

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Salinas Lodge
January 2009

Happy New Year to all! Here's hoping we all survived the holiday celebrations and remain safe and sane. Does anyone want to share what Santa did or did not bring them? Okay, let's start off with:

A review of December's meeting: The meeting was called to order by outgoing president Louis Lee at 7:20 p.m. 17 members and 3 guests eventually filled the conference room. Copies of the Portland Times and Southern California Times lodge newsletters were circulated. Outgoing secretary Ira Katz read the previous meeting minutes and no committee reports were forthcoming because financial secretary, Clara Chan was in Hong Kong and Carl Chan reported that Grand Lodge had not met yet. However, two new CACA members were approved. They are no strangers as they have been actively participating in CACA activities, primarily AT&T and First Tee golf tournaments. Welcome David and Cheryl Larison, both retired teachers from Salinas Union High School District, where Cheryl is on the Board of Trustees. We can look forward to their enthusiastic and valued continuing CACA participation and input.

New Officers for 2009-2010 were elected. Here is the list and the subsequent sil yeh provider months.

President:	Ira Katz	January & August 2009
Vice President:	Linda Low	February & September 2009
(Interim) Secty:	Byron Chan	March & October 2009
Treasurer:	Richard Yu	April & November 2009
Financial Secty:	Clara Chan	May 2009
Marshall:	Esmond Chan	December 2009
Sentinel:	Stan Chan	June 2009
Collector:	Parker Chin	July 2009

Don't forget to let Linda Low know if you plan to attend the CACA installation dinner on Saturday, January 17th, at 6 p.m. The cost for this feast will be \$12.00, payable at the door.

The San Francisco CACA lodge installation dinner will be held on January 3rd 2009 and Wally Ahtye and Ira Katz plan to attend and represent the Salinas Lodge. By the by, Oakland Lodge will have it's installation dinner on January 10th.

Sherman Low gave an update on the upcoming AT&T Golf Tournament to be held at three golf courses in Pebble Beach from February 9th-15th, 2009. It seems that our own Louis Lee has been elevated to the position of head honcho for Spectator Transportation. Who knows what he will be tapped for next year. Anyone interested in conducting or van driving at this event should contact Sherman Low, the liaison for CACA and AT&T Golf Tournament.

December Activities & Events

Salinas Lodge members again did noble duty as Salvation Army Bell Ringers again this year. They included Man-Tak Shing, Wally Ahtye, Russian Chin & Bill Young, Helen Gong & Lee Knisley, Flora & Byron Chong, and Mona Lee & Vic Blea. Thanks for their contributions of time and enthusiasm and expertise!

The annual Christmas Party was well attended and jovially enjoyed...this report from certain elements of the elf contingent who attended. Mayor Dennis Donahue made a goodwill appearance and Richard 'Santa' Wasson was an even bigger success than last year! It seems that gift stockings this year made their way down to people in their 60's! What a treat!!

It appears that the New Year's Party was an extension of Christmas. It was reported that the 'Chin Casino' was literally giving money away. Yep, it actually happened, went bankrupt, belly-up, blew the bankroll, much to the appreciative delight of the multitude of winners, which seemed to be just about everybody...except the dealer! About 60 people enjoyed the merriment and feasting, but the fires went out and the stamina only lasted barely past midnight. By 12:30 a.m. everyone was gone or heading home, probably to conserve their energy for the real new year. That's right! Chinese New Year, the year of the Ox, will be celebrated on Saturday, February 21st, at 6 p.m. at Chung Wah. The cost of this highly anticipated and heavily attended festive feast function is only \$8.00. Please contact May Mah with your needed reservation by February 14th at 422-4605.

The Chinese community and public at large was treated to a presentation of the California State University-Monterey Bay oral history class project on December 12th. Various members of the Chinese community as well as Filipino and Japanese communities were interviewed by CSUMB students. The community members were video recorded and their histories, traditions, memoirs, cultural nuances now are treasured artifacts. Several CACA members had volunteered for this occasion and provided many memorable memories and personal perspectives of lifelong adventures. Among the participants were Hughes Chin, Wally Ahtye, Bill Young, Lorraine Lowe, Mona Lee, Jerry Cheang, Louis Lee, Wenson Louie, Tom O. Wong, and Jack Yee. Individual cd's of their interview will be provided to each of the participant interviewees for their keepsakes.

