



Families with Children from China – Capital Area

Regular Edition

10/31/2016

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Fall 2016

Message from the President

By Wesley O. Hagood

The heat wave has finally subsided and we are now experiencing some much need rain and cooler weather. Personally I am glad the autumn weather has finally arrived. It is my favorite time of the year.

Chinese New Year will occur on Saturday January 28, 2017 and be known as the “Year of the Rooster.” Most Chinese begin to celebrate this holiday on January 20, 2017 by cleaning their homes to welcome the new year. They continue to celebrate until the end of the Spring Festival on February 2, 2017.



FCC would like to host a Chinese New Year celebration for its members on or about January 28th but to do so, we need volunteer to plan, organize, and facilitate this important event. Last year I published a similar message during October 2016, requesting volunteers, but none of our members responded. As a result, the FCC board members organized a celebration that almost did not occur because we started so late in the year. In spite of the many obstacles we encountered, the 2016 celebration was well attended and many said it was the best event ever in terms of FCC members making new connections with other families that were sure to carry on throughout the year. Members have another opportunity to volunteer this year, if you want FCC to host this type of event. If not, FCC will not be able to sponsor such an event. We have three board positions that have be vacant for months and there are not enough active board members to plan, organize, and facilitate an event of this magnitude without help from our FCC member families. I will be experiencing work-related travel for much of the next three months and unavailable to lead this effort again this year. If you want FCC to host a 2017 new-year celebration, please contact me by November 14, 2016 at WesleyOHagood@gmail.com

Heritage Tour Advice

One of our families reached out to me for assistance in connecting with other families who may be planning a heritage tour for their child. The request from the Manyin family is below.

We are planning to go on the CCAI China heritage tour in April 2017 and wondering if any other NOVA families are going. You can find more information about this tour at the following URL: <http://www.ccaifamily.org/heritagetour/>. If so, we would love to make contact before travel. If your family already completed a heritage tour, we would also be interested in any tips and tricks that you have learned, please contact me via the email address below.

Thanks,

Candi Manyin

CLMManyin@comcast.net

If you are planning a tour or have already completed such a roots seeking tour, and are willing to provide advice to another family who is now in the midst of doing so, please do not hesitate to reach out and provide assistance.

Mulan Coming to the Big Screen Again!



Disney has decided to fast track a live action version of the animated film Mulan. Disney is launching a global casting search for a Chinese actress to play Mulan. Look for the film to be release in November or December 2018.

Local Chinese New Year Events – 2017



Below are several events associated with the celebration of the Chinese New Year. As we approach the end of 2016, many more events will be posted online. Search for “2017 Chinese New Year” to find more events of a similar nature.

In Washington, DC

1. Washington, DC Chinese New Year Parade

DATE: Sunday January 29, 2017

TIME: 2:00 PM

LOCATION: American Art Museum (Kogard Courtyard)

COST: Free

DESCRIPTION: Each year a parade is held in Chinatown to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The event features the traditional Chinese Dragon Dance, Kung Fu demonstrations and live musical entertainment. The firecracker will be lit at 3:45 p.m. A good place to view the parade is along 7th St. The nearest Metro station is Gallery Place/Chinatown.

MORE INFO: <http://dc.about.com/od/specialeventphotos1/ig/Chinese-New-Year-Parade-Pics/>



In Maryland

1. Lunar New Year Celebration

DATE: January 28, 2017

TIME: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville, Maryland.

COST: Free

DESCRIPTION: The City of Rockville celebrates Lunar New Year from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, January 28 at Thomas S. Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway. This free event features Asian cuisine, exhibitors and performances. Performances will be from 10 a.m.-noon. Samples of Asian cuisine will be offered from noon-2 p.m. Exhibits will be ongoing.

MORE INFO: <http://www.rockvillemd.gov/index.aspx?NID=730>



2. Lunar New Year Celebration

DATE: TBD

TIME: TBD

LOCATION: Lake Forest Mall, 701 Russell Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

COST: Free

DESCRIPTION: In past year, the Lakeforest Mall has hosted a Lunar New Year Celebration over a weekend near the dates of the Chinese New Year. Look for more information at their web site below.

