

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Salinas Lodge Newsletter
October 2009

“When you know a thing, to hold that you know it, and when you do not know a thing ,
to allow that you do not know it...this is knowledge.” Confucius

Fall seems to be falling faster and more frequently this year, doesn't it? October is usually the start of another short Salinas summer. Evening walks through the neighborhood now bring the aromas of fireplaces in use along with the tantalizing temptations of dinners in preparation, and fewer barbecue offerings. This edition of the newsletter is also being forwarded to the Minister of the Mountain View Chinese Christian Church, whose Ping Pong players and supporters were recent guests at an impromptu tournament in Salinas on September 19th. That story will follow the summary of September's monthly CACA meeting.

Fifteen CACA members and 1 guest attended September's meeting, convened and called to order by President Ira Katz at 7:15 PM. Correspondence included the newsletter from the Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge, Las Angeles, and Orange County Lodges. Louis Lee presented new reading material regarding the conversion of Washington Mutual to Chase Banks. Somehow we are getting mail intended for Grand Lodge. Also, Ira passed around more 2010 Census material. The corrected June financial report was reviewed and comments and information exchanged about changing banks now that the one holding our various financial instruments is about to begin charging fees. All members are encouraged to research possible alternatives and present information by next month's meeting on Monday, October 13. We had a double sil yeh treat in September as both Connie Katz and Candice Chin brought sumptuous goodies. Mea culpa...in my haste to publish the September newsletter after a successful First Tee Golf Tournament, my inadequate editorial skills led to a confusion about sil yeh...the result being two instead of one. So, I will provide sil yeh for October's meeting, and November's sil yeh will be provided by...it looks like me again as my turn. Oh well, I wonder what new treats Costco can provide?

Carl Chan reported that there has not been a Grand Lodge since the biennial convention in early August.

Old & New Business

Only three convention resolutions were needed to be ratified by individual lodges: #9-Change of deadline for election of delegates, (from 30 to 75 days prior to the convention); #20-Quarterly meetings of Board of Grand Officers, (instead of once every two months); #27-Date of the 51st Biennial National Convention, (to be held during the month of July or August, 2011.) All present CACA members resoundingly ratified the stated resolutions, so succinctly stated by Grand Lodge representative Albert Fong. Ira Katz updated his report on his efforts to promote the Census 2010 Partnership Project. Family Day is scheduled for October 24th and volunteers are being solicited to help Ira corral all the kids and plan/supervise activities. No new news or volunteers stepping forward for the 2010 Relay for Life event. As proposed by Ira Katz, himself a cancer survivor, an Asian team, if not strictly CACA, will provide much good community 'face'

at this popular and highly productive venue. Linda Low reminds everyone that the CACA Anniversary Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, October 17th at 6:00 PM, the Confucius Church. The theme is Mexican Fiesta and Linda advises to dress accordingly. At the dinner cost of only \$12.00 per person, you should have enough dinero to come up with some interesting and authentic Chinese-Mexican, Mexican-Chinese regalia...and bring your own special hot sauce, (just kidding!) Contact people for this notoriously rambunctious event are Linda Low, 424-9290 at noilow@hotmail.com or Louis Lee, 758-3936 at louwan1@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for reserving your place in the serving line is Friday, Oct. 9th...so hurry for your chance to bash the pinata. Arriba, Arriba, Andele!! (That's the extent of my Spanish, courtesy of that little animated rat/mouse of long ago youth, and whose name I cannot recall.)

Did anyone make the trek to Campbell on September 12th to see the live stage production of the San Jose Taiko Drum troupe? Yes, they are the same people who perform at the annual Obon Festival in Salinas. However, they continually evolve their repertoire so it's like seeing a new show with your favorite performers. Campbell was hot, but the show was much hotter, scorching even. It made your pants want to get up and dance! This world-renowned group of performers is not to be missed, no matter how many times you may have experienced their unique skills and entertainment.

In other news...The renovated Chop Suey sign that sits on the old Republic Café is being held for ransom. Although the Salinas Chinese Association has contributed a significant amount for its restoration, other participating agency members have yet to complete their financial commitments.

Thanks to Parker "Russian" Chin, not only CACA but other Chinese groups are able to view not just one, but two, Western Stage productions this year. "The Baker's Wife" turned out to be a very entertaining play. The cast of 18 performers provided a very believable story as they sang and danced and acted flawlessly. 'Twas a truly enjoyable evening, highlighted by Melissa Chin's performance, (daughter of Russian and Roz.) Up next is 'Mame' scheduled for November 13th. The cost is only \$20.00 per person, payable to Russian so he can get the tickets en masse, to ensure we can sit together as a group instead of willy-nilly, here and there, helter-skelter. The Chinese Association Senior group who enjoyed "The Baker's Wife" on October 2nd had very excellent seats, thanks to Parker's efforts. Russian requests that the \$20.00 per person ticket payment again be made to him, either personally at Monday's CACA monthly meeting, or by mail at P.O. Box 754, Salinas...no later than October 20th, so that he will be able to make magic and get desirable seating. How about dinner before the performance? While paying Russian for the show, let him know if you will attend the pre-show dinner, place to be determined, at a maximum of \$10.00 per person, payable at the restaurant, wherever it may be. But, don't stop there, budget some extra shekels for the next days trip to Chukchansi, courtesy of the Womens Club. Yes! the Chukchansi bus trip is scheduled for Saturday, November 14th. Details and signup sheet are listed on the Chinese Association Bulletin Board at Chung Wah, (on the wall, behind the second ping pong table to the left.) As Russian so aptly put it..."Whoopie! Let's do it!"

