



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK

June was another busy month. As you know, Cathay Post made a trip to Manhattan to help celebrate the 65th birthday of the Kim Lau Post. The trip started and ended great.

Our hosts from the Kim Lau Post greeted us at the airport and brought us to our hotel, the Mulberry in Chinatown. We then attended the installation of the Kim Lau Post's new officers and the Post's annual dinner.

The dinner for 1,260 was magnificent. That's right, 1,260 guests. The event was so popular that the Post had to use 2 restaurants to accommodate everyone.

Post member David Lang also joined us for the dinner after making a "short" drive from the Bay Area. David was participating in the "Ride to Recovery" in Washington DC.

It truly was a special

opportunity for Cathay Post to build on its relationship with the Kim Lau Post and to continue establishing a coast to coast coalition.

On Friday June 18th we had a Fashion Show fundraiser dinner put together by Post Support member Em Zhu. The dinner was a hit! We sold over \$2,400 in raffle tickets for the Mercedes Raffle Drawing. Thanks to every volunteer who helped make this a successful event. Guests, who enjoyed a fashion show and entertainment, told me that they could not wait for our next event, the Cathay Post Annual Dinner. These comments confirm that the show was an absolute suc-



National Commander Candidate Fang Wong is one reason why the Kim Lau Post is successful.

cess.

Speaking of our Annual Dinner, we need you, your friends, family and colleagues to attend! Individual tickets are \$50.00 or \$500.00 for a table. We will be honoring San Francisco Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and community heroes during this dinner.

Finally, we still need to sell more raffle tickets before our Annual Dinner. I have booklets at the office if anyone needs more. Thanks.

**Ron Lee
Commander**

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, July 10, 2010 @ 1100 hours.

We will have lunch around noon after the monthly Board of Directors meeting. All Cathay Post members and supporting friends are welcome.

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Cathay Post. No. 384
American Legion

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www.chineseamericanveterans.org

From the 1st Vice Commander

Another month has gone by and we are now in the second half of the year. We may be getting older, but we are also a bit wiser.

Since I have received several inquiries about this, I will repeat what was said in the last edition of the Chronicle. The Bay Area Veteran's Acupuncture Clinic, also known as BAYVAC, is offering free acupuncture treatments to veterans, military personnel and their immediate family members [donations are gratefully accepted].

Treatments are provided by licensed acupuncturists for conditions such as stress, pain, insomnia, anxiety, depression, lack of concentration, irritability, and other trauma-related problems. The clinic hours are on Thursdays from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is located at the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine,

555 Deharo St. – between 18th St. and Mariposa, San Francisco. For further information, take a look at page 5.

Post membership continues to grow. Five veterans joined our Post during the second quarter : Dr. Sinclair Lai, Stan Ellexon, Li Huang, Galin Luk, and John Pommon.

Five new members joined the Cathay Post Support Unit: Henry Chang, Oliva Lam, Allen Leong, Wen I. Tam, and Amy Yeung. [Of course, if I omitted a name, please let me know.]

One of the newest Support member is Henry Chang, a Martial arts master. Henry, who serves as a director of the annual Martial Arts Championship, firmly believes in the benefits of martial arts and wishes to see the martial arts community

united. Henry was doing a demonstration of Chinese folk acrobatics and Tai Chi at an event held at the Great Mall of the Bay Area in Milpitas. Henry comes to the Post on Monday afternoons, to participate in the dance classes. With his skills, we hope to have Henry perform at one of our major events in the near future.

An important announcement to Post and Support Unit members, and friends who have taken raffle tickets booklets out on consignment: please turn in your ticket stubs and money to one of the commanders or Suzie Lee so that we can clear your account and name.

See you all at the meeting on Saturday, July 10th.

David Y. Wong
1st Vice Commander

From the 2nd Vice Commander

CONGRATULATIONS to comrade Hanley Chan & his wife, Teresa. What a beautiful couple and an outstanding wedding. Best wishes and cheers to the newlyweds!

