



Cathay Chronicle



From the Commander's Desk

Wow, it is already April. I want to thank all of our members who made "Spring Donations" to Cathay Post. You are still encouraged to donate this month if you have not yet done so. Because we receive no governmental funding, your donations are critical to helping us accomplish our mission.

I am proud to announce that Cathay Post was a sponsor of the very successful Earthquake Relief Fundraiser on March 31st at the Recess Club at 443 Broadway in San Francisco. Cathay Post will also be making a donation to the Earthquake Relief Fund.

The annual Asian Heritage Celebration will be on May 2, 2011 at 5 PM at the Herbst Theater. Cathay Post has been a supporting sponsor since its inception and will again be a sponsor this year. Cathay



Cathay Post at the "Hep B" meeting at CPMC.

Post members are invited to participate and volunteer for this event. Please let me know during the April 9th meeting if you would like to volunteer.

NERT has again expressed interest in conducting training at our Post. Members are welcome to participate and receive training from the San Francisco Fire Department. The

recent and very tragic earthquake in Japan is a good example of how valuable this training is for our community. I will update you with the training schedule once plans are confirmed.

Cathay Post continues its battle against Hep B. Cathay Post is looking for volunteers to

(Continued on page 2)

NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, April 9, 2011 @ 1100. All Cathay Post members and supporting friends are welcome. Lunch will be served immediately after the Board meeting.

Inside this issue:

The 1st Vice Commander	2
The 2nd Vice Commander	3
PART TWO—Major Kurt Lee's Visit	4-6
The 3rd Vice Commander	7
Photos: S.F. Mayor Lee	9
Lee Sing Yee Assoc. Banquet	10
Pon Family Assoc. Banquet	11
Photos: Grant Avenue Follies	12-13
Earthquake Fundraiser	14

Dance Class	15
David Lang	16
Napa CycleFest	17

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American Legion

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www.chineseamericanveterans.org

From the 1st Vice Commander

I am pleased to announce that Cathay Post No. 384's membership continues to grow. For the first quarter 2011, three new veterans, Kevin Lau, Ralph Wong and George W. Yen, and five new support members, Shirley Chow, Anita Gee, Karen Ng, Hank Quock, and John Tam, joined the



The Post wants your personal military photos.

Post.

I want to give special thanks to Mr. Hagen Choi of Piazza Market for his generous donation to the Post. Interesting bit of trivia, Piazza Market occupies the old Rossi Supermarket site on Vallejo Street near Columbus Avenue.

To all veterans: by now, you should have received your official voting ballot in the mail for the election of new officers to the Board of Directors for years 2011-2013. Please be sure to mail in your ballots by the end of April. The official counting of the ballots will be held during May's monthly general meeting. The Commander elect will be appointing some of the board directorship positions for the new term. If you have a desire to serve in a volunteer capacity, please contact one of the commanders.

As Commander Lee noted in the Commander's letter that was enclosed with the ballot, if you have any military photos that



Photo courtesy of Yelp.com

you would like to be included in the upcoming anniversary yearbook, please send the photos to the Post by mid-April.

**David Y. Wong
1st Vice Commander**

From the Commander's Desk

(Continued from page 1)

staff the "Hep B Free" tents at the Asian Heritage Street Fair on May 21, 2011.

Cathay Post will also be marching with "SF HEP B" signs in the Cherry Blossom Parade on Sunday April 17, 2011 at 1 PM.

The "Hep B Free" campaign is also hosting a San Francisco Gi-

ants night on May 10, 2011. They are still looking for participants.

Finally, there will be a grand opening ceremony on April 14 at 2 p.m. for the new NEMS Hep B clinic. Post members are invited to attend.

Please talk to me if you want to participate in any of these events.

See you at the next meeting on April 9, 2011 at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon and all of our members and friends are welcome to join us for lunch.

**Ron Lee
Commander**

From the 2nd Vice Commander

Boy, does time go fast! We just finished our first quarter. With last month's board approval of future events, Cathay Post is poised to continue helping our community. This includes our ongoing efforts to fight against Hepatitis B, to providing color and honor guard details for special events and for our fallen comrades. I sincerely hope that as many of our members participate in as many events as possible so that we can all share in what it means to be part of this great American experience.



This month we reflect on the US Navy Service Flag [reference history.navy.mil].

The Department of the Navy Seal was created in 1957. It was to serve as the main feature of the official United States Navy flag which was adopted two years later. The flag did not pass through an evolutionary development as was the case with the Navy seal.

