Interview with Tackey Chan

By Samuel Tsoi

Only weeks away from Election Day, self-proclaimed “Quincy kid” Tackey Chan, recently sat down with the Sampan to discuss his candidacy for state representative.

**Sampan:** Describe your story and background - who gave you the name Tackey?

**Chan:** [laughs] People are always curious about my name. It comes from the Chinese name Chan “Duk Gei” (陳德基) - my parents used the old Wade-Giles phonetics system (T=D, K=G), straight from the Cantonese, and got “Tackey.”

My parents immigrated to the United States from Hong Kong, moved to Boston in the 1971, and bought their first home in Quincy in 1973. They grew up in post-World War II China, and this was their opportunity to make things better. I have been a lifelong city resident. So, I’ve seen the changes [to Quincy] over the years.

I lost my dad in 1989 after his three long years of battling cancer. That was a big change in our lives. We had no immediate family around, and I remember dad would always tell me how important it is to help others, and to give back. I also went to BC High, and we were taught to be committed to community service.

I worked through college, and volunteered with kids and their families coping with cerebral palsy – important experience in my life. I came out of the last recession, when I graduated out of college in ’95, which was the aftermath of the Savings & Loans crisis. After several internships and part-time jobs, I found my way to employment with State Senator Michael Morrissey. I then went on to law school at night, and worked with the Attorney General, defending customer interests against utilities companies. In 2001, I founded the Quincy Asian Resources, the first Asian-led non-profit in Quincy that has grown and prospered, which I’m very proud of.

**Sampan:** Your candidacy excited many Asian Americans. Is there a developed Asian American voting bloc in Massachusetts?

**Chan:** My experience with the Quincy Asian Resources provided important insights [on civic engagement] on the local level in terms of directing serving the needs and hearing the concerns of Asian residents. We’re also one of the few states that have an Asian American commission established by statute [not dependent on which governor is in office].

By Bo Zhang

The Chinatown Coalition met at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood center on the 14th for its October monthly meeting, speaking with Massachusetts Representative Michael Capuano on the upcoming State Election, discussing the Immigration Policy associated with the Asian American Community, and touching base on the Institute of Contemporary Art’s new programs.

**Americans will vote on Nov. 2 in thecongressional midterm elections. As a result of President Obama’s falling approval ratings and the stumbling economy, Democratic control of Congress is at stake. Michael Capuano, Representative in Congress for Massachusetts’ Eighth District (including Cambridge, Chelsea, Somerville and approximately 70% of Boston), emphasized at the meeting that this election would be very important for the Democrats to keep up the control.**

“I don’t know how the election will turn out,” Capuano said. “We will lose some seats, and the next few years would be even tougher.” Capuano noted that he knew people were angry about the current situation and some even turned to Republicans, but as a representative, he didn’t have “a choice between perfect (system) and nothing,” but “a choice between imperfect (system) and noth-

By Cody Yiu

On October 16, Asian women from all walks of life gathered at Boston University for a conference held by the Asian Sisters Participating In Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE). This annual conference seeks to set forth strategic dialogue on the importance of leadership for Asian American girls and young women. The conference serves as a platform for a conference held by the Asian Sisters Participating In Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE). Through strategic dialogue on the importance of leadership for Asian American girls and young women. The conference serves as a platform where women who have achieved career success share their stories with young, aspiring women.

“I’m pretty impressed you guys all came on a Saturday. For those of you who are students, I know Saturday is often a catch-up day for all of you!’ quipped Jane Hyn, the author of Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: Career Strategies for Asians, Carolyn Cho, a systems biologist, Lisa Wong, Mayor of Fitchburg and Allison Leung, a green-venture entrepreneur. (Photo by Cody Yiu)

Female Asian American leaders impart wisdom to inspiring college students at ASPIRE Conference
Ah-Lin! by Lillian Chan

I'm moving out.

What?! *GASP* Aliyah!

Hmmm... I don't think they're too happy right now.

