

THE FIERY DRAGON

May 2011

Empowering the Chinese Community Since 1958

WWW.CADCSE.ORG

SENATOR FEINSTEIN'S SPEECH

Reminder that CADC Cannot Be Isolationist

By Samson Wong

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

Within view of the few remaining Chinatown rooftop flags flapping their China or Taiwan allegiances, last March's **Chinese American Democratic Club** annual dinner featuring U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** will remind veteran activists of her last keynote in 1993. At that sold out dinner for over 700, the newly elected U.S. Senator had spent most of her speech on U.S.-China relations. To compare, this year she reported about her overseas meetings on the issue of China and Taiwan as well as the urgency of California nuclear power safety in light of Japan's Chernobyl and intervention in Libya's civil war... In perspective, her 1993 speech was only four years before the United Kingdom relinquished its Hong Kong colony to China and 15 years after President **Jimmy Carter** formally recognized China. Leader **Deng Xiaoping** had just retired after propelling China to its current super power status that has arguably made it an equal of the U.S....

PRC RECOGNITION: But since Feinstein's 1993 keynote

President's Message

The Annual Dinner for CADC with Senator Dianne Feinstein was like hitting a "Grand Slam" for the Club. Okay, I may be exaggerating a bit but the event would not be possible without the hard work from our Board members and the generous support from the table sponsors and other individuals. Also I need to give special thanks the security volunteers that help to maintain order at the Dinner, they did an excellent job! I never experience celebrity status but it came close escorting the Senator around that evening. I did not realized that so many paparazzi were at the dinner and there must be hundreds of photos the Senator took with our guests. Others will be writing on the Senator's speech in the Newsletter, I that hope you find it enlightening.

See my message at the Dinner for those that were not able to attend the event. *(continued on page 2)*



Sam Kwong, 2011 President

when I was CADC president, the club has rarely served as a forum more on S.F. Chinese American issues than on international issues, let alone issues of Asia. That compares to CADC of the 1960s and 1970s as that rare and courageous voice calling for recognizing China's government in Beijing, unlike many Chinatown institutions supporting the U.S.-recognized Nationalist government on Taiwan. Former club president and Asian American Studies professor **Ling-Chi Wang** had always reminded club leaders about the club's early China stance during his enjoyable 1980s fireside **Asilomar** retreat chats bonding leaders to CADC's history and values.... It was at my first retreat in the early 1980s (board member **Alicia Wang** recalls me as this young punk kid") where I flipped through a green colored club dinner program with photos of then Mayor Feinstein on a

1981 Shanghai airport tarmac accompanied by CADC directors Louis Hop Lee and Julie Tang along with members of the newly formed **S.F.-Shanghai Sister City Committee**. Lee was a S.F. **Civil Service Commissioner**. College Board member Tang, always inseparable at the CADC dinner from former president and bench buddy Judge **Lillian Sing**, would become an unsuccessful candidate for 1986 supervisor in one of CADC's historic moments. But in Shanghai, she was among the highest level Chinese American elected officials since no Asian American served on the Board of Supervisors since former club president **Gordon Lau's** defeat as supervisor in 1979.

MAGNOLIA TO MAGNOLIA: Lau is noted for being the first elected Asian American supervisor (see **Kelvin Han Yee's** portrayal in the movie "Milk"). However, appointed in 1981, the late Lau's work as chair of

the Sister City Committee was recognized by Shanghai with the Magnolia Award in 1997 for his significant contributions to the city. And once again, S.F. and Shanghai recognized his work through wife **Mary** last June at a Sister City gala in Shanghai. Incidentally, Mary, who attended the CADC dinner at **Empress of China**, harks from the Magnolia State of Mississippi...**SISTER CITY IMPORTANCE:** Chinese American political pioneers like Lau, then Supervisor **Tom Hsieh** and long-time club member, businessman **Walter Fong** and **BART** Director **James Fang**, have been also active chairs of the Sister City Committee. And thru the Sister City and more than 250 accomplishments, these chairs have facilitated the relationships of emerging leaders of both cities, which are notable national political power centers. For S.F.: Feinstein became chair of the **Senate Intelligence Select Committee**, **Willie Brown** was a national figure already as former Assembly Speaker, **Gavin Newsom** is now Lt. Governor. Added to these former mayors, **Nancy Pelosi** became House Speaker until last year. For Shanghai's mayors, **Jiang Zemin** became president, **Zhu Rongji** became premier and **Huang Ju** became Vice Premier

CADC STAKES IN FOREIGN POLICY: Although CADC's U.S.-China positions are dormant, its leaders and club members do have a stake on the relations and not just solely on S.F. Chinese American issues. Current CADC president and architect **Sam Kwong** imports hybrid green bicycles from China. Former president and non-profit president **Michael Chan** was *(continued on pg.3)*

President's Message

(continued from pg.1)

尊敬的戴安范士丹女士 各位嘉賓各位僑領 大家晚上好。

我是鄭深明代表美國華人民主黨協會董事們熱烈歡迎各位嘉賓在百忙之中參加53週年的晚宴。

Honorable Senator Feinstein, honored guests, ladies and gentleman: I am Sam Kwong, President of CADC. I chose to say a few words of greeting in Chinese first because we have assembled a cross section of the Chinese community for our Anniversary.

