



Chinese Cultural Association of the Southern Tier Newsletter



Lantern riddles at the 2025 Mid-Autumn
Festival



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Notes from the Chair

Dear CCAST Members,

Welcome to our second newsletter! As we wrap up Q3 and Q4, I'm excited to share a light year-end update and celebrate the momentum our community has built together.

In this issue, you'll find highlights from the Mid-Autumn Festival, C-motion club updates, community spotlights, and volunteer recognition. Thank you to everyone who contributed—it's inspiring to see our community grow stronger and more connected.

Please mark your calendar: our 2026 Chinese New Year Celebration will be held on Saturday, February 21 at Corning Painted Post High School. Many volunteers are already working on performance preparations. If you have a talent you'd like to share (singing, dance, music, martial arts, drama), please contact us—we'd love to see you on stage!



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Membership updates for 2026:

- New membership rates begin in 2026.
- Our membership waiver program continues—2025 volunteer hours can qualify you for free membership in 2026. We're reaching out to those who qualify; please claim your free membership when you receive the notice.
- Prefer to subscribe? Take advantage of our annual subscription with a 20% discount.
- Learn more at ccast-ny.org/membership

As always, CCAST (an independent non-profit) will continue to collaborate closely with CCA (Corning Inc. ERG) and Corning Chinese School (CCS). We appreciate everyone's support and teamwork.

On behalf of the entire CCAST committee, we wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season. Thank you for being part of our community—and we look forward to celebrating the New Year together.

With joy and appreciation,

Lin

Chair, CCAST



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Jul-Dec 2025 Event Recap

C-motion Dance Club team building

The C-motion Dance Team enjoyed a wonderful and peaceful Sunday morning together at the CMOG glass studio, where each member hand-crafted their own unique glass piece using sand-blasting. Everyone added the C-motion logo and personal designs, creating special keepsakes to celebrate our hard work and shared achievements in 2025. This creative and joyful experience was a perfect way to honor our teamwork and look ahead with excitement to the new dance practice season starting this fall. Here's to many more beautiful moments together!



Ice Cream Social

On what may be one of the last few days of Summer 2025 to reach 80F (27C), CCAST hosted an ice cream social this past Friday at Beartown Peaches N Cream. Over 55 people - the young and the young at heart - descended on the local ice cream spot to enjoy a tasty treat and catch up with old friends and new.





C-Motion Team Building Potluck

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, members of the C-Motion dance club and their families met up at Sperr Park for a potluck lunch team building.

Soon, preparations will begin for the dances to be performed at the next Chinese New Year celebration. The 2026 Chinese New Year celebration will feature dance performances from the C-Motion dance club and the C-Motion Rising Stars, a group of young children ages 2-5.



After the potluck, the members participated in a raffle of fun Asian grocery items – including snacks, herbs, and teas – then the rainy weather cleared, allowing for fun on the playground!

This event provided a wonderful prelude to the upcoming dance preparations.



Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival, often called the Moon Festival, is a cherished tradition that brings together friends and families to celebrate unity and good fortune. This year, on September 27th, the Harris Hill Outing Center became the heart of festivity as the community gathered to enjoy an unforgettable day filled with laughter, delicious food, and engaging activities.





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No Mid-Autumn Festival is complete without a spread of delectable treats, and this celebration was no exception. Another highlight of the event was the much-anticipated raffle. The excitement was palpable as numbers were called and winners celebrated their good luck.

Colorful paper lanterns adorned with clever riddles challenged festival-goers of all ages to put their thinking caps on. Groups wandered from lantern to lantern, collaborating and laughing as they tried to solve each puzzle. Children were treated to their own special delight, a vibrant inflatable play area that quickly became the hotspot for laughter and energy.

This year's Mid-Autumn Festival was a resounding success. The combination of mouthwatering food, engaging activities, and the warmth of community spirit created lasting memories for all who attended.





