

The Link @ THSH

Thursday, March 1, 2018

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Headlines

TCC Town Hall Meeting



The Taiwanese Community Center hosted a Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, February 17th from 2 to 4PM. The goal was to take this opportunity to hear opinions and suggestions from individuals and groups with an interest in the development of the TCC. In addition, we could take this chance to answer any questions and facilitate communication and understanding as well as transparency to improve the Taiwanese American community. About 30 people attended, and many spoke up and gave their suggestions. Below are some key points taken from everyone's ideas, provided as reference to all stakeholders:

- Regarding the THSH Service Member system:
 - Though there was a reason that the Service Member system was created, and the reality is that it had its necessity at the time, but as times have changed, we should reexamine this system and its costs and benefits. It can be expanded to allow more people to join this community and participate in its activities and serve, as well as get to know the different organizations and their respective missions. IN other words, we need to increase the visitor base to TCC. Some community members have voiced that the current system sets a bar for those wanting to volunteer, reducing desire to participate and serve. Some suggest expanding nomination rights for service members, such as allowing user members to nominate (current system is nomination by board members only), others suggest using a registration system.

- Volunteers are shorthanded. If we add on the divisions among opinions in the different organizations, the problem is only bigger. If possible, we should consolidate all manpower and expand mutual communication, since the community's resources are limited.
- Regardless of the organization, we should all be open-minded and not have an us vs. them mentality. There should be peace internally in the community, this is an important factor.
- Different age groups probably need programs suited to their respective ages.
- Regarding THSH fundraising:
 - Some members suggested the financial and manpower issues could be solved by managing the non-profit organization like a for-profit company, such as letting a CEO take on responsibilities for management.
 - Can consider finding members who are willing to give recurring donations long-term.
 - The center belongs to all members, all groups that use the center (social orgs, school, parents) should participate in fundraising.
- Someone suggested collecting THSH usage fees together with TAA membership fees. However, because one group is a 501(c)(3) organization and the other is not, there could be tax issues, so this needs to be carefully considered.
- Someone suggested that the Heritage Society bylaws should be easily accessible. THSH Chair responded that THSH members can all download this information on the THSH member service site.
- Someone suggested the TCC can be developed into a Senior Activity Center.
- TAA's new president suggested that for the 228 Memorial event next year, all Taiwanese American groups can come participate in the skits.
- Someone suggested to open the doors and expand outward, allow others to come in to participate and get to know Taiwan. Our focus should be on the future, and not fear others joining. Others believe openness is beneficial, but we should be wary of dilution of the organization or infiltration and destruction of the org.
- Someone suggested that to attract people, we have to help people and solve problems for them. For example, providing information for those that need it. So someone suggested the creation of a database, like United Way does, matching needs with resources. THSH Chair mentioned he has previously suggested the creation of a Taiwanese American central database to be managed centrally. Since we are now in the information age, this would be helpful to Taiwanese Americans sharing information and analyzing metadata, allowing all groups to serve their members more efficiently.

Although the turnout is lower than expected, we heard many valuable opinions and suggestions from the attendees. Before the meeting, we heard some concerns about the usefulness of such a meeting. For example, would the meeting turn disorderly? Would it be a waste of time if there was no rigorous agenda? And would this be a prelude for THSH become a traditional "oversea Taiwanese organization", etc? We humbly listen to and respect all kinds of concerns. The purpose of the town hall meeting is for community leaders to hear the community's views on public issues. Any people who care about the Taiwan Community Center can come and express their opinions and ask questions. This time, the attendees of the meeting were rational and respectful. All the participants in the meeting had the opportunity to speak out freely. The leaders of the participating organizations would take the opinions/suggestions back to their boards for future decision references. This meeting also indicated the necessity and a possibility of a cross-organization idea exchange platform. Two hours was not enough to express/address all the possible concerns in our community. We might hold similar meetings in the future. Hopefully more people will show up in the next meeting. Your presence to the meeting is a sign of support to our community.

