



**Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge
The Piazza – January-February, 2019**

The Piazza Begins Publishing as an Independent Newsletter

This is the first issue of The Piazza as a stand-alone newsletter which will be published every two months, at this stage.

The bi-monthly newsletter will be distributed as an electronic PDF file to our members in good standing. A hardcopy will be mailed by post only to those members who are not equipped to receive and read it online. If there is an absolute need for you to receive a hardcopy, please contact the Newsletter Chair Charles Mau, (626)215-9692 or takmau888@gmail.com.

The reason for this change is twofold: (1) The rising printing cost that rapidly approaches half of the annual membership dues necessitates the move to electronic distribution and posting on our Lodge website. (2) Over the last two decades, our Lodge has grown to a state that it is time to have its own newsletter with adequate space to add a forum section where members can express their views and opinions on current issues of concern to the Chinese American communities, both local and national.

At this point, the Piazza will be published around the middle of the two month period of coverage. This is in a sense an ongoing experiment that will settle into a steady format in about half a year.

For the Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge, 2018 is a Memorable Year

The year 2018 has been a year of abundant harvests for the Chinese American community. First, World War II veterans of Chinese descent were honored for their selfless service with the signing into law of the joint Congressional Bill, the Chinese American WWII Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act. Second, the launching of the “Harmony Through Union” Float in the Tournament of Roses Parade was a historical first for the Chinese Americans paying tribute to their railroad worker ancestors who played a pivotal role in the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad 150 years ago. The GSGV Lodge is proud to have contributed significantly to these endeavors.

Commemoration of 75th Anniversary of Chinese Exclusion Repeal (Magnusson) Act

December 17, 2018 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Magnusson Act that repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Notwithstanding other persisting discriminatory laws against the Chinese, this Act effectively started the loosening of restrictive laws on the Chinese in America, allowing them to become US citizens and to bring in their spouses and family members from overseas to settle in the United States. Rights for all Americans that were denied them for 61 years were finally restored to them gradually. Total “liberation” of the Chinese would have to wait until the Immigration and Nationality Act was signed into law in 1965.



At MP City Council, from left: Sam Gee (VP), Charles Mau (PP), Stephen Lam (Councilman), Shirley Hwong, Cecilia Huynh, Sharon Wong (President), Peter Chan (Mayor), Hans Liang (Councilman), John Wong (PP)

At the urging of GSGV Lodge, the City Councils of Monterey Park and Rosemead, both in San Gabriel Valley, respectively proclaimed December 17, 2018 to be the Day of Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act. In Monterey Park, Mayor Peter Chan, a GSGV Lodge founding member, submitted the resolution that was passed unanimously at the council meeting on Nov. 21, 2018. A Proclamation was presented to the GSGV Lodge at a special council session on January 15, 2019.



President Sharon Wong and PP Charles Mau holding proclamation at MP City Council

In Rosemead, a similar resolution was introduced by Councilmember Polly Low, an LA Lodge member, and was passed at the Nov. 27, 2018 City Council meeting. The proclamation from the City of Rosemead cited, in addition, “Chinese Americans have contributed

substantially to the strength of our city and nation in government, culture, business, education, science, and all fields, and have defended the nation in all wars and from all threats.” Many thanks are due these two cities for standing by with the Chinese in America.



C.A.C.A. members at Rosemead City Council, after passing of Magnusson Act Proclamation. L1: Peter Chan, L2: Councilwoman Polly Low, L3: Hollie Luong, L4: Qiang Bjornbak, L5: Mayor Steven Ly, L6: Charles Mau, L7: Stephen Lam.

