



Families With Children from China Spring Newsletter 2011 Austin, Texas

Letter from the Prez...

Well, I feel like a gerbil in a wheel... but it's all good! With our Chinese New Year Celebration behind us, along with many workshops, it is now time to gear up for Dr. Chang's film screenings, the Dragon Boat Festival, and a couple of other workshops currently in development.

Per Lela Wallis (her family is featured in this issue's Family Focus article), now is the time to look into hosting a foreign exchange student if you're thinking about it. There are a finite number of host students allocated per school and the sooner you secure a spot, the better. Our Foreign Exchange Consultant Group is now in place and available to help you with any questions you may have.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our former president, Becky Harding, for all of her hard work and dedication these past two years, and for her ability to create a sea change in our organization, most notably by creating such an incredible weeklong Culture Camp for our kids. It's the pièce de résistance in what our FCC chapter now offers our members. Not everyone is capable of developing and executing something like that... I know I'm not. I believe it truly requires someone with her background and knowledge as an educator for many years to design such a great, well-rounded camp. I am very grateful that she is able to continue to serve on the board in the capacity of Culture and Outreach, to continue contributing to FCC in so many ways, and most importantly, as Camp Co-Director. So, to Becky, thank you—you rock!

That being said, you may be wondering how I intend to contribute to FCC. And in Becky's shadow, yes, so do I. As Becky and I have discussed, it's best not to try to replicate what someone else has done, but instead to carve your own niche. When I reflect on this, I feel the best route to take is to rely on my known strengths and use those to make my contributions to FCC.

In general, I am an artistic person, and therefore I hope to come up with creative solutions to the various challenges that may arise, with the Foreign Exchange Consultant Group an early example of this. I also hope to strengthen our FCC intra-community bonds, because I feel that Becky will be doing a fine job of strengthening our inter-community connections through her ties with Culture Camp.

And finally, I would like to acknowledge my fellow board members. Together, they form a stellar team, which was apparent in our first board meeting back in mid-February. With a few former board members moving on, I was concerned about the future harmony of our group (you know, sometimes personalities just clash), but rest assured, we truly have a great group of team-oriented, dedicated people! Thank you Deanne Brown, Stacey Cone, Denise Davolt, Alan Greenberg, Becky Harding, and Kathie Tovo—let the harmony flow!

All the best,

Kim Goodman
President, FCC-Austin

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Mark Your Calendars

Dr. Chang Film Screenings
Sunday, April 17, 2011

AACP Dragon Boat Festival
Saturday, April 30, 2011

Deadline for Culture Camp Waitlist
Saturday, April 30, 2011

Fee balance due for Culture Camp
Saturday, June 1, 2011

PLAYGROUP ENDS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

Our final UT China Care play date took place April 10th. Their new play season will resume in Fall 2011.

Please make sure to make room in your schedule next Fall for this great opportunity. Bring your child(ren) and meet some wonderful Asian-American UT college students who lovingly engage our children in crafts, playground time, and provide a light snack in these bimonthly sessions.

The playgroup is free, although a small donation is much appreciated. These stellar Asian-American role models offer our children a chance to build meaningful relationships with them and to see themselves projected into the future as successful Asian-American college students.



Also, the UT China Care End-of-Year Dinner/Benefit showcasing current and incoming officers is still in the planning stages. We will keep you posted as this information becomes available.

For more information, check out the the web site at <http://www.txchinacare.org/> or contact Lucy Liu, playgroup director, at lucyliu2k@gmail.com.

Families with Children from China &
The University of Texas School of Social Work
invite you to join us for

Two films: ***Sofia's Journey*** and ***Daughters' Return***
by Dr. Changfu Chang, Millersville University, Pennsylvania
A Q&A session with **Dr. Chang** will follow the screenings.

Sunday, April 17, 2011

1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

\$7 FCC Members, \$10 Non-Members, at the door

Utopia Theatre at San Jacinto & East 20th Street
(located inside the University of Texas School of Social Work Building)

Note: This is an adult only event. Also, refreshments will be available.



