



## Chinese American Citizens Alliance Albuquerque Lodge

<http://CACAABQ.ORG>

March 2016

### A message from Siu G. Wong

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Chinese American Citizens Alliance Albuquerque Lodge (CACA ABQ) President in 2016. I am very proud to be the president. Established in 1895, CACA is the *oldest* Asian civil rights organization in the United States. It has a very storied history (see *A Short History of Chinese American Citizens Alliance* in this newsletter) which I will sum up by saying “many of the civil rights and privileges we enjoy today as Chinese Americans and people of color are directly attributed to our former CACA membership - leaders and the ‘regular’ members.”

As many members know, we have a number of continuing programs at the local level, including an essay contest, a biennial art contest, merit scholarship awards, a membership picnic, parties and a newly minted monthly speaker series. These programs are affiliated with the National CACA whose charge is to monitor political and civil rights issue pertinent to the mission of CACA.

With the help of the membership and our officers, the CACA ABQ plans to initiate the following programs over the next few years:

Asian American Chamber of Commerce  
Cooking/Tasting event  
Museum exhibit

NM Asian American film festival  
Educational activities/Events  
Historic preservation & social justice

Many of these initiatives will be in collaboration with other organizations. Preliminary meetings have already occurred with the New Mexico Chinese Association, the Association of Chinese-American Engineers and Scientists of New Mexico, Artful Life, Jewish Federation of New Mexico, UNM Maxwell Museum, Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, and others. At this time, Francis Chang will be the lead on the Asian American Chamber of Commerce, Helen Leung is in charge of the Cooking/Tasting event, Carolyn Chan and Fay Yao are co-chairs of Educational Activities and I am the lead on Historic Preservation and Social Justice and Museum Exhibits. At this time many of these are one-person committees and I invite you to join one of these committees today! Most of these committees do not yet have set guidelines, so this is your opportunity to create memorable initiatives to meet the needs of our community.

Please take a few minutes to read *A Short History of Chinese American Citizens Alliance* in this newsletter and feel proud to know you are part of an organization that has helped to define and contribute to the educational, social, economic, political and judicial fabric of this nation.

### CACA ABQ

#### Board of Directors

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CACA ABQ needs a

**Webmaster**

**ASAP!**

**If interested,  
contact Siu G. Wong:**

president@  
cacaabq.org

505-293-7347

## The 2016 Speaker Series

This free series organized by Fay Yao is held on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10am to 12:00 noon at North Domingo Baca Multigenerational Center, 7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque. Each 30 minute talk is followed by ten minutes of Q&A and a light lunch. Our inspiring speakers from the Chinese American community share personal accomplishments, and perspectives from world travel, philosophical pursuits and fields of research. Events (\*marked with an asterisk) are listed on the right. Please join us!

## Chinese New Year Banquet

On Feb. 7, 2016 we celebrated the Year of the Monkey. The sold-out crowd enjoyed a fantastic six course meal which will bring all attendees good luck, prosperity and long life! Entertainment was provided by our Chinese dance troupe and lion dancers. Our Lodge installed its 2016 officers and held a raffle to raise funds for our scholarship program. Past President Rusty Chan was presented a plaque for his years of outstanding service as President of our local lodge. National Representative Fay Yao was awarded the Spirit of New Mexico Award for her years of dedicated service and contributions. Congratulations to all!



Past Grand Pres. Carolyn Chan presenting a plaque to Lodge Past President Rusty Chan



Past Pres. Rusty Chan presenting the Spirit of NM Award to Fay Yao



Past Grand Pres. Carolyn Chan installing officers. Front: William Kwan, Makayla Dee, Linda Louie, Helen Leung, Fay Yao. Back: Thomas Wong, Steven Lee, Rusty Chan, Nina Stephenson

## Upcoming in 2016

### \* Speaker Series

See article on left for Speaker Series venue/time. *Speaker Series events are subject to change.*

\* **Mar. 26** Dr. Dora Wang, Managing Anxiety for a Happier Healthier Life.

\* **April 23** Zhi-Bin Hong, Hidden Struggles Impacting Local Asian Communities.

**May 1** Asian American Association Asian Festival, 11am-4pm, NM Veterans Memorial Park, 1100 Louisiana Blvd SE.

**May 1-5** CACA National Legislative Education Trip to Washington DC.

**May 2-10** Citizen Min in NM (Mr. Min is a Presidential Medal of Freedom awardee). See article in this issue; contact Dr. Louis for info, louisnikiki9@gmail.com.

