



For immediate release

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### **Committee of 100 Members to Carry Olympic Torch**

(New York, April 8, 2008) – Two members of the Committee of 100 have been chosen to carry the Olympic Torch as it makes its way to the Opening Ceremony of the 2008 Games in Beijing. Independent journalist and author Helen Zia is one of 80 people selected to participate in the torch relay on April 9 through San Francisco, the only stop in North America for the Olympic flame on its passage across the world. On August 8, the day the Games begin, Ya-Qin Zhang, Beijing-based member of Committee of 100 will be one of the torchbearers running through the Chinese capital.

“I am proud to carry the Olympic torch,” Zia said. In an essay published in *The San Francisco Chronicle* today, this second-generation Chinese American explained why she does not support a boycott of the Beijing Games. “The calls to boycott the Olympics and to label everything about China as evil can only serve to isolate China and the United States from each other,” she wrote. “There is another vision: that a peaceful and better world is possible through friendly engagement and mutual understanding, not violent confrontation and polarization.” Zia is a veteran activist for social justice on issues ranging from civil rights and peace to women’s rights and countering hate violence and homophobia.

When Zia and Zhang carry the torch, fellow Committee of 100 members will be cheering them on, said the organization’s Chairman Gen. John L. Fugh. “For Helen and Ya-Qin, this is a wonderful chance to join in celebrating the Olympic spirit, which resonates very much among our members. The Committee of 100 is all about building bridges between the U.S. and China to find common ground among the peoples and to serve the strategic interest of the U.S.”

Founded in 1989 by prominent Chinese Americans, the Committee of 100 is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit membership organization composed of Chinese American leaders in a broad range of professions. With their knowledge and experience, they have committed to a dual mission: (1) encouraging stronger relations between the U.S. and Greater China and (2) encouraging the full participation of Chinese Americans in all aspects of American life. For more information: [www.committee100.org](http://www.committee100.org).

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