Probably not. *gasp*

for more Ah-Lin, check out www.thelilchon.com

Free breast and cervical cancer screenings

Tufts Medical Center and the College of American Pathologists Present See, Test and Treat®. Organizations partner to offer free breast and cervical cancer screenings for Asian American women.

What: Tufts Medical Center, College of American Pathologists, American Cancer Society and the Massachusetts affiliate for Susan G. Komen for the Cure® are partnering to offer free breast and cervical cancer screenings for women ages 21 and older. The event is also sponsored by BD Diagnostics, Siemens, QIAGEN, and Kodak.

Registered women will receive a PAP test and mammogram (if necessary). Test results will be provided the same day and physicians will be available to discuss test results if needed. Consultations are free of charge for uninsured and underinsured women. Insured women are asked to bring their health insurance card. Pre-registration is required. Patients can register by calling 617-636-4872.

Mandarin and Cantonese language interpreters will be available for pre-registration calls and during the event.

Where: Tufts Medical Center, South 2 OB/GYN Clinic, 860 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111.

When: Saturday, October 23, 2010, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Buds and Blossoms Fall Frolic. Buds and Blossoms will host its first Fall Frolic at the Empire Garden Restaurant in Chinatown on Saturday, November 6, 2010. The event will celebrate children and the excitement of learning. It will feature Chinese buffet, ethnic performances, Chinese crafts and games, face painting, Chinese dress photo, auction and much more.

Where: Empire Garden Restaurant, 690 Washington Street, Boston Chinatown, MA 02111.

When: Saturday, November 6, 2010, 4:00-7:30 PM

Contact: To purchase tickets, or if you have any questions, please call Chealy Tim at 617-426-9492 ext. 231 or chealy@aaac-boston.org

Friends of the Chinatown Library seeks board members!

Friends of the Chinatown Library seeks individuals to contribute to its work of bringing library services to Chinatown and advocating for a permanent branch library. Board responsibilities include:

• Commitment of at least one year
• Establishing by-laws and incorporating
• Working with partners to launch a pilot library
• Conducting outreach and encouraging community involvement.

You are invited to an introductory meeting to learn more:

Tuesday, September 28, 2010 from 5:15 pm to 6:45 pm at Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Library board room, 38 Ash Street. The board will be holding on Friday night 10/29 and three films throughout the day Saturday 10/30. We will also be hosting the film makers for Q & A after each film showing. All movies are documented or international Korean adaptation.

All the info, including schedule, movie summaries, and ticket purchase info, can be found on the following website:

http://www.bkkadoptionfilm.org/
Chinatown News

Continuing developments, buildings and greenery in Chinatown
By Joanne Wong

Updates on three areas in Chinatown: the Chinatown Park, Parcel 24, and Kensington Place were the main topics at the recent Chinatown Safety Committee Meeting on October 6. Representatives from the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy, the organization responsible for the stretch of greenway along Surface Road including the Chinatown Park, came to the meeting in hopes of starting a dialogue about the look and feel of the park with community members.

Having planted 1200 plants already, the Conservancy has ordered more plants to complement the park later this Fall. The Conservancy recently received a $10,000 donation from the Brown Fund, and staff are currently exploring ideas as to how to best use the dollars for the park. The amount can purchase furniture, such as sets of tables, chairs, and umbrellas, since staff observed a strong need for more shade in the park. Alternative ideas include canopy installations, the addition of a 20 feet by 20 feet pavilion, and the addition of a new planting bed at the edge of the park that is currently exposed to the sidewalk and cars. Staff at the Conservancy hope to compile community members’ ideas into a funding package for potential donors.

Janelle Chan, Executive Director of Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC), updated the community on the developments of Parcel 24, the second topic at the meeting. Parcel 24, the area south of the turnpike, is proposed to include 345 units of housing, an addition of 20 units from the original proposal. Of the 345 units, 50 will be affordable rental units, and the remainder will become rentals at market rate. “The prospect that building can happen a year from now is exciting,” says Chan, but ACDC wants more commitment from the state.

