

THE FIERY DRAGON

June 2011

Empowering the Chinese Community Since 1958

WWW.CADCSE.ORG

Candidates for Sheriff

Meet with CADC

By: Sam Kwong

With sheriff **Mike Hennessey** deciding to retire after more than 30 years of service, CADC would like to commend him for his dedication to San Francisco, and wish him all the best in his retirement. With the Sheriff's seat being uncontested by an incumbent, two of the candidates for Sheriff appeared before the CADC general membership meeting in May and gave our members a glimpse of their vision for the Sheriff's Department.

Captain **Paul Miyamoto**, a 15-year veteran of the department presented first, and observed that though "Jail is always a negative subject," that they are there to perform public safety service. He believes that the Department needs to do more with less, and having served at all the divisions within the Department, he believes he has a clear understanding of the workings within the Sheriff's office. Paul commented that Sheriff Hennessey did a great job, especially at making the Department more diverse. Paul also sees that because the Department has not had enough new hires, there will be a need for new officers due to attrition. Paul said the County will have to deal with more prisoners as the State is looking to have all Counties take up the problem of inmate overcrowding.

Our members asked Paul the pros and cons of merging of the Sheriff and Police Departments and Paul responded that the two Departments are currently managed separately. Furthermore, the Sheriff is elected by the voters, while the Police Chief is appointed by the Mayor. Although he sees

President's Message

On Memorial Day Weekend, along with setting off for a vacation with the family, or firing up the bar-b-que, it was time to commemorate the men and women who died serving our country. In the Bay Area views on the military can be an anomaly. A young person's decision to serve in the military may be looked upon as a bad choice. Not so! We should appreciate the freedom we all enjoy—what we hope other oppressed countries may one day achieve. This would not have been possible without the sacrifices given by the young men and women fighting for our freedom. Therefore CADC has continued to ensure that a JROTC program is available in our public schools, and to offer our young people a range of career choices. This September will be the 10th Anniversary of the 9-11 attack on the homeland of the US. It is hard to believe that the on-going "War on Terror" will also be approaching its tenth year. Unfortunately, the loss of life and the number of physically or emotionally disabled veterans

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Sam Kwong, 2011 President



Ross Mirkarimi and Paul Miyamoto give their pitches for Sheriff *(photo Ron Lee)*

savings if these Departments were merged, the Charter would have to be changed, and the likelihood of this is questionable. Another issue has to do with the average pay. The salary of a deputy sheriff is about \$20K less than that of a police officer. Their initial training at the academy, however, are the same. So the merging of these two Departments would create a pay differential that could be difficult to resolve.

Paul concluded his presentation by stating a bit about his background. His father is Japanese and his mother is Chinese. He is married

with children and resides in the city. He will be gearing up his web presence soon, and will keep the Club informed about his campaign.

Supervisor **Ross Mirkarimi** was next to speak, and began by talking about his background in law enforcement. Many may not be aware, but he was a graduate of the Police Academy and also served in the reserve for the Navy and received honorable discharge. Afterwards, he worked at the San Francisco District Attorney's Office for nine years before he was elected to serve on the Board of Supervisors. Ross serves on the public Safety Committee and is an advocate of foot patrols. He has supported community policing, and requested the Police Department to keep him notified of any homicide in the City 24/7. Ross is proud to have Sheriff Hennessey's endorsement, and has worked well with the Department as a City Supervisor.

Some of the legislation he

authored includes:

- Reentry for Ex-Offenders: Formation of the Safe Communities Reentry Council to help reintegrate the formerly incarcerated -- recognizing the reentry process as a critical opportunity to break the cycle of crime and violence and reduce California's worst-in-the-nation recidivism rate.
- Police Foot Patrols: Required the San Francisco Police Department to institutionalize community policing practices such as foot patrols.

Ross also observed that Sheriff Hennessey did an excellent job making the Department more diverse. One of his goals is to build better relationships between law enforcement and the various communities. When asked about the possibility of a merger of the Sheriff and Police Departments, his response was that this is not as simple as one might think. Ross lives in this District and is married with a 2-year old son.

