

Chinese American Citizens Alliance  
Salinas Lodge Newsletter  
December 2009

“To be able to practice five things everywhere under heaven constitutes perfect virtue...gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.”

Confucius

Review of November meeting: Thirteen members and one guest, Leonard Han, attended the regular monthly meeting . CACA received a thank-you card from the Ballet Folklorico dancers who performed at the 57<sup>th</sup> CACA Anniversary “Mexican Fiesta” dinner. A letter from the National Steinbeck Center was received and will be explained a little later in the newsletter. 2010 membership cards and applications were received from Grand Lodge. Parker ‘Russian’ Chin submitted an article that can also be found a little later on. Financial Secretary Clara Chan submitted reports outlining recent income and expenses...the good news is that CACA finances remain in the black, not in the dark...or red even, but in the (good) black.

Approximately twenty-four diners tantalized and teased their taste buds at the AA Buffet on Friday November 13. Special treats included pigs feet and noodles. Several others joined the throng, thirty plus strong as we met at Hartnell’s Western Stage for the production of “Mame”. The lavish costumes and quick pace enthralled the audience, except for Sherman...who snoozed, again.

Discussion again prevailed regarding the possibility of changing banks for the General Fund. Albert Fong wisely suggested contacting Mai Ling Jenn of the Chinese Christian Church financial committee for further insight and advice.

An Asian ‘Relay for Life’ team received a refreshing breath of new life when Albert Fong reported he may have interested participants for it via his contacts at the Chinese Christian Church, Alisal High School Girls Tennis Team, and Salinas Valley Memorial Hospital, where Ginger, his wife, is a nurse.

The first application reading was held for aspiring CACA member Gladys Gong, and warm welcoming responses were forthcoming. The second reading and voting will occur on Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at the regular monthly CACA meeting at 7PM. All members are encouraged to attend. Sil yeh to be graciously provided by Clara Chan. In other important news, the nominations for the 2010-11 CACA Board of Officers was announced. Here are your candidates and their positions:

President:	Ira Katz	Vice President:	Linda Low
Secretary:	Candice Chin	Treasurer:	Vic Blea
Financial		Grand lodge	
Secretary;	Clara Chan	Representative:	Louis Lee & Ira Katz
Sentinel:	Stan Chan	Marshall:	Connie Katz
Collector:	Parker Chin	Auditors:	Joyce Lowe & Herb Wong

Your new webmaster and newsletter editor will be Carl Chan, with the new title of Communications Director. His email is [carl.c.chan@us.army.mil](mailto:carl.c.chan@us.army.mil). He also has a couple of other email addresses which he may prefer for newsletter contributions, but he will let everyone know which email address he prefers for your contributions.

Voting for next year's board members will be This Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at the regular CACA monthly meeting at Chung Wah. The entire CACA membership is invited to attend this and all membership meetings. Your input is valuable and needed to keep our small, but important, Chinese community alive, healthy, and vibrant!

Did you all remember to thank and/or hug a veteran on November 11<sup>th</sup>? Do you know why Veteran's Day is always on November 11<sup>th</sup>? It used to be called 'Armistice Day', signifying the time and date of the signing of the treaty ending WWI. 'The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month' was the stipulation that spawned this memorable time. Now you know, if you didn't know before.

Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> was a special day for Salinas. The Consul general of the People's Republic of China, Gao Zhansheng, first visited with Salinas Mayor, Dennis Donohue and then made a courtesy and impromptu visit to Chung Wah. About thirty people greeted the Consul General who delivered a thirty minute speech stressing the importance of the China and USA interdependence upon each other and their place in the historical, present, and future of world economics. His speech was in Mandarin and nobody at our table was able to translate. Thankfully, Miss Ping caught my eye and was able to do a masterful job of translating his speech for those of us whose Mandarin was woefully weak...and nonexistent. I do not know Ping's last name, but she can usually be found at the Chinese Club's Ping Pong gatherings on Tuesday, Friday, Sunday nights, and Thursday afternoons. Warning! Warning! She is a most formidable opponent. However, she has an infectious good nature and you won't mind being on the short end of the paddle.

The famed and fabled 'Oyster Trading Company' opened its doors to an anxiously awaiting crowd on Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. By all accounts it was a most successful semi-annual event and I can hardly wait for the next one...the week before Mother's Day, if memory serves me right.

The annual 'Parade of Lights' was held Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, and the Chinese community was well represented by Wellington Lee's design of three giant ornaments set against a backdrop of giant Christmas trees and well lit with all the lights at our disposal. The three ornaments were 'Joy', 'Peace', and 'Good Fortune', written in both Chinese and English. Excellent pizza from Mountain Mike's, thanks to Candice Chin, followed the parade's ending to thank all the volunteers who helped in the endeavor. Rumor has it that this effort was just a practice run for our entry in the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> del Como Parade and Salinas Rodeo later this year. So...yes, this is a plea...much help will be needed to create a memorable masterpiece for the Salinas Rodeo. How many years ago was it that the Chinese Community won the best float awards, three or four years in a row? Can we do it again? Maybe, with enough ideas, assistance and Chinese community participation. Interested? Contact Louis Lee for more information.