ACDC is open to suggestions from the community and will report back with new finalized graphics and details.

Updates on Kensington Place, the third topic of discussion, were presented by Ralph Cole, the president of Kensington Investment Company. The building, bound by Beach, La Grange, and Washington Streets, stands at 29 stories and 290 feet, and includes a maximum of 395 units, all of which are now rentals. Although the rate is increased due to the lack of men and women being excluded from the sphere of influence.

Carolyn Cho, who is of Korean and Japanese heritage, does not believe in the glass ceiling. Rather, she believes in being entrepreneurial, in that one figures out what one wants to do and then tries to get there.

Lisa Wong, 31, spoke on the Asian minority stereotype. Being the valedictorian of her high school class, Wong recounted a conversation she overheard.

“I had to give that [valedictorian] speech. I remember being in the bathroom... and there were these mothers who were at the sink, and washing their hands. They were talking about me. One of the mothers whose daughter was the second highest-ranked in her class, said, ‘She [Wong] doesn’t count as the top of the class. She is Asian! Whatever, she doesn’t count.’

Trying to break away from the stereotype, once in college, Wong “went crazy.” She went extreme with her course selection and workload, while still working at her parents’ restaurant. Having obtained all her degrees at the age of 19, Wong went backpacking around the world, fighting for various causes. “I became the black sheep of the family,” she said. The Massachusetts native, finally, she returned to the U.S. and found herself in community organizing and later politics.

Alice Long, the founder of Top Sprouts, a company that develops rooftop greenhouse systems to grow fresh produce for urban customers, recalled on taking a riskier career path, Leung gave this piece of advice, “It’s okay to ask for help. It’s okay that you don’t know everything.”

Whether it is a beaten path or a road less traveled on which one wishes to journey, the presence of encouragement and mentorship makes each journey a more enriched experience.
South End Tenants Houses I & II
申請適用於單親和有需求的戶
SETH I (SETHI): 0.1, 2, 3.4 間隔室公寓套房
SETH II (SETHII): 0.4, 5, 6 間隔室公寓套房
申請截止日期: 星期四, 2010年10月28日, 早上9點 – 下午3點
星期五, 2010年10月29日, 早上9點 – 下午3點
申請截止日期為星期五晚上7點, 2010年10月29號。
如有任何疑問, 請以2010年10月29日為憑。
選擇管理費以優先等級為基礎。千萬不要為享受服務為基礎。

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SAMPAN

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Applications Due: December 15th, 2010 (postmark must be on or before)
Lottery will be held December 22nd, 2010 at Eastham Town Hall, 10am
Additional information sessions are scheduled at the Community Development Partnership:
November 4, 6:00pm to 7:00pm and November 10, 11:00am to 12:00pm
Open House dates are scheduled at the property for:
November 4, 3:00pm-5:00pm and November 10, 1:00-3:00pm

Applications and Information available at:
Community Development Partnership
3 Main Street Mercantile Unit 7 • Eastham, MA 02642
Also Available at Eastham Town Hall
Applications can be mailed to you by calling 508-240-7873 Ext. 23

FOR MORE INFO VISIT WWW.CAPECDP.ORG

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Chief of Clinical Pathology at Tufts Medical Center talks about See, Test and Treat Program

The following is adapted from an interview of Dr. BJ Magnani, Chief of Clinical Pathology at Tufts Medical Center on the See, Test and Treat Program.

Reporter: Dr. Magnani, I know that you are the Chief of Clinical Pathology at Tufts Medical Center. What type of work does that entail?

Dr. Magnani: Many of the medical laboratories in the United States are overseen by board-certified pathologists. Pathologists are physicians who study tissue, cells and fluids that are obtained from the body. For example, you might have a skin lesion or a small mole that would be sent to the laboratory. The specimens are processed and the pathologist would review those results and render a diagnosis. Another example would be a Pap test. It is sent to the laboratory, a slide is made from the material submitted and the pathologist reads the slide to determine if cancerous cells are present.