\* **May 28** Dr. Ely Yao, Human Migration.

**May 29** CACA Memorial Day Membership Picnic, 3400 Moon St NE, 12:30-3pm.

**June 24-26** CACA Youth Leadership Council Conference, Houston (see article in this newsletter)

\* **June 25** Lawrence Leung, An American Student in China.

**Dec. 11** Holiday Party, 5-8pm, Los Altos Christian Church, 11900 Haines NE.



## Chinese Ceramics Exhibit Opening April 8, 2016, Maxwell Museum, UNM

At 6:00 P.M. on Friday April 8, the Maxwell Museum will host a public reception for a new exhibit, "Earth, Fire, and Life: Six Thousand Years of Chinese Ceramics." The exhibit will feature more than 100 examples of Chinese ceramic art, ranging in age from Neolithic (early farming villages) through the imperial and modern periods. The exhibit will continue through early 2017.

You can already see the collection at <http://www.unm.edu/~toh/china/>. That online exhibit is being built in public, and includes a way to submit comments on the pieces. If you're familiar with Chinese ceramics, you can contribute to the content of the online exhibit.

The principal goal of the gallery exhibit is to stress the time depth and importance of China's traditions, including China's artistic contributions to the world. The museum also hopes to improve public understanding of the historical connections between China and New Mexico. For that reason, the upcoming exhibit will also feature historical photographs of New Mexico's Chinese-Americans.

The April 8 opening is the kickoff event for a series of programs featuring China and Chinese-Americans, including public talks, additional exhibits, and traveling kits for use in Albuquerque's public schools. The Museum will work with C.A.C.A. as it develops the additional programs.

You are invited to the reception on April 8! The Maxwell Museum is on the UNM main campus, on Redondo Drive just north of Martin Luther King. For more information, please visit the museum's web site, <http://www.unm.edu/~maxwell/> or call the museum at (505) 277-4405.

*Dave Phillips, interim director, Maxwell Museum*

Photos by B. Bernard, courtesy Maxwell Museum



Han Dynasty, (202 BCE–220 CE)



Qing dynasty, A.D. 1700s

### Donations sought for resource kit

CACA is collaborating with the Museum to provide educational programs to students across New Mexico. While still in the developmental stage, the programs, per CACA's Carolyn Chan and Fay Yao, will cover basic history, festivals, celebrations, arts and crafts, and hands-on activities (such as demonstrations of Chinese calligraphy, ink grinding, name translation, and paper folding). Such activities are more appropriate for the elementary grades, while more historical and debatable issues can be added for middle-school and high school students. Sessions can be recorded and shared on YouTube and also made available in a resource kit.

#### Educational resource kit being assembled

The Museum is collecting items for the resource kit. There is a small budget to purchase these items but please consider donating objects on the list. They should be in good or new condition as the kit will receive heavy use. If you would like to donate, or have questions, please contact Amy Grochowski, Curator of Education Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131 505-277-2924, [amygro@unm.edu](mailto:amygro@unm.edu). All materials should be donated by mid-May, 2016.

#### The following items are needed for the resource kit:

- ◇ Pottery tea set
- ◇ Zodiac calendar
- ◇ Musical instruments: Erhu and Pipa
- ◇ Shadow puppets
- ◇ Historical & contemporary photographs
- ◇ Scrolls
- ◇ Calligraphy supplies (brushes, ink, paper)
- ◇ Umbrella
- ◇ Feather fan
- ◇ Silk fabric
- ◇ Mah jong set
- ◇ Toys: Yo Bell, Dragon Kite
- ◇ Books and other media
- ◇ Bronze piece and coins
- ◇ Plastic storage trunks

## Plaque will honor Chinese pioneers in Albuquerque and New Mexico

Did you know that one of the first people of Chinese descent in Albuquerque worked for the infamous Lizzie McGrath, a local madam with a very successful business? His name was Joe Kee and he was a cook and errand runner for McGrath in 1867.

Did you know that between 1891-1913 within a radius of a few blocks from the downtown intersection of 2nd and Silver there were thriving Chinese American businesses, including laundries, restaurants and a store?

To commemorate these Chinese pioneers who helped to settle and build Albuquerque and the Southwest, a plaque will be placed on the Imperial Building at 2nd and Silver. This new 23,000 sq. four-story building houses a grocery store, offices and retail spaces.

Stay tuned for the grand opening and dedication of the plaque which should be held in August, 2016. Come and celebrate with us as we honor those courageous pioneers!