Ships of the earliest period in our Nation's naval history wore a variety of flags, including the striped Grand Union, and those bearing a pine tree or rattlesnake. However, these various banners may be considered steps in the genesis of the national ensign, the "Stars and Stripes," rather than forebears of a specific flag for the Navy.



Toward the end of the nineteenth century the Infantry Battalion flag was introduced for use by naval landing forces. This was a blue flag with a white diamond shaped device in the center and a blue foul anchor superimposed on the diamond. For more than sixty years, the Infantry Battalion flag served as the unofficial Navy flag in drill formations and parades and at other ceremonies. An official Navy flag, truly representative of the Navy's operating forces at sea, was authorized by Presidential order on 24 April 1959.

The flag for the United States Navy is 4 feet 4 inches hoist by 5 feet 6 inches fly, of dark blue material, with yellow fringe, 2 1/2 inches wide. In the center of the flag is a device 3 feet 1 inch overall consisting of the inner pictorial position of the seal of the Department of the Navy, in its proper colors within a circular yellow rope edging, all 2 feet 6 inches in diameter above a yellow scroll inscribed "United States Navy," in dark blue letters.

Looking forward, because of your efforts, Cathay Post will be sponsoring 3 of the 12 San Francisco candidates: 2 from International Studies Academy and 1 from Galileo to attend Boys State in Sacramento [Boys

State offers incoming high school seniors the opportunity to participate in mock government in Sacramento.] Many of the other San Francisco Posts were unable to sponsor a student for a variety of reason. This proves how your fund raising efforts and contributions, volunteerism and positive energy have given these three young men a once in a life time opportunity. Hats off to Cathay Post. For any question about Boys State please



email me jpon@ps.net.

Finally, April is election time. All paid members should have already received their ballot and return envelope. Please vote and return the ballots by either dropping them off at the Post or mailing them back. You will be voting on the following positions for the next two years:

The Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Third Vice Commander, Secretary, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, and Service Officer.

All other positions will be appointed by the 2011-2013 elected Commander in the month of May.

May joy and happiness follow all of you.

**Jay Pon
2nd Vice Commander**

Part Two – The One Week Visit of American Military Hero -Major Kurt Chew-Even Lee



The **Navy Cross** is the highest medal that can be awarded by the United States Department of the Navy and the second highest award given for valor. The highest award for valor is the Medal of Honor

This is Part 2 of a 2 Part Story [See March edition of the Chronicle for Part 1]

Major Lee's one week visit (7 - 13 February 2011) to the City was exhilarating and fast paced. During this brief stay, Major Kurt Lee met with and was "recognized" by many Bay Area citizens, distinguished local officials, our Cathay Post veterans and supporters, and several other Chinese American heroes, including Captain Moon Chin and Senator Leland Yee. It was also a rare opportunity to have a real American military hero, who happens to be a Chinese American, meet with local JROTC cadets at two of our San Francisco high schools - Lowell and Galileo.

It was also extremely auspicious that our future American Legion National Commander Fang Wong made a special trip to San Francisco to honor Major Kurt Lee and also meet with our local JROTC cadets. Our cadets had

the great honor to meet two extremely distinguished American veterans. Major Lee, who was a JROTC cadet himself, shared inspirational comments to motivate all the cadets.

On Friday, February 11, 2011 our Marine Corps retired Major General Michael Myatt, who is currently the President and CEO of the Marines Memorial Association hosted a special luncheon at the Marines Memorial Hotel. This unique and very



The American Legion

War Memorial Commission

recognizes and honors

Major Kurt Chew-een Lee

for extraordinary courage and service to
his Marine Corps comrades and to our Nation.

(Continued on page 5)

Part Two – The One Week Visit of American Military Hero -Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee

(Continued from page 4)

special event honored three local US Navy Cross recipients for their extraordinary heroism during the Korean War with plaques from the American Legion War Memorial Commission. [The Navy Cross is the highest medal for valor that can be awarded by the US Navy]. The honorees were Major Lee, retired Colonel and former Congressman Pete McCloskey, and SSgt William D. Weisgerber.

After the luncheon ABC TV distinguished reporter David Louie interviewed Major Lee, Major General Michael Myatt, Colonel Pete McCloskey, American Legion War Memorial Vice Chairman Nelson Lum and American Legion War Memorial Chairman Roger S. for a special TV report. That televised report can be found at:

http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/abc7_salutes&id=8013142.

On Friday evening, **Chinese American Heroes**, supported by our American Legion **Cathay Post No. 384**, held a special dinner honoring Major Kurt Lee at the New Asia restaurant. Distinguished officials who attended this special dinner included Senator Leland Yee, State Assemblywomen Fiona Ma, and San Francisco City Supervisors Eric Mar and Malia Cohen. Also in attendance were OCA officers including Past National President Claudine Cheng and current San Francisco OCA chapter President Sherman Tang.

