Hundreds Take Part in Boston Chinatown’s Mid-Autumn Festival

BY KANE CARPENTER
Sampan Editor

Despite a day marred with showers, hundreds turned up to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival at Boston’s Chinatown on Sunday, August 14.

More than twenty-five stalls, selling a variety of products, from handmade souvenirs to International calling cards to Asian DVDs, set up white tents to showcase their goods and add to the atmosphere that enveloped Chinatown during the annual celebration.

Mid-Autumn (or August Moon), a festival that dates back some 3,000 years, is one of the most important annual festivals in Chinese culture, equalled only by Chinese New Year and the Winter Solstice. Typical ways of celebrating the occasion include carrying illuminated lanterns, eating moon cake and pomelo, and burning incense.

One of the booths that attracted a lot of attention was one that featured the talents of B.N. Leung, whom hand-crafted colorful flour figurines for the entire day. Dough figurines have been a part of Chinese culture for over two thousand years, with some written records dating back to the Han Dynasty (206BC – 220AD).

Another festival attraction that left children and adults alike desiring to purchase one were the numerous terrapin turtles that were on sale. These terrapins, which typically sold for four to five dollars per turtle, were scooped into plastic cases and carried home by a copious number of people.

“We were just coming into Chinatown for dinner when we saw [the festival],” said Marc Nozell, a software engineer from New Hampshire who attending the festival with five of his six children. “Of course the girls wanted the turtles.”

When asked if Nozell’s daughters were able to buy a terrapin, a resounding no ensued. But a Chinatown festival of this magnitude would not have been complete without enthusiastic displays of martial arts, lion dance, and dulcimer performances from many of the local martial arts schools and academies in the Chinatown area.

Musical performances also added to the ambience of the festival, with troupes performing traditional Chinese songs beneath the iconic Chinatown Paifang gate.

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Comic

Empty Bamboo Girl
by Lillian Chan

There are so many articles these days on how to raise your kid to be bilingual...

Most parents are enrolling their kids in Chinese school...

In our day it was called our-parents-don’t-speak-English-so-suck-it-up-and-speak-Chinese.

Seriously?

In for more ad-art, become a Facebook fan at www.facebook.com/ahbTheComic.

8-19-11

Announcements & Event Listings

Think you have what it takes to become a CEO? This coming fall, AACA is partnering with Junior Achievement to launch the JA Academy Program. Developed by Junior Achievement of Northern New England, the JA Academy is an after-school mentoring program for high school students hosted at area colleges and corporate sites. With support from business professionals and college students as mentors, JA Academy students explore the world of business through forming and managing their own company.

In a 12-week curriculum guided by the mentor team, students develop and execute a business plan, sell stock to fund growth, and drive production and sales, all while having fun handling the day-to-day operations of their venture.

All you have to do...

• Sign up!
• Support your fellow students who are interested in learning about business and entrepreneurship.
• Run your own company and sell products with the help of business professionals and college students.
• Complete at least one meeting each week for 12 weeks.
• Compete for the prestigious title of JA Academy Company of the Year and Outstanding Business Person of the Year.

For more information, contact: Kenneth Kan 367-426-02 ext. 228
ken@aaaca-boston.org

Quincy Asian Resources Inc. presents 24th Annual Quincy August Moon Festival

When:
Sunday, August 21st, 11am-5pm
Where:
1400-1600 Hancock Street, Quincy Center, MA 02169
MBTA Accessible (Red Line to Quincy Center)

A fun-filled festival with entertainment and activities and with an estimated 10,000 to be in attendance, this year’s event will feature a cultural area with art demonstrations, kite making, and other activities. There will also be traditional and modern Asian music and dance performances, and a children's area with games and crafts. Local restaurants will serve various types of Asian and American cuisine, and more than a hundred vendors with give-away gifts will participate. The festival is free to attend, MBTA accessible, and free public parking is available, so come join us for a day of fun!

New Oil Paintings by Sophia Yee

Title: "New Vision II"
Where: Piper Gallery
Cary Memorial Library
1874 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington, MA
When: August 1st – August 31st, 2011

"New Vision II", new oil paintings by Sophia Yee, is showing in the month of August 2011 at the Piper Gallery in Cary Memorial Library in Lexington. Consisting of more than a dozen works completed in the past year, Ms. Yee’s new works are vibrant and expressionistic. As she says, "I took further steps in terms of technique and color usage in relation to my previous work. They are more mature, livelier, and give the viewer a sense of imitation and reflection." She channels her personal experiences through the prism of the Western influences of expressionism and surrealism, bringing to her paintings of flowers and other natural objects a psychological depth one would more likely expect from paintings of human figures or from self-portraits.