Our website chineseamericanveterans.org has been up for 60 days and during that time there have been 403 unique hits. Check it out. If you have relevant items to contribute, please email it to me at jpon@jps.net so that I can incorporate the information into our next monthly update.

Last month, Cathay Post sponsored 2 fine young men to Boys State in Sacramento. This year about 1,000 young men attended this once in a life time opportunity for high school seniors to

learn about politics. The 2011 Boys State is already in the works. High school juniors can apply for the 2011 legislative session on February 1, 2011. Saint Ignatius, my alma mater, sent 6 of the 14 boys from district 8.

This month we will begin updating our bylaws. Things have changed significantly since the current bylaws were enacted in 1991. The updated bylaws will reflect our current direction and

membership.

Our 79th Anniversary Dinner is on August 14th at New Asia. Not only are we celebrating the Post's birthday, we are honoring San Francisco's police officers, firefighters, and community heroes.

Come on out and be a part of the community.

May joy and happiness follow you.

Jay Pon
2nd Vice Commander



From the 3rd Vice Commander

It is now July and we are more than halfway through the year. While the Post is committed to many important events during the remainder of the year, now is a great time to review some of the significant developments of the first six months.

First and foremost, we are still waiting for the promised remodel of room 206 by building management at the War Memorial Veterans Building. Although the Veterans War Memorial Commission assigned the room months ago, the move is going at a snail's pace. The latest word from management is that all the unwanted items will be removed during the first or second week of July to be followed by painting and re-carpeting. If this holds true, Cathay Post should be able to take possession of the room in early August.

The San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project is on schedule with fundraising efforts led by former Secretary of State George Shultz, former Secretary of Defense William Perry, and former Mayor Willie Brown. The memorial site, located between the War Memorial Veterans Building and the Opera House, contains soils from battlefields where Americans have fought for their country. For unknown reasons, soil from Korea where thousands of American service men and women fought and died was never included. In order to rectify this omission, Com-

mander John Lopez will be traveling to Korea as an official representative of San Francisco Korea Era Veterans. During the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Korea Conflict, he will receive official soil from the Korean Government to be added to the consecrated ground when the monument is built.

It is estimated that the project will take three years to complete and will cost approximately \$2.5 million. Chairman Roger Dong and I have been involved with the project committee, led by Major General Michael Myatt, USMC (Ret.) from its inception. Cathay Post supports this project and will continue to participate in its development.

District 8 has a new commander who is in the process of straightening the mess that was left behind by his predecessor.

While this is an on-going project, the district fulfilled its duties of sending young men from San Francisco high schools to the Boys State Convention. Cathay Post is proud to have sponsored two young men to this very worthwhile event. The Executive Board will be making



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Wow!

recommendations to the Board, concerning criteria in selecting the young men who are the most deserving.

We are still far short of our raffle tickets sales goals. I know it is not easy to ask your friends to purchase these tickets. But, I think you'll find that they'll want to contribute once you explain to them that Cathay Post needs funding to continue their contributions to the community. We need everyone to assist with the sales or we will not be able to reach our goal. Thank you.

Nelson Lum
3rd Vice Commander



Bride, Teresa Chee, and Groom, Hanley Chan celebrating with Ed Wong and Jay Pon.

"We are still waiting for the promised remodeling of room 206 ..."

BAYVAC: Free acupuncture

BAYVAC: Bay Area Veteran's Acupuncture Clinic

The Bay Area Veteran's Acupuncture Clinic (BAYVAC) is now open! Acupuncture treatments are offered free-of-charge to veterans, military personnel and their family members. [Donations are gratefully accepted !] Treatments are provided by licensed acupuncturists for conditions such as stress, pain, insomnia, anxiety, depression, lack of concentration, irritability and other trauma-related problems.

Clinic Hours: Thursdays, 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

No Appointment Needed...Please arrive by 7 pm

American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 555 Deharo Street
(Pioneer Square Building, Between 18th and Mariposa), San Francisco, CA 94107

By Bus: #10 Townsend, 19 Polk, 22 Fillmore.....Please use street parking.