Lodge Relishes Signing into Law of the WWII Chinese American Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act

While our Lodge members were celebrating the signing of this Act into law by the President, we thanked the relentless efforts of members of the C.A.C.A. lodges under the leadership of PNP Ed Gor, during the various stages of getting the legislation passed in Congress. Our Lodge is especially proud of the work of Past Presidents John Wong and John Gee, and Sister Betty Tom Chu in getting the “ball rolling” through their access to their friend Rep. Ed Royce (who introduced the House Bill in 2017), drafting the legislation text, walking the corridors and visiting lawmakers’ offices during May, 2017, and giving it a final push to achieve a super-majority House co-sponsorship, shortly before the floor vote in late November last year. They together with PNP Ed Gor appeared in in-depth interviews with the local iCITI Chinese-language TV Channel to talk about their experience on behalf of the Chinese communities.



C.A.C.A. PNP Ed Gor and GSGV Lodge PP John Y. Wong with iCITI TV Station interviewer Mr. Chao.



At iCITI TV Station, from left: John Wong (GSGV), Betty Tom Chu (OC Lodge), past CA Assemblywoman Young Kim, Mr. Chao (iCITI TV), and Mark Ang (OC Lodge).

Lodge Threw Strong Support behind “Harmony Through Union” Rose Parade Float

In the Nov. 12 Lodge meeting, members voted unanimously for the Lodge to contribute \$2000 to the “Harmony Through Union” Float project, spearheaded by the Chinese American Heritage Foundation under the leadership of Esther and Wilson Lee of Boston Lodge. Together with generous donations from other Lodge members (Margaret Leung, Paul Wong, Charles Mau, and Andrew Sit), a total of \$4200 was collected for the project. Many of our Lodge members were also enthusiastic in lending a helping hand to decorate the Float during the holidays when they could have been enjoying less strenuous activities with family and friends. Several even attended more than one half-day shift at the Fiesta Parade Floats warehouse in Irwindale. For many of them, it has been a first-time, once-in-a-lifetime and extremely rewarding experience.



Lodge Treasurer-elect Jason Dhing (Standing right) and family and friends at the Irwindale site with Wilson and Esther Lee (holding poster) of CAHF and Boston Lodge.



Julie Wong (L) and Cecilia Huynh gluing plant seeds onto engine wheel parts, with welder working on CAHF Float in background.



Volunteers from LA and GSGV Lodges with friends at the Irwindale site, with "Harmony Through Union" Float in the background. Esther Lee, President of CAHF, sits on the left.

GSGV Lodge Holds New Year's Eve Luncheon

On December 31, our Lodge hosted a Dim Sum luncheon for all of the out-of-town C.A.C.A. members who came to So Cal to help prepare the Float and witness the Rose Parade. They included NP Davace Chin, PNP Ed Gor, NVP Membership Kin Hui, Esther and Wilson Lee and many members from Boston Lodge including General William Chen, and their spouses. LA Lodge President Rick Eng, members of his Lodge, and several GSGV Lodge Board Officers, past presidents, and members were also present. It was effectively a mini-national C.A.C.A. get-together occupying three big tables celebrating the recent history-making achievements by the Chinese American Communities, and exchanging holidays' greetings. Everyone had a fabulous time.

2019 Lodge Board Officers and Associates Sworn In

In the January Lodge dinner/meeting, the GSGV Lodge Officers and Associates for 2019 were installed in a solemn ceremony officiated by Past National President Dr. Munson Kwok. In his short speech, he praised the Lodge for the unique roles it played in memorable campaigns within C.A.C.A., such as initiating the seeking of Congressional Apology for Enactment of the



At 12/31 Luncheon. Sitting from left: Ai Cheng, Esther Lee, Saykin Foo, Norman & Sophie Wong, John Wong, Kin Hui, Ed Gor, Pedro Chan; Standing from left: Float helper, Macklin Lee, Wilson Lee, Charles Mau, David Lee, Pek Chan, Margaret Lee, Rick & Becky (from Ventura County), Davace Chin, Sharon Wong, David Yuen, Lisa Yang, William & Sandra Chen, Maureen Hui.

Chinese Exclusion Act, and initiating, bill text drafting and lobbying to pass the WWII Chinese Veterans Congressional Gold Medal Act. He also reminded us of



Dr. Munson Kwok Swearing in Sharon Wong as President.

the special meaning of Sam Gee being elected as our Vice President, and the Gee family's history of contributions to C.A.C.A.

