Thousands flock to Chinatown
Chinese New Year Celebrations

By Kane Carpenter
Sampan Editor

An electric atmosphere engulfed Chinatown on January 29 as thousands of spectators lined the streets to watch the Chinese community put on martial arts, lion dance, and dragon dance performances in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year, which draws large crowds to the Chinatown area, is the most significant and important of Chinese celebrations. Signifying the beginning of the lunar calendar, Chinese New Year, which year after year draws large crowds to the Chinatown area, is the most significant and important of Chinese celebrations. Signifying the beginning of the lunar calendar, Chinese New Year occurred on January 23 this year.

MBTA Fare Hikes
How will you be affected?

By Kane Carpenter
Sampan Editor

As the main means of transportation for much of the community, the Massachusetts Bay Transport Authority’s (MBTA) proposal to increase fare prices and cut many services spells trouble for many whom depend on public transportation to get around.

Customers of the T, the moniker used to describe the many services the MBTA offers, take more than 1.3 million trips every weekday. Despite these numbers, the T faces a $185 million deficit in operating expenses in fiscal year 2013, which makes financially sustaining the service precarious.

The three reasons the MBTA states have contributed to the organization’s structural budget deficit are:

1. The MBTA’s operating costs for energy, fuel, and health care have continued to rise, and costs for THE RIDE—a service dedicated to providing door-to-door transportation for eligible people who cannot use public transportation—have grown by nearly 400 percent over the last decade. While THE RIDE’s operating costs have increased over the past 10 years, the primary cost increase has been due to exponential growth in ridership on that service.

2. The T is financially burdened with an $8.7 billion in debt that consume nearly 30 percent of its annual operating budget.

3. Since 2000, the T’s primary source of funding (a 20 percent share of state-wide sales tax receipts) has not produced the steadily increasing revenue stream originally proposed.

East West Bancorp Reports
Record Earnings in 2012

By Kane Carpenter
Sampan Editor

On January 19, East West Bancorp, Inc., parent company of East West Bank, reported record net income for the full year of 2011 and an increase in annual dividend rate to $0.40, as well as a new $200 million common stock repurchase program, according to a press release.

“East West earned $245.2 million for the full year of 2011, the highest ever in our history,” said Dominic Ng, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of East West.

“In the fourth quarter of 2011, East West consecutively increased both net income and EPS each quarter.”

“These strong results for the fourth quarter and full year of 2011 were a direct result of our success in growing the loan portfolio and core deposits to record levels, while maintaining tight control on operating expenses and significantly reducing credit costs,” Ng continued. “Although the current environment continues to pose challenges for the financial services industry, East West has been able to outperform many of its peers.”

HIGHLIGHTS

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Josiah Quincy Elementary, AACA, Kwong Kow Chinese School and East West Bank celebrations.

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The Immigration Debate: Legality or Justice?

By Lydia Lowe
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Today’s misguided immigration debate centers on the question of legality. Many argue that immigrants with legal status should have rights to government benefits and services, but the undocumented should not, because they are illegal. If our government already doesn’t have the money to adequately provide for our own citizens, the argument goes, how can we extend services to those who came here illegally? Immigration is out of control and can’t be solved with more border patrols. Immigration is out of control and can’t be solved with more border patrols.

The Undocumented Give More Than They Take

Many politicians, talk show hosts and voters are not aware that the undocumented are in fact ineligible for most government benefits. Welfare, unemployment, social security SS1, job training programs, MassHealth, food stamps—all of these programs require legal residency, and many require five to ten years of contributing as a taxpayer before becoming eligible to receive benefits.

There are an estimated 6 to 8 million undocumented workers in the US today, doing jobs like farm labor or janitorial services that few domestic workers seek. The undocumented also pay taxes; researchers believe the majority of the undocumented pay federal, state, and local taxes. The average immigrant will pay $80,000 more in taxes than they use in government services over their lifetime. Since many undocumented workers must use false Social Security numbers to work, the Social Security Administration holds more than $400 billion in deductions from undocumented immigrants who will never reclaim these benefits.

The primary government benefits which the undocumented may receive are access to the public schools for their children and limited emergency medical services.