Reporter: I know that you have a wonderful program coming up that offers free breast and cervical cancer screenings; can you tell us more about it?

Dr. Magnani: The program that we will offer at Tufts Medical Center is the College of American Pathologists’ See, Test and Treat. This is a way to bring testing to underserved and uninsured populations or a population that may have some barriers to getting regular healthcare screenings. It allows them not only to see a physician and have the screenings that they need, but they also can get the results before they go home.

Reporter: So when is the See, Test and Treat Program and how can people find out more about it?

Dr. Magnani: The program will be held on Saturday, October 23 at Tufts Medical Center on South 2 in the OB/GYN Clinic. The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine has partnered with the College of American Pathologists, the Tufts Department of OB/GYN and Radiology, the Massachusetts affiliate for Susan G. Komen for the Cure®, and the Massachusetts chapter of the American Cancer Society to provide the exams and screenings.

Reporter: How did this program start?

Dr. Magnani: This is a program that was initiated by the College of American Pathologists originally for Native Americans living on federal land because they had a true barrier to receiving health care. This will be the first time the program will be in New England.

Reporter: What else can you tell me about the program?

Dr. Magnani: What is really important is that women are so busy taking care of their families, their career, or their businesses that they don’t have time to look after their own health. This program is being offered on a Saturday so that women don’t have to worry about taking a day off from work and we will have activities for children if women need to bring them along. We will also have some refreshments and educational programs for women to learn more about women’s health.

Reporter: What do you see as some of the barriers for Asian American immigrant women to take more preventative measures to ensure better healthcare?

Dr. Magnani: I think that there may be some cultural barriers where women may be afraid to see a healthcare professional particularly if communication (language) is an issue. At our See, Test and Treat Program we will have interpreters. It is a nice safe program. If women feel like the need to come with a mother, grandmother or older daughter, they can come together as a group to support one another.

Reporter: What else would you like to add?

Dr. Magnani: I would like to encourage women to make an appointment. The event will have appointment slots available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the event will be over at around 5:30 p.m. We have also secured extra slots for walk-in appointments. If you have insurance, we will definitely be using it, but that is not a barrier to getting seen.

Artículo funded through the Asian Health Initiative of Tufts Medical Center

It’s Halloween

By Amy Zhao

It’s that time of year again, stores stock up on sweet treats waiting for customers to purchase them for Halloween. When one walks into a store let’s say, CVS, for example, aisles upon aisles of chocolates, lollipops and candy bars fill up the store. Why is there Halloween anyways? What do children do on Halloween night? Halloween is not only fun, but can also be dangerous for children. How do we keep our children safe when they go trick or treating?

The origin of Halloween came from various traditions varying from Celtic to Catholic to European beliefs. It was a belief that on November 1st the spirits of the dead and demons would come back to Earth. To prevent this from happening people back then would light bonfires to scare the evil beings away. Later in America, the idea of “trick or treating” formed after a flood of Irish immigrants who came to homes begging for food and money wearing costumes. Since then trick or treat is known to children all over the world as a day to dress up and knock on neighbors’ doors for candy.

Children love to dress up for Halloween. There are many varieties of costumes ranging from fairies to devils, and ghosts to angels. Hal-loween started out as only a day of dress-up for children, but as centuries pass, adults and teenagers dress-up along with the children. Although children may think that Halloween is the best day for dress-up and candy, they don’t think much about their safety. As parents of children, we need to make sure the children go trick or treat safely. The streets of the Halloween night are very crowded, creating danger for the children. They can be bad or nice people, you will never know until you actual-ly encounter them. In order to make sure that you and everyone around you are safe, safety precautions need to be taken seriously. Some of them include: accompa-nying your children to the doorsbells of your neighbors, being careful while crossing the streets, prior to eating the candy, make sure that it is not tampered with. Happy Halloween.
A Chinese immersion school may become a first in Boston

By Joanne Wong

Language immersion programs have become increasingly popular in cities and towns across the country. If approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), the Boston Chinese Immersion Charter School (BCICS) will launch in the Fall of 2011 and become Boston’s first Chinese immersion school program.