** For more information
about the films and Dr.
Chang, see page 3

The Films and the Man: A Closer Look

Dr. Chang's Film: *Sofia's Journey*

She is a lead singer of her school choir and an accomplished dancer. She often wonders where her talent comes from. Are her singing and dancing inherited traits? Her lack of knowledge of her birth parents has left her with an emotional void, a "hole in her heart." This film documents the gripping journey of a 14-year old girl as she searches for her birth parents in China. Ultimately, the quest becomes the search for her past, identity, and place in complex relationships entwined with love and abandonment. Standing at the very spot where she was allegedly found 14 years ago, Sofia is anxious for answers to the unsettled questions: will the myth of her birth be solved, will her birth parents come forward to reclaim her as their daughter, and, will the journey bring a closure to a chapter in her life? *Sofia's Journey* is not just a suspense-filled, emotion-laden story but also an exploration of minds, choices, and cultural differences.

Dr. Chang's Film: *Daughters' Return*

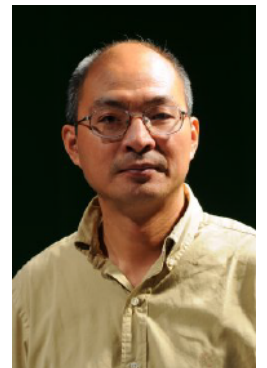
Since the early 1990s, over 100,000 Chinese children, mostly girls, have been adopted by families in the West. Other than a few lines about their finding places, these children know nothing about their biological families. For many adoptees who are coming of age, the lack of information on their birth parents creates a profound sense of disappointment, frustration, and loss, and in some cases, leads to an identity crisis.

This film documents the unique experiences of two girls—Eline from the Netherlands and Ricki from the United States—who go to China to meet their birth parents and reconnect with their roots. For the Chinese children adopted internationally, their experiences remain extremely unusual. So far, only a few dozen are known to have found and reunited with their biological families. *Daughters' Return* is a rollercoaster, packed with unexpected turns of events, outpourings of emotion, and a timely engagement of critical issues concerning adoptees, adoptive parents, and birth parents.

About Dr. Chang

Dr. Changfu Chang, a native of Jiangsu Province, China, is a professor at Millersville University of Pennsylvania teaching in the areas of television production and mass media. He holds a Master's from Nanchang University, China and a Ph.D. from Purdue University, United States. Prior to his coming to the United States in 1995, Dr. Chang worked as a journalist at Fujian Television Station and an editor at a magazine in China. An award-winning documentary filmmaker, Dr. Chang has produced or co-produced a dozen widely acclaimed programs including *Chinese Women*, *The Gate of Fujian*, *Golden Venture*, and *Illicit: The Dark Trade*.

Dr. Chang has been the producer/director/writer of eight films on adoption: *Love Without Boundaries*, *My Unforgotten Daughter*, *The Willow Trees*, *Embracing World Cultures*, *Long Wait For Home*, *Peer In the Distance*, *Sofia's Journey* and *Daughters' Return*. *Love Without Boundaries*, his first documentary on the subject of adoption, is widely regarded as a must-have among the adoptive community and was, along with his other films, aired in major television markets in the United States. In the spring of 2008, after five years of production, Dr. Chang released *Long Wait For Home*. This much-anticipated film profiles three birth families, several orphanages, and current Chinese views on international adoption.



Billed as "the professor of adoption films," Dr. Chang has received rave reviews for his work, *Long Wait For Home*. *Adoptive Families* magazine called the film "realistic, gritty, and heartbreaking," and provides answers to the ever-present question: "Why?" In the revised and updated version of the national bestseller, *The Lost Daughters of China*, author Karin Evans enthusiastically introduced Dr. Chang's work in length, commending his sensitivity in the depiction of the birth parents and the important contributions he has made to the adoptive community. In addition to many interviews by the U.S. media, Dr. Chang was profiled in several Chinese news programs.

Versed in the production environments in both China and the West, and privileged with the assistance from a Chinese crew (of his former colleagues) and a U.S. crew (of his former broadcast students), Dr. Chang continues to write and produce films for the adoptive community and the general public.