Ping Pong? What a timely segue to the next newsletter article, a fortuitous happenstance involving the Salinas Chinese Association Ping Pong Club and the Mountain View Chinese Christian Church Ping Pong players. (Try saying that three times rapidly and see if your tongue doesn't twist and shout!) How did this meeting come about? The usual

way, someone was talking to someone who mentioned something about ping pong and this led to that and someone else said why not and someone else said let's do it and, lo and behold, it was a done deal. How much more specific can it be? How did I, now you, know about this joyous occasion? I was meeting with Financial Secretary Clara Chan at the Chinese School, necessary because it was her week to supervise the future founders of bi and trilingual Chinese linguistic leaders of America, our children and grandchildren. I was mystified...the kitchen was abuzz with activity, all the woks were working, and more people than usual were cavorting about the premises. "Not my business" said I, as I meandered my way into the conference room, where I encountered even more people. "Is this where Chinese come when they want to have a casual Chinese encounter, I mused?" Shrugging my sagging shoulders I proceeded to confer with Clara about things financial when her husband, Esmond, the eminent radiologist, reentered and advised that "they" were here and the food was ready! Who "they" and what food I queried? Chinese school had let out and the hustle and bustle of groups of people filtered into the conference room as Clara and I continued our financial conversation. Esmond again appeared to reiterate the need for our appearance. So, I followed Clara into the main hall and my jaw dropped in amazement. The empty hall was transformed into a dining room, filled with unfamiliar faces, each chatting amiably and eating heartily. Here and there I spied a familiar face, happily engaged in true Chinese tradition, eating and talking and smiling. Not wanting to intrude, I was sidling toward the exit when I was assailed by convivial cohorts and extorted to join the congregation. Then the mystery was unveiled. Approximately twenty people from Mountain View, led by Minister Aaron Wei, had been invited by the Salinas Chinese Ping Pong Club, to participate in a tournament between the two groups. I just happened to wander in. Those of you who have been fortunate to view such events may well remember the excitement it generates. Yet, something special seemed to be present. Everyone seemed to be enjoying simply everything, and more people were arriving. Soon the hall was humming with the joyous revelation of about fifty people. Have you ever just happened to stumble upon something unforgettable as you meander through life. Serendipitous it was! The excellent chefs who inhabit the Salinas Pong Pong Club did themselves proud and soon the tables were cleared, chairs rearranged, and tournament ping pong table selected and prepared, as well as scorer's table. Now, please bear with me, and I apologize in advance for any mistakes I may make as I try to describe the people, names, and activities that follow. A typical tournament seeding pitted three individual best-of-three matches each for men and women, with a tournament-ending best-of-three men's doubles match. Representing Mountain View were, Jianhan Guo, Baoshan Ma, and Zudian Qin for the men. The women's team consisted of Lisa Chen, Yu Zhong, and Chuan Chen. I thank Minister Aaron Wei for taking the time and trouble to provide the names of his team. Representing Salinas were Ron Jew, Chris Liu, Albert Fung, Peter Du, and the sixteen year-old wunderkind whose name I have inadvertently forgotten to obtain. According to my reliable source, Shirley Lee, he is ranked in the top five ping players in China and his mother is a notable coach. He currently resides in Watsonville and either he or his aunt bears the name Yida Wang. Again, please accept my apologies for not being as thorough as I would like to be, and should be. Representing the Salinas women were Lisa Brock, Wang Jing, and Caroline Lee. This is the point in the story where I am supposed to reveal the individual and collective results, but I can't and won't. Why, because of that special feeling I had as I encountered this notable event.

This was not about who won or lost, but about two different groups of people from different part of northern California, Chinese, yes, who somehow managed to find each other and come in a worthwhile endeavor. Call it fellowship if you will. Call it a spontaneous and serendipitous gathering of souls. Call it what you will. Perhaps it is the romantic love in me, but this was a special treat. Tom O. Wong was there and smiling, Wenson Louie and I stood shoulder to shoulder and admired the friendly competition, noting the mutually admired skill level of each player, and the collective interest and appreciation of the fascinated audience at large. Among other encouraging Salinas spectators were Chiu and Shirley Lee, James and May Mah, Pat and Albert Fung, Sherman and Linda Low, Esmond and Clara Chan, Lisa and Raymond Brock, Raymond Leong and Henry Lee, who also served as scorekeeper. Okay, I still can feel the unseen insistence of the need to find out the winner of at least one match. So, here is my compromise. In the match between Lisa Chen and Lisa Brock.....guess who won?

I hope you did not miss the Confucius Birthday/Fall Festival dinner on Saturday, October 3rd. A representative from the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco addressed an appreciative crowd of over 100 hungry diners. Mayor Dennis Donohue also addressed the group and apologized for holding up dinner. Leonard Han and his Monterey Bay Lion Dancers kicked off the evening festivities. Wouldn't you think there would be some Chinese among the group? Where has Chinese culture and tradition gone if not found in its own people? Has it really been sixty years since the founding of the People's Republic of China? Ho Ming Cheung, Chris Liu, and Albert Fung led the seasoned kitchen crew and provided the following delicious menu of, gai lan & garlic, poached chicken w/ginger sauce, sliced taro and pork, shrimp in the shell, and sauteed mushrooms, yum. Duc Vuong provided appreciative and delicious moon cakes. Until next month, in harmony Wei Coh.