 135 years after the Chinese Exclusion Act was signed into law. He then recounted migration of Chinese laborers to the West Coast, events and circumstances that led in 1882 to the signing into law of the Chinese Exclusion Act on May 6, and its dire consequences on multiple generations of Chinese Americans. Baldwin Chiu, of LA Lodge and Producer of Finding Cleveland, made a guest appearance attesting to his family suffering years of separation because of the Chinese Exclusion Act. The event was well attended by an audience of about 60, with Senior Librarian Cindy Costales serving as MC.

At the urging of GSGV Lodge, the City Councils of Monterey Park and Rosemead, both in San Gabriel Valley, respectively proclaimed December 17, 2018 to be the 75th Anniversary Day in memory of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act. In Monterey Park, Mayor Peter Chan submitted the resolution that was passed unanimously at the council meeting on Nov. 21, 2018. In Rosemead, a similar resolution was introduced by Councilmember Polly Low, an LA Lodge member, and was passed at the Nov. 27 City Council meeting. Many thanks are due these cities for standing with the Chinese in America.

While our members were celebrating the signing of the Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act into law by the President, we thanked the relentless efforts of members of the C.A.C.A. lodges under the leadership of PNP Ed Gor, during the various stages of getting the legislation passed in Congress. Our Lodge is especially proud of the work of Past Presidents John Wong and John Gee, and Sister Betty Tom Chu in getting the “ball rolling” through their access to their friend Rep. Ed Royce who introduced the Bill in 2017, drafted the legislation text, and gave it a final push to achieve a super-majority co-sponsorship shortly before the House floor vote in November last year. They, together with PNP Ed Gor, appeared in in-depth interviews with the local ICITI Chinese-language TV Channel to talk about their experience on behalf of the Chinese communities.

At the Nov. 12 Lodge meeting, members voted unanimously for the Lodge to contribute $2000 to the “Harmony Through Union” Rose Parade Float project, spearheaded by the Chinese American Heritage Foundation under the leadership of Esther and Wilson Lee of Boston Lodge. Together with generous donations from other Lodge members (Margaret Leung, Paul Wong, Charles Mau, and Andrew Sit), a total of $4200 was collected for the project. Lodge members also enthusiastically helped decorate the Float. For many of them, it was a first-time and once-in-a-lifetime experience.

On December 31, our Lodge hosted a Dim Sum luncheon for all of the out-of-town C.A.C.A. members who came to So Cal to help prepare the Float and view the Rose Parade. They included NP Davace Chin, PNP Ed Gor, NVP Kin Hui, Esther and Wilson Lee and many members from Boston Lodge, and their spouses. LA Lodge President Rick Eng, members of his Lodge, and several GSGV Lodge Board Officers and members also attended. It was effectively a mini-national C.A.C.A. get-together occupying three big tables celebrating the recent history-making achievements by the Chinese American Communities, and exchanging holiday greetings. Everyone had a good time.
Phoenix - Celebrating Chinese New Year

Phoenix C.A.C.A members were out in full force helping to welcome the Year of the Boar at the 29th annual Phoenix Chinese Week's Culture and Cuisine Festival, Feb. 8-10, 2019, at Margaret T. Hance Park in Phoenix. This three-day festival, hosted by the Phoenix Chinese Week organization, was the single largest Chinese New Year event in the state and drew an estimated 30,000 attendees. The beautiful weather in Phoenix brought both local and many out-of-state attendees to this free admission event.

"We are so proud of our Chinese culture and heritage," said Elaine Wong, Phoenix Chinese Week president and C.A.C.A. National Assistant Secretary. "Our mission is to unify communities through diversity and sharing our culture."

The festival showcased traditional Chinese culture, education, and cuisine. Attendees enjoy continuous live entertainment including martial arts demonstrations, traditional folk dances, Beijing opera, musical performances, lion and dragon dances as well as participate in many hands-on activities. The festival features a photo exhibition by renowned Chinese photographic artist Chen Baosheng, a Chinese Cultural village, a photo gallery of the Phoenix Chinese community from past to present, a Chinese costume photo booth, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese tea ceremony, a mahjong booth, souvenir and crafts vendors, some 20 food trucks, and much more. In addition, Phoenix Lodge members also hosted a beer garden at the festival as well as a C.A.C.A. booth to register voters.