Aside from our usual political supporters and business groups, we also welcome the presiding president of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and other community organizations and church leaders to attend our event. On this special occasion, the Club reached out to leaders of the Chinese organizations that traditionally are mostly active in family association functions. But on this occasion of the return of the Senator to Chinatown, we also recognize that we must work towards a better San Francisco for future generations.

I would like to thank the Dinner Committee members, our sponsors and all of you for participating in this Dinner welcoming Senator Feinstein back to Chinatown. It has been 18

years since the Senator spoke to a record crowd at the Gold Mountain Restaurant after winning the Senate seat representing California. Her return to Chinatown is an honor that the Club will forever cherish.

CADC and the leadership of these organizations believe that the time has come for all of us to work in collaboration to educate and mobilize our community on the importance of taking part in the political process. After all, the very formation of these Associations stems from overcoming oppression and discrimination that the community suffered years ago.

The results of the 2010 Census are clear as seen on map in our most recent Newsletter. The Chinese community has become a dominant voting block. The Chinese American Democratic Club recognizes that perhaps half of these voters are recent immigrants and English may not be their primary language. We will be working throughout the year with our community and family organizations to reach out to these neglected voters and convey the message of the need to participate in the political process. CADC will be using all available ethnic media to promote the idea that change can happen. As seen from the civil unrest in North Africa in recent months, even decades of dictatorship can shift towards a more democratic form of government. Power does belong to the people, and most locally, to the Chinese community.

Thank you and enjoy the rest of the evening.

Senator Feinstein's Speech

(continued from page1)

year exploring small business development and exports to China with the **U.S. Commerce Department's David Hinson**, head of **Minority Business Development Agency...**

IMPACT ON IMMIGRATION, HATE

CRIMES: Nationally, CADC cannot ignore the bearing U.S.-China relations have on recent immigration reform debates reducing family reunification quotas, which could curtail the growth of the Chinese American community. Swings in the U.S.-China relationship have resulted in a backlash when America perceives China as an economic or national security threat. U.S.-Japan competition in the 1980s triggered perceptions of Asian Pacific Americans as agents for Asian countries through hate crimes like the 1982 murder of **Vincent Chin**, a scapegoat for the economic misery in the auto industry. The so-called Chinagate contributions scandal after President Clinton's 1996 election indirectly delayed or derailed the first Asian American appointments to the White House cabinet. Towards the end of Clinton's administration, former San Jose Congressman **Norman Mineta** was appointed

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Ben Tom
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Senator Feinstein is mobbed as she enters the Empress of China banquet room. (photo K.Bond)

Senator Feinstein Speaks at CADC Banquet

by Jose Ricardo G. Bondoc

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (3/25)-2011 marks the 53rd anniversary of the Chinese American Democratic Club (CADC), the oldest Chinese American political club in the 50 states. The Club was chartered in 1958 by the California State Democratic Central Committee and the California Democratic Council in response to growing political repression during a Republican administration and violations of the Chinese American civil rights in the mid 1950's. The founding of the Club signaled a new approach to assert Chinese American participation in San Francisco's partisan processes. The keynote speaker of the night was Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

Speaking to the interests of the audience, Feinstein first spoke about the relationship between the United States and China. In her speech, Feinstein stated, "On the issues of cybernetic security, energy policy, trade, and the cross-strait relation between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland, we have made significant progress. This significant progress has been brought about by a rational discourse, bright leaders, and an intellectual discourse that has been allowed to flourish. One of the many symbols of this has been the continued increase of air, sea, and postal service between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland. One example is the presence of 270 flights between Taiwan and the mainland every

week, often crowded with people. Currently Taiwan has invested \$50 billion into mainland China and this has resulted in \$110 billion in trade every year, that could rise to \$300 billion with the passage of economic agreements. We are also beginning to see the two parties addressing security concerns, with the possibility of the People's Republic of China reducing the 300 ballistic missiles it has pointed at Taiwan, in return for a reduction in arms sales by the United States to

Feinstein blamed Republicans, saying, "They are currently slow-walking, hoping that the next president will be someone who will vote their way..." Using the story of several judicial nominees, Feinstein commented, "These candidates will continue to be held up until a constituency rises up to advocate on their behalf..."

