



Families with Children from China

CELEBRATING THE MOON FEST

Austin, Texas

November 2007

The Autumn Moon Festival is a time of remembrance; a time to gaze at the moon and think of those you love, especially those who cannot be with you.

This September, FCC friends & families celebrated Autumn Moon Festival at the Austin Children's Museum. Everyone enjoyed a special program of entertainment and activities. FCC was honored to present the special talent of Mrs. Shao, a world class

Guzheng player. She & her students performed especially for us and it would be hard to describe the rare beauty of this music and the extraordinary skill of Mrs. Shao. We made crafts, tasted authentic San Francisco moon cakes provided by Lucia Market, visited the museum's new exhibit "It's a Nano World" and had a story time reading by Kathy Lin of "The Moon Lady by Amy Tan."

Continued on Page 5



"Goldie the Dragon" is getting ready for the big parade!

It's Chuy's Time Again!!!!
If you are in town Thanksgiving weekend, this will be the place to see and be seen! Bring your kids dressed in their Chinese festive best. Let them ride on the fabulous FCC float "Goldie, the Dragon." Bring snacks, water & if you can, a toy to donate.

Who: FCC Members & Friends of FCC

What: The Chuy's Thanksgiving Weekend Parade

Date: Sat, Nov 24th

Time: Walkers & Riders must be there by 10:00AM sharp- (departing by 10:45A). Parade lasts until approximately 12:30PM (Driver &

Truck will be there at 8:30AM.)

Where: Begins @ 14th & San Jacinto. Look for white information tent. The float will be #18 in line. *Note: The parade ends @ 4th & Guadalupe.*

Parking: Access off of Trinity (San Jacinto is Closed to Traffic). Trinity is northbound. Garages along 13, 14 & 15th Streets

Dress: Dress Children in their Chinese best or RED!

Parents: Wear Chinese or Red Shirts.

Questions: Call Gail Boston 626-5348 or email gboston@austin.rr.com



FCC CHARITABLE DONATIONS

With your continued support, and as part of its mission, FCC Austin was able to raise \$4,000 during 2007 for charitable gifts. On your behalf, the FCC Austin Board selected Love without Boundaries, Half the Sky Foundation, Philip Hayden Foundation, Grant Me a Chance and the University of Texas China Care Foundation to receive cash donations. These organizations are instrumental in providing medical, nutritional, foster care and educational outreach programs to Chinese orphans, plus cultural and adoption information to families. A portion of this year's donated dollars was designated to sponsor children with



special/critical needs, so look for progress updates on these kids in future FCC newsletters. For more information on these wonderful organizations, please explore their web sites:

the education of an orphan in China for secondary education or college!

www.chinaorphans.org The FCC donation to Philip Hayden will be used toward the cost of foster care of an orphan in China for one year!

www.grantmeachance.com This FCC donation will be used for an adoption grant of a Special Needs child waiting in China!

www.utexaschinacare.org This FCC donation supports China Care and the awesome programs they have provided to our local FCC Chapter!

Thank you to everyone for your generosity!



www.lovewithoutboundaries.com This FCC donation will be applied to the general Medical Fund to provide corrective surgery to a child in China!

www.halfthesky.org This FCC donation will be used toward



DUMPLINGS

adapted from "a little taste of... China" cookbook

- 1 Chinese cabbage, finely chopped
- 1 t salt
- 1 lb. ground turkey (or pork)
- 1 handful of garlic chives (or bunch of green onions, with tops), finely chopped
- 2 T light soy sauce (we used low-sodium)
- 1 T Maggi (soy-sauce-like seasoning - optional)
- 1 T cider vinegar
- 2 t sesame oil (original recipe calls for more, but it's a strong taste for kids)
- 2 t grated ginger (don't need to peel before grating)
- 1 T cornstarch



2 packages of dumpling wrappers (from freezer section of Asia Market)
 Dipping sauce - Weichuan brand Dumpling Sauce (\$1.69 at Asia Market) is good - we jazzed it up with sliced ginger and more chives.

To make the filling, put the cabbage & salt in a bowl and toss lightly to combine. Leave for 30 minutes. Squeeze all the water from the cabbage, dry out the bowl with a paper towel, and put the cabbage back in the bowl (it is amazing how much the cabbage will shrink.) Add the meat, chives or green onions, soy sauce, Maggi, vinegar, sesame oil, grated ginger, and cornstarch. Stir until combined, and then drain off leftover liquid, if there is any. (We mixed this up ahead of time, and refrigerated.)

Place a teaspoon of the filling in the center of each wrapper. Spread a little water along the edge of the wrapper and fold

the wrapper over to make a half-moon shape. Crimp the edge to secure (you can try to make little pleats, like the cookbook suggests.) Place the dumplings on a baking sheet covered with waxed paper. Don't let them sit too long before cooking, or the wrappers will either get soggy or dry out and open up.

