

2011 USCPFA NATIONAL CONVENTION GOES TO KANSAS CITY

Kansas City, Here We Came!

*Contributions by Katherine Harbin, Sylvia Krebs, Mimi Lau and Marcia Cooper
Photographs by Linda Hanley*

Delegates from across the United States met in Kansas City, Missouri September 16-18, 2011 for a three-day conference of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association (US-CPFA.) The conference drew approximately 100 members and guests of the association to discuss new ways of promoting cultural understanding and improving bilateral relations while seeing unique Chinese cultural ties to the Heart of America.



What's more Kansas City than a trip to Gates Barbecue for our earlybirds?



One of Friday's pre-convention tours took several groups to the Steamship Arabia Museum, the current home of a Missouri River side wheel steambot entombed in the mud during a shift in the river. Unearthed about 100 years later in a farmer's field, the traveling general store was found nearly entirely intact, down to labeled jars and cans.



Group shot of all attendees and guests in the centrally located Holiday Inn at the Country Club Plaza.



The Kansas City Chinese Association Drum Rollers signaled a welcome to our guests as we entered the hall for banquet and welcomes by officers and dignitaries



President Sanborn presents a welcome award to Ms. Duan Jun of the Chinese Embassy in Washington.



President Bob Sanborn presented an award of appreciation to guest of honor Mr. Heng Xiaojun, Minister-Counsellor for Congressional Affairs for the Chinese Embassy in Washington D.C. (Mr. Heng's remarks follow this photo story.)



President Sanborn greets CPAFFC's Director General Xie Yuan from Beijing (left) and Consul General Yang Guoqiang of the Chicago Chinese Consulate.



Luping Gamble prepares three young dancers for their performance as a part of the Zhang Li Dance Academy's entertainment for our Moon Festival party.



Saturday morning began with a continental breakfast and plenary with President Bob Sanborn and Former President Barbara Harrison presiding and introducing the agenda committee. After Peggy Roney called roll of chapters, pro forma business was handled.



Kitty Trescott presented the nominating committee report. Diana Greer and Marge Ketter—the nominated slate—unanimously became the elected slate, with Marge Ketter of the Palm Beach chapter in the Southern Region remaining in the post of National Treasurer and Diana Greer of the Richmond chapter of the Eastern Region as National President.



The vast campus of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City houses a truly marvelous Chinese collection.



Sylvia Krebs was one of four authors present who talked about and signed their latest books.



After shuttling or walking to the nearby Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Senior Curator of Chinese Art Colin Mackenzie Ph.D. began our special program with a presentation “Highlights of the Chinese Collection at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.”

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Pre-assigned groups split up at Corinthian Hall for docent-guided tours of large galleries, including some not yet opened to the general public or for lunch in the Roselle Court.



The plenary continued late Saturday afternoon with the presentation of awards. Awards and recipients are listed following this article. President Sanborn also thanked the Kansas City Convention committee, headed by Midwest Region President Joyce Cox, for their tremendous effort.

Bob Sanborn handed off the duties of the meeting to Greer, who recessed the plenary meeting.

After a break, the group reconvened for a delightful banquet followed by a concert of a new fusion of eastern and western music presented by the modern chamber orchestra newEar. The music of Drs. Chen Yi and Zhou Long of the University of Missouri at Kansas City Conservatory of



The groups then traded places before gathering again in Kirkwood Hall for Dr. Mackenzie's presentation on the gathering of the collection, "Laurence Sickman, Marc Wilson and Chinese Paintings in the Nelson-Atkins Museum."



Back at the hotel, we gathered again in the Ballroom for a presentation on the book American Goddess of Nanjing: The Courage of Minnie Vautrin by its author Hua-ling Hu.

Music and one of Dr. Chen's doctoral students Fay Wang, offered a treat and a new vision of music to the audience.

Dr. Zhou, the 2011 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for music for his opera Madame White Snake and Dr. Chen, a recipient of the Charles Ives Living Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, are husband and wife, having met while students at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing. Ms. Wang received her Baccalaureate at the Central Conservatory. This close relationship between the two major conservatories has been nurtured by Drs. Chen and Zhou, whose influence has been dominant in the new forms of music performed on Saturday evening.



David McIntyre interviews Chen Yi, Ph.D., on the musical expression of Chinese and Western ideas in tandem.

