



Chinese Family Camp Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

Chinese Family Camp, Inc.
A 501(c) (3) non-profit organization

www.chinesefamilycamp.org

Editor in Chief: Deb Lin-Dyken

Update from Camp Director Lawrence



Hello Campers!

Our 2nd year at Cedar Lake Ministries is coming up soon and will start on **Sunday July 16th!** We anticipate another great week together and this will mark the 65th consecutive year we have had a Chinese Family Camp (CFC)!

Please keep in mind that although we are "sold out", and have been for weeks, I still have a bit of lodging wiggle room if needed. So, although you will see "unavailable" on the online registration site with respect to lodging, please reach out to me directly if needed.

Finally, keep an eye out for upcoming emails regarding CFC 2023 and our digital Family Photo Registry which will be published before CFC so we can all see each other and meet our new campers.

Email me if you have questions and/or comments via campdirector@chinesefamilycamp.org and I will respond directly to you.

Thanks! Lawrence

CFC Goes to Chinatown!



Campers from CFC 2023 will spend a day in Chinatown – please join us!

When: Wednesday, July 19 from 11-3:30

Where: Chinese American Museum of Chicago and Ming Hin Restaurant

How do I join in? What does it cost?

If you are attending CFC 2023: we will arrange transportation, museum tour, and lunch. Museum tour and lunch expenses are included in your CFC registration.

If you're not attending CFC 2023, but you want to join us in Chinatown for the day: contact Allen Yang at allen@chinesefamilycamp.org by **Monday, July 17**. We will collect a fee to defray your portion of the museum tour and lunch expenses.

Further information will be sent to all campers before and during the week of CFC 2023.

Allen Yang



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CFC Board Member Spotlight #1

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- o Help brainstorm and implement ideas for camp as a whole

- o Help lead family bonding activities at camp

- o Organize feedback from campers to improve camp programs for the next year!



Name? Tracey Jen

Board Position? Education Coordinator,
Planning Committee

What Do You Do for the Board?

- Education Coordinator:
 - o Help coordinate, plan, supervise Heritage Education Programs for all ages
 - o Develop thoughtful lesson plans with our team of Heritage instructors and volunteers
 - o Teach art and culture lessons
 - o Photograph art projects and activities
- Planning Committee:

Why Are You On the Board?

During my Curatorial Practice graduate studies at Maryland Institute College of Art, I curated my thesis art exhibition "Crossover" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EKJxUSw5UQ> about the spectrum of hybridized Chinese identities, which showcased camper Beth Lo's <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjCmd6rgZ78> ceramic artwork about her Chinese American identity. At the time of planning my exhibition, I went through a lot of struggles trying to find artists that would fit such a personal theme. One day, I saw Beth's artwork online and immediately resonated with it. I reached out to her through email and was surprised to find out that we were both born and raised in West Lafayette, Indiana and we were both artists born to engineer fathers and artistic mothers, and each had an older sister. Even more of a coincidence, after her father retired from being a professor at Purdue University's Aeronautical and Aerospace Engineering program, my father entered the same school and department as a PhD student. Our parallel lives more than a generation apart has been such a gift in my life. After graduation, Beth introduced me to her sister Ginnie Lo,



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WJW0Bg6fUKU> her cousins Allen and Vevan Yang, and her childhood neighbor Pauline Shen. Through them, I was fortunate to meet the extended Camp family. The 1st year I attended camp was in 2020 at the 1st Virtual CFC, where I gave a presentation about my MFA Thesis. I naturally became involved in helping camp plan Pre-Teen Heritage Programs for the 2nd Virtual CFC in 2021, which was the year I was invited to join the CFC board. Joining the board gave me the opportunity to continue a mission dear to my heart. My first time attending physical camp was in 2022 at Cedar Lake. Although I didn't attend CFC when I was a child, I grew up in the Purdue Chinese School community, which shared the same family values.

*Please click on hyperlinks to watch videos, describing more in-depth stories.

What have you learned about CFC during your involvement?

Although Zoom and the technology at our fingertips are very convenient, it cannot replace live human interaction, which has a powerful effect. There is something precious about a community physically being together, seeing campers naturally willing to help each other, learn from each other, and hearing the sound of laughter. Camp is successful, because it is a combined effort from all participants, who contribute their knowledge and skills to enhance the camper experience. CFC has taught me the importance of supportive teamwork and how

sharing the same values makes solving problems and the overall workload feel like an easy flow.

Favorite Story or Memory about Camp?

