

傳承中華文化 尋找中國「根」



文化一班(A) 李素卿老師 (Culture 1A - Teacher Lee, Su-Ching)

〔本報訊〕克里夫蘭 WESTLAKE 有一所中文學校，它和其他克里夫蘭的中文學校上的課程也差不多，二堂文化課，一堂藝術課(舞蹈、書法等)，成人也有舞蹈班和太極拳班，但這所學校與眾不同的是，始於 2002 年，學校為收養了中國兒童的洋爸爸媽媽，開設了兒童文化班和洋爸爸媽媽成人班。他們帶着自己的“中國孩子”來這裡學習中國文化，5 年後，他們佔學生總人數的 58%，換一句話，他們比中國家庭的孩子還要多。本報記者在校長律洋洋先生的帶領下參觀和採訪了學校。

隨律校長走看了幾個班級，在書法班看到一位洋媽媽坐在教室里看女兒學習書法，看着這個洋媽媽有耐心和愛心地坐在女兒身邊，本報記者對她做了簡單的採訪。她，Ms. Melinda Mengert 是一位管理亞洲市場的經理，對中國十分有好

己是中國人，她把 JOLIE 當心肝寶貝，雖然她不懂中文，但她還跟着孩子用心地吸收中國文化，為女兒提供和培養一個有中華文化傳統的環境，尋找“中國根”。

美國家庭收養中國孩子，是為“SAVE A GIRL A LIFE”，1992 年中國頒佈了《收養法》，外國人收養中國兒童合



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法化。根據美國聯邦統計局發佈的資料，1992 年，美國家庭收養了 206 名中國孩子；到 2003 年，這一數字則上升到了 6859 名。十幾年來，美國家庭一共收養了多少中國孩子還沒有最準確的數字統計，據說，他們的隊伍比全美國中文學校勢力還大。律校長最後說，學校感謝社區的支持，尤其是眾多學生家長的無私奉獻，就拿這位書法老師馬國均老先生來說，他今年 88 歲，在美國工作四十多年，二個月前剛從匹茲堡搬到兒子這裡，就被中文學校請來教書法。

感，她是一個單身母親，她的女兒名叫 JOLIE，她於 1999 年十月到廣東收養了她，當時 JOLIE 十個月。她們搬到克城才二年多，原來住在匹茲堡，她說她找 BABY SITTER 也找中國人，她很高興她自己也能做中國菜，她希望她女兒今後不論在哪裡都很自豪自



Chinese students get a taste of U.S. CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Chuck Humel / Chronicle

Kalin Ngo, 12, of Westlake, and Emily Cole, 11, of Elyria, draw out the story to the Chinese children's song "Two Tigers," while Jiahui "Julia" Zhong, 12, of Changsha, China, turns around.

Catherine Ashenhurst

It may be the most youth-oriented cultural exchange program in Lorain County history.

Four students ages 10 to 12 from Changsha, China, have been visiting with students from the Westlake Chinese School since Aug. 3 and will be here until Tuesday, said Sharon Van Houte, an assistant professor of Spanish and English as a Second Language at Lorain County Community College. Van Houte is a member of LCCC's International Initiatives team, which worked to arrange the visit.

"This program is unique because it deals with younger children," she said. "They are opening their eyes to the world and expanding their horizons."

The Westlake Chinese School, an extracurricular program held at the Lee Burneson Middle School in Westlake, has an enrollment of more than 100 students and provides Chinese language classes and cultural information to anyone interested in these subjects, according to the school's Web site. Seven of the local students are participating in the exchange.

"The students at the Westlake Chinese School are either adopted from China, have siblings who are adopted from China, or just students who have an interest in learning Chinese," Van Houte said.

The Chinese students attend the Quingzhuhu Foreign Language School, a governmentally subsidized, nine-year residential school with an enrollment of more than 1,000 students. Dr. Annouska Remmert, professor of English as a Second Language at LCCC and another member of the International Initiatives team, approached the administrators there when she visited China in 2001. Administrators on both ends have been trying to establish the exchange since the first contact, but international red tape, including difficulties obtaining visas for students, delayed the commencement of the program, Van Houte said.

Now that the program is under way, students



from both schools have been practicing their language skills with each other, in addition to participating in a variety of activities and field trips, such as touring the LCCC television studio and going to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. They also visited The Chronicle-Telegram earlier this week.

Jiahui Zhong, 12 — who uses Julia as her English name — said that she is getting along well with her host family.

"They are all very nice, very kind and very friendly," she said. "I would come back to America."

"The American kids are interested in learning the language and culture," Van Houte said. "It's great; we need a greater awareness of other cultures."

"I was really excited to do it," said Emily Cole, 11, of Elyria, regarding participation in the program.

Sisters Annie and Mary DeVito, both 9, of Rocky River, said having a Chinese student living with their family has been fun.

"She's just like us. She does what we do," Annie said.

"We play games with her. We like having her at our house," Mary said.

Though there have not been any details worked out, Van Houte hopes that one day the program will include American students going to China, alternating years with different groups of Chinese students coming to America.

"That's the next step, after this year's camp is over and we see how things have gone," she said. "We'd like to send some kids."