Following newEar's performance, Joyce Cox introduced two special guests: Ann and Katherine Harbin, mother and daughter, cousins of Edgar Snow (see right). Kate is following in his footsteps into a career in journalism, starting at



Pianist Robert Pherigo, and Thomas Aber on clarinet in Chen Yi's Chinese Ancient Dances for clarinet and piano (2004).

Xinhua news service with her first assignment being the coverage of this USCPFA convention.

A copy of the DVD played afterward of an interview by Crosby Kemper III with Edgar Snow portrayed by actor Robert Gibby-Brand, which had been recorded in October 2010. Each chapter in attendance took home a copy of that DVD, a gift from the Edgar Snow Memorial Fund.

Sunday morning began with a working breakfast among regions, followed by a panel moderated by Sheree Willis, Executive Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Kansas. From their inception in 2005, the Chinese government has funded much of the cost for the development of the worldwide centers, approximately 70 of which are in the United States. By the end of August 2011, 353 Confucius Institutes and 473 Confucius Classrooms had been established in 104 countries and regions in the world. Each center has grown to serve thousands of students in various age groups. The presentation's theme of the ways USCPFA and Confucius Institutes work together to promote U.S.-China Friendship gave a chance to explore current efforts and investigate new ways to include local organizations, coordinating efforts to raise local aware-



ness of educational opportunities. Likewise, the Confucius Institutes also can aid outside programs and offer the expertise in the fine points of culture and social structure often needed to move events along smoothly, as well as providing language learning and teaching resources.

New USCPFA President Diana Greer reopened the plenary to make certain that any loose ends were tied. She announced that the Washington Seminar on U.S.-China Relations would take place on April 26 and 27 at the Washington Plaza Hotel at 10 Thomas Circle NW and to adjourn the meeting. Members and guests traded information and left for dim sum lunch and more sightseeing or to airport or car for the trip home.



Jan Faidley, alto saxophonist on Fay Wang's Diary of a Female Warrior (2011).



(Left to right): Dr. Wen Ou Yang from the University of Missouri-Columbia, specialist in Communications, internationalization, translation and research has worked with Vice Provost Dr. Handy Williamson, Jr. to open the MU Confucius Institute in April 2011. Sheree Willis, panel moderator, brought a strong background in East Asian languages and cultures as well as U.S. Foreign Service experience to the Directorship of the University of Kansas' five-year-old Confucius Institute, the fourth established in the United States. Dr. Pingan Haung is Associate Director of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln's Confucius Institute, bringing a background with degrees and great experience in teaching English as a foreign language, as well as being Vice Dean of teaching affairs in the School of Foreign Studies at Xi'an Jiaotong, Nebraska's Chinese partner university. Mary Warpeha, a member of the USCPFA Midwest Region Board of Directors, has returned to China regularly to teach American language and culture following her first appointment in 1996 and works as an adjunct professor with the University of Minnesota's China Center.



Bassist Johnny Hamil, percussionist Mark Lowrey, and clarinetist Thomas Aber in Zhou Long's Ding (1990).

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AWARDS WERE PRESENTED TO THOSE NOMINATED

KOJI ARIYOSHI
(HIGHEST USCPFA AWARD)

BARBARA COBB

Nashville chapter
Southern Region

"I am honored at the prospect of receiving the Koji Ariyoshi award, knowing the honorable and hard-working people who have received it before."

Cobb has worked diligently at all levels of USCPFA governance since joining nearly 30 years ago. Her work to resolve a crisis with the IRS when becoming national treasurer in 1993 saved the organization time and reputation, as well as resulting problems with our 501(c)3. She has been the go-to person for trips and tours of China for 15 of those years, setting the guideposts in a now common area of travel at a time when few people knew where to look. Taking on membership, she brought in the expertise of her husband Ben to develop and improve electronic recordkeeping and reporting. She also has been lead editor of our quarterly, *US-China Review*.



Southern Region's Peggy Roney accepted the prestigious Koji Ariyoshi award for Barbara Cobb, for her body of national work over nearly three decades.

