



Chinese American Council of Sacramento & CACS Foundation

September 2020

Presidents Message

Greetings, Members and Friends of the Chinese American Council of Sacramento!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chinese American Council of Sacramento and the CACS Foundation, we hope you and your loved ones are safe and well in your isolated location because of the current terrible pandemic situation. CACS is adjusting to the times by updating the website (cacsweb.org) with current information regarding the Corona virus and other pertinent topics of interest to you. Because some information publicly distributed may be erroneous or inaccurate, we try to vet our sources before posting. Nevertheless, please feel free to contact us if you've any questions or comments!

As you may have noticed, all public gatherings and events have been cancelled or rescheduled and travel except for essential trips for medical or food kept to a minimum. This is another adjustment CACS is making for your safety and that of the community by cancelling its annual Gold Mountain



Cathy Wei
CACS Foundation President



Alex Eng
CACS President

Mountain Celebration dinner and other events such as Annual Fashion Show and Operation Santa Claus. The CACS tribute and induction of the late Lina Fat into the CACS Hall of Fame will be deferred to the 2021 Gold Mountain

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CACS Celebrating this year with a joyful heart!

By Karun Yee
CACS foundation Historical Chair and "Feed" Chair

The Chinese American Council of Sacramento and CACS Foundation, after long and hard deliberation, decided to focus on something entirely different this year. Instead of our 33rd "Gold Mountain Celebration" dinner where we honor community service individuals, we wanted to give away a special box lunch to underserved people, hit hard by the Covid virus.

Another annual project we organize is "Operation Santa Claus" serving over 100 children in low-income areas with holiday presents purchased by our faithful volunteers. Since we cannot shop nor have direct contact with all these families and children as usual, our new "Feed" project enables us to reach out to these families. Funds usually used for this project will be put into our box lunch giveaway.

Deciding who should receive our lunch gift was the most difficult endeavor as there are so many people in need during this stay-at-home order. People out of work, abused women, people working under dangerous conditions, and

those on the front lines. We selected My Sister's House, St. John's Shelter for Women & Children, the Sacramento Community Service Center, TOFA, Hui o Hawaii, and Hmong Innovating Politics. We are so thankful we are able to spread a little joy to our community.

CACS has a history of community service, cultural education, historical enhancement, and public service for over 33 years. It was founded by civic-minded people like Frank Fat, who wanted to have a united Chinese voice in the community.

It's been a tough few months for all of us staying at home and contemplating our futures. Who could have dreamed we would be faced with COVID-19, toilet paper shortages, wildfires, hurricanes, census registration, demonstrations, riots and the Presidential election. Even though we have so much on our plates, I hope we have learned to appreciate what is really important in life.

On behalf of the Council and Foundation, we wish that you stay safe and healthy!

Chinese American Council of Sacramento & CACS Foundation

Chinese American Council of Sacramento

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Visit us on the web at
www.cacsweb.org
or call (916) 424-1374



Meet our newest CACs Member!

By Brenda Fong

We want to introduce you to Ms. Oranit Limmaneeraset. Oranit has been at American River College for almost twenty years and has taught at the University of Hawaii and in Thailand. Since 2017, Professor Limmaneeraset has served as the faculty union president at ARC.

Oranit was born and raised in a very traditional Chinese family in Udon-thani, Thailand. She did not arrive in this country until her early thirties. Coming from a very traditional family, Oranit's mother felt her daughter should prepare for an arranged marriage.

But Oranit worked hard and progressed beyond. She saved money for her undergraduate education, received various scholarships, and taught full

time while attending graduate school. She eventually earned her PhD. Oranit says: "My life is a Cinderella story, and I am deeply grateful for it."

She loves to travel, meeting people from different cultures, and swimming in the ocean. So far, she has visited over thirty countries.

Oranit first learned about CACS from Honey Lum during last July 4th's "Golden Spike March" at Dutch Flat, and has worked on a project with Douglas Hsia. With the advocacy work that she has been doing, she decided to join CACS to support our work. Oranit would also like to build a strong relationship between the Asian educators in Sacramento and CACS.

On behalf of our Foundation and the Council, we welcome Oranit Limmaneeraset!