Also in attendance were Major

Lee's family members from Sacramento and Hawaii. From Sacramento, Major Lee's sisters Betty Mar and Rita Lee Rittell, brother Chew Fan Lee (recipient of two Bronze stars), and Lt Colonel Yukio Yokoe and four other family members. It was noted that Major Lee also had a brother, US Army Colonel Chew Man Lee, now deceased, who was the recipient of our Army's Distinguished Service Medal, which is the highest award for valor issued by the US Army. Major Lee and his two brothers were all extraordinary American veterans and heroes. We were all very honored to be in the presence of such a distinguished military family.

Past OCA National President Claudine Cheng and current San Francisco chapter President Sherman Tang and San Mateo OCA representative Benjamin Yeung awarded a special OCA distinguished award to Major Lee.

State Assemblywoman Fiona Ma presented Major Lee with a special State award for his heroic service to our Country and the State of California.

Senator Leland Yee attended the dinner and made a presentation honoring Major Lee's extraordinary service and heroism.

Chinese American Heroes and American Legion **Cathay Post No. 384** also presented Major Lee with special recognition for his military service and heroic military actions.

Also in attendance at this recognition dinner were members of **Chinese American Heroes**,

Mr. Joseph Yeh, Director, and Mr. Philip Chin, Managing Editor. A special Thanks to former CAH Vice President Lai Chu Christy who was the receptionist at this dinner.

Cathay Post members and friends in attendance included Commander Ron Lee and wife Suzie, 1st Vice Commander David Wong, 2nd Vice Commander Jay Pon and family, 3rd Vice Commander Nelson Lum and his family, Secretary John Li, Adjutant Tony Zhang, distinguished Past Commander Dale King and his family, Chaplain Richard Ow, Patrick Mak, Treasurer Ed Wong, David Lang, Sgt of Arms Hanley Chan and family, and many of our special support team including Amy Chu, Sandy Ou and Tommy Tang.

The Chinatown VFW was represented by Hoover Gin, Robert Hanson, and Major Phil Jang. Two VFW members from Sacramento also came for this special event.

On Saturday, February 12, 2011, Chinese American Hero Captain Moon Chin held a special dinner at his home to recognize Major Lee for his military accomplishments. Also in attendance were Mr. John Lee, who served our Country for a long time as a civilian pilot for Chinese National Aviation Corporation and Air America and ABC TV reporter David Louie. David Louie had a close relative pilot who had flown co-pilot with Chinese American Hero Captain Moon Chin during World War II. They flew the very dangerous air route

(Continued on page 6)

Part Two – The One Week Visit of American Military Hero -Major Kurt Chew-Een Lee

(Continued from page 5)

over the Himalayas known as the "Hump". Over 2,000 pilots did not survive the always harrowing flights across the "Hump." Even today, when a plane goes down over the Himalayas, the likelihood of survival is very slim. Rescue missions are rarely effective as the mountainous terrain is not hospitable to rescue teams. Air support is not possible as helicopters cannot land in the steep inclines of the Himalayas, and the locations of the mishaps are rarely clear and rescue teams must backpack and travel great distances to locate downed aircraft. Surviving a crash in the Himalayas usually just delays the inevitable unfortunate outcome.

Retired BART police chief Gary Gee also attended dinner at Moon Chin's residence. He stated that he was really honored to meet both Major Kurt Lee and Captain Moon Chin.

The celebratory week ended with a dim sum brunch at New Asia on Sunday, February 13th. Nelson Lum had arranged for this farewell meal for all of us to say "Zai Jian" to Major Lee. "Zai Jian," best translated as "to see you again" is the Chinese way to say "good bye" without saying good bye.

In wrapping up this report, I would like to say that it is not just **Chinese American Heroes** and **Cathay Post** that recognizes Major Lee as hero and very special person. Here are the words of a Smithsonian Institution Executive Vice President:



Chinese American Heroes
And The American Legion Cathay Post 384
recognizes and honors
Major Kurt Chew-een Lee

for his extraordinary courage and leadership as a United States Marine Corps officer and heroic service in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.

"The heroism of the Marines at the Chosin Reservoir is one of the legendary moments in U.S. military history," said David Royle, Executive Vice President, Programming and Production, for Smithsonian Channel.

"But the story of Major Lee is not only one of outstanding bravery in the face of overwhelming odds, it is also about his courage in overcoming racial discrimination. He is a true American hero from a largely forgotten war, a Chinese American whose significance transcends his military heroism and is even greater than he might realize."