Bring a large pot of water to boil. Add about one quarter of the dumplings (depending on the size of the pot), stirring immediately to keep them from sticking together, and return to boil. Once the water returns to a boil, cook 8-9 minutes. With a big slotted spoon, remove the dumplings from the water to a serving

plate. Repeat with the remaining dumplings.

The cookbook has directions on pan-frying the dumplings, but my kids prefer them boiled.

[We did pan-fry the left-over filling, and served it over raman noodles. My girls slurped it up, but would have preferred more dumplings instead.]



**CHINA CARE
PLAYGROUPS
BRING FCC
KIDS AND UT
STUDENTS
TOGETHER**





MOON FEST MAGIC

Continued from page 1

There was an interactive tea ceremony so children could taste and take in the aromas of ancient China. The April Rain Dancers were a joy to watch. The colorful young dancers & lively music made us all smile. And, Mr. Huang

helped with the English-to-Mandarin translation of letters to China. We began the festival with the creation of a winding "Red Thread." Parents & children brought items & images of importance. Then they wrapped the museum's stair railing with these beautiful memories.

To help us celebrate this special day, the Austin Children's Museum generously donated two program rooms.

If you'd like to volunteer for Chinese New Year on Feb 9th or you have questions, please contact Gail Boston 626-5348 or gboston@austin.rr.com







FCC CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Be A Participant in Austin's Lively
FCC Community Mark Your
Calendars!

● Chuy's Thanksgiving Parade

Saturday Morning No-
vember 24th. Meet at 10
a.m. Children dress in
their Chinese best & ride
the "Goldie the Dragon"
float. Bring portable
snacks & games for the
children.

● Chinese New Year

Saturday, 3 to 5:30PM
February 9th 2008

Enjoy Austin's own Peking
Opera, dance and other
performances plus a
shopping bazaar.

New Location! Central
Austin at the Texas
School for the Deaf's
newly renovated theater

<http://www.tsd.state.tx.us>
1102 S Congress Ave
Austin, TX 78704 (512) 462-
5353

Questions, thoughts or ideas?
And especially if you'd like to vol-
unteer.....

Contact Gail Boston, VP FCC
Events, 512-626-5348 or [gboston@
austin.rr.com](mailto:gboston@austin.rr.com)

Playgroup Schedule—FCC Austin

Monday Morning Playgroup

Mondays at 10:00 AM
Contact Tyla Gilchrist (257-0231)
or email (tylag@austin.rr.com)

Friday Morning Playgroup

Fridays, 10:30-Noon, Black Hawk Subdivision
Pflugerville
Contact Alexa Hinds (agh1126@yahoo.com)
for directions or information.

Sunday Playgroup

Sundays, 2:00PM, Dick Nichols Park
Contact Pam Heins (pamelaheins@austin.rr.com)
for directions or information.

Single Parents' Group

3rd Friday, 5:30 PM
North Central Austin or group member's home.
For more information, contact Catherine Lenox
(Catherine_Lenox@txwb.uscourts.gov)

Mom's Lunch Out (without kids)

Wednesday, 12:10 pm.
Contact Abby Turner 733-2268
(donabby@sbcglobal.net)

Mom's Night Out (without kids)

Last Wednesday of the month, 6:30 pm.
Contact Sandi Sykora Ross 732-2072
(rosyk@austin.rr.com)

BOOKS

The Red Thread

by Grace Lin

The Red Thread is a fairytale with a Chinese adoption theme. Grace has done many events with families that have adopted from China and it's also something she and her husband considered (until they tightened the restrictions); so while it is something Grace has not personally experienced, it is something that she appreciates.

At the events Grace attended she noticed that many Chinese adoption groups had taken the legend of the red thread (a belief that people destined to

be together are joined by an invisible red thread) which was originally for marriages and re-interpreted it for adoption. She thought that was fascinating and wonderful, how myths are and can be transformed over time. She felt that it makes these beliefs more real, more "living" somehow. So Grace took their

interpretation of the red thread and made a fairy tale story out of it.

The Red Thread is not about adoption as a fairy tale, it is a fairy tale with an adoption in it. Grace's intention was simply to write a fanciful story that all children, adopted or not, would find magical.



China Boy

by Gus Lee

Kai Ting is the only American-born son of an aristocratic Mandarin family that fled China during World War Two to escape invasion and civil war. Growing up in a San Francisco ghetto, Kai is caught between two worlds—embracing neither a Chinese nor an American way of life. After his mother's death, Kai is suddenly plunged onto the violent streets of his American neighborhood by his new stepmother, a Philadelphia society woman who is determined to erase ev-

ery vestige of China from the household, even by physical force. This is the story of Kai Ting, torn violently between two worlds, but accepted in neither, and his ultimate fight for the peace in between as he discovers an enemy, a friend, and a set of mentors who have experienced far greater hazards than his own.



