



Chinese Cultural Association of the Southern Tier

Newsletter



C-Motion Dance Club performs at the 2025
Chinese New Year Event



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Notes from the Chair

Dear CCAST Members,

Welcome to our very first newsletter! I'm excited to connect with you as Chair of the newly established Chinese Cultural Association of the Southern Tier (CCAST), an independent non-profit organization officially launched in 2024.



Many of you know Corning Chinese Association (CCA) as part of the Corning ERG network. While CCA remains an employee resource group open to all Corning employees (free of charge), CCAST now operates independently with its own mission: to promote Chinese culture, support personal and professional development, and build bridges with the local community. We continue to collaborate closely with both CCA and Corning Chinese School (CCS), and we are grateful for everyone's support and teamwork.

As a non-profit, CCAST is able to reach and serve a broader community. Our funding comes from membership fees, donations, and grants. Please note: all current CCA memberships in 2025 will automatically transfer to CCAST. Membership fees will be updated in 2026, and we're excited to offer a membership waiver program—your volunteer hours at CCAST events and activities this year can count toward free membership next year! Thank you to everyone who volunteered at our Q1 & Q2 events; you'll find a volunteer list in this newsletter. We also encourage you to join us as a volunteer for upcoming Q3 and Q4 events, such as the Moon Festival. We invite everyone to start or join CCAST clubs based on your interests. More information is available on our website www.ccast-ny.org

Looking back, our community began in the 1960s with just a few Chinese families in Corning. Thanks to the dedication of so many wonderful people over half a century, we have grown into a vibrant, thriving organization. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed along the way.

Our team still has a few openings—if you'd like to help and be part of the CCAST family, please check the open positions in this newsletter and reach out. Your involvement makes us stronger!

I hope you enjoy reading about our Q1 and Q2 highlights. Your feedback is always welcome—feel free to contact any team member or email us at info@ccast-ny.org. Thank you for being part of our community, and let's look forward to even greater things together!

With joy and appreciation,

Lin – Chair, CCAST



Meet the CCAST Team!



Lin Lin (林琳) – Chair

Lin, originally from Fujian, China, came to the US for graduate studies and has called Corning home since 2011. With over 15 years of community service, she has held leadership roles as Chair, advisor, and board member across various organizations, driven by her passion for promoting Chinese heritage. Lin also serves as the leader of the C-motion Dance Club, sharing her love of Chinese dance with the community. She lives with her husband Earl, who is from the US, and their two wonderful children, May and Gene. As a family, they love to travel and enjoy

Asian cuisine—especially as the kids eagerly await their second trip back to China in fall!

Rui (Ray) He (何睿) – Vice-Chair

Ray He has several years of experience in event planning and community outreach. His dedication ensures that events are impactful and inclusive, fostering a stronger community bond.

Originally from Guangzhou, China, Ray moved to Corning in 2017. He lives with his wife and a funny little dog named Happy.

In his free time, Ray loves playing basketball and has traveled to over 30 cities around the world.





Haihong Li (李海虹) – Treasurer

Haihong Li is a senior finance controller with a strong background in financial management. Her dedication to CCAST ensures the organization's financial health and sustainability.

Dawei Ding (丁大卫) – Secretary

Dawei Ding brings a wealth of experience as a senior finance controller in multiple businesses. His commitment to CCAST is evident in his efforts to ensure the organization's success and operational excellence.





Philip Brown – Communication



Phil Brown leverages his extensive communication skills to manage CCAST's outreach efforts. His passion for community engagement ensures that CCAST's message reaches and resonates with the broader community.

Phil has been in the area for eight years. His wife, Boon, is ethnically Chinese and, now raising two young sons – Edward and Leo, is dedicated to ensuring the next generation understand and celebrate their heritage and cultures.

Phil's favorite cuisine is Sichuan and Phil, Boon and the kids will be visiting Boon's home country of Malaysia in 2026.

