



# Fort Wayne Chinese Families & Friends Association Spring Newsletter

[www.fortwaynechinese.org](http://www.fortwaynechinese.org)

May 2011

## A Message from the President

Dear friends,

I am pleased to announce that FWCFFA's Spring Newsletter is now ready for your perusal, in which you will find an overview of the activities the Association has sponsored since February this year, as well as a few pieces of exciting news. Since we last gathered at the Chinese New Year Party, the Association has presented two Chinese Cultural Displays at the FAME Festival and IPFW Diversity Showcase. Both Displays visually illustrated various aspects of traditional Chinese culture and were well received by the visitors. As you may recall, Mayor Henry said at the Chinese New Year Party that he was committed to making Fort Wayne "a melting pot of cultural diversity." By actively participating in these local cultural events, the Association, I believe, has contributed to bringing cultural diversity to Fort Wayne, though in our small ways. In this spirit, the Association invited the members of the Three Rivers Table Tennis Club to participate in the Ping Pong Tournament for the first time in April so that more people, Chinese or non-Chinese, could take part in this event.

In the past few months, the Association received many requests for help with such matters as learning Chinese, finding Chinese interpreters/translators, locating resources for helping adoption, and offering a Chinese calligraphy class. These requests show the increasing needs for the Association to be pro-active in offering its service to the community. With that in mind, the Association has decided to sponsor four cultural events in the months to come: Dragon Boat Festival Picnic (June), the Three Rivers Festival Parade (July), Mid-autumn Festival Celebration Party (September), and Chinese Calligraphy Class (September).

If what we do to the community can make a difference, even in small ways, we can say, years from now, that we have not lived in Fort Wayne for nothing. To that end, let's continue to work together to make Fort Wayne a better place for all of us, Chinese or non-Chinese.

Finally, I want to thank my fellow officers for their dedicated service to the community. I also want to thank all of you for your participation and support, without which the Association's educational and cultural functions and the success of our events would not have been possible. Your contribution has made a difference and is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Lidan Lin

## 2011 FAME Festival and Diversity Showcase

If the Chinese New Year Party offered a somewhat macro presentation of Chinese culture, the FAME Festival (March 12, 2011, Grand Wayne Convention Center) and the Diversity Showcase (March 24, 2011, IPFW) the Association participated in could be seen as two micro displays of Chinese culture. The purpose for both cultural events is to promote inter-cultural understanding and diversity. As the world is becoming more and more interconnected, it is important for each culture to reach out to other cultures in order to gain wider perspectives, to think outside the box, and to avoid cultural insularity. Fundraise was one activity held at the FAME Festival, and it was a great success. Our booth at both events was beautifully decorated with such representative Chinese cultural artifacts as paper cuts, porcelain products, fortune charms, calligraphy scrolls, landscape painting scrolls, minority nationality costumes, silk and embroidery products, and so on and so forth. At both events, the participants offered Chinese calligraphy demonstration in name writing and other forms of writing; we also put on display the smiling yellow dragon, the symbol of our ancestor. Indeed, many viewers marveled at the delicacy of these cultural treasures made from the ancient wisdom of China. Some visitors took photos with the dragon; others with the T-shirts that had Chinese words written on them. Both events were quite successful; our booth at IPFW Diversity Showcase even won the Traveling Trophy for Diversity Showcase Best Display award.

The Association would like to thank the following individuals for their help with one or both events. Your service to the community is appreciated.

Gloria Chen  
Xianchun Gu  
Li-Ming Lin Liu  
Yanni Qu  
Yi Wang  
Xiulin Yan



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### 2011 Chinese New Year Party

As a tradition, FWCFFA hosted the 2011 Chinese New Year Party on February 5 at IPFW to celebrate this important traditional Chinese festival. Despite the severe winter weather, over 300 people attended the party. Although it was freezing cold outside, the Ballroom was filled with friendly warmth. The stage was beautifully decorated with the big Chinese letter Spring (春) and the two Chinese couplets placed on both sides of the letter, the two elegant red lanterns attached to the screen, and the yellow dragon standing at the back of the stage. On each table sat a colorful candy basket, a red clementine plate, and an artistically cut Chinese letter Spring (春) for the attendees to enjoy. There was a Chinese calligraphy booth for writing Chinese names and Chinese New Year blessings; there was also a Children's Art Display booth, where children could enjoy artistic drawings by others or make their own drawings. These are among the favorite activities for children, beside the popular red envelopes.

President Lidan Lin gave all the attendees a warm welcome and wished everyone a healthy and prosperous year of the rabbit. IPFW Chancellor Wartell and Fort Wayne Mayor Henry spoke at the party; both had good news to share with the audience. Chancellor Wartell mentioned the progress IPFW was making in setting up exchange programs with overseas universities and in increasing international students and faculty. He was excited about the changes that were taking place at IPFW and about the possible contributions FWCFFA could make to assist these changes. Mayor Henry talked about his work on the sister city initiative with the city of Huai'an in Jiangsu, China, his trip to China last year, and his commitment to making Fort Wayne a melting pot of cultural diversity. He mentioned that a delegation from Hui'an would come to visit Fort Wayne sometime this year, and both sides expected to sign a sister-city agreement in the near future. A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to the Department of English and Linguistics for being the IPFW co-sponsor for FWCFFA.

