

Kentucky Chinese American Association

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Celebrate the Year of Snake

Spring 2013



The 2013 Chinese New Year Celebration was a great success!

The 8th annual Chinese New Year Celebration was held by the Kentucky Chinese American Association (KYCAA) on Jan. 26, 2013 at the Lexington Opera House, in downtown Lexington, KY. The KYCAA Chinese New Year Celebration has become the largest and most influential cultural event in Kentucky, involving participation of not only local Chinese people, but Chinese people from other parts of the U.S., as well as Americans and people of other ethnicities. A phenomenal gala featuring Chinese dancing, singing, acrobatics, and other cultural performances was orchestrated by renowned artistic director Cheryl Pan, and put on through the efforts of the Kentucky Chinese American Association. Performers played to a sold-out audience, including spectators across Kentucky (Lexington, Louisville, Frankfort, Morehead, Owensboro, Richmond, Berea, Lancaster, Paris, Mid-way, Georgetown, etc.), Ohio, Indiana, and Tennessee. Lexington Mayor Jim Gray co-hosted the show with Cheryl Pan for the second time. Kentucky Secretary of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, Marcheta Sparrow and the newly elected US Congressman Andy Barr and his staff attended and gave speeches during the event. Secretary Sparrow said: "All the Kentuckians appreciate the work of the Kentucky Chinese American Association and the wonderful cultural diversity that you bring to the communities across Kentucky. We honor your contributions in the important areas of education, business, health care and arts." Ms. Sparrow also presented the Proclamation of Chinese New Year 2013 issued by Governor Steve Beshear. Congressman Barr said: "This is not just the celebration of Chinese heritage but the great love from Chinese culture and passing it down to our families."



Chinese Embassy First Secretary Shen Ang from Washington DC, UK Vice President Dr. Judy Jackson, Kentucky Sixth Congressional District Director Diane Hancock, UK Confucius Institute Director Dr. Huajing Maske, and Fayette County Public School Superintendent Dr. Tom Shelton attended the event.



Introduction and speeches P.1

The 2013 Chinese New Year Celebration P.1-6

Passport renewal P.6

Feedback P.7

Photos from the Celebration P.8-10

Acknowledgement P.12

Message from KYCAA President

Dear KYCAA members and friends:

The KYCAA Chinese New Year Celebration for 2013 held at the Opera House on 01/26 was a big success! All the people participating in this event did extremely well. They devoted their talents and their family time, and they worked very hard to make this Celebration spectacular. I thank all the performers, especially, the KYCAA Chinese School student performers. I also thank the volunteers who did a great job in helping keep the event in order. I thank our organization committee members. They are volunteers too. Without their dedication and devotion, this would never happen. Special thanks go to Cheryl Pan, KYCAA Artistic Director. Her outstanding talents, her exceptional dedication to community service, and her unbelievable hard work, have contributed to the success of KYCAA. I also thank our



sponsors as listed in this newsletter as well as on our website. I appreciate your continued support and expect further success of KYCAA in the Year of the Snake.

Sincerely,

Wei Luo, President

Features of 2013 Chinese New Year Celebration

The show was divided into two parts, the first celebrating the “Happy New Year” and the second celebrating “Welcome the Year of the Snake.” It began with a waist-drum dance – such dances originated in Northern China – entitled “China, grand stage,” and performed by men and women (and accompanied by dancing children) of the KYCAA.



Colorful costumes and the precision of skilled drummers emulated the “grand stage of China.” This performance was



followed by KYCAA Chinese School and KYOCA dancing and singing performances, Chinese Acrobats, and other invited cultural performances. Aside from dances, KYCAA presented a variety of other performances, including the Men’s Choir singing “Girls in Da Ban City” which expresses a yearning for love.



KYCAA Chinese School Performances

The KYCAA Chinese dance school, founded in 2012, has grown very much during the past year. A variety of performances featuring Chinese traditional and modern dance by the



school’s students constituted the lion’s share of the gala. Children of different ages from school’s dance classes taught by dance instructor and choreographer Cheryl Pan, performed excellently to several



different popular pieces of music while donned in vividly beautiful

costumes. The dances, which took nearly a year to compose and learn, collectively represent a variety of Chinese regions, from highlands to deserts. The dances included the Water Lily Dance, the Dragon and Phoenix Fan Dance, the Jas-



smine Flower dance, the Black-hair Beauty song and dance solo, and the Kids Modern Dance. The KYCAA Chinese School Student Choir sang “Du

Thrilling Acrobatic Performances Took the Audience's Breath Away!