Upcoming Events & Activities

Superbowl: Proposed by Jerry Cheang during December's meeting was a possible CACA fundraiser...A Superbowl takeout. If you are interested in helping, assisting, etc., please contact him. I don't remember if the attending members voted yay or nay on the idea, but it's certainly worthy of contemplation.

The Womens Club will hold its inaugural 2009 meeting on Wednesday, January 21st, 7 p.m. at Chung Wah. This meeting will be the usual brainstorming session, to see what the members want to pursue and do this coming year. All women are invited to attend and participate...and bring a friend, as well as stimulating and adventurous ideas for activities in the new year.

According to an email from Winston Wu, the National Essay Contest will be held on Saturday, March 7th. The educational committee is working on the topic. Also, the National Student Art Competition was launched on December 14th. Entry forms and rules can be accessed online at www.cacala.org. The individual lodge representatives interested in participating these events should contact Winston at wuwins@sbcglobal.net. Additionally, the 2009 Youth Leadership Conference is being planned. It is being considered for the end of June or in conjunction with the biennial convention in early August, 2009. More information will be made available as it is duly deliberated, deliberately discussed, decidedly determined, and definitely yet democratically disseminated...doodah!

SDCB: Remember them? Salinas Downtown Community Board. It is the nonprofit group which is trying to implement the Chinatown Renewal Project. It recently was awarded a grant from Cal Trans in the amount of \$207,396.00. Called the Environmental Justice Planning Grant, it targets three areas for funding the planning and research of; 1) Economic Development-Housing, 2)Public Safety and Homeless, and 3) Cultural Heritage Preservation. Jerry Cheang, Louis Lee, and Wally Ahtye are the Chinese community flag bearers of this group of 24 community members. Please contact them for further details of the group's progress, purposes, and goals.

Kind and considerable kudos are presented to CACA members Albert Fong and Mona Lee for their admirable efforts in providing business cards for the CACA organization. Designed to act as calling cards and reminders of our august group's community presence and enterprising activities, these two members combined their multi-talented expertise in order to provide Salinas Lodge CACA with professional and attractive and much needed public awareness. Each and every CACA member is allowed use of these cards, which are exponentially greater than anything we have previously had before, which, to my knowledge, was nothing. Unfortunately, some members took issue with either the idea or execution or wording of these needed cards. Please ask to see the business cards and feel free to provide positive feedback, in the spirit of encouraging a better, if possible, product. Mona and others have continuously lobbied for a public brochure, possibly well designed Tee shirts, or other tokens to positively promote CACA community involvement. Your input and participation is requested, encouraged, and appreciated. Without it our organization becomes static, not dynamic; regressive, not progressive;

repressive, not expressive and encouraging. This new year offers untold possibilities for promoting CACA as a viable community agency, for gaining new members, for providing a role model of community caring and participation, for sustaining, maintaining, and encouraging Chinese cultural and traditional values. Too much effort is being expended by too few individuals for the potential benefit of the many. Please help us to help you...and yours. Become an active CACA member. And lest this editorial seem like a plea from the forsaken, thank you to those who have boldly stepped forward this past year to offer their considerable talent and efforts and contributed mightily to the continuing success of our local CACA lodge!!

Monday, January 12th, at 7 p.m. is the next regular monthly CACA meeting in the conference room at Chung Wah. Please join us as we initiate our incoming president, Ira Katz, who is also slated to provide sil yeh. (Thank you, Connie!)

The following is an excerpt from the book “The Chinese Have a Word for It” by Boye’ Lafayette De Mente.

Chinese scientists and philosophers were among the first people to recognize that change is the only constant in the universe, that nothing stays the same. Yet for more than three thousand years the Chinese people were subjected to a succession of governments that were based on keeping things as nearly the same as possible. But because the suppression of all conflict in human affairs is virtually impossible, particularly in social systems where most human rights are denied, ge (koe) or changing, remained an ever present threat to China’s dynasties, bringing each of them down in turn. In the famous I Ching or Book of Changes, ge is forty-ninth in the key elements pertaining to human affairs, obviously in recognition of the difficulty of dealing with change. However, ge recognizes that change is absolutely essential to avoid stagnation and degeneration. Ge guidelines begin with carefully analyzing the situation to confirm that changes are needed. If changes are going on, one must see that changes are going in the right direction, carefully regulated, and gradual enough that negative and destructive consequences can be avoided. Foreigners involved with China must quickly become experts at dealing with ge, not only in terms of laws, but also in day-to-day practices, because very little stays the same for very long.