Language immersion programs are not a new concept; they were first introduced in 1965 in Montreal, Canada, to provide English-speaking students living in a predominantly francophone province of Quebec with the opportunity to learn French. According to the Center for Applied Linguistics, “children who learn a second language are more creative and better at solving complex problems than those who do not.”

Knowing a second language also gives people a competitive advantage in the workforce. These are some of the compelling reasons for parents to encourage the development of a second (or third) language with their children.” Chinese immersion schools have been well established in New York and on the West Coast, in San Francisco and Portland, Oregon.

Modeled after the successful French immersion programs, foreign language immersion programs in the U.S. are designed to enrich students' academic experiences by teaching them subjects in their native language. Physical Response, a tool that actively engages students in language learning through music and art, each of which provide a memory footprint and help children better retain a new language.

In terms of testing and accountability, BCICS will follow the academic standards set by MA DESE. All students will be tested in English using the MCAS. Measures of Academic Progress, the Developmental Reading Assessment and DIBELS, MCAS testing does not begin until third grade but the other assessments will begin right when the children enter BCICS. Students will also be tested in Mandarin language arts, oral language development and in content knowledge. Kathy Plazak, community outreach coordinator for BCICS, points to the success of immersion schools in recent MCAS results, stating that the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School (PVCCIS) in Hadley, MA was ranked #1 in test performance of its third-graders. PVCCIS is an example of the same type of school that the BCICS team is trying to launch here in Boston.

According to Danielle Carrigo, an educator with national language learning expertise and an advisor to BCICS, the biggest challenge in establishing an immersion school is easing parents’ concerns about the lack of English learning time and to address concerns about how they might support Mandarin learning at home. "The best support parents can provide for their children is to express an interest in Chinese culture and the Mandarin language,” Carrigo says. Parents are also encouraged to read to their child every night in the language spoken at home.

In addition, teachers at BCICS will write a blog and weekly newsletter to parents to inform them of classroom activities. Carrigo also mentions that based on research, students graduating from Chinese immersion programs and transitioning to regular high schools find that their Math levels are higher than those of students attending regular elementary and middle schools. If the final BCICS prospectus is approved by DESE in February, the Commonwealth Charter will be valid for five years. After that, BCICS will reapply, and a plan to create a high school component to the school may unfold.

BCICS is currently accepting enrollment interest forms. While the interest forms do not commit any child to attending the school, they do provide support for the BCICS charter application by showing a community interest in the school. From December through February, preliminary applications will be accepted. The best way to stay informed about the school and the application process is to complete an interest form, called an intent to enroll form, which will put the family on the school’s email list for sharing information. Enrollment is open to all Massachusetts residents, with a preference given to Boston residents. In the event that demand exceeds the number of slots, a lottery will be held.

For more information, please visit www.BostonChineseImmersion.org

Joanne Wong is a Sampan correspondent.

Danielle Carrigo, Kathy Plazak, and Helen Chin Schlachte present at the BCICS informational session. (Photo by Joanne Wong)
In terms of a voting bloc, I can’t speak on a statewide level. In Quincy, 17% of registered voters are Asian American (about 5500 people), and that’s pretty sizable. This figure will only grow after the 2010 Census, as many of the youth reach 18, and the large temporary residents (green-card holders) get naturalized. The main challenges are a lack of voter education: primary vs. final, lack of bilingual ballots, when we’re not even sure who knows what parties and candidates stand for, and discussing the media.

Challenges are also different among the Vietnamese, Chinese, Indians, and Korean. But generally, many Asian immigrants are not used to voting in their native countries, and they have a general fear of government. Some had no choice, some dealt massive impacts. Some had no choice, a general fear of government can play a huge role in the way through, instead of being a well-rounded – sports, health. There’s also a lot of important ballot questions.