Ne Zha 2 Movie Screening

One Sunday in November, CCAST members braved the cold to enter the Palace Theatre in Corning and dive into the thrilling movie that is Ne Zha 2, a continuation of the legendary Chinese tale.

Despite being a global phenomenon that has earned over \$2.2 billion worldwide, there were limited opportunities to see the Chinese language Ne Zha 2 in the US.



Moviegoers experienced the breathtaking animation, compelling storytelling, and action-packed scenes that brought the mythological world to life. As promised, the film proved an unforgettable cinematic adventure for all ages.

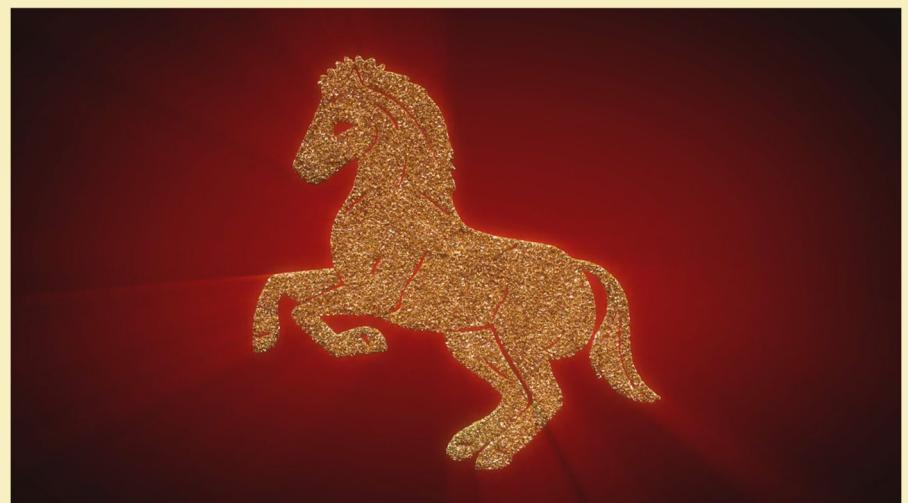
Got another movie you think CCAST should host a screening for? Contact us and let us know!



Future Events

Chinese New Year
Celebration - Saturday
Feb 21st - Painted Post
High School

The 2026 Chinese New Year Celebration promises an exciting start to the Year of the Horse! Join us for a joyful gathering filled with traditional performances, delicious food, and festive activities for all





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ages. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience the vibrant energy and cultural richness of the holiday together with friends, family, and the entire community. Mark your calendar and help us welcome a prosperous and spirited new year!

Ticketing information:

- Covered members of a current CCAST membership – FREE
- Non-member adult tickets – \$30 (\$24 with early bird discount)
- Non-member child tickets – \$15 (\$12 with early bird discount)
- Non-member family bundle (2 adults and 2 kids) – \$70 (\$56 with early bird discount)
- Members receive discount off additional tickets
- Group tickets – 25% off purchase of 10+ tickets

We are looking for volunteers to help out on the day of the event. Volunteers may become eligible for a free 2027 CCAST membership! Learn more at ccast-ny.org/volunteer

Look for more information and ticket release at cny.ccast-ny.org.



C-Motion Dance Club

Formerly known as the “East-West-South-North dance team,” our club underwent a transformation in 2012 under the leadership of Lin. With a desire to embrace the essence of Corning Chinese Dance, Lin decided to rename the club as C-motion. Our primary mission is to promote and preserve the beauty of Chinese traditional dance. We take great pride in our annual appearances at the Corning Chinese Association’s New Year celebration, as they provide us with the opportunity to share the joy of traditional Chinese dance with our local community.

Our performances extend beyond the New Year celebration, as we have had the opportunity to showcase our talent for organizations such as Corning Incorporated, Corning Community College, the Rotary Club of Corning, Corning Children’s Center, Chemung Valley Montessori School, Appleridge Senior Living, and more. Through these performances, we aim to inspire and educate a broad audience, including the next generation.