Our Government Has Money for War and Bank Bailouts

If immigrants and the undocumented are not eating up government revenues, then why are we constantly facing budget shortfalls? Isn’t the Social Security system going bankrupt and the unemployment trust fund running out of funds? Factors like a larger aging population and the economic recession have combined to stress certain government accounts. Yet our tax dollars could provide adequate funds to cover our basic human needs if our government had its priorities straight. About 58 percent of our tax dollars goes to military expenditures, and we have spent trillions of dollars on the bank bailout. The United States has only 6 percent of the world’s population but is responsible for about 45 percent of the world’s military expenditures—as much as the next ten countries combined! A 25 percent reduction in the military budget would free up $250 billion that could be redirected to human needs.

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For more info go to www.mad.uscourts.gov; Employment, Current Openings.

EOE
Losing a spouse can be one of the worst things that can happen in someone’s life. Along with the grief and reality of a different way of life, the issue of losing a spouse also raises financial issues, which can add to the already overwhelming traumatic experience. More often than not, it is a woman who is taking them on.

According to the National Center for Women and Retirement Research: Nine out of ten women who are widowed will be responsible for their own finances at some point in their lives. Over 75 percent of the women in the United States are widowed at an average age of 56, and one-fourth of them will be broke within two months of their husband’s death. Only 15 percent of the women who are married or living with a significant other assume responsibility for their retirement planning. Almost 90 percent of the elderly living in poverty today are female. Many widows who have just lost a spouse are overwhelmed with everything it takes to get their affairs in order and because of that they can be vulnerable and unwise decisions can be made. Here are some recommendations that may help during this difficult time.

**Delay any major decisions**

People often rush through decisions, such as selling their homes or purchasing investment holdings, shortly after the death of their spouse. Because the grief is so painful many just want to get it all over with. Certain bills and funeral expenses need to be taken care of relatively quickly, but most other moves can wait. Please do not make any changes right away. Learn what you can about your finances and keep the bills up to date. But don’t make major life changes like moving or job changes.

Many widows want to reduce as much hassle and bills as they can and a common reaction is to want to pay off the mortgage. This ultimately may be the right answer but it also could cause major liquidity issues if you don’t have a clear view of your financial picture.

**Make an inventory of all assets**

When things have settled a bit, the next area to try to focus on is gathering, organizing and making an inventory of all assets and liabilities. You will need to get control of the household bills if you weren’t paying them previously. Also you will need to collect and organize your and your husband’s financial and personal assets, including: Bank and investment accounts, Safety Deposit Boxes, life insurance and other accidental or sudden death benefits, Social Security survivor benefits, annuity benefits, pensions, etc.

If you have trusted advisors like attorneys, accountants or Certified Financial planners, contact them to see if there are other assets that you did not account for.

**Develop a financial plan**

Once you think you have gone through all of the accounting of your assets and the time is right, you’ll eventually want to create a financial plan tailored to you. This may be best in conjunction with a family member and trusted advisor but don’t be pressured because remember this needs to feel right for you.

Your life may feel in complete disarray right now, but I know you have the strength to get through this and in time you will be amazed at how resilient you can be.

If you have a topic that you would like me to discuss in a future article please email me at mtow@newbostonfinancial.com.

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**Our Special Travel Issue is Coming Out On March 9th!**

Contact ads@sampan.org to place your ad.

**Online: Sampan.org**

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**MBTA Fare Hikes**

Continued from Page 1

To battle these budget difficulties, the MBTA has proposed two scenarios that would close the projected deficit. Scenario 1 includes a higher fare increase and a smaller number of service reductions, while scenario 2 includes a slightly lower fare increase but larger service reductions.

Scenario 1 incorporates a 43 percent overall fare increase for all fare media types. This would help the MBTA gain $161 million in annual revenue through a $123.2 million increase in fare revenue and $38.3 million net operating savings. Scenario 2 incorporates a 35 percent overall fare increase for all fare media types. This would help the MBTA gain $165 million in annual revenue through a $86.8 million increase in fare revenue and $78.4 million net operating savings.
Chinese Historical Society of New England hosts Historian Mae Ngai

By Kane Carpenter

Award-winning author and historian, Mae Ngai, spoke at the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center about her latest publication, The Lucky Ones, to a packed room on January 28.

