

## **Association of Chinese Americans' Successful 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

On October 12, 2012, ACA (Association of Chinese Americans) in Michigan held a grand gala celebration of its 40th anniversary at Glen Oaks Country Club in Farmington Hills in the midst of beautiful autumn scenery. In attendance were government officials, business representatives, community organization leaders, ACA members and community supporters at large with about 220 attendants. It was a great gathering of guests and friends from different sectors around the metro Detroit area to network, share fellowship, and participate in the celebration of four of decades of ACA's achievements.

To celebrate this milestone, the theme of this year's event was "Cherishing the Past, Celebrating the Present, Embracing the Future." Once again, devoted ACA supporter **Victor Whang** emceed the event. Also attending were ACA President **Ronald Wong** along with ACA Board members **Glen Dong, Fred Ferris, Roland Hwang, Shuh-Yuan Liou, Robert Rothman, Shung (Sue) Sung, Anthony Tai, and Bernard Wong**. Especially gratifying is that many past ACA Presidents also supported this special event including **Marcus Chao, Roland Hwang, Tina Hwang, Tony Lee, George Lim Poy, Lilian Siak, Marie Weng, Ying Gee, and Andy Wong**.

The evening began with a Royal Welcome Dance performed by the newly formed **ACA Senior Folk Dance Group** followed by the National Anthem performed by **Sean Chen**. ACA president Ron Wong gave welcoming remarks. The dignitary guests included U.S. Senator **Debbie Stabenow**, Michigan State Senator **Hoon-Yung Hopgood**, Wayne County Executive **Robert A. Ficano**, and Oakland County Treasurer **Andy Meisner**. Some of our program sponsors also in attendance were Detroit Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency's Acting Executive Director **Sandy Peppers** and Area Agency on Aging 1B's Chief Executive Officer **Tina Abbate Marzolf**. Their attendance shows the acknowledgement of ACA's community work and the support of the Chinese community at large by mainstream society.

The keynote speaker of the event was **Marcella Lee** who is a native Detroiter, ACA high school scholarship recipient, and former ACA Board member. Ms. Lee used to be the most popular Chinese American anchor woman on WDIV-TV Detroit and is now the main news anchorwoman at KFMB-TV in San Diego. She spoke on her experience of growing up as a minority youth. She also encouraged all Chinese decedents to love and cherish their cultural roots, to courageously express themselves, and to seize every opportunity to illuminate the ethnic Chinese community.

It was announced that a special commemorative publication is being published to celebrate the history and accomplishments of ACA over the past four decades. The printing of the commemorative book was underwritten with a sponsorship from **Comerica Bank**.

Our major philanthropic supporter this year was **Dr. Clyde Wu**. Dr. Wu shows his strong support for the ACA community work not only financially but also through his personal involvement in specific service projects and he is truly a model for the community from all aspects. The event sponsors, **DTE Energy** and **Comerica Bank**, continue to support ACA's community work over the years.

ACA awarded **Comcast** this year's Outstanding Corporate Excellence Award, in recognition of their financial support which resulted in the establishment of a fully equipped computer lab at ACA's Chinese Community Center and the training of twenty students in Comcast's Digital Connectors Program. The award was accepted by **Mary Beth Halprin**, Comcast Vice President of Public Relations and Community Investment, Heartland Region. The Unsung Hero awarded was given to dedicated volunteer and former Board member **Margaret Wong**, in recognition of her longtime contribution of teaching ESL (English as Second Language) and citizenship preparation classes at the Chinese Community Center and her strong fundraising efforts on behalf of ACA. Outstanding Volunteer awards were given to social work volunteer **Ting Chang** and **Chenpei Shang**, an intern from Lawrence University who helped with several programs. Two youth counselors, **Emily Soong** and **Franky Hang**, worked hard and made significant contributions to the 2012 ACA youth summer camp program. Both were awarded with an Outstanding Volunteer award and received a \$100 scholarship.

ACA Executive Director, **Shenlin Chen**, acknowledged program sponsors whose funding support allows ACA to proudly offer services to the community. She also presented a short slide show of ACA events over the years and thanked all ACA Board members, staff, and volunteers for their dedicated efforts to provide services to the community and to initiate programs for growth.

The event culminated with two spectacular performances. The **Michigan Chinese Folk Dancing Group** attired in brilliantly colorful dresses with silk fans performed graceful dance steps and movements in their presentation of the folk dance "Beautiful Color". The cultural program also included an awesome performance by **Revolution**, a group of Chinese American students from the University of Michigan who have brought a new interpretation of the traditional skills associated with the Chinese yo-yo by infusing fast pace music with fluid movements and tricks.

ACA appreciates the participation of these organizations in celebrating ACA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event: **AARP, ACCESS, APIAVote-Michigan, Area Agency on Aging 1B, Asian Center of South East Michigan, Chinese Association of Greater Detroit(CAGD), Confucius Institute at Wayne State University, Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA), Detroit Area Agency on Aging 1A, Detroit Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency, Greater-Detroit Chinese-American News, Luella Hannan Memorial Foundation, Metro Detroit Christian Alliance Church Chinese School, Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission, Michigan Chinese American News, Michigan Chinese Women Association, Michigan Department of Community Health/Health Disparity Reduction and Minority Health, Michigan Chinese Academic and Professional Association, New Detroit, OCA, Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce of Greater Detroit, UAW, World Journal.**