

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Salinas Lodge
April 2009

The Ming Dynasty fell in 1644 and the Qing Dynasty, led by the Manchus, began. For about thirty years, China was in turmoil. During this time, literally thousands of women became published poets and writers. Lovesick maidens were part of this phenomenon. The works of more than twenty of them have survived to today. (excerpt from "Peony In Love," by Lisa See.)

Spring has sprung and with it many opportunistic activities. Attached is the summary by Candice Chin regarding the 2009 CACA Grand Lodge National Essay contest. Elena Fujii advises that the CACA Salinas Lodge and the Chinese Association of Salinas are offering up to six scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Monterey County as well as graduating seniors out of town with CAS or CACA members. Graduating seniors must be able to verify proof of a minimum of 1/8th Chinese descent. Applications are available at the local high schools and also on the CACA internet website at www.cacasalinas.org. The application deadline is April 24, 2009. As an added incentive, the scholarship awards have been increased to \$1,000.00 each, effective this year. Please call Elena at 758-5361 if you have any questions...and, good luck!

Also attached is a letter from Davace Chin, Co-chair of the National Education Committee, with yet another scholarship opportunity. Please feel free to contact him at (415) 440-1856 or davace-chin@yahoo.com if you have any questions or need more information. I can also provide copies of the scholarship application and rules & regulations, at your request, 753-9864 or victoriano@earthlink.net.

By any and all accounts, the March 15, 2009 'meet & greet' CACA monthly meeting was a big hit. Approximately 64 enthusiastic people attended. There was plenty of food, social interaction, and not-quite academy award comedic melodrama as outgoing CACA President, Louis Lee, was the ever-smiling but leery victim of the 'kick-out' celebration. Ty Chin and Sherman Low were the semi-official 'booters'.

Please note the following upcoming schedule of events for April and May.

- 4/12 Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Monterey Park school grounds beginning at 1 p.m. Lots of eggs to find and food to eat, prizes to win, and fun to be had, by kids of all ages.
- 4/13 Monthly CACA meeting at 7 p.m., Confucius Church, sil yeh by Clara Chan.
- 4/17 Meeting for Chinatown's proposed Asian Cultural Museum. From 1-5p.m. at the Confucius Church multi-purpose room. Free to the public and community input is highly encouraged.
- 4/25 Asian Festival from 11:00 a.m until 4:00 p.m. According to the news release, opening ceremonies will include Taiko drummers, Filipino dancers, and a Chinese Lion Dance. Salinas Mayor, Dennis Donohue will headline welcoming speeches. Opening ceremonies are scheduled to be held at the lot adjacent to the old Republic Café at 37 Soledad Street. An amazing array of Asian cuisine is to be

presented and savored. The Chinese Association is offering a 4-item take-out box lunch for a most reasonable price as well as single-item boxes, a la carte. All three venues, the Filipino Cultural Center at 250 Calle Cebu, the Japanese Buddhist Temple at 14 California St., and the Chinese Confucius Church at 1 California St. will also host a variety of cultural exhibits and activities and presentations. The Asian Festival takes the place of April's regular open house, so come one-come all to a truly innovative and amazing culinary and cultural experience.

5/9 Mother's Day will be celebrated on Saturday, 6 p.m. at the Cathay House. Albert Fong and Richard Ng are your contact people to make reservations/commitments.

I don't have the exact dates but the ever-popular Oyster Trading Company is due to open its doors of exotic wares and treasures a week before Mother's Day. Be sure to mark your calendar for this event.

3/18 Chung Wah Board Meeting news of interest to share with CACA. The Ping Pong Club traveled to Fresno on 3/14 to take on their rivals in a friendly match. This event has grown into an anticipated and ceremonious occasion. The Salinas club emerged victorious with a 12 to 9 victory. Shirley Lee advised that 6 carloads of people went and had good food and good times. Salinas brought home the trophy and will display it until the next tournament, here in Salinas, in September of October. Players were awarded individual medallions and a commemorative banner.

August 15 is the date of the annual Chinese barbecue at Toro Park, according to Chiu Lee.

The board also approved the purchase of a storage container, found by Stan Chan, but is currently being rented. This container is needed to be in place prior to building and bathroom reconstruction.

Wenson Louie was gratefully and appropriately acknowledged for his beautiful and artistic calligraphy work by doing the symbols for the Suey Sing Chinese New Year banners. Examples of his masterful and incredible artistry can be found in the multi-purpose room. Do you know where?

Ho Ming Cheung resigned, effective immediately, as Chung Wah President in order to care for his ailing wife, Jean. Our best wishes and hopes for a complete and speedy recovery are offered, and with grateful appreciation for all their efforts and accomplishments.

Have you read any good books lately? What is your favorite category, history, biography, mystery, western, science fiction, romance? Do you have a favorite author, or authors. Would you like to use the newsletter to share your recommendations? Here's one..."The Last Chinese Chef" by Nicole Mones, who also wrote "Lost in Translation." The book is only 278 pages long and may even be found in the impressive Chung Wah library.

With all the importance of getting a good education, I wonder why there is not a Chinese book club. We have a womens club and a golf club, a ping pong club. Why not a book club or a cooking club, maybe an investment club? While acknowledging that the USA has a plethora of opportunities and activities, it is also acknowledged that one cannot do everything. We must pick and choose, and

usually indulge in things within our own communities, no matter how small or large. Oftentimes, when we reach the age of physical limitations, our brains are the favored forms of exercise, by reading, listening, analyzing, philosophizing, etc. Often we cannot get through the day without reading something of choice and interest. Perhaps faithful readers can propose their favorite authors, or book titles, or categories of interest. Anybody need a cookbook? My personal library includes over 500 cookbooks. Miss Mona probably has at least that many, perhaps even more. Here are a few of my favorite and recommended authors. Perhaps you have some to share. Laurie R. King writes fabulously in a series about the exploits of Mary Russell, the wife of Sherlock Holmes. James Rollins authors several outstanding novels. Carl Hiiasen is a top ten favorite, writing about the crazy worlds found in Florida. Greg Iles is a fantastic author of 'Spandau Phoenix' and 'Black Cross', as well as many others. Steve Berry is yet another recommended author of such novels as, 'The Templar Legacy', 'The Amber Room', and 'The Alexandra Link'. I can't and won't list all my favorite authors because there are a couple hundred of them. But I know I'm always on the lookout for a good book. Perhaps newsletter readers can suggest a few of their own favorites. And don't forget to frequent our own notable library at Chung Wah. It is open anytime the Ping Pong Club meets, Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday evenings and Thursday afternoons.

Thanks to those CACA members for contributing to this month's newsletter. Your contributions are truly and gratefully welcomed and needed. See you next month.