

Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Salinas Lodge Newsletter
November 2009

“Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.”
Confucius

So, how was your Halloween? I hope yours was full of treats, not tricks. One bag of COSTCO candy, (150 pieces of the good stuff) was sufficient to keep at bay the ghouls, goblins, witches, princesses, warriors, etc. Some costumed characters were cute, others scary, still others may yet be seen on the streets... still begging.

‘Twas the day after costumes	How dare they?, I cried,
and to my horror and surprise,	Too soon...and too much!
Christmas music assailed me	Football just started , there’s
And brought anger to my eyes.	Still property taxes and such.

Wait, there’s still Thanksgiving	It’s not fair! I wailed
And Fall Festivals and things	To a non-listening world
I can’t be buying stuff yet	As it bustled around me
Like necklaces and rings.	In a pre-Christmas sale swirl.

Okay, it’s here, the holidays. My least favorite time of year. Seems like it happens sooner than soon, much earlier than expected. Good luck to you and yours in the frantic dash for specials and sales and promotions galore. Don’t forget to count your blessings along the way.

Fifteen CACA members and one guest eventually found their way to the Monday meeting on October 12. The following is a brief summary and review of agenda items. Two correspondence items prevailed. Form 199 is past due to the Franchise Tax Board. (People in the know will address it). The Salinas CACA census proposal form was not approved. We evidently lost out on \$2,000.00 to promote the upcoming 2010 census. President Ira Katz will pursue this issue. Also of note was the announcement of the amount of income generated from the First Tee via the combined efforts of the Womens Club for 1400 sandwiches made and the many hours of van driving dutifully delivered by our band of merry drivers. Final figures were not available yet because all the expenses had not yet been tabulated. Nevertheless...we done good. The Womens Club will benefit from 75% of the net proceeds and the remainder will be placed in the (CIF) Community Involvement Fund account to provide for future nonprofit endeavors. Also deposited to the CIF account is the income generated by our van drivers, with no expenses incurred or deducted. Under ‘old business’ the Salinas Lodge CACA anniversary dinner has approximately 60 members/guests signed up for October 17. Family Day has been postponed because Ira has conflicting medical treatments and nobody offered to fill his shoes as chairperson for the event. A Chinatown Redevelopment general public meeting will be held on October 15...and chop suey will be served. Come one-come all! Okay, now ‘new business’. Information was exchanged regarding transferring our various accounts from our old bank to a new bank due to fee

implementation. Members are encouraged to 'shop around' for a new bank and present their findings at the November meeting. Chinese author, John Jung has a new book out, "Sweet and Sour", and a possible presentation may be in the offing if members are interested. Let your wishes be known to lodge president, Ira Katz. Past president, Louis Lee will pursue nominations for the upcoming CACA board elections. Please let him know if you are interested in running for office or want to nominate someone. Nominations will be presented at the November meeting. I've mentioned the November meeting twice now, so I'd better continue with it. Monday, November 16th at 7PM is the revised meeting. Chung Wah needed the second Monday for an election board meeting so CACA was bumped to the third Monday. Wei Coh will provide the sil yeh. Any requests? It was suggested that a sil yeh schedule be posted on the bulletin board, in light of recent confusion. Will that help, since sil yeh assignments are already posted in the first newsletter with board election results and subsequent monthly newsletters? The 'Parade of Lights' parade is scheduled for November 29th. Chung Wah member, Wellington Lee is the chair for the float entry and is seeking volunteers to help put the float together. His design of three ornaments, Peace, Good Fortune, and Joy, will be decoratively displayed on the flatbed and appropriately lit. A schedule of float work days was suggested to be posted on the bulletin board as a reference for would-be helpers. Salvation Army bell-ringing is coming up. Flora Chong was not present to state her plea for volunteers, but it is worth considering. Half-hour increments are the minimum time commitments with other volunteers choosing to do more than that. Contact Flora and pick your favorite time(s). The joint CACA and Chung Wah Christmas party is scheduled for December 12th. Might as well mark your calendars for the New Years Eve party, too. More information and details will be released as they are known. Okay, now on with the show!

