



CAMERON HOUSE

金美倫堂

Quarterly Newsletter

CURRENT

Summer
2011

Cameron Carnival 2011 - 62nd Annual



SEE BACK COVER

For Carnival Reflection and more Carnival Pictures

Cameron Carnival was another exciting success! We made our goal of raising \$30,000 to help us offset some of our summer programs cost, and to allow us to continue offering our programs at an affordable price for families. The theme of "I Love San Francisco" was brought to life in the Main Yard with the concessions, prizes and photo booth; a huge White Elephant Sale made its way back into our Carnival festivities; teens had the opportunity to act and sing on stage. Therapeutic Massage happened in the serenity of our newly renovated Chapel. Handmade jewelry was sold and repaired, interesting Silent Auction items and wine were bid on, homebaked goods sold, goldfish won, Board President Reverend John

Anderson wore a tuxedo on Dunko, alumni Kelcie Wong became this year's Dunko Queen being dunked 24 times in 20 minutes, and delicious food from polish dogs to BBQ Satay Chicken to Jade Waffles were prepared and enjoyed by all! A BIG THANK YOU to the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, Principal Marlene at Gordon J. Lau, Portsmouth Plaza Parking Corporation, Mr. Harry Schmid of G&H Wholesale, Hazel at Kentucky Fried Chicken, Marina Safeway, all of our Silent Auction and in-kind donors, Magician Perry Yan, the awesome Carnival Committee, and all of our sponsors, alumni, friends, youth and staff for putting on another outstanding event for the Chinatown community! We can't wait till next year!

A Look at Our BAP Year

By Jeannette Wei, Educational Consultant

It is with joy and pride to report that the Bilingual After-school Program (BAP) had a successful and fun-filled year!

The program started with a bang with the arrival of 56 students -- the highest enrollment in the seven years I've been involved with BAP! From kindergarteners through eighth graders, more than half were new students in our program. We put extra effort into activities that helped promote friendship and knowing each other. At our weekly circle meetings, the children learned about Cameron House's mission of Christian love and friendship, mutual respect, helpful actions, responsibility and positive behavior toward one another. It was wonderful to see how well they got along and supported each other!

It was so good that Rebekah Kao, Social Services Ministries' newest Individual and Family Counselor, spent at least two days a week helping children with their social and emotional growth. Sing Quan continued to be a driving force as Associate Director for Youth Ministries for BAP. We were fortunate that Norman Lau, Casey Chow and Kean Tom returned as mentors, and a new mentor, Oi Wong, joined our team. Blessings also came from our very faithful and regular volunteers like Lianne and Terry Leong, Winston Li, Richard Jann, Irene Ng, Andrew Yee, Doug Clark, and many new ones too many to name -- Thank you!!



BAP Middle School Student Snow Trip

13 out of 14 youth participants see and play in snow for the first time! (December 20, 2010)

My involvement was mainly with the children's education. In September, I tested and evaluated the children in English, spelling and math, and then again in May to check their progress. I picked the material that would help them improve; talked to teachers, parents and children regarding their educational progress; participated in SFUSD parent/teacher conferences and student's IEP (Independent Educational Program) when invited by parents or admin-

istrators; helped the mentors whenever there was a need or request; met with Sing and/or Rebekah or with parents to plan for special program considerations for a child when a need arose. We also had a weekly BAP staff meeting every Wednesday. We also had three dinner meetings with parents, where we shared about our Cameron House services and continued to encourage the parents in being involved with their children's education and overall well-being.

Looking at the results (the children's report cards and my test results), the children are receiving much better grades -- many more A's and B's! Their behavior and social adjustment also showed improvement. The places where many are still experiencing difficulty are in writing compositions, spelling, social studies and science -- mainly due to the lack of use of English at home and with friends. Because of our vigorous push at BAP to have at least 20 to 30 minutes of silent reading during our program, I see a vast new interest and enjoyment in the children wanting to read!

BAP continues to use our Computer Lab weekly. School teachers are demanding more homework research on the computer. We recently received some newer used computers from USF. We are also hoping to provide new laptops for our students to use. Right now, children line-up to use Sing's and another laptop in our BAP office. Frequently, our mentors bring their own laptops to ease the wait - so generous of them!

Another favorite activity is the Kitchen Medicine class led by Chris Jeong every other week. This year, he re-designed the program so that high school students from our Friday Night Club Program are learning to be Kitchen Medicine Apprentices. One week, he teaches the apprentices how to cook several menu items, and the following week, the apprentices teach and cook the menu items with our BAP children. This program has helped them to bond with each other and has produced many benefits to both groups, as you can imagine.