For info: Call 510-847-0629 or write BAYVAC at bayvac@gmail.com

BAYVAC is affiliated with the *Military Stress Recovery Project* sponsored by Acupuncturists Without Borders. Community acupuncture space has been generously donated by the American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Travel Service



Turn Your Vacations into Donations!
Click Here to Find Out How!

Dear Members and Cathay Post friends,

Please don't forget to use our new travel service. It is a very simple PC based application which our members have already used on-line. The website is available 24 hours a day, and you, your family or any of your

friends can log on and book flights, hotels, car rentals, round-trip airport to hotel ground transportation, and even FTD flower service. If you have any questions please call **Commander Lee**.

The web address is **www.ytbtravel.com/home.aspx**



Imagine your ad here and what it could do for your business. Show your support for Cathay Post and Veterans.

Please contact Commander Lee or the Editor for ad rates.

Your ad here!

Business Name

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Wow!

What will \$10.00 buy you?



A chance to win a pre-owned, full warranty Mercedes Benz C Class luxury sedan.

[The above pictures are not of the actual sedan to be raffled].

There will be additional prizes, including Costco and Trader Joe's gift certificates. Buy your raffle tickets now (or help sell raffle tickets) for a great opportunity to own a nearly new Mercedes. The drawing will take place on August 14, 2010 at the Cathay Post Annual Dinner at the New Asia Garden Restaurant. You do not have to be present to win.

Good Luck!

From the Editor

It's July already? Happy 4th to everyone. Summer means one thing in San Francisco: FOG. Due to FOG, I recently had to cancel a backyard "camping" trip with my 3 1/2 year old daughter, "Macka."

I know what you're saying: as a Marine, you must have "bivouacked" in more extreme conditions. That's absolutely true (though my bivouacking was limited to one freezing winter and one hot, humid summer in Quantico, Virginia). Honestly, I had to cancel backyard camping because the FOG was really, really heavy (though I think Macka found living room camping to be a nice consolation).

Speaking of camping (and honesty), I have to admit that prior to joining the Marine Corps, I had never, ever gone camping.

Ever! In fact, the first time I ever heard the word "bivouacking" was during OCS when good ol Sergeant Instructor Hammer (yes, that's his real name) did the ol Marine Corps' "scream/spit" in my face (with more spitting than screaming). Well, before Hammer ever got around to explaining the meaning of "bivouacking," I was al-

"[G]ood ol Sergeant Instructor Hammer did the ol Marine Corps' "scream/spit" in my face..."

ready pitching a tent. Gottta say, I hated the experience. Maybe it was the snow. Maybe it was the "non" high-speed tent from the days of Nam. Maybe it was the ticks and chiggers infested sleeping bag that smelled of generations of accumulated Marine Corps sweat. Or maybe it was Hammer's spit that had now solidified on my face. Whatever it was, I never took to "bivouacking" during my training in Quantico. In fact, I honestly hated it.

Despite my experience in Quantico, I have finally gotten bit by the camping bug. And amazingly enough, my wife Jinny, who enjoys sleeping on a nice comfortable bed as much as the next person, is starting to really get into this camping thing [I haven't told her about the chiggers and deer ticks yet].

What gives? I think some of it is quality family time. On a selfish level, my wife and I truly do enjoy watching Macka and our almost 2 year old son Quinn exploring, learning, interacting, enjoying, smiling and laughing.

Yes, I'm sure at some point when I'm awoken in my deep REM sleep by either Macka's left foot or Quinn's drool, I may long for the comforts of our house. But then again, maybe not. Honestly, being with my family, in that tent, makes it our "home" and I can't imagine a better place to be.

Galin Luk
Editor



Presentation of the Chinese American Veteran's Association Award during the Kim Lau Post dinner.



Some of the over 1,200 guests enjoying the Kim Lau Post dinner.