Although Major Lee is home in Washington D.C., I still communicate regularly with him. We will continue to explore the best approach to see how we can upgrade his Silver Star medal to the Medal of Honor. To many of us, that is the right thing to do because his actions in the famous Chosin reservoir rescue were truly heroic and valiant.

Nelson Lum, Vice Chair, War Memorial Commission and 3rd Vice Commander, **Cathay Post** played a very major role in our celebration for Major Kurt Lee. I want to personally thank him for his exceptional contribution in honoring Major Kurt Lee.

**Roger S. Dong, Chairman,
Chinese American Heroes**

From the 3rd Vice Commander



Yes comrades, you've all heard me talk about my annual trek to Cabo San Lucas for the specific purpose of catching that elusive marlin.

It is that time of year again. I've renewed my hopes and am sufficiently energized to sail into the deepest parts of the ocean where I will once again try to catch that onerous nemesis.

I can hear the challenge from that marlin and I must go meet that challenge. Thus, I will be absent from our April meeting but I hope you will be sending me your thoughts and "will" me to victory. There should be a picture of my smiling face next to that marlin on the line in our May Chronicle. By the way, after I catch that elusive beast, I will release it back to its home.



We are at a very critical juncture in our ongoing negotiations with the Board of Trustees concerning the War Memorial Veterans Building ("WMVB"). As if that isn't enough to occupy our time, we are also facing some very disturbing elements within our own ranks in the Commission. I must applaud Chairman Roger Dong for his dogged efforts to stay the course of converting the building into a place where returning vets can go for assistance. Progress, if any, has been hard to come by. But we are working hard to represent the Commission's interest, for the betterment of all veterans.

Since taking over Room 206 at the WMVB, Cathay Post has put the room to good use. However, we must be aware that our use of

that room is being watched very carefully by others. As we have indicated previously, you are all welcomed to use that room for any and all legitimate purposes that promote Americanism. The more use we can show, the more

legitimacy we will have in justifying retention of the room after the retrofit. Please contact any of the Executive Officers if you have suggestions for the use of that room. We will do our best to accommodate your request.

Due to funding shortages, the San Francisco Unified School District has issued layoff notices to all the JROTC instructors, threatening the existence of the program that we fought for three years to reinstate. While the lay-off notices are "routine" and the final outcome is uncertain, we must be vigilant and keep our eyes on the school board.

We must voice our objection immediately and loudly if a serious attempt to eliminate the program surfaces again.

We need to remind the school board that the citizens of San Francisco have voted to retain the program and we will not allow the board to go against the will of the people.

See you all in May and don't forget to vote.

**Nelson Lum
3rd Vice Commander
Vice Chairman, American Legion War Memorial Commission.**



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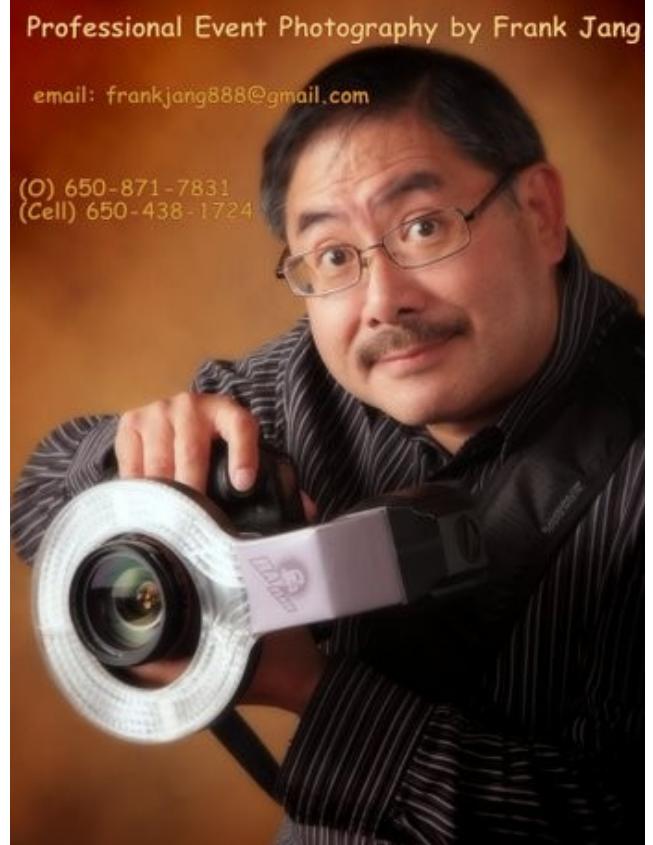
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Cathay Post Celebrating With Mayor Lee



