

**Chinese American Citizens Alliance  
Salinas Lodge  
March 2009**

...and so begins many an anxious glance to the sky,  
awaiting signs for winter storm clouds to part  
and hoping for the shining sun to brighten the eye  
and bring spring warmth to the shivering heart.

wei coh

According to the calendar, **daylight savings time** is due to begin on Sunday, March 8, followed by **St. Patrick's Day on March 17** and **Spring on March 20**. All herald the awakening of warm weather and days full of frivolous activity, for those so inclined. Others long for the Spring thaw, with plans for planting vegetable and fruit gardens, their own brand of frivolity. So, 'spring forward' as the saying goes, and set your clocks one hour ahead before you jump into Saturday night's bed.

Why not beat the Spring rush and plan on a '**meet & greet" potluck at Chung Wah on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM**'. This is a combination of March CACA meeting and a get-together potluck. Yes! Bring a friend or two, or three!! Non-CACA friends are especially invited to see what our local lodge has to offer and also to provide an opportunity to contribute to the Chinese community. According to the sil yeh calendar, Byron Chong is the scheduled sil yeh provider. However, the potluck should absolve him from that specific obligation.

The problem with being chief cook and bottle washer, as in publisher-editor-reporter-deliverer of the newsletter, is that an interruption of the process severely inhibits the completion of the whole shebang. Alas, it happened, the inclement AT&T weather did me in, laid me low, hammered me down and smothered me with germs. I got sick, then sicker, and no February newsletter was forthcoming. Unable to attend the February CACA meeting, and not having any information forthcoming from attending members, you probably know more about what is happening than I do. So, all I can do in this newsletter is impart the few snippets of information that floated my way.

Where do I begin? It was reported in the January '09 newsletter that the annual **National Essay Contest** was due to be held on Saturday, March 7. I hope everyone who was interested contacted Candice Chin for further details and updated information. I also hope you took advantage of entering in the **National Student Art Competition**, also highlighted in January's newsletter.

Who won the Superbowl? No, not the 49ers. Many a football fan and many a potluck partaker attended the **Superbowl potluck at Chung Wah**. Good food, good times, and a good game-when it finally got started in the third quarter. Dynamite finish! Thanks to BBQ master, Stan Chan for again providing tasty morsels of dynamically delicious and delightful diabolical delicacies. Do you know that he also makes homemade caramel corn? No wonder Elizabeth has that certain satisfied smile on her face...the man can cook!! Must run in the family, huh, Linda?

The winter-dormant **Chinese Golf Club** should be ready to dust off their clubs and step into their golf shoes soon. John Gong and company have been long awaiting warmer weather.

Haven't heard what the **Womens Club** is up to these days. January was the 'brainstorm' meeting and we can only hope that nobody overloaded any brain circuits.

Shirley Lee was kind enough to advise me of the **Ping Pong Club's** next adventure. Saturday, March 14, the Salinas club will travel to Fresno for the annual tournament. If anyone is interested in attending, there is a sign-up sheet on the (Chung Wah) bulletin board. Since there is not a bus scheduled, people planning to attend the Fresno tournament should sign up as soon as possible, in order to set up carpools. This promises to be a busy weekend with the Fresno Ping Pong tournament on Saturday, 3/14 and the CACA 'meet & greet' potluck/monthly meeting on Sunday, 3/15. Good times for the 'ides of March' and good luck to the Salinas Ping Pong Club!

As long as we're on the subject of upcoming events, don't forget to mark your calendars for **Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>**. If things go according to plan and tradition, a Chinese community Easter Egg hunt will transpire on that day. Stay tuned for further details, and opportunities to assist.

Don't put your pen down yet! The popular **Asian Fair** is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>. This popular event attracts the entire Salinas community...and beyond. So, get ready to party and also be a part of this growing enterprise! Join us for fabulous food and fun-filled festivity from 11:00 am-4:00 pm. Chung Wah will again host the Chinese portion of this action-packed activity.