MORE INFO: <http://www.shoplakeforest.com/event/lunar-new-year-celebration/2145467723/>

Northern Virginia

1. 10th Annual Chinese New Year Festival

DATE: Saturday January 14, 2017 (Snow date: January 28, 2017)

TIME: 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

LOCATION: Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, VA.

COST: Free

DESCRIPTION: Each year this event includes a celebration of the Chinese New Year as well as a Chinese New Year Parade that will begin at 2:00 PM. The event, hosted by the Asian Community Service Center, offers performances from China, Korea, India, Thailand, Vietnam, among others including the beautiful Chinese sword dance; Dragon Parade, fashion show, Asian plant art, Asian foods, Chinese cooking demo, teaching of Chinese characters, crafts, kids activities and more.

MORE INFO: <http://www.chinesenewyearfestival.org/program>



As the Asian population grows in the US, there continues to be a growth in local celebrations of the Lunar New Year. Please continue to search the web for more information about these events.

Red Thread Unbroken...or Broken?

Read the article below written by an adoptee who publishes articles on a blog and now on a Facebook page about her experiences growing up as a Chinese American Adoptee that provides another perspective on the phrase “red thread unbroken.”

An ancient Chinese proverb says, “an invisible red thread connects those destined to meet, regardless of the time, place, or circumstance. The thread may stretch or tangle, but never break.” This proverb has become popularized in recent years among the general public, and these words can be seen on tattoos, posters, and “inspirational quote” boards.

In the international (specifically Chinese) adoption community, these words have a very different meaning. The Invisible Red Thread proverb has been used to propagate and encourage adoptions, convincing many that adoptions are acts of destiny. The problem with saying that children are connected to the people “destined” to become their adoptive parents is that it is also saying birthmothers are equally

destined to be in situations in which they have to relinquish their children and that these children are destined to lose their first families, countries, cultures, and everything they know.

I'm aware that some adoptive parents truly do feel like they received the child who was "meant for them." But that child wouldn't have been "meant for them" if it weren't for devastating problems in their home country. Adoptive parents need to realize that adoptions are not destined to happen. They are the results of political and economic systems of oppression that entrap biological parents around the world, whether that be the social stigma against single mothers in Korea, the One Child Policy in China, and women's inferior status or poverty in any country. Keeping the discussion of adoption at a "divine" level, and ignoring the actual political and socioeconomic issues surrounding it ensures that the problems which drive adoption will continue. Thus parents will continue to be kept in situations where they are forced to give up their children or where they remain misled and unaware of their child's trafficking.

I know that most adoptive parents are good-hearted people and would not want to perpetuate child trafficking and harmful social systems. If we wish to avoid these very things, then it is imperative that we change the rhetoric surrounding adoption from a rosy, miraculous, heartwarming deed and remember the children who have lost families, cultures, and identities, the parents who have lost children, and the broken adoption industry where people profit from exchanging children and countries profit from exporting children.

Though the proverb says, "the thread may stretch or tangle, but never break," it is time to acknowledge that the invisible red thread is broken. The adoption community has twisted these words' meaning from the original idea of "connected lovers" to connected families, "regardless of the time, place or circumstance." The circumstances leading to adoption, though, are devastating, and these words in relation to adoption are simply untrue and become very harmful to many adoptees.

Follow the links below to connect with more articles written by this author.

<http://perspectivesinparenting.com/10-things-you-shouldnt-say-to-an-adoptive-parent-especially-in-front-of-their-children/>

<https://redthreadbroken.wordpress.com/>

This young woman expresses a different point of view that could be adopted by some of our children as they grow older and began to examine and think critically about the underlying conditions that lead to international adoption. How will you respond to this viewpoint if adopted by your child?

