

CAAM 2007 Annual Report

CAAM President, Vincent Mar

This year marks the 40th year CAAM serving the Chinese community in Minnesota. We have another wonderful year with plentiful activities.

In February 24, 2007, over 300 friends of CAAM flooded the spacious Lucky Dragon restaurant. The full program included dance, music, and the evening ended with ballroom dance enthusiasts swinging to music.

In January 2007, CAAM was proud to be a part of a large community-wide Chinese New Year celebration. CAAM will once again be part of that celebration in 2008, scheduled for February.

In early February 2007, once again we sponsored People's University affiliated High School of Performing Arts Troupe (Renda Fuzhong) for a public performance in O'Shaughnessy. More than 1,000 audiences enjoyed the beautiful performance and praised these dancers. The troupe also performed in Eastview High School and other middle schools, showcased some of the best of Chinese culture.

CAAM hosted its 3rd music recital on Saturday, March 10 at the St. Paul Student Center Theater. There were over 19 programs and almost ten different musical instruments (Chinese and western). There was no shortage of talents ages from four to 32. This was truly a great opportunity to showcase musical talents in the Minnesota Chinese community!

On May 3, 4, 5, and 6, CAAM participated in the annual Festival of Nations at River Centre. Over 200 volunteers helped with the calligraphy demonstration, staffed the cultural exhibit, sold Chinese arts and crafts and served thousands of visitors at the Cafe. We are so glad to see more your volunteers to join our team this year. For the fourth year in a row, renowned local Chinese painter and teacher Shen Yudong illustrated his portraiture at the Chinese calligraphy table, one of the most popular demonstrations at the Festival of Nation. At the cultural exhibit CAAM won its first prize award by well designed bamboo gateway, which attracted a great attention from the visitors. A shoppers delight, numerous traditional merchandise were offered at the bazaar. The cafe booth registered a record earning in 2007 FON, despite of increasing food costs and FON administration fees. Better management and better turnaround time for the two school days (Thursday and Friday) helped to generate greater revenues. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers and hope to see you again in 2008 FON! We will begin recruiting in February 2008.

For the 5th year in a row, CAAM participated in the Dragon Festival on July 14 and 15, 2007. Our fearless team leader Choy Leow once again led the CAAM Flying Dragon. Thanks to a loyal following of cheerleaders the Flying Dragon time was much improved and we advanced to the semifinals one more time. We finished at the 9th place out

of 25. We are looking forward to have a better score, with your stronger muscle! If you are interested to join the Flying Dragon team next year, please contact us. We will begin recruiting in early April.

This year CAAM organized a summer camping trip again. During the weekend of August 25-27 40+ participants went to Camp Shamineu. We had three days boating, fishing, horseback riding and hay rides, golfing, rifle shooting, team building and a low roping event. At night we watched movies, played mahjong, got up and did some ballroom dancing, put on a talent show, sat around a bonfire or simply wandered in dark identifying stars.

In November 10, 2007, CAAM also sponsored the Minhua Chorus Production, "Western Impression". CAAM played a very important supportive role in this sold-out event, about 1,500 audiences. This sets a good example of CAAM's community-wide collaborative effort.

On November 28, 2007, led by former CAAM president Kaimay Terry, CAAM help to secured national preview rights to Nanking film, partnered with the Walker Art Center for screening and post discussion. CAAM organized a community based reception to honor Iris Chang's parents at the Skyroom of Walker. A total of \$11,400 was raised to cover the cost of this free reception. CAAM was a key supporter of the effort

In the upcoming year, CAAM will continue most of the activities offered in 2007. We will continue work with other organizations. We very appreciate your longtime support and look forward to see your participation in our future events.