Renew Boston Program

The City of Boston and its partners provide participating residents with a range of no-cost efficiency services including a comprehensive home energy assessment and up to $5,500 for home insulation and air sealing. Depending upon the results of the home energy assessment, customers may also qualify for a variety of other free energy efficient products.

How do I sign-up?

Please contact Asian American Civic Association (AACA) to sign up for a home energy assessment and answer a few quick questions. Once you sign-up, one of our professional energy representatives will verify your program eligibility, discuss energy savings opportunities with you, and arrange an energy assessment for your home.

Our job is to find YOU a job.

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SAMPAN
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KWONG KOW
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“At the end of the day] many of the kids don’t want to leave,” said Liu. “When their parents come to pick them up, the kids will say, ‘You’re not on time’, because they want to keep playing in their after-school activities.”

Founded in 1916 by the Chinese Merchants Association (the On Leong Merchants Association) to establish an educational institution to help maintain Chinese heritage among overseas Chinese, KKCS is the oldest one of its kind in Boston and one of the longest-running Chinese schools on the East Coast.

The school became a nonprofit institution in 1981 in order to ensure the sustainability of the school as a community resource. Having sourced Chinese language and cultural education, academic support, and recreational programs for more than 29,000 children of Chinese immigrants in the Greater Boston/Eastern Massachusetts region, the KKCS has a pedigree few can match.

The key, one might ask:

“We try to combine a cultural education with academic excellence, and we try to make things fun for the students, too,” said Liu.

But, according to Liu, fun and games are not the priority.

“As one of the only Chinese-language schools to possess a computer lab, as well as one of the only schools in the region to offer free young Learner’s Chinese (YCT) test tutoring, KKCS demands academic achievement.

“A few of our students have already completed level three [out of four on the YCT test score scale], so we’re figuring out how to get our kids up to level four,” said Liu.

Growing up in Guangzhou, and majoring in “many things,” as she would say, Principal Liu has a knack with children. Walking past each of the country-theme classrooms in KKCS’ four-year-old, 16,892 square feet building at 87 Tyler Street, Liu was approached and waved to by numerous children clad in red school shirts.

“I’ve always had a passion for teaching,” said Liu. “Ever since I was in school I wanted to learn and teach.”

Despite being a Chinese school, classes are taught in a variety of different languages to suit the needs of the class and the students.

Interestingly, students at KKCS do not only come from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Philippines, but also native students of Chinese American background, adopted children from China, and students from White, Black, and Hispanic families.

An establishment that offers “quality out-of-school activities” to all ages, including Fun Fun Mandarin, and Mandarin classes for adults, the KKCS’ corridor walls are lined with photos of smiling children and adults – learning and performing activities not only meant to be special and meaningful to those, specifically, of the Chinese community, but for those who want to learn and excel on their own paths, too.

CNC MEETING
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

development when the economy picks up. However, the Chinatown representatives were seeking more affordable housing, more three-bedroom apartments for families, more open spaces for recreational purposes, and even more density. Taking advice from the TCC meeting, the developer is now re-designing their plan and will present their new plan at a CNC meeting in due course.

It was also reported to the meeting that, in response to previous complaints about too few tables and umbrellas along the Rose F. Kennedy Greenway, several organizations’ donations made it possible to add 14 more tables and seven more umbrellas for the public to enjoy.

Several announcements were also made at the meeting:

Saturday, 20 August 2011, 6 PM, THE PURPLE HAIRPIN, at John Hancock Hall (180 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116) – Back-row free tickets for affordable housing groups will be available at the door to that day’s show of The Purple Hairpin, a Cantonese opera performed by Que Shing Chinese Music and Opera Group.

Sunday, 21 August 2011, 11 AM to 5 PM, QUINCY MOON FESTIVAL CELEBRATION, at Quincy Center, along Hancock Street – Bring your family and friends to the 24th annual August Moon Festival celebration, presented by Quincy Asian Resources. Enjoy a day of cultural activities, delicious food, live entertainment, and exhibits from more than 100 local businesses and organizations.