The clinging and clanging began our big day, with Wally Ahtye the start of bringing good cheer, followed by Man-Tak and Dawn Shing, that smiling dynamic duo, and Helen Gong and pal Lee Knisley, following on their heels. Russian Chin and Bill Young made young hearts sing, then newcomers David and Cheryl Larison rang in glad tidings. Flora and Byron Chong were next up to bat, followed by Carl Chan doing a solo act. Last but not least came Mona and Vic, giving Christmas (Hershey) kisses to all who pitched in. So, who am I praising, and, more importantly, why? These hardy good-deed-doers were the ones who signed up to ring the Salvation Army Kettle bell on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Just an hour of our time was all it took and there were two, not just one, tinkling bells that we enthusiastically shook.

The Chinese Golf Club held its year-end tournament at the Salinas Golf & Country Club on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Alas, I do not know who won, or even attended, because I was ensconced in float building and preparing for the Parade of Lights that day, and was unable to participate. Rumor has it that the Chinese Golf Club may disband due to lack of participating and active members.

Are you ready for Christmas? This Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, is the annual Christmas Party at Chung Wah! Starting time is 6 PM. I hope someone will write a newsletter article about this event since I will be unable to attend...will be out of town that evening. Don't forget the annual New Year's Eve Party on December 31<sup>st</sup>, starting at 8PM at Chung Wah. Tye Chin is anxious to recoup his losses from last year's event. Contact either Linda Low at 424-9290, or Wanda Lee at 758-3936 for further details.

The following is a severely edited article I received from Lorraine Lowe about her Alaskan adventure with her daughters, Leslie Cover and Becky Robinson, and granddaughter, Mackenzie, from July 3-13<sup>th</sup>. The temperature varied from the mid 70s to low 90s. The itinerary included Ketchikan, Juneau, Haines, and Victoria, B.C. Totem pole lore and dances, shopping for smoked Alaskan salmon and reindeer sausages were on the things-to-do list. The adventurous group shunned the ship's shuttle bus and opted for a 4-passenger pedicab, and had the greatest of tours through Victoria via the knowledgeable driver who was born in the Yukon and was ¼ First Nation native.

Choosing a cab over the shuttle, the enterprising group was driven back to the ship by a Sikh who had lived in Victoria for fifteen years, an interesting man. Granddaughter Kenzie also experienced at least 25-30 new things on the cruise, including escargot, rhubarb, and Baked Alaska. She also acquired a first-time pen pal, their waiter's 11 year-old Filipino daughter. A surprise speaker was Libby Riddles, the first woman to win the 1100 mile Iditarod Race in 1985. Meeting and talking with her garnered a list of her favorite mystery book authors. "I was in complete awe of the state...it's so big, beautiful, wild and raw. I loved it." Thank you, Lorraine for submitting an outstanding adventure, and I apologize for taking so long to fit it in the newsletter and having to edit it so severely.

Okay, as mentioned earlier, CACA received a letter from the National Steinbeck Center. It is currently developing several exhibitions relating to the historic and current cultures represented in Salinas Chinatown. They are requesting the loan of historical objects, ie: photo images and/or artifacts that illustrate important aspects of the represented cultures. The first exhibition is scheduled to open April 2010 and run for 12 weeks. It is hoped that community artifact loans or donations will become part of the projected Asian Cultural Museum being planned for Soledad Street. There are two people to contact if you have either questions to ask or artifacts to loan/donate. Deborah Silguero is the Curator of Exhibitions and Collections at the NSC and has over 30 years of Museum experience. She can be reached at [deborahs@steinbeck.org](mailto:deborahs@steinbeck.org) or (831) 775-4734. Lila Staples, Ph.D., is Professor of Museum Studies in Visual and Public Art at CSUMB and can be contacted at [lstaples@csumb.edu](mailto:lstaples@csumb.edu). Arrangements can be made to pick up your loan/donation and NSC is schedule to receive artifacts on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-4pm.

( I have a copy of the letter if anyone would like more information than is listed in the above article. I can be reached at [victoriano@earthlink.net](mailto:victoriano@earthlink.net) or (831) 753-9864.)

Albert Fong provided information regarding new immigrants. He met Ms. Lucee Rosemarie Fan of USCIS , (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services) at the CACA National meeting. She is a first generation Chinese. Albert was able to request two brochures called. "Welcome to the United States," a Guide for New Immigrants, in both English and Chinese. Albert has asked the leaders of Chung Wah and CACA for a place to provide the brochures in Chung Wah. Appropriate information can be found on the website, [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov).

Now here is the article from Parker Chin:

The Lodge Collector-Parker Chin-an occasional poet? Has a brief message to relate. This lodge collector has gotten the blues 'cause he hasn't received much in '09 membership dues. It's \$40 annual or \$25 for 70+ agers, plus being a 30+ year member. Can your account be cleared not past this December? Thanks brothers and sisters!

Mailing address: CACA P.O. Box 754, Salinas, 93902, or hand me your dues check at various year-end occasions we'll be attending.

Adieu, good-bye, adios, sayanara, it's off to neverland I go. It's been three years of fun, editing this newsletter, and now it's time for someone else to take the helm. I plan to submit articles from time to time, as we all should. After all, it is our newsletter. Who better to keep it alive and interesting if not us, the CACA members? I sincerely thank the regular and special contributors for their support and contributions. Movie and book reviews, dining and travel experiences, family and community news, holiday memories, cultural adventures, all these and more make fun and interesting reading. I hope I have met the three criteria set for your newsletter, being informative, enlightening and, perhaps, occasionally entertaining. 'Bye...wei coh.