Chinese calligraphy tables were a hit at the Festival. (Photo by Cody Yiu)

Governor Deval Patrick mingled with the crowds. (Photo by Cody Yiu)

Chinatown celebrates 41st August Moon Festival

By Cody Yiu

On August 15th, trying not to step on someone else's toes required quite a balancing act in Chinatown, for the overflowing 5,000 people that turned up at the August Moon Festival occupied very much of Harrison, Hudson, Tyler and Beach Streets.

This year's celebration was organized by Chinatown Main Streets, the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (CCBA) and the Chinatown Business Association of New England (CCBA) and the Chinatown Business Association of New England.

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The opening ceremony in the morning was nothing short of festive, as lion dance troupes, martial artists, folk dancers and traditional Chinese music groups showcased their talents on and off the stage. Leaders of Chinatown took turns to extend greetings to the community and beyond. In his opening remark, Winkay Leung, the President of CCBA, said August 15th noted CCBA's 87th anniversary. Founded in 1923, CCBA is an organization that seeks to serve overseas Chinese groups and promote Chinese culture.

Brian Moy, the President of the Chinatown Business Association, greeted the crowds in Cantonese and Mandarin and English. Meanwhile, Tony Yee, the President of Chinatown Main Streets, along with Dennis Lui of CCBA, acted as the event’s emcees.

The August Moon Festival, which celebrates the end of harvest season, began in Boston Chinatown 41 years ago, after Bill and Frank Chin's relentless efforts in seeking partnership with the City that had finally paid off.

By Cody Yiu

On August 12, a group of six Taiwanese college students, led by Jack C. Huang, the Director of Culture Center of Taipei Economics and Cultural Office in Boston, paid a visit to Buds & Blossoms Early Education and Care Center. Buds & Blossoms, a program of the Asian American Civic Association (AACA), is the first Mandarin-immersion daycare center in Boston. AACA’s Executive Director Chau-ming Lee, AACA Youth Director (far left); Jack C. Huang, Director of Culture Center of Taipei Economics and Cultural Office in Boston (front row, left); Mary Chin, AACA Board President (front row, center); Judith Kilgore (front row, right). (Back row) Students: Li-Min Lin, Yen-Lin Chen, Wei-Hang Hsieh, Tsai-Wei Tseng, Ya-Ping Shen, Li-Hsiang Lin. (Photo by Cody Yiu)

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This is the beginning of many events that the PANG New England chapter will be holding. In October, the PANG New England chapter will collaborate with SAALT (South Asian Americans Leading Together) group for the STOP Hunger initiative.

AACA joins Boston Children’s Hospital in embracing workplace diversity

By Cody Yiu

On August 19, the PANG New England Chapter – a Sodexo Pan-Asian network group launched the New England Kick-off event at the Children’s Hospital Boston. The event included an Iron Chef Competition, cultural performances and participation by the Asian American Civic Association (AACA). PANG’s mission is to foster a corporate environment in Sodexo that embraces and values the cultural diversity of its employees through learning and development programs offered by PANG members and by increasing the awareness of Pan Asian cultures within the organization, thereby achieving the long-term cultural diversity goals of the company.

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These six students, Li-Min Lin, Yen-Lin Chen, Wei-Hang Hsieh, Tsai-Wei Tseng, Ya-Ping Shen, Li-Hsiang Lin, hailed from four Taiwanese universities: Po Jen University, National Chengchi University, National Cheng Kung University, and Fu Jen University. "It's a wonderful program to immerse kids in a Chinese environment. Learning Chinese from the childhood would help the kids more multicultural views when they grow up," Huang said after the visit.

Buds & Blossoms, with a capacity for 51 children, ages 6 months to 6 years, serves families who are interested in having their young children in a high-quality Mandarin language environment. The center also features the highly-regarded Reggio Emilia approach to early childhood education, providing opportunities to explore the many languages of children as well as offering visual arts, music and drama to promote children’s independence and success.

