

緬因州華美聯誼會

Chinese & American Friendship Association of Maine

P. O. Box 10372 Portland ME 04104 — www.cafammaine.org



通訊 二零一零年。九月至一零月

NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2010

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Sunday, September 26, 5:00 PM, **Annual CAFAM Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration**. Woodfords Church. (See below).

Friday, September 17, October 1, October 15, etc. 12:00 - 1:00 PM. **Chinese language roundtable**. CIEE building, 300 Fore St. Portland, 2nd floor. Intermediate to advanced speakers. All welcome. No charge.

Thursday, October 14, 6:30, **CAFAM Board Meeting**. 103 Hanover St., Portland. Pizza served. All welcome.

Tuesday, September 28, deadline for registration for CAFAM Chinese School fall semester. (See article, page 2.)

SEE YOU THERE!



Ellie Chase is bringing her guitar to the Moon Festival. "Be there or be square!"

The Time: Sunday, September 26, 5:00.

中秋节聚餐晚会

MOON FESTIVAL

Autumn has come round again, time for CAFAM to hold its annual Mid-Autumn Festival potluck. This event is always well-attended. There is ample space, a kitchen, and a gym area where children can play. CAFAM will supply beverages and you samples of delicious moon cakes.



The Place: Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodfords Street, Portland. It is just up the hill from Woodfords Corner.

What to bring: Your favorite Chinese or international (or American) dish, with serving spoon.

What else to bring: Friends, kids.

What to expect: Great food, good company, maybe some entertainment. (Bring a moon poem, a song to sing!)

CHINESE SCHOOL BEGINS

Big changes are in store for the CAFAM Chinese School. Here is information provided by director Kelli Pryor at <http://cafamchineseschool.org>. Registration forms and other information may be found on that site as well.

This fall, we'll be holding a short farewell semester at the Breakwater School, which has been our supportive host for a decade. By spring, we'll be moved into a new home within the Portland school district. The welcome from the district's administrators has been warm, and we feel very fortunate. This move will mark the beginning of a grand new phase: We started in a church basement, and then slowly filled Breakwater's campus. And now we have the opportunity to grow within a public school system that truly embraces the value of our program.

Here's what you can expect this fall. We'll hold class as usual on Saturdays from October 16 through the 30th. Then we will have two off-campus events on November 6 and 13. One Saturday we'll all take buses down to visit The Emperor's Private Paradise: Treasures from the Forbidden City at the Peabody Essex Museum. For students, the cost of the trip will be covered by tuition. The other Saturday will spin off martial arts and dim sum. On November 20, we'll be back at Breakwater for one final day of classes—and the annual book fair.

Please note that there is, as usual, a deadline for registering. Please spread the word to anyone you know is interested. This year, more than most, we have to squeeze more preparation into fewer weeks. We'll need each of your families to lend us your enthusiasm and cooperation.

We'll see you soon for a truly fun-filled fall and a spring of new beginnings.

Xiexie!
Kelli Pryor for the Steering Committee

Check out our website: www.cafammaine.org.
We are also on Facebook.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the annual CAFAM meeting and potluck on June 26, the members present voted in board members for the upcoming year. Returning members included:

Roger Brodeur
Michael Connelly
Craig Dietrich
Gary Libby
Melissa Lin
Shannon Lyons
Ah-Kau NG
Eileen Nunley

Patty Oldmixon
Fran Sayers
Cynthia Setchell
Amanda Szala
Mary Tennant
Nancy White
Hong Xie

We also welcomed four new board members:

Suzanne Fox
Bob Green
Cindy Han
Robert Rovner

Subsequently, at its September 9 meeting, the Board elected the following officers: Mary Tennant, President; Melissa Lin, Vice-President, Gary Libby, Treasurer; and Michael Connelly, Secretary.

Thanks to outgoing officers Patty Oldmixon (President) and Nancy White (Vice-President) for their outstanding service.



President Tennant



Vice-President Lin



Secretary Connelly



Treasurer Libby

CAFAM NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK

July 23 was CAFAM's night at the ballpark. about 30 members and friends came to watch the Sea Dogs, with their three Chinese players, go up against the Harrisville Senators. This was the brainchild of Gary Libby, who contacted the team and made the arrangements for group tickets.