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CADC SUPER SUPPORTERS

Silver Dragons

- Shirley Chang
- Angie Cheung
- Eddie Chin
- Ed Fang
- James Fang
- Bayard Fong
- Richard Ow
- Amy Qu
- Peter Reitz
- Sandy Su

Golden Dragons

- Stanley Chan
- Gail Dekreon
- Ben Tom
- Alan S. Wong

President's Message

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are barely mentioned in the news anymore. Finding work in the current economy is already hard indeed for anyone, but the veteran servicemen and women will have an even more difficult time adjusting in this anemic economic climate. Therefore CADC will continue to work with veteran organizations such as Cathy Post to see that veterans' rights are protected, and that they are given opportunities to re-enter the work-force and given the respect they deserve.

Although warfare has seemingly become more distant, with more actions undertaken by using technology remotely, injury and death on the ground still cannot be avoided as the soldiers are faced with insurgents and suicide bombers. Relying on technology seems to make warfare easier, but this can lead to hasty decisions by our Commander in Chief to send our troops to engage in conflicts in other parts of the world for "humanitarian reasons" or to allow for "democracy." For the welfare of our future veterans and our country, we must make sure that entering into a fight is worthy, and not merely a drain on our valuable resources, both in human and financial capital.

CADC AND THE 2011 DISTRICT ATTORNEY RACE

By Samson Wong

Columnist Samson Wong's columns have appeared in more than 400,000 households weekly through the Examiner, Independent and AsianWeek newspapers. The CADC board member and former CADC president can be reached at potsticker@prodigy.net. Views expressed do not reflect CADC policy nor were they reviewed by CADC.

Until recently, you could make the case that there was no way California would elect anyone from San Francisco to statewide office. Now, liberal (by California, not

Sheriff Candidates Meet CADC

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About the Sheriff's Department

Under Section 6.105 of the San Francisco Administration Code, the only description of the role of the Sheriff for the City and County of San Francisco is very brief. It states that the Sheriff shall:

1. Keep the County jail;
2. Receive all prisoners committed to jail by competent authorities;
3. Execute the orders and legal processes issued by courts of the State of California;
4. Upon court order detail necessary bailiffs; and
5. Execute the orders and legal processes issued by the Board of Supervisors or by any legally authorized department or commission.
6. The Sheriff shall appoint, and at his or her pleasure may remove, an attorney, one under-sheriff, one assistant sheriff and one confidential secretary.

Of course this summary barely covers all the duties the Sheriff departments actually does. The Department it is often overshadowed by the larger and more high profile Police Department. However, the Sheriff's Department has a \$155 million annual budget with 952 full-time employees. The Sheriff and the under-sheriff oversee several divisions including investigation, custody, the operation of the jails and the security of the Courts. They also serve as first responders during emergencies. 56% of the Department's budget is allocated for custody and detention of persons arrested or jailed under court order. While incarcerated, inmates are provided services and programs administered through jail facilities such as education, drug treatment, and anti-violence programs.

Managing the gradual increase of the jailed population will be the most important role of the sheriff. The average daily cost of housing an inmate in the San Francisco County Jail is \$130.00. The jail capacity in San Francisco is 2,432. But when the population reaches 2,200, the Sheriff has to identify alternative solutions to incarceration in order to avoid jail-overcrowding.

S.F. standards) Attorney General **Kamala Harris** and Lt. Governor **Gavin Newsom** will receive the speculative spotlight for governor in 2014, if Jerry Brown doesn't run. Who would have thought? San Francisco "values" are in vogue statewide, from Harris' "being smart on crime" to Newsom's leadership on same-sex marriages.

MOST PROGRESSIVE IN AMERICA: Harris, a long shot to be State Attorney General, faced down a 2010 Democratic primary field with three unprecedented Asian Pacific American (APA) candidates including herself and then Assembly members **Ted Lieu**

and **Alberto Torrico** who keynoted the 2009 CADC Lunar New Year dinner. She came from an office where her predecessor **Terence Hallinan** declared himself in 1999 as the "most progressive DA in America". That platform meant alternatives to traditional prosecution and decriminalizing offenses like prostitution

KAMALA'S STANDS: Harris, who is California's first African, Indian and APA Attorney General, herself survived criticism from U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** and police officers over her principled capital

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CADC Board of Directors, Officers, Committee Members

Terms Expiring End of 2011

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Wilson Chu
Tech Committee
Florence Kong
Sam Kwong
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Henry Louie
Timothy Louie
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Terms Expiring End of 2012

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Derrick Seeto
Sandy Su
Ben Tom
Auditor

Feinstein Resolution Expresses Regret for Discriminatory Laws Against Chinese Immigrants

Despite hardships, Chinese Americans 'continue to make invaluable contributions to our country'

Washington—Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) today introduced a Senate resolution expressing Congressional regret for the passage of discriminatory laws against Chinese immigrants in the 19th Century. Senator Scott Brown (R-Mass.) cosponsored the resolution with Senator Feinstein.