Over 50 people attended the lecture, set up by the Chinese Historical Society of New England, which incorporated a question and answer period, as well as an opportunity for attendees to get their copies of Ngai’s book signed.

The Lucky Ones follows the “middle-class” lives of the prominent Tape family through their trials and tribulations of navigating the tricky late 19th century, early 20th century period of American history.

In her latest book, Ngai makes the case that the Tape family, most well-known from the historic Tape v. Hurley case which allowed Chinese-Americans the right to own property and be a part of American society, was integral in the formation of the Chinese-American middle class.

Ngai’s research takes the reader on a voyage through the rich history of the Tape family – from the origins of Mary and Joseph Tape and how the two protagonists became acclimated, to the eventual assembling of most of the family members’ marriages.

“I was interested in the Chinese-American middle class,” said Ngai at the lecture. “And through their story, I was interested in telling the story of the formation of the Chinese-American middle class.”

Ngai’s book offers the reader a telescopic look into the lives of the Tape family as well as the family’s neighbors in the San Francisco Bay area where patriarch Joseph Tape made his fortune. Through a multitude of photographs and written documents, Ngai tells the gripping story of loyalty, distrust and wealth through the eyes of the Tape family – a family that predominately worked as interpreters for immigration departments of the time.


Ngai’s research is the envy of your friends.

By Kane Carpenter

February 3, 2012

Sampan
HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Province Landing Apartments
90 Shank Painter Rd, Provincetown, MA 02657

- 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Apartments
- Accessible Units Available
- Spacious Floor Plans
- Energy Efficient
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*Monthly Rental Rates from $114 to $1103*

Income Restrictions Apply – See Application for Details

Application Deadline for Selection Lottery is 3/12/2012

(must be postmarked by that date)

Five Units Available For Households Requiring Accessible Apartments

For Information or to request an application, please call 508-487-9087,TTY 711 or email to planning@tcbinc.org

Applications may be picked up in Provincetown at:
- Town Hall (lower level) Council on Aging
- Unitarian Universalist Meeting House
- Methodist Church
- Helping Our Women (HOW)
- AID’s Support Group and Library

In Truro at the Library and Council on Aging. In Wellfleet at the Library and at Outer Cape Health Services.

MYTH: There is plenty of time to secure an apartment. September 1st is still seven months away.

FACT: Boston’s rental market remains one of the tightest and priciest in the country.

In 2011, the vacancy rate was 4.4% at the end of June, and even lower in neighborhoods that are desirable to young professionals and students. Landlords quickly reached 100% occupancy due to fewer turnovers than in previous years. As a result, they raised rent prices because supply was low and demand was still strong. And most landlords left the cost of the broker fee to the tenant.

We are two months into the new year. Those of you who have rented apartments know the rush to find your next apartment is on the horizon. Some of you may have already started your search. Great! Some of you may still be deciding whether to ditch your roommates and get your own place. Get cracking! Regardless of the stage you’re in, rental season has begun.

Most of Boston’s rental market operates around local colleges with September 1st being the traditional changeover date. Even if you’re out of school, this date will still define your search. Think there is ample time since there is still snow on the ground? GET REAL! Due to unprecedented vacancy rates in the city, many landlords have already released their September 1st listings.

In 2011, there was a serious lack of apartment inventory by the first week of August. If you wait until the warmer months, you will likely be faced with very limited and often less desirable options. The search is on!

Start your search early to take advantage of the larger inventory and more stable prices that are set at the beginning of the rental season. Those looking for larger 3-5 bedroom units should start now. Since those apartments are typically limited to begin with, they will always be the units that rent the fastest. By the end of March, it will be quite challenging to find a quality and well-priced apartment of this size. Expect an average range of $2400-3000 for 3-bedrooms; $2600-3600 for 4-bedrooms and $3000-4600 for 5-bedrooms.

Those looking for smaller studio, 1-bedroom, and 2-bedroom units have a little more time, but again, don’t wait. The inventory is generally greater for these apartments, but by starting early, you will get the chance to see top quality units before they get rented. Expect an average range of $1250-1440 for studios; $1350-1700 for 1-bedroom and $1650-2100 for 2-bedrooms.