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With a mission to promote and preserve Chinese traditional dance, we strive to be a premier Chinese traditional dance group, renowned for artistic excellence and cultural authenticity. Our vision is to foster cross-cultural understanding and collaboration through the beauty of traditional Chinese dance.

Currently, we have two sub-groups within our club. The "C-motion" Adults group dance team consists of over 15 adult dancers from the local Corning/Horseheads area. Additionally, we have the "C-motion Rising Stars" group, featuring 13 children aged 2-9 years. These young dancers represent the future of our club and embody the joy and passion of Chinese traditional dance.



Whether you are interested in joining our club, watching our performances, or simply learning more about Chinese traditional dance, we invite you to join us on this journey of cultural appreciation and artistic expression. Welcome to the C-motion Dance Club!



Leaders



Lin Lin – Overall Leader

Lin Lin is a dynamic leader in both the arts and her professional field. As Chair of the Chinese Cultural Association of the Southern Tier (CCAST) and leader of the C-motion Dance Club, Lin brings over 20 years of dance excellence to her community. Renowned for her expertise in Dai (Peacock) dance and her enthusiasm for modern fusion styles, she has inspired and led her team since 2013.

Lin's dance journey began in college and continues today, fueled by her commitment to lifelong learning—drawing inspiration from others and embracing new styles online.

Her resilience shines through in moments like returning to the stage just 10 days after surgery, a testament to her dedication and spirit.

Beyond performance, Lin is a mentor and bridge-builder, guiding CCAST to connect cultures, engage the community, and nurture the next generation of cultural ambassadors. She works closely with the Rising Stars youth group—where her own children dance—cultivating cultural pride and awareness. Lin also serves the community as a YMCA board member.

Outside the arts, Lin is a principal scientist at Corning Incorporated, fluent in English, Mandarin, and Hokkien/Taiwanese. For Lin, dance is more than movement—it is freedom, connection, and the driving force behind her community leadership.



Candice Chen – Choreographer (Adults)

Candice Xiaohong Chen has over 25 years of experience in classical, folk, and contemporary dance. Her passion for dance began at the age of seven and grew through years of training, performances, and leadership roles in dance teams during her college years in China.

Since relocating to Corning five years ago, Candice has become a dynamic force within the local Chinese community, serving as the leader and choreographer of C-Motion Dance Club and the children's dance programs at Corning Chinese School. Her creative works, including *Bing Tang Hulu*, *Sea and the Sky*, *Lotus Picking Drum*, and *See You in the Crowd*, have mesmerized audiences and highlighted her remarkable ability to harmonize traditional and contemporary elements.

Tang Hulu, Sea and the Sky, Lotus Picking Drum, and See You in the Crowd, have mesmerized audiences and highlighted her remarkable ability to harmonize traditional and contemporary elements.

Beyond her dedication to dance, Candice is a talented technician at Corning INC. Fluent in English, Mandarin, and Cantonese, she is passionate about using dance as a universal language to tell compelling stories and foster connections across cultures. Through her leadership and creativity, Candice is dedicated to sharing and celebrating Chinese culture within the community.



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Boon Ching Tee - Choreographer (Kids)

Boon Ching Tee is a new member of the CCAST C-motion Dance Club, where she combines her artistic background with her passion for cultural preservation. Her musical training includes piano, percussion, trumpet, guitar, yangqin, and guzheng, which she studied and performed during her school years in marching bands and at recitals. In college, she expanded into theater, acting in and producing dramas and musicals. Boon also holds a PhD in Biomedical Engineering and works as a senior scientist at Corning Inc.

As a fourth-generation Malaysian Chinese, Boon is part of a community that enthusiastically preserves Chinese language and traditions while living outside of China. Fluent in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hokkien/Taiwanese, and Malay, she has lived in diverse environments—from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Columbus, OH, and now Corning, NY. Concerned about her children's cultural exposure, Boon joined the CCAST C-motion Dance Club to promote Chinese traditions.

