

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Salinas Lodge Newsletter
September 2009

Well, Hey there! Hi there! Ho there! It's time for another edition of who's doing what, what's going on, and where do I fit in? As if you needed reminding, Ho Sy Guy leads off with this summary, in his own inimitable style..."What Happened to the Good Old Summertime? Where has it gone? (A once over by Ho Sy Guy) It all started with the San Francisco Lodge Anniversary Dinner Dance. It was held at the VERDI CLUB, somewhere near the AT&T baseball park. After dinner, practically EVERYBODY DANCE. I noticed all the dancers were evidently taught by the same instructor. ..that is until our own president Ira Katz blasted away with his version of Razz Ma Jazz. Anyway, the SF group glided around the dance floor with smoothness and grace, just like a Hollywood big budget movie. A month later, Oakland celebrated their anniversary at the PEONY restaurant. It was quite a banquet dinner. Five members of our (Salinas) lodge attended and all gave a 'thumbs up', excellent food!

On June 6th there was a bus to Chukchansi...with NO CHINS on board as they attended their sister, BLANCHE'S 90th birthday at Stockton Golf & Country Club. It's an elegant palace, and on top of it all...the food was good. Did you know the gateway city for Stockton and Sacramento is "MONG GOO LOO"? Who? ...(Sorry but that is my 'Toishan say yip ' dialect).

July is always RODEO TIME. It came and gone BUT...the rumor mills for the 100th anniversary in 2010, COMO DEL RODEO PARADE WILL RETURN. It has been more than 50 years ago when our lodge won the grand trophy 4 years in a row. It was quite a feat! Do it again??

Oh, by the way, this writer had a 'stress test' by Dr. R. Revers. He phone the next day and it went like this, "David, this is Dr. REVERS, and all your tests came out NORMAL. This is your lucky day so I recommend you head for Reno and play your favorite slot machine". Now, that is encouragement from my doctor. Yippee!!

AUGUST...already? The CACA National Convention in San Gabriel. Ira and Connie were the only two delegates from Salinas. The president gave a full report at Monday's meeting. Well done, Ira. Next came the annual BBQ at Toro Park. 350 people attended and during the proceedings...Scholarships and Essay contest (\$\$\$) were awarded to winners. We have many big things to look forward to at the end of August. Starting with the WALMART 1st TEE (golf) in which we furnish food to many volunteers, provide van drivers in moving people from here to there. We still have Family Day, our 57th Anniversary, maybe some casino junkets, annual Christmas party for the kids, (young and old). But we'll have to wait for a later newsletter. BON APPETIT... "

Thanks, Tye for a most illuminating and entertaining summer review. Your unique perspectives and on -the-spot reporting is most welcome, anytime.

So, what happened at the last CACA monthly meeting on August 10? President Ira Katz called the meeting to order and the most important piece of correspondence was the issuance of the the 50th Biennial National Convention Booklet/Brochure. Only a couple of copies are available for viewing. The booklet is well done and filled with memorable

photographs of the different lodges and activities, definitely worth perusing. The next CACA monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 14th, at 7 PM, Confucius Church meeting room. Since Linda Low and Vic Blea provided sil yeh in lieu of Ira Katz, he, (probably Connie) is due to return to sil yeh duty for Monday's meeting. March's sil yeh was to be provided by outgoing secretary, Byron Chong, but will instead be delegated to the new and income secretary, Candice Chin. Welcome aboard Candice! Such a coincidence...a new board position and sil yeh provider, all at once. How lucky can some people get?

Speaking of changes, there are only 3 issues of the newsletter remaining before the presses stop... unless someone volunteers to take over the Salinas Lodge Newsletter. This editor/reporter will relinquish this coveted position at the end of the December '09 issue. If you are interested in learning and doing the newsletter, now is the time to contact me in order to ensure a smooth transition. If necessary, I will even loan you my bicycle, upon which I deliver up to 25+ newsletters in person so as to save on postage. Exercising your mind and body...what a deal!

Carl Chan reported that there was no Grand Lodge meeting due to the national convention, and that the meetings will now be held on a quarterly basis instead of monthly.

Got your calendar handy. The following are the tentative dates and activities scheduled so far:

- Oct. 2nd. "The Baker's Wife" Western Stage production at Hartnell with dinner preceding the play.
- Oct. 3rd Confucius Birthday/Fall Festival dinner
- Oct. 10th Chukchansi trip
- Oct. 17th CACA anniversary dinner
- Oct. 24th Family Day
- Oct. 31st Halloween

The call for volunteers was sounded for the First Tee Golf Tournament. CACA was awarded the contract for providing lunches for the volunteers. And also for providing van drivers. Approximately 1500 sandwiches need to be made available for the whole week. Also, CACA members were requested to stock up on Coca Cola products when sales appeared and be reimbursed accordingly. Jerry also requested that members let him know how many coke products they were getting so he could control inventory.

The "Parade of Lights" is forthcoming and Chung Wah will be the chair this year.

Volunteers are needed to design and complete the joint float effort between CACA and Chung Wah.

Efforts are being made to have CACA and Chung Wah be in the forefront of promoting the upcoming 2010 census. There is federal grant money available, first come, first serve, in order to help coordinate the census count. President Ira Katz and company are pursuing this opportunity.