Eva Li, Phoenix Lodge president and chairwoman for the festival performances said, "This is a great venue for us to show everyone a bit of our culture, it's a way to let everyone learn a little bit more and, by understanding each other’s culture, we will be able to get along better — which is the most important."

The festival culminated with a Chinese New Year banquet on Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Great Wall restaurant in Phoenix. This popular 10-course dinner provides an opportunity for the public to experience an authentic Chinese New Year banquet.

"We thank our corporate sponsors, community partners and all our very dedicated volunteers including C.A.C.A. members who work very hard to make this event a success," said Elaine Wong.

In 2018, Phoenix C.A.C.A. and Phoenix Chinese Week celebrated the Year of the Dog with 179 kindergarten and second grade schoolchildren at Richard E. Miller School in Phoenix. A similar cultural outreach event is planned for Feb. 22, 2019 to celebrate the Year of the Boar. Since 2007, students and teachers at the school have enjoyed participating in this cultural outreach partnership. “The teachers and students look forward to this program every year,” said Helen Yee, C.A.C.A. member who introduced the program to the students when she was a teacher at the school.

Fourteen Phoenix Lodge members were on hand helping students craft and color paper origami dogs and making them come to life with their hands. The craft was designed by Diana Ho, Director of Cultural and Arts Programs for Phoenix Chinese Week. After the hands-on craft experience, the kids enjoyed a food sampling of fried rice, Chinese noodles, and the traditional fortune cookie. Then the kids were treated to Chinese New Year stories read by Phoenix C.A.C.A. members.

Congratulations to Elaine Wong for receiving the Women of Distinction Award at the International Women’s Month Celebration Dinner held on March 31, 2018 at the C-Fu Gourmet Restaurant. An energetic person, Elaine joined eight other diverse awardees who were recognized and honored for their inspiring leadership, outstanding community service, and positive community impact. Since 2016, Elaine has served as the President of the successful Phoenix Chinese Week Festival. An active C.A.C.A. member and Past President of Phoenix Lodge, Elaine currently serves as Assistant Secretary at C.A.C.A. National. She is also a member and Past President of GFWC Desert Jade Woman’s Club in Phoenix. In the last two years, Elaine has also served as Chair of the Asian Advisory Board to the City of Phoenix Police Department. “I am blessed by a loving family, great friends and generous supporters who have always been there for me,” said Elaine Wong as she accepted the award.
Salinas News

The Salinas Lodge celebrated our 66th anniversary this year. In September 2018, the National Board held their quarterly fall meeting at our Lodge after a field trip visiting Chinese American fishing villages in Monterey. We welcomed back Salinas’ favorite son and current National President Davace Chin and the National Board as our special guests. We fired up the barbecue for steaks and provided scrumptious sides.

The Salinas Lodge marked a milestone of over twenty years volunteering at the AT & T Pro-Am Pebble Beach Golf tournament, held each year in February. Before it was the AT & T Pro-Am, it was called the Bing Crosby Golf Championship and known for notoriously bad weather. 2018 was an exception, the weather was in the 70’s and the mornings were cool with no rain.

Like the hundreds of other volunteers, our members and friends contribute hundreds of hours working behind the scene to help make the tournament run smoothly. At the beginning, our group prepared lunches onsite for the volunteers, which involved setting up a kitchen out at Pebble Beach Golf course. Over the years, our volunteers were tasked with moving cars and vans to and from the airport and the staging area at Pebble Beach.

At California State University Monterey Bay, our volunteers were there every day at 6 AM to direct spectators and volunteers on buses to be shuttled to the golf course each day. When our shifts are completed many of our members would hop on the bus to walk the course and follow their favorite players.

On Saturday January 26, 2019, Mayor Joe Gunter presented the Proclamation of the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act of 1943 Anniversary at our Chinese Association (Chung-Wah) 2019 Installation of Officers Dinner. It was an uplifting presentation for all Chinese both locally and across the United States, past, present and future of contributions towards fair immigration laws.