Yinghong Chen (陈映红) – Cashier

Yinghong Chen has over 10 years of experience in community event services. Her dedication to CCAST is reflected in her efforts to make events impactful and inclusive, enriching the community's cultural experiences.





Shoonhsin Li – Membership Development



Shoonhsin has been a resident of the Southern Tier since 2001, and has made a diverse array of contributions to the community, through the Food Bank of the Southern Tier, Youth Orchestra of the Southern Finger Lakes, Special Olympics coaching, etc.

His decision to join CCAST this year reflects his commitment to promoting the arts & culture with the interest of elevating Chinese and AAPI culture in the community visibility.

Shoonhsin is a second-generation Chinese American whose mother & father are from Taiwan and Hebei province in the mainland, respectively. Shoonhsin embraces the opportunity to bridge the overseas culture barrier by improving his Chinese and celebrating tradition through cooking traditional dishes like jiaozi and zongzi.

Shoonhsin's hobbies include swimming & loves 红烧肉.



Jan-Jun 2025 Event Recap

Chinese New Year

This year's Chinese New Year celebration took place on Feb 1 at the Corning Painted Post High School. After some good food and a chance to take photos at the photo booth, attendees settled into the auditorium for the performances. Videos and photos of the performances as well as photo booth photos can be found at ccast-ny.org/2025-chinese-new-year

This year was the "Year of the Snake". The snake is considered the symbol of wisdom and intelligence, People born in the Year of the Snake are believed to be thoughtful, sophisticated, and wise. The snake is also associated with wealth and prosperity. It is believed that the Year of the Snake brings financial prosperity and business success. The snake's ability to shed its old skin to reveal a new one is seen as a powerful symbol of transformation, renewal, and rebirth. It signifies letting go of the past and embracing change for personal growth.



Following the Lion dance to open the show, the first performance featured the children's group of the C-Motion Dance Club with a dance set to "Congratulations (恭喜恭喜)", a Chinese New Year song that originated in 1946 and is well-known to Chinese people all over the world. These kids aged 1 to 4 years old performing in their first show did a fantastic job and delighted the audience with their dance moves!





Professor Tu, a National Tier-One Performer of Chinese opera and a renowned director in China, performed "Ode to Pear Blossoms (梨花颂)", the theme song of a historical Beijing opera "The Great Tang Concubine" depicting the love story between an imperial concubine, and the Emperor.



Next up, students from the Corning Chinese School performed "Bing Tanghulu (冰糖葫芦)". A traditional Chinese snack of Chinese hawthorn or other fruit coated in sugar and skewered on bamboo. Bing Tanghulu originated in northern China during the Song Dynasty. Today, in China, People believe Bing Tanghulu will bring good luck, health and happiness.



Following the kids, Candice Chen performed a solo dance to "Meet You in the Crowd (这世界这么多人)". The dance conveyed the emotion of cherishing the people in front of us through lyrical and beautiful movements, reminding us to appreciate the time spent with family and friends.



Following Candice, the Corning Sparklers, a group of students from Corning Chinese School, presented a bamboo dance (云南哈尼竹竿舞) that is popular in South Western China. In Ha Ni Minority's tradition, the Bamboo dance was performed to celebrate and pray for good luck.

Professor Tu then returned to the stage for a Long Sleeve Dance (长袖善舞). This Chinese classical



dance used flowing sleeves that incorporated the concept of yin and yang, elements of Beijing opera and tai chi. Praised as the “Number One Long Sleeve Dancer” by Chinese media, Professor Tu has published several books and CDs on long-sleeve dance in China.

Following Professor Tu’s performance, CCA Chair Irena Zhang took a few moments to review activities from 2024 and CCAST Chair Lin Lin discussed the new non-profit organization. There was also the first raffle drawing of the evening!

Next up, ALTA band celebrated their ten year anniversary with a performance marking the occasion (十年如梦). Ten years of growth—marked by both harvest and joy, intertwined with moments of loss and melancholy. For ALTA band there were times of high spirits, and times of quiet gloom. Yet, with hope in their hearts and light in their eyes, they look forward to the next ten years—brighter and more radiant, with a better tomorrow ahead!