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Company Donation (donation plus volunteer time matching)

Company	Donor	Amount
BP	李秀英	\$1,950
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Nvidia	Ellie & Nathan Ratliff	\$200
Shell Oil	羅錦燦	\$1,000
SRC Inc.	蕭文源	\$1,000
Statoil Gulf Services LLC	林康立	\$425

Thank you for your continued, faithful support of our community.

Event Previews [\(Event Calendar\)](#)

March Events

Property Exemptions & Protests

Time: Saturday, March 3rd, 11AM-12PM



Contents: Many people do not know that there are many ways to save on taxes when reporting property taxes each year. Property taxes are determined by government appraisal of property values. If you believe the government has overvalued your property and your taxes are too high, how do you object? After Harvey flooding last year, many people had their homes flooded and had to spend money on repairs. Can these costs reduce property taxes? After the floods, real estate values fell—should taxes go down? We are inviting Harris County Attorney Mr. Scott R. Hilsher, J.D. to answer these questions. Hopefully this will help some people to reduce some financial burden. ([Online Registration](#))

Cost: Free for both members and non-members.

Reference: <http://hcad.org/hcad-help/texas-first-time-property-owner/exemptions/property-tax-exemptions-for-homeowners/>
<http://www.hctax.net/Property/protest>

Skin Care & Cosmetics

Time: Saturday, March 10, 2:00 PM ~ 4:00PM and March 31, Saturday, 2:00 PM ~ 3:00PM



Content: Taiwanese Women's Association together with THSH has invited makeup artist Nancy Huang made a special trip to teach us skin care & makeup tips for beginners. Please register in advance and remember to bring your own cosmetics and mirrors to the class. ([Online registration](#))

Cost: Free for both members and non-members

One Day Field Trip: Houston Downtown Tunnel & Sam Houston Park

Time: Wednesday, March 28th, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM



Content: Did you know how busy the Houston Downtown Tunnel is? It is a far-reaching network with a wide variety of shops, restaurants, and bakeries. Whether you want to visit cultural sites, historical sites, businesses, banks, or luxury hotels, you can safely do so without crossing any roads. It's a leisurely and convenient way to get around, but many have lived in Houston for 30 or 40 years without ever using these tunnels. We've specially arranged this trip to allow everyone to gain some insight on them and learn about the beauty of Houston Downtown. After visiting the tunnels, We will go visiting some interesting places which include Allen's Landing and Buffalo Bayou · Seven Wonders Sculptures (next to Wortham Center) · Beautiful Julia Ideson Building (the Old Library) next to Smith Street, and the Phoenicia Market · We may also visit Sam Houston Park if we have enough time. We might spent about 100 minutes of walking around during this day trip, so if anyone who could not walk for too long, we do not recommended you to participate this time.

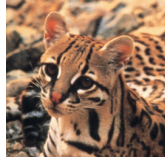
Cost: Members \$10, non-members \$20. Lunch fee is not included. You will get \$ 2 discount if registered online. ([Online Registration](#))

Reference: <https://365thingsinhouston.com/2017/05/18/downtown-tunnels-underground-houston/#>

April Events

Texas' Rare Wildlife Species

Time: Saturday, April 7th, 12:30PM-1:30PM



Content: Texas is home to a wide variety of species due to its size. Many of the wild animals here cannot be found in other states. These rare animals are among our resources and are worth being proud of. We should be protecting them. Last February, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wildlife expert Ms. Diana Foss came to introduce some of Texas' wild animals and plants. Her presentation was well-received, so this year we

have invited her again to talk about rare species in Texas. Our hope is that everyone will care for them and protect them. We also encourage participation in the City Nature Challenge taking place from April 27th to 30th. This session will cover a lot of material, so please don't miss this great opportunity.