After dinner, served with a variety of tasty food, the audience enjoyed a group of breath-taking performances by the local talents: lion dance, solos, instrument music, dances, skits, martial arts, poetry recitation, chorus, and Chinese fashion show. One could hardly believe that the performers were only amateurs. Their performances show that there are many talented people in Fort Wayne, and when their talent is put to good use, the Association can prevail and make miracles. One part of these miracles was a few well-versed Chinese couplets presented at the party, something that is quintessentially Chinese exemplifying a particular aspect of Chinese culture.

Among the guests of honor at the party, beside Mayor Henry and Chancellor Wartell, were Mrs. Wartell, Dr. Hardin Aasand, Rick Briley, Dean Otto Chang, Dean Carl Drummond, Mrs. Drummond and their son Ashby, Dean Charles O'Connor and Mrs. O'Connor, Dean Max Yen and Mrs. Yen. We are grateful for their friendship and support. The party wrapped up as the children were called to receive

their long-awaited "pocket money" in "red envelopes," and as the familiar song Unforgettable Night (难忘今宵) gently floated in the Ballroom.

Admittedly, the preparation for the party took much time, and it was made possible by the hard work of many volunteers, who offered their help in one way or the other. Deservingly, then, our special thanks go to the following individuals:

To all the performers for their wonderful performances, and to their instructors for their seasoned instruction.

To the two emcees, Chunhui Xie and Lijie Chen, for their skillful moderating.

To Xiulin Yan for coordinating the catering-- her experience and thoughtfulness have made a difference.

To Sarina Fisher for cutting the artistic Chinese letter Spring (春), the lovely letter you saw on each table.

To Gloria Chen and Uncle Chen (陈大伯) for hosting the Chinese calligraphy booth.

To Su Zhang for coordinating Children's Art Display.

To Yanni Qu, Li-Ming Lin Liu, and Xianchun Gu for their help with the preparation of the party.

To Jenning Li for helping with hosting the guests.

To Yihao Deng for organizing some performance music.

To Jing Liu for helping with certificate-making and for serving as a greeter.

To Yi Wang for helping with coordinating performances and fundraise.

To Yifei Pan and Zhongming Liang for helping with giving out red envelopes.

To Great Wall Buffett for catering the party.

To Yan Liu, Karen Thong, June Liang for sharing their experience, suggestions, and ideas.

To all the servers and people who helped with the set up and clean up.

To all those who helped with the party in other ways, but whose names we have inadvertently missed—please forgive us.

Special thanks also go to the following donors. We greatly appreciate your support and commitment through your participation and donation.

Stanley and Karen Barker; Andy Huang and Sherry Shih

Lawrence and Irene Lee; Otto and Corinna Chang

Robert Barrette; Cyril Shi

Mark and Rosie Sitko

Kevin and Qian Williams

Charles Wysong

Last, but not least, our hearty thanks go to all the attendees for your friendship and good will, without which the success of the party would not have been possible—we greatly appreciate your support.



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### **Ping Pong Tourney Has Chinese Flavor Again: A Special Report by Jenning Li, Head Coach and Free Coach for children**

(The Association would like to thank Jenning Li for coordinating the Ping Pong Tournament. Your service and expertise are appreciated).

The 2011 Friendship Ping Pong Tournament took place at Messiah Lutheran Church, where the hollow sound of bouncing ping pong balls mingled with discussion and laughter. Our Fort Wayne Chinese Families and Friends Association held the Third Ping Pong Tournament on April 16, 2011.

We had 6 players in the men's group, 6 players in the women's group, and 3 players in the children's group. The competition took 5 rounds in the form of so-called "Round Robin". Jacob (Zesheng) Chen won 1st place and Tom Dannenfelser got second in the men's group. Min Tian won 1st place and Lidan Lin got the second in the women's group. George Sun won 1st place and Tyler Li got the second in the children's group. The third place winners are Gary Parkins, Jaesoon Martin, and Edward Sun respectively in each group.

Thanks to Lidan and FWCFFA, each winner got an award and a certificate. Although the awards are small, these awards with special Chinese elements made winners happy, especially those 3 American winners and all children.

It was the first time our tournament opened to the members of the Three Rivers Table Tennis Club. Once again, the event got Chinese flavor .

Future games, if any, will open to the public. The Chinese winners may face challenges with the tournament opening to the public. I hope FWCFFA will continue to support the tournament. Many Chinese were in tears in watching TV 30 years ago when the Chinese National Women's Volleyball Team lost to the American team even in one game. It is difficult for most of us to squeeze any tear now for any game loss in sports. This is the psychology and attitude for citizens in a big and strong country. We would not mind if Americans defeated Chinese in a ping pong tournament.

The Three Rivers Table Tennis Club at Fort Wayne is very good in the state of Indiana. Its facility is better than that in the club in Indianapolis. Please visit its website [www.trttc.org](http://www.trttc.org).

I would like to see our Chinese Association support such Friendship Tournament each year as one of our traditions. I encourage you to participate in the sport of ping pong and to be part of the tournament in the future.



### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Dragon Boat Festival Picnic**

Time: 11-3pm, June 11

Place: Indian Trails Park

Activities: Picnic

#### **Three Rivers Festival Parade**

July 9, 2011

#### **Mid-autumn Festival Party**

Time: 3-8pm, September 18

Place: IPFW Ballroom

Detailed information will be forthcoming.



### **Bulletin**

For more information about FWCFFA, please visit the website [www.fortwaynechinese.org](http://www.fortwaynechinese.org). It has information about how to contact its officers and how to become a member. It also periodically announces upcoming events.