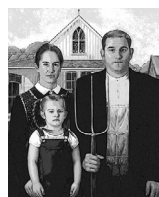


Art Adventure | Sam Dalkilic-Miestowski



Chinese New Year

Happy New Year — Chinese New Year that is. This year, the Chinese Lunar Calendar celebration is Feb.7.

A person born in 2008 will be celebrating the year of the “Rat.” If you are curious about your birth year, look to the table below.

The Northwest Indiana Chinese Community is celebrating the Chinese New Year Feb. 9 at Purdue University student center in Hammond, sponsored by the Purdue University Chinese Student Association and Northwest Indiana Chinese School.

Seventeen years ago, a group of Northwest Indiana families formed the school, initially renting space from the Salvation Army for classes.

The first year, there were only eight students in the school — now they are more than 150 students. The mission of the school is to teach the Chinese language, writings, and to teach traditional Chinese culture. Mrs. Alison Kuo is the founder of the Northwest Indiana Chinese School. Her husband, Dr. Kuo was the first president of the school, and subsequently, Alison served as the third president.

She is a professional chemist, but also is a realtor for Remax Realty, Kuo may be reached at greenwoodak@yahoo.com, or at (219) 616-5046.

Kuo is committed to sharing her passion and knowledge about Chinese culture including writing.

Chinese writing is an art form in itself and includes three elements.

First, the words are actually abstractions derived thousands of years ago from a subject matter. Secondly, the writing stroke is formed from the sound of the image. Finally, the location and direction of the stroke that gives specific meaning to the word. The words are written with brushes and the pressure of the brushes implies different nuances.

The sequence of writing starts from left-to-right and up-to-down, but is read from right-to-left.

This is illustrated in a photo taken at one of the private classes taught by Kuo with Alexis Miestowski a first year student.



Recently, Rocky Frederick of St. John visited China including the Great Wall, (see picture at right.)

At the wall, Fredercik purchased a relief carving depicting the great wall from a local artis, and a hand-painted teapot included vibrantly colored and intricate traditional designs.

Watston Elementary Students (Schererville) enjoyed learning about the Chinese culture and new year traditions in the art classes taught by Mrs. Kathleen Christensen. The students created dragons with paper, feathers, foil,

confetti and other embellishments.

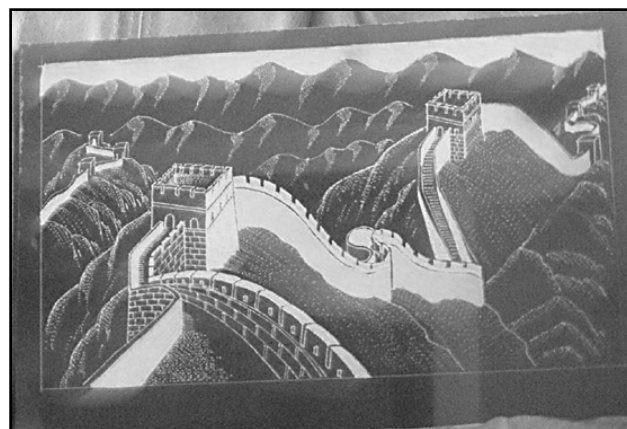
Some children used origami to fold ancient war helmets and were surprised to learn three dimensional origami sculptures used no glue to hold the hat together.

The students also made Chinese lanterns that symbolize red fire, thought to frighten away evil spirits from the old year. The older students made Chinese food take-out containers. Using a template they made the box out of high quality paper, and cut and folded it into an authentic take-out box. They used embossed, handmade, and screen-printed papers to decorate the containers.

Lastly, the children learned to write Chinese words and phrases, adding these to their pieces of art.

If you want to celebrate the Chinese New Year without going to China, visit the local post office and purchase the Red Lantern Lamp which celebrates the Lunar New Year.

As a matter of lunar information, I’m a “Monkey,” my husband is a “Rooster,” and my daughter is a most desirable millennium “Dragon.”

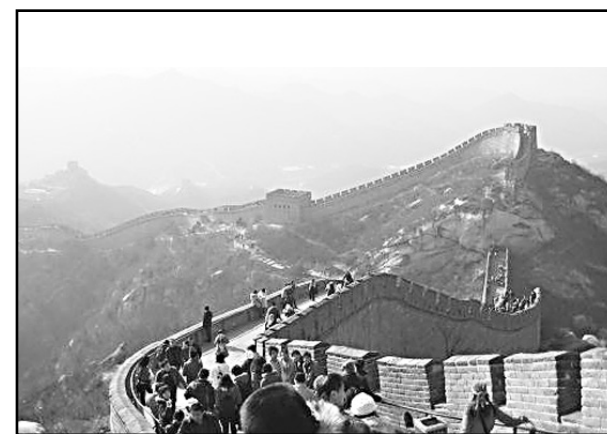
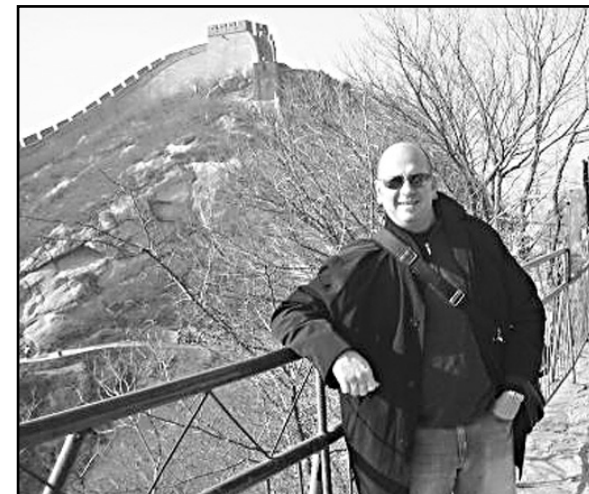


All photos provided to the Star

Relief carving of the Great Wall of China that was purchased by Rocky Frederick, pictured above right on a visit to China.



An intricately designed and painted tea set was brought back from Frederick’s trip to China.



Are you a boar? or a snake?

Rat	1924	1936	1948	1960	1972	1984	1996
Ox	1925	1937	1949	1961	1973	1985	1997
Tiger	1926	1938	1950	1962	1974	1986	1998
Rabbit	1927	1939	1951	1963	1975	1987	1999
Dragon	1928	1940	1952	1964	1976	1988	2000
Snake	1929	1941	1953	1965	1977	1989	2001
Horse	1930	1942	1954	1966	1978	1990	2002
Sheep	1931	1943	1955	1967	1979	1991	2003
Monkey	1932	1944	1956	1968	1980	1992	2004
Rooster	1933	1945	1957	1969	1981	1993	2005
Dog	1934	1946	1958	1970	1982	1994	2006
Boar	1935	1947	1959	1971	1983	1995	2007

Contact Sam at The Steeple Gallery at (219) 365-1014 or at samowner@sbcglobal.net.