We mourn the passing of our good friend and brother, Ira Katz on September 26. Salinas Vice-President Albert Fong remembers Ira, “I came to know Ira Katz when he volunteered to work in our C.A.C.A. Salinas Biennial National Convention in 2005, I was the National Convention Chairman in Salinas. He was a big part of our transportation and welcoming committee, he loved meeting all the brothers and sisters from our many chapters across the country..... many still remember him, a person with genuine kindness, graciousness and humility.” Ira became very active in C.A.C.A. both locally, nationally, as well as in our Chinese community. Fighting a long-term illness, he remained active serving in many positions including serving on the our Alliance national board of executive; secretary, president of our local Salinas chapter and as vice-president into 2017.

Las Vegas News

January-February 2018: Las Vegas Lodge was invited to participate in the 22 Warriors Foundation 2nd Anniversary event whose mission is to eliminate veteran suicides. Members and Board members also celebrated the Vietnamese Tet New Year at our local Asian Cultural Center.

February 20, 2018: C.A.C.A. Las Vegas Lodge 2018 Newly Elected Board Members Swearing-in/Installation Ceremony in the Las Vegas Regional Justice Center. Ceremony was officiated by Judge Cynthia Leung.

March 2, 2018: Drawing Winter to a close and ushering in the Spring, the Las Vegas Lodge held its Annual Lunar New Year and Pay-it-Forward Awards Gala. Another successful event with close to 300 guests including more than 30 elected officials and candidates. Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson was our keynote speaker with Sheriff Joe Lombardo (awardee of the special #VegasStrong Award), Commissioner Steve Sisolack and other elected officials such as Judge Cynthia Leung and Senator Scott Hammond presenting awards and offering encouraging words. An eight-course dinner was served with explanations as to the meaning of each traditional dish. Entertainment included an appearance from Las Vegas singer Phil Flowers and certain lucky guests won either a gold or jade dog centerpiece.
San Antonio - 2018 in Review

Members of the San Antonio Lodge continued to perform tirelessly in service to the Chinese American Community in 2018.

2018 started with the installation of new officers after our January Lodge Meeting. New Lodge President Kin Hui and Lodge Vice President Camille Gong had a very strong board of officers who are determined to support the efforts of the lodge and our members.

The first major 2018 event for the SATX lodge was the San Antonio Asian Festival in February, held at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Lodge members prepared crab rangoons two weeks before the event. Members of all ages helped at the Chinese Community Center.

The San Antonio Lodge was a sponsor and participant on 19 May 2018 at the East Meets West, a San Antonio 300 event, that celebrated the Asian American culture in San Antonio. Sister Carol Ethridge and VP Camille Gong gave a presentation of Chinese Americans in San Antonio. Brother Melvin Wong and Past President Judy Wong built a display distributed material for the Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal project.

On 29 May 2018, the San Antonio Lodge celebrated our 63rd Anniversary. 27 members attended the viewing of The Chinese Exclusion Act at the Chinese Community Center. After viewing the documentary, the Lodge celebrated our anniversary by serving cake served by the Most Elder Member, Brother Jimmy Eng and our Youngest Member, Sister Sarana Tse.

On 9 June 2018, the San Antonio Lodge members volunteered at the Chinese School booth. This is the only fund raiser for this worthy organization. We also collected 68 letters of support; 398 petition signatures from people supporting the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American WWII Vets.

On 13 June 2018, members Lila Woo, Gene Woo, Esther Wong, Kin Hui, and Camille Gong met with staffers at Congressman Henry Cuellar’s office in San Antonio to advocate for the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American WWII Vets.

On 7 Aug 2018, San Antonio Lodge began Livestreaming our lodge meetings and events to help lodge members to remain connected to the lodge. This capability was made possible by the National Capacity Building Grant.

On 4 October 2018, President Kin Hui, Sister Lila Woo, Past Presidents Esther Wong and Judy Wong had the great honor of attending and speaking at the San Antonio City Council session. The team was able to help convince the Council to approve the City of SA Resolution to support the Congressional Gold Medal for Chinese American WW II Vets. Lodge President Kin Hui introduced the resolution and provided background information of the CGM Project and spoke of the Chinese American WW II Vets from San Antonio. Sister Lila Woo spoke about her father Jee Gay and his service during WW II. Sister Lila was able to make a personal appeal for the Council’s support for CGM legislation. Past President Esther Wong advocated for the Resolution and spoke of her father and uncles who served during WW II.