If you see a unit for less than these prices, TAKE IT! Underpriced budget apartments are the first to go. If you are already paying less, decide if you really need to move.

Seen some apartments but still need to think about it? GET REAL! With such a limited supply of housing available, you really do have the luxury to “shop around.” If you have a unit, TAKE IT; because chances are you’ll be the envy of your friends. You may not have every item on your wish list. Know your priorities going in so you can make a decision on the spot.

Finding housing is a priority, so set aside a day to look. The more ahead you are of everyone else, the better your odds will be at securing an apartment that will be the envy of your friends.

CALL TO REASON: In the process of apartment hunting and have questions? Call or email and your topic could be the next discussion. Mildred Wong is a Licensed Real Estate Agent at City Central Realty, LLC. She can be reached at 617-236-2021 or mildred@citycentralre.com. Follow her on Twitter: @GetRealwMildred.

98 Shank Painter Rd, Provincetown, MA 02657

- 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Apartments
- Accessible Units Available
- Spacious Floor Plans
- Energy Efficient
- Laundry Facility
- Community Room
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*Monthly Rental Rates from $114 to $1103*

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- Helping Our Women (HOW)
- AID’s Support Group and Library

In Truro at the Library and Council on Aging. In Wellfleet at the Library and at Outer Cape Health Services.
Sealed bids for MBTA Contract No. W43CN02, ALEWFIFE GARAGE REPAIRS PROJECT, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, CLASS 7, BUILDINGS AND PROJECT VALUE - $3,144,000.00 will be received by the Director of Contract Administration at the Contract Administration Office, 6th Floor, Room 6726, Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts, 02116-3975, until two o’clock (2:00 p.m.) on February 28, 2012. Immediately thereafter, in a designated room, the Bids will be opened and read publicly.

Work consists of the following repairs: concrete repairs to the parking garage precast concrete double tees, concrete columns, concrete beams; repairs to damaged drain pipes; removing and replacing expansion joints; recaulking joints; replacing damaged skylight panels; replacing scupper grates and floor plates; and performing a CCTV inspection of the existing drainage system.

This Contract is subject to a financial assistance Contract between the MBTA and the Federal Transit Administration of U.S. Department of Transportation. FTA Participation 80 percent.

Each prospective bidder proposing to bid on this project must be prequalified in accordance with the Authority’s “Procedures Governing Classification and Rating of Prospective Bidders.” Copies may be obtained from the Contract Administration Office at the above address. Requests for prequalification for this Project will not be accepted by the Authority after the tenth (10th) day preceding the date for the opening of bids.

Prequalified bidders may obtain a “Request for Bid Form” which must be properly filled out and submitted for approval.

Bidding documents may be obtained from the Contract Administration Office at the address above from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., beginning on January 26, 2012, Monday through Friday, at no charge. Copies of the Bidding Documents will be available in electronic format (CD). Contract Specifications shall be available in portable data file (.pdf) format and Contract Drawings shall be available in Tagged Image File (.tif) format. If requested, Bidding documents will be shipped for a fee of $25.00, made payable by check to MBTA. For overnight mail service, a completed mailing label, with an approved carrier account number (i.e. Federal Express), must be included. All bidding documents requested by check will be shipped via U.S. Postal Service. NONE OF THESE CHARGES ARE REFUNDABLE.

Bidders will be required to comply with Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Regulations and the President’s Executive Order No. 11246 and any amendments or supplements thereto. Bidders will also be required to comply with the Governor’s Executive Order No. 481, prohibiting the use of undocumented workers on State Contracts and any amendments and supplements thereto.

Authorization for the Bidders to view the site of the work on the MBTA’s property shall be obtained from the Project Manager, Marjorie Madden, 500 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. The Authority will conduct an inspection tour of the site on February 7, 2011. Bidders are requested to be present at the Alewife Garage roof level at 10:00 AM to participate in the tour. Bidders are advised that they should have representation at this tour as no extra visits are planned.

A pre-bid conference will be held on February 9, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the MBTA Offices, 500 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA, Conference Room #1, First Floor; Project Manager, Marjorie Madden, 617-222-3797. Any request for interpretation of the Plans and Specifications should be submitted in writing at the same time.

Bidders will be required to certify as part of their bids that they are able to furnish labor that can work in harmony with all other elements of labor employed or to be employed on the work.