On the issue of nuclear power plants, Senator Feinstein said, "The unfolding nuclear

need to ensure that the risk is fully evaluated.... For example, a 2008 California Energy Commission report presented very clear warnings of potential threats at both of these plants. This report found that the San Onofre plant could experience "larger and more frequent earthquakes" than the maximum 7.0 magnitude earthquake predicted when the plant was designed. It is our understanding that the NRC has not taken action to address these warnings in the report. It is also our understanding that the 2008 report found that there is an additional fault near the Diablo Canyon plant that should be taken into consideration as part of NRC's relicensing process. We want to know if the NRC will address all of the threats, including seismic threats, described in the 2008 report at these facilities..."

Speaking on the issue of Libya, Feinstein said, "I joined by phone the meeting that President Obama hosted with members of Congress today on Libya. I found it to be very useful and an informative meeting. The president gave a presentation on where things stand on Libya and where the administration expects events will go, and Secretary Clinton and Admiral Mullen presented additional comments. We have 350 U.S. aircraft in the region, including F-18s and B-2 bombers, we also have 150 Coalition aircraft in the region as well. The U.S. has 11 warships in the area, and Coalition allies have sent 20 vessels into the area.... I think that based on the conversation, members have a good sense of where things

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Senator Feinstein delivers her speech to the attendees.

Taiwan.... I am heartened by the people involved, this is conflict resolution at its best..."

Another issue that Feinstein spoke on was the need for judicial confirmations. In Feinstein's opinion the federal judiciary has become "over-stretched and over-stressed" In her speech she pointed to the number of judicial confirmations. "Currently, under the the first 2 years of the Obama administration, we have only confirmed 60 judges. Compare this to 100 judges confirmed in the first two years of President George W. Bush, and 126 confirmed in the first 2 years of the Clinton administration..."

disaster in Japan has raised questions about the safety of nuclear power plants here in the U.S. As Senators from California, we are particularly interested in the safety of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, located in San Clemente, and the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant near San Luis Obispo, both of which are near earthquake faults.... Roughly 424,000 live within 50 miles of the Diablo Canyon and 7.4 million live within 50 miles of San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station. Although many safety measures have been taken to address potential hazards associated with these facilities, we

Suzanne Lee Eyeing Seat on City Council in Boston

by Sam Kwong

While in Boston for a family association event, Club President **Sam Kwong** met **Suzanne Lee** at a Family Association Spring Banquet and got to chat a bit with her about her candidacy for District 2 City Council seat. Lee is hoping to unseat incumbent **Bill Linehan** who represent districts which includes the South End, South Boston, **Chinatown** and the Leather District, since 2007.

Lee, although has never ran for public office has deep roots in the district. As first generation immigrants raised by parents of a garment and a restaurant worker, Suzanne Lee has spent most of her life trying to make Boston a better place. With much of her life dedicated to education - as a teacher, principal and advocate. Lee hopes that members from the family Associations throughout the States will help support her campaign.

Unlike San Francisco where the City is divided into Districts, Boston City Council has four at large councillors who are elected to represent the entire city; in addition there are nine district city councillors who represent specific portions of the city. Currently, there are no Asians on the Council. Good luck to Suzanne.

The following are experts from an article in Boston.com, written by **Cara Bayles** on 2/1/11.

...While she doesn't have any previous experience holding office, Lee has deep political roots in the district. She retired after a 10-year stint as principal at the Josiah Quincy School in 2009, and in 1977, she helped found the Chinese Progressive Association, an organizing force for labor, voting rights



Suzanne Lee

(photo S.Lee Campaign)

and community services (she spearheaded an effort to bring a library branch to Chinatown) in the immigrant community. She is still a leader and mentor in public education and sat on the Chinatown Master Plan oversight committee.

"My whole adult life has been organizing people to have a greater voice and helping to make decisions that impact their lives," she said, adding that while the city has provided greater access to its services and resources online, much of the city's working-class and immigrant communities don't know how to access the information. "A lot of times people expect the city to something for them, but they don't necessarily know how decisions are made, or what their part should be in that."

With Lee's political roots in Chinatown and the South End, and Linehan's following in Southie, the race could be a landgrab for votes. Lee plans to run a "grassroots campaign," which would involve door knocking and listening sessions all over the district....

Information about Suzanne Lee can be found on her website www.suzanneleeboston.com



Senator Feinstein is flanked by Sam Kwong and David Chiu.