Professor Tu was next joined on stage with Leafen Beaston, a 7th grader at Vestal Middle School. Together, they performed “Chi Ling (赤伶)”, a song which integrates samples from the opera “Peach Blossom Fan”, incorporating warm and delicate love for families and their motherlands.

Next up, a hymn from the Corning Chinese Christian Church, a large family composed of brothers and





sisters who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Church activities include weekly Sunday worship, Sunday school, Bible study fellowships, and other events such as Thanksgiving gatherings, Christmas parties, and summer picnics, attracting many community members to participate. Since 2005, the church has performed at every Corning Chinese New Year Celebration. This year, they brought one hymn for everyone, "Because He Lives (因他活着)".



The next performance featured Linda Chen and Kevin Lin from Binghamton University. Their performance highlighted the symbolic fighting style of the Beijing Opera (小快枪对武). It is athletic, gymnastic and clearly influenced by martial arts techniques. Every semester, the students in the Beijing Combat class are able to perform this routine and have a deeper understanding about Beijing opera and its traditional cultures.



The final performance welcomed the C-motion Dance Club. The free-spirited dance was a fusion of a Tang Dynasty poem 'Picking Lotus' and the unique

"Water Village Flower Drum' dance (莲鼓越歌行). It embodied the spirit of the Yue people - singing when they feel like singing, dancing when they feel like dancing, with a harmonious combination of both.



And with that, another successful Chinese New Year Show came to a close. It was only possible thanks to the tireless work of all of the performers and their teams, the sponsors, champions, volunteers, and the teams at Painted Post High School, CCA and CCAST.

But the evening was not over! Following the show there was more food and karaoke to enjoy in the cafeteria! We hope everyone had a great time and see you at next year's celebration!



Spring Equinox Art Exhibit

The "Celebration of Spring Equinox" exhibit and competition ran from March 7th thru 21st at 171 Cedar Arts Center in Corning NY. The following pieces were recognized:

Top Group Artworks:

- 汉服: Xiaohong Chen; Sheldon De Pedro, Arabella Shang, Giulietta Maio, Abril Liu
- Spring playground: Xueyan Dillon, Amelia Cheng, Abbie Dillon, Avery Colo, Zoe Chan
- Spring poems: Xiugin Gao, Brayden Liu, Angela Shang, Amory Zhou, Jonathan Fu, Danial Jin, Sharon De Pedro





Top Individual Artworks:

- Spring warmth: Jenny Liu
- Full of Vitality: Arabella Shang

See more photos can be found at ccast-ny.org/2025-spring-equinox-art-1

CCAST/CCA Team Building



One rainy Saturday afternoon in May, members of the CCAST and CCA committees sorted through years of memories, and maybe a little junk, to help organize the shared storage unit.

The team prepared for rain by setting up a canopy used at previous events and began sorting through the items.

In the photos below you may recognize

costumes, decorations or other materials used in previous events. The end result was a better organized storage, an inventory of items on hand, and a trip down memory lane.

Afterwards the volunteers enjoyed a good meal to celebrate a job well done.





Rotary Club International Dinner



CCAST performers were one of the main highlights at this year's International Dinner Celebration organized by the Corning Rotary Club. This year's event was held at the Radisson Hotel Corning on June 7 and also featured performances with Irish, Latin, and Indian roots.

CCAST was represented in three performances. First up, the C-Motion Rising Starts with a rendition of Congratulations (恭喜恭喜). Next up, the Chinese Lion Dance team performed and handed out fortunes to the audience. The final performance of the night was the C-Motion Dance Club with a dance set to Lotus Picking with Yue Opera and Drum (莲鼓越歌行).



Photos and videos of the event can be found at ccast-ny.org/2025-rotary-club

Colonials Day



Members of the local Chinese community took part in the Colonial Days celebration in Painted Post on June 14. CCAST members, some dressed in traditional clothing, walked the parade route on W. Water St. and N. Hamilton St.



