

ACA's Jubilant Celebrations of the 2013 Chinese New Year with the Metro Detroit Community

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The Association of Chinese Americans (ACA) celebrated the 2013 Chinese New Year (Year of the Snake or "Little Dragon", the Year 4711 on the Chinese calendar) with consecutive and versatile events in an intensive schedule since the beginning of this year.

Through the celebrations, ACA introduced the Chinese culture to the Metro Detroit community at large from the suburbs to the inner city of Detroit at several locations: the **Chinese Community Center** in Madison Hts., the **Hannan House** in Detroit, the **Golden Harvest Restaurant** in Warren, the **Henry Ford Community College** in Dearborn, and the **University of Liggett School** in Grosse Pointe Woods. These rich programs reached out to people who are interested in the Chinese culture and heritage in the population from the young to the old in a wide range of ethnic backgrounds. The programs contained education, culture, culinary art, tradition, games and lots entertainments and performances. It is really gratifying that a total of over 1500 people in the different regions had the opportunity to join the festivities and to share the joy of celebrating the Chinese New Year with ACA.

It is one of the main missions of ACA to spread the Chinese culture to the community. As a finale to these beautiful celebrations and in spirit of this mission, the Lantern Festival event was successfully held on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013. ACA mobilized its resources, manpower and volunteers to present this Spring Festival cultural celebration for the enjoyment of all its friends in the community. The activities at the Lantern Festival included the demonstrations of the Spring Festival food items such as smoked chicken, dumplings, Dragon's beard candy, the purchasing and tasting of home-made baked foods, onsite lantern making and painting, face painting, calligraphy demonstrations, children's games, exciting cultural dancing and singing performances. From the morning into the afternoon, the activities attracted at least 400-500 people who came to enjoy the homemade New Year dishes and the performances, but most importantly to understand and appreciate the Chinese culture. This year's program was hosted by ACA Executive Director **Shenlin Chen**. The Madison Heights Mayor Pro Tem **Robert Corbett** attended the event and gave a short speech to express best wishes on behalf of Madison Heights Mayor **Edward Swanson**. The newly elected ACA President **Bernard Wong** also offered welcome speech to the community. Also in attendance were ACA Executive Vice President **Ken Chan**, ACA Board Directors **Sue Sung**, **Shuh-Yuan Liou** and **Angie Chin** who came to participate and to help out at the event. Also present were staff members **Shauching Tang**, **Katherine Simpson**, **Shirley Yee**, **Joyce Li**, **Ming Liu**, **Ching-Hsia Lee**, **David Liou** and **Fuchun Cao**, each of them carried out their respective duties and coordinated very well to handle this big event very successfully. The ACA Board Directors and staff not only donated their money, time and efforts to offer the bake sale items, but also sacrificed some of their family time to make the Lantern Festival event a success.

Volunteerism is a very precious culture and tradition of American society since the founding fathers of the United States. ACA has provided many services to the ethnic Chinese community and over the years the concept of volunteerism has also been accepted by the community who received the services. The spirit of volunteerism has thus spread gradually. More people are willing to join the volunteer ranks.

The openness of ACA to the community also provides the opportunities to all people whether individuals or groups with talents, capabilities, resources and even just passion who can serve the community. ACA welcomed several other organizations to share the celebration together with the community. This year has been especially successful due to the participation of volunteers from the community, different non-profit organizations and local businesses, together as individuals or groups, regardless of age, ethnic background, educational and economic background, who all wholeheartedly gave their utmost support during the Chinese New Year celebration activities. Besides the donations, the deep support given from their hearts through their time, their work and especially their passion are much appreciated. It is overwhelming to see so many beloved volunteers with passion to carry out this event and make it a memorable.

Specifically, ACA acknowledges and thanks several groups for the following: the generous food and gifts contributed by **Emerald Food Service, Li-An Restaurant (Mrs. Ling Lin), Kim's Restaurant, U2 Salon, Fuji Seafood Buffet Restaurant, Wing Hing Restaurant, Mongolian Buffet, and Golden Harvest Restaurant**; the overwhelming support from the **Metro Detroit Chinese Alliance Church and Chinese School**; the donated bake items and the volunteer work of **Guozhen Fang, Xiuzhen Li, Dejun Ding, Yujie Han, Yan Zhang, Ju-Ying Wang, Karen Kim, ZhenLi Lin, Sue Sung, Wei-Zen Seetoo, Lin Cen, Polly Tseng, Hong Wang, Grace Ge, Hui Wen Hao, Xuebin Xing, Junyi Yang, Ming Tuan Wang, Yurong Wang, Jianru Chen, Yaqin Xia, Wei Jia Shen, Wei Song, Yu Wu, Yuanqin Huang, Helen Sing, Te-Yang Soong, Yann-Chin Yeung, Yuping Yan, Bao-Qin Guo, Xiushan Yang, Helen Shueh, Xiaozhen Chen, Liu-Jun Liu, Po-Chih Tang**. Last but not least, thanks to the 17 wonderful young members of ACA's Comcast Digital Connectors program and Troy high school students who not only helped out, but also added their youthful vitality to the event.