



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CHINESE-AMERICANS

全美華人協會

National Association Of Chinese-Americans

Newsletter
Spring 2011

Dear NACA Members:

Spring is finally here and I am sure some of you are happy to see warm weather arrive and planting season to commence.

Thanks to the great work of our Public Relations and Communications Committee Chair, Connie Yip, and the contributions of various members, we have another great edition of the newsletter. I am sure you will enjoy reading the various articles.

We have an upcoming Board election in early June. More information will be available at a later time. I want to encourage everyone to attend this year's election. In addition, if you or someone you know who might be interested in running for NACA's Board of Directors and believe that you or that person may make a good candidate, we encourage you to run during this year's election! Please submit the name and a brief biography to the [PR & Communications Committee](#). The Board will review all submissions prior to deciding who will be placed on the ballot. Potential candidates need to be a NACA member in good standing prior to being considered for candidacy.

We also have other events in the works, and will provide more information as it becomes available. I look forward to seeing some of you throughout the rest of the year.

Best Regards,

Christina Liao

Christina Liao
President, National Association of Chinese-Americans

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Member Highlights

CONGRATULATIONS!

Former NACA President and
Current Advisor, Henry Yu, joins
Shanghai Bosun Capital

Banquet

NACA held its Annual Chinese Lunar New Year Banquet at Canton House Restaurant on Saturday, February 19th. Known as the most important of the traditional Chinese holidays, this year's Lunar New Year marks Year 4709 and is the year of the "Golden" Rabbit. Guests gathered in the early evening to mingle with others as they enjoyed dim sum treats before a lively lion dance. NACA Board Members Xianqin (Lisa) Wallace and Andy Wong served as this year's Mistress and Master of Ceremonies while NACA Chair, Lani Wong, provided welcoming remarks to greet guests.



This year's program featured remarks from The Honorable Dr. John Eaves (Chairman of the Board, Fulton County Board of Commissioners), Chief of Staff Candace L. Byrd (Office of the Mayor, City of Atlanta) and The Honorable Deputy Commissioner Gretchen Corbin (Georgia Department of Economic Development). The Honorable Consul General Gao Yanping from the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Houston served as the evening's Keynote Speaker.

Each year NACA makes a special presentation to an organization or entity by contributing a gift donation that serves to further each of their cause or mission. This year's recipients were Georgia Perimeter College who received \$12,000; Good Shepherd Services of Atlanta who received \$5,000; and Georgia Institute of Technology's Center for International Business Education and Research who received \$3,000. Entertainment for the evening was provided by members of Cathay Atlantic Art Ensemble who performed a traditional Chinese dance and a compilation of popular Chinese songs sung by NACA member Joanna Jin. The Mistress and Master of Ceremonies ended the program with a raffle and auction. Raffle items included local area restaurant gift cards, a Ritz-Carlton, Buckhead deluxe accommodation and 1st day issued Year of the Rabbit commemorative note card and stamp set. Auction items included a stunning four-strand cultured pearl necklace and AirTran Airways roundtrip tickets. With the help of its corporate sponsors and community partners such as AirTran Airways, Inc., The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, Troutman Sanders LLP, China Shipping (North American) Agency Co., Inc., GE Energy, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. and Greenberg Traurig, LLP, NACA is able to successfully carry out its goals every year.

[Lunar New Year Banquet Video](#) *Courtesy, Michael P. Guo, Atlanta168.com

NACA Supports Community Chinese Lunar New Year Festivities

Advisors Ltd. as its President.

*_*_*_*_*

Interested in Sharing
Your Story to
Other NACA Members?
We Would Love to Hear From
You!

*_*_*_*_*

Please send news items and
updates
about you or your family
to Connie Yip,
Chair of the Public Relations &
Communications Committee.
Email:
pr@naca-atlanta.org

* * *

Upcoming Events



Join us at the
following future events being
hosted by NACA!

