



# Chinese American Council of Sacramento

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## CACS Upcoming Events:

- Annual Author/Lecture Dinner  
(April 24, 2009)
- Pacific Rim Street Festival  
(May 17, 2009)
- Trip to Angel Island  
(July 11, 2009)
- Gold Rush Days  
(Labor Day Weekend - 2009)
- CACS Annual Gold Mountain Celebration  
(Fall 2009)

See our website  
for more information

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[www.cacsweb.org](http://www.cacsweb.org)

## President's Message

By Jeanie Lee



For a fun tidbit, people who were born in the years 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, and 2009 are Oxens according to the Chinese Zodiac.

Do you know that our new President Barack Obama was born in the Year of the Ox? Other famous Ox people are Johann Sebastian Bach, Napoleon Bonaparte, Charlie Chaplin, George Clooney, Walt Disney, Anton Dvorak, Clark Gable, George Frideric Handel, Oscar De Le Hoya, Diana-Princess of Wales, and Van Gogh.

People born in the Year of the Ox are "supremely self-assured, and as a result are noted for inspiring confidence in others. Generally

patient and thoughtful, they measure their words, and will speak clearly and concisely often when it matters most." Does this sound familiar in our new President?

On behalf of the Chinese American Council of Sacramento (CACS) Board of Directors, we send our best wish to you and your family for a happy New Year and a prosperous and healthy Year of the Ox filled with fortune and good luck!

*(Continue on page 2)*

## Operation Santa Claus – A Huge Success

By Jeanie Lee

Each year, through the **Operation Santa Claus Program**, the Chinese American Council of Sacramento (CACS) sponsors about 60 needy families by providing them a \$50 gift certificate for their holiday meal and gifts for the kids in each family. This year, because of the economic downturn, CACS received an unprecedented 134 applications from kids of all ethnic backgrounds requesting assistance for the holiday season!

This number would have imposed a hardship on the CACS budget had it not been for the generous donations from so many caring individuals who stepped up and made contributions towards this program. Sacramento County Supervisor Jimmie Yee made a very generous donation of \$1,000 and individuals from the Sacramento City Fire Department donated over \$800. Other

donations ranged from \$10 to \$500, which was enough to make up the deficit of our budget and allowed us to sponsor "all" 134 families. It was a daunting task just to shop for so many families but our dedicated volunteers made it possible.

*(Continue on page 2)*



(L to R) Bill Tom, Brian Fong, Jeanie Lee, Brenda Fong, Merlayna Yee-Chin, Franc "Santa" Martinez, Anne Luong

## President's Message *(Continued from page 1)*

With the support of our sponsors, our members and our community, CACS enjoyed another successful year in 2008. Most notable is the completion of our first ever recorded history and lives of the Chinese immigrants in Sacramento during the Gold Rush days in our book—Canton Footprint authored by Philip Choy. It debuted in early 2008, and has been enjoying a phenomenal success in its sales. Please see article in this newsletter for more detail.

CACS continued to participate in a number of community events: the Chinese New Year Celebration at the California State University, Sacramento, in early 2008; the Pacific Rim Street Festival in May; the Yee Fow Cultural Fair in early fall, the Locke Management Open House Ceremony, and the Gold Rush Days in Old Sacramento in the fall. We showcased our culture

and shared stories with those who attended the festivities, continuing the mission and goals established by our Founder, the late Mr. Frank Fat.

Once again, two schools from a low-income district were selected to receive school supplies and sporting equipment this last summer. CACS is also proud to have sponsored 135 families (more than double in years past) during the 2008 holidays by providing them with a holiday meal certificate and gifts for the children. Please read details of these two programs featured in this newsletter.

The success of our programs was due largely to our community support, the help of many, many volunteers and our hard working board members. I would like to publicly acknowledged them for their continue support and service. We look forward to another rewarding year in 2009!