Hearing a gentle "hello" or "do you need some help?" really warmed my heart. There have been so many considerate words and gestures that I've experienced my first time at camp. It's hard to pick just one story, but below is a summary of my mahjong experience:

In the middle of a mahjong game, suddenly Uncle Allen puts on the most Chinese sounding Gu Zheng background music. You can see young kids playing with elders. You can hear a half Chinese and half English conversation going on. And perhaps, when you have these different mixed dynamics around the square table, this ancient Chinese game of Mahjong will bring out a different side of you that will make your parents surprised. This is a true family gathering.

What's Next for You at Camp?

Preserving the Camp legacy and the kind, giving, family spirit of camp for future generations of Chinese descendants and their families to enjoy. I will continue to share more Chinese Culture through education programming, while creating a harmonic atmosphere for all campers to come home to.



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Family Camp - spirit of love,
cultural enrichment and understanding and
good food - is a constant in camp no matter
the location!!!!

I also have learned that camp organizing and
implementation of camp is intentional and our
parents put an amazing amount of thought and
effort into making CFC what it is today. As a kid I
just came to play and eat.

Favorite Story or Memory about Camp?

My favorite times at camp were as a teenager
and Sheila, Tina and I would stay up talking,
playing our guitars and singing.

What's Next for You at Camp?

I have reinstated an old role. Food Manager: I
will be coordinating morning and evening
snacks. If you have a request for a snack let me
know.

If you have an idea for an evening snack you'd
like to prepare let me know. We'd love for you
to make a snack. Green Onion pancakes? Tang
Yuan....

Pick up a snack from Chinatown. Camp will
reimburse costs. Please email me any
suggestions hchanglady@gmail.com

Can't wait to see you at camp!!!!!!

Aunt Helen and Sammi



"Welcome to the In Between" is a painting by
Tracey Jen

CFC Board Member Spotlight #2

Name Helen Nai-Yee Chang

Board Position: Board Member

What Do You Do for the Board? I help with the
planning of camp each year.

Why Are You On the Board? I joined the board
because I have a deep love for camp and it is
important to keep it going. I have been coming
to camp since I've been 6 years old and camp
has helped me to raise my children.

**What have you learned about CFC during your
involvement?** I have learned that Chinese



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difference! And please let us know if you're in the neighborhood or have any connections in Singapore that we can reach out to for a mahjong! I need the distractions as I am lightly job searching considering academic research in education and freelance teaching art to keep active. Hope it's a great summer camp! Take up the kitchen staff's offer to use the kitchen so we can learn to make authentic Chinese food! Hehe! Cheers, -Desi and family

Update from the Shen/Chuang family



大家好! We felt very lucky to spend CNY with campers in SFO (thanks for the beautiful welcome Uncle Jack and family!!) and Luci, Mbozsqn and I arrived in Singapore just in time to celebrate at our little square of paradise (we are renting a room for 6 months in Woodlands Singapore - near the Malay border JB). Biking as usual, we have the same helmets from Chinese Family Camp and our pic is on the newer established non-motorized corridors and trails that run alongside the MRT lines (Singapore's rail system has over 3 million daily ridership!). We met a pangolin and panda and devour many delicious eats; alas, our homemade kaya jam and roti prata are still developing recipes. Regrets to miss camp this year, my timeline is slowly moving along in regards to some paperwork to formally accept my Singapore citizenship from birth. Huzzah to Mbozsqn and Luci to accompany me on my grand Singapore adventure! Find me if you want to play chess online, especially if you can't sleep, we're on a twelve hour time



From Joan Chao

At our jiao tze making party in January, I mentioned that my quilt guild is hosting a Quilt Show on April 21 – 22 in the Chicago area. I have attached a flyer with the details. In addition to an awesome display of quilts made by members, there will be a live quilt auction on Saturday. It's a great opportunity to purchase a unique wedding, baby, or graduation gift. Check out the items online.

Hope to see you there! Joan Chao

(flyer on following page)



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instead I've been mesmerized so far by her detailed descriptions of how boats navigated the wild waters of the Yangtze with the help of hundreds of Chinese laborers, pulling on ropes, prodding with poles, and jumping in to rescue for no more than a meal or a few cents.

I wonder how what I learn can be translated into Field Day Challenges or a Festival Night Skit at CFC !!! So far no mention of recipes for jiaodz from the late 19th century.

