



**Chinese American Citizens Alliance
Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge**

The Piazza – May - June, 2019

<http://www.cacagreatersangabrielvalley.org>

Vol. 1 Issue 3

GSGV Lodge Members Attended Golden Spike 150 Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah

Three members of our Lodge, Lisa Yang, Qiang Bjornbak, and Jessica Mei, attended the Golden Spike 150 Conference and events in May in Salt Lake City, Utah for commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad. Sisters Lisa and Qiang reported their observations and thoughts at the June 10 Lodge meeting.

Sister Lisa Yang attended the Conference as the Executive Producer of the movie “The Year of the Iron Horse” which is in the final preparatory stages for filming to start. To her, this meeting marks the event on



Mostly Chinese American railroad workers' descendants in front of one of the locomotives; Lisa Yang (holding C.A.C.A. sign) with Jessica Mei to her left.

which the entire film script is based, that took place on May 10, 1869 when the locomotives from California in the West and Iowa in the East met at Promontory Summit, shortly after the golden spike was struck. At our Lodge meeting in June, she described the excitement all around the large gathering of guests (>10,000) at the Summit, especially among descendants of the Chinese railroad workers without whom this amazing engineering feat would never be completed on time.

NBC News did a great piece on May 10 that explicitly brought out the contribution of the Chinese workers in getting the railroad built. During the Centennial celebration, “Connie Young Yu’s parents were part of a small group of Chinese Americans who attended that 1969 ceremony. They were disappointed and very upset that the Chinese railroad workers didn’t get their due, she recalled. [It was said that John Wayne, the actor, took their spot to speak at the ceremony.]

This time around, Yu [a historian], whose great-grandfather was a foreman for the Central Pacific Railroad Company, was invited to take the stage at the very beginning of the ceremony and set things straight. ‘We take this opportunity at the 150th to reclaim our place in history,’ Yu said.”



Group photo with Secretary Elaine Chao sitting in the middle, with C.C. Yin (APAPA) and Lisa Yang sitting on her right.

Sister Qiang Bjornbak also attended the conference and ceremony as a member of the National Council of Chinese Americans. At our Lodge meeting, she recounted a brief history and background to the event, and mentioned the dignitaries and elected government officials present at the ceremony in Promontory Summit, including Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao,



Qiang Bjornbak at the Promontory Summit ceremony.

Senators Mitt Romney and Mike Lee of Utah, Utah Governor Gary Herbert, and Union Pacific President/CEO Lance Fritz.

There are two excellent quotes from Secretary Chao’s speech given at the ceremony: “....and today, we pay tribute to the diverse



Secretary Elaine Chao giving her speech at Promontory Point.

workforce—especially 12,000 or more Chinese workers—that built this seminal infrastructure project that transformed America.” and “The contributions of the Chinese workers are especially poignant because they could not bring their families with them nor obtain American citizenship.”

Sister Jessica Mei said that two of her forefathers came to America to work on the railroad in the 19th century. One of them died, and the other carried the body back to China, never returning to America. She is proud of their contributions to America and was happy to be present at Promontory Summit on May 10 to be a part of the commemoration.



Five Chinese American Ladies in traditional dresses at the ceremony

GSGV and LA Lodges Awarded Scholarships to High School Seniors and Prizes to Essay Contest Winners

On June 1, an award ceremony was held in Los Angeles Lodge in Chinatown as part of the Educational Program sponsored by LA and GSGV Lodges. This year, GSGV Lodge contributed two \$1000 scholarships to high school seniors entering college this fall. The scholarships are awarded based on academic achievements, leadership demonstration and financial needs. Bros. Scott Kwong and David Yuen are on the committee headed by Alice Wong (LA Lodge) evaluating qualifications of the applicants.

From the GSGV Lodge, the Betty & Andrew Sit Scholarship was presented to Jessica Dong, Mark Keppel High, who will be a freshman at UC Berkeley majoring in computer science. The recipient of the



President Sharon Wong and VP Sam Gee presenting certificate and scholarship check to Jessica Dong.

Tammy & Charles Mau Scholarship, Yi-Feng Ho of Alhambra High, is enrolling in UCLA this fall to study chemistry. However, he did not make it to the ceremony, and the scholarship will be presented to him at a later date.

The top two 2019 C.A.C.A. Local Essay Contest Winners are Anrui Gu, senior at Downtown Magnets School, and Joey Li, 11th Grade at Granada Hills Charter. This year's Essay Contest topic asks the question: In the backdrop of Chinese contributions to America, including building the Transcontinental Railroad in 1863-1869, serving in WWII, and other accomplishments, do you feel Chinese are fully integrated into the American mainstream society, and why? The \$100 GSGV 1st Place award was presented to Anrui Gu, who will be studying economics this fall at UC Berkeley, while the \$100 LA 1st prize was given to Joey Li.



President Sharon Wong and VP Sam Gee presenting GSGV 1st prize of Essay Contest to Anrui Gu



Scholarship recipients and Essay Contest winners together with LA and GSGV Board Officers, Scholarship Committee members, scholarship donors, and Essay Contest Committee members.

Cities of Torrance and Eastvale Passed Resolutions Commemorating Senate Bill S-1050, The Chinese-American WWII Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act

The Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge continued its campaign to urge cities in Southern California to recognize the services of Chinese American veterans who served selflessly during World War II even as the communities were subject to discriminatory laws since the imposition of the Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882. With Past President John Wong spearheading the effort, the City Council of Torrance on May 21 passed a resolution commemorating Senate Bill S-1050, the Chinese- American WWII Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act. In the Resolution, it was stated that the Act “is the result of a national campaign organized by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) known as the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project”. Bro. John, Sis. Sophie Wong, Sis. Kim Wang, a resident of Palos Verdes, and Sister Betty Tom Chu of OC Lodge were present to receive a certificate from the City Council.