As a long-standing performing art, Chinese acrobatics has gained fame around the world. The 2013 Chinese New Year celebration included a variety of acrobatic performances that amazed the audience with Spinning Dishes, Vase Playing, Unicycling, Face Changing, and a Contortion Act.



Chinese Ethnicities Costume Show Game

Dressing in various costumes representing the different regions in China, Hostess Cheryl Pan quizzed the audience over simple fun facts about Chinese culture between performances.



KYCAA T-shirts were tossed in the direction of audience members shouting correct answers.



Invited Performances from Other Communities

Promoting cultural exchange in the community was another important feature of the new year celebration. To this end, invited performances from the Vintage Dance Group of Lexington Kentucky, exotic Indian dancers, enhanced the culturally enriching experience.



Chinese Performances from KYOCA in KY performed the Tibetan Dance and Mongolian Dance.



Performance from Fayette County Public Schools

Fayette County Public School kids have also performed in the event. Students from Veteran Park Elementary School have performed Chinese new year songs (singing Happy New Year and Zodiac songs); Hennerly Clay High School kids played one of famous Chinese folk songs.



Lexington Chinese Christian Church Choir

The event ended with a 40 choir from Lexington Chinese Christian Church. They performed a song: "Your Name is Beautiful".



Chinese Culture Fair

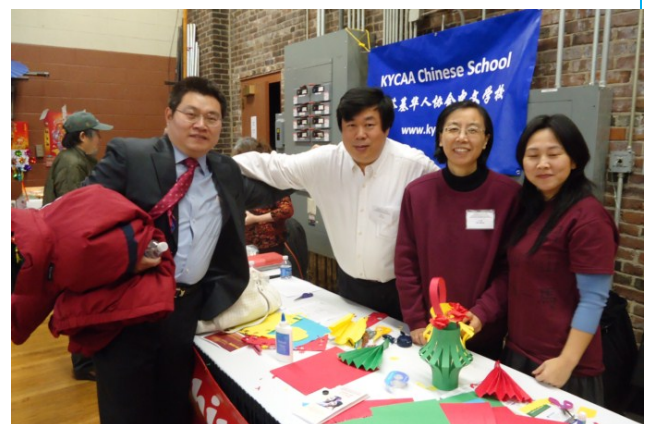
As usual, before the show, KYCAA and UK Confusion held a Chinese Culture Fair from 4:00 –6:30 pm at the same day in Opera House.

Hundreds of people visited booths that featuring Chinese foods, dress, painting and traditional Chinese souvenirs.



Passport Renewal

KYCAA has hosted officials from the Chinese Embassy to provide passport renewal service to KYCAA members and other families in KY and surrounding area for 3 years. This year, Mr. Cai Yongshen and Mr. Shen Ang, Chinese Embassy First Secretaries, attended our Chinese New Year Celebration on Jan. 26 and provided services to about 100 people, saving them time and money by eliminating the need to go to Washington DC for such service.



Feedback

The 2013 Chinese New Year celebration held by KYCAA was well received. Below are some of the comments:

“The dances really caught my attention, they were amazing. I have Chinese ancestry so it was really interesting for me to see how Chinese New Year was celebrated in China,” said a Cambodian girl, Chhunnary.

“The show was really good overall. The performances with the unicycle riding and vase spinning were really impressive. The men’s choir was really amusing and a highlight of the night. I enjoyed the show very much,” said Mr. Chen, one of our sponsors.

American audience member, Lee, expressed his praising remarks of the show: “I thoroughly enjoyed the show. It was a spectacle of color, movement and sound. This is a marvelous way to display aspects of Chinese culture thus promoting good will as well as cultural edification of observers. In this respect, the show is not only a celebration, but also a public service. I look forward to future events.”

