



# Davis Chinese Association

Newsletter, September 2009

## Please join us for Annual Potluck & General Meeting

*Bring family & friends for great food, games & fun!*

DCA's annual potluck and general meeting will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009, from 5 – 7:30PM, at the Stonegate Country Club, 919 Lake Blvd. A flyer for this event has already been sent either by e-mail or U.S. mail to all members and former members. Please reserve the date, and send RSVP to Frances Leung by Sept. 25 (so we can setup the place adequately and efficiently). Bring a favorite dish to share (sufficient to serve 10 persons). DCA will provide refreshments, plates & utensils, cooked rice. There is no charge for this event.

Any one in need of transportation to the event, please tell one of the members of the Board, and a ride will be arranged for you. (Board members contact info at end of newsletter)

This year's potluck promises to be a fun affair, as we are planning on introducing a game in which everyone, young and old, at every table can participate. It is called "Icebreaker", containing elements of game shows, art and talents shows,

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## Summaries of this Year's Events

*- So far, a busy and great year – read on!*

### Chinese New Year Banquet

Our traditional Lunar New Year banquet took place Saturday, February 21, 2009, at the New Canton Restaurant in Sacramento. Nearly a hundred members and their families/friends participated and enjoyed excellent Cantonese banquet fare amidst great camaraderie and festive atmosphere as only a Chinese New Year celebratory event can generate. Our thanks go to Anita Leung for her hard work negotiating the banquet at a great price, and to DCA President Min and board members Mary Liu, Frances Leung (past president and current vice president) for the excellent preparations and great decorative/festive touches such as floral center pieces, confections, and table/name tags. At the request of the DCA Board, Rosie Soohoo graciously gave a rousing summary of the history of the Scholarship Awards Program and funding status. She, as well as our Vice President Frances, were handed (surprise!) gifts in recognition of their matchless services to the DCA Community. After the banquet, Event Co-chair Mary Liu graciously opened her home and hosted an after dinner dessert social.

The event was a rousing success, needless to say, and we have some nice pictures to prove it in the picture gallery on page 4.



### Honoring Seniors Day

Apr 25, 2009 was a very special day for DCA. For the first time, we decided that, in keeping with the well-known, well-established Chinese cultural tradition of treating elders with great respect and care, we would do a special program honoring DCA senior members who were 75 and over.

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creativity, & imagination. Prizes will be awarded. If you are not familiar with the game, you **will** be after the potluck! Let's keep full details a bit of a mystery until the potluck. We are sure you will find it exciting and fun. Please make your reservations now!

As usual, there will be a brief period before the food & fun and games for DCA announcements and official business matters.



### Scholarship Awards Reception

Another first this year for DCA programs, we hosted the 2009 Scholarship Awards Reception on Saturday, May 16, from 2 to 4PM at the International House, 10 College Park, Davis. All scholarship recipients, their parents, DCA members, and scholarship sponsors were invited to celebrate with us. Mary Liu, Events Co-Chair, once again outdid herself in making the arrangements for venue, the wonderful appetizers & refreshments served, as well as for the special touches throughout the well-attended and lauded event.

Eight scholarship recipients and their family and friends were present, seated at individual tables with his or her family and friends, plus someone from the DCA acting as liaison or coordinator. President Min, Mary, and Frances of the DCA Board shared the podium in conducting the awards program, plus many other contributors (Terry Leung, Albert Yang, Edith Liu and Margaret Ong) who helped introduce the Scholarship Donor families and/or the award recipients. One of the recipients, Ray Zhang, gave a solo performance on his saxophone to start off the award presentations. Additionally, Rosie Soohoo, Co-Chair of the Scholarship Committee, gave an introduction and brief account of the Committee's history. Dr. Alan C. Tan, D.M.D, the event's sponsor, also was asked to help with a presentation.

Press releases were made via the Davis Enterprise both before and after the event, identifying the eight recipients. An excerpt from the first press release, as well as names and a group picture appear below.