Dragon Boat Festival

The 13th Annual Dragon Boat Festival is coming up: Saturday, April 30th, 2011 from 10am–3pm at Festival Beach, located at the northeast corner of I-35 and Lady Bird Lake. As always, admission *and* parking are free! It is sponsored by the Asian American Community Partnership, and features exciting dragon boat racing, dance, music, and martial arts performances, authentic Asian cuisine, and children's activities.

Stop by the FCC-Austin booth, where we'll be selling our Year of the Rabbit tees, bottled water, and sundry Asian items. Hope to see you there!

Culture Camp Sold Out!

Exciting Week for FCC Families in August

Our second annual Families with Children from China—University of Texas Chinese Culture Camp is sold out with 100 children ages 5–13 adopted from China, plus their siblings, enrolled in the weeklong day camp slated for August 8–12 at the Northwest Hills United Methodist Church. Camp co-directors Rowena Fong, Ed. D, and Becky Harding were stunned that the camp filled in just 24 days. Harding said, "We have a lot of returning folks joining, for a total of 75 families, as well as having all the teachers and most of the counselors coming back for camp. We are thrilled beyond words. Truly. Thank you so much for supporting this amazing project!"

In addition to the contracted college-aged counselors, this year's camp will have five FCC high school students who will serve as volunteer assistant counselors. These students work alongside the college counselors supervising and helping the children as they move through the camp activities and experiences. In return for their service, the assistant counselors receive two t-shirts, a free daily lunch and rock star-like adoration from the younger FCC membership. In many cases, these mentoring relationships extend long after camp has ended.

Another exciting piece of this year's camp is that 14 boys are on the overall roster, up from two last year, with the youngest class having the most boys with six enrolled in the bunny class. We have three male college counselors and are designing a male-only "Sons of China" daily gathering for the men of camp.



Dr. Rowena Fong, Pat Morgan and Becky Harding with the contracted college counselors at the training session for the 2011 Chinese culture camp

The camp curriculum will have some of the same components from last year, including Mandarin lessons, chopstick races, adoption journey discussions, lion dancing, drumming, combating racism, Chinese games, tea ceremony, kite building, the Asian-American pride project as well as some new focus on kung fu, mahjong, dumpling making and eating, a media project, provinces of China activities, ribbon making, Chinese songs and traditional dance. As part of the service program, each camper will create a pillow for the Texas Oncology program to assist and comfort patients seeking treatment for cancer during the chemotherapy process.

Harding added, "It should be an awesome week." The final tuition payment is due June 1st. Registered families should expect more details about the June parent volunteer meeting and reminders about the August orientation through the established email system.

Family Focus: The Wallises

By Lela Wallis

Jason and I were both raised in Texas. After graduating from Baylor University, we moved to Africa and then Washington, DC, with the thought of possibly never returning to Texas. Once kids entered the equation, we decided raising children near family was reason enough to head back to Texas, and we've made Round Rock our home ever since.

Our family consists of: Jon 12, Lindsay 10, Dylan 7 and Lyvia, the thread that ties us to FCC, is 5.

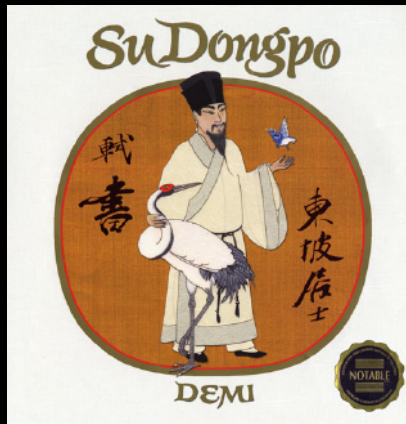
The possibility of adoption was discussed before we even got married. We both wanted adoption to be a possible part of how we would grow our family. I worked with [Austin Kidsave](#) for two years raising money to bring older Russian and Kazakh orphans to Texas for the summer to live with families, experience typical Texas summer fun, and hopefully find a forever family. During that time, we realized that if we were going to adopt a child from another country, it was important to truly love their culture—since we would be bound to that culture for life. We chose China for this reason.