Mandarin is the primary language of the program. All age groupings, infants through pre-school, will be surrounded by Mandarin spoken language and writing throughout the day. The older preschool room will incorporate the ZHONG WEN early education curriculum, the only program officially approved by the People’s Republic of China for teaching Mandarin outside of the country.

For more information about Mandarin immersion programs in early childhood education, please visit: http://aacabsandblossoms.org/
Chinatown News

FESTIVAL, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Announcements

CORRECTIONS

The cover graphic in the August Moon Issue, published on August 13, 2010, was designed by Tricia X. Fu.

This workshop will provide an overview of a number of important business legal topics, the understanding of which can help entrepreneurs and small business owners improve business performance while protecting themselves, their businesses, and their personal assets.

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Location: Cathay Bank

This workshop is hosted by Cathay Bank, Ropes and Gray, Lawyers’ Committee For Civil Rights, and co-sponsored by Chinatown Main Street, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Asian American Civic Association and Asian Community Development Corporation.

ACDC Films at the Gate:

Every summer, a vacant lot near Boston’s Chinatown Gate becomes a free, outdoor theater, showing Kung-Fu and classic Chinese-language films under the stars. The Films at the Gate series will take place from Thursday, August 26th to Sunday, August 29th near the the Chinatown Gate. Each night will feature either a classic Kung-Fu or Chinese language film along with short films and performances. Last year, over 600 people attended the series.

Date: Thursday to Sunday, August 26 to 29, 2010.
The program begins at 7:00pm with a main feature at 8:00pm.

This committee will hold its next election on November 28 after an October 29 deadline to submit applications.

It was designed by Natalie Ornell, English Section:

Director-General Anne Hung of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston (TECO-Boston) and Jack C. Huang, the Director of TECO’s Culture Center, also sent greetings to the crowds during the opening ceremony.

One of the highlights about this annual festival is the wide array of merchandise available. This year, shoppers could find vendors selling anything from Chinese-language DVDs to turtles and striped instruments. Of course, freshly made Chinese cuisine was a hit among visitors.

Various non-profit organizations and religious groups participated in this year’s event. Tufts Medical Center offered a free blood pressure screening booth; Harvard Medical students offered free hepatitis B testing.

Members of the Asian American Civic Association (AACA) youth council passed out program fliers at the event.

Elected officials and political candidates saw the Festival as the perfect opportunity to meet their constituents and voters.

The line-up included Boston Councilor John R. Connolly, State Representative candidate Tackey Chan, State Senate candidate

Boston Police Capt. Bernie O’Rourke explained the July 31st 3 am disturbance on Tyler Street to the Council.

With car breaks and that late night restaurants do play a role in the occurrence of late night criminal activities.

"The community has worked with us to keep things in check. I’d be naïve not to say that we don’t have incidents because of late night restaurants," O’Rourke stated.

Chinatown Neighborhood Council member and Crime Watch partner Gilbert Hu suggests that people in the community calling the police about an emergency in Boston on a cell phone, to call (617) 343-4913, instead of calling the main emergency line 9-1-1, which will still connect to the Boston Police but may take a few seconds longer.

The committee will hold its next election on November 28 after Thanksgiving with an October 29 deadline to submit applications.

Natalie Ornell is a Sampan correspondent.
On August 20th, over three hundred Chinese-speaking and Vietnamese-speaking voters gathered at Chinatown's China Pearl Restaurant to mark the recent legislation of the bilingual ballot bill.

The event, hosted by the Coalition for Asian American Voting Rights, attracted a multitude of political figures, civic rights activists and community leaders. It was a day of an occasion of thanksgiving and celebration for all those involved in the cause.

Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz (right) was honored at the event for seeing communities nationwide. Linden Ponds values diversity. We welcome all faiths, races and ethnicities, and housing opportunities are available for low and moderate income households.