美 國 退 伍 軍 人 會

CATHAY POST #384, CHINESE AMERICAN VETERANS

AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

1524 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94133

415- 392-2882,

Cathay Post No. 384, 79th Anniversary, and the 7th Annual Community, Fire & Police Appreciation Banquet

When: Saturday, August 14, 2010, 6:00 P.M.

Where: New Asia Restaurant 772 Pacific Avenue San Francisco, CA.

You are invited to the American Legion Cathay Post No. 384's 79th Anniversary, and the 7th Annual Community, Fire & Police Appreciation Banquet to celebrate our 79th anniversary and to honor our City's outstanding firefighters, police officers, and community leaders for their dedicated service to our community.

Cathay Post No. 384 recognizes that our public safety officers play an important role in contributing to our community's safety. These selfless officers are fully aware that they may encounter life-threatening situations requiring the ultimate sacrifice *yet* they work hard so that we can go about our daily lives. Cathay Post No. 384 will honor two officers and firefighters, who were chosen by their peers and superiors, for their outstanding heroic service. The members of Cathay Post No. 384 salute the efforts of these men and women.

Cathay Post No. 384 will also recognize the individuals and community leaders who have contributed their valuable time and effort to make our community a "better place." Please join us in honoring these leaders of our community.

Please reserve your seating with Commander Ron Lee at rlee288@aol.com or 415.756.1898 or Nelson Lum at Nelson1431@aol.com or 415.205.0120 no later than August 06, 2010. The cost is \$50 per person or \$500 per table. Event and corporate sponsorships are welcomed.

Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion, is a non-profit tax exempt organization

2010 Cathay Post Fashion Show



Cathay Post No. 384 Membership Dues

It's that time of year to renew your membership with Cathay Post. If Post and Support Unit members have not done so already, please pay your \$40.00 dues at the July 10 monthly meeting or mail a check for the dues to Cathay Post, 1524 Powell St., S.F., CA 94133.



Remember when...April 2010 Chronicle...Cathay Post No. 384 with American Legion Commander Clarence Hill.

Committee of 1,000 Patriotic Citizens

The **Committee of 1,000 Patriotic Citizens** campaign was initiated in late May and is off to a great start. This is, in part, **thanks** to Cathay Post No. 384 with Commander Lee, Vice Commanders Wong Pon, Lum, past Commander King, Chaplain Ow, past Treasurer Ed Wong, and Post members Gary Chew, Stephen Lee, Galin Luk (and independently, spouse Jinny), Joel McClure, Richard Charney, Joe Chan, and Richard Hum leading the pack. Cathay Post Support members have also made the commitment. This includes Joe Yeh, Rose Chung, Sandy Au, Tim Louie, Mimi McEwing, and Margaret Lee.

Many local prominent community members have also made the commitment. Locally, Calvin Louie, President, Chinese American Democratic Club and Sherman Tang, President, OCA - San Francisco have pledged. Of course, Raymond Wong, VFW Senior Representative is also on

board. Korean American hero Yul Kwon, attorney, entrepreneur, philanthropist and winner of the television show Survivor, Eric Mar, SF Supervisor, and Buck Gee, President, Angel Island Foundation are also **C-1000** members.

The list of C-1000 includes many prominent members outside our San Francisco community. During the June National OCA Convention in Houston, National OCA President Ken Lee, OCA Co-Founder Alex Mark, OCA Executive VP (Judge) Michael Quan, and OCA Executive Director George Wu became members of **C-1000**. Ken Lee noted that "It is an honor to become a member of the **Committee of 1,000 Patriotic Citizens**." So did Jack Joe, Grand Representative, CACA Houston Chapter .

So, the first 30 days of this campaign was "easy." But, my "A" list is pretty much exhausted. The road ahead for the remain-

ing 900 names and \$90,000.00 that I am committed to raise will be more difficult. Money is not the issue. The objective is to fill up our **Committee of 1,000 Patriotic Citizens** list, and I want Asian Americans to be well represented in that list.

