



ALLIANCE CONNECTION

A Publication of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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- Albuquerque
- Chicago
- Greater San Gabriel Valley
- Houston
- Las Vegas
- Los Angeles
- Mississippi
- Oakland
- Orange County
- Peninsula (Santa Clara, CA)
- Phoenix
- Portland
- Salinas
- San Antonio
- San Francisco
- Seattle
- Tucson
- Washington, D.C.

Alliance Connection is a collection of news stories contributed by local lodge officers and members.

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The Chinese American Citizens Alliance is thrilled about the progress of the 1882 Project.

1882
PROJECT



An excerpt of Ted Gong's speech delivered on December 4, 2011 at an OCA event before an audience of 240 people. Ted is the vice president of the DC Lodge and a co-chair of the 1882 Project.

In the 1882 Project, I represent the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. This alliance was formed in 1895. It is one of the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States, founded very much in response to the Chinese Exclusion Laws. So, supporting the 1882 Project continues over a century of advocacy for programs that address the consequences of these laws, and that promote integration and acceptance of Chinese into the American community. The Alliance has been doing this for over 100 years.

One of the things I like to point out is that this oldest of Chinese American associations came together with the one of the youngest associations –the National Council of Chinese Americans which was organized about 4 years ago—to eventually form the 1882 Project. Later, joined by a very strong contributor and leader of the 1882 Project - past OCA National President Michael Lin, the Committee of 100 and JACL.

These are the five core organizations in the 1882 Project today. They are C.A.C.A., NCCA, OCA, Committee of 100 and JACL. Bringing these organizations together in a collaborative and complicated project is no small feat. The corporate cultures and the political/social diversity of these organizations are not insignificant. And, that is a notable characteristic of the 1882 Project. It cuts across political purposes and generations. Furthermore, it illustrates the emotional depth and generational impact of the Chinese Exclusion Laws.

Moreover, it is remarkable that so many others have readily joined the Chinese community in this common cause. First, of course, the Japanese American Citizens League, but also the American Jewish Committee, NAACP, and the Pakistan American Leadership Center. Other organizations include Asian American Center for Advancing Justice, Association of Asian American Studies, International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, and National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Regardless of political affiliation, professional orientation or ethnicity, the coming together in common cause of such a range of organizations illustrates that the issue the 1882 Project deals with, is not solely a Chinese one. It is very much one of civil rights for all Americans.

And, properly so. The question before us, really, is how did these laws (so blatantly racist and anathema to cherished American founding principles) get passed through Congress, through legal, democratic processes –not just once in 1882, but repeatedly through six decades of increasing harshness in 1882, in 1884, 1888, again in 1892, and 1902, made permanent in 1904...and not repealed until 1943.

And, when the laws were repealed, the action was done as a wartime measure. There was no acknowledgement of the harm or injustice and consequences of these laws. (cont. Page 2)

(Cont. from page 1) In fact, to get Congress to repeal the laws, Congress had to be assured that only 105 Chinese could immigrate per year after the Exclusion Laws were repealed. Tellingly, just a year earlier, the President had issued Executive Order 9066 which led to the internment of 120,000 Japanese-Americans.

For almost 150 years since the first exclusion laws, 70 years after their official repeal, Congress never acknowledged the harm and injustice of the Laws. But, last month, October 6, the Senate passed Senate Resolution 201. It was passed unanimously, a monumental historical milestone. It did three things: 1) provided an outline and narrative of the Chinese Exclusion Laws, 2) Expressed regret for the Senate's role in enacting those laws, and 3) reaffirmed its responsibility to protect the civil rights of all peoples in the U.S. regardless of their ethnicity and race.

Much credit for the passage of the resolution goes to grass roots partners of the 1882 Project. They included from Chicago area the Xilin Association which had mobilized with OCA/Chicago to make an absolutely critical visit to Representative Judy Biggert's office that got her commitment to join with Judy Chu to introduce the resolution in the House to move the 1882 Project into high gear. That was May 26, one year ago. And, from Houston, C.A.C.A. approached key Republicans and initiated a mass letter writing and email campaign on the eve of the Senate action. From New



York to Seattle, from Portland to Los Angeles and San Francisco...there were local roundtables hosted by local organizations that stirred activities to support the resolutions. And, credit has to go to the pro-bono support of the Washington law firm Covington and Burling and to the many in the firm.