Lee Sing Yee Association Spring Banquet



Pon Family Association Spring Banquet



Grant Avenue Follies



Grant Avenue Follies



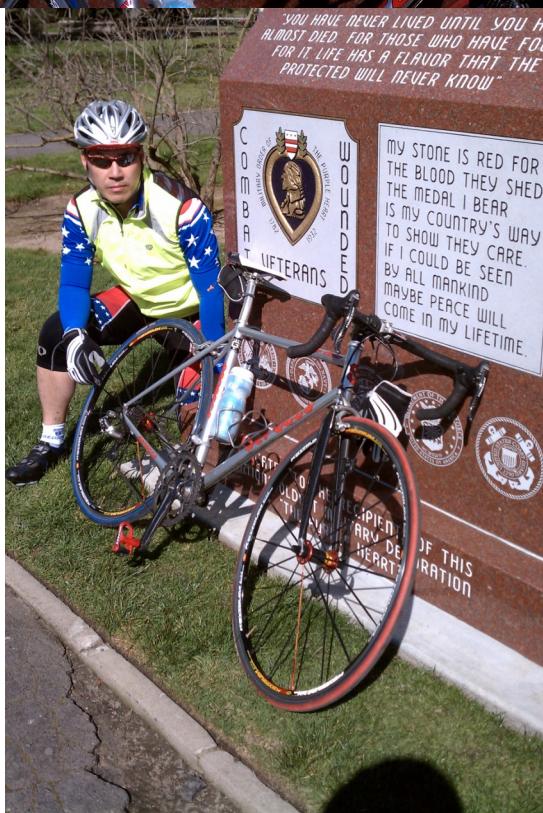
Cathay Post at the Japan Earthquake Fundraiser



Cathay Post Dance Class



Post Member David Lang In Front Of The Veteran's Memorial At The State's Capitol Grounds





NAPA CYCLEFEST

Saturday, April 16, 2011

In partnership with Rotary Ride 4 Vets/Cycle for Sight

Come join in the fun and the spirit of giving back to those who have served our country by supporting our injured veterans.



Your participation in the Napa Cyclefest fundraising event raises funds to buy specialized equipment, modify bicycles to accommodate injuries, and provide programs that feature cycling as the core activity.

The Ride 2 Recovery (R2R) provides bicycles, cycling attire, protective gear, and support to injured veterans and introduces them to the therapeutic and health benefits of cycling to help them in their recovery from physical and mental injuries.



R2R Cycling Programs are providing injured veterans a sense of normalcy, accomplishment, pride, camaraderie, and relief from depression and other problems that accompany recovery and rehabilitation.

R2R's mission is to improve the health and wellness of injured veterans by providing a life changing experience that can impact their lives forever.

www.ride2recovery.com

A special thanks to our sponsors:



American Legion



American Legion
Auxiliary

Ride Start and Finish:

Justin Siena High School, 4026 Maher Street, Napa, CA 94558

Rider Check-In and Same Day Registration starts at 7 AM

\$50.00 for the general public

\$20.00 for active duty military

Registration fee includes post ride festival.

Prizes for those who get the most sponsorships/donations from friends, coworkers, family, etc.

Cyclists have a choice of three scenic routes.

Ride Starts:

50 mile—8 AM 25 mile—9 AM 15 mile—9:30 AM

The Napa R2R Cyclefest is a ride, NOT a race.

All rides are supported with SAG vehicles, food and rest stops.

Helmets required on all routes.

No "rain check" or refunds.



After the ride, there will be a festival with 22 wineries, 3 micro-breweries and a live band. Eight food vendors will be providing lunch at a minimal cost.

If you would like to attend the Festival and skip the ride, contact Marc Cattapan to reserve one or more tickets for \$30.00 each.

How to register:

Go online to:

<http://www.Ride2Recovery.com>

1. Click on "When can I ride?"
2. Select "more info" under Cyclefest
3. Choose "Napa Valley Cyclefest"
4. Click on "Register"

For more information:

Contact Marc Cattapan

NorCal Regional,

Ride 2 Recovery Director

E-mail:

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Chronicle Staff

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Post Volunteer Roger Dong is our chief reporter.

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Assistant Editor Jinny Kim is a San Francisco non-profit civil attorney.

Assistant Editor and Chief Technical and Design Editor Michael "Young" Louie is an IT specialist based in San Francisco.

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.

Cathay Post No. 384, American Legion, Executive Board

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1st Vice Commander David Y. Wong

2nd Vice Commander Jay Pon

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