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WINTER 2008



WWW.TRFCC.ORG

Saturday, February 16 marked the another successful TRFCC Annual Chinese New Year celebration, and once again, a fun time was had by all as we welcomed the Year of the Rat! With over 550 people in attendance, the day was filled with Chinese games, crafts, shopping, family photos, auctions, eating, riddles, dancing, music, catching up with old friends and making new ones.



Chinese Americans (OCA), Chinese American Science & Technology Pittsburgh (CAST-P), were among some of our honored guest this year. The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) presented TRFCC with a donation that is to be used for scholarship to TRFCC events for our families that are in financial need.

for this annual event, but will also help support numerous social and educational events throughout the year!

It wouldn't be a Chinese New Year celebration without the traditional Awakening of the Dragon and the Dragon Parade! This year, Caroline McShea did the honor of painting the eyes on the dragon and leading the



The silent and Chinese auction tables were also a big success! We had a great deal of support for this area, and would like to thank all of people and companies who donated



The Hilton Garden Inn at Southpointe, once again helped supply us with a great venue to hold the festivities. We had guests from all over the Tri-state area in attendance — and many of them extended the one-day event to a weekend get-a-way! All through the hotel we spotted giggling children in the pool, having breakfast or just enjoying each others company!



TRFCC operates with the help of members, numerous hardworking volunteers and dedicated Board Members — but we also have a growing relationship with some wonderful organizations in the Chinese community. Pittsburgh Chinese School, Tzu Chi Ren Wen School, Organization of



items to be included in the auction and also to all of the guest that supported this table in hopes to win some great prizes! This year, the auction tables brought in over \$1400 to TRFCC — money that will not only help pay

parade throughout the festival area! After a delicious meal, we wrapped up our day with some soothing music played on the Erhu, exciting Jazz-style dancing that got all of the kids up and jumping, the pounding drums of the Lion Dance, a martial arts show and demonstration directly from China, oriental dancers of all ages, and a traditional drum dance!

The day was a success! From hundreds of people who attended to the small children who feel asleep on the way out the door— Thank you and Happy New Year!



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A Message from the President...

On behalf of the TRFCC board, I would like to wish you and your family a year of much happiness, good health and prosperity. As we start this year, I always like to reflect on the past year. TRFCC has provided so many opportunities for our membership to get together, just to mention a few, Chinese New Year Celebration, Annual picnic with the Organization of Chinese Americans(OCA), The Wild Things game, Annual Idlewild picnic, Our second Culture Camp weekend, Monthly In-Waiting meetings, 2 wonderful educational meetings, a joint luncheon with the OCA. We have also had the unique opportunity to expand within Pittsburgh with the Chinese Community. We have participated in events like the Pittsburgh Folk Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Greater Pittsburgh DiverseCity Festival, WPXI/Macy Celebrate the Season Parade, OCA Free Medical clinic. The TRFCC board is always looking for ways to bring our families together with each other and the Chinese Community. It is an extremely difficult job with the demands of everyday life for everyone, but the board views the opportunity it provides for our families as so vital that they are willing to put in the time and effort to make all this happen for us. I am extremely lucky to have the opportunity to work with people with such dedication to their family and TRFCC.

On another note it is with a heavy heart that I would like to announce that Jane and Bernie McShea will be moving to Florida in next couple of months. Jane and Bernie will be missed by all!!!! Jane starting out volunteering to Chair our In-Waiting program over 6 years ago. She & Bernie started monthly meetings for families in their home as a way helping people past time with the wait. She and members of the In-Waiting families met other families at the Pittsburgh International that are returning home from China with their little angels. Jane is currently our Vice President and has held Director of Education for many years prior. Jane has Co-Chaired our TRFCC Culture Camp for two, and to be honest I'm not sure that there is a job that Jane has not done or asked to help with. You will always see Bernie and Caroline helping out at all events with her. She is always willing to help out no matter what is going on in her life. It's not often that you get the chance to meet someone that is so caring, loving, giving. Not only will TRFCC miss Jane, I will miss one of my best friends. Jane & Bernie, Caroline & (Baby sister in China) we will miss you!!!!!!

If you are looking for a way to get involved please let us know. We would be glad to work with you to find something you will enjoy. If I say so my self we are a great group of people to work with.

