

COMMUNITY

Your stories, your voices

JULY 10, 2008

PAGE 8

WE ARE FAMILY

City's 'Sister' program helps Chinese quake victims

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

While others were firing up their grills, a group of local people were getting fired up about helping victims of the earthquakes that recently struck China.

The Winston-Salem Sister Cities program was behind the Fourth of July fundraiser, which was held at the downtown World Exchange gallery.

Sister Cities is a cultural exchange program. The city has four sister cities, including the Yangpu district of Shanghai, the largest city in China.

Shanghai escaped the quake; other parts of the country were not as fortunate. The May 12 quake killed more than 69,000 people and injured more than 370,000 in China's Sichuan Province.

Items that originated in Shanghai, and the city's other sister cities (Unghevi, Moldova; Nassau, Bahamas; and Kumasi, Ghana) are sold at World Exchange. For last week's fundraiser, shoppers and supporters were asked to make contributions to the quake relief effort as well. The dollars collected went to the Yangpu Foreign Affairs Department, which will distribute it to those in need.

David Van Pelt - chairman of the Sister Cities board - said that Independence Day seemed like a good time to start the fundraiser, which will continue for the next two months.

"We thought that being the Fourth of July, this would be a great time to try and do something for someone else," said Van Pelt.

No hot dogs or hamburgers were at this gathering. Fittingly, there was Chinese food donated by Downtown Thai and Hong Kong King Buffet.

The colorful art on the walls provided a lovely backdrop.

Mei Xiang, a native of China, volunteers at World Exchange, which is located at 420 N. Cherry St. Xiang's family and friends in China where fortunate enough to live far from the quake area. She said she was very pleased to see how much love people were showing those in her native land.

Kimberly Clark, who helped plan the reception, joined the Sister City's board this year as a way to become involved globally. She says reaching out beyond this nation's borders in an important part of that.

"I like to tell people I have a sister and if something happened to her, of course whatever I could give, I'd help her

See Fundraiser on B11



Sister Cities Board Chairman David Van Pelt.

Photos by Todd Luck



Mei Xiang is a native of China.



Board member Kimberly Clark showed her support.



Left: A guest enjoys some of the Chinese food that was donated for the event.

Below: The World Exchange is located inside the Embassy Suites complex in downtown Winston-Salem.



Community Calendar

Atkins reunion

Atkins High School Class of 1958 will celebrate their 50th reunion at the Marriott Hotel. On July 11 starting at 6 p.m., there will be registration and mix and mingle. On July 12, events will include class pictures and a banquet; on July 13, there will be a worship service at 10:30 a.m. at United Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church and a picnic at 4 p.m. at Triad Park in Kernersville. For further information, contact Ernest Goodman at 336-926-8851.

Blood drive

Ja Van Durham, a candidate for Eagle Scout, needs your support by donating blood on July 12 at American Red Cross, Triad Blood Center, 650 Coliseum Dr. For additional information, call 336-767-9132.

Black Chamber meeting

The Winston Salem Black Chamber of Commerce will meet Tuesday, July 15 at 7 p.m. at the Hewitt Business Center, 1001 S. Marshall St.

Majorie Rorie of the Truliant Credit Union will give an overview of the financial seminar being offered to the community by the credit union. Tim Oakes of CarFinder will be the business spotlight. For additional information contact, Randon Pender at 336-575-2006, or visit www.wsbcc.org.

Mo Lucas Step Team fundraiser

The First Annual Mo Lucas Step Team Yard Sale, Car Wash and Fish Fry will be Saturday, July 12 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot of the Bojangles off of Patterson Avenue, 317 East 33rd St. Car washes are \$6, and \$10 for vans, trucks and SUVs. Fish plates are \$6. All proceeds will benefit the activities of the step team. For more information, call Michelle Chisom, fundraiser coordinator, at 336-201-3818.

Yard Sale

Sethos Court #105 Daughters of Isis will hold a yard sale on July 12 from 7 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Grenadier Club, 2511 Old Greensboro Road. Raffle tickets for a chance to win two tickets to WSSU's Homecoming game on Oct. 25 will be available at the sale.

NARFE picnic

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) will hold its annual Independence Day picnic on July 11 at Miller Park, Shelter #1, starting at 11:30 a.m. The meeting is open to current and retired federal employees. For more information, call 336-721-1783.

Family reunion

The descendants of John Wesley and Lucinda B. Pledger will be celebrating their 70th family reunion on Saturday, July 12 from 5 - 9 p.m. at Brown and Douglas Neighborhood Recreation Center, 4725 Indiana Ave. All family members and friends are invited. For more information, call Willie Downs at 336-788-4355 or Charlotte B. Vincent at 336-924-5038.