FOUND IN CHINA

By JoAnn Stringer

Before we adopted our daughter in 1998, I scoured the internet for every scrap of information about China adoption. I found a video called "Tai Li Comes Home," filmed by adoptive mom Carolyn Stanek in 1994. Carolyn was one of the pioneers of China adoption and she filmed much of her trip and narrated it. It wasn't the most sophisticated production, but it was from the heart, and it was my first glimpse into an exotic and sometimes complex world of adoption from China. I watched the tape over and over during our wait in 1997-1998. I felt Carolyn was an old friend who shared her trip with me.

This month, ten years later, I got to meet Carolyn at the Austin Asian Film Festival at the screening of "Found in China." In the intervening yeats, in addition to adding daughter Kai Mei to their family, Carolyn went to film school, and her beautiful new production matches the heart-felt content of her earlier efforts.

In "Found in China," I had the chance to catch up with Carolyn and her beautiful daughters Tai and Kai, now teetering on the edge of puberty and full of youthful exuberance as they joined other Chinese adoptees, their parents and a social worker to



make a return trip to China.

The first half of the film was filmed with the excitement of the trip, the giggles and glee of the girls as they saw the sights of Beijing. They experienced how it felt to blend in with the crowd and their parents were the odd ones. They smiled for the cameras, climbed the Great Wall, played hacky-sack on Tiananmen Square, trekked through the Forbidden City. The camera captures the incredible bonding and affection the girls felt for each other.

But beneath the surface, there was a lot going on. The tour's social worker Angie, herself a young Asian-American woman, took time every day to talk to the girls about how it feels to be an adopt-

Continued next page





ee returning to their homeland. One of the most poignant scenes for me was Tai visiting her finding place. With her arm around her shoulder, Angie pointed out to her what a busy place it was, how many people were around, told her to imagine the how theater, now closed, was once lit up with many lights. Obviously, it was a place to leave a child with the intention she would be quickly found. Interested townspeople gathered, and news was sure to spread that an American family adopted a baby left at the

movie theater over 10 years ago. One can only wonder if the birth family would hear about the beautiful Chinese-American girl who came to visit.

The last half of the film turned more somber, more scholarly, with interviews with Sara Dorow, PhD, Associate Professor at the University of Alberta, and author of "When You Were Born in China." Dr. Dorow discusses the importance of homeland tours as adoptees begin the search for self and look for

answers to questions about their birth families, their abandonment and identity as Asians in mostly white families.

Ms. Stanek has crafted a wonderful website with photos and video clips from the film. <http://web.mac.com/carolynstanek/iWeb/Site/Welcome.html> You can purchase the DVD on the website. The DVD can be a great starting place for important and sometimes difficult discussions about birth families and abandonment issues.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

The Austin FCC Mandarin Language classes for kids got off to a great start this August, after a fun summer trial class. Classes met once a week throughout the fall in two locations, up north at the Asian American Cultural Center and down south at the Hampton Branch of the Austin Public Library.

Children learned the Mandarin words for numbers, colors, foods, family, body parts and clothing, through games, songs, stories, and artwork. The children also learned about the Moon Festival

and got to sample moon cakes and other Asian treats.

Parents were delighted at how much the children had learned in such a short time, and the children are excited about learning to speak another language. The children also had fun learning about their native culture.

Classes will resume again in the spring. Watch the Austin FCC homepage (<http://www.main.org/fccaustin/>) for more information!



HOME AT LAST!

The Waiting Families Group is still active, and although the slowdown in referral timing has been frustrating we have celebrated the arrival of three children and one more will be home for Christmas!

We also look forward to the arrival of Brogan Brooke who will join his family on Dec. 2! Proud parents, Richard and Holly Brooke, along with sisters, Riley and Quinn, and big brother Pierce are eager to spend Christmas with their newest addition!

Congratulations to ALL these families!



Left:
Chinese Name: Liang, Xiao Ying
Now known as: Ying Li Bonfils-Rasmussen
Born April 5, 2006 Liangping, Chongqing
Joined her forever family on April 2, 2007!
Proud Parents: Cheryl & Jann Bonfils Rasmussen
Proud Big Sister: Mei Li

Right:
Chinese Name: Wen Hua
New Name: Bryce Garrison
Province: Nanjing, Jiangsu
Born April 9, 2005
Proud Mommy: Tessa
Spencer!
Joined his forever
Mommy on
Oct. 29, 2006!

Above:
Chinese Name: Fu Lv Yang
Now known as: Rachel Margaret
Province: Chongqing
Proud parents: Bryan & Michelle Boatright
Rachel joined her forever family Sept. 17, 2007!