“We enjoyed very much the performances last night. I smiled and laughed a lot! Our students from Morehead State University felt very good to be there.”—Ms. McDaniel

“A big Gong Xi to all of you for one of the most successful New Year Celebrations in history! The program was well organized and the time was well controlled.”—Dr. Han, a music professor

“It was a great evening! My wife and I and our two guests had a wonderful time. This show just keeps getting better each year. We especially enjoyed the unicyclists.”— Mr. Godell from WUKY



The following are the media coverage of the 2013 Celebration

TV ABC Channel 36

http://www.wtvq.com/content/localnews/story/Kentuckians-Celebrate-Year-Of-The-Snake/o83ylS_lfE-yf9zn6kKl8g.csp

Photos in Tops magazine online

<http://www.topsinlex.com/Photos/5864/Chinese+New+Year+Celebration+Pt3>

<http://www.topsinlex.com/Photos/5863/Chinese+New+Year+Celebration+Pt2>

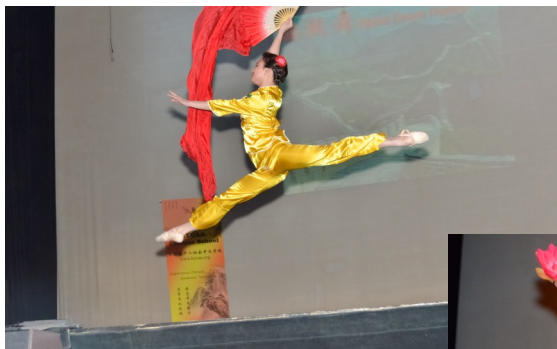
<http://www.topsinlex.com/Photos/5862/Chinese+New+Year+Celebration+Pt1>

HERALD-LEADER report and Kentucky.com report. <http://www.kentucky.com/2013/01/22/2485796/ky-chinese-community-prepares.html>

Photo by Mark Ashley LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER, took in Beaumont Middle School during KYCAA Chinese School last Saturday. <http://www.kentucky.com/2013/01/22/2485893/chinese-american-association.html#storylink=relat>

The broadcast schedule 1st round for the program up through February 10 in Channel 13. January 31 @ 4:00pm, 8:00pm, February 2 @ 4:00pm, 8:00pm, February 5 @ 2:00pm, 10:00pm, February 7 @ 10:00am, 4:00pm, 8:00pm, February 9 @ 4:00pm, 8:00pm, February 10 @ 12:00, 4:00pm, 8:00pm

Photos of the Event







Proclamation

by

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

of the

Commonwealth of Kentucky



To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:

- WHEREAS, Cultural awareness and appreciation are powerful engines for creating a more unified world; and
- WHEREAS, It is important to recognize the diverse cultures in our community and to join fellow citizens in the celebration of their cultural events; and
- WHEREAS, Chinese New Year is the most important holiday of the year for people of Chinese ancestry; and
- WHEREAS, Chinese Americans contribute to the Commonwealth of Kentucky in many significant ways; and
- WHEREAS, The Chinese New Year Celebration organized by the Kentucky Chinese American Association and other community organizations aims to be a showcase of traditional Chinese culture, a platform for cross cultural understanding between the East and West and a unifying event for all people interested in Chinese culture; and
- WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Kentucky joins all people of Chinese ancestry in celebrating Chinese New Year 2013, the "Year of the Snake," and sends wishes for happiness, health and prosperity to all those born in this year as well as to everyone celebrating this wonderful event;

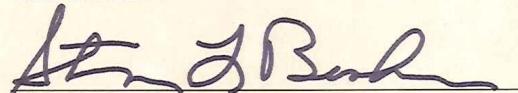
NOW, THEREFORE, I, STEVEN L. BESHEAR, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, do hereby proclaim February 10, 2013, as

CHINESE NEW YEAR

in Kentucky, and encourage all citizens in the Commonwealth to join in this rich cultural tradition.



DONE AT THE CAPITOL, in the City of Frankfort the 23rd day of January, in the year of Our Lord Two Thousand Thirteen and in the 221st year of the Commonwealth.


STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR


ALISON LUNDERGAN GRIMES
SECRETARY OF STATE

Acknowledgements

The KYCAA is very grateful for the support of the following sponsors:

UK Confucius Institute
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Opera House Fund
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Thurman White & Andersen
Integrity Real Estate Group
Dr. Christopher Davis, Dentist
JNESQ, PSC
Kumon of Lexington
Sunlending USA
YuYu Asian Supermarket
Panda Cuisine Restaurant

Organizing Committee

Wei Luo, Cheryl Pan, Guoqiang Yu, Chi Shen, Weizhong Jing, Caoxun Zhao, Xiaoqin Zhou, Zhi Chen, Rijing Xiao, Wenping Ma, Li Xu, Jie Chen, Lancao Zhang, Changzheng Wang, Xiaolong Li, Dongsheng Yang

Stage manager: Yanfen Chen

Artistic Director 艺术指导: Cheryl Pan