(See right): Bob Sanborn recognized outgoing National Board members Rose Ellen Stanbery of the Southern Region, Jon Colias and Kevin Long of the Western Region and (pictured) Diana Greer of the Eastern Region, whom he also welcomed as the newly elected President of USCPFA.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER AWARD

LOUIS A. SPELICH

Northeast NY chapter
Eastern Region

Spelich has been a longtime USCPFA member, chapter president and, from 1997-99, National Board member. Continuing this contribution to USCPFA, he has participated in two national tours of China and has aided the friendship between Chinese and U.S. people.



Gene Damm accepted the National Volunteer Award for Louis Spelich of the Eastern Region Northeast New York chapter, who could not attend the convention.

OUTGOING REGIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

DIANA GREER (Eastern), ROSE ELLEN STANBERY (Southern), JON COLIAS and KEVIN LONG (Western)

President Bob Sanborn greeted newly elected National President Diana Greer and sends thanks to the outgoing board members.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

LINDA HANLEY

Kansas City chapter
Midwest Region

This is one of few photographs of Hanley you will see: she usually is behind the camera. She has photographed USCPFA events for local, regional and national, and international events, including three conventions and two CPAFFC Forums in China. She has made all these works available to us on her website, including those in this *USCR* issue.



Bob Sanborn presented the President's Award to Linda Hanley of the Midwest Region's Kansas City chapter for her unflagging effort to beautifully document all of the national USCPFA events, as well as many others, with her photographs.

PRESIDENTIAL THANKS

BOB SANBORN

National President,
Midwest Region

Kitty Trescott presented a medal to Bob Sanborn for his time and efforts over the past six years, in representing USCPFA in all official activities and for his support and guidance whenever called upon, by whomever needed it.



EASTERN REGIONAL AWARDS

(Both accepted for awardees by Kirk Huang and Gene Damm)

NANCY A. MYER

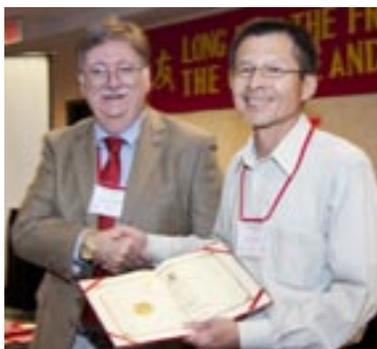
Northeastern NY chapter

JOYCE & BOB BAUM

Northeastern NY chapter

Myer helped with the 2005 National Convention in Albany and has served since as Treasurer of the NENY chapter. She received last year's Friendship Builder Award for her ongoing work as Co-chair of the China Travel in U.S. program.

Both loyal long-time members, the Baums have consistently provided whatever help was needed, even to hosting picnics and meetings at their Columbia County Farm. Joyce has traveled to China and they have established meaningful relationships in the Association.



Kirk Huang accepted Eastern Region awards for Nancy Myers and Joyce and Bob Baum, all from the NENY chapter.

MIDWEST REGIONAL AWARDS

(Joyce Cox accepting for Anderson)

SAYRE ANDERSON

MW at-large member

MARCIA COOPER

Kansas City chapter

HUALING HU

Carbondale chapter

Anderson is honored for his ideas and energy in serving as regional Board Member at-large. His efforts to contact former members with a mass mailing brought about 20% back into the organization. He also has donated many of his books on China to CTAC and the Midwest Region to help defray expenses.

Winter 2012



Joyce Cox accepted a Midwest Region Award for Sayre Anderson, at-large member and former MW Board member.



Marcia Cooper received a Midwest Region Award.

Cooper has handled the Kansas City chapter's monthly newsletter of upcoming opportunities for eight years. Editing the Midwest Region's *China Notes* and the winter issue of *US-China Review* for six years each, she has reported her own travel and that of many others.

Hualing Hu has written two books about Minnie Vautrin's work in Nanjing during the Japanese invasion: *American Goddess at the Rape of Nanking: The Courage of Minnie Vautrin* (2000) and *The Undaunted Women of Nanking: The Wartime Diaries of Minnie Vautrin and Tsen Shui-fang* (2010.) The Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) recently recognized her most recent as book one of the 10 best written by a Chinese on a Chinese topic.

(See right): Hua-ling Hu also was awarded the Midwest Region certificate.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL AWARDS

ARCHIE MCKEE

Sarasota chapter

RON MORIN

Chattanooga chapter

Long-time member McKee has become newly elected President of the Sarasota chapter. He has been a member of the Southern Region board, webmaster of the National website for over a year, and a participant in National Conventions and Seminars. He was principal of an International School in Qingdao and taught Shanghai, China. He has visited China more than eight other times.