We felt fortunate that there were so many opportunities in the Austin area to stay educated on Chinese culture. Our best find was Terri Xiang's [77 Mandarin Preschool](#); Lyvia blossomed there. She learned more Mandarin than we thought possible and became very proud of being Chinese. This was quite a feat, because for unknown reasons, Lyvia vocalized negative feelings toward China at a very young age.

An opportunity to host a student from China came to us through FCC. I had been a host student, and my family hosted students while I was growing up, so we were open to the idea. Our student, Ziyi, was a last minute placement and we were fortunate that in the summer of 2009, there was still an opening at Round Rock High School for a host student. If you truly are interested in hosting, it is best to start in the spring to ensure the high school your child would attend has an opening for exchange students. Our student was extremely polite, loved playing with our kids, and was happy to help around the home, so it was a positive experience for us.

The hardest thing about hosting a student from China is that often they struggle to make friends in high school and will be spending most weekends at home. It takes extra effort by the host family to get them involved in activities (church groups, volunteer clubs, social clubs) so they can be part of the community. Another step you can take to have a great year is to educate your student about proper behaviors and expectations. Consulting with the [FCC Austin FES Yahoo group](#), comprised of former Asian foreign exchange student hosts, would be a fabulous resource for families wanting to know how to handle any situations that come up during their hosting experience.

And even though all the Wallis kids had to share rooms in order to host a high school student, they are ready to do it again, because they loved having a foreign exchange student in their home.



Book Review *Su Dongpo: Chinese Genius* by Demi

"Anyone familiar with Demi's work will not be surprised to know, the illustrations in this book are delightful. They are large but delicate and evoke Chinese painting. They include calligraphy and many traditional Chinese elements. The story is a biography of a Chinese hero. His life is described factually, but conversationally. It is amazing, fascinating, and in fact, almost unbelievable. This would be a wonderful addition to a collection of books on Chinese history and culture."

– Abby Turner

Published September 1, 2006, by Lee & Low Books, hardcover, 56 pages.

Volunteerism

By Tiffany Chen

My name is Tiffany Chen and I am a third-year Chinese and Psychology major. I am currently in a unique program called the Rapoport Scholars, which is part of the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Foundation. The purpose of this program is to develop civic awareness and responsibility, growing both intellectually and personally through required academic coursework, service, and meetings. The College of Liberal Arts selects 12 freshmen every year. I was fortunate and blessed to be among those chosen.

This program has allowed me to find the true meaning of helping others. I have started to discover where and what my passions are. The scholars dedicate 200 service hours each summer to a non-profit organization of their choice. This year I chose to volunteer with FCC. The reason why I chose to volunteer for FCC was because of last year's FCC Chinese Culture Camp. I was a camp counselor, and that experience with the counselors, parents, and children was indescribable. The kids inspired me to hopefully one day help out the children in China who are still not adopted.

Unfortunately, this year I am not able to become a counselor again, due to academic courses I am taking in the summer at UT. As I started to think about ways I could give back to FCC, I realized I could incorporate my Rapoport Service program with FCC. Fortunately, Becky Harding has allowed me to become an intern for FCC—she is wonderful, and this is a great opportunity.

I am excited, and I look forward to working with you all. I know FCC will help me start to reflect beyond the x number of hours I volunteer, and reflect about how I can make a difference as I go through life.



Treasurer's Report

By Alan D. Greenberg

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard on the Chinese New Year celebration, which many thought was the best ever! Your contributions via attending and bidding on silent auction items helped FCC-Austin, after expenses, net enough to send \$500 apiece to five charities or groups who support FCC: Love Without Boundaries, Philip Hayden Foundation, UT China Care, Grant Me a Chance, and Half the Sky. Several of these organizations support adoption or individual orphans who have specific educational or healthcare needs. Going forward, we will continue to support these and/or other groups as our finances permit.

Rx for Paper Plates

By Katie Malinski

Since I am not a medical doctor, I am not permitted to write prescriptions for medicine. However, I have never let this stop me from writing prescriptions for other things. ;^)

There are, after all, lots of non-medicines in the world that have great medicinal value. For example: pedicures, a night out with friends, a nap, a hug, a walk outdoors.