Credit also has to go, of course, to the Primary Sponsor and the Lead Co-sponsor --Senators Scott Brown and Diane Feinstein. Other prominent co-sponsors (to give you a sense of the bi-partisan feelings about this resolution) were Orrin Hatch, Patty Murray, Marco Rubio, Ben Cardin, Thomas Carper, Christopher Coons, John Hoeven, and Mark Kirk. But thanks should go to all Senators because the process we took was not a vote per se, it was a process called "unanimous consent..." a procedure that allowed any one senator to object --without having to have to explain or even to reveal him/herself-- the resolution would have failed. It would have been condemned to limbo for probably years if we look at other similar legislations.

These are lessons and take-away's from the 1882 Project...We need to remember that the issue is not just about Chinese in the United States. It is about American civil rights. So, where are we now? The Senate resolution has passed. There is still the companion resolution --H. Res. 282--in the House.

My challenge to you, when you go home, is to send in your support for the resolution. Tell your representative that this resolution is important and that it should be moved out of committee and enacted. Use Pop Vox. Get five people who each should get five people. The Senate passed its resolution, it is time for the House to pass theirs. Do that, get that done, and you become part of history.

San Francisco Lodge

By Melanie Chan, President

Greetings from San Francisco Lodge!

Over the several months, we continue to support the Chinese American community especially in the current times of economic uncertainty. Our education and leadership scholarship program continues to assist students to achieve their dream of obtaining a higher education and to develop a sense of community service and leadership skills. Members of the judging panel met and judged each applicant based on academic achievement, school and community involvement and results of the interview. 18 local high school graduates each received a scholarship award.

Our Civic and Public Affairs Committee has been busy with the San Francisco November elections. With multiple Asian and Chinese American candidates for the office of Mayor, District Attorney and Sheriff, they had their work cut out for the candidate recommendations. We are proud to salute Ed Lee, the first Chinese American elected mayor of San Francisco!



At our 99th Anniversary celebration, our veterans were honored at a ceremony at the Lodge. Chinese Americans have had a history of serving in the American military since the Civil War era (1861-1865), however much of the history is not known to the public. For a fascinating history on the history of Chinese Americans in the military, visit the following website to read an article in our print newsletter: <http://copycircle.com/CACA/>

Our annual Honoring Seniors Program started with a visit to the Jackie Chan senior day care center. The seniors were presented with gifts and entertainment by our members in a sing-along. The second day of the event was a free variety show for the seniors at the Lodge. Over 300 seniors attended the show which included a ballet performance, a "Change Face" performance by Dr. Zhang Jian Dong and a performance by the Dong Yue Tai Chi group. Each senior was also given a \$5 food coupon for food at a local deli.

Chicago Lodge

By John Moy, Regional Grand Exec

The Chicago Lodge participated in the 1882 Roundtable Discussion held in Chicago on October 15th which was organized by Ted Gong, a leader of the Project. The discussion drew many diverse groups hearing and sharing voices that ensured stories of struggle and endurance under the Chinese Exclusion Laws are honored, remembered, and appreciated.



Also, the Chicago Lodge proudly participated through its members and officers in the Double Ten Parade as well as the Dinner in Chinatown. As Chicago's Chinatown celebrated Chinese Independence, this year's commemoration is additionally significant since it is the 100th Anniversary of the Wuchang Uprising of October 10, 1911, which led to the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in China and establishment of the Republic of China.



