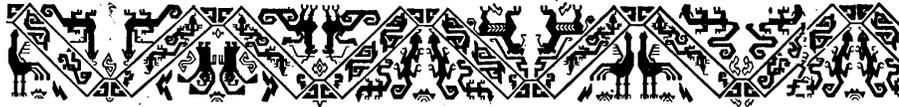


緬因州華美聯誼會

Chinese & American Friendship Association of Maine

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



通訊 二零一零年。五月至六月

NEWSLETTER – MAY-JUNE 2010

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Saturday, June 26, **Annual CAFAM General Meeting and Potluck.** Trinity Church. located at Coyle St. and Forest Avenue.

Friday, July 23 **CAFAM day at the ball park.** Meet the Chinese players, eat, enjoy some baseball. (See article.)

Saturday, August 14. 8:00 PM. **Portland Chamber Music Festival** performance of music of noted Chinese composer **Chen Yi.** (See article.)

SUMMER MEETING AND POTLUCK

CAFAM and USCPFA members and friends:

JOIN US IN a SUMMER afternoon of food, relaxation, AND ENTERTAINMENT.

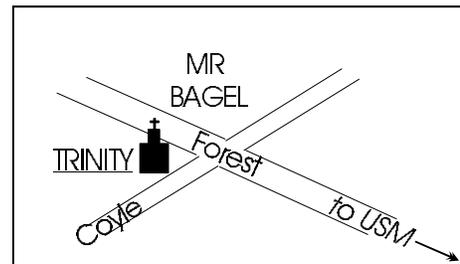
It's the **annual summer potluck**, **WHERE** we ALSO elect the new Board of Directors.

SATURDAY, June 26, 4:00 TO 6:00 PM.

WHERE: Trinity Episcopal Church, Forest Ave at Coyle St. (There is plenty of parking and a very nice playground for children.)

BRING: your best dish, preferably Chinese, but "American" will do fine.

BRING A FRIEND!



Trinity Church location

CHEN YI CONCERT AUGUST 14

On the evening of August 14, CAFAM will proudly sponsor a concert of the Portland Chamber Music Festival. The featured performance of the evening will be "Happy Rain on a Spring Night" for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano by Chen Yi.



Chen Yi is a professor of composition at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music and Dance. She was born in Guangzhou and studied music in China where she and her family experienced the Cultural Revolution. She studied in the United States at Columbia University where she earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts. One of her many compositions "Tang Poems - Wild Grass" won a Grammy Award in 1999.

(continued on page 6)

CHINESE SCHOOL CELEBRATES

It was a brilliant Saturday in the month of May. They were arrayed at the starting line, the dragon boats (looking suspiciously like canoes). Each ship flew a brilliant dragon banner (looking suspiciously like kites). On board, the students wore looks of fierce determination on their faces (looking suspiciously like smiles). **And they're off!** Race after race under the bright blue sky.

It was the CAFAM Chinese School's first annual dragon boat race at Wassamki Springs in Scarborough. The picnic and races celebrated the conclusion of the spring semester and marked the school's fifteenth year.

The CAFAM Chinese School is fueled by enthusiastic volunteers. It provides exposure to Mandarin Chinese, cultural activities, martial arts and traditional dance to the children of southern Maine families. The emphasis is fun, friendship and community. This year the school had more than a hundred students, ranging in age from 1 to 13.



A new year will start in October, with registration opening in mid-September. To be placed on the mailing list for enrollment, please contact Susan Lavigne at quinyunyi@yahoo.com. Interested teachers are always welcome and can contact Kelli Pryor at kellijpryor@gmail.com.

JUST WAIT 'TIL NEXT YEAR!

The "Dragon Boat Festival" is usually known as Duanwu Jie 端午節. It falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month. This year that corresponds to June 16.

In modern times the holiday has become associated with dragon boat races across China and elsewhere in the larger area of Chinese culture such as Malaysia, San Francisco, etc. Korea, Japan, and Vietnam have similar holidays. There are also accompanying food traditions.

The meanings and associations of Duanwu Jie probably derive from diverse sources. Anciently there may have been spring rituals for the purpose of warding off summer diseases, etc. These were absorbed into a Confucian tradition relating to the ancient poet-official Qu Yuan 屈原. He has come down as the model of a loyal minister who speaks truth to power but is ignored, with disastrous consequences.