Thursday to Sunday, 25 to 28 August 2011, 8 PM, FILMS AT THE GATE, 10 and 12 Hudson Street Vacant Lot (between Beach and Kneeland Streets, Boston, MA 02111) on Thu. & Fri., and Chinatown Park on Rose F. Kennedy Greenway (just north of the Chinatown Gate, Boston, MA 02111) on Sat. & Sun. – The 6th annual ‘Films at the Gate’ will take place this year at two locations with free kung-fu movie screenings and cultural performances open to the public. Performances or short films start at 7:00 PM; feature films start at 8:00 PM. Please visit www.filmsatthegate.org for more information.

Monday, 12 September 2011, 12 PM, MOY’S FAMILY ASSOCIATION 25TH NATIONAL CONVENTION OPENING, at 2nd Floor of China Pearl Restaurant (9 Tyler Street, Boston, MA 02111) - This opening ceremony of the 25th National Convention organized by Moy’s Family Association, U.S.A. will be free and open to the public.

The next CNC meeting will be held on Monday, 19 September 2011, 6 PM, at its regular meeting place - the CCBA building in Tyler Street.
As soon as she stepped out of the airport she wanted to go back. If she had to sneak on a plane in someone’s luggage, she would. Her mother, sensing her fear, squeezed her hand tighter, reassuring her that everything would be okay. It would probably have worked better if she had believed it herself.

The girl looked around at the unfamiliar place. She had never seen cars so yellow before. The thing that bothered her the most, though, was the noise. Cars were beeping, people were yelling, babies were screaming, airplanes were roaring. It was too much for a five-year-old girl. They were going to a new and big place. So am I. I can’t promise you that everything will be fabulous and we will lead an easy life, but I can promise that everything will be okay.

“Please calm down, my love,” her mother called from the bathroom and sat down to eat with her in a big hug.

The girl slowly inched her way out of the bathroom and sat down to eat with her mother in silence. When they were done, the girl sat obediently in place, expecting a scolding from her mother for locking herself in the bathroom. Instead, her mother wrapped her arms around her in a big hug.

“I know that you are scared to be in such a new and big place. So am I. I can’t promise you that everything will be fabulous and we will lead an easy life, but I can promise that everything will be okay.”

The mother and daughter held on to each other the whole night: never to let go of the hope that things will get better.

As soon as her mother let go of her, she kept trying to break away from her mother, her uncle was waiting. The girl warily cracked the door open to peek at her mother. Her mother was holding two steaming plates of the girl’s favorite food. “Please come out, baby,” she pleaded.

There are apartments— and then there are Corcoran managed apartments—well managed, stylish, modern and constantly updated... Take your pick!
Hot Pot Buffet: A Fun and Active Dining Experience

Joining other Hot Pot places in Chinatown (though more are of the Japanese shabu shabu style) is Hot Pot Buffet. In business for over a year, a constant flow of traffic has funneled right in this two level restaurant located at 70 Beach Street, Boston, MA (617) 338-0808 adjacent to the welcoming Chinatown Gate. The restaurant is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. for lunch or 4 p.m.-2 a.m. for dinner and costs only $14.95 a person for lunch and $20.95 a person for dinner. Sundays and holiday lunches are not offered. Hot Pot Buffet offers fresh ingredients, no MSG and very little oil for a tasty and healthy dining experience.

Hot Pot (aka steamboat) has a history of over 1,000 years and is enjoyed all over China with variations in other countries. It is a fun way to share a meal and eat with friends especially if you like to cook your own food. It is very easy! First you choose your desired broth out of four options Chinese Herbal, Mala (Spicy) Soup, Black Chicken Soup and the House Special Broth. Then you can pick your desired food to cook. The sheer variety of food options is amazing and there is something for everyone! Lobster is at market price ($8.95 each on a recent visit) along with 19 other seafood items to choose from ranging from salmon fillet, shrimp, crabs, crab legs and fish tofu. Then there are six types of noodles, 33 items under vegetables (tofu and rice cake too), as well as four types of dumplings, six types of seafood and meat balls, and 11 choices of meats. A few exotic items that stand out are the Beef Tongue, Fried Pig Skin, Pig Blood, Quail Eggs, Pork Intestines, Fried Gluten Balls and Wood Ear Mushrooms.

