

Chinese American Citizens Alliance  
Salinas Lodge  
June 2009

China's famous philosopher, Lao Tzu, born in 604 B.C. postulated that all life is the result of vital energy or cosmic force that he called qi, (chee). Qi, in Lao's terms is the spark that animates all living things. The practice of qigong, (chee gung) was promoted by one of China's medical pioneers, Hua Tuo during the end of the Han dynasty and the beginning of the Three Kingdoms period. He discovered that measured deep breathing practiced regularly dramatically improves one's peace of mind, general health, and longevity...(continued next month). Do I have your attention?

Summary of May '09 Meeting.

Twenty-two members initially attended the May meeting, mostly due to the photo session for the biennial brochure. It was also a very great pleasure to welcome back aspiring CACA member Connie Yee, for her first reading. The upcoming Youth and ASIA conferences were discussed briefly, with no resolution forthcoming. 160 lunches were sold during the April Asian Festival. It was generally regarded that the Chinese Association provided the most food at the most reasonable price, had more activities to enjoy, and was the most highly attended of all the venues. Kudos to the Chinese community for making a successful venture!

Richard Ng and Albert Fong reported that 23 people attended the Mother's Day dinner. Richard also reported that his son, Matthew, assisted in the Asian Festival and it was an excellent way for kids to get their community service hours, doing what needs to be done at CACA activities. More opportunities to come.

The upcoming biennial convention costs were discussed, \$300.00 per full page advertisement, \$50.00 for business card ad.

The Salinas CACA website was discussed. It is out of date. Vic mentioned that the monthly newsletter could possibly be posted there for any and all to access it at their leisure. He volunteered to learn how to do the website and it was unanimously proposed that Wally Ahtye, Carl Chan, and Vic Blea be the website committee to update it.

The fundraising dinner scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup> was discussed. Ticket sellers and event promoters are needed. Also needed are silent auction items. Vic mentioned that he received an email from Bruce and Clara Chin that they will be on vacation during that time but will donate a gift basket for the silent auction. Thanks guys! David Larison also volunteered to donate his artistic skills and talents. It was also agreed to provide a \$300.00 honorarium to Eddie Fung-Judy Young, guests of honor at the June 27<sup>th</sup> 10-course banquet-style sit down dinner and presentation.

A schedule for sil yeh providers was informally requested since things became somewhat discombobulated in recent weeks. I wonder how many people actually read this newsletter, because the entire 2009 sil yeh schedule was published in the January 2009 issue. For interested parties, June sil yeh is scheduled to be provided by Stan Chan followed by Parker Chin in July.

And now a message from your CACA collector, Parker Chin, also occasional poet.  
"If your annual dues debt is in the red,  
Not much reminding needs to be said.

The '09 amount is \$20.00x2,

Not much been coming in, makes me blue.”

-2009 dues are \$40.00 for regular members. Send it to PO Box 754, Salinas, 93901.

OOOOooo, don't go away yet-more-The Grand Lodge Biennial National Convention will be held August '09 in Las Angeles. We have 29 members that will be assessed \$15.00 to help pay in part for the brochure. The 29 are the current Board of Officers, current Board of Associates, and the Past Presidents.

Okay, here's news you're just salivating for. Just in...from scholarship chair, Elena Fujii, here are the winners of this year's high school senior scholarship applications. The committee received eight applications and decided to award five. In no particular order they are;

Jenny lei, Salutatorian at North Salinas High School. Her Parents are Da Lei and Fung Ngor Chan. Jenny plans to attend UC Santa Barbara this fall and major in mechanical engineering.

Jessica Zamora, North Salinas High School. Her parents are Rick and Sherry Zamora. Jessica plans to attend UC Santa Cruz this fall and major in computer science/game design.

Julianne Lum, Salutatorian at Soledad High School. Her parents are CAS members Robert and Karen Lum, granddaughter of Stanley and Jean Lum. She plans to attend a UC in the fall and is considering a career in biology.

Matthew Ng , Everett Alvarez High School. His parents are CACA and CAS members Richard and Anita Ng. Matthew plans to attend San Jose State in the fall and his career goal is to become a sports agent to professional football and basketball players.

Samuel Tidwell , York School. His parents are Michael and Lori Tidwell, grandson of CAS member Susan Cho. He plans to attend Lewis and Clark College in the fall.

Congratulations to all five scholarship winners and they will be presented their scholarships, and you can see and meet them, at the annual Chinese community barbecue at Toro Park on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, many thanks go to the scholarship committee for their diligent efforts in selecting deserving students. This year, for the first time, the scholarship amounts have reached \$1,000.00 each. Kudos to the hard working CACA and CAS volunteers for raising scholarship funds.