RED THREAD BROKEN

Exposing the red thread myth in relation to adoption



FCC Featured Family - The Hagood Family



Wes and Denise Hagood had four biological children when they decided to adopt a child from China. Their oldest daughter, Katie, is a nurse who lives in Severna Park, MD and is a mother with four children of her own. Their older son, Mark, lives in Washington DC, is married, and working to pass the bar exam after earning a JD in the Law from Ole Miss University. Their second daughter, Kelley, is a Physician's Assistant who lives in Alexandria, VA with her husband. Their younger son, Paul, lives in Easton, MD with his wife and works for the owner of a holding company that owns the ***Eastern Star Democrat*** newspaper.

In October 2003 Wes and Denise travelled to the Guangdong Province to adopt XIN Hong Yi (信红怡), later renamed Mia Lee Hagood. The experience proved to be so joyful and satisfying that they returned to China in 2006 to adopt YUAN Xiao Lan (元晓兰), later renamed Mei Xiaolan Hagood, from the same province. The Hagood family lives in Ashburn, VA where the girls attend school.

Mia was adopted from the Xinyi Social Welfare Institute (SWI) located in Xinyi City near the prefecture city of Maoming, which is about a six hour drive from Guangzhou. Mei was adopted from the Dongguan Children's Welfare Institute (CWI) in Dongguan City, which is about a two hour drive from Guangzhou.

Wes is a Director at SAIC and is currently managing a leadership training program for a government client. Denise is a teacher for gifted students at Trailside Middle School (TMS) in Ashburn, VA. Mia began her first year of high school in September and earned a spot in Loudoun County's Academy of Engineering and Technology (AET). Mei attends TMS where her mother works and enjoys performing with the school's band. Both girls are members of the Ashburn Youth Symphony Orchestra (AYSO).

The Hagood's have made "Gotcha Day" a family tradition. They typically take the girl's out to eat at their favorite restaurant, give them a gift, and finish the evening by watching the video of the day they received each of their girls.

Fortunately Wes and Denise had older children before adopting Mia and Mei and so had learned many lessons about raising children. Wes' favorite saying with respect to raising children is, "Little children, Little Problems. Big Children, Big Problems." This saying has proven to be true. Denise believes that children need to begin taking responsibility for their own actions and care as early as possible and so teaches her girls the skills they will need to survive and prosper in life.

Both Wes and Denise have learned that it is important to live in a diverse area when raising a child adopted from China - where there are many different and unique types of families. Ashburn, VA is just such a place and they believe they are fortunate to live in this small town.

FCC Family Information

If you would like your family featured in an upcoming issue of this newsletter, fill out the information below and email it with a family photograph to editor@fcccapital.com and wesleyohagood@gmail.com and we will feature your family.

FCC Family Information Form

- Names and Information about Family members
- Where you live
- Information about the orphanage(s) from which you adopted your child(ren)
- Your families interests and traditions
- The lessons you have learned about raising a child adopted from China

It will only take a few minutes to share information about your family with other FCC families so they can get to know a little more about you.

FCC Chinese Cooking Classes

Cooking classes will resume beginning in November 2016. They will be conducted by Rita Shan, former President of the Organization of Chinese American Women (OCAW), who currently donates time and effort in support of the National China Garden Foundation.

As many of you know, Rita brings enthusiasm and considerable knowledge about favorite Chinese recipes and culture in teaching families how to make delicious and authentic Chinese dishes.

Below is the lineup of upcoming classes:

(Note we are alternating Saturday and Sunday classes to provide more flexibility in the class schedule.)

Sunday, November 6: Bon Bon Turkey and Turkey Fried Rice

(The class offers families tasty alternatives for Thanksgiving leftovers; however, we will be making these recipes with chicken)



Saturday, December 3: Hot and Sour Soup



Sunday, February 5: Jiaozi

(a traditional dish in celebration of Chinese New Year)



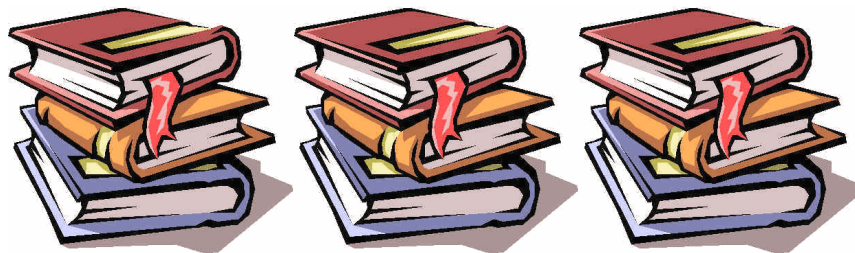
These classes depend upon FCC families to volunteer to host. Contact me at megeckie@gmail.com if you would be willing to host a class in your home.