Phoenix Lodge

By Elaine Wong

The air was filled with excitement and joy as the CACA Phoenix Lodge held an Evening of Honor Dinner with our local community



in October to recognize and acknowledge several of our members who received national C.A.C.A. awards earlier this year at the biennial convention in Houston, Texas. The honorees were Dr. Pearl M. Tang, recipient of the Spirit of America Award, Justin Tai, one of six Fellows Interns, Michael K. Wong, college division recipient of the Walter U. Lum Scholarship and Rudy Yee, elected to one of 12 Grand Executive positions on the C.A.C.A. Grand Council. The spotlight was on Pearl that evening as President John H. Tang presented her with an engraved music box from the Lodge and a \$1,000 check to St. Vincent de Paul in honor of Dr. Tang, who is a long-time supporter of the St. Vincent de Paul Virginia G. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic serving the uninsured working poor. A 50/50 raffle was held during the evening and with other generous donations resulted in adding over \$2,200 to our newly established scholarship fund. We will be awarding four scholarships of \$600.00 each in May 2012.

In early November, a number of our members joined the Walk to End Alzheimer's. President John H. Tang, Richard Yee, Roberta Yee and Chris Abril rose in the wee hours of the morning to participate and support the cause and vision of a world without Alzheimer's.



Albuquerque Lodge

By Rusty Chan, President

The Albuquerque Lodge Fielded a team once again this year in the Autumn Moon Golf Tournament benefiting the Building Fund of the Asian American Cultural Center as hosted by the Asian American Association of New Mexico of which the Albuquerque Lodge is an organizational member. Sentinel Siu Wong once again was the Golf Tournament Chairperson who informed us that approximately \$28,000 was raised this year for the Building Fund. The foursome was comprised of from left to right: ABQ Lodge President Rusty Chan, Assistant Secretary Roger Billau, Member True Chan and Sam Bergamo. The tournament was held at the Ar-



royo Del Oso Golf Course. It was a great time and a worthy cause.

State Senator Tim Keller of ABQ has repeatedly called on both administrations of the

current and past Governor to heed the will of the inhabitants around the Expo (where we want to put our Asian American Cultural Center) and wrote a wonderful Op Ed piece on this very issue. The Albuquerque Lodge of the Chinese Citizens Alliance, an organizational member of the Asian American Association of New Mexico stands firmly with Senator Keller, Councilman Ray Garduno in calling for a restructuring of the management of the New Mexico State Fair, for more direct representation of the surrounding community, and denounce giving any entity a 25 year lease on the property.

The Albuquerque Lodge Celebrates 50 years! New Mexico as a State is only 100 years old next year! Having been inducted into the United States in 1912, and for 50 of those 99 years, the Albuquerque Lodge has been apart of our state's history! A Celebration is to be held on December the 5th!

Mississippi Lodge

By Shirley Kwan, Grand Rep



On September 11, 2011, the Mississippi Lodge held a meeting at the Alamatt Restaurant in Greenville to celebrate its 11th anniversary and honor the essay winners and veterans. President Helen Hong recognized the essay winners. Austin Li was recognized as the National Merit Winner of \$100. He was presented a certificate and check from the National Lodge. Alyssa Yu was awarded a certificate and a check of \$100 for being the local essay winner of the Trevina Chu Memorial Scholarship. This annual scholarship is sponsored by Jerold and Doreen Sit.

We thanked our veterans Sam Hong, Sam Yuen Jue, Hoover Lee and Bill Yee for serving our country and keeping us safe. Sam was our only World War II veteran.

We were glad to have had the opportunity to honor Sam Yuen Jue in September. I was notified in November by Grand Executive Jack Joe of Houston, TX, that his Uncle Sam Yuen Jue, who was a member of our lodge, had passed away. Mr. Jue was a faithful member of our lodge. He served on the board as Collector for several years. When he turned 90, he was issued a certificate of Resolution from the Grand Lodge for reaching that milestone during his lifetime. Because of this gesture, a formal resolution, written by Mississippi Lodge's then President Blanche Yee, was presented at the 50th Biennial Convention in Industry, CA. The resolution stated that the National Lodge should recognize members who turn 90 years old with a certificate.

In recent years, all of his family joined the C.A.C.A., Sam, his wife Susan, son Larry and his wife Lucy, and daughter Linda.



San Antonio Lodge

By Kin Yan

2011 proved to be another busy and rewarding year for the San Antonio Lodge. The highlight event for our lodge was the San Antonio Asian Festival in January 2011. Over 20 C.A.C.A. members participated in this highly anticipated event where the entire San Antonio community gathers to celebrate Asian cultures with music, dance, education, food and fun. San Antonio Lodge Vice President Kari Wirth enthusiastically led our team to prepare and sale perennial favorites such as egg rolls, wontons, rangoons, and fried rice. The proceeds of the event will be used to support San Antonio Lodge's various community service events.