The following article and accompanying essay was submitted by Candice Chin.

#### 2009 GRAND LODGE NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST CACA SALINAS LODGE

Seven students participated in this year's contest which was held on March 7, 2009 at the Confucius Church in Salinas. These students, juniors and seniors, are enrolled in North Salinas High School, York High School, and Pacific Grove High School, Soledad High School, Franklin High School (Sacramento), and Rocklin High School (Sacramento)

Contest topic: The United States now has its first biracial President. What significance does Barack Obama's election have for issues that have been of particular interest to the Asian American community?

What does his victory say to young Asian Americans now contemplating a career in electoral politics and public service?

Students were asked to express their opinion in 500 words or less within the contest period of two hours. The use of computers, books, reference guides, including dictionaries and thesauruses was not allowed.

Our local Lodge has awarded its third place with a \$75 prize to Sam Tidwell, a senior from York High School. His parents are Lori & Michael Tidwell. Second place with a \$100 prize is awarded to Kyle Mow, from Franklin High School (Elk Grove). His parents are Denise & Lewis Mow.

First place with \$150 prize goes to Lisa Hu, a senior from York High School. She is the daughter of Hongde Hu and Wei Liu. Additionally, Grand Lodge selected Lisa's essay for a Certificate of Merit which bears an award of \$100.

The awards will be presented to our winners at the Chinese Community Barbeque at Toro Park on August 16, 2009.

Candice Chin, Salinas Lodge Essay Chair

Here is the winning essay by Lisa Hu! Congratulations young lady! The Salinas Lodge CACA applauds your conscientious contribution.

'With Barack Obama's victory, many young Asian Americans feel empowered to dream of a career in electoral politics. America has finally demonstrated herself as a country willing to look past race and physical appearance in favor of true merit and political abilities. As a minority himself, Barack Obama understands the American dream and realizes that the barriers that minorities must breakthrough in order to achieve these dreams. Obama's election has symbolized the new possibilities and opportunities for Asian Americans who were always afraid to strive for a career in politics because of their race.

One of the biggest issues Obama has decided to confront is education. The price of a college tuition is so high and with the financial crisis America is currently experiencing, many Americans are worried about their children's futures. Education is extremely important to the Asian American community, and if Obama has the ability to improve the education in public schools or to decrease the costs of college tuitions, everyone will benefit. President Obama realizes the importance of a country built upon the education of children who will one day lead the next generation into success.

Obama's victory will also bring about more racial diversity in government and politics. Just last week Obama announced Gary Locke as his nominee for Secretary of Commerce. Gary Locke was the first Chinese-American governor of Washington in 1996 and was reelected in 2000. Steven Chu is also the head of the Energy Department in

Obama's cabinet, which means that Obama has the most Asian-Americans in any presidential cabinet. Obama's conspicuous support for minorities in politics truly encourages more Asian-Americans to follow their dreams of becoming a political leader. For President Obama will not only limit his diverse cabinet to race, but he will also incorporate leaders of different political parties.

Obama's victory mainly demonstrates that with hope and a determination to succeed, anything is possible in this diverse country. Obama's slogan "Yes We Can" motivates young Asian-Americans to make a difference in their own community and to not be afraid of failure because of one's race. His victory also demonstrates that a minority can succeed in one's dreams of holding a political office, and race will not hinder anyone from achieving his/her full potential.

Ultimately Barack Obama's world-changing election exemplifies the revival of "the American Dream." For my parents who immigrated from China in the 1990's, the "American Dream" represented a new life of financial stability and a better life for their children. As a first-generation Chinese-American, I have realized from Barack Obama that the current "American Dream" entitles the determination and hard work that will allow merit to dictate my career and future and not race or physical appearance.'

Highlights from the Chung Wah General Board Meeting of May 27, 2009:

A proposal to replace the entire Chung Wah ceiling lights is progressing.

The men's restroom has a new urinal... Yay!

There may not be Joong in June...not enough orders to make it worthwhile.

A new Chinese School Board was elected; Wanda Lee, Linda Low, Richard Yu, Candice Chin, and Linda Gin. Congratulations! New school hours are to be from 9-11:30 am with one 15-minute recess.

Four new round dining tables will be purchased to replace broken ones.

The Chinese library does not have "The Last Chinese Chef" by Nicole Mones, recommended last month. Call Vic at 753-9864 to borrow my copy☺.