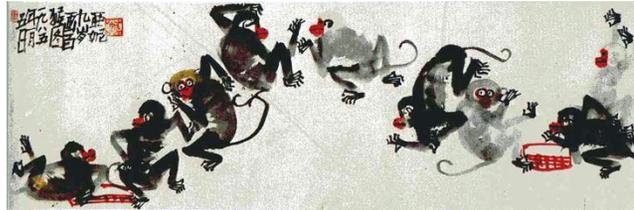


Looking back, looking ahead

December Newsletter

Looking ahead to The Year of the Monkey, 2016



Saturday January 31 - Asian Brush Painting Workshop for kids

This will be the 3rd annual workshop with talented teacher Yvonne Palka. This popular class teaches the basics of simple brush painting. Registration opens early January.

This year, Yvonne will show participants how to create a monkey, and will teach about Wang Yani, a famous child prodigy with a special talent for drawing monkeys! Learn more about her here [Wang Yani Video](#).

Sunday February 7 - Chinese New Year Luncheon

Where: U Garden Restaurant, Minneapolis

When: 11:30 - 2:30

What: Delicious buffet lunch, CAAM Dance Lion Dance, FCA Talent show, Photography, Travel Grant Raffle, Red Envelopes and more!

How: Registration will open early January.

FCA Member Opportunities

FCA Members get reduced admission to most events, and have the chance to participate in several special workshops and activities. Coming up in the new year:

FCA Tweens January 9th

Registration is now open for this, the second in a social group gathering for FCA Tweens. (For the first meeting, visit our [China Care Club page](#) to see the photos from the Cooking course). Kids grades 4 through 7 will meet at the NorthStar Base camp for rock climbing and Team building. Complete information and registration available on our website: [FCA Tweens at Base Camp](#)

FCA & EVOLVE workshop, February 27

FCA is working with the adoption professionals at the EVOLVE agency to bring members the tools to talk about adoption. The workshop, '**Connecting the Past, Present and Future through Adoption Lifebooks**', will have programming for children ages 7-12 and adults. Workshop activities will include work with both parents and children together as well as separately. Workgroups for children will be based on age (7-9 year olds and 10-12 year olds).

A complete description and preparatory materials will be available in January, when registration begins. We anticipate this unique event will sell out, so please save the date.

Date: February 27th, 2016

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Location: Southdale Library, 7001 York Ave S, Edina, MN 55435

Cost: \$40.00 for first child, \$20.00 for siblings

FCA Travel Grant

For the 3rd year, FCA will offer a \$1,000 grant to help members offset the costs associated with either *Heritage travel to China*, or a Teen trip to the *Adopteen* conference.

The FCA board feels that either of these experiences are valuable milestones along an adoptee's life journey, as an individual and as part of a family. Complete information and applications can be found at: [Heritage Travel Grant](#)

Volunteer with FCA

Families with Children adopted from Asia Midwest is an entirely volunteer-led 501c3 nonprofit group. We are solely dependent on you - the fortunate parents of our remarkable children - to maintain all activities and events. Please volunteer your time and energy. Without volunteer support, we will cease to exist.

We need your help now to make our CNY Luncheon a success. You can volunteer on February 7th at the event, and/or solicit donations for our Travel Grant Raffle.

More information and sign ups available at our website: [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

What did FCA do in 2015? Here are some highlights...

We held 3 successful Saturday night Teen Gatherings, at the Common Roots Cafe and photographer Wing Huie's gallery.

We learned Asian Brush Painting techniques, to start out the new year with the Sheep.

To prepare for the Moon Festival, we toured United Noodles Grocery store, where participants got special menus and shopping lists for the holiday.

After 3 inspiring years, we expanded our therapeutic playgroup *Friends Like Me*, adding another session - *Friends Like Us*. The groups, encompassing Grades 1 through 5, meet monthly with a team led by therapist Elana

Schuster. It is a chance for kids to make friends and address topics about adoption in a safe place.

We began a Tween social group, and hope to expand it in the next year.

We held a screening of May Tchao's documentary 'Spilled Water' for parents and appropriately aged children.

Our FCA Family Heritage Retreat again sold out, and was the largest in recent years, with 31 families participating.

Our Travel Grant funded a trip to the Adopteen conference in San Diego for Alex Benham who would otherwise not have been able to attend.