Don't forget that you can also donate \$100 and have a loved one's name included in the **C-1000 list**. My dad, a WW II veteran is on the list. Cathay Post members may wish to add a few names who deserve to be on the list with the appropriate donation. The Kim Lau Post has committed to adding Lt Richard Benjamin Kim Lau to the **C-1000 list**.

Please, send referrals to me. Many thanks in advance for your patriotic support.

Roger S. Dong

**Chairman
American Legion War Memorial Commission**

2010 OCA National Convention

Houston!!!! Home of our NASA Space Center and location of the 2010 National OCA Convention.

In 2009 the National OCA convention was held in San Francisco and Cathay Post hosted the opening ceremony honoring our local Asian American veterans. That was the first time any national organization had recognized our Asian American veterans and many of our senior veterans were extremely touched that someone finally recognized their sacrifices for our Country.

This year, OCA held its National Convention in Houston, Texas - oil country. Few people know, but Texas, with Houston playing a major role, is the second largest exporter of American made products - California is number 1. While a large portion of California's exports are agricultural, Houston is the manufacturing center for information technology hardware and software products. And you thought everything was made in China!

The OCA theme was "Diverse Communities - United Commitment." This was an excellent theme for the meeting in Houston - a metropolis that epitomizes diversity. No ethnic group holds a majority in Texas. In the last 50 years, the many different ethnic groups that have immigrated to the state have changed the state's demographics. The 2009 ethnic distribution in Texas was 45% Caucasians, 36% Hispanics, 11% blacks, and 4% APA. This is quite a change from the 1950s when Caucasians made up 80% of the population and APA less than 1%.

Two former Californians were featured during the meeting. Ms. Laura Spanjian, former District 8 San Francisco Supervisor, and who is now the Director of Houston Sustainability, gave a very detailed and informative report on her plans to make Houston greener. Astronaut Leroy Chiao, a Danville native and the first Asian American Space Ship Commander, CA was honored as a 2010 OCA Pioneer.

The 2010 OCA Outstanding Citizen Achievement award winner was Dr. Nguyen D. Thang, for his devoted work in empowering, organizing and training Southeast Asian American refugees.

Unsung Heroes this year were Grace Wai-Yin Lee, OCA St Louis, MO; Helen Yu, OCA New Jersey; Janis Woo, OCA Long Island, NY; William H. P. Kaung, OCA Westchester and Hudson Valley, NY and Yu Sing Yee, OCA, New York, NY.

Several films were featured, including "Vincent Who" the story of Vincent Chin, a Chinese who was mistaken for Japanese, and killed by racists. His two murderers were caught, but never punished. Another film was "Wo Ai Ni, Mommy," the touching story of a young Chinese girl who was adopted and grew up facing many challenges in her transformation into an American. And then there was "A Village called Versailles," the emotional and ongoing story of the Vietnamese Americans who have been recovering from Katrina, but then faced the bigger threat of an unfriendly local government that heartlessly accumu-

lated and dumped toxic garbage that drained into their front yards and their farmland.

There was a fourth film, the story of an unknown All American athlete named Wat Misaka. Wat was a Nisei and a member of the University of Utah basketball team that won two NIT and one NCAA championship during and after WW II. Wat was an all star guard, ala Bob Cousy of the Boston Celtics. Wat was a great shooter and playmaker, but was always passing to set up his teammates for scores. Wat was so good that he was the first player of color to join the NBA Knicks. Unfortunately, he was never given the chance to play because the NBA was not ready to have a talented Asian player join their ranks. Misaka was awarded the other 2010 OCA Pioneer award.

This year's OCA convention was held at the Western Galleria hotel which adjoins two mega shopping centers. Spouses who did not wish to listen to lectures gave their credit cards a good shake down at the many fancy shops with European names. There was even an ice rink where one OCA informal gathering was organized.