*Jeanie Lee, President*

## Operation Santa Claus *(Continued from page 1)*

The \$50 holiday meal gift certificates and presents were distributed to the families on Friday afternoon, December 12, 2008, at Collis Huntington Elementary School in South Sacramento. Over 300 people were in attendance. To show their appreciation, the kids serenaded the CACS Board with holiday songs. Many of these young children thanked Franc "Santa" Martinez and the CACS Santa's helpers (Merlayna Yee-Chin, Brenda & Brian Fong, Courtney Louie, Bill Tom and Jeanie Lee) personally for giving them Christmas which they would, otherwise, not have. It was a very heartwarming afternoon.

Also through the help of Chelsea Phua, of the Sacramento Bee and Sergeant Norman Leong, of the Sacramento Police Department, CACS was able to deliver a surprise gift certificate and numerous presents

for the children of a South Sacramento family, who were victims of a violent crime a year ago. This afforded them a little happiness during this lonely season.

The Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center and all of their after school program coordinators, especially Anne Luong, were also very helpful in processing all the applications through their programs and for furnishing cookies and drinks for the party participants. Santa (Franc Martinez) was on hand to talk to the kids who anxiously waited for their turn to receive their gifts. It was wonderful to have played a small part in bringing happiness to so many needy families who are having a rough time this season.

*If you would like to sponsor a family or make a financial contribution to **Operation Santa Claus 2009**, please contact Jeanie Lee at [jeanielhome@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeanielhome@sbcglobal.net)*

## CACS Cares for Kids

*By Brenda Fong and David Young – CACS Cares for Kids program co-chairs*

On September 11, 2008, Dr. David Young, Candice Yoakam, Christina Yoakam, Karun Yee, and Brenda Fong delivered school supplies to Pacific Elementary School and Nicholas Elementary School. Working in partnership with Anne Luong of the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center (SCCSC), these two schools were selected to receive much-needed school supplies and sports equipment.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## CACS Cares for Kids *(Continued from page 2)*

The students were excited to receive much needed supplies such as writing paper, notebooks, pencils, pens, pencils, dictionaries, kickballs, footballs, soccer balls, and even some hula hoops!

**CACS Cares For Kids** program's goal is to assist primary school-age students and families by providing quality instruction and learning opportunities for children.

In remembrance of the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of September 11<sup>th</sup>,

it was a great feeling that CACS could give back to those in our community and lend a helping hand to the children of South Sacramento. A big thank you goes to David Young for purchasing all the supplies and sport equipment, thanks to Candice for providing transportation, and Anne Luong for coordinating this project with the schools.

*If you would like to donate school supplies or make a financial contribution to **CACS Cares for Kids 2009**, please contact Brenda Fong at [blfong@att.net](mailto:blfong@att.net)*

## Gold Mountain Celebration 2008

*By Brenda Fong – event chairperson*

CACS celebrated its annual **Gold Mountain Celebration** on Saturday, September 27, 2008 at the Towe Auto Museum. Guests enjoyed viewing the many vintage cars, shared food and fine wines, and enjoyed an evening with friends and acquaintances. We honored journalist Mr. K. W. Lee with the prestigious Frank Fat Founder's Award. Mr. Lee is a retired well respected and noted Korean-American journalist, community activist, and is also the founding president of the Korean American Journalists Association.

CACS also honored Mr. Ping Lee with the Hall of Fame award. Mr. Lee's family settled in the Delta area and helped co-found the Town of Locke. Mr. Lee is affectionately known as the "unofficial Mayor of Locke" and the proprietor of The Big Store Supermarket in Walnut Grove. Mr. Lee tells of his father's life in American and his contribution to Locke in the book, entitled "Bitter Melon – Stories from the Last Rural Chinese Town in America".

CACS is most fortunate to have dedicated and committed Board members and advisors and a crew of volunteers. With cooperation and an attention to detail, they all worked together to create a successful Gold Mountain Celebration in addition to the many events that CACS participated in throughout the year.