Black Lives Matter – Peaceful Demonstration

By Honey Lum

On Saturday, June 6, 2020, I joined a peaceful march in downtown Sacramento with the Asian Pacific Islander community to support the Black Lives Matter (BLM) demonstrators. The API group was fortunate to carpool with Stephanie Nguyen (Asian Resources, Inc. and Elk Grove City Council) where ARI friends provided transportation from Target/Broadway to the State Capital to meet with Senator Richard Pan and friends. Yen Marshall (APAPA National Executive Director), Bobbie Singh, Chris Marzon and his son, Amy Tong and family, joined the API group. The march started near the Golden One Center and proceeded at 7th Street to Capitol Avenue, passing along the CA State Courts Building and State Capitol. The march ended at Cesar Chavez Plaza where people gathered near the stage to listen to powerful statements, inspirational speeches and songs.

During the march, we walked along with City Mayor Darrell Steinberg and City of Sacramento Police Chief, Daniel Hahn. Many young people and families of different ethnicities came to march to show their support with BLM. The march was hosted by many groups, including the NAACP, where Betty Williams, President, spoke on stage to encourage people to vote to make a change. Many carried signs stating “Black Lives Matter” and I carried a sign stating “Asians for Solidarity & BLM”. The morning was eventful and I did not see any disturbances while marching or standing near the stage. I felt there was unspoken anger in groups present. Definitely, those folks who felt strongly about the racial tension on police brutality did come to march and we heard their messages for a better society and equality. Since June 6th, other incidents related to



racial tensions caused by alleged police brutality have sparked more demonstrations, some violent, throughout the US, in larger cities. We need to stand up and support social justice and peaceful demonstrations to make change. Let your voice be heard and exercise your power on November 3rd – Go Vote and Participate in public forums/committees to initiate Change for a Better Society!





The Sacramento Indochina Friendship Association (SCIFA) Annual Lunar New Year Dinner, Feb. 7, 2020, raised over \$25,000 to support their educational programs, specifically the Chinese language classes. During Linda Liu's term as President, the student enrollment increased from around 50 students to more than 300 prior to COVID-19. The annual fund raising dinner was attended by Honey Lum (left), past president of the CACS Council. CACS donated \$250 to support SCIFA efforts.

Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Sub-Committee for Census 2020

By Honey Lum

As CACS past president I participated since October 2019 as a member of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Sub-committee for Census 2020 in Region 1 (includes 17 counties). The Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP) has facilitated these monthly meetings to develop a workplan for the following: outreach, marketing, communications, community collaboration, and other approaches to ensure people are counted. Based on past history, the Census identified two groups – Hmong and Pacific Islanders – as underserved populations and difficult to reach groups.

Due to COVID-19, the Census efforts were extended from July 31 to September 30, 2020. Here are examples of our Census collaboration with the Sacramento community: 1) On April 28th, CACS and five AAPI organizations participated in a Food Give-Away that was hosted by the Stockton Blvd. Partnership Association. Over 350 families benefitted from the “goody” bags filled with food and Census swags. 2) On August 24th, CACS together with JACL and other

AAPI groups joined the La Familia Car Caravan. We drove through and did outreach to the economically challenged neighbors near the La Familia Center on 37th Avenue. 3) On September 10th, CACS collaborated with American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and Everyday Impacting Consultants to create and presented a Zoom workshop about Census 2020.

CACS encourages all folks to complete the Census and be counted – Sacramento needs resources to promote healthy communities. Please see <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>.

Over 10.2 million California households have responded to the Census – the most of any state.

California has most households respond to the Census compared to other states. Of those 10.2 million, nearly 2.4 million are located in the hardest-to-count tracts.

California's current self-response rate, 67.2%, is above the national average of 64.9%.

Sacramento County Voter Registration, Elections

By Honey Lum

In 2018-19, Sacramento County Registration & Elections implemented the California's Voter Choice Act of 2016. The County was a pilot in this State to operate 11-day Vote Centers (VC) prior to election day. Instead of opening only on election day as a polling site, the pilot VCs operated anywhere from 4 to 10 days to allow folks to cast their ballots early, at more convenient times, including weekends. The VCs provides these advantages:

- Freedom to Vote – flexibility to vote on weekends
- More staff members - to assist voters
- More Voting machines – to accommodate a higher volume of voters
- Access to multi-lingual services – translators are present to assist voters
- Specialized voting machines – for voters with disabilities
- Ability to register voters – and print correct ballots – process Conditional Voter Registration
- Can receive Mail-In Ballots

This year in the March Primary election the polling places were generally opened 7 am to 8 pm. The Robbie Waters polling place was very busy with nonstop voting from 10 am to 8 pm (when polling place closed). Around 5 pm, people

had to wait about an hour to reach the voting booth. The following officials and community leaders came to the VCs: Sen. Richard Pan, Wm B. Shubb, Senior US Dist. Judge, and Dr. Alvin Cheung, President, California North State University.