In introducing the resolution, Senator Feinstein said, “The enactment of Chinese exclusionary laws is a shameful part of our history that must not be forgotten. I hope this resolution will serve to enlighten those who may not be aware of this regrettable chapter in our history, and bring closure to the families whose loved ones lived through this difficult time.”

The Chinese Exclusion Laws involved legislation Congress passed between 1870 and 1904 that explicitly discriminated against persons of Chinese descent based on race. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which imposed a 10-year moratorium on Chinese immigration and naturalization of Chinese settlers. The law was later expanded several times to apply to all persons of Chinese descent, each time imposing increasingly severe restrictions on immigration and naturalization.

In Congressional Record remarks, Senator Feinstein described the experiences of Chinese immigrants who came to America by way of Angel Island in California. In 1910, the U.S. government opened the Angel Island Immigration Station as a way to isolate Chinese immigrants from the City of San Francisco and the remainder of the Bay Area in Northern

California. These immigrants were brought to Angel Island Station where they were separated from family members, subjected to embarrassing medical examinations and grueling interrogations, and detained for months or sometimes years.

“Despite these hardships, Chinese immigrants persevered, and they continue to make invaluable contributions to the development and success of our country,” Feinstein added.

CADC and the District Attorney Race

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punishment stance, especially when she declined pursuing the death penalty immediately after the 2004 slaying of Officer **Issac Espinoza**.

S.F. ELECTORATE: Voters more often have elected a criminal defense attorney such as Hallinan in 1995 and 1999 while opting against perceived traditional prosecutor in **Bill Fazio**. Voters opted for a defense attorney in **Willie Brown** for mayor in 1995 and 1999 after former police chief **Frank Jordan** narrowly won a 1991 fluke as incumbent **Art Agnos** alienated his liberal-progressive base that elected him in a 1987 landslide. Prosecutors like **Andrew Clark** (despite being Gov. **Jerry Brown's** relation) for supervisor have a harder time winning election compared to defense attorneys like **Matt Gonzalez** or **Geraldo Sandoval** who became county supervisor...

BURTON & CHOW: Voters have a forgiving attitude, for example, towards drug rehabilitated John Burton becoming State Senator. Reformed and out of Chinese gangs, **Raymond Chow**, dabbled in political life by appearing at a 2007 press conference with late veterans advocate **Bok Pon**, long time Chinatown night market supporter **Pius Lee** and others inside the former Golden Dragon restaurant to instigate a recall against then Chinatown and North

Beach District 3 Supervisor **Aaron Peskin**. Certifying Chow as a new man, one Asian American politician recognized him with a certificate for community service. Years earlier, Chow was a media shy criminal figure whose lieutenants unfolded Chinese newspapers to shield him from prying news cameras...

POLICY ISSUES FOR DA:

San Francisco's political climate will dictate the electability of five DA candidates who have taken papers out, including appointed incumbent and former police chief **George Gascon**, the only woman candidate thru Alameda prosecutor **Sharmin Bock**, attorney **Maurcie Chenier**, and former police commissioner **David Onek**. (Mayor Ed Lee's criminal justice advisor Paul Henderson, who took papers out, has withdrawn)...Besides electability CADC will have to define the priority issues in the DA's office. Club members like HRC analyst **Bayard Fong** and 2010 District 10 (Visitacion Valley/Silver Terrace, Bayview) supervisor candidate **Marlene Tran** recently raised concerns about the investigation of the February slaying of teen **Victor Zheng** and community support for his family. One step is determining whether Zheng is isolated or a pattern the current or next DA should look at. CADC members like **Wilson Chu** might urge the DA to reexamine S.F. hate crimes against Chinese Americans brought up at last year's Chinatown HRC hearing or the prosecution of the infamous June 6, 2003 hate crime beatings at 19th and Taraval in the midst of a heavily APA community...Business trade associations like **Alex Chiu's Asian Business Association** should ask about APA hiring as prosecutors, investigators and managers and contracting to APA firms for equipment or professional services such as CPAs in forensic accounting...