Linda Low kindly provided pertinent details of the CACA Anniversary dinner held on October 17th. Mexican Fiesta was the theme and its two organizers, Linda Low and Wanda Lee, out-did themselves again in preparing for this festive occasion. Ballet Folklorico was the entertainment and Instructor, Martha Mendez brought her group, 'Con Mexico en la Sangre' from Gonzales to perform to the appreciation and delight of the sixty-five attendees. Hugo Mariscal and Jason Low were the taco and quesadillo cooks with Wes Chan assisting. Other tasty delights included chili verde, cheese enchiladas, Mexican/Spanish rice, beans, shrimp ceviche, chips and salsa, guacamole and assorted beverages, with flan and Mexican pastries for dessert. Each guest/couple was photographed against a Mexican motif backdrop by Sherman Low and was presented with souvenir copies. Aably assisting Linda and Wanda were Sherman Low, Louis Lee, Jack Yee, and Lisa Brock. Only four people dressed in costume for the occasion, but Mexican sombreros were available to all. Harry Wong sported an authentic-looking Mexican bandito mustache and Sue Wong dressed as a fieldworker. Mona Lee was festively attired, and Wei Coh almost wasn't admitted to the party because he looked like a gang-banger. Special guests included past Grand Lodge President Munson Kwok and his charming wife, SueEllen, Ed Yu and six others from Oakland lodge, Vera and Ted Goo with Jim Lee from San Francisco. Mayor Dennis Donohue also stopped by. The evening festivities were capped off by pinata-whacking, with each table sending a representative to do the deed. When finally substantially and severely beaten, the bedraggled pinata ultimately yielded and spewed candy, nuts and lotto scratchers, upon

which would-be winners enthusiastically pounced...and some profited! Enthusiastic platitudes and grateful appreciation is extended to Linda and Wanda for all their inspiring creativity in preparing all the functions and activities in which they involve themselves. What would we do without you???

I received a timely email from Linda Gin which bears passing on. This month, cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketers. If you want to block out your number(s) for five years, do this...call this number, 888-382-1222 from your affected cell phone(s) to stop its release. Takes about twenty seconds. As you know, cell phones are charged whether you are calling or being called. Call today and block your cell numbers release. Thanks, Linda, for the tip!

Need something to do now that the weather has turned chilly? Parker Chin has secured tickets to the Hartnell College Western Stage production of "Mame", this Friday, November 13th at 8 PM. A group dinner is being planned for 6PM, before the show at AA Buffet.

Friday, November 27th, mark your calendars, Oyster Trading Company will open for business, for nine days only at 231 Main St. Don't go to the former bank across from 'First Awakenings', where the Oyster Trading Company offered exotic wares for the past eight years. The new/old place is bigger and roomier, carpeted and has more ambiance. Come and see for yourself why the Oyster Trading Company is a truly unique shopping experience.

"Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" seems an odd phrase. Yet, 'tis a delightful movie, in 3-D yet!. It's fast-paced, CGI, (computer graphic illustrated), animated for short. And totally mesmerizing. Highly recommended. Take your favorite somebody to experience this highly entertaining movie, worth every penny, even if the matinee price was \$8.00...3-D, remember. For the more sedentary, I highly recommend the book, "Hotel On the Corner of Bitter and Sweet", by Jamie Ford. Yes, he is a Chinese author and he weaves a magnificent tale of Japanese-American relationships in a realistic historical setting, as told through Chinese-American eyes. 'Nuff said.

I received a very favorable response from Aaron Wei, Minister of the Mountain View Chinese Community Church after I provided him with the October CACA newsletter. Their ping pong club and supporters recently visited Chung Wah and the Salinas club in a most memorable match, in which everyone involved was a winner. Let's hope a long-standing tradition was initiated by that occasion.

The final year-ending Chinese Golf Club tournament will be held sometime this month, probably at the Salinas Golf & Country Club.