On 27 October 2018, the Lodge had our social at the Chinese School. We showed the movie, Finding Cleveland. Lodge VP Camille Gong hosted the event. Afterwards, VP Camille held a discussion about growing up in Mississippi as a Chinese American.

On 11 November 2018, SATX Lodge Members went to Mission Park South Cemetery on Veterans Day to place American flags at the headstone of Chinese American Vets to honor their service to America. Thank you to members: Dan and Cyndy Reyes Wong, Esther L. Wong, Raymond L. Wong, Margret Lew, May Wong, and Martha Simpson. Special thanks to Raymond L. Wong for organizing the event.
Seattle - 2018 in Review

The Seattle Lodge had a jam-packed 2018. Most recently, on December 16, we organized a commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, aka the Magnuson Act of 1943 named after U.S. Senator Warren Magnuson from Washington State. Over 200 people attended, standing room only, at the Wing Luke Museum. A ceremony was led by Boy Scout Troop #254 and Cathay Post’s Presentation of Colors. Local elected officials spoke about the importance of the Repeal Act. Special guest, former U.S. Ambassador, Washington State Governor and C.A.C.A. Spirit Award recipient, Gary Locke declared, “This is a celebration because 75 years ago we repealed this racist act and it was a person from this state who was responsible for that. So, we have much to be proud of, not only in terms of our own ethnicity but the history of this state in correcting racist acts and prejudicial acts.”

After the ceremony, attendees were treated with personal stories of the Chinese Exclusion era and its impact on local families. Speakers included professors, lawyers, and authors. National Archive volunteers shared about Chinese Exclusion files and how to search for family data. Nineteen community partners joined C.A.C.A. Seattle and the Wing Luke Museum to provide food for the event.

Our 7th Annual Rice Drive was held in late October, reaching a new goal of 1000 lbs of rice, 200 packages of lap cheong, and oranges to hand out to 200 needy Chinese elders. AARP Washington and an Asian youth sports group helped repack and hand out food items. We also arranged for voter assistance in various Chinese dialects to aid with voter ballots.

We initiated a Speaker Series, starting in April with a talk by Trish Hackett Nicola, a National Archive volunteer, about Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files. In July, Dale Hom, retired US Forest Service supervisor, shared about Discovering Chinese Heritage on Public Land. We received a sizable grant from the Robert Chinn Foundation to continue the Speaker Series for the next two years.

For Asian Heritage Month, we screened Abacus: Small Enough to Jail at the Wing Luke Museum, packing its theater, with Chantelle Sung and local panelists discussing the case. We also held our Annual Banquet and presented our annual citizens awards, with over 80 attendees. We celebrated our unity in fighting the racist Washington state law that prevented Ride-the-Duck accident victims from suing for wrongful death.

Other activities included co-sponsoring a candidate forum for Asian communities before the election, participation in Chinatown Memorial Day Observances, working to pass the Congressional Gold Medal bill, hosting a field trip to Tacoma Art Museum for a special exhibit Zhi Lin: In Search of Lost History of Chinese Migrants and the Transcontinental Railroad.

All through the year, we supported or co-sponsored many community activities including the Walk for Rice, Kin On Mahjong night, and many, many banquets.

Lastly, we mourn the loss of Fred Yee who passed away in August. In a few short years, Fred became an influential contributor to C.A.C.A., both locally and nationally. In his honor, we renamed our annual award as The Fred Yee Citizens Award, presented to those who personify Fred’s commitment to leadership, service, and promotion of civil rights.

We look forward to a year of growth and productivity in 2019.
Washington, D.C - 2018 in Review

In the second half of 2018, the outstanding story is National’s success in obtaining the WWII Gold Medal recognition. Many of its planning and registering activities were held at the DC Office. The office will once again be the hospitality room for Chinese American veterans marching in the annual Chinatown New Year parade. Further illustrating the value of the office, it has attracted other non-profits who see C.A.C.A. as a reliable community partner, including the DC’s MLK 50 Year Collaborative, Hep B Initiative, Chinatown Arts Studio for after-school children, and Chinatown historical preservationists.