This Contract is subject to Federal wage and hourly laws and minimum State wage rates as well as all other applicable labor laws.

Bidders are advised that the “Buy America” provisions of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (Pub. L.-97-424) as amended, apply to any Contract, procurement or agreement which results from this solicitation.

Bid Guaranty shall consist of a bid deposit in the amount of five (5) percent of the value of the bid, in the form of a bid bond, cash, certified check, treasurer’s or cashier’s check.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond each for the full amount of the Contract price.

Bidders will be required to certify as part of their bids and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin in consideration for an award.

Bidders will affirmatively ensure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this solicitation, minority and female construction contractors will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive informalities, to advertise for new Bids or proceed to do the work otherwise, as may be deemed to be in the best interests of the Authority.

This information may be viewed at the MBTA website:

http://www.mbta.com/business_center/bidding_solicitations/current_solicitations/

MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Date: January 24, 2012

By: Richard A. Davey Jonathan R. Davis

Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of Acting General Manager of the MBTA

MassDOT & Rail & Transit Administrator of MassDOT
Diabetes

Are you at risk?

With help from Alice DiCenzo, RN BSN CDE, Program Coordinator at the Joslin Diabetes Center at Hallmark Health

There are 57 million people in the United States who are at high risk for getting diabetes. Having diabetes can raise your risk of heart disease and other health problems, so it is important to understand whether you are at risk or not.

Be sure to get checked for diabetes at your next routine medical visit, especially if you:

- Are overweight (a body mass index of 25 kg/m² or higher, or 23 kg/m² if you are of Asian descent)
- Have a waist circumference greater than 35 inches (for women) or 40 inches (for men)
- Get too little physical activity
- Have a parent, sister, or brother with diabetes
- Are of African American, Latino/Hispanic American, Asian American, Native American or Pacific Islander descent
- Have had a baby weighing 9 pounds or more or have had gestational diabetes (diabetes during pregnancy)
- Have an A1C of 5.7% or higher
- Have been told that you have Impaired Glucose Tolerance (IGT) or Impaired Fasting Glucose (IFG)
- Have high blood pressure (higher than 140 over 90)
- Have a HDL (good) cholesterol less than 35 and/or triglycerides (blood fats) that are higher than 250
- Have Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome (PCOS)
- Have a history of heart disease (heart attack, angina, stroke)
- Have velvety brown markings on your neck or under your arms

Symptoms

Even though some people with diabetes will never have any symptoms of the condition, many people who develop diabetes will show one or more of the symptoms that follow:

- Increased thirst
- Frequent urination
- Weight loss
- Blurred vision
- Increased hunger
- Extreme unexplained fatigue
- Frequent skin, bladder or gum infections
- Irritability
- Tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- Wounds that heal slowly

How to control diabetes?

By making healthier food choices, you can help you control diabetes if you have developed the condition. Eating smaller portions and less fat, as well as spreading your intake of carbohydrates throughout the day. Even the little things help.

If you are overweight, put a lot of effort into losing weight. This will mean that your body can make better use of the insulin that you give it. By increasing your daily physical activity, aiming for roughly 30 minutes of exercise every day, not only will contribute to a healthier body but you can control your diabetes, too.

Three Tests

Here are three tests that your doctor can use to check you for pre-diabetes or diabetes:

1. A blood test that measures your fasting glucose, when you have not eaten or drunk anything for at least 8 hours
2. An oral glucose tolerance test (OGTT). Blood glucose is checked before and two hours after drink a special glucose drink
3. A blood test that measures A1C, a measure of average blood glucose over the past 2 to 3 months

Tufts Medical Center Chinese New Year Celebrations

Tufts Medical Center held its Chinese New Year celebrations on January 31, by holding a lion dance performance, as well as inviting students from the neighboring Josiah Quincy Elementary School to perform dances and instrumental music.

Close to 100 spectators crowded into the Tufts Medical Center lobby to watch the festivities.

Prior to the start of the celebrations, Tufts Medical Center CEO Eric Beyer made the announcement that the Medical Center had been named one of the "Most Admired Health Care Companies/Institutions in Boston" by the Boston Business Journal. Beyer then went on to say that supporters of the Medical Center could vote for the hospital to win the “Most Admired” up to three times a day for the next couple of weeks.