In her installation speech, President Sharon Wong thanked the previous

administration for their good work, and appointed chairs and members to the various committees. IPP Charles Mau accepted a plaque from MC John Wong, that recognizes his "Outstanding Leadership and Dedicated Services" to the GSGV Lodge as 2017-2018 President.



PNP Munson Kwok Swearing in Sam Gee as VP.



Lodge Officers, Associates & Past Presidents, after Installation. Sitting from Left: Charles Mau, Munson Kwok, Sharon Wong, Sam Gee, John Wong, Paul Wong, Winston Wu; Standing from Left: Mary Wong, David Lau, Hollie Luong, Andrew Sit, Margaret Leung, Alice Mah, Scott Kwong, Valerie Lee, Jack Orswell, Paul Perez, Jason Dhing, Craig Miller, Cecilia Huynh, Dean Ng, Pek Chan.

Induction of New Lodge Members Nancy Kwan and Cindy Yee



From Left: Sharon Wong, Cindy Yee, and a community activist, and highly recommended by Shirley Hwong, was readmitted to the Lodge and also sworn in by Charles Mau. Nancy and Cindy, welcome to the C.A.C.A.-GSGV Lodge!

Registration Information for C.A.C.A. 55th Biennial National Convention in Boston, July 2-7

For those members who plan to attend, you need to complete an application form and mail it back to C.A.C.A. Boston Lodge, 85 Valentine St., West Newton, MA 02465. This form has been mailed to members. Registration fee is \$400 before 2/28, \$500 before 5/31 and \$600 after 6/1. Boston Park Plaza Hotel is the official convention hotel, meetings will be held at Park Plaza. Superior room rate for C.A.C.A. members, families and friends is \$179 plus tax per night. The hotel also guarantees the \$179 Superior room rate 3 days before and 3 days after the Convention. The link for room registration at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel is <https://bostonparkplaza.reztrip.com/ext/promoRate?property=100&mode=b&pm=true&sr=410646&vr=3&accessCode=BOS27>.

For GSGV Lodge, Sharon Wong and Scott Kwong are the designated delegates to attend the Convention. Also slated to attend are John Wong (National Rep), and Paul Wong and Charles Mau as National Board members.

GSGV Lodge had a Fabulous Holidays Dinner Party!

As a tradition, the holiday season of 2018 took us back to La Vie French Restaurant in Rosemead. This time, we had the biggest attendance—all 58 guests who signed up showed up at the party. Our surprise guests turned out to be Davace Chin, National President, and Executive Vice President Melanie Chan. Thanks to the Kwoks and LA Lodge President Rick Eng for making

the secret arrangement and for pulling this off so perfectly, and making our Lodge feel so stunned and yet very honored. Other distinguished guests were Past National Presidents Munson Kwok and Saykin Foo, and former Monterey Park Mayor Betty Tom Chu. Also from the Boston Lodge were Wilson and Esther Lee. Quite a few members from LA and OC Lodges joined in the fun, good conversations, French cuisine, local wine, gift exchange, and singing of Christmas carols. Thanks are due for President-Elect Sharon Wong for coordinating everything to make the Party such a success, and to everyone else who gave a helping hand.



Sitting from R: National President Davace Chin, EVP Melanie Chan, Charles Mau, Esther Lee; Standing from R: Rick Eng, Lisa Yang, Wilson Lee, Betty Tom Chu, John Wong, Munson Kwok, Saykin Foo.



Christmas Carol Singing, from left: Charles Mau, Suellen Cheng, Tammy Mau, Pek Chan, Lisa Yang, Wilson Lee, Sophie Wong, Angela Lai



From left: Margaret Leung, Carol Sullivan, Jason Dhing, Jack & Janet Orswell, Joey & David Ono.



From Left: Sharon Wong, Scott Kwong and his family, and Betty Yow (sitting on right).