President Ira Katz has a personal interest in the Asian community being able to field a team for the "Relay for Life" affair scheduled for June 2010. Any and all interested in forming or being part of this team are encouraged to contact Ira Katz, Vic Blea, and/or Mona Lee.

A new and improved and updated CACA membership list, complete with email

addresses, has been made available by Byron Chong and Parker Chin. Please check your copy to see that everything is correct and notify Byron or Parker if anything needs to be corrected, added, or deleted.

Family Day volunteers are needed and being recruited, as well as a chairperson or a committee of volunteers to pursue this project. Prizes are already in storage per Linda Low. Louis Lee reiterated the possibility of having the Chinese School kids be a major part of the 2010 Kiddie Kapers parade. Seems like a great idea!!

Okay, here's the major story of the month. The First Tee Golf Tournament. The sixth Senior Pro-Junior- and Amateur event was blessed with gorgeous weather throughout the tournament. The CACA consortium CACA ringleaders of Louanda, Sherminda, and Gercar were initially worried that there were not enough volunteers to make the 1500 sandwiches. But, true to its tradition, the Chinese community came through. Also true to tradition, commitment to the event was held in abeyance, and, indeed, many familiar faces from last year's event were noticeably absent this year. However, the sandwich making production process seemed to jell quickly enough and impressive results were achieved. Monumental thanks goes to Jerry for being the moving force behind the purchases of raw materials, the cooking and prepping same, and the tutoring and overseeing of the production line. Aably assisting and responsibly supervising and producing was Clara Chan and Wanda Lee. Mona Lee used her vacation days to help make sandwiches and track down numerous cases of Coca Cola products on sale. Lisa Brock also stopped by to lend able assistance on her way to work. All hail the Womens Club for their mighty efforts! Not only did they bake a mountain of delicious desserts, they were the majority of the sandwich makers. Employing all levels of experience and expertise, they continually cranked out daily production quotas like consummate pros. Okay, maybe not all the sandwiches looked the same, and had the same ingredients, or were even made the same way, but the taste and texture was there, and nobody lacked for a good sandwich. Bill Young, that stalwart at slicing and dicing, was also the most consistent sandwich wrapper I have worked with. Big hands but nimble fingers adeptly and deftly folded the wrapper around the sandwich like he was tucking a well-folded diaper. People just don't realize how well a product, any product, is received unless it is well wrapped, and Bill's handiwork made me proud to present his results. Because of a seemingly lack of CACA volunteers, organized systems of production were put in place to replace the lack of people. A variety of salads were made in the kitchen by Jerry Cheang and Henry Gong. John Gong and Bill Young were the main slicers and dicers of the sandwich meat, also in the kitchen. Wanda Lee, Byron and Flora Chong weighed the sliced meat for consistency and stacked the slices in separate piles on trays. These were then transported to a long sandwich production table by the speedy Parker Chin. Womens Club members sorted the bread and laid the slices on even bigger trays, then spread and slathered assorted condiments on the open sides. Other Womens Club members arranged lettuce and meats and cheeses and other condiments on the bread/roll/bun halves before being sliced and wrapped and labeled and stacked for transport to Pebble Beach in large coolers. Kudos to those I remember on the production line: Mona Lee, Mary Lee, Roslyn Chin and daughter, Lisa Brock, Clara Chan, Candice Chin, Peggy Ahtye, Helen Gong, Linda Gin, Connie Katz, Cheryl Larison, Shirley Lee, Linda Low, Joan Lee, and others whose faces and names I cannot recall. Once the cases of sodas and water were loaded, the coolers were stacked and packed in Vic's SUV,

along with fruit, chips and desserts and transported to Pebble Beach. There, Vic unloaded the goods and packed the two refrigerated coolers for easier access. Carol Cheang and Joyce Lowe were the two mainstays of the serving line and were assisted by Dorothea Nguyen, Rebekah Wu, and various Womens Club members who trekked out to Pebble Beach, doing double duty as sandwich makers and servers. Wally Ahtye artistically displayed the daily sandwich menu board and also assisted in preparing the needed pre-packs going out to various groups who were not able to come to the hospitality tent for their lunches. Again, an effective distribution system was employed as individual women manned each section of drinks, fruit, chips, and desserts. Carol and/or Joyce called for the selection of choice, Vic retrieved the selection, slid it into a handy opened bag, and the hungry recipient scurried down the serving line, not even having to call out, 'Trick of Treat'. Five or six people easily handled the ravenous multitude with help when needed to restock dwindling choices of chips, desserts, fruit or drinks. Everyone pitched in to help tidy up and Vic packed the empty coolers back to Chung Wah, only to begin the process the very next day. Many, many compliments were received, for selection, satisfaction, and service with a smile. The mufalattas were a return hit, as were first time selections of 'Elvis', 'Tiger Woods', and egg foo yung fritatta sandwiches. Hopefully, CACA will be able to garner the bid for next year's food service, and be able to provide even more delectable delights to tease, tempt, tantalize, and treat appreciative appetites. That's all for this month, now accepting and inviting your contributions. Wei coh.