In addition to the Awards dinner, on Friday night all attendees were transported to an APA Community Center where a bountiful buffet featuring all flavors of Asian food and Texas BBQ ribs were offered. The ambience and community spirit of Asian Americans in Houston were very evident to all the OCA visitors. [continued on page 11]

2010 OCA National Convention

[continued from page 10]
This event was wrapped up with a visit to the NASA Space Center, a source of pride and scientific achievement for all Americans. The 2011 National Convention will be held in the Big Apple, where attendees will be staying in the Grand Hyatt Hotel at special bargain rates of \$199.00 night. We are all waiting with anticipation for that big and exciting gathering.

An important sidebar to this national event was the story about Asians in Texas. Chinese Americans and other Asian American IT entrepreneurs and scientists have and are playing a significant role in the development and manufacture of IT products in Houston and its suburbs. The Chinese and a few Japanese have been in Houston since 1870s and were joined by many other Asian American from Southeast Asia who immigrated after the 1965 Immigration Act. Many more came after the Vietnam War.

The authoritative book on the Asian history in Texas, "Asian Texans - Our Histories and Our Lives" written and edited by Irwin A. Tang was available at the meeting and is now a part of my personal library. Photos in this book showed that local Eddie Fung was not the only Chinese American cowboy in America. Tang's compendium docu-

ments that in 1870 the first Chinese arrived in TX to provide labor for their infrastructure including the Houston - Texas Central Railway. These Chinese pioneers, who had just finished building the Central Pacific Transnational Railroad, were the toughest and best railroad men out there. They were initially welcomed and praised for their reliability, durability, and hard work. Unfortunately, a few years later, they were soon scorned because they were a threat to the working force who did not wish to work as hard for low pay. Does this sound familiar?

For the next hundred years or so, Texan Chinese had the same difficulties as Chinese all over America. They were not allowed to vote, did not have any rights in our courts, were not allowed to fraternize with local women, were not allowed to bring family to America, and were not allowed to own property. They were generally just not welcomed.

Why? There were the stereotypical reasons, and the media, echoing its citizenry, proclaimed that the Chinese would "lower the standard of labor, demoralize society and

vote the Radical (Republican) ticket." The real reasons were that Chinese worked very hard, setting a very high bar to compete, stayed out of trouble by keeping to themselves, and were very frugal. Sins of Jezebel.

War changed attitudes. During WW II, young Chinese men who volunteered and were not drafted, fought bravely alongside their countrymen against the Nazis and the Imperial Japanese Army. Initially, some people didn't want the Chinese in their

Army, but Army Air Force General "Hap" Arnold declared that there would be no bigotry in his Army

and opened the doors for many Chinese to join the military to defend their Country. The stories of many of these Chinese American military heroes can be found at www.chineseamericanheroes.org.

Former National President Claudine Cheng and current San Francisco Chapter President Sherman Tang attended and represented OCA San Francisco. There were about 10 Bay Area attendees including Moi this year.

Roger S. Dong
Chairman
Chinese American Heroes

"[S]ome people did want the Chinese in their Army...."



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Chronicle Staff

Adjutant Tony Zhang is responsible for the publication of the Cathay Post Chronicle.

Post Volunteer Roger Dong is our chief reporter.

Editor Galin Luk is a San Francisco civil trial attorney and Marine Corps veteran.

The editor welcomes article or letter submissions but reserves the right to publish, republish or not publish any submission and to edit articles or letters as appropriate. Submissions must include your name, address, and phone number. The Editor will call to verify authenticity. All submissions should be emailed to the Editor at galinluk@hotmail.com by the 25th day of the month preceding the next month's Newsletter.

Thanks to all our Post Commanders and photographer Leland Wong for contributing to this edition of our Cathay Chronicle.

Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion, Executive Board

Commander Ron Lee

1st Vice Commander David Y. Wong

2nd Vice Commander Jay Pon

3rd Vice Commander Nelson Lum

Adjutant Tony Zhang

Secretary John Li

Treasurer Edward Wong

Past Commander & Historian Dale C. King