My most common non-medicine prescription is *paper plates*. I know so many parents who burn the candle at *more* than two ends... getting things done, supporting their family, caring for children, and more. But sometimes even the most organized, successful, do-it-all mama or daddy gets overwhelmed... the rest of us, do, too!

When clients tell me that they feel that they are drowning in responsibilities, tasks, and obligations, I often whip out my prescription pad and send them home to eat off of paper plates. It is as much of a metaphor as it is a real suggestion, because paper plates may or may not be something that makes your life easier. But metaphorically, I am encouraging parents to realize that a little bit of convenience in one area of their world might provide peacefulness, rest, free time, and/or positive energy in another area of their world.

I like to say: "The earth will not be ruined with the addition of one week's worth of paper plates, nor is the cost of a \$1.50 package of plates going to break your budget." AND, giving yourself just a 10% shortcut in life might be the very thing that helps you be happier inside and out, more peaceful, more engaged as a parent... and THAT will be the best \$1.50 prescription you've ever filled.

So where could you take a shortcut this week?

Katie Malinski, LCSW, is a licensed child & family therapist and parenting coach. In addition to her one-on-one work with families and children, she presents dynamic parenting workshops on a variety of topics, including: Beyond Birds and Bees, Parenting Through Divorce, Mother-Daughter Puberty & Communication, Your Parenting Toolkit, Increasing Your Child's EQ, Typical Parenting Conflicts, and more.

Katie blogs about parenting and therapy at www.katiemalinski.com/blog, and about teaching healthy sexuality to children at: www.BeyondBirdsandBees.com. You are welcome to sign up for her free parenting newsletter at www.KatieMalinski.com.

FCC Member Running for Austin City Council

Our very own FCC Secretary, Kathie Tovo, is running against Randi Shade, Council Member Place 3. An [article](#) on Kathie was published March 9, 2011, in the *Austin-American Statesman*. It is a crowded race, with four other contenders besides Kathie for Randi's seat on the City Council, although the *Statesman* seems to favor Kathie's odds in the event of a runoff. The election is in May.

Cash for College

State Farm Insurance Company publishes a guidebook to scholarships for Asian-Americans. Check with your local agent to obtain a free copy.

Organization for Chinese Americans (www.oca-national.org) is also a fund manager for several scholarships targeting Asian-Americans.

National Association of Asian-American Professionals <http://www.naaap.org/>

Mother-Daughter Puberty & More Workshop

Over 20 FCC mothers and daughters gathered on Sunday, March 20th for three hours to participate in LCSW Katie Malinski's puberty workshop. The majority of mothers and daughters were FCC members, but the greater adoption community was also represented with three families of Texamalans and one Parenting Across Color team.

An active and lively time, the girls began the workshop by tossing stuffed animals at each other learning about good communication skills and each other's names. After the introductory warm up exercise, Katie lead the group in a drawing activity that underscored the elements of good communication. The group then broke into four teams that learned about and presented information regarding puberty. The highlight for most of the kids was a fascinating demonstration of the absorbing powers of the various materials provided as visual aids.

One mom remarked, "...the workshop could have been awkward and slow. Instead it was fun and informative. After the workshop my daughter felt comfortable enough to ask me several questions, and I know there will be many more in the coming years, now that the door has been opened."

EAST MEETS WEST IN A WHOLE NEW WAY

Walt Disney Company has begun building a \$15 billion version of its Disney theme park in Shanghai, China. The project, which has been in negotiations for the last 10 years, is expected to be completed by 2017. It will include two hotels, a theme park, retail shopping and, Mickey, of course, who will be sporting not wizard robes, but regional dress.

Second Annual Attachment Workshop for Parents Gets Great Reviews

By Deanne Brown

The FCC-sponsored second annual Attachment Workshop was held February 27, 2011, at the Austin Kung Fu Academy. The event, free to FCC members, had a full house of parents and included past participants as well as many new faces. Led by Dr. Em Hardy, Ph.D., an Austin-area psychologist who specializes in adoption, attachment, and bonding issues, the workshop focused on the experiences and strategies of families in dealing with and overcoming attachment challenges in their adopted children and siblings. Parents shared their questions, concerns, and victories in the two-hour workshop, with support and direction from Dr. Hardy.