Saturday, May, 7th
NACA
Member Networking Social
Location: NACA
Headquarters
(5483 Redbark
Way, Atlanta 30338)
Time: 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, June, 4th
NACA Annual Election
Meeting
Location: TBA
Time: TBA

Be sure to check
out future emails from NACA
or visit NACA's website
for event details!

News Flash

[NACA SELECTED AS FINALIST
FOR GLOBAL IMPACT AWARDS](#)

NACA was selected as a finalist
for the Metro Atlanta Chamber
of Commerce, Global
Commerce's 2nd Annual Global
Impact Awards in the category

receptions ushering in the Lunar New Year. Members attended festive banquets hosted by the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), The Hong Kong Association of Atlanta and Wells Fargo. NACA members in attendance had the opportunity to mingle with other guests from the community including local government officials and representatives from companies in the metro-Atlanta area.

NACA Chair Lani Wong and Board Member Connie Yip also attended

NACA members joined various organizations around the Atlanta area to celebrate the Year of the Rabbit, attending



of "Global Partners - Service Providers." This category recognizes a service provider who has played a significant role in increasing high quality job creation, the initiation of leadership and betterment of the local community and an employment of sustainable practices.

[NACA CHAIR LANI WONG REPRESENTS NACA DURING HU JINTAO VISIT](#)



Along with other prominent Chinese-American leaders, NACA Chair Lani Wong was invited by the Chinese Embassy, in Washington, D.C., to attend a luncheon in honor of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

[GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY MBA STUDENTS HOSTED IN SHANGHAI](#)

26 MBA students from GSU will visit Shanghai in early April and be given a presentation from NACA Advisor Henry Yu regarding the current economic outlook in China and its effects to the international community.



the unveiling of the 2011 Lunar New Year Stamp commemorating the Year of the Rabbit. The event took place at the National Archives at Atlanta, featuring a reading by the designer of the stamp, Kam Mak. The stamp, features two ripe kumquats, a depiction of a paper cutout of a rabbit and the Chinese character for "rabbit." For the Chinese, kumquats help bring in the new year, symbolizing good luck and prosperity and are often given as gifts to others.

NACA Annual Dumpling Party Social



As a tradition, NACA held a dumpling party after its Chinese New Year celebration, inviting NACA members, special guests, and more importantly, a master chef to teach and make "jiaozi" (dumplings). Guests gathered at the home of NACA Chair, Lani Wong to mingle with new and old friends while they were taught how to make a variety of Chinese dumplings, both meat and vegetarian. For entertainment, some guests took to the karaoke machine, singing their rendition of traditional and popular Chinese songs.

NACA Chair Lani Wong Leads The Development Authority of DeKalb County in its Development Mission Trip to China

Community Corner

[NACA PLEDGES SUPPORT TO ASSIST IN JAPAN RELIEF FUND](#)



NACA, combined with generous contributions made by its members, will donate \$3,000 to Habitat for Humanity to assist in the relief efforts in Japan in the aftermath of a major earthquake and tsunami that struck the nation in early March of this year.



Under the leadership of NACA Chair, Lani Wong, who is also Secretary to the Development Authority, The Development Authority of DeKalb County sponsored a business development mission trip to seven cities in China from March 20th to April 3rd. This year is the fourth year in a row that a delegation traveled to China with the goal of developing a relationship to establish or expand business between Chinese business leaders and government officials with DeKalb County. Ms. Wong assisted in the facilitation of meetings with government officials and businesses to promote investment and partnership opportunities with DeKalb businesses and also promoted educational partnerships between Chinese universities and Emory University, Georgia Perimeter College and DeKalb Technical College.

To read the official 2011 China Business Development Mission Report issued by the Development Authority of DeKalb County, please click [here](#).