In 2025, she led the C-motion Rising Stars youth group, ages 1.5 to 4, to perform *Gong Xi Gong Xi* as the opening act for the Chinese New Year celebration and Rotary Club dinner. For the 2026 performances, she introduced musical elements and more complex choreography to their piece, teaching the children in both Mandarin and English. Boon is committed to inspiring children and fostering their appreciation for Chinese culture while nurturing their artistic talents.



Adults (2024)

- Lin Lin 林琳
- Candice Chen 陈小红
- Wu Ping 吴萍
- Qi Rui 齐蕊
- Tian Tian 田甜
- Patty Kuang 匡佩琼
- Liying Zhang 张丽英
- Kaishiuan Hsing 邢铠轩
- Victoria Card 邱毓寰
- Sheng Lan 盛兰
- Louisa Lu 陆敏
- Grace Lu 卢淑华
- Aize Li 李艾泽
- Xueyan Dillon 陈雪燕
- Yanan Fang 方亚男
- Xiaona Li 李宵娜
- Yuan Mou 牟媛
- Boon Ching Tee 郑雯静
- Claire Colo 郑小燕

Rising Stars(2024)

- May P. 林孜 (5)
- Gene P. 林君 (2)
- Edward B. 郑宇华 (5)
- Leo B. 郑宇欧 (4)
- Spencer C. 科洛恺 (5)
- Rebecca S. 孙敏 (5)
- Emily H. 黄悦晴 (5)
- Victoria H. 黄悦朵 (4)

As the Chinese New Year approaches, the excitement in the community is palpable, especially during the weekly dance rehearsals. Each session is filled with vibrant energy, laughter, and a shared commitment to creating a memorable celebration. The dance instructors guide participants through intricate steps and expressive movements that capture the festive spirit of the holiday.



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A highlight of this year's C-motion routines is the adult group dance, which brings together participants from various backgrounds. This dance depicts the lively and joyful lives of a group of "princesses" living in the snowy regions of Tibet. It expresses a deep yearning for a beautiful life and envisions a harmonious relationship between humans and nature. Weeks of practice have fostered a sense of unity and pride among the dancers, who are eager to showcase their hard work and dedication on stage.



Equally captivating is the kid group dance. This engaging performance features a group of 13 children, aged 2-9, who will celebrate the Year of the Horse through dance, music, and cultural expression. The children will perform to the lively "William Tell Overture," a piece traditionally associated with horse racing in Chinese culture, while holding colorful horse stick props and playing musical instruments such as tambourines, castanets, and wrist bells., which is especially meaningful this year as it features horse heads to celebrate the Year of the Horse. This performance promises to be a visual treat, symbolizing good fortune, strength, and vitality for the new year.



As rehearsals continue, both the adult and kid groups are perfecting their routines, ensuring that the upcoming Chinese New Year celebration will be a joyful and unforgettable event for all.



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 Chinese New Year Celebration (signature event)
- Free entry to Mid-Autumn Festival (signature event)
- Access to exclusive member-only events and workshops
- Priority registration for signature events
- Discount on additional tickets for signature events
- Voting rights at 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

Become a member today at store.ccast-ny.org

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 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 second 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.

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Lin Lin
Dawei Ding
Shoonhsin Li

Rui (Ray) He
Philip Brown

Haihong Li
Yinghong Chen

CCA

Fufei Chen
Xu Guo
Zheng Xiong

Tim Fang
Johnny Li
Irena Zhang

Siming Gao
Min Liu

General Volunteers

Xueyan Dillion
Liangchun Lin
Li Tian
Jerry Zhou

Xiujin Gao
Weijun Niu
Lingyan Wang

Xinghua Li
Zilin Pan
Wei Wu