In November, San Antonio Lodge President Esther Lee Wong was recognized by the San Antonio Cancer Therapy and Research Center (CTRC) for her compassionate and committed volunteer work. Sister Esther was awarded the Sondra Sugerman Cancer Care Award at a luncheon on 10 November 2011 as CTRC Volunteer of the Year for 2011. Esther's dedication to the CTRC is renown within the San Antonio community. Sister Esther's dedicated volunteer service reflects credit on herself, the Chinese Community and the C.A.C.A.



Art Contest Entries Display in Monterey Park

by Ed Gor



Grand VP Winston Wu secures space at the Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library to display most, if not all, of the winning C.A.C.A. Art Contest entries. The library itself is used extensively by the mostly Chinese and Chinese American community and has a variety of programs including citizenship, ESL classes and employment opportunity searches.

Seattle Lodge

By Ming Ming Tung Edelman, President

Seattle Lodge was chartered in March of 2011. We are happy to report that we have been active in many ways:

1. We hosted a meet and greet for a Chinese performance troupe from China who came to perform at the International Children's Festival in early June.
2. Twenty members and friend's attended the Asian Heritage Night at the Mariners game in mid August. C.A.C.A Seattle Lodge will be the prime organizer for that event in 2012 and it will be our major fundraiser.
3. We donated and participated in Bruce Lee Action Museum (BLAM) inaugural dinner in October. BLAM is slated to be located in Seattle.
4. We co-sponsored the Seattle 1882 Roundtable discussion in November with OCA Seattle and the Wing Luke Museum. We held both an adult and a youth round tables led by Ted Gong and Michael Lin. Ming-Ming led a youth group to local congressman David Reichart's office to ask for support and passage of resolution 282 in Dec.



Washington D.C. Lodge

By Alex Lee

The big event of the reporting period was the passage of the Senate Resolution by unanimous consent on October 6 to express regret for the Chinese Exclusion Laws. The effort has been compared to "threading the needle" to get approval in an amazingly fast time for Senate action of this sort. All members from all the lodges are to be congratulated for the many letters written, calls made and seminars organized.

As monumental as the Senate resolution was, Grand President Carolyn Chang rightfully observed that it was a milestone, and we must strengthen our efforts to pass the companion House resolution, H.Res. 282 as well as to build the public education programs advocated for in the 1882 Project.

DC Lodge members helped to organize a reception on November 16 at the Senate Building to mark the historic Senate approval.



Greater San Gabriel Lodge

By Bob Gin, President



Collin Lai and Dr. James Bok Wong was nominated to be one of three Honorary Grand Marshalls for the Los Angeles Chinatown Golden Dragon Parade on Saturday, January 28, 2011. Both Collin and James are members of the Los Angeles Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. They are being honor for their contribution, dedication and leadership to the Chinese Community in Los Angeles and in serving the community.

The Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge In 2011 has partnership with the City of Monterey Park Library to promote ESL and Citizenship classes in the local community by donating \$500 and continue to support C.A.C.A. Youth Leadership Program in the San Gabriel Valley.

Houston Lodge

By Linda wu, President

Houston Lodge, with the Gee Family Association, held its Annual Picnic at the Safari Texas Ranch in Rosenberg, TX on September 11th. The event drew over 100 guests enjoying Texas Bar-B-Q, and games. In addition, the lodge gathered letters of support sent to members of Congress regarding the passage of H. Res. 282 and S. Res. 201.



On September 25th, Houston Lodge was a co-sponsor of a Candidates Forum organized by the Houston 80-20 PAC for the November elections. C.A.C.A. used this opportunity to distribute 1882 Project materials and gathered letters of support.

On November 6th, Houston Lodge celebrated its 57th Anniversary at a dinner with 150 members and guests. The keynote speaker was the Honorable Adrian Garcia, Harris County Sheriff. In addition, charter member Mr. George Bo-Linn was honored for his 57 years of service. Surrounded by family and friends, George proudly revealed his secret to being 95 years young, is being an active C.A.C.A. member!