Happy New Year to you and your family!!!!!! Enjoy the year of the Rat.

Kim Kuehn
TRFCC President

Thank you to all who donated to the Little Mouse Emergency Fund at Chinese New Year!

We were able to raise \$190 for the Little Mouse Emergency Fund at Half the Sky Foundation. Funds raised will be used to prepare for future catastrophic needs in welfare institutions all over China.

Pittsburgh Chinese School (PCS)

Pittsburgh Chinese School (PCS) was founded in 1977 and has been a non-profit organization since. The mission of PCS is to provide an organized environment for people to learn Chinese language, culture, and arts, and to promote multinational and multiethnic culture activities in the Pittsburgh area.

PCS campus is located in Squirrel Hill at Alderdice High School, 2409 Shady Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217. PCS has about 290 students from kindergarten through 12th grade and adult level, and has more than 50 experienced teachers and instructors. The students are grouped according to their age, the level of Chinese proficiency, and the heritage background. Currently, we offer pinyin and English-Chinese classes.



There are two semesters in a school year and 15 weeks per semester.

The classes are held on Sunday afternoon from 2:00 to 5:00. The first two hours are for language lessons and the third hour is for culture and arts. The language lessons is focused on helping students to build listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The culture and arts classes are designed to bring direct experiences with Chinese culture and arts. In addition to language and culture learning, PCS also organizes student competitions, seminars, and stage performance activities within the school year.

To promote Chinese culture and arts, PCS also sponsors and participates in local community culture activities such as Folk Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, etc.



Admission:

Open to children of age 4 and up interested in learning Chinese language, culture and traditions.

Class Hours/School Year:

School meets on Sunday 2:00 – 5:00 PM. There are two semesters per year and 15 weeks per semester.

Language Programs:

From kindergarten through 12th grade.

Specific classes:

- Pinyin – designed for students who are interested in simplified characters and the Pinyin phonetic system.
- English-Chinese – designed for students who are from non-Chinese speaking families.
- Adult English-Chinese – designed for adults who are interested in learning Chinese.

Culture and Arts Programs:

Singing, folk dance, Chinese martial arts, arts and crafts, calligraphy, lion dance, Chinese Yo-Yo, Chinese chess, Chinese music instruments, Chinese board games, etc.

Contact Information:

Registrar: Mr. Gu, Hao at 412.455.5708

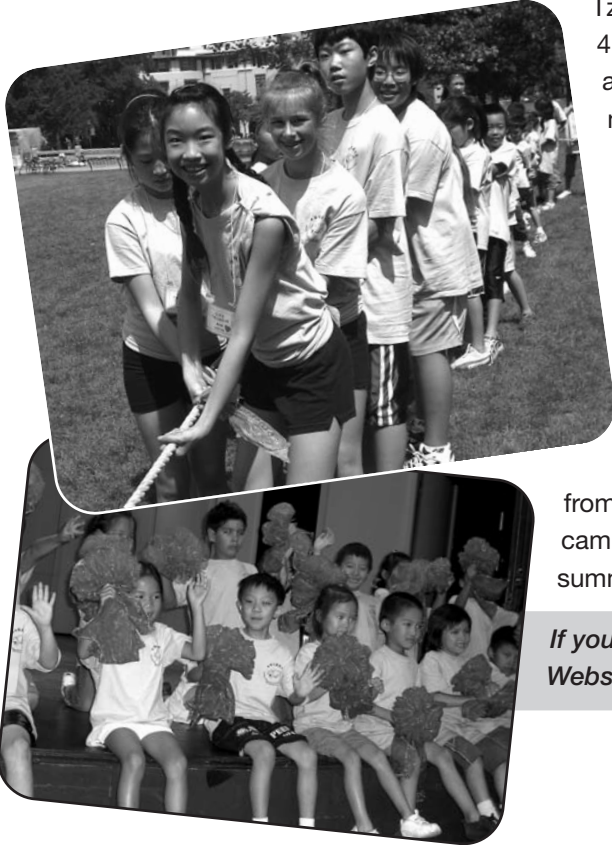
Principal: Ms. Gaoying Bolinger at 724.816.1073

eMail: pittsburghchineseschool@gmail.com
gaoying.us@gmail.com

Mail: PCSEFI, P.O. Box 383, Wexford, PA 15090

Friends of TRFCC...

