



Fort Wayne Chinese Families & Friends Association Newsletter

www.fortwaynechinese.org

December 2010

A Message from the President

Dear friends,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your trust and confidence in me. I also want to thank my fellow officers for stepping up when they received the call to duty. I feel quite privileged to work with a team of committed officers, all volunteers having the good will to serve the Chinese community and those related to the Chinese community. As the population of Chinese in Fort Wayne is rapidly expanding, the Association's role to facilitate educational and cultural functions also has broadened. More than ever before, businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies in Fort Wayne are beginning to explore and develop cultural, commercial, and educational ties with Chinese counterparts. New project initiatives such as the sister city initiative on Huai'an in Jiangsu Province, China, and IPFW's new initiatives on international education, which have resulted in its several partnerships with Chinese universities, are beginning to bring more cultural diversity to Fort Wayne. In addition, IPFW has seen an unprecedented increase in Chinese students and visiting Chinese faculty. Because of the broadened role of the Association, we have added a new position on the team, the communication coordinator, to help facilitate the communication between the Association and the community.

On behalf of the Association, I want to thank you for all you have done for the community and would greatly appreciate your continued support through your participation, membership, or other channels of assistance.

Sincerely,

Lidan Lin



Upcoming Events



Chinese New Year Party

Time: 5-9 p.m., Feb. 5, 2011 (Saturday)

Place: IPFW Walb Union Ballroom (first floor)

Activities: social time, dinner, cultural displays, entertainment performances etc.

Ping Pong Tournament

Sometime in Spring 2011.

Fort Wayne FAME Festival

March 12-13, 2011; Grand Wayne Center

Detailed information will be forthcoming.

Late-autumn Movie Event

At the suggestion of some members, the Association hosted the Movie Event, during which the Chinese movie *Aftershocks* was shown at IPFW in the afternoon of November 6, 2010. About twenty-five adults and children participated in this event. Based on the real-life stories of the 1976 Tangshan earthquake, the movie focused on one family in Tangshan, whose ordeal was truly extraordinary. The movie lasted about two hours, and the audience was greatly saddened by the tragic loss of many lives, yet moved by the spirit of generosity and final understanding shown by the surviving members of this family. After the movie, Karen Thong led a discussion session, during which the participants shared their feelings about the movie. They felt that watching the movie was a worthwhile experience and that they had learned a great deal from it. One participant pointed out that the movie revealed some of the values of traditional Chinese culture, using the mother in the movie as an example, who chose to save her son instead of her daughter when she had to sacrifice one of them. Another participant mentioned that some of her relatives were in Tangshan and directly affected by the earthquake. The discussion was aptly wrapped up when one participant reminded the others of the fact that disasters caused by human errors could be equally devastating and that we should do everything possible to avoid these errors. Overall, the discussion helped the participants to appreciate life and to realize the importance of making the best out of it when they could.



Announcement – New Officers

Lidan Lin	President
Guoping Wang	Secretary
Jun Ma	Treasurer
Zhanfu Duan	Events organizer
Lixin Li	Events organizer
Chunhui Xie	Events organizer
Hanzhang Fei	Web master
David Liu	Communication coordinator



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Mid-autumn Festival Celebration Party

On September 19, 2010, the Association hosted the annual Mid-autumn Festival Celebration Party at IPFW. The turnout for this event was quite impressive--about 250 people attended the party and enjoyed the festival activities. Among them were several guests from IPFW, the sponsor for this cultural event: Chancellor and Mrs. Wartell, Dean Charles O'Connor, Dr. Hardin Aasand, Sachie and Brian Mylrea and their children. The Party began with a welcome speech by the former President Li-Ming Lin Liu, followed by the dinner served with a variety of tasty dishes—thanks to Golden China Restaurant and Lake Mountain Restaurant for catering this event, and to Xiu Lin for coordinating the catering. Moon cakes were also served in order to keep the Chinese tradition. After all, one meaning of the Mid-autumn Festival is family reunion at which family members share moon cakes under the shiny and round moon. For many of us overseas Chinese in Fort Wayne, it is difficult to celebrate each year's Mid-autumn Festival with our families in China, yet in another sense, we have been able to celebrate it with a much larger family—the Association, to which we belong and in which we have been able to find friendship, solace, and encouragement. The introduction of the guests by the two emcees, Chuihui Xie and Lijie Chen, was followed by Chancellor Wartell's speech, in which he expressed his appreciation of our invitation and his continued support for the Association—our hearty thanks to Chunhui, Lijie, and the Chancellor. The Party's festival atmosphere was brought to its peak when the audience was dazzled with breathtaking performances—thanks to all the performers and their instructor Ms. Xianchun Gu. Indeed, the audience was surprised by how quickly the students in the Chinese classes had learned to speak Chinese. An election was held following the entertainment programs, and Lidan Lin from IPFW became the President for the 2010-2011 term. In her brief speech, she pledged to work hard with her fellow officers and to continue to serve the Chinese community. The Party was brought to a close with the beautiful Chinese song, sung by Chunhui Xie, gently flowing in the Ballroom. This famous song is based on the poem by the Song Dynasty poet Su Shi, in which the poet vividly describes his sentimental awareness of the co-existence of reunion and separation, happiness and suffering, just like the recurring cycle of the full and crescent moon. Indeed, the poem-song can't be more suitable for this occasion.

