



THE ASSOCIATION OF CHINESE TEACHERS

November 2014

今天的教師培養明天的夢想

The dreams of tomorrow are shaped by the teachers of today...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Colleagues,
The TACT/AAAA (The Association of Chinese Teachers/Association of Asian American Administrators) Kickoff began this school year with a BANG! The joint kickoff held at Sunset Elementary School was a HUGE success. Can you imagine sitting in a circle with over fifty people? It was awesome! We owe our gratitude to all the participants from high school, middle school and elementary divisions, central office, and UESF. Of course,

our keynote speaker, Dr. Luis Valentino, Chief Academic Officer, helped draw a crowd. Dr. Valentino expressed that to move education forward, every department in the district needs to collaborate strategically. Dr. Valentino's message reassured us that we would get the support we need to do our job at our schools.

The kickoff allowed teachers and administrators to connect in a relaxed setting. Many retired teachers and administrators came back to usher in the new school year with us. A display area was set up to showcase the curriculum materials that TACT had developed over the years. *Exploring Chinatown* by Carol Stepanchuk and illustrated by Leland Wong and *Crossing Boundaries: Asian and Pacific Islander Americans* by Irene Dea Collier and Lora Meilin Collier and illustrated by Janine Macbeth were on sale.

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TACT GRANTED NON-PROFIT STATUS

By Irene Collier

Great News! After three long years of wrangling with paperwork, TACT has been finally granted a 501c3 Non Profit Status.

When TACT was founded in 1969, it was incorporated as a 501c4 "Social Welfare" organization. In those days, the needs of the Chinese community were ignored. We had no school board members, a handful of administrators, and even fewer programs. As such, TACT founders envisioned that changes in education might involve a certain amount of political activity. Over the years, TACT has been involved in educational forums, candidates' nights, meetings with school board members, writing letters in support of funding for educational programs within the guidelines of non-profit organizations. The organization has seen many positive outcomes of its stances.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Saturday, January 31, 2015
Teachers-Teaching-Teachers



PHOTO GALLERY FROM THE TACT KICKOFF RECEPTION



Checking in with TACT Curriculum Members, Maisie Dea Toy, Irene Collier, and Helen Joe Lew at the TACT resource table which included many TACT publications and recommendations.



Keynote Speaker, Dr. Luis Valentino, Chief Academic Officer, SFUSD



Interactive and engaging question and answer session.



TACT and AAAA members and friends.



L to R: Sophie Lee, past President, AAAA/Principal, Sunset Elementary; Mimi Kasner, Incoming President AAAA/Assistant Principal, Roosevelt Middle School; Selina Mok, President TACT/Teacher On Special Assignment

HAPPY YANG, TACT SCHOLAR: YOU GO, GIRL!



A past TACT scholarship winner, Happy Yang is a sophomore at Harvard College. She is in Currier House planning to concentrate in either Government or Economics. This summer, Happy had the distinct honor of interning for Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, who serves San Francisco. Following is an excerpt from Happy's log.

On my first day of work, I escorted guests to an event where Pelosi honored Elizabeth Dole for her work to support military families and caregivers. Dole was the first woman to be elected to the US Senate from North Carolina, and I learned a lot by watching these two women graciously supporting each other across party lines.

Some of my intern duties have allowed me to see Congressional debates. For example, I took notes for an Agriculture Appropriations bill markup. Drafted and supported by Republicans—and highly contested by Democrats—this bill would allow financially struggling schools to waive the national standard on lunch.