Qu Yuan lived in the state of Chu 楚 in the fourth and third centuries BC. It was a era when the powerful state of Qin 秦 was attacking and absorbing weaker states. Qu Yuan urged his king to ally with other states. But corrupt ministers at the court slandered him and he ended in exile, despairing. In 278 BC when Qin actually did destroy Chu, Qu Yuan wrote a long poem of despair and drowned himself in a river.

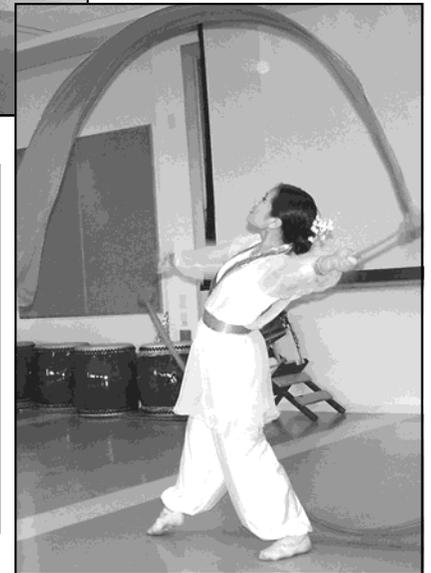
Because of his brilliant poetry, the tragic life of Qu Yuan gathered stories and legends. It is said that when he went into the river people tried to save him by distracting the river dragon (or the fish) with rice tossed into the water. They also raced up and down in boats searching for him. Hence derive both the dragon boat races and the distinctive rice treat known as zongzi 粽子. The latter are treats made of glutinous rice molded around a meat or vegetable center, wrapped in bamboo leaves, and steamed.

USM YEAR OF TIGER FESTIVAL FEATURES CAFAM MEMBERS

CAFAM members Ahkau Ng, Sally Ng, Matt Ward, Melissa Lin, Luo Fan, and Craig Dietrich participated in the recent "Tear of the Tiger Festival" put on by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and the USM Office of International Programs on April 23.

Ahkau and Sally opened the general program by explaining the animal year cycle and by introducing the "hu (tiger)" character and other aspects of the Chinese language. Melissa and Fan gave a talk about "The Art of Chinese Cultural Dance," a brief description of the diverse aspects of Chinese dance followed by an audience participation lesson. At the end of the program, following a rousing performance by the Taiko Maine Dojo drum group, Melissa and Fan performed three dances of exquisite grace and charm. Meanwhile Matt Ward had given a talk in one of the workshops, entitled "Understanding Modern China." Craig Dietrich briefly introduced CAFAM, its purposes and activities, to the general audience.

The event ended with a catered dinner of various Asian cuisines. Kauru Phillips of the USM Office of International Programs organized this very successful event.



Above right: Sally Ng has the audience speaking Chinese in no time.

Above: Fan Luo performs the elegant dance of the swan.

Right: Melissa Lin performs the ribbon dance

TAKE US OUT TO THE 棒球賽



The Portland Sea Dogs baseball team has three players on its roster with Chinese backgrounds. Second Baseman Ray Chang is second generation Chinese-American born in Kansas City MO. Outfielders Chih-Hsien Chiang and Che-Hsuan Lin were both born in Taiwan.



Che-Hsuan Lin



Chih-Hsien Chiang



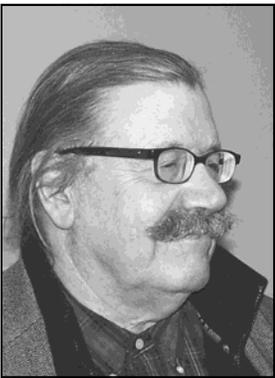
Ray Chang

CAFAM is currently ironing out the details of a CAFAM group attendance to the game on Friday, July 23. Tickets will be \$8 per person. We anticipate that we will be able to briefly meet the Chinese players and wish them well before the game.

STAY TUNED!

JONATHAN STORY SPEAKS

On April 29 CAFAM co-sponsored a talk by Emeritus Professor Jonathan Story of INSEAD, a graduate business school centered in Paris. Professor Story has a long career of studying international politics and business and is the author of many books and articles on international issues. In recent years, he turned his attention to China. Aside from articles, he has published *China: The Race to Market: What China's Transformation Means for Business, Markets and the World Order* (2003). Now he has just published another book: *China Uncovered: What You Need to Know to Do Business in China*.