*This will be the text on the plaque:*

### HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY CHINESE PIONEERS IN ALBUQUERQUE

This plaque is dedicated to the memory of the Chinese Americans who came to Albuquerque to help build and settle this frontier town. With the arrival of the railroad in 1880, the City prospered and attracted Chinese pioneers. Chinese Americans worked in mining and railroads and as small business owners of restaurants, stores and laundries, which contributed to the economic and social development of this high desert town. The majority of the Chinese Americans worked and lived on Silver/Gold and 2nd Streets.

The Chinese characters for Hope and Opportunity symbolize the Chinese Americans' spirit in coming to America to begin their pursuit of the American

## Asian American Chamber of Commerce

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance Albuquerque Lodge will partner with the Asian American Association of New Mexico to develop the first Asian American Chamber of Commerce in Albuquerque. Francis Chang is the chair of this joint initiative. On March 2, 2106, we had a preliminary organizational meeting with the CEO of InvestUS, the Regional Center for the EB-5 program. Huan Yu provided an excellent lecture on the EB-5 Program at our January Speaker series. Mr. Chang will be preparing a Mission Statement for the Chamber of Commerce. If you are interested in being on this committee, please contact Siu G. Wong (president@cacaabq.org, 505-293-7347) or Mr. Chang (kifunchang@gmail.com). More details will follow as this initiative gets underway.



## CACA Youth Leadership Council Conference

The annual YLC Conference for high school youth will be held June 24-26, 2016 at Rice University in Houston. Early registration begins soon. Watch your email for information about CACA sponsored student opportunities. Read about YLC at: <http://www.ylc.net>.





## **A Short History of Chinese American Citizens Alliance**

*strengthening our nation and empowering our communities since 1895*

**Formed in 1895 as the Native Sons of the Golden State, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance promotes American citizenship, community service and leadership. For over a century, it has fought racial discrimination, defended civil rights, opposed anti-immigrant movements, and addressed the suppression of Chinese culture throughout the United States at all levels of society and in every sector of the economy.**

Chinese Americans born in the U.S. founded the Native Sons of the Golden State during an era when Chinese Exclusion Laws prohibited earlier and newly arrived Chinese immigrants from obtaining citizenship. The founders --defined by their American birthright and common Chinese ancestry-- sought self-improvement through group exercise of body, mind and spirit expressed in physical exercise, study and intellectual interaction. Self-improvement remains fundamental to the organization today. In 1895, that principle --to fulfill an individual's potential by embracing their American citizenship and its responsibilities-- made the Native Sons a unique membership organization among other Chinese organizations in America, almost all of which were then defined by traditional family and old country regional loyalties.

Through their English fluency and understanding of American customs and access into political circles that citizenship provided, members assumed leadership roles for Chinese Americans. Alliance members interceded on behalf of individuals trying to deal with harsh anti-Chinese laws and policies, but they also urged the community to engage fully in the society around them and to carry out the responsibilities of American citizenship, particularly to exercise the right to vote.

This vision of civic leadership and public service to address nativist exclusion of Chinese in America guided the pivotal leadership of Walter U. Lum, who oversaw the Alliance expansion during its formative first two decades of the twentieth century. In 1912, a second lodge was established in Los Angeles, then Oakland, and others followed. A realization grew that larger, more national and united memberships meant stronger influence in public affairs. The first convention of these united lodges was held after the establishment of the LA Lodge. Five years later, a Chicago Lodge was established. In 1927, the Native Sons became the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, with its national headquarters in San Francisco. Today, there are 19 lodges stretching across the United States.

The network of lodges sought to develop political and economic capabilities for which information was understood to be empowering. In 1924, the Alliance began publishing *The Chinese Times* --the first daily national Chinese language newspaper in North America. For over sixty years *The Chinese Times* provided news and analysis of national issues to an integrating Chinese American population. At the same time, the Alliance addressed a core concern for community welfare by operating a death benefits insurance program during over two decades when Chinese Americans could not access such benefits because of racial discrimination. This was the same discrimination that kept families from being united because of anti-Chinese immigration and nationality laws.

During World War II, the Alliance supported the 1943 repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, carefully avoiding continued anti-Asian sentiments in Congress. It then actively campaigned for family reunification in the immigration laws, starting with Chinese spouses under the War Brides Act. Chinese spouses of U.S. servicemen could not benefit from the original War Brides Act because of residual anti-Chinese limitations, but the Alliance campaigned to lift the limitations in 1946 and continued to advocate for additional family provisions. This continuous effort required substantial national fundraising and legal talent but the determined effort thrust the Alliance onto the national stage. Membership soared and its legacy in Asian American history was secured.