The last item I want to mention is the favorite game played together by all the children at BAP -- DODGE BALL! It is such joy to watch the children of all ages playing this game after their homework is finished! The leaders and everyone played with gusto, lots of laughter, shouts of glee and total enjoyment!

As of this writing, BAP is slated to lose over \$10K in funding from the City's Department of Children, Youth and their Families. Of course we will continue to do our best to provide for all the children and their families! We pray that God will continue to lead us and provide for us what we need for the BAP children and their families.

Thanks be to God!

Celebration of 3 New Beginnings

By Yulanda Kwong, Director of Social Services Ministry

May 14, 2011 was a day of celebrations and new beginnings. The Chinese Cancer Support Group celebrated its 17th anniversary with 60 present and former members who are survivors of cancer and their families. That day, we celebrated not only the lives of the survivors and the longevity of the support group, but the service that Virginia Mei, the co-founder and coordinator, and Miao Sheng Feng, the program assistant, contributed to this group, to Cameron House, the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown, and to the Asian community. Miao and Virginia have been mentors, sisters, and friends to many of us. Virginia and Miao's retirement symbolizes a new chapter in their lives' journey where they may seek new learning opportunities.

Virginia has been with Cameron House as the Chinese Cancer Support Group Coordinator and a Counselor for 26 years. Miao has been the support group's Program Assistant for 14 years. The compassion,

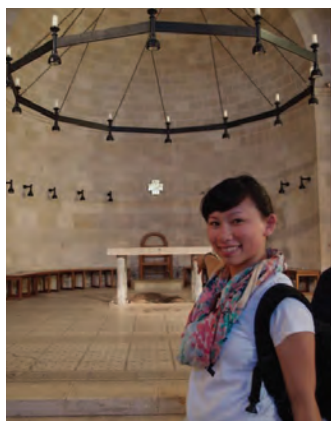
stewardship, and love that Miao and Virginia have demonstrated through their work have made enormous, positive changes in people's lives. To continue this important ministry, Mei Teng has come on staff to lead the support group on its journey and continue to make differences in people's lives.



"Happy retirement. God bless you always. Thanks a million for your contribution in this support group throughout the years. We miss you a lot."

Love, Christina Lo, CSG Participant

A Self Introduction of Mei Teng, Cancer Support Coordinator



In March 2011, I joined Cameron House as the Chinese Cancer Support Group Coordinator. It is truly a blessing to become part of the Cancer Support Group, and it melts my heart when I see the care and support that the cancer survivors have for one another. This is my desire, to serve as the Cancer Support Group Coordinator in the following way:

"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
- Matthew 5:13-16

I received my degree in Psychology and minor in Social and Ethnic Studies, Education, and Human Development from UC Davis. Before coming here, I worked as a Site Merchandiser in an e-commerce company. Last year, my sister was brought to the ER after experiencing a tonic-clonic seizure. After the doctor carefully reviewed her CT scan, he found a brain tumor near her language region. This sudden news was like a thunderstorm to the family. Fortunately, she had a very successful surgery, and the doctor found the tumor to be benign. It was the best possible result, we couldn't ask for more.

I thank God for bringing me to Cameron House's Cancer Support Group. From my personal experience, I understand how devastating cancer is for the patient and family and the importance of having support during the hardship. Shortly after I started working with the Cancer Support Group, I realized my call to work with cancer survivors and families. This role not only allows me to fulfill my passion to serve the community, it also gives me the opportunity to be the "salt" and "light" in people's lives. May God continue to bless my role as the coordinator and each of the cancer survivors and their families. Amen.

Helping Chinese ESL Students to Speak More in the Classroom

A contribution by Carol Mo, Accelerate Program Coordinator

In an individualistic culture like the United States, people are expected to be independent in thought and action. People with a more individualistic mindset will seek to change the environment around them to fit their needs, while people from a more collectivistic culture - like China - will change themselves to fit into the environment. The purpose of learning is to acquire the customs and norms of an environment in order to fit in. The sense of self is more emphasized in the contexts of relationships and group identity. This I believe is manifested in the behavior of my students who come from a collectivistic culture like China. I observe that they do not want to stick out by speaking up in the classroom, in either English or Chinese. They also tend to suppress self-expressions and opinions in the classroom. Those Chinese who are older will be more collectivistic, therefore speak less than the younger Chinese who may speak up more because of Western influences, embracing the ways of an individualistic society.