In the fall, Brother Ting-Yi Oei presented at the Virginia Council on Social Studies in Roanoke, Lodge President Ted Gong organized a table display “DC Chinatown Past and Future” at the National Buildings Museum, and Brothers John Kusano and Ted traveled to California for the Summit Tunnel heritage tour and APIAHiP’s SF conference.

Planning for the 150th Anniversary of Trans-Continental Railroad (TRR) is also picking up speed. Through State Senator Mark Keim, we introduced a commemorative resolution in Richmond. We met separately with U.S. Reps Grace Meng and Ted Lieu about a similar resolution at the Congressional level. We held meetings with the Smithsonian on a “moment of national unity” and promoted a commemorative postage stamp based on the Jake Lee paintings. These efforts have attracted attention from Holly Ham at White House APIA Initiative.

The season’s Talk Story finale on December 17 commemorated the anniversary of the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act to a standing room only audience. Scott Seligman spoke about Wong Chin Foo and historical Chinese American resistance to the Act.

For the third time, C.A.C.A. joined the host committee to welcome incoming Asian American members to a new Congress. Over 650 people attended the reception on January 15, 2019.

Earlier in the year, starting with supporting the Chinatown Park Festival in June through making paper lanterns at the Moon Festival, DC Lodge members were busy.

Thanks to the Harrison and Ann Lee Memorial Fund and Brother David Lee, the Chinatown Art Studio for city kids and a program for college interns to work on projects such as the Forestry Service-supported heritage tour coordinated by Brother John Kusano. Interns also supported six Talk Story Events (Third Degree, 1882 Legacy, Fighting for the Dream, Jamaican Chinese, Crazy Rich Asians, and Brief Flight) and activities featuring April 1968. The film and lesson plans developed have become a template for other oral history projects such as by Brother Kai Yee and his daughter’s Chinatown Voices financed by DC Humanities Council.

Building on documentaries, we organized workshops for students and teachers in Loudoun County and Norfolk University with Paula Madison and her Chinese-Jamaican-American story and on the 1965 immigration reforms at the Library of Virginia.

Questions about broadcasting the PBS film on the Chinese Exclusion Act led to a major event (nearly 300 people plus the Virginia State Education Director) at Virginia Public TV WCVE in Richmond jointly hosted by 1882 Foundation and APIA civic and business organizations coordinated by Brother Ting-Yi Oei.

Other public outreach opportunities came through the “50 Collaborative” of city historians and agencies who meet monthly at the Alliance office in Chinatown. Lodge President Ted Gong spoke about TRR at a Department of Labor lawyers’ brown bag, Department of Interior Theme Study release, and UCA’s national conference. Ted also joined panel discussions at multiple organizations on issues about racial intersectionality, exclusion laws and cultural space.

Ted Gong was named to the Frederick Douglass 200 which honors the impact of 200 living individuals who best embody the work and spirit of the celebrated abolitionist and statesman. The award was conferred at the Library of Congress in February 14, 2019.
JOIN US in Historical Boston!
Host C.A.C.A. Boston’s goal is to make your visit to Boston comfortable, delicious, productive, educational, meaningful, rewarding, enjoyable and memorable!

Accommodation and Conference Information

- **Boston Park Plaza Hotel**
- 50 Park Plaza, Boston, MA
- $179 + tax per night, Superior room
- Rate valid June 29 to July 9

Register here to receive free internet: [https://bostonparkplaza.reztrip.com/ext/promoRate? proper-ty=100&mode=b&pm=true&sr=410646&vr=3&accessCode=BOS27](https://bostonparkplaza.reztrip.com/ext/promoRate?proper-ty=100&mode=b&pm=true&sr=410646&vr=3&accessCode=BOS27)

Registration

Registration has started!

- **$400** Early bird registration (January 1 - March 31)
- **$500** Regular registration (April 1 - May 31)
- **$600** Late registration (after June 1)

Additional information, schedule, and registration form: [www.cacanational.org](http://www.cacanational.org)

Contact: cacabostonlodge@gmail.com