Special thanks go to President Jeanie Lee for her leadership and guidance, Doug and Karun Yee for their dedication to our book, Donna Scotti for her meticulous tracking of the book sales, Linda Ng for serving as our treasurer and keeper of our funds and expenses. We thank Alex Ng and Michael Head for designing the Gold Mountain Celebration invitation and program booklets; Joyce Eng and Donna Scotti for always providing our events with beautiful floral decorations, the duo of Dave Young and Franc Martinez, our fantastic helpers whom we depend on;



(L to R) Steve Maganini, Ryan Yamamoto, Suzanne Phan, K.W. Lee, Lonnie Wong, Sandy Louey

Rick Wong for running the raffle table and providing great raffle prizes; Charlie Moy, Kingman Louie and Jon Cho for serving as our roving photographers. Last but not least, a big thank you to Merlayna Yee and her crew of volunteers for staffing our event at the registration table, and buffet table, for giving their time with set-up and tear-down..

CACS wishes to thank our sponsors for their continued support and generosity: COMCAST, the Sacramento Convention Visitors Bureau, Councilman Rob Fong, SMUD, and the Teichert Foundation. We also thank Commission Ryan Chin, Geoffry Fong, Assemblyman Dave Jones, Councilman Kevin McCarty and Jeanie Lee.

Guest enjoyed food by the Plum Blossom Restaurant, a roast pig donated by Doug and Karun Yee, and fine wines by Michael and David Vineyards and Wilson Vineyards. Organizations that sponsored us were the CAPITAL/CAPITAL Foundation, the Korean American Community Association, OCA-Sacramento, the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center, and the Sierra Lions Club.

# Canton Footprints – Sacramento's Chinese Legacy

*By Doug Yee – book chairperson*

In March of 2008, the landmark book about the Chinese history of Sacramento, **CANTON FOOTPRINTS** was completed. It was an eight year collaboration between CACS and author-historian Philip Choy. Those eight years represented hundreds of hours of research, interviews, and travel. What a wonderful journey it was. The book contains over 180 illustrations and photos. We learned so much, made new friends, and renewed some old acquaintances.

**"CANTON FOOTPRINTS" - Sacramento's Chinese Legacy** was written as a tribute to the courageous pioneers who first ventured to America to make Sacramento our home. It represents several generations of Chinese-Sacramentans that broke down the barriers of prejudice and hate. Wonderful heartwarming glimpses into the lives of our friends and neighbors put the issues of today into perspective. Think about how much you would endure or pay, to bring your family over from China. These pioneers and their accomplishments were in danger of being forgotten.

The book was debuted at our annual Author/Lecture Dinner in June with 240 people in attendance. The community's response has been overwhelming and positive. CACS, with the help of many friends like Lana Chong and Florence Fong, has sold almost 1500 copies of Canton Footprints.

The hard bound are \$30 and the soft bound are \$20. There is a \$5 mailing fee, but if you live in the Sacramento area, you can pick up a copy from one of our distributors. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

**If you would like to purchase a copy, please contact Doug Yee at yee911@aol.com or 916-591-8181**

Canton Footprints is available for purchase at several commercial establishments including  
**Avid Reader (16th & Broadway) ---- Borders Books (Fair Oaks Blvd.) ----- UCD campus book store.**

## Gold Rush Days 2008

*By Karun Yee – Gold Rush Days co-chair*

CACS joined with the Discovery Museum and the Railroad Museum in presenting our Chinese Herb shop display. Our volunteers presented Chinese history and distributed to guest dried Chinese plum wafer candy. The candy emphasized Chinese dried fruits, fish, meats and vegetables when working in the gold fields (food preservation). CACS is proud to represent Chinese pioneers during the Gold Rush. The many school children, who visited our booth, came away educated with the information that these Chinese people, who came from far overseas, made vital contributions to California.

During the 1850's, these enterprising people had a whole network of communication and commerce with the homeland because their first thought was to return home rich. They brought with them foods they were used to, and the tenacity to work hard.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who helped with this project. Without your dedication, all this would not have been possible. Stephen Tse and Jeanie Lee did calligraphy. Alex and Joyce Eng and Kingman Dong did fortune telling. Karun and Doug Yee, Brenda Fong, Donna Scotti,. Franc Martinez and Merlayna Yee-Chin sold our Canton Footprints books. Event Co-Chairs: Karun Yes, Doug Yee, Franc Martinez, and Merlayna Yee-Chin

*Visit our Live History Display at **Gold Rush Days 2009** during  
Labor Day Weekend in Old Sacramento*



(L to R) Alex Eng, Joyce Eng,  
Karun Yee, Doug Yee



Kingman Louie, Alex Eng



## Board Member - Profile

### Dr. Kingman J. Louie



Kingman is Vice President and unofficial photographer of CACS. He is an optometrist for over 30 years with private practices in the Sacramento/Elk Grove area. He graduated from John F. Kennedy High School, received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of California - Davis, and received a Doctorate of Optometry from the University of California - Berkeley School of Optometry in 1979.

