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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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C.A.C.A. Peninsula Lodge Celebrates Its 47th Anniversary

San Francisco, March 26, 2018 — C.A.C.A. Peninsula Lodge has an interesting history. It started as Sunnyvale Lodge with 42 charter members and with Henry Gee at the helm as Charter President. Henry Gee had the distinction of chartering two lodges - Albuquerque Lodge in 1961 and Sunnyvale Lodge in 1971. According to Nancy Gee, Past National President and Henry Gee's daughter, the family moved from Albuquerque to California in 1968 and settled in Sunnyvale where Henry Gee continued his C.A.C.A. mission by starting Sunnyvale Lodge on March 26, 1971.

Many Sunnyvale Lodge members came from neighboring cities like Mountain View, Los Altos, Cupertino, and San Jose. "All these cities were linked together and we had members from all different cities," reminisced Nancy Gee. The Sunnyvale Lodge name presented an identity issue for some members who are not from Sunnyvale. In 1977, Sunnyvale Lodge changed its name to Peninsula Lodge. Nancy Gee recalled that the name change was spearheaded by Dr. Roger Eng Sr., one of Sunnyvale's active charter member who later became Los Altos' first Chinese-American mayor. Dr. Eng felt it would present a conflict of interest for him to be a member of Sunnyvale Lodge especially as he was slated to be the Lodge's President. He convinced Sunnyvale Lodge members to change the name of the lodge to Peninsula Lodge. The Peninsula name conveyed a broader San Francisco Bay Peninsula area that is present-day Silicon Valley. Because of the close proximity to other local lodges in the Bay area, Peninsula Lodge shared many events such as installations and anniversaries with lodges such as San Francisco, Oakland, and Salinas Lodge.

Peninsula Lodge also has the distinction of having the first woman to serve as C.A.C.A. National President. "In 1979, my dad came home from the C.A.C.A. National Convention held in Portland and told me that C.A.C.A. had changed their constitution and they now allowed women members. He handed me a membership application," recalled Nancy Gee. Eighteen years later, Nancy Gee served two terms from 1997 to 2001 as C.A.C.A.'s National President.

Current Peninsula Lodge membership has dwindled with the aging of its members. "One of my goals is to try to get everyone together to revitalize membership," said Nancy Gee.

"Congratulations to C.A.C.A. Peninsula for 47 years of history and service. Best wishes as we look forward to increased membership and renewed presence," noted C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin.

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The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.