Enjoy, Auntie/Grandma Ginnie Lo

Salt Creek Quilters Present

A CELEBRATION OF QUILTS

April 21, 2023 3pm-7pm
April 22, 2023 9am-5pm

Union Church 137 S. Garfield, Hinsdale, IL

Over 200 quilts on display
Two special exhibits
Bake Sale, Quilters Mall, Raffle Baskets



LIVE QUILT AUCTION

April 22nd 1pm - 3pm
Bed, baby, wall, holiday
and quilted items

a portion of Auction proceeds will be donated
to the [Wellness House in Hinsdale](#)


CFC Reading Corner!

Ginnie Lo would like to invite Campers of all ages to share their recommendations for any books or articles they've read about our Chinese and Chinese-American Heritage. To start us off, here is a quick description of the book I am currently reading:

The Yangtze Valley and Beyond by Isabella Bird originally written in 1895!!

I found this book at our local second hand store and decided to read about this adventurous British woman who set off to explore the Yangtze River and northwest China at the age of 64 ! I thought I would just skim through it, but



Isabella Bird wearing Manchurian clothing from a journey through China. 



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Yangtze River Trackers



Update from Donna and Tallula Breniman

Tallula has had an amazing seventh grade year. She performed with her WuShu school in Asia Fest in September. In October we traveled to Lanham, MD so she could compete in her first USWA competition. Her First Lego League robotics team qualified for the state championship for the first time. They didn't place but learned a lot and a great time. In December, she turned 13.

2023 began with two Lunar New Year performances and a ski trip to Massanutten with Meimei Ma and Jamie Chao. She tried out for the track team and is competing in shot put and the 200 for her school.

Donna has been busy chauffeuring Tallula to all her activities, working, and creating pottery.





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Update from Lesley Dzik

Jenna Purnell is due to graduate the High School of Saint Thomas More (STM) on May 20, 2023. She expects to attend Wheaton College (IL) majoring in nursing or elementary education as part of the class of 2028, after taking a gap year to serve with Circuit Riders of Youth With A Mission in California. She has been involved with theater, cross country, swimming and diving at the University of Illinois Laboratory High School, swimming and diving, soccer, cheer, yearbook and Logos retreat leadership at STM, as well as volunteering with Kingdom Kids and being involved with the School of Kingdom Ministry and Revolution youth ministry at the Vineyard Church of Central Illinois. Jenna is the youngest of three children of Lesley Lee Dzik and Greg Purnell, and only granddaughter of Pauline and the late Bernie Lee.



Jenna Purnell

Joseph Xiao-An Wang is due to graduate on May 6, 2023, from LeTourneau University with a bachelor's degree in computer engineering. He plans to pursue a master's degree in computer science in L.A. in the fall at a school yet to be determined. He is the youngest of three sons of David Wang and Karen Lee Wang and one of eight grandsons of Pauline and the late Bernie Lee.

Next CFC Board of Directors Meeting



Sunday 04/16/23 at 8 PM ET/7 PM CST/5 PM PT

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/7086696556>

Open to all!



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From Virginia (aka Ginger) Yang

From Kathy Ko Chin and Emily Chien

As fate would have it, Emily Chien and I have re-connected through a fellowship we're both doing at Harvard for 2023, Advanced Leadership Initiative (ALI). It was a joyful reconnection and realization of how much CFC has meant in our lives. Here's a picture of our recent Spring Celebration where we taught our colleagues how to make dumplings!

From Emily: It's been such a joy to reconnect. We realize the importance of family ties and culture that shape our lives and values. I recall CSAS camp fondly as though it was yesterday :-)



There's a new Chinese American musical set to open this summer. "Lucy and Charlie's Honeymoon" - described as "a first generation Asian American renegade couple in love and on the run....up down quintessential American highways and across stereotypical borders, fleeing expectations and trawling up trouble along the way." With original country western and folk songs composed and written by Matthew C. Yee, Artistic Association at Looking Glass Theatre/Chicago, IL. Directed by L Dehnet.

The musical production is part of the 2022-2023 season of The Looking Glass Theatre Company. It's playing from May 24th thru July 2nd at Water Tower Works on 821 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL. Ticket information available online. Group membership with Looking Glass Theatre is encouraged. Individual tickets or group of 10 encouraged.

Matthew Yee has produced plays - most recently "Almost Famous, the Musical" (Broadway), and short films for LGT, specifically Chicago's Chinatown "Ward 5 - I Remember Chinatown". He's apparently been affiliated with the Chicago theatre scene since 2013.

If any CFCers are interested and available for those dates, we might be able to bundle a group of 10 tickets for an evening showing and an early Chinatown dim sum and a quick afternoon visit to the Chinatown Museum of Chinese-American History, or Ping Tom Park.