NACA Attends Opening of SANY America Assembly Plant



Together with Governor Nathan Deal, Governor Qiang Zhou of China's Hunan Province and Wengen Liang of SANY Group, NACA members were in attendance to celebrate the completion of the first phase in the construction of SANY America's North American assembly plant in Peachtree City, Georgia, located about 35 miles southwest of Atlanta. SANY America is a division of SANY Group Co. Ltd. (headquartered in Hunan Province), a Chinese company that produces concrete-pumping equipment. The

plant in Peachtree City is the only one located in the U.S. and is only one of four investments SANY has made outside of China.

It was during the ceremony that Governor Deal officially unveiled a fully-assembled SANY Global Rough Terrain Crain (RT), the equipment that the plant will ultimately be producing.

Currently, with a little over 100 employees, Sany America hopes to at least double its workforce by



NACA SUPPORTS EMORY CHINA CARE

NACA members attended the 5th Annual Emory China Care Banquet and Silent Auction on March 26th. Emory China Care is part of the National China Care Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing medical care and life-changing surgeries to Chinese orphans with disabilities. Profits raised at this event goes towards providing surgeries for Chinese orphans.

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the end of 2012.

Bridging Cultures: A China Expedition



NACA Member, Brian Reynolds, is anticipating a 6-month expedition this summer to China with one mission: to promote international education and cultural understanding for the youth in China and the U.S. Brian finishes his undergraduate studies from Arizona State University (ASU) this May, with a degree in Chinese Language and Culture as an ASU Chinese Flagship student. A Confucius Institute scholar who has studied Mandarin for six years, Brian has also had previous work experience in both China and the U.S. Brian's goal is to share his knowledge of China to westerners and to share western culture with the Chinese. With this cultural bridge, Brian will allow readers to follow his journey through photographs, video and writing as his expedition will be shared with local, national, and international media and print outlets.

To learn more about Brian's expedition and/or to sponsor and contribute to this 6-month expedition of cultural immersion and exchange, please visit the following links or e-mail [Brian Reynolds](mailto:Brian.Reynolds).

[Biography](#)
[Sponsorship](#)

U.S-China Update: Immigrant Visa Retrogression

Beware the Visa Retrogression!

Imagine you are standing in line at the movie theater. Now imagine that after a very long wait, you finally reach the ticket window. But the long wait has made you lethargic. Instead of purchasing a ticket, you drift off to sleep. When you awaken, much to your horror, you find you are no longer at the front of the line, but somewhere in the middle with numerous people in line ahead of you. This, in a nutshell, is visa retrogression.



As many of the readers of this article know, applying for an immigrant visa is much like standing in line at the theater. Only, instead of marking your place by standing in a physical line, your place in the intangible visa line is marked with a priority date.

Immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, of course, do not have to worry about priority dates. Immediate relatives are defined under the Immigration and Nationality Act as spouses, unmarried children under the age of 21, and parents (if the U.S. citizen is at least 21 years old). The U.S. Department of State provides an unlimited number of visas to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens. As a result, immediate relatives do not have to wait in line for an immigrant visa.

Priority dates are for immigrant applicants who are not classified as immediate relatives. These immigrants usually fall in the family-based or employment-based preference categories. The U.S. Department of State limits the number of family-based preference visas to 226,000 per year and employment-based preference visas to 140,000 per year. In addition, there are limits to the percentage of visas that can be allotted to each country.

Because the demand is higher than the supply of visas for a given year for some categories, a visa waiting list forms. To distribute the visas among all preference categories, the Department of State gives out the visas by providing visa numbers according to the



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Special Thanks

A special thank you to all of the contributors and writers who assisted in the production of this

preference category and the intending immigrant's priority date. The priority date is used to determine an individual's place in the visa waiting line.