CLUB'S INVOLVEMENT: The club over the years had notable leaders involved in the DA's office. In the 1980s, College Board and

later Municipal and Superior Court Judge **Julie Tang** worked for DA **Arlo Smith**. **David Onek's** candidacy has attracted former school board member and retired DA child support investigator **Eddie Chin** to an Asian American coalition of Supervisors **Eric Mar** and **Carmen Chu**, former police chief **Heather Fong**, school and college members **Sandra Fewer**, **Steve Ngo**, **Hydra Mendoza** and **Norman Yee**. Chin's early support could provide some early insights in former Police Commissioner Onek, founder of the **Berkeley Center for Criminal Justice**.

WANT JUSTICE, DO THE

TIME: Back in April 2010, I was a prospective juror for a hate crime case – in Superior Court Judge **Garrett Wong's** Hall of Justice courtroom. There was a mass exodus of the excused – a sizeable number of monolingual immigrant Chinese that Monday afternoon – followed by hardship cases like a “jooksin” or ABC like myself. Judge Wong chastised hardships like myself (I'd been on standby for an overseas business trip) about jury service – yes, it's universally inconvenient. Learning from Judge Wong, it's a necessary sacrifice and a teachable moment: for when we cry justice for a hate crime, then do the time – as in jury duty even when we are given a longer sentence as a juror than some criminal defendants...

EXCUSE ME?: In nearly all my jury duty call ups in more than 15 years, I've been excused more often because I knew a judge or attorneys on either side – including being a campaign treasurer for Judge Julie Tang. With Judge Wong, I admitted professionally as a news editor or columnist and personally knowing hate crimes prosecutor **Victor Hwang** of then DA Kamala Harris' office and ex-head of **API Legal Outreach** or the former **Nihonmachi Legal Outreach**. Judge Wong asked if I could be impartial – I hesitatingly admitted ‘yes’...and then I was dismissed.

CADC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Instructions: Please print using this form and return/mail to CADC, 706 Sacramento Street #134, San Francisco, CA 94108

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

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Email: _____

CHOOSE MEMBERSHIP* (PLEASE CHECK ONE ONLY)

- Fiery Dragon (\$500) Golden Dragon (\$100)
 Silver Dragon (\$50) Individual & Spouse/Partner (\$55)
 Individual (\$40) Senior/Student (\$20)

*Silver, Golden and Fiery Dragon members will be published in the newsletter for the duration of the calendar year. Membership fees are valid for one calendar year. Fees paid late in the year are valid for the subsequent year according to CADC bylaws.

AREA OF INTEREST (PLEASE CHECK ONE OR MORE:

- Issues Membership Education Issues
 Activities Newsletter
 Other (please indicate) _____

The Fiery Dragon

The Fiery Dragon is the official newsletter of the Chinese American Democratic Club of San Francisco, California. Letters to the editor and other correspondence can be sent to the address below. More information about the club can be found at www.cadcsf.org.

CADC Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors

CADC, founded in 1958, is led by an Executive Committee of elected officers and appointed committee chairs. Members in good standing elect from among themselves the board of directors. The board in turn elects the club officers. Officers consist of President, Vice Presidents (2), General Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and Parliamentarian. Committees consist of Special Events (2), Endorsement, Issues, Membership, Campaign Technology and Newsletter Editor.

Next CADC Meeting

When: June 9, 2011 6pm
Where: Chinese for Affirmative Action Meeting Room
Guest Speaker: Jean Gong, Project Manager, Office of Small Business,

JOB OPPORTUNITY Webmaster for CADC

The ideal candidate will have knowledge and familiarity with the Chinese language. The ability to read and write Chinese is a plus. It is the intent of CADC to expand the website with bilingual information.

Interested individuals should send a resume by email to Samuel Kwong, President of CADC at: samkwong-arcus@pacbell.com.
 Phone Contact: 415-391-3313

Scope of Work:

- Review and evaluate website.
- Recommend proposed improvements to the Executive Board.
- Implement improvements to the website and review developments with the Executive Board.
- Perform periodic updates of the website.
- The site should be completed within 2 months.
- Initially the website will be informational, but we want it to be able to accept membership payments through Paypal, and keep track of the calendar of events. Compensation will be negotiated during a personal interview.