

Greetings,

As the Holiday Season approaches we'd like to take a few minutes to re-cap some of our most recent events, remind you of some upcoming dates you won't want to miss, and most importantly to invite you to look upon the new year as an opportunity to help our adoptive community continue to grow, to learn, and to celebrate the very special thing we all have in common - families built through the sometimes grueling **but always joyful** - process of adoption, and of course, our amazing children of Asian descent.

Our chapter has taken many steps to evolve and grow this past year and we are proud of all we have been able to accomplish. It is our hope that you have found our events meaningful opportunities to connect with other families, celebrate your children's unique cultural beginnings, and in the process become better equipped parents. We have lots of ideas for the upcoming year. As members of this volunteer organization, we all have the opportunity to contribute and help shape the future.

While we all share many things in common, each family is unique in its needs, hopes and expectations. Some of us are still waiting, questioning, hoping; others are celebrating their new arrivals and trying to find balance and encourage healthy attachment; many are striving to build friendships and foster cultural awareness, or address the needs of children with special needs or medical issues; while our earliest founding members are now parents of teens and pre-teens who are simply overwhelmed with the very regular, but very daunting tasks of fitting in, the search for identity and simply surviving the onset of adolescence and all its intrigue.

These differences and the various needs, concerns and goals are precisely why we need input from a wide range of our membership community - (namely YOU). It is our hope that technological advances such as our web site, our e-mail service, our online photo albums and our Yahoo Discussion Groups, combined with a varying array of events and locations will continue to provide you and your family more and more ways to stay informed and involved in our community.

The Changing Face of Waiting Families submitted by: Lori Halop

Over the last year, as the time from LID to referral has stretched out more and more, so many of our Waiting Families have voiced the same feelings: *"did I join FCC too soon?", "Not knowing how long this is going to be, it gets too hard seeing all the children", "I don't know what it is I can get out of coming to meetings."*

It used to be, almost at every meeting, there would be a family who recently returned with their child and would share their travel story with everyone. We cheered new referrals and welcomed children home with what seemed to become regularity. Slowly though, we welcomed families home every other meeting, then every so often. Then it felt like the bottom dropped out. These days, a referral feels more like a surprise than an expectation.

FCC-LI, over the last few years, has truly become a community rather than just an organization. Along with group events and picnics, Waiting Families meetings and Mom's Night Out has helped bring about a new level of support and sharing of experiences. We embrace those who are newly involved in the process and provide a place where we acknowledge and celebrate their child as a part of their lives, regardless of whether or not they have brought that child home yet. Taking the step and sending that dossier, that child is a part of your family. We empathize with the difficulty of having to be separated from that child for such a long, long time. We know it's hard. We know it feels endless. We know it is hard to hold on to something that feels so far away and, at times, uncertain. We also know its time to help provide those in our community who are going through this difficult time assistance in helping them to better understand the long wait, the country their child was born in and how to best prepare for that day their child comes home and the days that follow.

At our last Waiting Families meeting, we discussed possible ideas for future meetings and as special events. Ideas for cooking nights (where we would learn to cook some Chinese dishes), a book club, and specific discussion meetings for topics such as preparing for special needs children, adopting older children and what happens when the jet lag wears off were suggested. We're sure there are many great ideas out there and we'd like to make these things happen. We need to know what you feel would be helpful, interesting and fun. Please, let's not forget fun! Give us your ideas and suggestions. Our community is at its best when it works together.

E-mail your suggestions or comments to: info@fccli.org

Witches, Princesses and Pirates, OH MY!

Submitted By: Kristen Hayes



On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in October, ghouls and goblins of all ages were seen congregating at the First United Methodist Church in Amityville for FCC-LI's 1st Annual Halloween Carnival and Spooktacular. Approximately 220 adults and children attended the event, which included carnival games, a "photo-op" where children could sit on a bale of hay (along with a scarecrow and mums), a very haunted house, arts and crafts, a concession, as well as popcorn and cotton candy stands.

One of the biggest hits of the day was the "Mad Scientist Lab" created and run by Michele Mugavero. Children were encouraged to stick their hands in cauldrons filled with "eyeballs", "brains" and various "body parts". Michele did an amazing job of performing various experiments with dry ice, which the kids went wild over. Mad Scientist Michele also provided an area for the little ones to dig through sand to find scary spiders and a cornstarch mixture that was both goopy and fun!