He joined CACS because he wanted to give back to the community. His other involvement within our community included serving two terms as Secretary for the Sacramento Valley Optometric Society. He currently is a board member and newsletter editor for the Sacramento FBI Citizen's Academy Alumni Association. And presently serves as a board member for the Sacramento Warlords Organization.

Kingman was born and raised in Sacramento and is married for almost 30 years to his high school sweetheart Roxanne Lee-Louie. Roxanne and Kingman have four children, Michelle, Kimberly, Courtney, and James. For recreation he coached youth basketball for over 13 years. His other hobbies include photography, electronics, and modifying and customizing automobiles.

### Ryan Chin



Ryan Chin has a history of serving and working to build Sacramento at the neighborhood, community, and regional level. He previously served on as a Sacramento County Policy Planning Commission.

His community work includes serving on the boards of CAPITAL Foundation and Pocket/Greenhaven Friends of the Library. He is the Media and Public Relations Chair for CAPITAL. Ryan is currently serving as the Neighborhood Watch Captain for the South Pocket Homeowners Association, and on the Sacramento Public Library Multicultural Advisory Committee.

Ryan is a graduate of UC Berkeley and the UC Davis Graduate School of Management. He has worked for Wells Fargo Bank, a server software start-up, and Stanford University - he is now the Director of Strategic Communications at Sacramento State. He and his wife, Alice, are watching their youngest son explore a brand new world and our older son study at UC San Diego.

## Chinese American Council of Sacramento

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### 2009 Board of Directors

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Linda Ng (Treasurer)  
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Alex Eng  
Joyce Eng  
Brenda Fong  
Dr. Doug Yee  
David Young

### Advisors

Franc Martinez  
Merlayna Yee-Chin  
Rick Wong

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## CACS Author Lecture Dinner

Featuring Cecilia Chang  
Author of the Book

# Seventh Daughter

*My Culinary Journey from Beijing to San Francisco*

### Reviews

"If *The Seventh Daughter* were filled only with her delicious, doable recipes, it would be a wonderful book. But it's also a moving memoir of a plucky woman who grew up in a Beijing palace and has witnessed everything from foot binding to free love."

—*O, The Oprah Magazine* (Oprah Winfrey)

One of the year's best cookbooks: "[A] fascinating book . . . Chiang's enticing, easy-to-follow recipes bridge the divide between restaurant and home cooking."

—*Gourmet Magazine*

"This book, a memoir peppered with recipes, tells of a long, eventful life well-lived. Perfect for both cooks and those interested in Chinese culture."

—*Chicago Tribune*

"This book is a connoisseur's delight, as well as an interesting glimpse into an extraordinary life."

—*Seattle Times*

"It's a beautiful story...there's wonderful pictures in there and just great recipes."

—Good Morning America

"[*The Seventh Daughter*] recounts a life filled with enough trauma, tragedy, and triumph for a Ken Burns epic."

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

"A rich, heartfelt volume filled with recipes and stories . . . Foodies intrigued by Chinese food and culinary history—and the life of a remarkable restaurateur—will relish the journey through this book."

—*Publishers Weekly*

**Date:** April. 24, 2009

**Location:** Holiday Villa Restaurant

**Time:** 5:30am – 8:00pm

**Cost:** \$25 per person

**RSVP:** Karun Yee 916-591-8181 (by April 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Books will be available at a discounted price.**



***Want to see pictures of other CACS events ?***

Over 550 CACS pictures  
are available

at the CACS website

**www.cacsweb.org**