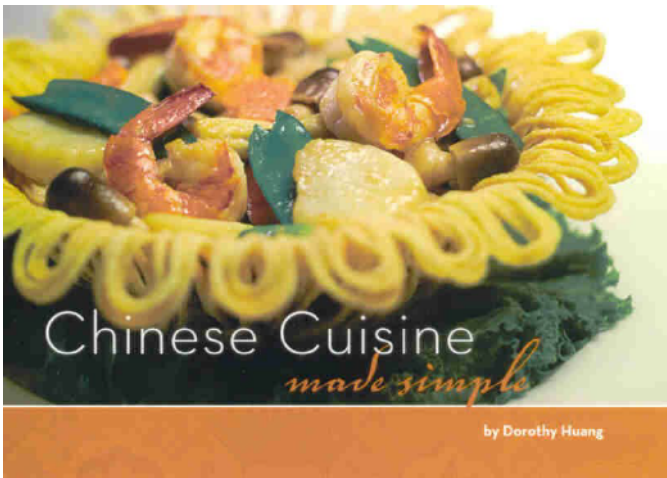
In connection with the attachment workshop, Pat Morgan, LPC, an FCC mother and former board member, will offer a parent support group for those interested in extending the dialogue on attachment. The group is not limited to those who attended the workshop, and anyone interested should contact Pat at pat@bluestarcounseling.com for more information on dates, times, and cost.

Reflection on Dim Sum Lunch & Walking Tour

By Kim Goodman

So our five-year-old foodie, Maya, experienced her first Dim Sum at Fortune Chinese Restaurant and found it to be utterly delicious! Dorothy Huang, author of *Chinese Cuisine, Made Simple*, hosted this outing and chose several tasty dumplings, buns, soups, and desserts for us to sample. There were about 18 of us seated at two large round dining tables. As the lazy susan slowly spun around, we put our chopsticks to good use selecting various delicacies from the plethora of steaming metal pots. Maya's favorite was the Crystal Shrimp Har Gow, our very first dish, while mine was the Stuffed Shrimp in Eggplant, a slight variation from what was shown on the menu (#29).

As we savored each of Dorothy's selections, she spoke a bit at each table about the cooking techniques used to create the selections, as well as what types of seasonings and ingredients were used in some of them, which sauces were appropriate for which dishes, and at times, the proper way to eat certain dishes. We also made sure to confirm which dish corresponded to the numbered item



on the menu, which was printed on a single sheet of paper that you could take with you. With boxes next to each numbered item, we could simply checkmark the ones we sampled for future ordering purposes, sans Dorothy. And while this sounds fairly easy to do, there were 62 items to choose from, and we couldn't always find the item in a timely manner and had to consult Dorothy, as more and more metal pots were being added to our lazy susan and a new search would soon be underway.

One fact that stood out for me, was that when it comes to Chinese Cuisine, it is absolutely fine to have savory and sweet dishes interspersed throughout a meal; in other words, there's no such thing necessarily as a dessert course in Chinese Cuisine.

We had Sesame Balls, Crispy Almond Tea, and a lovely custard dessert interspersed throughout a meal that included: Steamed Spare Ribs in Bean Sauce, Roast Duck, BBQ Pork Steamed Bun, Fried Salt & Pepper Calamari, Broccoli in Oyster Sauce, Pork & Shrimp Siu Mai, Shanghai Steamed Dumplings, etc. It was especially nice to have Dim Sum with a large group, as we were able to try many dishes without getting too full; in all, we tried 16 different items.

After a wonderful lunch, we reconvened at MT Market, where Dorothy pointed out some of the Chinese vegetables in the produce section that were used in some of the dishes we just sampled, how to tell if certain produce was ripe and fresh, and how to properly prepare some of the vegetables. We then toured some of the other departments where she pointed out her favorite brand names, types of sauces, teas, and cooking utensils. I found myself clicking away on my camera when she pointed out her favorite brands of various sauces and ingredients on the shelves. Her cookbook, however, includes a double-page photographic spread of these very items.