Cost: Free for both members and non-members. ([Online Registration](#))

Reference: https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0013.pdf

Urban Coyote

Time: Saturday, April 14th, 12:30PM-1:30PM



Content: Houston is a large metropolis. The surrounding desert used to be home to coyotes, but due to population growth, many new neighborhoods, malls, factories, and office buildings have been built, forcing coyotes out of their habitats. They now need to look for food where humans live. This poses a threat to humans, their pets, and other animals. Summer is their breeding season, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is hosting the Urban Coyote Project to increase awareness. Their wildlife expert Mr. Kelly Norrid is taking the time to talk to us about urban coyotes. He previously came and gave a fascinating talk on snakes and other reptiles. We expect this time it will be even more interesting, so please don't miss your chance!

Cost: Free for both members and non-members. ([Online Registration](#))

Reference: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/nuisance/coyote/>

One Day Field Trip - Port Arthur, TX

Time: Monday, April 16th, 8:30AM-5:30PM



Content: We were originally scheduled to visit Port Arthur on September 26th last year, but due to flooding from Hurricane Harvey, roads were impassable. Roads have finally reopened now. The city is located 90 miles east of Houston, where the land meets the sea. It's also the coast where

Sabine Lake meets the Gulf of Mexico. This is a city full of plenty of cultural history, and a great location to watch migratory birds and play at the beach. The city's slogan is "laissez les bons temps rouler", which translates to "let the good times roll". We will be visiting the Museum of the Gulf Coast, Buu Mon Buddhist Temple & Lotus Gardens (a beautiful lotus and lily garden), and Veteran's Memorial Park. Everyone is welcome to join, don't miss this great opportunity! Please note that this will be on a Monday. ([Online Registration](#))

Cost: **Members \$25, non-members \$35. Includes all tickets and lunch. You will get \$ 2 discount if registered online.**

Reference: <http://visitportarthurtx.com>

Event Highlights



On February 24 (Saturday 12:30PM to 1:30PM), Ms DeAndrea M Ramsey, a Houston zoo specialist made a special trip coming to our center to share with us about some of Texas's special animals. She briefly introduced ocelot, chachalaca and TX tortoises common to the South Texas Plains; river otters, bullfrogs, and red cockaded woodpeckers in East Texas - Pineywood; and bottlenose dolphins, diamond back terrapin and prairie chickens along the Texas Gulf Coast area. She mentioned that prairie chickens face extinction and their biggest natural enemies are fire ants and urban developments. Ms. DeAndrea M Ramsey says she really love bats. She says there are 33 different kinds of bats, and there are 11 species found in Houston. There are also urban wild animals, such as rats, mountain lions, ants, toads, raccoon, etc., and they are masters of survival. She also listed some of the urban wildlife for us to learn: bats, all kinds of birds (owls, hawks, eagles, water birds, songbirds ... etc.), reptiles (alligators, snapping turtles, diamond backed water snakes ... etc.) and some mammals (nutria, River otters, raccoon, possum, squirrel, coyote, armadillo, skunk ... etc). At the end of the presentation, she hoped that we can learn more, care more and save more animals. ([Event Photos](#))



Victoria, TX is one of the oldest cities in Texas; it is located between Houston and CORPUS CHRISTI. Victoria is full of historic houses and beautiful buildings; this trip surely is a cultural journey that combines beauty and history. Today we have a hired Historic commentator from the City of Houston Bus Tour who came along with us; his name is Jeff. With his introduction and explanation, it added to everyone's interest and understanding.

In the afternoon, we visited the Museum of the Coastal Bend which exhibited a rich multicultural heritage of the central coast of Texas. The collection and preservation of the artifacts in the museum provides educational activities to enhance everyone's appreciation of the region's cultural heritage. There were exhibitions of Spanish, French, Native American and prehistoric cultural artifacts like cannons, pottery, stoneware...etc. There were also French trade goods, ammunition and personal belongings of the French explorer La Salle who tries to build a French Colony in 1685. Permanent exhibitions for early people include darts, stone carvings and shell tools; these were the remnants of prehistoric people living in the coastal bend area 13,500 years ago. Another place we have visited was Victoria Educational Gardens.

Today, we have a total of 37 people went to this trip. Thanks to everyone for being on time and making this a wonderful trip.

Other Community News



TACL Toastmasters Monthly Activities

Our club mission is to provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth. We meet at Taiwanese Community Center room 203, every Monday night 7:30pm.

