

## Summer 2016 Newsletter

### Dear CASL Family and Friends...

One of the great tenets of being a citizen of the United States is the right to vote. It is a freedom, a privilege, and a symbol of democracy that minority groups have spent over a century fighting for.

On February 3, 1870, African-American men were granted the right to vote with the ratification of the 15th Amendment. The amendment, however, did not include women. It wasn't until fifty years later, on August 26th, 1920, that the 19th Amendment was passed in response to the Women's Suffrage Movement. Yet voters' rights were not fully recognized by the American electorate until the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, signed the federal Voting Rights Act in 1965. This piece of legislation changed the face of American politics by prohibiting voter discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity and gender. By 1975, the Voting Rights Act was amended so that assistance would be provided to eligible voters with limited English proficiency. The Voting Rights Act marks the United States' recognition of equal voting access. We've come a long way as a country, but there is still much more to do.

It is not always easy to see how voting can transform our community, our society, our city, and our nation. But when we combine all of our individual voices as one, the result is tremendous societal impact for the better. It is vastly important that each and every citizen of this country exercises their right to have a voice—to have a say in the decisions that affect our individual lives and our communities. Immigration, economy, criminal and social justice, health care, privacy and data security, and many of the freedoms we are entitled to—all are voted upon by the American people in addition to the candidates running for various legislative seats.

This presidential election could be one of the most significant during our lives, but there is much more to voice your opinion on during election day. Educate yourself on the other political seats to be filled, and make informed decisions on legislative issues—fill your ballot out in full. Register to vote, and vote with conviction on November 8th!

All the best,



Bernie Wong  
CASL President and Co-Founder



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## CASL in the Community...

*Every voice matters, every vote counts!*



Esther Wong

CASL Executive Director and Co-Founder

In 2008, six million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. By resolution of the National Association of Secretaries of State, **National Voter Registration Day** is now the fourth Tuesday of September—on the 27th in 2016. Led by volunteers, celebrities, and organizations from all over the country, this initiative of coordinated field, technology, and media efforts aims to amplify awareness of voter registration opportunities. While the struggle to increase the number of registered and active voters in our own community continues, we in Chinatown have come a very long way.

### CASL and the **Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (est. 2001)**

- ◆ Chinese American Service League
- ◆ Chinatown Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Chicago)
- ◆ Pui Tak Center
- ◆ Chinese American Civic Council
- ◆ Chinese Mutual Aid Association
- ◆ Asian Pacific American Advocate
- ◆ South-East Asia Center

One of CASL's focuses as a member of the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (CBCAC) has always been civic engagement—proactively engaging in candidate forums, the recruitment of more bilingual election judges, early voting campaigns, voter registration, voter education, poll monitoring, and presenting long lists of new voters to elected officials in order to show the growing political power of the Chinese community. Over the course of a decade—and in partnership with other organizations—CBCAC succeeded in registering over 5,000 new voters. Most notably in 2011, CBCAC began expanding its collaboration to include other minority communities by working closely with State Senator Kwame Raoul—Chair of the Senate Redistricting Committee—and the Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Chicago) to pass the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011. This resulted in the Greater Chinatown community in Armour Square, Bridgeport, and McKinley Park being established as one state district.

### Get Out The Vote

Now in this 2016 presidential election year, CASL's "Get Out The Vote" campaigns are stronger and more aggressive than ever—yielding 2,500 voters in the last election. High school youth play a critical role in the future of our community's voting power by not only preparing to become active, educated voters themselves, but also by inspiring older generations to care about our community's future and feel confident about having a voice. It is imperative that everyone in our community be educated on their rights and responsibilities as citizens of this democratic country, and for those on the path of citizenship to likewise keep themselves informed on the politics that shape their world. Register to vote NOW if you haven't already, and we'll see you at the polls!

## Gardening with Goldman Sachs

Adult Day Service ♦ Winnie\_Lam@CASLservice.org ♦ 312.791.0418 x1120

In 2015, 54 Goldman Sachs offices partnered with over 900 non-profit organizations on nearly 1,600 projects worldwide. More than 25,000 Goldman Sachs staff, family and friends joined together to contribute over 150,000 hours to communities around the world. And for the past 4 years, Goldman Sachs Chicago has been making a meaningful difference for our seniors here at CASL. In particular, one product of this outstanding partnership has been the gorgeous garden beautifying the senior's patio year after year!



"They helped us repaint the corridor that we never had time and resources to manage ourselves. Now we can hang up all of our awards and accomplishment letters on the bright, clean white wall! And without their help, we would not have a beautiful patio for clients to do their therapeutic gardening work. We look forward to Goldman Sachs coming back next year!"

—Winnie Lam, CASL Adult Day Service coordinator

"We were thrilled once again to partner with CASL for the fourth consecutive year through *Community TeamWorks*, our signature volunteer initiative. Goldman Sachs is committed to giving back to our community and helping to promote social wellbeing and healthy lifestyles. The opportunity for me to spend the day with the Adult Day Service clients—especially the many elderly who came to the U.S. from Taishan, my parents' birthplace and home in China—provides such a powerful cultural connection to my Chinese heritage."