New moms can prevent diabetes by keeping up healthy habits

Women who develop high blood glucose (blood sugar) levels during pregnancy are said to have gestational diabetes. These women should be tested for diabetes 6 to 12 weeks after their baby is born. In many cases their blood glucose levels show that they are no longer considered to have diabetes. But what many people don't realize is that new moms who had gestational diabetes will continue to have a greater risk for getting diabetes during their entire lifetime. So even if the test for diabetes is normal right after the baby is born, these women should continue to get tested for diabetes at least every three years.

"Many women think that if the follow-up test after the baby is born shows no signs of diabetes, they are in the clear. That is not the case," said Vivian Pinn, M.D., Director of the Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH) at the National Institutes of Health. "They continue to have a greater risk for getting diabetes in the future. The good news is that there are modest but important steps these women can take to prevent or delay developing diabetes."

Gestational diabetes occurs more often in women with a family history of diabetes, obese women and Latina, African American, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Alaska Native women. Moms who had gestational diabetes should be tested on a regular basis for diabetes, so it is important that they tell their doctors about their history of gestational diabetes. This follow-up screening may be a simple blood test. Women who have had gestational diabetes have a 2 in 3 chance that it will return in future pregnancies so they should also talk to their obstetricians if they plan on becoming pregnant again.

Women with a history of gestational diabetes should also make an effort to reach and maintain a healthy weight by making healthy food choices and being active for at least 30 minutes, 5 days a week. Even if women do not reach their "goal" weight, research shows that maintaining a healthy lifestyle can help reduce risk. These action steps are also good for the entire family.

"Children of women who had gestational diabetes are also at risk for obesity and diabetes, so it's a good idea for mothers to let their child's doctor know that they had gestational diabetes," added Pinn. "Keeping a healthy lifestyle as a family is good for everyone. It helps both mom and baby manage their risks for getting diabetes in the future."

For a free tip sheet on gestational diabetes, including steps to reduce the risk of developing diabetes, call the National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) at 1-888-693-NDEP (6337) or visit the website at www.YourDiabetesInfo.org.

Article funded through the Asian Health Initiative of Tufts Medical Center.

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A rainy August Moon Festival on Quincy’s Hancock Street draws crowds after 23 years

By Natalie Ornell

The August Moon festival in Quincy, organized by the non-profit Quincy Asian Resources (QARI), drew thousands on August 22nd even as it rained throughout most of the day.

Preceded by the Chinatown August Moon festival a week earlier, the Quincy festival celebrates this famous cultural holiday in a community with a large and rapidly growing Asian and Asian American population.

In addition to performances like youth break-dancing and Chinese dance, those who came to the festival enjoyed children’s activities like a moon bounce, Chinese cultural area, a newly created food court, and information on pertinent community organizations as well as freebies and complimentary moon cakes, symbolic of the festival. Some of the organizations who came to educate the public included the Asian Community Development Corporation, the Asian American Civic Association, the South Cove Community Health Center, and the Massachusetts Council on Compulsive Gambling.

Quincy Asian Resources Executive Director John Brothers said over 220 volunteers in addition to over 130 sponsors and vendors made the festival possible. “We had an amazing group and representatives to make this happen. A huge amount of work was put in by everyone. Attendance is significantly down and the rain has not cooperated but everyone’s having a good time.”

QARI youth volunteer Agnes Tran, a rising sophomore at North Quincy high school, said, “I’ve been working around the main stage cleaning up the area. My friends and I volunteered at the Lunar New Year Festival before. It’s really busy and hectic.”

Many youth volunteers who volunteer through QARI help organize the festival. Youth also receive community service hours through high schools in Quincy which allows them to qualify for National Honors Society.

Brothers added that the festival attracted lots of notable figures this year like candidate for State representative in Quincy Tackey Chan, Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch, State Senator Michael Morrissey, District Attorney William Keating, State Senator Robert O’Leary, Telecommunications and Cable Commissioner Geoffrey Why, and several city councilors.