Noticing such behavior, I find it helpful to point out the cultural differences to my students. Additionally, I encourage students to become more expressive in class, first in their native language, then in simple English phrases and sentences. I also routinely ask my students to translate English sentences into Chinese and solicit from them Chinese

expressions and phrases that they want translated into English, since those expressions are meaningful for them.

For example: “空穴来风未必无因”
(kōng xué lái fēng wèi bì wú yīn)

Literally: If the wind comes from an empty cave, it's not without a reason.

Meaning: Things don't happen for no reason; everything has a cause.

Compare: Where there's smoke, there's fire.

As the weeks pass, I find tremendous satisfaction as they open-up more while getting used to this style of learning. The older ESL students who have a difficult time making “I” statements and expressing personal opinions in the earlier weeks become more talkative in both Chinese and English in the last couple of weeks. Some even volunteer to translate text from English to Chinese or vice versa! I believe it is helpful for students' English language acquisition if they can appreciate and be more expressive in their native language in class.

Westminster Woods Youth Camp Registration - Sponsorships Needed July 31st – August 5th, 2011



In a little over a month, over 100 youth and their Friday Night Club Leaders will once again be under the magical sky of Westminster Woods (a Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Occidental, CA)! We invite all youth entering the 6th to 12th grade in the fall to come and be part of this experience that many youth describe as their highlight of the summer! Check out our registration form at www.cameronhouse.org for more information.

Last year, we gave over \$5,000 in financial aid and camp scholarships to make it possible for youth to go to Camp. This year, we expect the same level of need. To date, we have received \$2,350 for

camp scholarships. Will you help us reach our goal?!

For those who have good and happy memories of being at the Woods, or who simply recognize the importance of young people living and learning in community away from the hustle and bustle of the city, we hope that you consider partnering with us to send these youth to Camp! Even the smallest amount can make the biggest difference for these youth.

Please contact Laurene Chan at laurene@cameronhouse.org or at (415) 781-0401 ext. 142 to see how you can help.

Counseling Room Make-Over

By Diana To, Counselor

The two counseling rooms on the Social Services floor at Cameron House just got a face-lift! The room next to the elevator, the larger of the two, is our new Play Therapy Room. Bordered by freshly painted butter-cream walls and big white-trimmed windows, stocked with various play and art therapy materials, and furnished with a nice comfortable couch, the room offers a bright and welcoming therapeutic environment to children, families, and couples alike. The smaller room, now with latte-colored walls, decorative papyrus artwork and soft mood lighting, provides a haven of therapeutic warmth, peace and tranquility to our clients. The one-way mirror installed last year continues to straddle between the two rooms. When the curtains covering the mirror are pulled back, the two rooms are used together to facilitate parenting coaching and other training sessions. These beautified facilities are an important part of Cameron House's continuing work of supporting healing and growth in our communities.



A New Chapel for Cameron House

An update by Joel Smith, Property Manager

I honestly don't remember the previous Chapel room that sits in the corner of Cameron House's 'Club room floor'. People have shared many pleasant stories about weddings, club & commission time, early summer mornings, and lives being changed through Bible study and fellowship in this amazing and special room. I've tried to picture the room in my mind, but when I arrived at Cameron House in the spring of 2007, I never took notice of the Chapel room, and in the fall of 2008 when I became Property Manager, the room that created so many memories had already undergone demolition.

My first real memory of the Chapel was seeing Randy Tom in the side yard, pulling nails out of the Chapel wood panels and later using those panels with my club group to build Carnival concessions. Needless to say, once Project Chapel was started, it was clear that this room was different and special in the minds of Cameron House alumni and staff.

After discussing the vision for the new Chapel room with the EPOCH commission members, it was clear that everyone wanted the new Chapel room to be very welcoming, filled with light, comforting, serene, and a place to get away from the busyness that goes on around us. I contacted my friend and designer, Gerald Siu to bring the vision to life. Gerald

was able to make 3D renderings which set the expectations for our new design.

The plan was to use sustainable materials including bamboo flooring and LED lighting, create an area for youth artwork, and incorporate the existing pews.

[See A NEW CHAPEL on Page 6](#)



A New Chapel (Continued)

Over many months of hard work, EPOCH completed the demolition and spent countless hours sanding the Chapel pews to make them match the new room. Scott Barlow showed up many days after work and on weekends, coordinated two painting days with CHYA and also worked with other volunteer groups, to keep the project going.

