



## C.A.C.A. Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge The Piazza - November 2018

### Brother Peter Chan Installed as Mayor of Monterey Park

Brother Peter Chan, a charter member of GSGV Lodge, was installed Mayor of Monterey Park in a special city council meeting on Thursday, October 11. He will serve as Mayor for approximately nine months in his second 4-year term as MP City Councilmember. To congratulate him and to recognize what he has done for the City, GSGV Lodge presented him with a plaque, citing "his exceptional dedication to the residents of Monterey Park, that makes the City one of the most livable in America, and his unrelenting efforts to improve the conditions at Langley Center for seniors, and his lectures educating the public about the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, and its generational effects on Chinese Americans." In his inauguration speech, Brother Peter presented what he wanted to achieve during his term, among many goals, making Monterey Park a fully environment-friendly city in conformance with the statewide energy policy. Many of our Lodge members were present at the meeting to celebrate the occasion with Brother Peter.



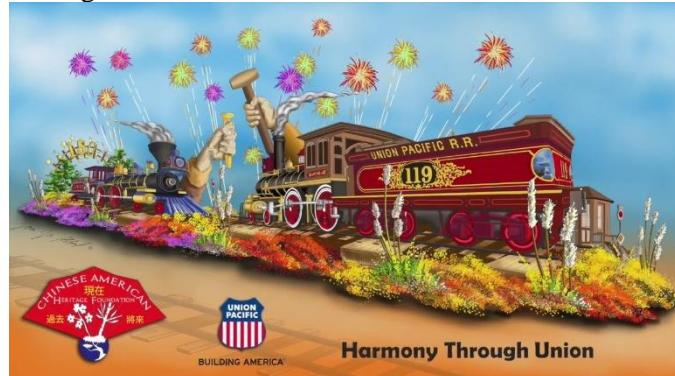
Celebrating Peter Chan's mayoral inauguration are: (From L) Vincent Chang [City Clerk], Carol Sullivan [friend], Shirley, Cecilia, Jason, Mayor, Paul, Angela, and Charles.

In the same meeting, Brother Hans Liang was inaugurated as Mayor Pro Tem, who will succeed Peter as Mayor in nine months' time. Brother Stephen Lam is the outgoing Mayor who was praised for a job very well done, making the city downtown clean and presentable, and for playing an important role in bringing about the Market Place shopping mall to the City.

### Kudos to Esther and Wilson Lee of Boston Lodge for Launching the "Harmony Through Union" Float in 2019 Rose Parade

Ten years ago, Esther and Wilson Lee of the Boston Lodge conceived the idea of a Rose Parade Float that

would tell the story of how Chinese railroad workers contributed in building the Transcontinental Railroad that connected the continent between the east and west coast, resulting in the full-blown development of the nation. With the local Chinese community, the Lee's formed the Chinese American Heritage Foundation (CAHF) to begin the work to realize their dream. Their relentless efforts finally bore fruit, that in the New Year's Day of 2019, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, we will all proudly witness a Rose Parade float called "Harmony Through Union".



An Artist's Drawing of the Float

According to World Journal, a prominent local Chinese-language newspaper, CAHF was joined by the Union Pacific as a Golden Spike co-sponsor of the float project. This is the company that constructed the Railroad starting from Council Bluffs, Iowa that extended west until it met with the Central Pacific's western portion at Promontory Point, Utah on May 10, 1869. Scott Moore, Senior Vice President and CEO of Union Pacific, said UP was honored to be a partner of CAHF as a co-sponsor of the parade float. He added that this railroad helped connect our country, serving as a vital transportation backbone, and building communities along the way that unite the nation. He was particularly proud of the important roles the Chinese and other immigrant workers played in the construction of the railroad that spans the continent.

Esther Lee, Chairwoman of the CAHF Board of Directors, said the Chinese Railroad Workers float in the 2019 Rose Parade will showcase to the world the Chinese American historic contributions to the development of America. She added that Chinese immigrants' contributions to this country were never adequately taught in the classrooms or discussed in our society, and the float would bring broader awareness of immigrants' roles to the general public.

Members of Brother Wilson Lee's family moved to America in 1865 to work for the railroad companies. This family history really incubated his concept of the "Harmony Through Union" float some ten years ago.

Representatives of the Chinese railroad workers and their descendants will ride the float with Chinese lion dancers following along the parade route. Blythe Schulte, a performance artist and a composer of Chinese-German descent, will for the first time perform her new song "Out of Many, One" on the float. Blythe is the granddaughter of GSGV Lodge member Sophie Wong.