—Bonnie Fong, Vice President of Investment Banking at Goldman Sachs

## Closing on a House and a Home

Housing and Financial Education ♦ Ben\_Lau@CASLservice.org ♦ 312.791.0418 x1120



In late spring of 2015, Mr. and Mrs. Liu came to CASL seeking financial education. They then attended our homebuyers workshops to better position themselves as informed buyers, and finally moved on to the one-on-one counseling that would accelerate their dream. Now—only a year and three months later—Mr. and Mrs. Liu have closed on their beautiful new home!

You're never alone on the path to success. Contact CASL today for the resources you deserve to make your dreams come true!

## Yuling Wu, New Manager of Children's Programming

Child Education and Development Services ♦ [Yuling\\_Wu@CASLservice.org](mailto:Yuling_Wu@CASLservice.org) ♦ 312.791.0418 x1105

Having been CASL's School Age Coordinator for nineteen years, Yuling Wu was the obvious choice as our new manager of Child Education and Development Services. Yuling received her Masters Degree in Education—Instructional Leadership—from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and she also holds the Illinois Directors Credential (Level I). During her previous nineteen years at CASL, Yuling was a school age program trainer for 5 years, a school age quality advisor for 2 years, a leader in promoting school age program quality, and instrumental in having the program accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

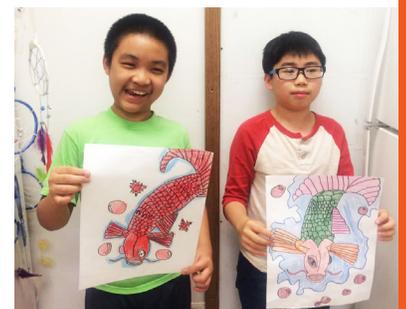
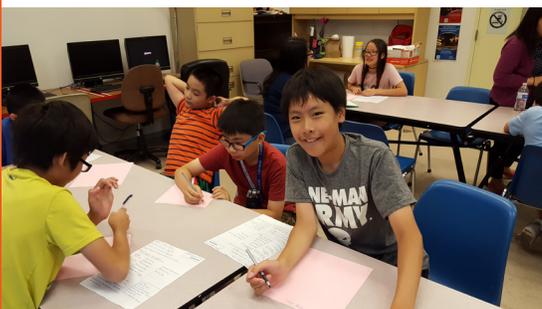
"Children are moldable and can be nurtured and educated to their full potentials. This is achieved by staff implementing developmentally appropriate activities in a bilingual/bicultural environment, and by encouraging parents to create a home environment in which children can practice what they've learned." —Yuling Wu



## Middle School Youth Create Their Summer

Youth Development Program ♦ [Cindy\\_Zhang@CASLservice.org](mailto:Cindy_Zhang@CASLservice.org) ♦ 312.791.0418 x2103

Grid drawing techniques, watercolor, basic quilling, and story-writing are just some of the many creative activities that middle school youths enrich their summer with in CASL's Youth Development Program. But as the new academic year begins, youths come to CASL after school for homework tutoring, computer training, field trips, community service, mentoring and counseling, and workshops on transitioning to high school.



# 2016 Winter Social

*A Legacy of Compassion*

December 2 ♦ 6:30 - 10:00 PM ♦ Bridgeport Art Center

This past summer, it was with immense joy and celebration that the CASL Family announced the retirement of both Bernie Wong and Esther Wong—two of our founders. The transition— spearheaded by a committee of board members and CASL leadership—has been carefully planned in order to honor Bernie and Esther’s wishes to retire at the end of 2016.

It is important for the community to know that this hallmark change—and the solidarity it has created among boards, leadership, and staff—means an escalation of CASL’s strength, vitality, and investment in the Chicago community.

That said, it’s time to celebrate!

View the sparkling Chicago skyline from cozy club lounges, sample delicious hors d’oeuvres experiences, enjoy the full open bar, and dance to internationally-acclaimed DJ Orion Roswell’s hottest mixes—CASL will return to the Bridgeport Art Center on December 2nd to celebrate the legacy of Bernie and Esther in the utmost style.

Once you’ve tweeted at-event photos of yourself with local celebrities, then get to know the names and faces of the extraordinary board members and staff leadership who are piloting CASL into an innovative and exciting future. We’d love for you to be a part of this unprecedented celebration, so don’t miss this chance to honor Bernie and Esther, share your ideas with us, and party like never before!



## Volunteer for THE Party of the Season!

Catherine Wanandi, Volunteer Coordinator ♦ 312.791.0418 x3905

There is no CASL event like our annual Winter Social, and you need to be there. What type of volunteering could be more fun than a chic holiday kick-off celebration overlooking Chicago’s glittering skyline?

Volunteer opportunities for this event are easy, fun, and a great way to get to know CASL in a relaxed party environment. Register with us NOW to secure your ideal position!