Archie McGee of the Sarasota chapter was presented with the Southern Region award, as was Ron Morin of Chattanooga chapter, accepted for him by Peggy Roney.

A full-time pharmacist, Morin has served as chapter treasurer for more than 5 years of his long membership, recently adding the job of Membership. He contributes in many ways and has attended three National Conventions.

(No photo was available)



WESTERN REGION

WALTER CHEE KWON CHUN (Posthumous) and JUNNIE SAU CHUN CHUN

LEIGH-WAI DOO

Oahu chapter

In 1972, the Chuns assisted Governor Burns of the State of Hawai'i in delivering his goodwill letter and gifts to Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. Governor Burns later sent a delegation to the Canton Trade Fair, as the political climate was complicated and hostile at the time. The Chuns were also instrumental in the establishment of sister-state relations between Hawai'i and Guangdong, as well as assisting Councilman Leigh Wai Doo form the sister-island relations between Oahu and Hainan.

They worked tirelessly in promoting understanding and friendship between the peoples of the U.S. and China. Chee Kwon was one of the founders of the Soong Ching Ling Foundation in the U.S. and honorary trustee for the Soong Ching Ling (Madam Sun Yat-sen) Foundation in China. In 1994, Chee Kwon received the Soong Ching Ling Camphor Tree Award given to individuals with outstanding contributions to improving maternity care and children's education and health in China. The Dr. Sun Yat-sen Hawai'i Foundation in Honolulu and the Honolulu City Council also honored him last year.

President of the Honolulu chapter since 2008, Leigh-Wai Doo is also the current Hawai'i representative to the National Board of the USCPFA.

Doo provided leadership for the Oahu chapter by proposing the idea of "Adopt a Charity in China." His chapter adopted "The Bright Connection," a non-profit school and home for physically and mentally handicapped children in Sanya, Hainan, China, sending them encouragement, advice and financial help.

Along with other members of Hawai'i's USCPFA, Leigh-Wai Doo has encouraged cities in Hawai'i to develop Sister City relations with Haipan Island, Hainan Province, Zhongshan City, Sanya County, and Haikou City. He was the catalyst for the Dr. Sun Yat-sen Hawai'i Founda-



The Western Region Awards went to Leigh-Wai Doo, Walter Chee Kwon Chun (posthumously), and his wife Junnie Sau Chun Chun. Leigh-Wai accepted the awards for all.

tion with many USCPFA members as Foundation members. In 2010 he was the first recipient of the Greeley/Key Award by the Hawai'i State Bar Association for "Innovative expansion of respect for law and legal system." 友

Once again, credit for all photos on the foregoing pages goes to Linda Hanley.

**IT IS NOT
TOO EARLY
TO START
PLANNING TO
ATTEND THE
NEXT USCPFA
NATIONAL
CONVENTION,
IN RICHMOND,
VIRGINIA,
FALL, 2013.
SEE YOU
THERE!**

Speech at the 2011 USCPFA National Convention

**Kansas City, Missouri,
September 16-17, 2011**

**Minister-Counsellor
Heng Xiaojun,
Embassy of the People's
Republic of China in the
U.S.A.**

Dear President Sanborn,
Midwest Region President Cox,
Consul-General Yang Guoqiang,
Director-General Xie Yuan,
Ladies and gentlemen:

Today it is truly a great privilege for me to attend the 2011 annual national convention of U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. First of all, on behalf of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States and Ambassador Zhang Yesui, I'd like to extend my warmest regards to our long-time old friends from the Association and those from Kansas City of Missouri, as well as my sincerest congratulation on the opening of the convention. Over the past almost 40 years, the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association has always been committed to the promotion of mutual understandings and friendship between the peoples of our two countries, even before the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations. The Association has been making unremitting efforts to strengthen the friendly exchange and cooperation between China and the United States since the establishment of diplomatic ties, through hosting seminars, organizing study trips, publishing newsletters, sponsoring many educational and cultural events, etc. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my



Minister-Counselor Heng Xiaojun

heart-felt thanks to the Association for all that you have done to promote our mutual understandings and friendship.