Oakland Lodge

By Richard Fong, President and Edward Yu, Grand Exec

Oakland CACA lodge had a memorable 2011. We began our year with a wonderful theme of concentrating on improving our membership. Thus, with 12 new members added through November, we are happy with our

growth. Our lodge accepted the privilege of hosting the next biennial celebration in 2013. We hope to be a great host to all our perspective attendees. The event will be packed with many great excursions and surprises. More detail will be forthcoming.

Another highlight for our lodge this year is our contribution in electing the first Chinese American female mayor in Oakland's 150-year history. Since the beginning of her campaign, our Oakland members helped by outreaching to community members at Chinatown's street fairs and senior homes, registering voters so that Asian American votes would be well represented. We were also involved in phone banking, rallying at her local debates, passing out leaflets in Chinatown, and watching polls on Election Day. Our members continue to support and work with Mayor Jean Quan to serve our community.

C.A.C.A. Oakland continues to support the community with activities such as Lunches for Seniors, Oakland Police Appreciation Day, Christmas Toys for Asian Immigrant Women, and support for Veterans. We will celebrate our 100 anniversary at Peony Restaurant, Oakland, on June 10, 2012. We wish all our brothers and sisters a joyful and wonderful holiday season.



Los Angeles Lodge

By Rick Eng

3 Bills Become California Law

Using an analogous expression from the world of athletics, "grand slam" would be apt to describe the legislative victories for 49th District Assembly Member Mike Eng (DMonterey Park). California Governor Jerry Brown appended his signature to hundreds of pieces of legislation over the weekend of October 8-9, 2011, including three Assembly Bills architected by Assemblymember Eng, a member of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1088 creates legislation that requires key state agencies to collect and post information about job programs participation and employment and housing discrimination faced by Asian and Pacific Islander ethnicities.

Assembly Bill 1156 aims to decrease incidents of bullying on California school campuses in a comprehensive and effective manner by expanding the definition of bullying and linking it to academic achievement, and strengthening policies and procedures to help combat bullying with the training of school site personnel. Authored by Assemblymember Eng and sponsored by the California State Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Ideas for both AB1088 and AB1156 were Resolutions (12, 16/33) of the Grand Council recently passed at the 51st Convention.



Assembly Bill 189 empowers parents and community members to advocate for the protection of education programs important to them, as local boards consider making deeper cuts or closing entire programs. "Categorical programs provide valuable education to prepare both adults and high school students for the workforce," said Assemblymember Eng.

Portland Lodge

By Helen L. Ying, GVP-Communications

First and foremost, the Portland Lodge would like to thank members of the Alliance from around the country for your generous support for **The Garden of Surging Waves**. Together, the Alliance raised over \$4,000 to support the Garden. This project is the city of Astoria's bicentennial legacy gift as this north coast city marks

the 200th anniversary of its founding (1811-2011). As stated on its website, the Garden will serve as a reminder not only of Chinese contributions to Astoria and the Pacific Northwest, but to Oregon's early ties to China that were first developed in the days of John Jacob Astor, and have flourished over the last 200 years.

In support of the 1882 Project, the Portland Lodge organized a successful program on November 5 to build awareness at the local level. Over 40 people were present at the Round Table. The Project's leadership, including co-chairs of the project Michael Lin and Ted Gong from Washington DC, and Dr. Paul Leung of the C.A.C.A. Portland Lodge, presented historic background of the discriminatory laws and indignities directed at the Chinese by local, state and federal governments. Several local and regional social justice advocates were at the Round Table, including Gregory Nokes, author of **Massacred for Gold, The Chinese in Hells Canyon** and Stephen Ying of the Oregon Commission on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs. The outreach for the Round Table connected us for a presentation at the Annual World Affairs Council of Oregon Youth Forum. Helen Ying and Betty Jean Lee shared about the Project using their family stories as the back drop for 30 middle school students and staff representing school in the outlining areas of the Portland region. We also had an information table in their Info Fair and Market. Both presentations were very well received by the participants.

