



美洲同源總會

# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

~ National ~

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

**National Lodge**  
ESTABLISHED 1895

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: April 24, 2018**

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## **C.A.C.A. Albuquerque Lodge Celebrates Its 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

San Francisco, April 24, 2018 — C.A.C.A. Albuquerque Lodge was chartered on April 24, 1961, with 24 male members and Henry Gee as the Charter President. The charter ceremonies were conducted by Grand President George Chew of Oakland, California, assisted by Past Grand President Albert Gee of Houston Lodge and Dr. Raymond Eng, Grand Secretary, and attended by representatives from Houston Lodge and California lodges, and their wives. To increase membership in the early years, Albuquerque Lodge enrolled students from the University of New Mexico (UNM), the College of St. Joseph, and military personnel at Kirtland Air Force Base. Membership also increased when women were allowed to join C.A.C.A. in 1974.

In the 1980s, Albuquerque Lodge brought the Albuquerque Chinese School under its umbrella. Support for this move from other Chinese American organizations in the city and participation in the well-attended “Zhong Xiu, A Chinese Moon Festival” helped revitalize membership numbers. Performances at Chinese New Year celebrations and observances of Asian American/Pacific Islander Month also enhanced visibility and collaboration with other Asian American organizations and community organizations. Lodge members have been recognized for their significant contributions to their professional and community service organizations. They serve on community and museum boards, Mayor-appointed task forces, and Federal advisory councils addressing racism, literacy, education, health care, services for minorities, arts and culture, and historical preservation.

In 1989, Carolyn Hong Chan became the first female president of Albuquerque Lodge. Mrs. Chan and her husband Dr. Tony Chan had moved to Albuquerque in August 1959. After their first night in Albuquerque, they met a couple of friends they knew from Mississippi and Arkansas who invited them to dinner with Henry Gee’s family. That was their introduction to the Chinese community in Albuquerque.

To date, only two female national presidents have led the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and they have an Albuquerque connection. The first was Nancy Gee, who served as Grand President from 1997-2001. The daughter of the late Henry Gee and Eudora Gee, Ms. Gee grew up in Albuquerque before her family moved to California.

Carolyn Hong Chan, a Mississippi native and resident of Albuquerque since 1959, served as Grand President from 2009-2013. During her tenure on the National Board, Mrs. Chan spearheaded the national legislative education and advocacy team program in Washington, D.C. for 13 years. The team worked with then California Congressman Mike Honda (D-San Jose) and his staff to pass H. Res. 415 to recognize the service of Chinese Americans and other Asians in the U.S. Civil War. Mrs. Chan and Dr. Chan incubated the idea to recognize Chinese American leaders with the Spirit of America award. Albuquerque Lodge members Dr. David Hsi, Mrs. Chan (as Past National President) and Dr. Chan, have received this prestigious award, which recognizes individuals “who embody the indomitable spirit of our nation.”



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Carolyn Chan notes, “I am proud of representing C.A.C.A. on the 1882 Project’s Steering Committee, whose collaborative work among many leading Asian American organizations achieved passage of the Expressions of Regret for the Chinese Exclusion Act and recognition of contributions of Chinese Americans to America.”

Dr. Siu Wong, current president of Albuquerque Lodge is the brainchild of a project to commemorate the contributions of the Chinese Americans who came to Albuquerque and New Mexico in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her discussions with City, County and State Officials led to the decision to build a monument to commemorate a landmark civil rights case, *Territory of New Mexico v. Yee Shun* (1882), which granted the Chinese Americans the right to testify in court and have their testimony accepted. Since the project started in 2013, the monument has evolved to represent justice, equality and liberty for all people.

“Congratulations to C.A.C.A. Albuquerque for 57 years of history and service. Thank you for your community partnerships, civic involvement, focus on youth, and educating the community about Chinese American contributions to mainstream society,” commented C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin.

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1044 Stockton St.  
San Francisco, CA.

Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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.