Starting in the 1970s observing the changes in Spain after the fall of Franco, he began studying major transformations. The events surrounding the Tiananmen protests in 1989, drew his attention to how the Chinese authorities would negotiate their transformation.

One of his key observations is that in a transformative process

the participants undergo a long and complicated process of learning to develop and operate in new ways.

Similarly, businesses thinking of doing business in China must undergo a process of learning. It is complicated because even as outsiders are learning how to negotiate the business environment, the Chinese themselves are still in the process of learning and change.

With the death of Mao Zedong China began rapidly to alter the system in which government officials at all levels had responsibility for virtually all social and economic decisions. The economic result of this authoritarian approach had been stagnation and widespread poverty. The long-term trend was that China counted for around a quarter of world population but a much lower proportion of world economic output and trade. With the new direction set out by Deng Xiaoping all this began to change. China's proportion of world population has declined while its GDP and international trade have risen dramatically.

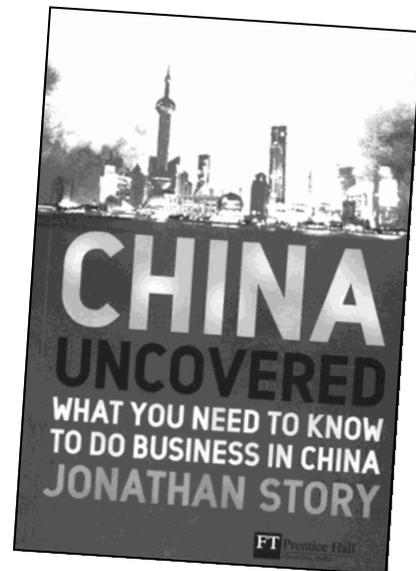
Professor Story believes that this rapid growth will continue and that China's new middle class, numbering 300 million people, will expand further. Presently China is

in the process of creating a vast infrastructure of roads, railroads, airports, ports, and telecom.

What has emerged is an economy that relies on the market but which is not truly capitalist. There is a fundamental dialectic between the party-state and the market. The party-state is determined to retain ultimate control, but to allow a flourishing market to exist.

Businesspeople hoping to enter the China market have to learn about and deal with this complex environment, which is still in the process of transformation. Fierce competition, immature legal system, the importance of kinship and connections, Chinese patriotism, unpredictable bureaucrats and corruption are some of the things that the foreign investor needs to learn about.

Thanks to CAFAM member Zip Kellogg for arranging this event.



WEBSITE HAS NEW MASTER

Our website www.cafammaine.org has a new master. He is CAFAM member Robert Rovner. Check it out as he gradually refines our presence on the web.

Visit www.cafammaine.org.
Your suggestions are welcome!

LETTER FROM YUNNAN by Mason Smith

This morning we went to visit a Shaolin temple on the outskirts of Kunming. We thought that we were to see Shaolin monks demonstrating their skill in Kung Fu and other martial arts. But it was not to be. The abbot, whom I had met last year and many of his orange-robed monks were in Shanghai for Expo 2010.

A Shaolin monk, dressed in grey, was waiting for us near a stupa from the era of Kublai Khan. We followed him through the busy lane for 3/4 of a mile and arrived at the exercise yard of a middle school.

The Shaolin monks have been retained to train boys at the school in kung fu and other martial arts. There were 150 boys, aged 5 to 15, all dressed in Shaolin tee shirts and long exercise pants. Unbeknownst to us, the school director, the Shaolin instructors, dressed in monk's clothes, and the boys were all waiting for our arrival. The noted American photographer was to be the guests of honor for the students' final examination and demonstration.



Once we were seated at the judges' table alongside the judges, the examination began. For the next two hours the boys displayed their skills. And what skills they were! Running, jumping, and literally flying through the air the boys performed in groups of eight to ten. Wow! They jumped and jumped and jumped. They had the ability, bracing themselves, to leap up and do a somersault, land on their feet, and immediately propel themselves into the air again and again. Next came the hand-over-hand pin wheels. Time after time they wheeled themselves across the concrete. No soft grass here.

Then they demonstrated their fighting poses and postures. With fierce faces, one of them shouting commands, they whirled, kicked, and slashed their way in front of our unbelieving eyes. Each one, more determined than the last, they continued into the second hour, the youngest just as menacing as the oldest.