Tzu Chi Pittsburgh Ren Wen



Tzu Chi Pittsburgh Ren Wen Chinese Class is to provide local children of ages 4 to 18 with quality programs not only aimed at student's language learning but also character building. The school will implement the Still Thought's education method to weave compassion, relief, honesty, and integrity into teaching. We will nurture the children in a loving and caring environment; motivate them to learn the Chinese language and culture in today's diversified world.

Our school shares the facility with the South Hills Middle school at Crane Ave. Each semester runs 14 weeks; 3 hours a week on Sunday between 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Class included: Chinese, Chinese Culture, KongFu/Yo-Yo, Arts & Crafts, and Chinese Folk Dance.

This summer, August 11-15, again, we will be having a Summer Camp with specialized teachers in Chinese folk dance, arts and craft and gym from Taiwan, joining the force from our local teachers, to provide a wonderful camp experience for our local community. TRFCC is a co-sponsor of this summer program.

If you are interested in school or summer camp, please check the Website: www.rwcspgh.org or contact Jennifer Chen at rwcspgh@gmail.com

OCA: Organization of Chinese Americans

The Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc. (OCA), founded in 1973, aims to embrace the hope and aspiration of nearly 12 million Asian Pacific Americans across the country. Headquarter in Washington D.C., OCA has over 80 chapters and affiliates across the country participating in community involvement and developing the leadership potential and skills of our next generation.

An additional unique dimension of OCA-Pgh is her ever-expanding interaction with the local Pittsburgh community. We sponsor annual Free Medical Clinic, Soup Kitchen at Salvation Army, Presidential Class Room Scholarships, and Chinese New Year Banquet Celebration. We participate in annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival, Dragon Boat Festival, Greater Pittsburgh DiverseCITY Festival, and WPXI/Macy Celebrate the Season Parade. We have a vibrant OCA Youth Dance Ensemble and cultural program which serve Pittsburgh community at large. Congressional Awards were presented to youth every year for outstanding volunteer services. We hold joint programs with TRFCC (Three Rivers Families with Children from China), Tzu Chi Foundation-Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh Chinese Restaurant Association. We have also initiated an OCA Grand program to adopt TRFCC children from China into OCA families. We also provide support to other local Chinese organizations.



OCA/TRFCC 2007 Summer Picnic

For more information about the OCA, please visit www.ocapghpa.org!

Thank you...

to everyone who helped make Chinese New Year a success!

Organizations & Friends

Organization of Chinese Americans
Tzu Chi Ren Wen Chinese School
Pittsburgh Chinese School
Asian American Silk Screen Festival
CAST-P Chinese Association of Science & Technology - Pittsburgh Center
William & Sara Liu

Vendors

Hometown China
Sam Thong
The Pearl Peddler
Hao Mei Chinese Art
AMFCC Summer Tour
La Bliss
Handmade Multi-Cultural Dolls
Gecina Photography

Volunteers

CMU Service Volunteers
TRFCC Member Volunteers

Donations

Classic Limousine
Judy & Jeff Lochner
Dorothy Lee Green
Jay & Susie Hernishin
John & Kim Kuehn
Kelly Lauer
LeMont Restaurant
Jane & Bernie McShea
Caroline McShea
Scott McClain
Shelia Woodland-McClain
Pearl Peddler
Rachel & Jeff Rosenthal

Lynn Sabo,
L's Jewellery Creations
Buddy & Barbara Schiavone
Shaw Contract Group
Dave & Kristie Steinmetz
Frances Wong
Teresa Woodland
Phanny Yang

Performers

Mr. Shuo Zhang
Michael Perry
Oriental Dance Studio
Anhui Zhige Wushu Academy

5 Questions about TRFCC Chinese New Year — Answered!

1) Why has CNY been at the Hilton Garden Inn for the past 5 years?

The Hilton Garden Inn has been very accommodating to us. They are able to accommodate the number of tables we need, with room for the dance floor/performance area, and the food has been consistently good. There is adequate parking, at no additional charge, and families can stay at the hotel if they wish. There is also adequate space for vendors and a children's game area.

We have looked into other locations over the past few years and there is not another location that can accommodate a group this large unless we move to the Hilton Downtown or the convention center, which are very cost prohibitive at this time.