School of Dental Medicine

Free Dental Screening Offered
February 22, 2012
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Senior Dental Students Seeking Patients for Licensure Exam

Who might qualify? People with one or all of the following:

- Small Cavities
- Tartar (Calculus)
- Periodontal (Gum) Disease

People who have not been to the dentist in several years or more

Please contact Nicole Wade at 617-636-6791 to schedule an appointment
Space is limited
Tufts University School of Dental Medicine is located at 1 Kneeland Street Boston, MA 02111
BIODMC Celebrates Lunar New Year, Welcomes the Year of the Dragon

The Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center community gathered on Jan. 20 to celebrate the Lunar New Year with music, dance, a look at cultural history and good food, and the promise of more babies born at BIDMC in 2012.

Helen Chin Schlichte, a member of the BIDMC Board of Directors and master of ceremonies for the celebration welcomed guests as they ushered in the Year of the Dragon, “the mightiest of the 12 zodiac signs,” she said. People born under the sign of the dragon are considered especially lucky. It is thought that they will be powerful and wise. “So, we could see an increase in the use of maternity services this year,” she good-naturedly predicted.

Stolen away from a hectic schedule of meetings, Malden Mayor Gary Christenson came out wearing blue with dragon pattern traditional Chinese New Year outfit. He took the stage, greeted and wished everyone a prosperous year of the dragon with a laconic speech. He reminded residents that his office always welcomes them to visit, and will listen to their concerns and suggestions in how to make Malden, their home, a better place.

“I thought the show was great. I have seen the show in the past few years, there are a lot of good talents on stage and you can see the people who put on the show really put effort into it.” Bob Kirby, a Malden resident, was among the audience, told Sampan.

Mei Hung, the executive director of Malden Chinese Culture Connection, said she hopes next year to put up more information, so more people will come and join the celebration.

Lucy Liu, a performer, and also the event organizer said, “We have performers who are children, and seniors, they came from different parts of society.” And it’s also wonderful to see how different ethnic groups among Chinese come to celebrate the lunar new year. From wearing different outfits of different ethnic groups, we try to remind people the diversity among Chinese culture.” She later on said, “We hope to send the message to people, so that they know China indeed is a vast country, with many different ethnic groups, each of them is different, and when we all come to celebrate Chinese New Year, it’s a beautiful thing.” Mei Hung thanked all the support from individuals and the many organizations brought together for the success of the show. Among them were 120 performers and 30 volunteers, “I hope the joyous time the show brought to people will also help them to promote Chinese culture, embrace, and appreciate their heritage more,” Hung said.

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Helen Chin Schlichte, a member of the BIDMC Board of Directors and master of ceremonies for the celebration welcomed guests as they ushered in the Year of the Dragon, “the mightiest of the 12 zodiac signs,” she said. People born under the sign of the dragon are considered especially lucky. It is thought that they will be powerful and wise. “So, we could see an increase in the use of maternity services this year,” she good-naturedly predicted.

Stolen away from a hectic schedule of meetings, Malden Mayor Gary Christenson came out wearing blue with dragon pattern traditional Chinese New Year outfit. He took the stage, greeted and wished everyone a prosperous year of the dragon with a laconic speech. He reminded residents that his office always welcomes them to visit, and will listen to their concerns and suggestions in how to make Malden, their home, a better place.

“I thought the show was great. I have seen the show in the past few years, there are a lot of good talents on stage and you can see the people who put on the show really put effort into it.” Bob Kirby, a Malden resident, was among the audience, told Sampan.

Mei Hung, the executive director of Malden Chinese Culture Connection, said she hopes next year to put up more information, so more people will come and join the celebration.

Lucy Liu, a performer, and also the event organizer said, “We have performers who are children, and seniors, they came from different parts of society.” And it’s also wonderful to see how different ethnic groups among Chinese come to celebrate the lunar new year. From wearing different outfits of different ethnic groups, we try to remind people the diversity among Chinese culture.” She later on said, “We hope to send the message to people, so that they know China indeed is a vast country, with many different ethnic groups, each of them is different, and when we all come to celebrate Chinese New Year, it’s a beautiful thing.” Mei Hung thanked all the support from individuals and the many organizations brought together for the success of the show. Among them were 120 performers and 30 volunteers, “I hope the joyous time the show brought to people will also help them to promote Chinese culture, embrace, and appreciate their heritage more,” Hung said.