Overall, it was very enjoyable and I highly recommend her Dim Sum Lunch & Walking Tour. Dorothy also occasionally teaches cooking classes around Austin as well. She and her husband currently have two residences: one in Houston and now one in Round Rock, so surely this will be the first of many tours in the Austin area, and FCC will definitely keep you posted on any future tours and cooking classes she intends to host locally.

Chinese New Year Retrospective

By Stacey Cone

The president of the United States uses certain criteria in determining the state of the Union each year. The president of FCC uses certain criteria, too, (not tea leaves!) in determining the state of our FCC-Austin community. A couple of the biggest criteria are attendance at, and feedback about, FCC's annual Chinese New Year event. If attendance and feedback are the real indicators that our president and board members alike believe them to be, then the state of our FCC Community is strong! Attendance was high this year. Feedback after the event suggested that this year's event was likely the best FCC Chinese New Year event ever.

Our community is amazing and united and committed to helping each other, learning from each other, and raising our children together in the healthiest ways possible. Since FCC sends money raised from the Chinese New Year event to charities, our community is also deeply invested in supporting Chinese orphans, orphanages, and adoption causes each year. If you missed Chinese New Year this year, we want to make sure you recognize the importance of your continued support and participation, and we hope very much that we see you next year. Below is a recap of the afternoon and evening.

People walking through the doors of Covington Middle School at 2:00 p.m. on January 22nd, registered and then perused FCC library offerings, visited a Barefoot Books sale, checked out some special informational displays, participated in crafts (courtesy of UT China Care and 77 Mandarin Preschool), shopped for new "Year of the Rabbit" t-shirts, and placed bids in the silent auction.

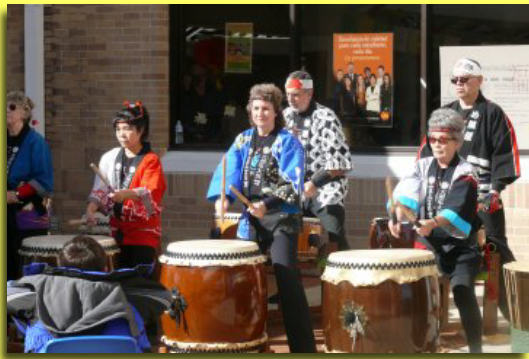
Before the stage performances began, attendees also had the opportunity to have portraits taken by a professional photographer, enjoy the Austin Taiko drummers, and watch the yo-yo demonstration of Claire Dubiel in the school's courtyard.

Each year, FCC families are invited to submit and share with all of us any special family photos from throughout the previous year. The photos become part of a slide show that makes up the entertainment performances' pre-show. The photos are a great way for our families to see special moments in one another's lives and for our kids to see themselves up "on the big screen." This year, more photos were submitted by FCC families than in any of our previous years. We hope you will share your families' special photos with us for Chinese New Year next year and every year of our annual event.

Our entertainment opened this year, like last year, with a short video featuring FCC children and parents, talking about the significance of community and the ties that bind all of us together. It was followed by fan dancers, 77 Mandarin preschool singers, a Mongolian horse dance, an Austin Kung Fu Academy demonstration, a Happy New Year dance by April Rain, a farewell from departing FCC president Becky Harding, a hello from incoming FCC president Kim Goodman, and a concluding ribbon dance by the Love of China dancers.

After the stage performance, April Rain performed a community Tibetan dance in the courtyard, and as is tradition at Chinese New Year, lion dancers brought the performance part of the event to its end at 5:15 p.m. But just a few minutes later, a majority of FCC families reconvened at Buffet Palace (Westgate) to continue celebrating together with dinner. So many families showed for dinner that FCC filled its reserved space and spilled out into the open dining area.

How do we know FCC-Austin is a strong, thriving, vibrant community? Because we pack a restaurant in celebration of our children's heritage. Because we spend hours there talking, connecting, and enjoying our mutual and diverse experiences as the children, parents, and families of FCC. Because we celebrate Chinese holidays—sometimes in force!—together. Because we look forward to doing it every year. Because when we are together, we are with families like our own. Because we have automatic acceptance and belonging with these families. Be sure to join us for Chinese New Year 2012.



**2011 Chinese New Year
in Pictures**