2) What is the deal with all the reserved tables? I have never seen anything on the reservation form about reserving tables and yet, when my family and I arrive at CNY, there are tons of reserved tables.

Some tables are reserved for our honored guests, others for new member families and in waiting families, and for "kids only". The New Families, In Waiting Families, and Kids Only are on the reservation form for CNY. The other reserved tables are reserved by members who come early on the morning of Chinese New Year to set up. Our members arrive at 9:00 am and work until noon blowing up balloons, getting the games set up, and setting up the market place area is complete. This is one small perk that can be given for a morning of hard work on behalf of TRFCC. We always welcome volunteers for set up! This year there were 60 tables with 10 chairs each for a total of 600 spaces for families.

3) How do you get vendors for CNY? If I have something to sell, can I be a vendor?

We welcome vendors! Some of our vendors are member families and some are friends of TRFCC. Vendors pay a fee to TRFCC for the table and donate an item to the auction.

4) How do you get the items for the auction? How can I help?

Beginning in November of the previous year, board members solicit donations for our auction. We welcome items from members and others as well. Most items are donated, a few are purchased by TRFCC for the auction. We are always looking for good items for auction area.

5) Why are members limited in the number of guests they can bring?

Space limitations require that we limit each member family to two guests. This is our largest event of the year and we would not be able to accommodate all our members if we allowed more guests.

TRFCC 2008 Spring/Summer Events!

Saturday, March 8

Educational Event

Adam Pertman,

Evan B. Donaldson

Adoption Insittue

**Adoption in America:
Welcome to the Revolution**

Place: Magee Women's
Hospital Auditorium
1:30 PM

Special FCC Edition books
will be available for purchase! \$10 day of event
(\$15.00 after-includes shipping)

RSVP by March 6

Sue M. — suem@trfcc.org or 412.242.1485

March ???

OCA Grands Event

Saturday, April 12

"Mom's Night Out" — The Wedding Singer

Join us on Saturday evening for a "Mom's Night Out: to see a production of the musical hit "The Wedding Singer"! Performance is at 8:00 PM at the Benedum Center. **Limited Seats Available!**

Prices:

Tier 1: \$56.00 / ticket (18 seats available)

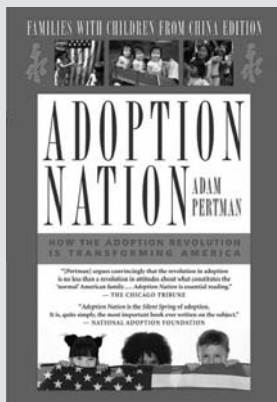
Tier 2: \$23.50 / ticket (12 seats available)

RSVP by March 12

Kristie S. — kristies@trfcc.org or 412.262.0842

Friday, August 1

TRFCC Idlewild Picnic



May 16 - 18

52nd Annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival

David L. Lawrence Convention Center

International Foods, Traditional Music & Dance, Cultural Exhibits, Folk Crafts, Global Marketplace and Ethnic Cooking Demonstrations from more that 30 nationalities!

Advance tickets only \$8.00 (\$10 at the door)

Send Money and ticket requests to:
Wen-Ching Yang
3117 Treeline Drive • Murrysville, PA 15668

June 21

Washington WildThings Baseball Game

Saturday — Game time: 7:05

Price: \$8 / per seat

RSVP by June 10

Kristie S. — kristies@trfcc.org or 412.262.0842

Sunday, July 20

OCA/TRFCC Picnic

North Park

Saturday, September 20

Pittsburgh Dragon Boat Festival

South Side

September 2009

3rd Annual TRFCC Culture Camp

Culture Camp takes a lot of work! And even though the next one isn't until 2009 — we need to start planning now!

If you are interested in being on the planning committee for the 2009 Culture Camp, please contact susieh@trfcc.org or kimk@trfcc.org

Don't forget to keep checking your email and www.trfcc.org for more details and additional events!

TRFCC In Waiting & New Families

Spring 2008 Support Group Meetings

Meetings will be held at the home of Erin and Jeff Lisak on the last Tuesday of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

5802 Southampton Dr. • Bethel Park, PA 15102

Email:

waitingfamilies@trfcc.org or jelisak@comcast.net

Phone: 412-833-2167

March 25, 2008

Topic: Packing for your trip to China

What you really, really need and what you really, really don't!