Sadly, the effort was too late and too little for several generations of Chinese Americans who had endured for decades in bachelor communities prior to the Alliance's efforts. Their population diminished quietly. But the social and political activism of the Sixties would lead into the Civil Rights Movement and eventually to the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act. This Act denounced race as a qualifying criteria and removed national origin quotas as a basis for immigration. The Act made possible large-scale immigration of families from China to finally begin to set right the population imbalances caused by decades of racist exclusion laws.



World War II marked a turning point in many ways. Mainstream American attitudes toward Chinese Americans changed in view of the bravery and unstinting service demonstrated in war zones and home fronts. Chinese American confidence grew as well, and opportunities expanded. Veterans came home to start families once limited because of exclusion laws, attend schools previously inaccessible and take up jobs that had been restricted. They now dared to settle and work anywhere in the country, albeit still in the face of racism in many places.

During the period after the war into the 1950's, new lodges formed in the Sunbelt states and rural communities. A lodge was chartered in Salinas. Houston and San Antonio followed. Membership was expanding socially as well, with full membership now extended to immigrant residents and women. Within another decade, its diversity broadened further, fed by new immigration from Taiwan and North China and other countries including Vietnam. Membership became much more diverse than when the Alliance was formed almost exclusively by Cantonese speakers from the Pearl River Delta and their descendants.

Reflecting this diversity, each lodge has its own priorities and operating style. For example, the Albuquerque lodge focuses on pan Asian cultural festivals and educational outreach with museums and libraries, while Mississippi is working on an historical museum and Houston sponsors youth education programs and an annual beauty pageant. Oakland focuses on community service and veterans affairs while San Francisco emphasizes voter education, youth, and social activities. Los Angeles is active in public policy and Portland and Seattle promote the rejuvenation of Chinatown, park memorials and State funding of educational programs.

Under the guidance of the National Lodge, members still take on issues that affect the rights and welfare of Chinese Americans nationally. The Alliance argues for immigration reforms that keep family reunification a central feature. Assuring voting rights and promoting political participation at all levels of government remain cornerstones for the Alliance. Fighting hate crimes and stereotypes is another core objective, illustrated by Alliance involvement in calls for the Department of Justice to investigate profiling in FBI arrest cases, for fair treatment for Captain Jim Wang, for justice over the Vincent Chin killing, and protesting the harsh treatment of Dr. Wen Ho Lee. The Alliance joined with other Asian American organizations to engage with ABC over insensitive programming and deficient coverage of Asian American news after the Jimmy Kimmel Show's controversial airing of "kill the Chinese" remarks.

Furthering American patriotism remains a corner stone for the Alliance. It continues to honor those who served in the armed forces, and strongly supports veterans' rights and benefits. In 2008, the Alliance successfully championed the passage of House Resolution 415, recognizing the loyal service of Chinese and Asian Americans in the Civil War. It continues to advocate for a Medal of Honor for Korean War hero Major Kurt Lee and supports the Veterans Oral History Project of the Library of Congress. In appreciation of the community's heritage, a Spirit of America award, begun in 2003, honors public service and Chinese American role models.

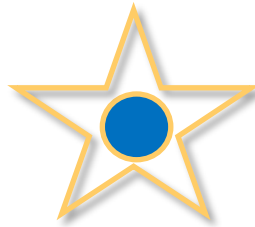
In 2011 and 2012, the Alliance led a coalition of Asian American national organizations in a grass roots campaign that obtained unanimous Congressional resolutions denouncing the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act and affirming Congress's responsibility to protect civil rights for all Americans. The Alliance actively supports efforts to preserve the history of the Chinese in America and seeks more public funding for commemorative sites and monuments. It assisted the Department of Labor induct Chinese Railroad Workers onto its Wall of Honor in 2014 and partners with the 1882 Foundation to reform curriculum and develop lesson plans in states and school districts.

Viewing the future, the Alliance has made expanding youth and young adult leadership programs an official Alliance National Project. These programs include the annual essay contest, biennial art contest, several varieties of scholarships, the Asian American Students In Action workshop and conference, and the youth clubs of the local lodges. A Youth Leadership Endowment Fund supports and develops these programs.