Over the past 40 years, great changes have also taken place in China and in the world. Here I can tell you a story. In early 1978 when I was a freshman in the University, it was not very frequent for us to meet tourists from the West in the street. One day my classmates and I saw a group of foreigners (from Holland) and we invited them to visit our university and had a talk with us. That was the first time we spoke English with foreigners, even though we studied English as a major. But by the end of 2010, the number of entry and exit of foreigners to China has reached more than 52 million. The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the 2010 Shanghai World Expo have made it possible for millions and millions of foreigners to visit China. In 1978, the total volume of import and export between China and the United States was only 2.5 billion U.S. dollars, but by the end of 2010, it has amounted to 385 billion, more than 150 times of increase. In 1978, the GDP of China was only 365 billion Chinese Yuan (RMB), but it has amounted to 39 trillion Chinese Yuan (about 6 trillion U.S. dollars) by the end of last year, next only to the United States. So the reform and Opening up has brought China tremendous changes,

which are unprecedented in Chinese history. On the other hand, China is a country with the largest population in the world, with a population of 1.3 billion. That means China has one fifth of the world's total population. Among every five people in the world, one is a Chinese. Even though the country's GDP is 6 trillion U.S. dollars, yet if it is divided by a population of 1.3 billion, the average per capita GDP is just 4500 U.S. dollars. It is obvious that there is still a big gap between our two countries in per capita GDP.

Our world today is also faced with many new challenges. Many non-traditional security issues have cropped up, such as global warming and climate change, transnational organized crimes, international terrorism, energy crisis, natural disasters, environmental issues, etc. Against the backdrop of global financial and economic crisis, some European countries are confronted with sovereign debt crisis. In the past one month and half since my arrival in DC as Minister-Counselor in the Chinese Embassy, I heard from the mass media many debates in the Capital Hill on debt ceiling and deficit cutting. How can we overcome the current global financial and economic crisis? How can we meet with the new challenges brought to us by those non-traditional security issues? In my opinion, it requires the joint efforts and cooperation of the international community. We need peace, cooperation and development for win-win purposes.

Ladies and gentlemen: We have witnessed and participated in the remarkable development of our bilateral relations over the past more than 30 years. I believe that you will agree with me that China-U.S. relations is one of the most important bilateral relations in today's international relations. China and the U.S. have more common interest and share greater responsibilities, and our relations carry greater strategic and global significance. Both are permanent members of the UN Security Council. China is the biggest developing country with the largest population and growing market in the world, whereas the U.S. is the biggest developed country with the most advanced science and technology in the world. Their economies

are mutually complementary. On the other hand, China-U.S. relationship is also the most complex relations in today's international relations. Due to different political systems, stages of development, historical and cultural traditions, it is natural and unavoidable that we have different views and disputes. Therefore, it is very important to properly handle our bilateral relations and settle these divergences through dialogue and consultation and on the basis of equality, mutual respect and mutual benefits.

As we know, at the invitation of President Obama, President Hu Jintao paid a state visit to the U.S. in January of this year. During the visit, the two presidents agreed to work together to build a China-U.S. cooperative partnership based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. Both sides emphasized the importance to enhance people-to-people exchange. Since then, the two sides have held the third round of China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue, the second round of High-level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange, the first China-U.S. Governors Forum, as well as consultations and dialogues at various levels. Last month, U.S. Vice President Biden paid an official visit to China, and our Vice President Xi is also planning a return visit to the U.S. Before the end of this year, top leaders from both countries will attend three major international conferences, including APEC Summit in the U.S., G-20 in France and East Asian Summit (EAS) in Indonesia. These high-level exchanges and visits are very important in increasing mutual trust and ensuring a healthy, stable and sustainable development of our bilateral relations.

Looking back at the past over 30 years, there have been twists and turns in our bilateral relations. The three joint communiqués between China and the U.S. serve as the fundamental documents underlying our bilateral relations. Here I'd like to particularly mention two issues of our concern.