April 29, 2008

Topic: Post-adoption depression

A guest speaker will talk about her experience with Post-Adoption Depression.

May 27, 2008

Topic: Open Discussion

We will talk about anything and everything China Adoption related. Bring any questions you may want to discuss.

are you a new member?

have some time on your hands?

looking for a way to meet new people?

Become a TRFCC Volunteer or Committee Member!

(contact one of the board members for more information!)

Why is there no Culture Camp in 2008?

Camp Russell at Oglebay is not available the second weekend in September 2008 as one of their employees is using it for a wedding. We looked into other weekends and there was no availability that would work. Also the Dragon Boat Festival and Pgh 250, and DiverCity are in September as well this year. (Since the Chinese Community is involved with these things, getting teachers would have been very difficult.). The second weekend in September 2009 is available and this gives us an opportunity to use one year to plan and get more members involved.

RECIPE:

Mu Shu Pork

Serves 4

1 Tablespoon vegetable oil

1 pork tenderloin about 1 pound, cut in half and then in slices

2 Tablespoons cornstarch (flour can be used as well)

Salt and pepper

1 Pound mushrooms, thinly sliced

2 Tablespoons minced ginger (fresh or bottled)

½ head Napa Cabbage, shredded

5 scallions, thinly sliced

1/3 cup soy sauce

¼ cup rice vinegar

Flour tortillas and hoisin sauce for serving

Place pork in medium bowl, and sprinkle with cornstarch, season with salt and pepper and toss to coat. In large non stick skillet, heat 1 tablespoon oil over medium high heat. Add pork, cook until brown on one side, about 5 minutes. Transfer pork to plate, return skillet to stove.

Add mushrooms and ginger to skillet, cook until mushrooms are lightly browned, about 4 minutes. Add cabbage, scallions, soy sauce, vinegar and pork, stir occasionally, until cabbage is wilted and pork is cooked throughout, about 3 minutes.

Stack tortillas with damp paper towel, microwave for 2 minutes, until soft. To assemble, spread hoisin sauce on tortilla, top with pork mixture, wrap and enjoy!

Some people like to add eggs to Mu Shu Pork, you can scramble two well beaten eggs, once cooled, break into pieces and add to pork mixture just before serving.

Book Reviews

by: Jane & Caroline McShea

Lon Po Po: A Red Riding Hood Story from China

Translated and illustrated by: Ed Young
Ages: 5 and up

This story is wonderfully told and beautifully illustrated. In this story, three girls are left alone when their mother goes to visit their Po Po (grandmother). The old wolf knows this and pretends to be their Po Po and get into their house. The girls are smart and the eldest figures out that this is not their Po Po but the big bad wolf. Using their skills, the girls trick the wolf into leaving the house and wanting to climb the Ginko tree. The wolf is not aware they know who he is and they are able to get rid of him. When their mother returns, they tell her the story of the Po Po who visited them.

Caroline says:

“This should have a Caldecott award” and “Wolves cannot talk”

Long Long’s New Year

Authors: Catherine Gower and He Zhihong
Ages: 5 and up

This is a beautifully illustrated story about a little boy who leaves his village to help his grandfather sell cabbage in town and get ready for Chinese New Year. At the marketplace, they encounter many people, including a less than honest cabbage seller. Long Long helps his grandfather by taking their bike to be repaired and along the way, helps others. As a reward for helping others, he is repaid with kindness and money. His grandfather, who has beautiful cabbages to sell, is being cheated by the other cabbage seller, when she is found out, his grandfather is able to sell their cabbage, which allows Long Long and his grandfather to purchase New Years supplies for their family. Long Long uses his reward to get gifts for his parents and sister. Long Long and his grandfather then return home for a wonderful New Years celebration.

Caroline says:

“the woman who has the icky cabbage is not honest” and “Long Long is cute”

Our Mission

To provide support to individuals who have adopted from China, as well as individuals who are preparing to adopt from China.

To encourage and support international adoption from China.

To establish and maintain social and cultural ties with the Asian community and incorporate these into our organization.

To provide regular educational programming on issues surrounding adoption, children, and parenting.



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Don't forget to check your mail, email and www.trfcc.org for more information on these and other upcoming events!