Voices of Unity Youth Choir Event

The Association participated in a very meaningful event in the last weekend of September. We supported a local non-profit organization, Voices of Unity Youth Choir, to create a Chinese atmosphere when the group celebrated their World Championship in the 6th World Choir Games in Shaoxing China early this year. The celebration event was held in the Rhinehart Music Center of IPFW. During the event, the stage was decorated with many of our cultural items and a booth with some smaller cultural items were set up in the lobby by the Chinese School. Around 20 of us wore Qi Pao or other Chinese costumes to greet guests. In addition to the beautiful songs sung by the Choir and the touching stories during their journey to the championship shared by selected members, we were also given the opportunity to introduce our Association and demonstrate three traditional Chinese performances. Our performances started with the Dragon Dance running from the back of the music center to the stage. The festive music along with the bright yellow and red colors under spot lights brought the event to a high point. Following the Dragon Dance, Tabitha Chen and Vesna Petrovic performed a sword dance and Xiaoyue Li performed a beautiful piece of traditional Chinese music, Fishers Songs on the Way Home, with Gu Zheng. We were all invited to the stage with our Association banner to sing 'Heal the World' together with the choir to close the event. It was quite a touching moment. The Association thanks those members and friends who supported this event.





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Maple Creek Middle School Event

Eleven volunteers went to Maple Creek Middle School for their China Day and presented Chinese traditional culture for the second time on Nov.11, 2010 (the first time was at the beginning of this year). Our target student group was the seventh graders. The Principal of the school wanted his students to know more about China due to an exchange program with a counterpart in China. Therefore, he sincerely asked FWCFFA and Fort Wayne Chinese School for help on the China Day of their school calendar. And, of course, we happily accepted his invitation.

We presented six different activities to represent Chinese culture and tradition on Thursday: (1) Dragon and Lion Dance with the big red drum; (2) Ethnic fashion show; (3) Traditional festivals; (4) Chinese characters; (5) Chinese food; (6) Ping Pong and Taiji. Sarina introduced Chinese traditional festivals, and she demonstrated the Spring Festival couplets, moon-cakes for the Mid-autumn Festival, and Zongzi (rice dumplings) for the Dragon Boat Festival, as well as the mah-jongg to the students. Yan Liu introduced Chinese writing brush, Chinese ink painting, and the origin and development of Chinese character. She also helped the students to learn how to use the Chinese writing brush. Xuemei Shen, Yanli Li, and Yalian Fu introduced deep fried dumplings and Chinese tea. They demonstrated how to make dumplings and tea, while the students were enjoying eating and drinking them. Bin Yang showed varieties of ethnic clothing and the mask for Beijing Opera. He also let the students color their own masks after his presentation. Chunhui Xie and Lijun Li led the students to play the drum, participated in the Dragon Dance and Lion Dance so that the students could experience the atmosphere of Chinese traditional festivals. Zesheng Chen, David Liu, and Zhanfu Duan helped students practice Ping Pong and Taiji. As a student of Maple Creek Middle School, Xiaoyue Li talked about the schools and students in China, and she played the traditional Chinese instrument: koto.

The whole event last for three hours. Our volunteers kept working in four different student groups without any rest from 9 o'clock in the morning to noon. Their hard work and kindness were appreciated and complimented by all the students and teachers at the school. Our volunteers had only one purpose: to introduce Chinese culture and to serve the community in Fort Wayne.

Acknowledgement

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations to the Association from the following donors. We greatly appreciate your support and commitment through your participation and donation.

Otto and Corinna Chang
Robert Barrette
Andy Huang and Sherry Shih
Rodney Farnsworth
Aijun Zhu and Xuemei Shen
Lawrence and Irene Lee

Our thanks also go to all those who helped with the preparation for the Mid-autumn Festival Celebration Party in one way or another, as well as to all the participants--thanks for coming to this event.



Bulletin

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