Children were encouraged to play at all the different booths as well. They put their hands behind their backs and tried to bite donuts off a string, played "Pin the Stem on the Pumpkin" (kudos to Michele White for a great job on the design), enjoyed a "Haunted Bean Bag Toss", a tattoo station, and tried to find the "Duck on the Pond" that had a black circle on the bottom for a prize. Then it was on to the Haunted House where creepy music greeted all those that dared to enter. A talking Mummy, fortune teller, skeletons and ghouls galore awaited the brave - (bravo to our set-up crew who spent hours setting it up!)

Barbara Fischthal-Gumpel did a terrific job running the games that were planned for the day. The kids played Limbo, "Pass the Hot Pumpkin" and Mummy Wrap, where the kids wrapped one another up like a mummy! Barbara and husband, Julian Gumpel, also organized the Costume Parade and it was great seeing all the amazing costumes! What a scary bunch!

When all the excitement got to be too much, guests stopped at the concession stand for hotdogs (huge thanks to the Scherpich's!), knishes, pretzels, pizzas and yummy candied apples (made and donated also by Tobi Scherpich!)

Arts and Crafts were also available for children of all ages - coloring pages, Halloween frames, and the chance to make "Bat Hands" and decorate a loot bag were big hits!

The hugest of thanks to each and every one of the volunteers who took the time to get involved to pull this event off. It was a very difficult event to organize because we had so many different activities and required so many volunteers. So many of you jumped in and helped and Jayne and I cannot thank you enough!





FCC-LI Chinese School - Growing Strong
Submitted By: Danielle Gallagher

Now in its ninth year, the FCC-LI Chinese School program continues to grow and evolve. This year our program has grown to include 43 children ranging in age from 12 to 2 years old - all from Nassau, Suffolk and Queens. Enrollment this year has nearly doubled! We are very excited to see so many new and enthusiastic faces, and hope this growth spurt is just the beginning of a wonderful trend.

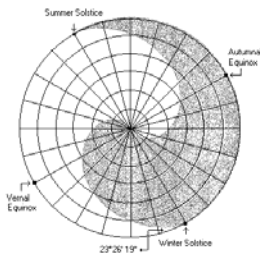
Since classes began in October our students have had little time to adjust to our new Brentwood location. Always on the move, and in search of wonderful opportunities - we have already made the first of our field trips into Flushing, where we visited a Shaolin Temple to observe local Shaolin Kung Fu students training. Following our usual walking tour, shopping in a true Asian Market, and a delicious lunch, we stopped for some meditation and a brief education at a Buddhist Temple. Despite the blustery wet weather, those who attended had a great time.

More recently, our students participated in a Chinese Cultural Enrichment Program at the Poppenhusen Institute in College Point. Both parents and children performed traditional Chinese Songs and Rhymes, as well as Ribbon Dancing and Fan Dancing. Families who participated then had the opportunity to watch performances from various community groups demonstrating various forms of Tai-Chi, Chinese Opera, Instrumental Performances, and other forms of traditional folk dancing.

Photos from our recent events can be viewed at the FCC-LI phanfare site: <http://fcli.phanfare.com/>
Please direct comments, questions or inquiries regarding our chapter's Chinese School program to school@fcli.org

**Dong Zhi
The Winter Solstice**

December 22, 2007



Want to learn more about the origins, traditions, and cuisine of the last Chinese Festival of the lunar year, and how you can celebrate it with your family?

Find interesting links on our website at <http://www.fcli.org/DongZhi.html>

FCC-LI is now a Barnes & Noble Affiliate!



Your Purchases can Help our Fund Raising Efforts!

Every purchase you make at Barnes and Noble online can earn rebates for our local FCC Chapter. Simply click on the B&N Link located on our web sites HOME PAGE www.fcli.org to navigate to the B & N site. A percentage of your purchase will automatically be contributed to our organization.

Spring FLING

FCC-LI Yard Sale to benefit Orphanage Assistance- WE NEED YOU!



How can you help?

- Start collecting gently used items to donate for sale
- Volunteer to set up or act as a collection site for goods
- Volunteer to staff the event
- **Help us find a GREAT location**
- Join a committee to help plan, promote and prepare for this event.

FCC-LI - the perfect Charity for Gift Giving, Remembrances, or Memorials

FCC-LI has a long standing tradition of supporting our children's orphanages and giving back to those who remain in China's many SWIs. You can help us continue that tradition. The next time you find yourself making a donation in memory of a loved one, to celebrate a joyful occasion, anniversary, family day, or a friend's new arrival remember FCC-LI.

