

## CAACF Chinese New Year Celebration

By Conchita Hsu

February 12, 2007

The Chinese American Association of Central Florida, along with the Chinese School of CAACF, are non-profit organizations dedicated to promoting Asian culture and ethnicity. We have served Central Florida for over 30 years with the mission of preserving and spreading the Chinese culture and language that we believe is an integral part of every diverse and prosperous community.

We are proud to announce a series of events in the upcoming celebration of the Lunar New Year, and would be honored by your presence at any of the celebrations. A dinner celebration, accompanied by an evening of cultural performances, including some by our own Chinese School students, will be held at Crazy Buffet on Sunday evening, February 18, 2007. The show will include performances by the dance troupe, a showcase of acrobatics, kung fu, and the traditional lion dance performance to usher in the Year of the Pig. The following week, on Saturday evening, February 24 at 6:30 pm, an authentic Chinese cultural show will be presented as the finale of our annual Lunar New Year Celebration. The festivities will occur at the Chinese School site at 528 Huntington Avenue in the Winter Park High School Ninth Grade Center Auditorium,

This year, beside our students' performances – which will surely amaze you – the members of the National Association of Theater Artists and top ranking artists in China will also be featured. These special guest artists, on a traveling tour in the U.S., will open with a northern lion dance – designed to ward off the evil past while welcoming in the golden year in a grand spectacle enjoyable to everyone. Following this lion dance will be the highlight of the program, one of the cultural treasures of China – the Beijing, or Eastern, Opera. This traditional art has the greatest influence among the hundred of forms of opera throughout China and is regarded as a national standard, the quintessence of Chinese culture. With a history dating back to over 3,000 years ago, the opera carries elements of songs and dances, dialogue and pantomime, acrobatics and martial arts, balladry and farce, puppetry and shadow plays, and instrumentation and fine arts. The repertoire contains thousands of pieces covering virtually the entire Chinese history and literature of China.

In order to make audiences aware of just how entertaining and exciting a night at the Beijing Opera can be, an English language display of the text, useful for those unfamiliar with the classic stories, will be presented along with a pre-performance session. In addition, between acts English narration will be provided throughout the program. Beijing opera is a magic power so skilled you won't believe it until you see it for yourself!

We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us in one of these Lunar New Year celebrations; your commitment to diversity and the Asian community has been evident in the past, and we look forward to being graced with your presence. Enclosed is a sample of the program notes for you to preview, and we thank you in advance for supporting the Chinese community.

If you have any questions, or to purchase additional tickets, please contact Judy Nguyen (407 221-5602), Agnes Chau (407 672-1115), Shally Wong (407 808-0497), or Gary King (407-672-1115).

CAACF and Chinese School of CAACF

[www.orlandochineseschool.org](http://www.orlandochineseschool.org) or [www.orlandochineseschool.com](http://www.orlandochineseschool.com)

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