Now comes the fun part! Once you get your broth and food, then you wait for the broth to boil and then you slowly put in your food. The timing will determine the cooking time, for example tofu and noodles take longer to cook. Veggies and the thinly sliced meats cook very quickly after a few swishes in the hot broth with your chopsticks. So a chef (made of chilies, shallots, garlic, soybean oil, dried shrimp and bril fish - which gives it a nice savory slightly spicy tinged found in Fujian, Chiu Chow and Taiwanese cooking) is offered for dipping.

Hot Pot is a great group meal. You can take your time and eat whatever you want. But the best part is the broth at the end of the meal. The soup will have garnered an abundance of flavors from all the food that was put into it and it is the highlight of the meal! It is the best part for me! To top it off, sliced oranges were offered with the bill at the end. So if you are hungry and want something healthy, check out Hot Pot Buffet.

South Cove Community Health Center to be awarded English Works Certificate of Recognition

The English Works Steering Committee has decided to award an English Works Certificate of Recognition to South Cove Community Health Center (SCCHC) during an award ceremony likely to be held in Lynn, Massachusetts on August 31st, pending the governor’s availability to attend.

The English Works Certificate recognizes businesses and joint labor-management programs that support English language classes for immigrants in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Backed by a Commonwealth Corporation Learn at Work grant, SCCHC has provided English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes to health center employees in Quincy and Boston in 2010. Employees that receive instruction are allowed 50 percent work release time to attend the English classes, for four hours per week.

“The program is going very well,” said Franklin Peralta, Campaign Organizer at English for New Bostonians and English Works. “[The program] is the best situation for immigrant workers.”

According to English Works’ website, awardees are encouraged to make their employees and members, customers, and industry peers aware of their leadership and good civic and corporate citizenship, as demonstrated by their commitment to the immigrant workforce and related successful business practices.

“They are not learning theory,” said Peralta. “They are learning language they will need at the workforce.”

English-instruction classes at SCCHC started in May 2010 and continued, for 13 weeks, through August of last year. In September of 2011, classes picked up again and ran for 38 weeks.

“It’s easy for [SCCHC] employees to lose the English they learned at AACA’s [Asian American Civic Association] ESOL program as they work 90 percent of the time in another language,” said Gillian Burleson, Adult Education Coordinator at AACA. “But it’s important that [the employees] are able to communicate in English when needed.”

Sampan Editor
BY ANN ING
Sampan Columnist

The sheer variety of food you can pick your desired food like to cook your own food. It is a fun way to share a meal and eat with friends especially if you want something healthy, check out Hot Pot Buffet.
Autism, a condition characterized by various developmental abnormalities, affects 1 in every 110 children, and has experienced a rapid increase in incidence rates in the recent years. In the 1960s, the incidence rate for Autism was as low as 1/10,000, however, it has risen to 6/1,000, which means that one out of every 110 children is now diagnosed with Autism. The patients, their families, and the scientific communities as well as the society as a whole are not only not prepared for this change, but also are presently confronted with challenges. At the same time they have given the international community of medical experts pressing demands and questions: What causes Autism? How can Autism be cured? The "Biomedical Advances in Autism 2011" Conference organized by the American Chinese Medical Exchange Society (ACMES), was held on August 21, 2011, at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. More than one hundred scientists and researchers in fields such as: genetics, neuroimaging, biochemical parameters, disease detection, diagnosis, main treatment methods and alternative treatments participated in this three-day conference. Many medical experts, experienced researchers, social workers and therapists from across the nation, ranging from the Boston area attended this conference, which lasted more than eight hours. During this special event, 19 invited speakers had presented their discussions and immersed themselves in passionate exchanges about this condition, never losing any opportunity to ask questions. This conference was divided into two parts: presentations by experts and researchers followed by a small group discussion panel on the entire floor. The conference was chaired and moderated by Dr. Jufang Shi. Dr. June (Xuejun) Lin, the founder of ACMES shared with the audience the missions, current projects, membership information and major academic exchange programs and two publications (North American Journal of Medicine & Health in Chinese, and North American Journal of Medicine & Science in English) of the ACMES in her opening address.

The first speaker was Dr. William Shaw, the director of the Great Plains Laboratory in Kansas. His presentation was entitled “The Laboratory at Work: A Tour of the Facilities”. The Great Plains Laboratory has launched an advanced Autism targeted multi-component detection method for the early detection of Autism. The team uses hair samples to test the organic acid, amino acid, fatty acid and cholesterol levels in their body. The laboratory has also developed a cholesterol pill that can potentially treat Autism.