Future Events

Mid-Autumn Festival – Saturday Sep 27th – Harris Hill Outing Center

The 2025 Mid-Autumn Festival is on Saturday Sep 27th at the Harris Hill Outing Center. Members can sign up for their free tickets at ccast-ny.org. Non-members can either purchase individual tickets or can sign up for a discounted CCAST membership with free entry to the event! Check ccast-ny.org/2025-mid-autumn-festival for more information.

We are looking for volunteers to help out on the day of the event. Volunteers may become eligible for a free 2026 CCAST membership! Learn more at ccast-ny.org/volunteer

Corning World - Corning Chinese Association leaders start community nonprofit

Editor's Note: The below article was written by Maria Strinni Gill and featured on Corning World in May. It is reprinted here with permission of Corning Incorporated.

When Susan Gao joined Corning in 2016, she was on her own in a new place with family far away in Minnesota. The Corning Chinese Association helped her settle in quickly and find resources she needed to feel at home in a new job and new community.

"That's really the true value of CCA," says Susan, Assistant Product Line Manager, Gasoline and Diesel Particulate Filters, Environmental Technologies.

Philip Brown, Manager, Thin Films & Coatings, took a job with Corning in 2017, while his wife, Boon Ching Tee, was a doctoral student at Ohio State University. When she downsized from Columbus, Ohio, to Corning, New York, to join the company in 2021, she felt a strong sense of culture shock, he says. Ethnically Chinese and from Malaysia, her connections within the ERG help her, too, find a network in the local Corning community.

"CCA was a big help in getting a sense of community and resources that Boon was missing when she first came to the area," Philip says.



To celebrate its 20th anniversary, members of the CCA employee resource group helped launch the Chinese Cultural Association of the Southern Tier (CCAST) last year, a nonprofit community organization to further bridge Chinese and American cultures in the central southern region of New York.

"This is a long-time wish, actually," says Lin Lin, a Senior Staff Scientist in Thin Films & Coatings, who joined Corning in 2011. "We have wanted to do this for at least a dozen years."

The unique culture of Corning

Corning, New York, a small city of about 11,000 residents, has unique characteristics that distinguish it from the rural towns that surround it. As the only Fortune 500 company in the area, Corning has drawn an international collection of scientists, engineers, and other professionals, infusing diversity of culture into the area.

Employee resource groups, like CCA, are an important part of Corning's culture and Values, providing a way for people with shared culture or interests to come together. They also establish a feeling of belonging that helps retain employees.

"We are a small community and people are very close," Lin says. "When you are here alone, or only have a small family, it's very natural to gather the people who can share the same culture with you and celebrate holidays together."

Now, with children born and raised in the United States, Lin is more grateful than ever for her Chinese network.

"I want my kids to feel like they are part of the broader local Chinese community. Celebrating events like Chinese New Year together will help them to learn the Chinese culture which I want them to have – that exposure to their mother's background," Lin says. "So, it's more for the next generation."

Baolin (Paul) Cai worked at Corning for 24 years, until his retirement in 2023 from his role as a senior data specialist. He and his wife, also retired from Corning, have chosen to stay in



the area, although they've travelled all over the world. He says CCA's deep connections are part of the reason why.

"CCA helps people share information and really keeps people together," Baolin says. "I love Corning. That's why I stay here."

Deep roots in Corning

Long before it was an official employee resource group, the CCA was building connections and sharing culture in the region where the company is headquartered.

In the late 1960s, just five or six Chinese employees were living here with their families. They gathered informally, usually at someone's house for dinner and get-togethers, and they began calling themselves the Corning Chinese Association.

At the turn of the century, more than 70 families were actively involved, with leadership directing annual festivals, community activities, and regular gatherings. The group became an official Corning ERG in 2004, continuing to promote and share in Chinese culture in both the company and the community.

Today, CCA counts approximately 200 Corning Valley employees among its members. But with spouses and children, extended family members, and community members often included in festivities, the number of active participants is nearly 500.