Classes begin promptly at **2 p.m.** The cost will be **\$20/family** (for up to two children). Space in the class is limited and is available on a first-come, first-served basis until the class is full. To register for a class, email me at megeckie@gmail.com.

To complete your registration for a class, payment must be received in advance. No refunds will be given for missed classes; however, refunds will be issued for classes that do not meet the 5 family minimum.

Last but not least, if you have suggestions for dishes you might be interested in learning or ways in which the classes could be improved, Rita and I welcome your comments and suggestions!

FCC Capital Area Book Group



The FCC Capital Area Book Group gets together monthly at various restaurants in Montgomery County, Maryland. All FCC members are warmly invited to join us each month for monthly book chat dinners. Questions? RSVP? Lucia Saperstein at luciamorgan@yahoo.com

Below is the upcoming schedule:

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Oct 25th: *China's Hidden Children* by Kay Ann Johnson
Mrs. K's Toll House Restaurant, Silver Spring

Dec 6th: *Dragon Bones* by Lisa See
Carluccio's Italian Restaurant (Pike and Rose) Rockville

Jan 24th: *Happy Family* by Wendy Lee
House of Foong Lin Restaurant, Bethesda

2016 FCC Capital Area Board Members

The FCC Capital Area Board has three vacant positions. The current FCC Capital Board Members and vacancies are as follows:

- President – Wes Hagood
- Vice President – Debra Cope
- Secretary – Diane Kiser
- Treasurer – Denise Hagood
- Cultural and Education Liaison – Meg Maher
- Webmaster/Membership Coordinator – Meredith Hilt
- At Large 2 – Christine Romboletti
- At Large 1 – **Vacant**
- Newsletter Editor – **Vacant**
- Volunteer Coordinator – **Vacant**

It is very difficult for the FCC Board of Directors to identify, plan, organize, and host events for our members with numerous vacancies on the board. If you are interested in filling any of these three vacant positions, please contact me at (571) 451-2595 or via email at wesleyohagood@gmail.com.

You do not need to be a board member to volunteer to organize an event for other FCC families. If you have an idea and willingness to plan an event, please reach out to me and I will attempt to connect you with other families who are excited about the proposed event.



Check Out the FCC Capital Area Facebook Page

Have you visited the FCC Capital Area Facebook page? If not, please check it out. It is a great way to stay informed about events of interest to FCC families between issues of this newsletter.



The URL for this page is as follows:

<https://www.facebook.com/FamiliesWithChildrenFromChinaCapitalArea?fref=ts>

C.A.S.E. Sponsors KAN Conference again in 2016

The Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE) will sponsor the 20th Annual Kids Adoption Network (KAN) Conference on November 19, 2016. This year the KAN Conference will include a program for parents, children and teens. The event will be held at the following address:

National 4-H Youth Conference Center
7100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815



If you have never been it is a great event for all family members. The cost is 70\$ and includes lunch. To learn more click on the following URL addresses below:

<http://adoptionsupport.org/general/2016-kids-adoption-network-conference-register-today/>

<http://adoptionsupport.org/2016-kan-conference-programs-schedule/>

To read an article about the 2014 KAN Conference go the Winter 2014 edition of this newsletter by clicking on this link: http://www.fcccapital.com/PDF/14_Winter.pdf

Update on School Bullying of Emilie Olsen



By Judy Molland

Emilie Olsen was a straight-A student with a winning smile, a love of horses and a passion for volleyball, according to reports.