Chan said he has been “working very hard” and has had a “positive campaign.” He added that he has chaired “dozens of these festivals” and noted that the August Moon Festival is “one of the most important family events in the South Shore and that it shows the strong hard work done by Quincy Asian Resources.”

“The rain is not stopping this festival,” Chan said.

QARI primarily serves the Asian immigrant population of the South Shore through Information & Referral Services, translation, English for Speakers of Other Languages, outreach, volunteering and youth leadership programs.

Natalie Ornell is a Sampan correspondent.
Cakes versus Pies

By Eric Lin

Many things are often enjoyed in parties of family and friends, such as BBQs, hot dogs, and, of course, cakes and pies. Cakes and pies are seen in a wide range of celebrations and get-togethers, such as birthdays or reunions. Cakes and pies both taste good and can be decorated in many ways. You may have seen houses made out of cookies with cherries on top, beautiful cakes with realistic (yet edible!) decorations, or even something like rocket-shaped cake on a launching pad. Decorations aren’t a competition between these two party foods, but there are lots more to compare.

The most basic comparison between these two favorite desserts is that they are seen all over the world in various forms. There are thousands of parties going on each day on this planet, and often more than half of the parties include cake and pie to enjoy. Cakes and pies also come in all different flavors and textures. You can find ice cream cakes, spiced cakes, lemon cakes, or strawberry cakes. Apple pie, banana pie, pumpkin pie, and strawberry-rhubarb pie are loved by many. Scientists are still arguing over who invented the pie, but whatever the true answer may be, the simple fact remains that both were first created in ancient times. Ancient hieroglyphics have told us that pie was eaten in Egypt during the rule of Ramses II. Cake was first discovered in Greece where they were used as offerings to Artemis, the goddess of the moon.

Cakes are often the first thing to pop into people’s minds when talking about parties. For example, how many birthday parties have you been to that didn’t have a birthday cake? Most likely not many, if at all. Baking a beautiful cake is very difficult, and usually involves hours in the kitchen with your spatula and other baking tools. Cakes are concerned with both look and taste, so finding the right ingredients and controlling the baking time so all of the parts come together perfectly are crucial. Pies tend to be simpler to bake and serve, and are not as demanding in terms of decorating. People might also like pie just because they want to spend less time in front of the oven.

In conclusion, cakes and pies are both equally delicious. Pies and cakes can be both nutritious and delicious. Pies and cakes contain essential oils, minerals, proteins, and dietary fiber, which are all important for growing teens. Without the proper amounts of proteins and minerals, you could stunt your growth. However, it is important to control your amount of both cakes and pies because many of them do have a lot of sugar in them. Too much sugar may lead to disinterest and stomach aches. It’s also important to watch your calorie intake when eating sugary foods. Serious health problems may occur when consuming too much cake or pie. In conclusion, cakes and pies are both delicious and cannot be missed when preparing for a party.

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Cakes and pies are both delicious and cannot be missed when preparing for a party. The old debate between pie lovers and cake lovers will most likely never result in a conclusion, and there will continue to be many people who are torn between these two dessert staples. But, in the end, many people will probably agree that cakes and pies are both equally delicious and beautiful.

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Hiring
Globalized labor in 19th century Massachusetts

By Samuel Tsoi

China officially surpassed Japan as the world’s second largest economy last week. At the same time, the millions toiling in the workshops of the world are grabbing headlines of a more controversial kind. Complaints of poor working conditions, suicide cases in factory campuses, wage disputes, and even strikes have caused concern for Modern China’s economic revolution.

A much smaller group of Chinese laborers saw themselves in a similar struggle, not in Shenzhen, but in North Adams, Massachusetts, over a hundred years ago.

The peculiar account of the lives of seventy-five Chinese men in the 19th century industrial hotspot is the subject of local art historian Anthony Lee’s book “A Shoemaker’s Story: Being Briefly about French Canadian Immigrants, Enterprising Photographers, Rascal Yankees, and Chinese Cobblers in a Nineteenth-Century Factory Town.”