Prior to the game, Craig Dietrich together with photographer Melissa Lin interviewed the three players. Outfielder Chiang Chih-Hsien was born in 1988 Taitung, a small town on the southeast coast of Taiwan. He grew up in the southern port city of Kaohsiung. Having played sports in youth leagues and high school, he was recruited by Red Sox international scouts and came to the States in 2006. The year 2010 was his first year in Portland, after seasons in Lancaster PA and Salem NC. In 2008, he participated in the Olympics as part of the Taiwan team.

Outfielder Lin Che-Hsuan's career parallels Chiang's. He was born in 1988 in Hualian, Taiwan, but grew up in Tainan. Like Chiang he was recruited directly out of high school. He also participated in the Olympics in

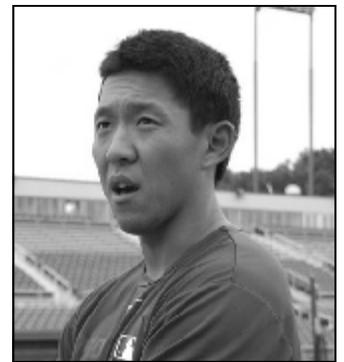
2008. Although not a home run hitter like Chiang, he is an outstanding fielder and a good base stealer. Both Taiwan players, having come here directly out of high school, have had to adjust to American food, the English language, which he continues to study, and the strange customs of Americans. In the off-season, Lin returns to Taiwan to relax, play baseball, and work out.

Ray Chang is a second generation Chinese-American. His grandparents came to this country 35 years ago, but Ray's father (from Hong Kong) and mother (from Shanghai) arrived in 1982, just before he was born. They entered the restaurant business in Kansas City MO. Although they wanted him to become a doctor, they supported his childhood love of sports, especially baseball. Ray attended a small college in Kansas City and was recruited into the Red Sox organization after graduation. He still speaks some Chinese and has visited relatives in China many times. Ray is an infielder. Although, as an American, he didn't have a chance to participate in the Beijing Olympics, he did take part in the World Baseball Classic in Tokyo in 2009.

It was a great evening of baseball with plenty of hot dogs and rooting for the Sea Dogs. Lin did not play that night, but Chiang and Chang got some hits and made good defensive plays. Even though we explicitly requested a home run, Chiang waited until the following evening to hit one.



Clockwise from left: Chiang Chi-Hsien, Lin Che-Hsuan, Ray Chang, Gary Libby and Bob Green (l. to r.) Melissa Lin and Fan Luo (l. to r.), and Craig Dietrich with Sally and Don Hoople.



CAFAM SPONSORS CONCERT

To demonstrate that CAFAM members are not only sports minded but also patrons of the arts, our organization sponsored the Portland Chamber Music Festival's August 14 concert, featuring a work by composer Chen Yi. About twenty-five CAFAM members joined the large crowd of chamber music fans at USM's Abromson Center to hear three works, including Ms Chen's "Happy Rain on a Spring Night."

Sandwiched between two familiar classical pieces (Mozart and Dvorak), the Chinese composer's offering, written for piano, flute, clarinet, violin, viola, and cello, was stunning in its departure from earlier musical language. It was not at all what you might expect in a piece inspired by a poem by the Tang poet Du Fu. As a contemporary composer, Chen Yi writes scores that use instruments in creative and unexpected ways. Rather than something sweet, predictable, and Oriental, "Happy Rain" was sometimes shocking and demanded the listener's full attention.

In The Boston Musical Intelligencer of August 16, the reviewer said the following: "Chen Yi's music was illuminated by the amazing control and technique of violinist Jennifer Elowitch . . . in ethereal passages recalling the Chinese erhu. In the opening section, the sound of the piano was a bit strident, but pianist Dena Levine's artistry in the third section shimmered and glistened with the 'saturated' light of the inspirational poem. Nothing in this music was gratuitous, and the performers honored that by giving each note, phrase, and gesture their utmost attention. . . . The call and response finale between the strings and the winds over the rumbles of the piano . . . had the kind of drama and energy that makes the final cadence come too quickly for the listener who wants more..."

What was particularly memorable about the evening was the fact that Chen Yi herself came to



Onstage after the performance, Chen Yi answers questions.