Another blessing came when Cameron House was able to hire Sunny Huang through the Jobs Now program. Sunny is a very skilled worker and it was my job to keep him busy 25 hours a week! Obviously, this was perfect timing, and Sunny was always willing to do whatever was needed. Working with Sunny was an amazing learning experience for me as well, as we pushed past our language barrier, and were able to both learn from one another.

As we moved closer to completion, board member and alumni Gordie Lam suggested I contact alumni Noel Chun to help with the wood paneling on the East wall. This was a very important detail that makes the room stand out. I met with Noel and he brought his team and finished the wall in one day! I could hardly believe it... what a difference it made! I was getting really excited to be able to see the room take on life! Well there's a lot of details I'm sure I have left out, but one week before Carnival 2011, Sunny finished painting the last touches (now working as a Cameron House volunteer) and the room was officially opened. I watched as the BAP kids stood at the doorway, looking in and admiring the room that is so special.

Another exciting part of the Chapel is a new stain glass window being commissioned and donated by alumni and Presbyterian Church in Chinatown parishioner Vicky Wong and her family in honor of Lorna and Florence Logan, Mae Wong and Auntie Wu. Each of these amazing women worked, studied, prayed and worshipped with Donaldina Cameron - and they changed Vicky's life.

In one of many discussions with Laurene Chan, she told me that back in the day, there was a plaque that was placed on the door leading from the Chapel back out to the hallway - Depart to Serve. I believe we all need centering in Christ and an opportunity to rest in God's presence before any challenge we face. I hope that the new Chapel room will be just that - a welcoming sanctuary for everyone to feel comfortable and to receive their own blessings from our God.

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www.cameronhouse.org

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Tributes & Memorials

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Asian Law Caucus

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Lisa Fung

Carolyn Chin
Mary Yee

Pauline Chin
Sandra Hoy

Miao-Sheng Feng
Moony Tong

Harriet Hall
Stephen & Marian Fong
Neil & Rita Wun

Henry Ho-Wong
Lolan, Camille and Ian Ho-Wong

Jenn Hom
Anonymous

Virginia Mei
Moony Tong

Derald Seid
Lonnie Chin

Anna Wong-Chun
The John Stewart Company

Henry Wong

Carolyn Yip

Kelley Yee

Anonymous

IN MEMORY OF:

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Clifford Hong
Lilian Hong

Betha A. Hoy
Tina Yee Lau

Deanna Hum
Mary Seid
Jeanne Tong
Ethel Woong

Ming Geung Jew
Keith Jew & Pamela Jang
Dayton & Mary Leong
Terrence & Lianne Leong

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Norm, Myra, & Greg Choy

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Caitlin Gong

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Jessie Tong

Harding Lem

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Lorna Logan

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Sally Wong

Sun Wah Ng

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Grace Ong

Carrie & Harvey Louie

Yuke Mui Owyang

Kong & Agnes Chan

Marcia Chan

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Diane & Robert Golton

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Dayton & Mary Leong

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Lisa Weiner

Paula Wieters

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Bill Gorgas and Linda Shen

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James DiEgidio

Stanton Tong

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Phonathon 2011 coming soon!

Our annual Phonathon is coming up. Please watch your mailbox in the coming weeks for our pre-Phonathon notice. If you would like a head start visit

cameronhouse.org/phonathon



Cameron Carnival: A Returning Alumni Perspective

As a little kid, I remember leaving my home in San Jose in tears for Cameron House daycamp and a week long stay with my Po Po in Chinatown. Same thing happened every week, I'd come back with a big smile on my face wishing I could stay longer! Living in San Jose made it hard to go to Club with any regularity, but I always remember being jealous of the kids who could. After spending the past 13 years in San Diego and getting a taste of life in NYC, I packed my bags and made my way back to California....San Francisco was the easy choice! Like clockwork, I had lunch with CH alum, Josh Chuck, and bam; I was on the Carnival committee! Having some past experience with silent auctions for the San Diego Asian Film Foundation and recognizing CH alum, Susan Zavertnik, as the

silent auction chair, I thought I'd give it a try. As we found out, it never hurts to ask! Local companies and restaurants really stepped up and made me want to support them even more for their generosity. Sitting in Culbertson Hall for meetings surrounded by friends who went to Cameron House with MY parents just made it feel like "home". Carnival day finally arrived and everything was just as I had remembered it, only better! I ate an unhealthy number of black bottom cupcakes, but it felt oh so good. Thanks guys for teaching an old alum the Carnival ropes!

A reflection by Kelly Lim, daughter of Tommy and Bonnie Lim