Last, but not least, the long-awaited Eddie Fung and Judy Yung presentation is being readied for May. Details are yet to be finalized but a nice dinner/fund-raiser may be in the works. Highlight your calendar for this highly-anticipated event! You don't want to miss it!. Jerry Cheang is the contact person for this activity.

Okay, I received two emails from collector Parker Chin. The first one is about the continuing debate and discussion about yearly dues. The second email has to do with errant mates, (I think). I plan to have a little fun with that one! Thanks to a late night call to Jerry Cheang who clarified things, I believe I can safely present this clarification about current dues update. A question arose, a couple of months ago, of the validity of an honored and select group of members: those being at least 70 years old and/or being CACA members for at least thirty years, having to pay the same CACA annual membership dues of \$39.00. Those CACA members not in the aforementioned select group must pay \$15.00 to the grand lodge and the remainder to be democratically declared by individual lodges. So, Salinas lodge members decided to have every member pay \$39.00, with the 70/30 year group exempted from paying the \$15.00 to Grand Lodge, but to the Salinas lodge. Thus, a discrepancy; the 70/30 group ends up paying \$39.00 per member solely to the Salinas lodge while the rest of the Salinas lodge has their \$39.00 membership dues split in two; \$15.00 to Grand Lodge and \$25.00 to Salinas lodge. Okay, is everyone still with me? A representative of the 70/30 group asked why? And, is this constitutional? So, discussions and debates ensued with the following results, retroactive to January '09, one assumes: there is now in place, in the Salinas lodge, a two-tiered membership dues rate. Those in the 70/30 category will only pay \$25.00 for local lodge membership only-no Grand Lodge dues. The rest of the Salinas lodge membership will pay \$40.00, (yes, it went up a buck), with \$15.00 per member dues going to Grand Lodge and the remaining \$25.00 staying with the local Salinas lodge. Are there any questions or discussions? This I hold to be true...for now. Parker Chin provided a list of the 70/30 group which follows. If you are not on this list and believe you are entitled to be, please contact Parker post haste, for appropriate inclusion and dues correction. And now **The List:**

Wally Ahtye	Gerald Cheang	David Chin
Henry Chin	Hughes Chin	Jack Chin
Parker Chin	Harry Chong	Tom Chung
Eugene Dong	Allen Gin	John Gong
Ezra Jen	Chiu Lee	Philip Lee
Wayne Lee	Wenson Louie	Philip Lum
Tom Wong	Ed Yee	Jack Yee
Sam Yee	Albert Young	Bill Young

Sincere congratulations are hereby offered to those stalwart and loyal members who have served CACA for so long! Salinas Lodge...your 70/30 group!! Now that the dues issue is settled, for now, Parker Chin requests that your dues be remitted to him via our CACA P. O. Box 754, Salinas, CA 93901.

Okay, now for the second of Parker Chin's emails. No, I stand corrected. The second one is a hand-written note for the monthly newsletter of a list of man/wife both members living at the same address. Here they are...

Gwen & Eddie Yee	Edward & Rebekah Wu	Chiu & Shirley Lee
Esmond & Clara Chan	Raymond & Lisa Brock	Bruce & Clara Chin
Ira & Connie Katz	Bill Woo & Rita Lee	Bob & Arlene Uemura
Alan & Lori Wing	Byron & Flora Chong	Harry & Sue Wong
Sherman & Linda Low		

Now, I have absolutely no idea why Parker gave me this list. But the possibilities just make my little brain synapses explode! Here are random thoughts that I'd like to share with you...in jest, of course. Are these *the only CACA couples who are married...and living at the same address?* Does this mean that CACA runs rampant with out-of-wedlock sinners? Perhaps there is a page 2, or 3 yet to appear? Do the rest of the CACA married couples *not live at the same address?* Do their children and friends know this about them? Does anyone care? Are the rest of CACA couples secretly *not married?* Do the other married couples realize they may not be living at the correct address...and not know it? Maybe this has to do with the newsletter...maybe not! Are the above couples the only ones living at the correct address? Is everyone positive that the spouse living at the same address as you is the correct spouse; you know...the one you exchanged vows with, 'for richer or poorer', etc., etc. Okay, enough of this nonsense. I must be on medication overload. I can only admonish those who have the wrong spouse to correct the situation and get on with the good life. At least you have a spouse. Be thankful!