As a registered 501-3C Non-Profit Organization we are an excellent choice for your charitable giving. Simply mail your donation and intentions to:

FCC-LI - Charitable Giving
c/o Jayne Hirsch
594 Easton Street
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

(We are currently seeking artwork - something culturally appropriate - to use in a custom greeting card we can have printed for use as an acknowledgement and notification of your gift. If you, or someone you know would like to submit your artwork for consideration, please contact us at info@fcli.org

FCC-LI T-Shirts
\$10 each (+ shipping)
Various sizes available.

For info, or to order please contact Jayne Hirsch JayneH@fcli.org



SAVE THE DATE - Sunday, March 9, 2008

Join FCC-LI as we celebrate the Year of the Rat
The Charles B. Wang Center - SUNY Stony Brook

FCC-LI made the following charitable contributions in as a result of our fundraising efforts for Chinese New Year 2007:

- \$1,370.00 for Medical -Meningocele surgery
- \$ 288.00 for Nutrition - Two cases of Cleft bottles
- \$ 600.00 for Foster Care - in Kaifeng through Love without Boundaries



Lily – born March 2007



Andrew – born January 2007

For more information about Andrew and Lily - our sponsored children, please visit our website at www.fccli.org and click on Charitable Contributions

Countdown to Beijing
Summer Olympic Games
August 8 - 24, 2008 –
249 DAYS to GO!



Learn More at the official web site of the upcoming Olympic Games in Beijing
<http://en.beijing2008.cn/>

**FCC-LI -
YOUTH
GROUP**



Submitted
By: Jayne Hirsch

Giving

Back ...

Our Youth group members, ages 8 to 12 years old, made 45 lbs of chocolate into lollipops and bagged candy, and sold them at our annual Chinese New Year Celebration. In addition they sold t-shirts with our logo on it to raise this money. They were given a few choices as to where the money should be sent and they decided on sending the funds to *Half the Sky*. After careful consideration they collectively decided to sponsor a child in the Little Sister preschool program.



Business Directory ???

Several of our members have expressed an interest in compiling a "yellow pages" or business directory where members of our local chapter can advertise their trade or professional skills to other members of our community. We are able to begin compiling a list on our website for those of you who are interested in participating.

Please forward all requests to be included to info@fccli.org.
*** And remember - our Program for the 2008 Chinese New Year Celebration is the perfect way to help our fundraising efforts and advertise your business as well. ***



AKA Adult Adoptee Discussion Panel

Submitted By: Kristen Hayes

"Your eyes are weird.", "You are so lucky your parents adopted you.", (And other stupid things people might say to your kids.)

Learn what your child may experience as a transracial adoptee and what you can do as a parent - Attend an Adoptee Panel!

On Sunday, November 11, FCC-LI proudly hosted an adult-adoptee panel. Five terrific Korean adoptees spent the afternoon speaking to parents, waiting families and grandparents about their experiences of growing up as a transracial adoptee. Their warmth, sense of humor and candor made us laugh and cry. What a powerful, thought-provoking afternoon.

Our panelists, although from different areas and different walks of life, all had one common thread - they were all adopted as infants or toddlers from Korea and grew up in Caucasian families and communities. Four of the five panelists were young women, two of whom were married. Our wonderful panelist and fellow FCC-LI family member, Travis Van Nostrand, was our "male" representative of the group and was definitely a crowd favorite.

Questions were asked and each panelist was given a chance to speak about their thoughts and experiences. Topics ranged from their first "knowing" when they were adopted, the sense of culture their parents provided for them (or didn't), what attending school was like for them, teasing and racism they endured, the importance of their Korean names, dealing with stereotypes, what their parents could have done (or shouldn't have!), dating and relationships, and searching for birth parents.

The audience absolutely hung on every word. It was eye-opening to see how each panelist and their different personalities dealt with adoption issues. It was so interesting to hear the panelists talk about how their parents dealt with adoption issues and how it affected them as young adults. It was heartbreaking to see a beautiful young woman open her heart to us and fight back tears because she couldn't tell her parents things that were happening to her as a child - because they never asked. And it was heartwarming to know that each and every adoptee, even after searching for birthparents - and some having met them - still considered their adoptive parents to be THEIR parents.

We had such positive feedback from our members who attended this event! We are thrilled about that and will be planning another panel shortly. If you were unable to attend this event, or chose not to, please reconsider for next time. It really is a life-changing experience, and one you won't soon forget. E-mail your comments, questions or suggestions to: KristenH@fccli.org

SLIDE SHOW LINKS

2007 Halloween Spooktacular - <http://fccli.phanfare.com/album/451637>

Poppenhusen Institute Performance - <http://fccli.phanfare.com/album/489153>

Youth Group Cooking - <http://fccli.phanfare.com/album/425055>

Holiday Party 2006 - <http://fccli.phanfare.com/album/252260>