Dr. Bai-Lun Liu, an expert in the field of genetic analysis, director of Genetics Diagnostic Laboratory and medical director of DNA Diagnostics Laboratory in the Department of Pathology of the Harvard Medical School, then delivered a report named “Developments in Genetic Analysis of Autism”, in this paper, he introduced the recent findings of his research team and its collaborators in the genetics and molecular pathophysiology of Autism. For instance, they found the relationship between the recurrent deletion of the candidate gene NROX1 and ASD as well as the association with sporadic developmental disorders. They also found the function of candidate gene SHAN23L3 mutations. Dr. Wu also mentioned that patient samples, he collaborates with Chinese researchers, brain development, Chinese language, and neuro and non verbal reasoning. Dr. Wu shared with the audience his findings in seeing China's rapid development and scientific investments in this area; he also expressed his confidence in seeing his collabor- ation with China on the Genetic Analysis of Autism at the forefront of the field.

Dr. Marya Ondo, of the Developmental Lan- guage and Reading Laboratory at the Harvard Medical School Atinsula A. Martinsen Center for Biomedical Imaging, was also a presenter at the conference. Her talk mainly focused on advances in the brain functional neuroimag- ing of Autistic patients' language and cogniti- ve abilities, including functional magnetic resonance imaging findings. Among all pres- entations, hers seemed to “deviate” the most from "medicine", her cleverly designed ex- periments even had hints of logical deduction. The audience gladly talked about the issue with her, which wouldn't have been answered by patients with Autism. Those questions were at times fun but also challeng- ing, especially under time constraint. Dr. You- gen Zhan, also of the Harvard Medical School, noted that Autism could also be caused by abnormality in specific genes. Findings from genetic research has also yielded sub- stantial evidence linking synaptic functions to genetic abnormalities. Such findings have also been confirmed by animal in vivo experiments.

The second half of the conference opened with a presentation entitled “Autism Spectrum Disorders” by Dr. June (Xuejun) Lin, the founder of ACMES. She presented to the audience her current research, and her presentation was moderated by Karen Chenansky of the Great Plains Laboratory. Several other researchers followed, including: Dr. Yougen Zhan, Dr. William Shaw, Dr. Jufang Shi and Dr. June (Xuejun) Lin. The last to speak is Dr. June (Xuejun) Kong, physician at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center of Harvard Medical School. She presented currently newest treatment methods for Autism - Stem Cell Therapy. Dr. Kong described how stem cell therapy can simultane- ously treat the two major pathophysiologi- cal changes in Autism patients: it has impor- tant treatment prospects for cases of Iechia and Hypoxia in specific cerebral areas and au- tomneural inflammation. Dr. Kong also said this method still faces many challenges and difficulties in terms of technology and clini- cal demonstration, but overall, specific- ally hyperacusis, it still remains to be confirmed by in vivo ex- periments using animal models followed by clinical trials. Only after this long elaborate process can we ascertain whether Stem Cell Therapy is an effective treatment for Autism - hyperacusis disease. It is our hope to give hope to Autism patients and their families.

Dr. June (Xuejun) Kong is the founder and president of the ACMES. Dr. Kong is also in-chief and founder of the English publication "North American Journal of Medicine & Science" (NAJMS) and "Chinese Journal of Medicine & Science" (NAJMS). Her main interest revolves around infants' health. In contrast to the editors of the special issue or the president of the conference on Autism, she is also the authors and editors of the special issue to present at the Conference on Autism. At the end of the conference, Dr. Kong invited the vice-president of ACMES Dr. Xu Lin and Ms. Xylina (Xiaoyun) Wu to present the awards - 10 color hardcover copies of the newly published special issue on Autism and the previous two issues of NAJMS and NAJMH - to each of the speakers. All attendees to the conference also received a copy of the special issue.

During the small group discussion panel following the presentations, two powerful presentations raised questions and consulted the experts for advice. The ambience was very friendly and cooperative. This conference is to be followed by academic consultations, business discus- sions and information sharing until the next-conference reception. This confer- ence even hosted two scholars from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. They were very happy to be able to learn about the newest discoveries in Autism research. They mentioned that China, especially in the rural areas, still lacks the correct understandings for this condition. Developmen- tal delays in speech production and various auditory processing problems, which are as two or three are often overlooked by their parents. They believe that it is imperative for scientists to collaborate at the Universi- ty level in this area, that the ACMES and its various efforts in this direction are really helping to bring hope to people.

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