“The Davis Chinese Association awarded a total of \$5000 in scholarships to 8 remarkable graduating seniors from Davis Senior High School. The recipients submitted their application including an essay entitled "What it means to be a Chinese

American?" The recipients were also honored on June 2, 2009 at Davis Senior High School's Senior Awards Night where DCA President Min S. Chai presented their awards.

This year's recipients are: **Christina Chew** – *Davis Chinese Association Scholarship*, **Shirley Gao** – *Ying Yung Tsao Memorial Award*, **Mengqi Zhu** – *Shang Fa Yang Memorial Award*, **Yammy Kung** – *Leslie Chin Memorial Award*, **Xian Ma** – *Gregory Chin Memorial Award*, **Ray Zhang** – *Kwang Ching Liu Memorial Award*, **Wenyu Tang** – *Mary Ong Lai Memorial Award*, and **Irene Mack** – *Davis Chinese Association Scholarship*. The recipients celebrated their achievements with their families, scholarship donors, DCA members and friends. The 2009 Davis Chinese Association Scholarship Awards Reception was generously sponsored by Dr. Alan C. Tan, D.M.D. of Tan Orthodontics in Woodland.

The Davis Chinese Association was formed in 1965 and continues to welcome everyone with an interest in sharing Chinese culture. In 2004, the Davis Chinese Association raised more than \$20,000 for a Scholarship Endowment Fund and began awarding scholarships annually since 2005.”



### Angel Island & Immigration Station Trip

On Saturday, June 27, 2009, an unexpectedly large, overflow crowd from DCA went to Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay to participate in a guided tour of the famed (or infamous) Immigration Station (also known to many as the “detention barracks”) as well as enjoy a bright, sunny day outdoors with beautiful views of the Bay and surrounding cities. The normal guided group tour size of 30 people was oversubscribed, and our group of 45 had to be split up into two groups. Both groups enjoyed a guided tour of the Immigration Station conducted by the same excellent docent.

Our enthusiastic group gathered early at 7:45AM at Market Place Square, happily accepting candy, snacks, and bottled water from Frances Leung, then off we went by carpool to the Tiburon Ferry

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## **Honor Seniors Day** – continued from p1

Stephanie Yang, DCA Event Co-Chair, graciously offered her home to host the event from 2 to 4PM.

Eleven seniors were identified and invited. They were greeted at the door with a corsage and name tag. The honorees and other DCA members in attendance then chatted, socialized, and partook of the refreshments and finger food/snacks brought to the event. Photo opportunities with the honorees were frequently taken. President Min brought along hand-made, beautifully decorated tote-bags for each of the honorees, as well as a nice calligraphy wall scroll that fits hand-and-glove with the occasion (you can see it in several photos in the picture gallery). Frances, DCA V. President, then introduced two young musicians, Felicia Lin and June Chai (President Min's charming daughter), who gave performances on the guzheng, or Chinese Zither. She continued the afternoon's program with brief introductions of each of the honorees, drawing on her vast knowledge of the DCA membership. After a brief intermission, invited guest and member, Dr. Baoping Li, gave a presentation on traditional Chinese medicine and acupuncture. He discussed at some length the growing practice of combining traditional Chinese healing with modern Western medicine, and generated lots of questions from the audience in the question and answer session following his talk.

In addition to the honorees, there were approximately 35 additional DCA members and their families in attendance. It was indeed a memorable afternoon, seeing so many of our DCA seniors together with their families, as they shared their life-time of achievements and experiences with us all.



## **Angel Island Field Trip** – continued from p2

Terminal. There, we boarded as a group on the first ferry (10AM) to Angel Island State Park, a ride of about 10 minutes. Most of our group took the first docent-led tour at 11AM, with the remainder taking the second at 12:30PM.