The first is the Taiwan Question, which has always been the most important and the most sensitive question in China-U.S. relations. China has always been strongly opposed to any arms sale by the U.S. to Taiwan, because it is the

serious violation of the three Joint Communiqués and interferes in China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. You may ask why the Chinese people particularly treasure sovereignty and territorial integrity. If you look at modern Chinese history dating back to the Opium War in 1840, you can see that China suffered a great deal from the humiliations imposed on us by the Imperialist Powers. It was not until in 1949 when the People's Republic of China was founded that the Chinese people stood up again among the family of nations. Therefore, we hope that the U.S. should adhere to the one-China policy and properly handle our bilateral relations according to the three Joint Communiqués.

The second is economic and trade issues. Now we are often talking about economic globalization and regional economic integration. With the rapid development of modern science and technology, we are more like global villagers on the same earth. In today's world where economy is increasingly globalized, no country can afford to stand aloof from the international cooperation and global market, if it wants to develop its economy and improve the people's life. China's accession to WTO has made this largest international trade organization more complete and more balance. China's foreign trade with the U.S. has increased, from 2.5 billion U.S. dollars in 1978 to

385 billion in 2010. This has brought tremendous benefit to the people of the two countries. It is natural to have trade disputes between us, and the U.S. is concerned with trade deficit, intellectual property right (IPR) and RMB exchange rate. But it is all the more important to settle these disputes through consultation and dialogue and on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. Some senators have proposed a bill to force RMB to appreciate. This unilateral legislation is very harmful to bilateral trade relations. In fact, Chinese RMB has appreciated almost 30% since 2005 when China started the reform of RMB exchange rate. The U.S. should ease its hi-tech export control to China in order to achieve trade balance and make it easier for Chinese companies to make investments in the U.S.

If you look at the 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-2015) for Social and Economic Development of China, you will find that the Chinese government now gives first priority to bringing more benefit to the people's life and restructuring the national economy. In the first place, China will continue to improve its social security system and encourage domestic consumption. Export, investment and domestic needs are said to be the three major ways to increase GDP. In the past, China relied more on export, but a shift is now being made to domestic consumption. Starting from September 1, 2011, the threshold

level of income tax has been increased from 2000 RMB to 3500 RMB, which allows more low-income people to have more money to spend and helps to narrow the gap between the rich and the poor. In the second place, the Chinese government is now making great efforts to transform the traditional mode of production, from labour-intensive, low-value-added and energy-consuming to environment-friendly, energy-saving, high-value-added and sustainable.

Ladies and gentlemen: I am an optimist. Looking ahead at the future development of China-U.S. relations, I am full of confidence, because it not only serves the common interests of both countries, but also contributes to world peace, stability and prosperity. As Dr. Kissinger wrote in his recent book "On China", "a cooperative United States-China relationship is essential to global stability and peace". President Obama says that the relationship between our two countries will shape the 21st century. The stable, healthy and mutually beneficially development of China-U.S. relations requires the joint efforts of the governments and peoples of our two great nations. In this regard, it is my sincere hope that the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association will continue to make unremitting efforts to promote the mutual understandings, friendship and cooperation between our two countries.

Thank you very much for your attention.

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New Chinese Lunar New Year Forever Postage Stamp Available

Dragons aren't always scary monsters. Consider the colorful creature depicted by the U.S. Postal Service® in its 2012 Year of the Dragon (Forever®) stamp, fifth in the Celebrating Lunar New Year series! The Year of the Dragon begins on January 23, 2012, and ends on February 9, 2013.

Across many cultures, in the United States as elsewhere, the Lunar New Year is celebrated in various ways, often with parades and parties. By tradition, dragons are not feared,



but are considered magical or divine—welcome symbols at this time of renewed hope for the future. Performing before delighted crowds, skilled teams of dancers manipulate colorful dragon figures such as the one depicted in the stamp art. Lucky foods are eaten—kumquats, for example (issued in 2011)—and given as gifts. Festive lanterns, colored red for luck (issued

in 2008), are common decorations at Lunar New Year celebrations, where they are frequently hung in rows.

Combining original artwork by Kam Mak with two elements from the previous series of Lunar New Year stamps—Clarence Lee's intricate paper-cut design of a dragon and the Chinese character for "Dragon," drawn in grass-style calligraphy by Lau Bun—art director Ethel Kessler has created a culturally rich stamp design that celebrates the diversity of the American experience.

The Celebrating Lunar New Year stamp for the Year of the Dragon is being issued as a Forever stamp. Forever stamps are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce rate.

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