Growing a new organization

"As we grow CCA, we have more engagement with community members and local families, not just Corning employees. It broadens our span of Chinese culture, in collaboration with the local community," Susan says.

Lin, along with past CCA Chair Ray He, Senior Engineer, Software Applications, and other CCA leaders, took a look at what the ERG provides for employees and how it could partner with an official community group to share culture more broadly. Then, they set out to create a nonprofit organization to serve the whole community – a process that took a year of effort, coordination, and commitment.



Lin and Ray consulted with experts, engaged a law firm to help facilitate the process, and brainstormed to shape the organization's identity. Weekly meetings with a core team ensured steady progress, and they worked to pull more people into the effort to build a vibrant community.

"Through persistence, collaboration, and a shared vision, CCAST stands as the organization it is today, ready to serve and enrich the community," Lin says.

With a clear distinction between the ERG from the community organization, CCA focuses on professional networking, skills development, employee retention, and cultural celebrations at work, while CCAST will take over to serve and connect the greater Chinese community in the Southern Tier region of New York.

CCAST presents an annual Chinese New Year celebration, the Mid-Autumn Festival, and various cultural fairs that bring the community together to honor Chinese traditions. It organizes special interest groups, including dance and photo clubs. CCAST also partners with other local organizations, like 171 Cedar Arts Center and the Corning YMCA, to provide performances and activities that highlight the history, arts, and contributions of Chinese culture.

Likely, Corning employees will stay involved in both organizations, with employees remaining a driving force in the cultural richness CCAST provides in the community. Susan says the distinction as two separate, but linked, organizations will help both groups focus on their missions and grow accordingly.

"We'll keep exploring different opportunities," Susan says. "CCA and CCAST are like a sister and a brother. When there is a cultural event, all our committee members are going to help each other."



New Member Introduction



Zhanhong (Aurora) Xiang

Hello everyone! My name is Zhanhong (Aurora) Xiang, and I'm excited to be spending the summer as an intern at COC. A bit about me: I was born and raised in Jinan, Shandong Province, China, and I moved to the U.S. in 2016 to pursue my undergraduate at The University of Texas at Austin. After earning my degree, I began working toward my PhD in Chemical Engineering at Yale University, and I'm thrilled to be contributing to projects here at Corning during my internship.

Outside of work, I enjoy playing tennis, walking my adorable dog Nomi (who I'm convinced is the cutest dog in the world!), and exploring new coffee shops. I'm also planning a trip to Oregon after my internship, so if you have any travel tips or recommendations, I'd love to hear them!

Looking forward to connecting with everyone and learning from all of you this summer!





Baby Rosalie Chengxin Xing (邢承昕)

The newest member of CCAST! Baby Rosalie Chengxin Xing was born July 3rd at 8:44am weighing 7 lbs 2 oz to Scott Xing (邢思博) and Alex Longacre.

2026 CCAST Membership Information

As we complete this transition year, we are thrilled to share information about the 2026 CCAST Membership Plans. This CCAST membership will replace the previous CCA membership. Becoming a member of this vibrant community will provide you with access to the following:

- Free entry to the 2026 Chinese New Year Celebration, with priority registration for the event and discounts for additional tickets
- Free entry to the 2026 Mid-Autumn Festival Picnic, with discounts for additional tickets
- Access to exclusive member-only events and workshops
- Voting rights at the annual meeting

From 2026, we are pleased to offer three membership tiers designed to suit different needs. Membership fees will be payable online via our website. We will also have the option to set up a yearly recurring subscription to enjoy 20% off!:

- Individual Membership - \$50 (\$40 with annual subscription) - Covers 1 person
- Family Membership - \$100 (\$80 with annual subscription) - Covers parents and children
- Family+ Membership - \$150 (\$120 with annual subscription) - Covers extended family members, including visiting parents



Membership Waiver Program

A new initiative for CCAST is the membership waiver program. This program is designed to recognize and reward our dedicated volunteers. This program offers free 2026 membership based on volunteer hours completed during 2025:

- Volunteer 5+ hours in 2025: Qualify for a free individual membership in 2026 (\$50 value)
- Volunteer 10+ hours in 2025: Qualify for a free family membership in 2026 (\$100 value)
- Volunteer 15+ hours in 2025: Qualify for a free family+ membership in 2026 (\$150 value)

If you are interested in volunteering, have any questions about this program, or wish to log your hours from volunteering work in 2025, please contact us at info@ccast-ny.org.