We came away with better knowledge of the difficulties many of our early Chinese immigrants faced, as they awaited an uncertain future – not knowing whether they would be allowed to enter the country or be deported – while being forcibly detained in crowded, prison-like surroundings.

## **Brief background and history of the Immigration Station, Angel Island State Park:**

The complex of wooden buildings of the Immigration Station on Angel Island was built as part of the implementation of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the first time a U.S. law limiting immigration based on nationality and race was enacted. Opened in January 1910 to house and detain immigrants directly off the boats, and targeting for the most part Chinese immigrants primarily from Guangdong, China, until its closing in 1940 when the Administration Building burned to the ground, these sparse settings housed thousands of immigrants in prison-like conditions waiting to be processed, hundreds at a time. Some were held for months or more, up to as long as two years, until they were either deported or allowed to enter the country. Frustration, anger, and despair of these poor immigrants found poignant expression in poems and words carved onto the barrack walls.

After 1940, the Immigration Station buildings were unused except for a brief period during World War II, and was abandoned after the war and deteriorated. Then in 1963, Angel Island was made into a State Park. California Department of Parks and Recreation assumed stewardship of the immigration site. When a California State Park Ranger, Alexander Weiss, rediscovered the poetry on the walls of the abandoned barracks just prior to the time when the old barracks were to be torn down, he contacted prominent members of the Asian Community. Bay Area Asian Americans formed the Angel Island Immigration Station Historical Advisory Committee (AIISHAC). This organization studied how best to preserve the station for historical interpretation.

In July 1976, their hard work came to fruition as the state legislature appropriated \$250,000 to restore and preserve the barracks as a state monument. It first opened to the public in 1983.

*For more in-depth historical details, as well as a description of some of the poems please visit the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation web site: <http://aiisf.org> For more information on Angel Island State Park, visit: <http://www.angelisland.org>.*

## Other Events

### *Ladies Nights Out – Desserts at the Ciocolat*

Among some of the fun activities our ladies group undertook this past summer was an evening on the town at the Ciocolat in Davis on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Although DCA men were invited, none showed up! (One wonders why). The ladies had a great turnout (14), virtually took over the joint, and had themselves a ball!

### *Ladies and Men's Lunch Groups*

The regularly scheduled, separate monthly luncheons of the two groups (usually at noon on the third Saturday of every month except December) had a surprising turn when the Ladies Luncheon Group led by Grace Chen and Rosie Soohoo invited the Men's Group to join them for lunch at the El Macero Country Club on Saturday, September 12. The men graciously accepted, as did other DCA members and guests to whom the invitation from Grace and Rosie was also tendered, and a sizable group of nearly 40 sat down to a nice lunch, occupying four large round tables. Good food, good conversation, and a nice time was had by all. Thanks, Grace and Rosie.



## Picture Gallery

### CNY Banquet, New Canton Restaurant – Feb. 21, 2009



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**Scholarship Awards Reception**



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3 The Eight Scholarship Award Recipients



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Honor Seniors Day



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**Angel Island & Immigration Station**



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✿ ***Any questions – please contact one of the DCA officers:***

Min S. Chai, President [minschai@sbcglobal.net](mailto:minschai@sbcglobal.net)  
(530) 753-9268

Frances Leung, Vice President  
[f.leung@sbcglobal.net](mailto:f.leung@sbcglobal.net) (530) 756-3968

William Ja, Secretary  
[yyja@yahoo.com](mailto:yyja@yahoo.com) (530) 753-5347

Jenny Wang, Treasurer  
[zywang4\\_98@yahoo.com](mailto:zywang4_98@yahoo.com) (530) 756-6255

Stephanie Yang, Events Co-Chair  
[YANGS5@nationwide.com](mailto:YANGS5@nationwide.com) (530) 750-3007

Mary Liu, Events Co-Chair  
[HLiu1104@aol.com](mailto:HLiu1104@aol.com) (530) 753-4453



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City, State 98765-4321

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