Sampan: What do you see as the state’s role in enforcing immigration law, as well as integrating immigrants?
Chan: This year, State Rep. Jeff Perry proposed legislation to ban illegal immigrants of any kind. I do not support illegal immigrants getting state benefits, but the reality is that government agencies require proof checks already. If you don’t have a social security number, you don’t get any benefits. However, there are areas that the US Supreme Court has ruled to provide illegal immigrants with services such as K-12 public education. The alternative is to have undocumented un-derracids as opposed to try to include them, so they can be a productive part of society. If you deny all access to every state service, there will be many consequences. For example, there are immigrant employers who hire illegal immigrants, and they are often below minimum wage, with no vacation and no health benefits. These workers need to fill out a report, to access justice, and try to do the right thing. Another area would be emergency room services, and if we deny them emergency health care, it’s inhumane and detrimental to public health. We have to think all the way through, instead of pursuing heavy-handed bans for political purposes.

On enforcing immigration law, the state and local authorities can only enforce if they receive special training and partnership with federal government [ICE].

For state jobs, state jails are held at the federal government is leaving the jails hanging when they can use the space for dangerous criminals.

On integrating immigrants, the state should continue to fund social services. For immigrants, the first barrier is English, and people really want to learn. However, they also need to work, so we need to find services that accommodate their realities. My dad went to night school – to re-claim his bachelor’s degree, since the state didn’t acknowledge foreign certification.

The federal government took away many benefits back in 1996, when it put a 5-year waiting period for green-card holders to access health care. We need to continue filling in those gaps, particularly in the area of Mass Health, recognizing the immigrant communities, like others need health insurance, education, and public assistance. In addition, they need creative programs to become acclimated. This all happens in the local level. Direct outreach and integration is best done in the grassroots level, and the state can provide resources and guidance.
Feature

By Diana Li

On November 2nd, the 2010 Boston ballots will include the following candidates for governor: Charles Baker (Republican), Timothy Cahill (Independent), Deval Patrick (Democratic), and Jill Stein (Green-Rainbow). In addition, it will include the following three questions:
1) Should the alcohol tax be repealed?
2) Should the state law allow the issuance of a single comprehensive permit to build units that includes low- or moderate-income housing?
3) Should state sales tax be reduced to 3%?

After conducting a random survey, focusing on Asian Americans, 78% of the people were aware that there will be an election in November. Only 22% were not aware of any elections. Here are some thoughts from people on the streets.

Name: Kenneth Li
Age: 21
Residence: Boston
Language: Chinese and English
Are you registered to vote? Yes
Do you support any particular candidate(s) and why? I would vote for Deval Patrick because he is a Democrat.
Are there any changes or bills you are hoping to pass? I would vote Yes to Question 3.

Name: Huong Nguyen
Age: 25
Residence: Dorchester
Language: Vietnamese, English
Are you registered to vote? Yes
Do you support any particular candidate(s) and why? I vote along party lines.
Are there any changes or bills you are hoping to pass? I am looking forward to Voting No on Questions 1 and 3. I do NOT want to repeal the tax on alcoholic beverages (Question 1) because these taxes help to fund many addiction treatments/programs. I also do not want to cut the sales tax in half (Question 3) because doing so would deprive communities revenue to provide for much-needed services.

Name: Sau Truong
Age: 58
Residence: East Boston
Language: Chinese, Vietnamese, and English
Are you registered to vote? Yes
Do you support any particular candidate(s) and why? Deval Patrick because I think he is doing a good job as governor right now.
Are there any changes or bills you are hoping to pass? I don't really understand question 2, but I would vote no on Question 1 and yes on Question 3. I do not want to repeal taxes on alcohol because I believe eventually something else would be taxed. Alcohol is not a necessity. I think better on alcohol than on something else.

Diana Li is a Sampan correspondent.