L. to r.: Ahkau Ng, Chen Yi, Zhao Mei, and Sally Ng.

Portland for the performance. Prior to the offering, and again after the concert was over, she took the stage to talk about how she used the Du Fu poem. In the post-concert discussion, she sat with all of the musicians and took questions from the audience, moderated by Maine Public Radio's Suzanne Nance. This made the music all the more meaningful. After the event, one CAFAM member said he was tempted to abandon everything and go study composition with Chen Yi!

The Composer is a native of Guangzhou, born into a musical family. Although the Cultural Revolution years of her childhood were anything but a nurturing time for classical music, and although her family suffered the mistreatment so pervasive at the time, she persisted and blossomed into one of China's most promising young musicians. She was the first woman to receive the MA degree in music from the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Later she moved to New York, where she studied composition at Columbia University. She is now the Searcey Cravens Distinguished Professor in Music Composition at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

Under the leadership of Nancy White, the CAFAM board agreed to sponsor Chen Yi's travel to Portland as well as the reception that followed the concert. The Ahkau and Sally Ng family kindly welcomed her into their home during her stay.

Chen Yi expressed great appreciation for her reception in Portland.

*Happy Rain on a Spring Night*by
Du Fu 甫春夜喜雨
杜甫

The poem around which Chen Yi built her composition of the same name is “Happy Rain on a Spring Night.” It is by one of China’s most famous poets, Du Fu (712 - 770) who lived in the middle years of the Tang Dynasty. Many of his works chronicle the difficulties of his own career and the problems facing the dynasty after the great rebellion of 775. However in this one, the dark cloud is swept away by the gentle promise of spring. The translation is Chen Yi’s own.

(pinyin transcription)

*Hao yu zhi shi jie
Dang chun nai fa sheng
Sui feng qian ru ye
Run wu xi wu sheng.*

*Ye jing yun ju hei
Jiang chuan huo du ming
Xiao kan hong shi chu
Hua zhong Jin Guan Cheng.*

好雨知時節
當春乃發生
隨風潛入夜
潤物細無聲
野徑雲且黑
江船火獨明
曉看紅濕處
花重錦官城

Happy rain comes in time
When spring is in its prime.
With night breeze it will fall
And quietly moisten all.

Clouds darken wild roads,
Light brightens a little boat.
Saturated at dawn
With flowers blooming in the town.

陳怡



AIMEE SEMPLE McPHERSON IN SHANGHAI

Mike Palmer, former board member and long-time CA-FAM stalwart, has recently compiled and published the memoirs of his father, "One Hard Boiled Egg."

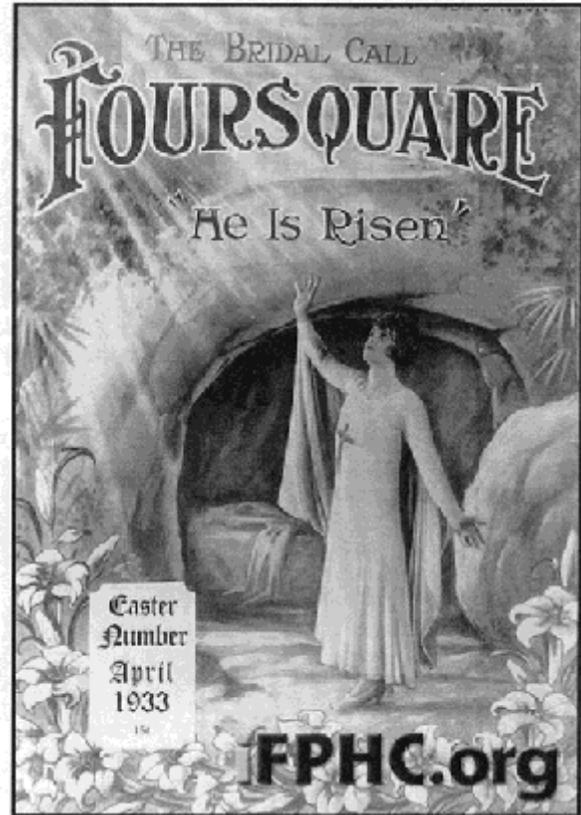
Mike's father Walter Palmer was for many years a China representative of the company we now know as Exxon. Mike and his brother were both born in China and spent their early years in various Chinese cities.

The memoir has many interesting stories and details of ex-patriot life in China in the 1920s and 1930s. Aimee Semple McPherson was an evangelist every bit as famous, not to say notorious, as any televangelist today. The "kidnapping" mentioned was sensational headline news across America in 1926, but it was widely supposed that, rather than being abducted as she claimed, McPherson had run off with a lover.