Over 600 ballots were processed; including many hand-delivered “mail-in” ballots. During the 11 days, Honey and others processed check-in registration, verified party affiliation to printout correct ballot, processed computerized voting methods if person wanted to use touch-screen voting, received hand-delivered ballots and counted processed ballots during the day. Vote Centers took precautions; poll workers used hand sanitizers, washed hands, wore gloves, sanitized booths, pens and computerized devices.

The November election ballot will include State Propositions and local initiatives that affect funds and impacting communities. 2020 is also Census 2020; it is most important for EVERYONE to be actively involved and to be Counted. Disadvantaged communities need more help to keep people safe and healthy. CACS encourages you, your family and friends to register to VOTE. Mail the Ballots in Early. Mail-In Ballots can be mail back to the Sacramento County Register's Office or hand-delivered to a Vote Center; (Golden One Center will be a 11-day Vote Center) on Election Day by 8 pm. Ballots received after 8 pm will not be counted.



Tribute to Chinese American WWII Heroes by Locke Foundation Oral History Project

By Douglas Hsia

The federal government has designated the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta a National Heritage area, and the Town of Locke a National Historic Landmark. Locke is the most complete example of a rural agricultural Chinese American community in the US. The primary mission of the Locke Foundation - Oral History Project is to gather and preserve the stories of the Delta. Ultimately these oral histories will be archived in the Locke Boarding House Museum where historians, educators and the public will have access to the information.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. The LF is reaching out to Chinese Americans who served in WWII. These veterans may have the potential to receive the Congressional Gold Medal. If you know of any Chinese American (living or not) who is/was a WWII veteran, please contact the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project at www.caww2.org/preservation for the application or contact

<https://chsa.org/wwii-chinese-american-gi/>.

The LF is proud to share the life and times of two WWII veterans as part of the Oral History Project. Both were residents of Locke. Ruth Jang is a rare Chinese American woman who served in the Army Air Force. Harry Jang was a highly decorated Lieutenant in the Army Air Force as a navigator.

CORPORAL RUTH JANG, 97, was definitely a rarity for any branch of the US Military service. In 1943, at 21, Ruth joined the armed forces for duty and adventure. Ruth said that she enjoyed more food than was available to her in Locke and swears that she grew an inch taller.

Her first station was Moody Field, Georgia, where her duties were as a "gopher," delivering messages by riding a motor scooter. Ruth became the captain of the woman's basketball team since she was taller than many of the other women players. Being an adventurous pilot took her up in a B25 Bomber dive bombing cows on a farm. She was transferred to Mitchell Field, Long Island, New York where she helped care for injured servicemen. One of her NY assignments was to escort wounded soldiers to free Broadway shows such as Showboat and the Radio City Music Hall Rockettes. Although the only Chinese in her unit, she did not experience racism or discrimination. Instead, she felt very special and popular. On weekends she enjoyed going out with her Polish, Jewish and Italian girlfriends, dancing

with the servicemen and eating pizza and pickled herring for the first time.

After the war, Ruth fell in love with and married her childhood friend, Harry Jang, also from Locke. She worked with the State of California and the Sacramento Unified School District as a translator and raised three children. At age 56, Ruth earned her AA degree, then a Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education and Nutrition. True to her fun-loving nature, she spent her later years playing golf with a handicap of 17.

LIEUTENANT HARRY JANG joined the Army in 1941 just before Pearl Harbor as a private. As a Chinese, he was given a choice of being a cook or a hospital orderly. He picked orderly. He really wanted to be a pilot and had studied two years of Aeronautical Engineering, but realized it was not his strong suit. Harry, being upwardly mobile, then took the exam for officer training and ranked third out of 300 applicants. Unfortunately, he was rejected because of apparent blatant racism. Undeterred, he petitioned the Adjutant (Chief Administrative Officer), who granted him admission to the Air Force.