According to Brother John Wong, C.A.C.A. lodges in Southern California also played an interesting role in the project. Sister Betty Tom Chu, former MP mayor and GSGV/OC Lodge member, was the person who got the Lee's together with officials of the Pasadena Tournament of Roses Association that organizes the Rose Parade annually.

### **Andrea Lofthouse Quesada, Candidate for Alhambra City Council, Visits Our Lodge**

Born and raised in Alhambra, Andrea Quesada is running for a Council seat in that City as a first-timer. She came to our October Lodge meeting to speak about how she would improve the quality of life in Alhambra as a councilmember. An accomplished science teacher,



**From L:** Jack Orswell, Charles Mau, Andrea Quesada, Sharon Wong, and Shirley Hwong.

community organizer and artist, she said she is compassionate about community and finding common ground. This passion can be put to good use as Alhambra has an ethnically diverse population, and she is well equipped for the job, speaking fluent Spanish and conversational Mandarin from her one-year stint in Southwest China studying biodiversity. Being a relatively young person full of ideas to serve the community, we wish her well in her campaign to get elected.

### **Did Harvard University Intentionally Discriminate Against Asian Americans in its Admission Policies?**

The trial pitting Students for Fair Admission (plaintive) against Harvard University (defendant) finally began on Monday, October 15 in Boston federal court. Based on a report by Wall Street Journal, the lawsuit, originally filed in 2014, accuses Harvard University of illegally discriminating against Asian American applicants by holding them to a higher standard than applicants of other races. Harvard denies the accusation, claiming that race is just one of a complex array of factors it considers in its holistic approach to admissions. Besides the usual categories of consideration such as academic and extracurricular ratings, the most controversial is a "personal rating" mirroring, in part, an analysis of personality traits such as humor, courage and kindness. The plaintiffs claimed that Harvard's own data show that Asian Americans receive the highest academic and extracurricular score of all racial groups, but the lowest personal ratings. Harvard argued that the lower personal ratings for Asian Americans came through in teacher recommendations, applicants' essays and interviews, which all happen to be "unobservable factors" that are easily subject to manipulation to suit Harvard's institutional interests. Indeed, higher academic institutions in America all claim that racial diversity on campus contributes to students' overall education in broadening their social skills in various situations and opening their minds to innovative ideas. Previous supreme court decisions allow race to be used as one admission consideration among many, but deem racial balancing as illegal. Looking at the racial distributions of admitted students for the previous few years, they are amazingly constant with 60% Whites, 20% Asians, 10% for both Blacks and Hispanics. One cannot but reach the conclusion that Harvard is likely using the "personal ratings" as a knob to balance the ratios of admitted students so all racial group proportions reach a critical mass for the positive effects of diversity to kick in. This is not the first time Harvard has engaged in this trick to cap the population of a certain racial group. In the 1920's, for different reasons, Jewish students were capped at 20% of the total student body by then Harvard President Lawrence Lowell. According to scientific regression analysis, an Asian American who has a 25% of admission would, on the same record, have a 35% chance if he were white, and a 95% chance if he were black. We, as a local lodge of C.A.C.A., do assert that Harvard is engaged in discriminating against Asian Americans in its admission practices to reach its diversity goal. The plaintiff of this case, SFFA, asked for an admission policy from Harvard where race is not allowed as a factor for consideration. It is predicted that the case will eventually go to the supreme court which will issue once again a decision on this issue.



## Invitation to C.A.C.A. –Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge 2018 Holidays Dinner Party

Date: Thursday, December 6, 2018 6:30 PM sharp

Place: *La Vie French Restaurant*  
*2547 San Gabriel Blvd, Rosemead, CA*

Cost: \$60.00 per person

**Five-Course Dinner:** Pea Soup, Boston Lettuce Salad,  
Main Course, Dessert, Tea/Coffee

**Main Course Choice:** Prime Rib, Chilean Sea Bass, Rack of Lamb or  
Roast Duckling with Orange Sauce and Grand Marnier

**Dessert Choice:**  $\frac{1}{2}$  order Soufflé au Grand Marnier or order from menu

*Gift exchange (~\$10.00—optional)*

*Feel free to bring your vintage collection of wine/champagne to the Gala.*

*We will have the entire restaurant to ourselves, seating up to 60.*

*There will be an extremely brief Lodge meeting.*

*Members of all C.A.C.A. lodges: Invite your Loved Ones, relatives and friends to come spend a fun-filled evening with us, with good food/wine and friendship.*

**To reserve your seats, please contact (on or before Dec. 3):**

**Sharon Wong, 323-719-3287, [smonicaw12@gmail.com](mailto:smonicaw12@gmail.com), or Shirley Hwong, 213-712-0439, [ptashirley@aol.com](mailto:ptashirley@aol.com), and tell her number in your party and names, and your main course and dessert selections.**