



Connecting Cultures, Celebrating Community: CAAGW's Gala Unites Asian Americans for a Joyful New Year

By: Peishi Yu

On January 6th, 2024, at Gaithersburg High School, the Chinese Alumni Associates of Greater Washington (CAAGW), organized the 2024 Asian American New Year Gala. Many eager Asian alumni

organizations participated in this celebration. This event has over twenty years of history. This year was extremely grandiose and enthusiastic, as this year marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of The People's

Republic of China. People flocked to the celebration for a night of compassion and kindness, while ringing in the new year. The night went away with laughing, cheering, and happiness. A rainbow of dancers

twirled onstage, while inspiring people like Susan Lee (the first Asian American Maryland secretary of state), Julie Yang (a member of the Maryland board of education), and Ping Lu (CAAGW's chairman) gave powerful speeches to the audience.

people could play. People of all ages came to play and train their brain. There was also a competition organized by CAAGW where people could vote which alumni association had the most delectable food, and the winner was Wuhan University.

That wasn't all! Prior to the gala, the CAAGW invited many alumni associations to bring their regional delicacies for a food festival. Scents from all over the world wafted and emanated through the entire building. You could find anything from bubble tea to rice sesame balls to cold noodles. During the exciting night, there was also a fantasizing riddle game that

The CYOC volunteers helped make this event possible with many talents, such as marketing, cooking, and charisma. They made and sold delicacies during the food festival and helped collect entry tickets during the gala.

However, all good things must come to an end, but people left the celebration full, amazed, and inspired.



People are ecstatic guessing riddles during this exciting game.



Wuhan University, the winner of the food competition



CYOC gets interviewed. (Photo taken by Peishi Yu)

2024 Asian American New Year Gala

Author: Matthew Wong

On January 6th, 2024, Gaithersburg High School transformed into an attraction of cultural richness, hosted by the Capital Youth Outreach Club (CYOC) to celebrate the Asian American New Year. The cafeteria, from an empty room with a few tables lying around, emerged into a diverse multitude of people and food stands, creating an immersive experience with a culinary city, featuring traditional Asian delights—ranging from noodles and rice to fruit kebabs and soups. Also, the auditorium was full with audiences enjoying dances and musical performances. The success of the event was seen through the energetic environment, as the enthusiastic crowd enjoyed themselves in the event, showing the impact of community-driven initiatives in fostering not only cultural appreciation and unity but also a sense of shared joy and celebration. Beyond the immediate festivities, this occasion promises to leave a good memory when leaving, shaping cultural observances and communal festivities within the community, embodying a milestone in our collective narrative of cultural exchange and unity.



CYOC at the CAAGW New Years Gala

By Jaylyne Yang



I volunteered to help out at the New Year's Gala on 1/6/23 and had a wonderful time. Although it was rainy and cold that day, that did not stop so many people from attending this event. The cafeteria was crowded with people selling various homemade foods. This huge social gathering represented Asian culture and I was able to embrace my culture and connect with others. The event happened at Gaithersburg High school from around 3pm- 6pm, with a performance afterward. CYOC volunteers and parents came as early as 12pm to help arrange tables and set up equipment. Families started trickling in later to sell their homemade goods. There were

so many tasty- looking foods, such as tanghulu, bao buns, egg tarts, cupcakes, etc. There was also a fun station where people could solve riddles for a dollar. I would definitely recommend attending that festival as I was able to meet new people and try new food. Additionally, state senators

came to the event too and many of them were also able to experience or represent Asian culture. Some people even got a chance to talk to reporters about the event.

After that, food started being cleared and things were getting packed up, but the night was not over as people shuffled over to the auditorium to enjoy an awaited amazing performance. CYOC members got busy again by helping backstage or collecting tickets and helping audience members get to their seats. I was also able to go backstage and take photos of the performers. Many talented groups performed that night, where there were singing, dancing, wushu, etc. Overall, the experience was unforgettable and I would definitely be there again next year.