For family-based immigrants, the priority date is the date on which the family-based petition (Form I-130 in most cases) is filed. For employment-based cases, it is the date of the filing of the labor certification application, or if no labor certification is required, the date the immigrant visa petition (Form I-140) is filed. Once the petition is approved, the immigrant will receive a Notice of Action, indicating his or her priority date. If the intending immigrant has a priority date on or before the date listed in the Department of State's monthly visa bulletin, then his priority date has "become current" and he is eligible for an immigrant visa. (The Department of State's visa bulletins may be viewed [here](#).)

In a world governed by logic and Newtonian physics, we all expect a cause to precede an effect, 2nd to follow 1st, and queues to progress forward. Not so in the world of government bureaucrats and immigration law, where lines regress and priority dates sometimes move backward in time. Thus, sometimes a priority date that is current one month will not be current the next month. This is called visa retrogression and occurs when more people apply for a visa in a particular category than there are visas available for that month.

In February 2011 family-based preference categories experienced significant retrogression. For example, in January 2011 the current priority date for the 4th preference category (siblings of U.S. citizens) for China was January 1, 2002, making immigrant visas available to those born in Mainland China with a priority date of January 1, 2002 or earlier. However, in February 2011 the priority date for that category suddenly retrogressed to January 1, 2000, meaning that visas were no longer available to Chinese nationals with priority dates after January 1, 2000.

So what does retrogression mean for those with pending petitions for permanent residence? If you are going through consular processing to obtain your visa (i.e., applying for permanent residence from *outside* the U.S.), once your priority date becomes current, you must act fast to complete your visa processing. If your priority date retrogresses before your visa is approved, your visa application will be held in abeyance until your priority date becomes current. In other words, you have to get back in line.

Similar to those going through consular processing, an individual intending to adjust status (i.e., applying for permanent residence from *inside* the U.S.) must quickly take action to complete his permanent residence processing the moment his priority date becomes current. He must do so by filing an I-485 Petition for Adjustment of Status prior to retrogression. If he misses this window of opportunity, he will be unable to file the I-485 until a visa becomes available. If he does timely file his I-485 and is lucky enough to have his petition approved prior to retrogression, then he will get his green card without further delay. Similar to his consular-processing counterparts, his adjustment of status will be held in abeyance if it is timely filed but not approved before his priority date retrogresses.

Adjustment of status applicants, however, have an advantage over consular processing applicants when it comes to retrogression. If a timely filed I-485 is still pending at the time of retrogression, the intending immigrant will have succeeded in becoming "an applicant for adjustment of status," a status which confers several benefits. First, an adjustment of status applicant is eligible for work authorization and for advance parole. In most instances, advance parole enables applicants to travel in and out of the U.S. without visas while their applications are pending. (Caution: applicants for adjustment of status are subject to unlawful presence bars to re-entry. Consult an immigration attorney.) In addition, in most cases, an alien will not accrue unlawful presence while maintaining status as "an applicant for adjustment of status."

So if you are a petitioner or a beneficiary of an immigrant petition, do not doze off while waiting in the immigrant visa queue. Be alert to the monthly Department of State bulletins. If your priority date comes current, do not delay in filing your application for adjustment of status or your immigrant visa application. While waiting for your turn at the ticket window, it pays to keep in mind the time-honored adage: if you snooze, you lose!

Written by: NACA Member Anne Whipple, Esq., Attorney at Law, The Law Office of Anne H. Whipple

ABOUT NACA

The National Association of Chinese-Americans has been a strong presence in Atlanta for over 30 years. NACA is made up of a diverse group of individuals, from its Board to its members, who all help facilitate the promotion of cultural, educational and business relationships between the U.S. and China.

While it devotes much time and effort in building long-lasting relationships with its current partners in the community, NACA constantly reaches out to form new ones.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining NACA, please have them e-mail the [Membership Committee](#).

If you are already a member and are interested in learning more about how you can become more involved with NACA and its activities, please e-mail the [PR & Communications Committee](#).

Sincerely,

Connie W. Yip

Editor

On behalf of the
Board of Directors



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF CHINESE-AMERICANS

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