The Mt. Holyoke College professor offers vivid accounts of the social conditions, political forces and the pursuit of the American Dream that led one of the first Chinese men to North Adams, and their political and economic relevance today.

Shoemaker’s Story is an intriguing and original narrative that knits together labor history, immigration, ethnic relations, and the emerging importance of photography as an art form and journalistic instrument.

The lengthy and meticulous research of local archives, illuminating analysis of photographs, and captivating storytelling, Lee reveals a lesser-known story of the Chinese laborers during New England’s Industrial Revolution.

At the time, photographic imagery was still at its infancy, a deliberate portrait of the Chinese men sparked a riot. Instead of the common individual or family portrait, the photos the men standing by a shoe factory appeared all over region’s press in 1870 and caused uproar with the local labor union. This incident marked an important moment in American labor history, right after the Civil War, and at the dawn of Chinese Exclusion Act, when newcomers from the distant shores of Asia eager to work clashed with the native workers who saw them as a threat. “[The shoemaker’s story] represents a rupture or breakthrough in the strains of history,” Lee described. “The invention of the camera emerged as the most democratic tool of self-expression, and photos spread like wildfire.” Lee describes the transit from painted portraiture, which were usually exclusively for the upper class, the debate about early photography as fine art in Europe, and finally American photography, which captured a more raw representation, a wider subject base, and often focused on ordinary working-class people.

These particular photos came at a time when capitalism created new opportunities for more people, and the melting pot of America overflowed with resentment, xenophobia and racial tensions. 19th century North Adams was a hub of New England’s rapid manufacturing boom, and French Canadian craftsmen were the backbone of that industrial machine.

As conditions at the factories became rougher, and the French-Canadian workers were increasingly more organized, they started a strike to demand better treatment and wages. As a result, on a June morning in 1870, Calvin Sampson, owner of a successful shoe factory, hired 75 Chinese young men from San Francisco, just as the Transcontinental Railroad was completed using the backbreaking labor largely done by their compatriots. Sampson brought the young men over as strikebreakers. As the Chinese laborers worked side-by-side with the established class, tensions rose. A careful reading of a series of portraits Lee uncovers illuminates the nuances and difference between the new lives of the Chinese workers in America and the traditional work ethic of the French-Canadian workers.

In those days, portrait studios were popular forms of self-expression and preservation; individuals lined up to be photographed with carefully-chosen attire and props. Pocket-sized prints were often shared among relatives, potential brides, and each other. In one portrait, a French-Canadian represented himself with tools and the fruit of his labor: a shoe, showcasing his proud product and identity as a craftsman. In another portrait (shown on the book’s cover), a Chinese man in traditional attire sitting with youthful swagger also chose to showcase his shoe prominently for another sense of pride; that he had carved a space of his own in the New World.

This new generation of laborers, represented by young Chinese men, distanced themselves from the traditional forms of shoe making. The emerging manufacturing trend gradually marginalized the artisans, and ushered in the era of mass-production. Proud craftsmanship began to fade as economy and efficiency became the way to do business.

Today, the golden days of manufacturing in Massachusetts have long faded into history, but so have much of the egregious labor controversies. The Bay State now leads the current information and bio-tech revolution and America outsource virtually all basic manufacturing (and its accompanying social and political consequences) to emerging economies. The relentless push for cheaper and more efficient production has turned the worker more dispensable and less secure. It values the worker in narrow, albeit important, market terms.

As the cultural value of consumption and economic growth continues to march forward, led by the West and followed rapidly in places such as China, the human story of labor, trade and the craftsmanship becomes even more abstract, distorted, and hidden. A Shoemaker’s Story presents a fascinating historical lens for today’s concerns for jobs, immigration, media, and globalization. More importantly, it begs the reader and photo-viewer to examine the relationship between a product and its producer, and look deeper into the personal and social implications of the stuff we consume every day.

Samuel Tsoi is a Sampan correspondent.

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