Then music began to play from a sound system, and about fourteen older boys began a routine of graceful movements and postures. I quickly realized that they were performing the "Eighteen Lohan" qigong routine that I had studied (and had actually half mastered). Position by position and movement after movement, I followed along in my head. I had actually learned something after all! I vowed to continue my qigong practice, which lapsed last year after a leg injury.

The demonstration over, the boys waited patiently for the results. Finally, the chief judge addressed the boys and comment on their efforts. Then selected students received certificates of achievement

Now it was time for the group picture. After a lot of shuffling the winning students, proudly holding their colorful certificates, were in proper formation.

Big surprise! Mr. Ma and I were to be the official photographers. There was no Chinese photographer present. When we had finished our shots the director had me and my travel companion, Bill Bisson from Portland, stand in the middle of the group. What an honor and what a moment. Another life experience like the one with the Buddhist nuns in Heijing.

During the examination it was very obvious that one of the students was both mentally and physically challenged

(continued on page 7)

AR FOO THE “INSIDUOUS” Materials supplied
by Gary Libby

The 1860s and 1870s saw millions of immigrants coming to America, some of them Chinese.

The Chinese first appeared in California with the 1848 Gold Rush. In 1850 the Central Pacific Railroad began to hire Chinese laborers to replace white workers who were threatening to strike. By 1867 that railroad’s workforce was largely Chinese. Outraged white workers organized the Workingman’s Party in San Francisco.

Anti-Asian hysteria was heightened, starting in 1869, by the arrival of Japanese farmer immigrants, and by 1875 Congress had passed the first anti-Asian immigration legislation. Known as the Page Law, it banned involuntary immigration of Asians for contract labor or prostitution. The agitation intensified during the depression that began in 1873, as railroad bankruptcies triggered a devastating economic downturn. Incidentally, this was the period in which the Ku Klux Klan became powerful in the South.

Across the country in Maine, Chinese numbers were extremely small, probably no more than a half dozen, and posed no threat to American jobs as was alleged in California. Nevertheless, Maine had its own Workingman’s Party by the time of the 1871 gubernatorial election (at the time Maine governors were elected annually). The party’s leader was obsessed with Ar Foo, owner of a tea shop at 333 Congress Street.

One article states “...the “party” devotes itself to defending the liberties of the people of Maine against the incursion of that one almond-eyed Ar Foo, who has established a tea store on Congress street. The Chinese Question is assuming gigantic proportions in local politics! The yoke of the insidious (sic) Ar Foo begins to bear heavily on the toiling carriage-maker’s neck, A bas Ar Foo!”

When Republican Governor Sidney Perham was returned to office, to the great disappointment of the Workingman’s Party, the following item appeared in the Portland Daily Press. It exemplifies the racial vitriol, the demonizing, and the feigned victimization of racist politics. One doubts that Mr. Ar Foo really danced in front of his shop in wooden shoes.

“The most thrilling scene of the election yesterday was the “scrubrious” conduct of Ar Foo, the Chinese tea merchant and laboring man’s foe. After the election re-

turns began to come in he was seen performing a national pas seul in front of his shop, his features distorted with hate and diabolical triumph. The swiftness of his motions caused his barbaric pig-tail to assume a horizontal position, and his wooden shoes made an infernal and most appalling clatter on the bricks. A Caucasian ventured timidly to interrogate the performer as to what kind of a pagan ceremony he was indulging in; whereupon the multitudinous heathen, his pig-tail never ceasing to describe circles, ellipses, parabolas and other startling geometric figures, was graciously pleased to reply with a Mongolian howl: “Peoples endorse me! Me killee all Melican laboring man! Pelham helpee me!” Exit Caucasian repeating,

*Do I sleep? – do I dream?
Do I wonder and doubt?
Is things what they seem? –
Or is visions about?
Is our civilization a failure?
Or is the Caucasian played out?*

Or, one might ask, are you foaming at the mouth?

CHEN YI (continued from page 1)



The composer will come to Maine for the occasion. Prior to the performance she and Suzanne Nance of MPBN radio will have a conversation with the audience. The program will also include a Mozart Duo and a Dvorak String Sextet. In the hour before the concert, noted composer Elliott Schwartz will give a talk.

CAFAM will sponsor a reception for Chen Yi immediately after the concert.