In 1943, he was commissioned a Lieutenant. As a navigator, he was assigned to the 367 Squadron, 306 Bomb Group in Thurleigh Field, England. His group of fighter planes was famous and suffered the most casualties of the Air Force during the entire war. The movie, "Twelve O'Clock High", was inspired by his squadron's valor. Harry was haunted for the rest of his life by what he saw, witnessing American airplanes being hit by anti-aircraft fire, exploding in mid-air, and shot down by German fighter planes. After flying his 35th combat mission, a friend suggested signing up for another combat tour in Asia, but Harry said, "No." He was happy to be going home. Years later at a reunion he ran into an old cohort. Happy and relieved, he said, "Harry, I thought you died." Harry's plane had gone down in flames on its very next mission, along with his friend. Hearing this, Harry felt lucky indeed to have survived. For his courage and exceptional navigational skills under fire, Harry was honored with the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After his distinguished service, Harry graduated with a Master's degree from UC Berkeley and became an architect. Lieutenant Harry Jang will be posthumously awarded the Congressional Gold Medal as a patriotic and courageous Chinese American. Please see www.locke-foundation.org for more information.

Count Me In

On September 10, 2020, CACS partnered with AARP and conducted our 1st virtual workshop – COUNT ME IN. This workshop focused on Census 2020. The speakers were Maikhou Thao, Everyday Impact Consulting; May Lee, AAPI Census Sub Committee; and Greg Jung, CACS.

Jennifer Berdugo, AARP opened the workshop and discussed the importance in completing the Census 2020

and the resources that are provided with AARP. Alex Eng, CACS president, thanked the attendees and the planning committee.

The Census 2020 information provided was timely. Topics included confidentiality and security of the data, Census Enumerators and how to avoid census scams. There were many questions answered at the end of the workshop.

Project Proposal for Whitney High School in Rocklin

By Alex Eng

On Sunday, August 8, 2020, the Sacramento Bee published an article by Bee reporter Ashley Wong in which Diego Leibman, a graduate of Whitney High School in Rocklin, raised the issue of injustices perpetrated against Chinese laborers on the Whitney Properties during the 1800s. CACS is supporting Leibman's proposal to correct the alleged historical wrongdoings by naming a new Whitney High School building addition after a local Chi-

nese American, and to augment the school curriculum to reflect the contributions of the Chinese in the development of California and American History. A public hearing with the Rocklin School Board on September 16, 2020 will determine whether the project will continue. You will be kept apprised of the project's progress here.

Council Tidbits

- In July 2020 the U.S. Attorney General's Office announced prosecuting Hate Crimes towards Asian Americans as a priority. AAPI organizations have reported that numbers of Hate incidents nationally have greatly increased during the

pandemic.

- Senior Scams on the rise – U.S. Attorney's Office has campaigned to raise awareness of this issue to protect senior citizens.
- Sacramento Historical Consortium had its first virtual meeting hosted by Dr. Bob LaPierre in September. Discussion regarding History Day, March 2021 – theme to be "Communication and History".
- Proposal to develop website video on different consortium organizations.
- History of Pandemic Tour in November 2020.
- SHC Membership Dues owed by member organizations.

Presidents Message (continued)

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Celebration event.

Yes, we will continue to be aware of AAPI culture, history and social justice; nevertheless, priorities are very different now and CACS needs to focus on the more immediate needs of our constituents and the community. We are distributing food and essentials to the needy; and support first responders and health professionals who care for the sick and elderly. We are also supporting nonprofit organizations that are very hard pressed financially. CACS will keep you apprised of changes to its policies of support and involvement.

The CACS Board members have been discussing alternative means and methods of communication that will enable us to carry out our respective missions. Presentations via virtual meetings and video are being considered, the CACS

online newsletter and email will continue to be our main vehicle for distributing information to you, and Facebook postings are being made regarding special community announcements.

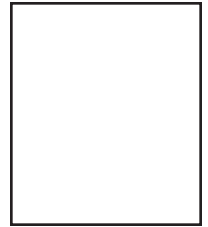
A very sincere thank you to our generous sponsors and loyal supporters for your past donations and participation! Please continue to send in your memberships and contributions; our work continues on your behalf!

With Sincere Best Wishes for Your Safety,



Chinese American Council of Sacramento

PO Box 22583
Sacramento, CA 95822



CACS and Foundation Membership Application

P.O. Box 22457 Sacramento, CA 95822

Tax I.D. 81-1929503

New Member Renewal

Last Name _____ First _____ Spouse _____

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Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ Please make checks payable to **CACS Foundation** and mail to the address above

All Membership Dues are for 2-Years

Single \$100

Couples and Family \$150