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Josiah Quincy Elementary School—Year of the Dragon Celebrations

On January 27, in an elaborately decorated gym, Josiah Quincy Elementary School students performed skits, dances, and songs in celebration of Chinese New Year and the Year of the Dragon for teachers, parents and local government officials.

The performances, which began around 10 a.m. and lasted close to two hours, were arranged by the teachers at the school. According to Josiah Quincy Elementary School Principal Simon Ho, each class had about three weeks to organize and arrange their performances.

City Councillor Bill Linehan was one of many significant figures to attend the celebration and was even given the assignment of handing a bouquet of flowers to one of three Josiah Quincy Elementary School teachers that were in charge of putting on the show.

A total of ten performances, by students from kindergarten to grade 5, took place. A traditional Chinese lion dance, performed by students from the fifth grade, kicked-off the celebrations and a gymnastics showcase by the JQS Flying Dragons, which was made up of students from third, fourth, and fifth grade, closed out the show.

Kwong Kow Chinese School Chinese New Year Celebrations

On January 28, Kwong Kow Chinese School held its Chinese New Year celebrations with performances from the school’s students. Performances included dancing, singing, poem reciting, and instrument demonstrations.

Close to 100 students and parents crowded into the Kwong Kow Chinese School's auditorium to watch the celebrations, which lasted a little over an hour.

Students, whose ages ranged from kindergarten to grade 5, wore elaborate costumes to perform traditional Chinese dances and songs; one particular highlight being a performance of ethnic-Xinjiang dancing accompanied by music.

East West Bank Chinese New Year Celebrations

On a festivity-filled Sunday afternoon in Chinatown on January 29, East West Bank offered custom traditional Chinese souvenirs for attendees who entered the bank.

East West Bank, which is located near the intersection of Harrison Avenue and Kneeland Street, hosted calligraphers, painters, and artists whom offered free Chinese-style paintings and calligraphy typical of the Chinese New Year time.

AACA holds Chinese New Year Dinner for Employer Partners

The Asian American Civic Association (AACA) held a dinner ceremony for the organization’s funders and employer partners in celebration of Chinese New Year on January 26, at Empire Garden Restaurant in Chinatown.

The dinner, which hosted jazz musicians John Dreyer and Harvey Diamond, was attended by over 100 people. During the proceedings, AACA Chief Operating Officer Sunny Schwartz presented a 5-minute video clip that showcased the organization’s Building Energy Efficient Maintenance Skills (BEEMS) and Partnership for Automotive Career Education (PACE) programs.

"State Street is a strong supporter of the work the AACA does," said Madge M. Meyer, Executive Vice President and Chief Innovative Officer at State Street Corporation. "The work they do at the AACA is invaluable to the community."

"[The dinner] was an excellent opportunity to thank our funders, employer partners and students," said Michael Genovese, Director of Development at AACA.

"STONERIDGE LANDING"

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<tr>
<th>TOWN OF NORTH Dighton</th>
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<tr>
<td>Affordable Housing Lottery</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Available to First Time Homebuyers</td>
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<td><strong>$173,180</strong></td>
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- **Income**: not to exceed
- **One Person**: $45,100
- **Two Persons**: $51,550
- **Three Persons**: $58,100
- **Four Persons**: $65,100

Applications are available at:
- Dighton Town Hall
- 979 Summer Avenue
- Dighton Public Library
- 305 Main Street
- www.dightonlibrary.org
- www.dightonmainstreet.org
- www.ownerhouselending.org
- www.masshousedirectlending.com

Applications are due by March 8, 2012 (5:00 p.m.) at the Dighton Public Library or in person.

**Senior Housing Opportunity**

Ocean Shores Apartments in Lynn, Massachusetts is actively seeking applications for our wait list.

Applicants must be at least 62 years of age, with annual income not to exceed:
- **One Person**: $45,100
- **Two Persons**: $51,550

Financed by the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency.

[Sampan Editor]

February 3, 2012