[A]ll the Americans in Shanghai including us, went to the Capitol Theater to hear Aimee Semple MacPherson talk. She had, as a young married woman, been a missionary wife down in South China. In later years she had established in Shanghai a branch of her Los Angeles Tabernacle, called the Four Square Gospel Mission. She was on a trip around the world and had stopped off in Shanghai to see how her church was progressing, to say a word to Shanghai, and to do a little shopping.

All the elite of Shanghai were there, some out of curiosity, some because they wanted to see if she would tell about her recent kidnapping. She appeared in a beautiful flowing white silk gown and was really good looking. First she got us to shake hands with those to our left, right, front and back.

She told of her early days in Canada and China. A lot of her stories were amusing and it was all very pleasant and interesting. Then she announced that she was going to give a series of three evangelical talks in the Hai Lai auditorium during the following weeks. The Hai Lai auditorium held 5,000 people. She was so impressive that nearly everyone decided to go again, at least for just one more talk to see if the kidnapping story would be mentioned...



Sure enough, on the first night at the Hai Lai auditorium, she did tell us all about the kidnapping. She told how the newspapers had harassed her till she was nearly a nervous wreck. I do not remember all the details of the exciting story, none of it very convincing one way or another, but she wound up with an interesting punch line: "But it is an ill wind which blows nobody good; my church population zoomed from 7,00 – 14,000 souls". In other words she made money on the kidnapping.

Some of our ladies took her shopping and she just about bought out the embroidery and fancy underwear stores. She stayed at the Park Hotel, a new and quite modern hotel overlooking the famous Shanghai Race Track. Her room just happened to be next door to a bachelor vice president of the National City Bank. 'Red' Reid came down to his office one day and said, "My God! You can feel it coming right through the walls".

All of Shanghai was buzzing for weeks about the sensational visit of this old China hand, Aimee Semple MacPherson. We were just a little proud of her in spite of everything. Never was there a better show in Shanghai. Nobody I think was the least bit impressed with her religion.

WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD

by Craig Dietrich

Although I have studied Chinese for years and have attained some fluency and literacy, one thing I will never attempt is to translate into Chinese. I'm happy to try to render Mandarin into English, but the person who tries translating into a second language is likely to produce something at best awkward, at worst ridiculous.

There must be many examples of where English speakers have mangled the Chinese. But we are more aware of the odd and funny translations from Chinese and other languages into English. Witness product directions. And here's an example from a hotel in China:

The well-intentioned sign asks guests to dial the telephone number indicated if they have any problems with the service they are receiving. In Chinese it's perfectly clear:

您对我们的服务若有不满，请打以下投诉电话 0916-2113169

Then the hotel manager probably asked a clerk with a smattering of English to translate this. The first mistake was to assume that the word order in English would be the same and that English words could simply be substituted for the characters. The second mistake was to assume that English and Chinese idioms must be the same. So for example you could take "*da dianhua*" ("make a call") and translate literally as "hit the telephone."

Having made these unwise choices, this is what the translator came up with:

You to our service if have not full, please beat below throw to tell the telephone 0916-2113169

***Is your membership current?
Remember CAFAM relies on your support.
Please check mailing label for expiration.
Thanks.***

CHINESE LANGUAGE ROUNDTABLE

The Chinese language roundtable will start up again on Friday, September 17 from 12:00 to 1:00 at the CIEE building, 300 Fore Street in Portland. Go to the second floor. Meetings will continue every second Friday after that.

For intermediate to advanced Chinese learners and native speakers, last year's meetings were productive and very enjoyable. All are welcome. No charge.

Thanks to Suzanne Fox for arranging this.

The Newsletter is edited by Craig Dietrich and is published five times a year. Contributions and comments are welcome. Please contact the editor at 688-4826 or dietrich@maine.rr.com. The next issue will appear in mid-November. Deadline for submissions: early November.



**COME SEE US AT THE MOFGA
COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR
IN UNITY SEPTEMBER 24 TO 26!**

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check your mailing label for membership expiration.

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CAFAM

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USCPFA, Portland, ME Chapter

- _____ Membership & Subscrip. to "US-China Review" \$12

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We will put you in contact with the appropriate chairperson.

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