Helen Lum and Alan Wong with the Senator.



Charles Chow, President of Chinese Benevolent Association and Sam Kwong.



Ben Tom gives the introduction for Senator Feinstein. *(photo K.Bond)*

Chinese American Democratic Club



華裔民主黨協會

April 26, 2011

Honorable David Chiu
President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Subject: KeepYellow Pages

Dear President Chiu:

At the past general membership meeting of the Chinese American Democratic Club, the club voted against any legislation that will affect or diminish the free distribution of the Yellow Pages to residents of the City. The Club believes that Yellow Pages is important to individuals particularly those that have no access to the Internet and will particularly affect consumers with limited English skills.

Small business often place ads and discount coupons in the Yellow Pages to attract customers, these are effective marketing tools that generate revenue. Further, the Yellow Pages contain information on Government and city services, recreation attractions and even layout of seating for the opera and Bay Area Ballparks.

While we completely understand and share your concern against waste, we cannot make consumer choice and freedom of information subordinate to arguments that Yellow Pages are wasteful because the simple fact is that Yellow Pages are completely recyclable.

CADC urge you and members of the Board of Supervisors to oppose to the elimination of the Yellow Pages legislation.

Very truly yours,

Samuel Kwong
President of CADC

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors
Hon. Mayor Edwin Lee

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Calvin Louie, Vice President
Tim Louie, Secretary
Suzie Lee, Treasurer
Ron Lee, Parliamentarian
Ben Tom, Auditor

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San Francisco CA 94108
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Senator Feinstein Speaks

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are at the present and of the administration's plans. There are further briefings scheduled for all members next week. I think the president understands the need to consult with Congress on the situation and U.S. actions in Libya, and that this will continue to happen, especially as the Congress

reconvenes next week... We have the superiority in the air, destroying the surface-to-air missiles (SAMs), but this has led to some interesting developments, Gaddafi is currently laying siege to Misrata, and we are getting reports that Libyan military forces are dressing in civilian clothes in an effort to elude tracking by Coalition forces... But this conflict

begins and ends with Gaddafi! He is a terrorist and a thug. Any leader who threatens to fight to death against his own people, doesn't deserve to belong in leadership. I hope we will soon see an end to this matter soon..."

Finally, in regards to the federal budget,"Currently we are running the federal government based

on two-week resolutions. That is not a good way to run a railroad, much less a government. We are finally seeing broad agreement in Congress that leaders must cut spending and control the deficit... But we need to make certain the budget is not balanced on the backs of California's families and businesses... Unfortunately, that is precisely what the spending plan endorsed by House Republicans will do, in the process undermining our economic recovery and endangering the financial security, health and educational opportunities for millions of California families... Public health and education programs in California will see sweeping cuts, causing great hardship..."

The Club has wielded considerable influence in City elections. A number of Club leaders and members have served during the 1990's on important City Commissions, including the Airport, Planning, Port, Civil Service, and Human Rights Commissions. The Club has advanced it's campaign technology in recent years; now, other political clubs in the City attempt to follow our methods.

President Sam Kwong, told members at the dinner,"The Chinese American Democratic Club has entered the new millennium as the premiere Asian American political association in the country, as it always has been. Volunteer your time with CADC and help us make San Francisco a better place to live..."



Bayard Fong, Helen Lum, Calvin Louie, Senator Feinstein, Bonnie Low and Sam Kwong



Stanely Chan, Frank Fung and Eddy Lau.



Galileo High's JROTC Color Guard.



Suzie and Ron Lee with the Senator.



Wilson Chu and Tim Louie.



The Raffle Ticket sellers.



The Senator with Harrison Lim and Amy Chuang.



Stanley Chan, Ron Lee, Amy Qu, Jane Gong, Sam Kwong and Hans Wong



Leung's White Crane Lion Dancers.



Fiona Ma with Katy Chan.



The Senator with Hans Wong.



The Senator with Mel Lee and Assessor Phil Ting



Sup. Mirkarimi makes an appearance.



Julie Tang and Lillian Sing are greeted by the Senator.



Amber Lee of Channel 2 covers the event.



The Senator accepts a special ginseng gift from Sophie Leu.



Former Supe Bevan Dufty with the Senator.



The Leung White Crane Lion Danacers perform.



The Senator is engulfed in a political tug-of-war.



Franklin Mah and Lions Club Members.



CADC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address: _____

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CHOOSE MEMBERSHIP* (PLEASE CHECK ONE ONLY)

Golden Dragon (\$500) 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

Where: Chinese for Affirmative Action Meeting Room

When: May 12th, 6pm