Sis. Sophie Wong (L1), Sis. Betty Tom Chu (2), Bro. John Wong (R2) and Sis. Kim Wang (R1) receiving Resolution Certificate from Torrance Mayor Patrick J. Furey.

On the following day May 22, the City Council of Eastvale passed a similar resolution. Eastvale is a newly incorporated city (in 2007) which is an outgrowth from the neighboring cities of Corona and Norco, and is located in the NW Riverside County. It has a population of 54,000, 25% of which are Asian. Bro. John Wong, Bro. Charles Mau, and Sis. Betty Tom Chu (OC Lodge) were present when the Resolution was signed into law by Mayor Todd Rigby. It is noted that Council Member Jocelyn Yow was a member of Los Angeles Lodge.

Anrui Gu is GSGV Lodge's Summer Intern

Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge is happy to have Anrui Gu as this year's summer intern. Her term will run from July 1 to August 31, and she will receive a stipend/scholarship of \$500 for her project work. This is funded by the National Lodge Capacity Building Grant.

Anrui is the top winner of this year's local Essay Contest which is jointly sponsored by the LA and GSGV Lodges with Elizabeth Wu (LA Lodge) being the coordinator (See above). Ms. Gu is also on the editorial board of the Chinatown magazine WaPo, and a staff writer. She will be enrolling as a freshman in UC Berkeley this fall as an economics major.



Conferring at OK Cafe; from left: President Sharon Wong, PP Lisa Yang, Anrui Gu, PP John Wong, and PP Charles Mau.

Ms. Gu's main assigned task is to record the history of Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge from its establishment in 2000 to its first decade of operation. The end product will be an article based on interviews, and collected photos and documents, with the founding presidents and board officers, and with those who played a pivotal role in its formation stages. This project was conceived as part of the commemoration of the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Lodge. Anrui's other assignment is to provide ideas and suggestions for attracting and recruiting young members to the Lodge via either youth-oriented activities and projects, or via better communications with social media, improved newsletter and website layout, and others.

GSGV Lodge Delegates and National Board Members are getting ready for the National Convention in Boston, July 2-7!

Attending this Convention from our Lodge will be President Sharon Wong, National Rep. John Wong, Financial Secretary Scott Kwong, Associate Dean Ng, NVP Education Charles Mau and National Compliance Officer Paul Wong, and others.

Together with OC Lodge, our Lodge submitted three resolutions: (1) Electoral College vs Popular Vote to Elect a President; (2) Support H-1B Temporary Visa Program with Comprehensive Screening Process; and (3) Common Value Initiative, which are under review by a Committee. President Sharon Wong will report on the Lodge achievements in the previous two years.

Announcement of National Art Competition Winners

The topic for this year's National Art Competition, organized by C.A.C.A. and Chinese American Museum, is: Transcontinental Railroad—150th Anniversary and

Continuing Contributions of Chinese Americans. There are 169 entries, mostly from California, and the level of talents, creativity and hard work is generally high as exhibited in the submitted artworks.

The Art Competition is open to all students from Kindergarten to Grade 12, and the entries were placed and judged in four categories: Division 1 (K-G3), Div. 2 (G4-G6), Div. 3 (G7-G9) and Div. 4 (G10-G12).

This year, the panel of judges consists of Bruce Lazenby, Susan Sing and Cindy Fong. The winners are as follows:

Grand Prizes: Lower Div: Julianne Yang, Alameda, CA

Upper Div: Alexander Gu, Palo Alto, CA

Div. 1, 1st Place: Sylvia Mai, Union City, CA

2nd Place: Hannah Chan, Fremont, CA

3rd Place: Maggie Liu, Milpitas, CA

Div. 2, 1st Place: Cindy Lin, Saratoga, CA

2nd Place: Jeffrey Fan, Palo Alto, CA

3rd Place: Yiling Wu, San Jose, CA

Div. 3, 1st Place: Linda Zhu, San Jose, CA

2nd Place: Kayla Jang, Los Angeles, CA

3rd Place: Kevin Yu, Palo Alto, CA

Div. 4, 1st Place: Jacqueline Li, San Jose, CA

2nd Place: Yifei Zhang, Palo Alto, CA

3rd Place: Grace Huang, Cupertino, CA

There are also ten honorable mentions: Janessa Lew, Jiayang Dong, James Fan, Sarah Liang, Alyssa J. Kim, Esther Zhu, Serena Chan, Amy Wang, Joyce Zheng and Enya Pan.

The Art Competition Award ceremony was held on Saturday, June 15, at Los Angeles Lodge in Chinatown. Charles Mau, C.A.C.A. National Vice President of Education, and Prof. Gay Yuen, President of Friends of CAM, together gave out the certificates and award checks to those winners who were present, National Exec. Susan Dickson read the Winners' names.

The winning artworks are presently on display for a month in Bruggemeyer Monterey Park Library, 318 S Ramona Ave, Monterey Park, CA.



Grand Prize winners Julianne Yang and Alexander Gu with their artworks.



Charles Mau, Gay Yuen with Kayla Jang (Los Angeles), 2nd place, Div. 3 winner with her parent and artwork.



Sylvia Mai (R2), 1st Pl. Div. 1, with her artwork, parents, and sister who also participated.



Winning Artworks on Display in Monterey Park Library

In lieu of the National Convention in Boston, the July Lodge Meeting is canceled. Our next Lodge meeting will be in NYC Seafood Restaurant, 715 W. Garvey Ave. Monterey Park on August 12.



Sitting: Winners present at ceremony; Standing from L: Susan Dickson, Cindy Fong, Gay Yuen, and Charles Mau.