The Alliance stretches from coast to coast with its newest lodge opened in Boston in 2014 and a national membership exceeding 2,000. The National Lodge continues to confront national issues and assist lodges in their regional activities. The principles and goals set down by the Alliance founders in 1895 -- to strive for self-improvement as individuals within an empowering fraternal network that performs valuable community service and provides civic leadership -- remain strongly relevant today.

([www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org); ShortHistoryofChineseAmericanCitizensAlliance/ Re-Drafted: TKG/2/20/2016)

## Citizen Min in New Mexico



In 1942, a twenty-five year old lawyer walks the streets of Portland, Oregon for three hours trying to get arrested for breaking a curfew against Japanese Americans. Finally, he marches to the police headquarters and insists - thus initiating a test case against the military orders that lead to the forced removal of all Japanese American from the West Coast and imprisonment in camps.

Min Yasui awaits 9 months in solitary confinement as his case makes its way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, which rules against him. Upon his release, he continues fight for the human and civil rights of all people, not just Japanese Americans, but all ethnic and religious minorities, people of all ages and walks of life.



In 1983, he re-opens his wartime case and is a vociferous and eloquent leader in the redress movement seeking an official apology and reparations for World War II injustices suffered by Japanese Americans. Some call him the Martin Luther King of the Japanese American community. After he speaks at a gathering in New Mexico, conservative Republican Pete Dominici is moved to throw away his prepared remarks and pledges to support the redress legislation, which he previously opposed.



In 2015, Min Yasui is posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the country. Says President Barak Obama: "Today Min's legacy has never been more important. It is a call to our national conscience, a reminder of our enduring obligation to be the land of the free, and the home of the brave ..."

Available May 2-10 in your community

### **CITIZEN MIN IN NEW MEXICO**

*a presentation by his daughter, Holly Yasui*

**"Never Give Up: Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice"** a film-in-progress about Min Yasui  
Live readings from Holly's play, **"Citizen Min"**  
**Living history stories** of Min's activities in New Mexico and audience **Talk-back**



This program is funded by the **NEW MEXICO HUMANITIES COUNCIL**  
It is free of charge and open to the public

For a presentation in your community  
Contact: **Dr. Nikki Louis, Humanities Scholar**  
**[louisnikki9@gmail.com](mailto:louisnikki9@gmail.com), 206-877-3931**

supported by the  
**MINORU YASUI**   
Tribute Project



## 2016 National Essay Contest

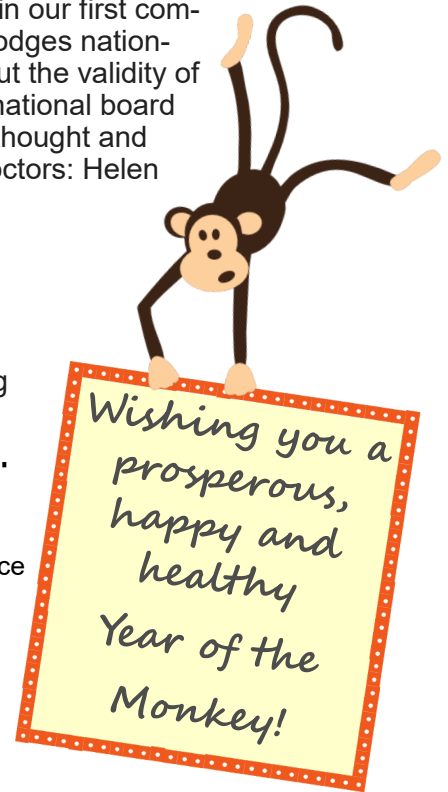
On March 5<sup>th</sup>, eight local contestants from various high schools competed in our first computer enabled Essay Contest, vying with contestants from eighteen other lodges nationwide for cash scholarship ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. The topic was about the validity of affirmative action as applied to college and university admission policy. A national board of judges will determine the winning essays based on originality, clarity of thought and expression. Results will be announced by May 31, 2016. Our thanks to proctors: Helen Leung, Ely Yao, and Contest Chairperson Fay Yao for a successful event.

## Welcome to our New Members!

Kim Ong  
Annie Fu  
Julia W So

Mary Tang  
Shiow-Ching Hou  
Lawrence Leung

Az Yuan Liu  
Francis & Susie Chang  
Mandy Burke



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- 2016 National Essay Contest
- Welcome to our new members!

*From*

Chinese American Citizens Alliance  
c/o Linda Louie  
2212 Ravenwood Lane, NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87107

*To*