Marc and Cindy Olsen adopted their child from China when she was just nine months old.

But on December 11, 2014, at the age of 13, Emilie came home from school, found her father's gun and shot herself in the head.

For young people aged 10 to 14, suicide is the third leading cause of death. Many suicides appear to be directly related to bullying.

It didn't have to happen.

Records show that the teen had endured bullying for at least two years prior to her death, but school authorities in Fairfield, Ohio, never took any action according to the parents.

Her father, Marc Olsen, even wrote to the school shortly before his daughter's death: "Emilie has become the target of bullying by a few girls. I have a bad feeling that if nothing is done then this has the possibility to escalate into something worse." And he even tried to warn the Fairfield City School District Superintendent about a fake sexually explicit Instagram account that had been set up about Emilie, questioning her sexuality.

In response, Olsen was told that Emilie "needed to buckle down," and cope with returning to class, according to the Washington Post.

Care2 Petition Garners Almost 10,000 Signatures

Appalled at this situation, Julie McNamara decided to create a Care2 petition to demand that this Ohio school district change its disciplinary policies for bullies.

“I started the Care2 petition for Emilie Olsen because the precious life of a 13 year old was taken by unrelenting, cruel and vicious bullying at Fairview Intermediate and Middle School which went on for two years,” MacNamara told Care2. “The school principal and school authorities did nothing to stop the bullying or respond to Emilie and her parents’ pleas for help. Bullying is rampant and many children are being driven to suicide through school inaction and indifference. It is vital to speak out to save children.”

The petition has so far gathered almost 10,000 signatures.

In her petition, McNamara adds that two other children at the school have attempted suicide due to bullying, and she asks the Fairfield school board to make six specific changes to the their policies.

The Olsens have filed a federal wrongful death lawsuit against Fairfield City School District, various administrators and Emilie’s alleged bullies.

Meanwhile, former Fairfield City Schools superintendent Paul Otten, one of the defendants named in the complaint, quit his position in April, and the following month, Fairfield Middle School Principal Lincoln Butts, also a defendant, resigned for “personal reasons.”

About 4,400 kids aged 10 to 14 die from suicide each year. For every suicide among young people, there are at least 100 suicide attempts. Over 14 percent of high school students have considered suicide, and almost 7 percent have attempted it.

Bullying is an extremely difficult issue to deal with, but that doesn’t mean we should ignore it. School authorities can do better to prevent future tragedies.

Take Action

If you agree, please stand up for Emilie by signing MacNamara’s Care2 petition, demanding that Fairfield Intermediate and Middle School authorities follow their codes against racial and sexual discrimination and violence against students.

And if you know someone who is depressed and may be thinking of suicide, please let her know about the Suicide Prevention Hotline. By calling 1-800-273-TALK (8255), she’ll be connected to a skilled, trained counselor at a crisis center in her area, anytime 24/7.

To start a petition in your area go to the following website: http://www.thepetitionsite.com/create-a-petition.html?src=1684&cid=causes_petition_start

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN FROM CHINA (FCC) CAPITAL AREA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2017

The membership year runs from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017.

To join, please fill out the information below and send it with a check payable to **FCC-Capital Area** to:

Wesley Hagood, President FCC Capital Area

20417 Peckham Street

Ashburn, VA 20147

Membership Fee: Single Year (\$25.00) _____ or Three Years (\$60.00) _____

Additional Tax deductible donation to FCC Capital Area \$ _____

Parent 1: _____

Parent 2: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone Parent 1: _____ Parent 2: _____

E-mail Parent 1: _____

E-mail Parent 2: _____

(E-mail addresses are used to send you timely announcements and updates)

Do you wish to be included in our directory? Yes or No _____

Children's Information	Child 1	Child 2	Child 3
Name (or "waiting")			
Date of Birth			
Date of Adoption			
City of Birth/Adoption Province			
Adoption Agency			

You may learn more about FCC-Capital area at www.fcccapital.com.

FCC-Capital Area does not share membership information with other organizations.