CCAST Clubs

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting cultural enrichment, personal and professional development for our members, and the education of the next generation, CCAST is excited to introduce Clubs! This initiative encourages the formation of specialized interest groups within our organization, fostering a vibrant and diverse community. A list of current clubs can be found at ccast-ny.org/ccast-clubs

Current CCAST Clubs

C-motion Dance Club

- Provides dance performances for CCAST events
- Includes the Rising-star sub-team, which focuses on cultural exposure for younger members

Photo Club

- Supports CCAST events by capturing photos and videos



- Promotes photography skills among members

Alta Band

- Formed by passionate fathers, Alta band shares their love for Chinese pop music with the Corning community
- Aiming to break down cultural barriers, connecting the community through the universal language of music

Corning Sparklers

- Consists of students from Corning Chinese School
- Promotes dance as a performing art by sharing it as an integral part of culture and language

Benefits of Clubs

Funding Support

- CCAST will provide funding support for club activities, subject to approval
- Funding requests should be submitted with a clear budget and justification for the planned expenses

Community and Networking

- Clubs offer members the opportunity to connect with others who share similar interests
- Participation in clubs can lead to professional networking and personal friendships

Skill Development

- Club activities provide opportunities for members to develop new skills and enhance existing ones
- Leadership roles with clubs offer valuable experiences in organizing and managing group activities



Cultural and Educational Enrichment

- Clubs promote cultural awareness and appreciation through their activities
- Activities designed for the next generation help education younger members about their heritage and culture

Contact us at info@ccast-ny.org if you are interested in join an existing club or you would like to start a new club.

CCAST Openings

We are looking for dedicated and passionate members of the community to join our team. The following roles are currently open:

- Event Planning and Management
- Club Administration
- Grant Officers
- Legal Consulting

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact us at info@ccast-ny.org.

Donate to CCAST

Your donation helps to continue the mission of CCAST, supporting cultural events, educational programs, and community outreach. CCAST is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your donation is tax deductible. In addition, employees of Corning, Inc. can maximize their impact of their donation with Corning's matching fund program. For more information, or to donate online, visit ccast-ny.org/donate



Sponsorship Opportunities

With the creation of CCAST as a nonprofit organization comes new sponsorship opportunities. Support CCAST and promote your business by becoming a sponsor today. Contact us at info@ccast-ny.org for more information.

Recognizing Volunteers

The events hosted by CCAST would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our wonderful volunteers. Below is a list of individuals who have volunteered their time in the first half of 2025. On behalf of all of CCAST, thank you for helping advance the mission of this organization. If your name is misprinted or this list is incomplete, please contact us.

CCA

Fufei Chen
Xu Guo
Zheng Xiong

Tim Fang
Johnny Li
Irena Zhang

Siming Gao
Min Liu

General Volunteers

Candice Chen
Claire Colo
Feng Gao
Ying Li
Li Liu
Jiandong Meng
Earl Pierce
Zimu Su
Boon Ching Tee
Yafei Wang
Hong Xiao
Liyang Zhang
Jerry Zhou

Xiaole (Eric) Cheng
Xueyan Dillon
Yan Kong
Aize Li
Bing Lu
Yuan Mou
Courtney Russo
Yujian Sun
Mingyuan Wang
Yaochi Wei
Vicky Yan
Danhong Zhong
Marguerite Zorn

Sabrina Clark
Xiuqin Gao
Patty Kuang
Jie Liu
Louisa Lu
Weijun Niu
Maria Strinni
Tian Tian
Xue Wang
Wei Wu
Lei Yuan
Chunfeng Zhou