The idea seems to generate excitement among the American students. "I can't wait to go to China," Emily said. "I want to go for sure."

The DeVito sisters are interested in going to China, too. "Just to see what it's like," Annie said.

心寬念純 慈濟克裡夫蘭新春齊祝福

撰文：張瑛如 攝影：馮國正、姚昭旭、Doris



慈紹師姐為大家點燈祈願並發福慧紅包

三月四日，慈濟克裡夫蘭聯絡處的會所裏，一大早便聚集了許多志工及善心大德，因為今天將舉行 2007 新春祝福活動，由於人數及場地的原因，故分成早上及下午兩場進行，這天正值農曆元宵節，大家相互問候拜年，歡樂的氣氛如一家人過年般熱鬧溫馨。

克城的師兄姐們從幾個星期前的開會、討論、排演、佈置及紙筒製作，展現了慈濟人的合心與協力。而靜靜的座落在感恩堂一隅的竹筒歲月佈置，蘊含了美工組和玉美師姐的巧思及用心，與會者無不讚嘆。

「心寬、念純、美善人生」是今年的活動主題，濟陸師兄和小萍師姐在活動一開始便祝福大家好願、好話、好事連連。今年節目編排豐富、緊湊，茶會在慈述師姐及慈琬師姐先後示範靜思茶道及真、善、美花道，展現禮儀之美與慈濟人文的靜、定、圓、融中揭開了序幕。

隨著見證 2006 年社區生命力照片一張一張的呈現，濟陽師兄以一百五十張的投影片，一一向大德們報告克城慈濟四大志業的脚步從未停歇。今年的感恩分享有幸請到克里夫蘭州立大學 (Cleveland State University) 的社會工作 (Social Work) 教授 Dr. Nair

己最喜愛的靜思語濃縮成一張印給每位學生，他發願將來有緣能親見上人。現年八十六歲的翁媽媽數十年前帶著有輕微身心障礙的女兒祖蘭來美，舉步維艱，「來美數十年，除了感謝美國的福利制度，帶來安定的生活，再來要感恩的就是慈濟的大愛精神」，她表示幾年來慈濟人的照應、關懷從不間斷，現在克城的志工還固定的訪視祖蘭及她住的老人公寓，讓她十分感恩。

為了響應上人呼籲回歸四十年前「竹筒歲月」的克難精神，志工們合力演出短劇，令現場增添無數歡笑聲，早期三十位家庭主婦每天節省五毛的買菜錢，投入竹筒裏做為濟貧救苦的慈善基金，成就了四十年後慈濟浩蕩長的隊伍，更重要的是上人期許眾人時時起善念、行善行。

「慈濟大藏經」播放著在世界各個角落的慈濟人，每天用不同方式在行經，聞聲救苦的無所求付出，為現場帶來相當的震撼和感動，志工們也適時地遞上紙巾。緊接著由委員和陪訓師姊呈現的「千手世界」音樂手語後，濟陽師兄說說其實慈濟世界就是一個千手世界，他鼓勵大家走入慈濟世界裡，做菩薩

(耐也爾教授) 及翁媽媽來分享。耐也爾教授對上人足不出國門，卻能啟發數百萬人心時生善念，讓大愛的足跡遍及五大州，讚嘆不已，所以每年第二學期都會將全班的學生帶到會所來認識慈濟，他也将自己

的一隻手、一隻眼，發揮千手千眼的力量，也期盼大家能化身千手裡，因為善會讓生命美麗，因為感恩而讓生命歡喜。

恭看完上人的祝福，美國中西部執行長慈紹師姐接著為大家點燈祈願，隨著「誠心祈三願」的樂聲響起，點傳每人手上的燭燈，現場帶來一份靜謐的悸動，此時眾人共同祈願天下無災難、社會祥和無紛爭、人人互愛覺有情。今年的福慧紅包內有一個五元硬幣，濟陸師兄說這是取台語諧音「有緣」，願大家能與眾生結好緣，而稻穗則意蘊著保有一顆初發心，恆持到永遠，結成滿滿的稻穗。

隨後大家帶著感恩心領取福慧紅包及裝有環保筷的福慧袋，法喜充滿。

最後，小萍師姐呼籲眾人「幫助大家，祝福自己」，每個人帶一支紙筒回去，日日一善，回歸克勤克難的精神。隨著活動的結束，整個會所利時活絡了起來，閒話家常、絮絮話舊，品嚐著香積組所準備的茶點，一位講台山話的婆婆，笑著拉著我的手，口中說著我聽不懂的婆婆，一位大德告訴我婆婆覺得慈濟做很多善事，她覺得很感動。當她主動認養一支紙筒回家，還給我一個擁抱，心中浮現上人的法語「人生的美，來自內心有愛」，慈濟世界裏好像有永遠說不完的歡喜與感動。



志工們合力演出回歸「竹筒歲月」的短劇以加深大家印象



藉由「千手世界」手語的呈現誠邀大德加入慈濟世界



耐也爾教授 (Dr. Nair) 分享他對上人的崇拜與讚嘆



一位會員歡喜的參與竹筒歲月替全家帶回去一袋子的紙筒



大家專心看著為現場帶來相當震撼和感動的「慈濟大藏經」