The **2009 AT&T Pro-Am Golf Tournament** is now history, and almost my demise. In addition to being spectator transportation bus conductors and van drivers, CACA also was awarded the responsibility for making 950 sandwiches for the caddies as well as the CACA volunteers. Stan Chan, Vic Blea, and David Ow volunteered 12+ hours per day as van drivers. Wally Ahtye, Esmond Chan, Carl Chan, Don Chin, Byron & Flora Chong, Henry Gong, David & Cheryl Larison, Eugene Lee, Phil Rodriguez, Bill Woo, Martha Thompson and John Gong were informative and entertaining bus conductors.

Carol Cheang, Joyce Lowe, Wanda Lee and Arlene Uemura were the lead sandwich making team that included Roz & Parker Chin, Bill Young, Mary Lee, Tai & Frances Chin, Yoshi & John Wong, Judy Gong, Peggy Ahtye, Connie Katz, Linda Gin, Jimmy & May Mah, and Julie Wun. These three groups comprised the 'partner volunteers' who earned \$\$\$ for CACA through their combined efforts. Heading the 'committee volunteer' group were Louis Lee and Sherman Low. Although the 'committee volunteer' group does not earn \$\$\$ for CACA, their efforts put a positive spin for CACA in the administration of Spectator Transportation, of which Louis Lee is now the head honcho. Assisting him this year in administration assistant capacity was Linda Low and Clara Chan. John and Alice Wong were in charge of the volunteer tent. Jerry Cheang and his assistants, Allen Gin and Sonny Wun were the spectator transportation bus coordinators.

The AT&T Pro-Am Golf Tournament is but one way in which to earn money for CACA-funded community activities. Still to come is the annual First Tee Golf Tournament during Labor Day weekend, the next AT&T Pro-Am from Feb 9-14, 2010 and the U.S. Open Golf Tournament in June of 2010, one of the very premier golf tournaments in the world. It was last held in Pebble Beach in 2000.

Forty-four intrepid CACA 2009 AT&T volunteers were treated to a thank-you meal at AA Buffet on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>. All the volunteers were gratefully acknowledged and appropriate gifts awarded, courtesy of Spectator Transportation leader Louis Lee. Wanda Lee was able to secure a whole serving pan of roast duck for those who appreciate such delights.

As you can see, CACA is well represented at the At&T. Volunteer groups are encouraged to wear appropriate representative apparel for their respective agencies. Isn't it time that CACA be able to 'show our stuff', so to speak? Is it too much to ask for matching or coordinating outfits, like hats and jackets, for instance, as a way of promoting our organization? I know, I've brought this up before, did not get an appropriate response, so I'm bringing it up again. Aren't we proud of our efforts? Why not let the outside world be aware of who provides them with such great service. Providing 'good face' is not out of character for the Chinese. 'Nuff said?

While I'm on a soap box, please allow me to editorialize further. When the weather is good I try to hand deliver as many newsletters as possible, by walking or by my trusty bicycle. This saves stamps and provides me with exercise...except when I fall off my bike for various reasons and add to a lifetime of bumps, bruises, breaks, strains, and sprains. I have a solution. If I have an email address from you, you can get the newsletter faster...and cheaper...and healthier for me. Yes, I have heard various reasons for not letting out your email, but allow me to provide some reassurances. First, you will not be subject to spam. I email the newsletter to myself and then use bcc for the CACA newsgroup. That way the spam only comes to me, not everyone or anyone else. Second, any sanctioned email blasts from CACA are immediately available to you for action. No special edition snail mail stuff is subsequently provided. Third, I jealously and carefully guard access to the CACA mailing list. Only official newsletters and email blasts are sent by me, authorized by the CACA president. Fourth, I respect your privacy and would never violate the trust you place in me by providing your email. So, how about it. Want to give it a try? If you find you don't like an email newsletter, just tell me to take you off the CACA list and go back to snail mail. I use Windows XP and Microsoft Word for the newsletter, just in case you're wondering.