- To read more about Happy's experience, click on <http://www.iop.harvard.edu/blog/summer-service-democratic-leader-nancy-pelosi>

2013-2014 TACT Executive Board

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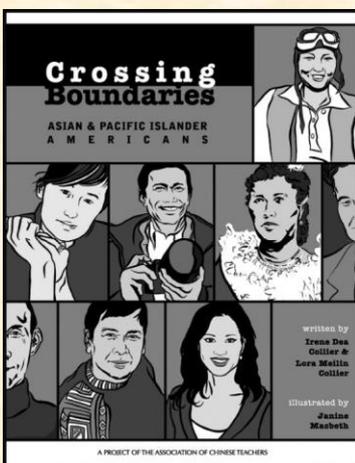
<http://tactsf.weebly.com/contact-us>

CROSSING BOUNDARIES: ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS

Published by The Association of Chinese Teachers (TACT) 2010

In response to requests by teachers for materials about the lives of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans in a non-fiction format, TACT published *Crossing Boundaries: Asian and Pacific Islander Americans* in 2010. Irene Dea Collier and Lora Meilin Collier researched and wrote the text; Oakland artist Janine Macbeth illustrated and designed the portraits and graphics.

This publication includes 20 biographies, 20 portraits for coloring, 20 baseball card size portraits, suggested activities for youth ages 5 through 18, and an additional list of over 120 notable Americans of Asian Pacific Islander descent. Over 400 copies of the book have been distributed in schools and libraries in San Francisco, Berkeley, and Oakland, California. In addition, the book has been used in university courses aimed at teachers. A limited number of books are still available.



- TACT members may receive a complimentary copy, which will be sent to your school mailing address.
- Non-members may also order a copy for a \$ 5 shipping and handling charge. Email us at: tactbook2010@yahoo.com
- Use "BOOK REQUEST" in the subject line.

YOUTH VOICES ON CHINA

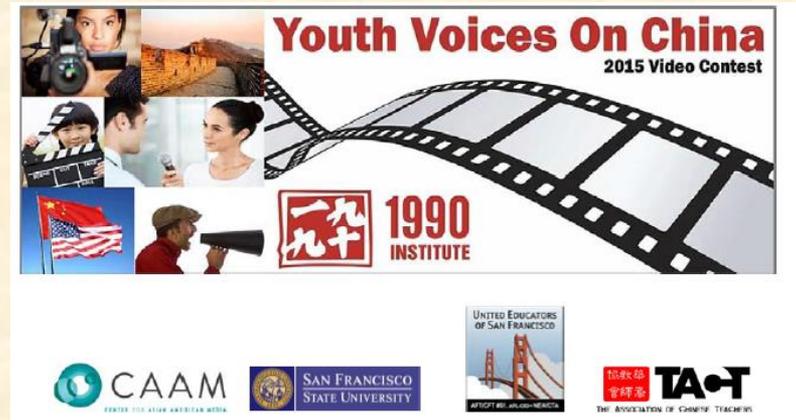
TACT is proud to co-sponsor the video contest, YVOC (Youth Voices on China) with SFSU (San Francisco State University) and UESF (United Educators of San Francisco). Teachers can win over \$2000 of cash prizes. Please check out the information below.

The 1990 Institute is pleased to announce the launch of its inaugural annual video competition, **Youth Voices on China** (youthvoices.1990institute.org). Our national contest encourages middle school, high school and college students of ages 13-24 to think more broadly about U.S.-China relations and how China may affect their future. Open to **U.S. residents of age 13 to 24**, Youth Voices On China invites students to submit a short, thought provoking video of 2 to 3 minutes' length on a China topic related to the 2015 contest theme, **"WHAT'S CHINA? Why Understanding China is Important to My Future."** The videos should be directed towards their American peers and strive to inspire them to learn more about modern China. Multiple points of view and creative forms of expressions, such as spoken word, rap, music videos, and humor are highly encouraged. With over \$15,000 in total cash and prizes, the 1990 Institute will award prizes to over 12 student videos and to more than 10 sponsoring teachers in three divisions – middle school, high school, and college. Awards include:

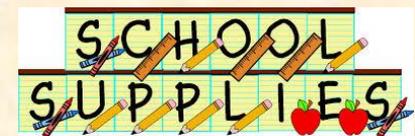
- **Best Overall Video:** Grand Prizes include \$1000 to each division winner, and to each sponsoring teacher.
- **Most Influential Educator Prize:** \$650 award to the teacher sponsoring the highest number of entries.
- **Regional County Winners:** \$500 each to middle and high school winner per county and their respective teachers. Participating Northern California counties include San Francisco, San Mateo and Alameda.
- **Jury's Choice Early Bird Prize:** two \$250 awards to best entries submitted by December 5, 2014.
- **Audience's Choice Prize:** \$500 to the semifinalist winner determined by public online voting.

All eligible videos must adhere to the official Contest Rules and entries may be submitted online starting Monday, October 27, 2014. The final submission deadline is Monday, January 11, 2015.

For additional details go to <http://tactsf.weebly.com/youth-voices-for-china-contest>



COMING SOON! – TACT CLASSROOM TEACHERS' GRANTS



Did you know that the average teacher spends up to \$1,000 of his/her own money every year on supplies for his/her classroom? TACT would like to help member teachers ensure that their students have what they need to succeed.

In alignment with SFUSD's Mission and Goals, TACT is pleased to announce that five \$100.00 classroom grants will be presented to full-time educators this year. Classroom grants can be used for a variety of projects and materials, including but not limited to books, software, math manipulatives, art supplies, audio-visual equipment, and lab materials. Funds must be used within one year of the application deadline.

Look for the grant application in our January newsletter!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from Page 1

Refreshments were served. The kickoff festivity filled the entire school auditorium with conversation and joy.

TACT continues to carry on the mission set forth by our founders – to advocate for equity and access for all students, especially our English learners, and to promote academic excellence. In support of our goals, we will again hold the Teachers Teaching Teachers professional development in January. We will also continue to refine our scholarship process to support our outstanding graduating high school seniors. We will culminate our year in April by honoring our scholarship recipients at the Scholarship Dinner.

The TACT board is comprised of a small but mighty group of teachers, counselors and retired educators who donate their time to the organization. We also rely on the generosity of our members – both past and present – and community supporters to keep our commitment to our children. We invite you to share the mission of TACT by assisting in coordinating and participating in future events. Please keep in touch with TACT throughout the year by sending us your stories, concerns, and everyday victories. Reach us at <http://tactsf.weebly.com/contact-us>. I urge you to take the first step to support TACT by becoming a member. Hope you have a great year!

Selina Mok,
TACT President

TACT GRANTED NON-PROFIT STATUS

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Unfortunately, the 501c4 “Social Welfare” status was misused by some political groups to hide income sources. As this designation came under scrutiny, 501c4 organizations were denied corporate and governmental grants.

A few years ago, the TACT Board authorized an application for a change to a 501c3 “Non Profit” which requires more disclosure of donors, officers, and activities. This “Non Profit” designation will allow donors to deduct their charitable contributions on their taxes. Once again, TACT will be eligible for government and corporate grants. We can still write to legislators, encourage public support for specific legislation, meet with school officials, but must be limited to (a) activities related to our organizational goals and, (b) such activities comprise less than 20% of our budget or time. As stated in our by-laws, we may not support specific political candidates.

Thanks to May Choi who spearheaded the effort, Irene Dea Collier who filled out massive amounts of paperwork, Darlene Lim, Helen Joe-Lew, Anita Wu, Diane Lau Yee, and Christie Kitsuda who assisted with advice. Thomas LeRoux, a friend of our accountant Rickey Liu, was the lawyer.

BECOME A TACT MEMBER

The Association of Chinese Teachers invites you to become a member.

- \$100 Patron and Friend
- \$50 General Membership
- \$25 Non-Certificated, new members and retired
- \$5 Monthly Payroll Reduction (Complete authorization below)
- \$0 New First Year Teacher to the District and student teachers

Download membership application at <http://tactsf.weebly.com/membership-application>