It will take place on Saturday, August 14 at 8:00 PM in the Abromson Center on USM’s Portland Campus. The Schwartz talk is at 7:00.

For more on the concert series, visit www.pcmf.org
For more information about Chen Yi, visit
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen_Yi_\(composer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen_Yi_(composer))

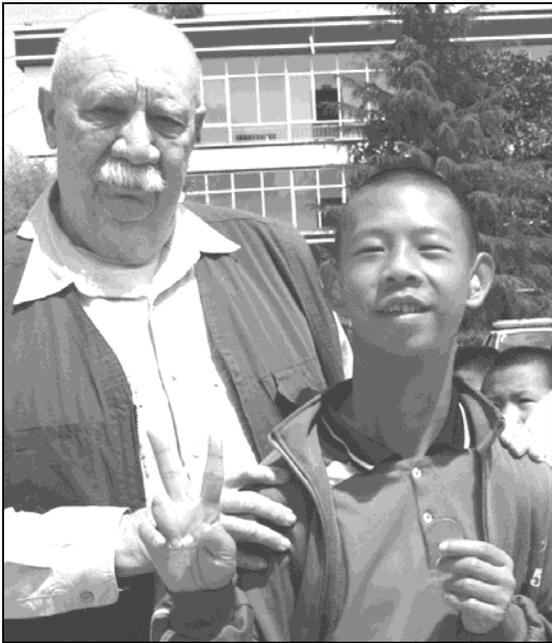
**CAFAM members receive a discount on tickets.
See next page.**

LETTER FROM YUNNAN (continued)

and had a large hearing aid in each ear. But, nothing stopped him, and in his unique way he performed as well as any of the rest.

Speaking through Mr. Ma, I told the Director, who was dressed in a very sharp business suit, that I had an American, 1974 silver dollar that I wanted to present to the boy as a good luck piece in honor of his achievement. The boy was called forward in front of his cheering and smiling classmates and I made the presentation. What a moment for him, and for me.

The ceremony over, we left after shaking many, many hands. April 2010



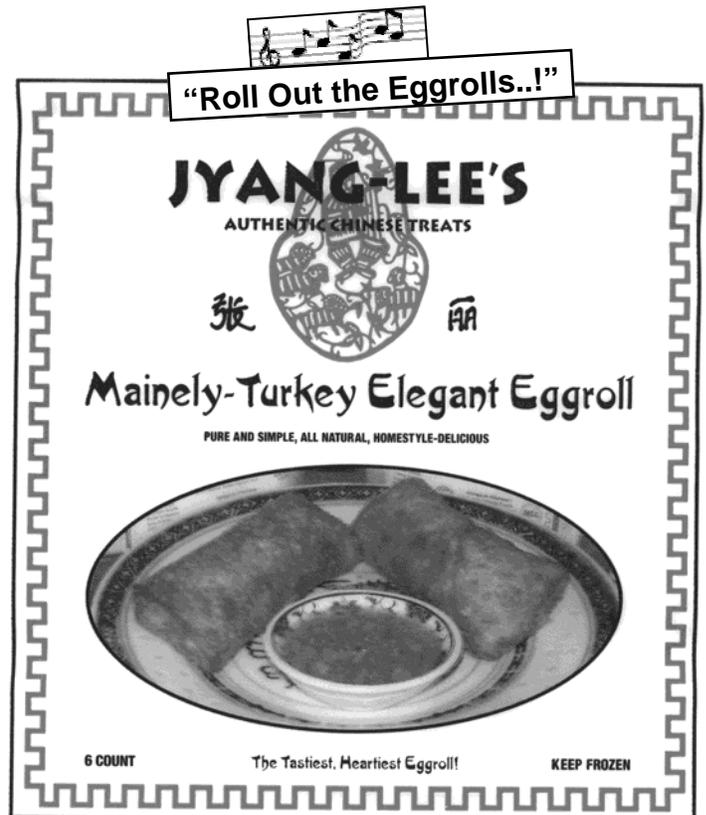
Mason Smith presents silver dollar to student.

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-September. Deadline for submissions: early September.

CHEN YI CONCERT TICKETS

Members of CAFAM and their families can purchase tickets for \$20 (a 20% discount). To reserve tickets, contact Elaine Nunley enunley@maine.rr.com, 653-9412. She will compile a list. The box office will have this list on the evening of the concert, at which time discounted tickets may be purchased.

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



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