This group of totally awesome communicators and leaders continuously to support each other in self improvement.

We had a meaningful meeting on 1/29, Sunny spoke on passing on the good and forgiveness even after his friend was killed. Kevin urged us to sit less to live longer. Thanks to Sherry for filling in as the topic master. We hope Phil feels better!

On 2/5, we really exercised our laugh a muscles this week, we had two great speeches by our powerful duo, Carol and Lorraine. Carol gave a speech about nothing is impossible and Lorraine spoke about cell phones replacing old technology. Gordon did an awesome job with his first time table topic on exercise, everyone was really into it! Plus it was great to have Patrick back!

We had a fun, awesome time celebrating the Lunar New Year together! On 2/12, we met at LeLai Restaurant, enjoy great food, and round robin table topics. We got cruise proposal done and listen to many testimonies of fellow Toastmasters. So good to see Van, Grace and Richard again!

Congratulations to Patrick for completing his CC - Competent Communicator! On 2/19, he gave a rousing speech on boosting your self confidence, while Kevin briefed us on a proposal for the long awaited TACL cruise!! We are definitely going to cruise together, please save the date for Jan 12-17 2019, cruise slow season for us parsimonious savers! It was a fruitful meeting, Nam also led a thought provoking topic session on longevity vs prosperity.

It's that time of year again, club dues are \$55 for the 6 months April-Sept or \$110 for the full year! Please submit dues to Stephen by the end of March to re-up with the friendliest club in Houston!

Also, don't forget, we are looking for 5 members for the \$250 discounted club rate to attend the District 56 Spring Conference, May 11-12 Fri/Sat at the Stafford Center! Hear the best speakers in Houston and meet awesome people!

Our International & Table Topics club contest date is March 12th, and our Area M34 contest is 3/24 Sat 12pm @Trini Mendenhall.

Check us out online at on Facebook @TACLtoastmasters or

www.TACLclub.toastmastersclubs.org



休士頓台灣長春會
Houston Formosan Evergreen Association

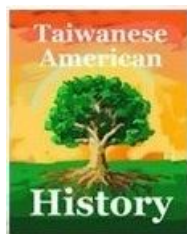
Date: March 3, 2018 (Saturday)

Time: 2:30PM ~ 4:30PM

Place: Taiwanese Community Center

Speaker: Evelyn Chao

Topic: Yuan Shi Dian Workshop



[March 2018 Newsletter of T. A. Archives](#)

TCC Announcements

1. The Taiwanese School celebrated the Lunar New Year on February 10th. They invited the children from Turning Point Center to join in the festivities. Four families and two staff members attended, a total of 15 people. This was their first time trying Taiwanese snacks and New Year sweets, and a completely new experience for them. There were even lucky red envelopes for them after lunch, which made everyone happy. Their leader has expressed wishes to join us again next time.



2. In 2016, the TCC had a line dance class every Thursday at 1:30PM that was taught by Flora Jang. The class was popular, with 10 to 20 people attending regularly. Many could not attend due to work. To provide the learning opportunity to these people, starting in February, classes will be available every Saturday at 10AM. All community members, teachers, and parents are welcome to join. Tuition is only \$30 for the whole semester. Many thanks to Ms. Jang for her passion in offering this class.
3. Driven by her great passion for folk music and dance, Ms. Kimlan Hung assembled a Taiwanese folk dance troupe at the Taiwanese Community Center. Every Friday afternoon from 3:00PM to 4:30PM, this group will practice in classroom 203. Dancing music is the Taiwanese folk symphony, so dancers can enjoy the wonderful music. Together with elegant dancing movement, just in an hour and a half, participants can enjoy the beautiful music of symphony, twist the body, exercise bones, and enhance memory. The first dance of this regiment is the aboriginal dance "Alpine Evergreen," which is expected to be accompanied by a series of Taiwanese folk songs. Welcome all the people who are interested to join and have fun. Interested parties can call 713-271-5885 or register at the Taiwanese Community Center counter.



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