



# CALex Newsletter

Writers: Daniel Pan, Xueyuan Liu

Editors: Sophia Xie, Eric Gu

Contact: [contact@calexma.org](mailto:contact@calexma.org)

## Newsletter Summary:

With its mission to promote community service and civic engagement, CALex (Chinese Americans of Lexington) has operated and executed greatly in the first half of 2019. Our highlighted achievements include the initiation of an educational seminar series, the hosting of a face-to-face candidate forum for local election, the organization of the 2019 Chinese New Year celebration and the participation of the Patriots' Day Parade and the Discovery Day Show. The special guests of 2019 Chinese New Year celebration include **all three State Senators and Representatives of our district, the Chairs/Members of the Select Board and School Committee, the Superintendent**, etc.

To better serve the community, CALex community members actively engaged in the elections of TMMs (Town Meeting Members), school PTOs/PTAs and Site Councils. We have set a record for the Chinese American Community in Lexington with **three newly elected TMMs, PTO chairs of two schools, and four School Council Parent Representatives for the high school, middle schools and elementary schools**. We also have members in PTO/PTA and School Redistricting Advisory Group.

CALex and the community members will continue to work together to serve the Lexington community in the second half of 2019 and beyond.

## May 25, 2019. CALex Joined Discovery Day:

The 40th Annual Discover Day, Lexington's long traditional street fair, was held on May 25 in perfect weather. Discovery Day is a great community event that offers people the opportunity to "discover" Lexington and to enjoy music and street performances. Among over 100 local businesses, organizations and municipal participants, CALex introduced itself, for the first time, to the large Lexington community.

CALex's booth 93 situated in the prime location right across from the performance stage and attracted a large number of visitors. The volunteers gave away small gifts including CALex balloons, Chinese traditional and kid bookmarks, cartoon prints. Visitors also had fun trying on the Han Chinese traditional costumes and taking pictures. Many people also stopped by to greet the volunteers, offer their help to the booth and express their appreciation of the work CALex has done for the Chinese-American community.

CALex thanks the Lexington Retailers Association for organizing this wonderful and successful event and appreciates the kind words from the community.



CALex's booth at  
Lexington's 40th Annual  
Discovery Day.

## May 11, 2019. CALex Educational Seminar 3: Discussion about private and public schools

Ranked one of the top states for education, Massachusetts offers a large number of, and diverse, school choices. It however makes choosing a school that is the best for a child a daunting task for parents.

On May 11, 2019, CALex invited Dr. Jing, a well-known education consultant to discuss school choices.

Dr. Jing talked about private schools and compared them with public schools from various aspects. She also shared with audience the process and strategy of applying for private schools. Several Lexington parents whose children were attending private schools shared their kids life and learning experience at private schools.



## May 08, 2019. Interested in Attending Peking University?

Hosted by CALex and its Boston Alumni, Peking University, one of the most prestigious universities in China, for the first time in the US, ran an information session, at Lexington High School, on its undergraduate programs and its admission policies, processes and requirement for international students, including potential students from the United States.

Eligibility criteria for international students include non-Chinese citizens; age between 18-25; SAT  $\geq$  1400 and HSK (Chinese Language Test) results  $\geq$  650.

Even to the organizers' surprise, the session attracted a large number of residents from Lexington and nearby towns.

**Study in China** Peking University Information Session

北京大学海外招生宣讲会

SESSION 1	SESSION 2
TIME: Wednesday, May 8, 7-9 PM	TIME: Thursday, May 9, 7-9 PM
LOCATION: Lexington HS Library Media Center	LOCATION: Cambridge Center for Chinese Culture,
CO-HOST: (Chinese Americans of Lexington, CALexMA.org)	CO-HOST: Belmont Chinese American Association (BCA)

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BELMONT CHINESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION 貝爾蒙特華人協會

**CALex - Peking University  
Information Session**



## April 28, 2019. CALex Educational Seminar 2: Introduction of Math Competition for Students from Both Middle and High Schools

An informational seminar on math competition was presented by J Zhu (Diamond Middle School MathCounts Student coach) and YM Zheng (Lexington High School Math Club co-president). Many students and their parents attended and gave very positive feedback on the seminar.



## April 15, 2019. Children Enjoyed the Patriots' Day Parade

The Patriots' Day parade is an event greatly enjoyed by all. Children uniquely formed the largest age group in CALex's parade unit. Most of the children wore colorful school or sports uniforms to show their love for the schools or activities. They took turns to carry the CALex flag in the front of the parade unit. Their appearance and spirit received big applause from the spectators. They are the future of Chinese American community in Lexington – bright, caring, engaging and good spirit.

To prepare for the parade, a team of volunteers have worked for weeks on every details of the parade – from the theme to the clothing to logistics.



## March 31, 2019. A Big Thank You to All Volunteers

CALex hosted a Thank You party to thank volunteers and supporters for their time, effort and contribution to the community. Over fifty people joined the party for refreshment and fun activities.

Since its founding, CALex has been very active in engaging the Chinese-American community and organizing events, including New Year Celebrations and candidate forums. CALex is very proud of what it has been able to achieve and is very thankful for the volunteers who make all these happen.



## March 23, 2019. Happy 150th Birthday, Cary Library! And Yes, That is a cake!



## March 17, 2019. CALex Educational Seminar 1: Overlooked Unique Issues in Chinese-American Children's Development

Ms. Shaobing Su, a Doctoral candidate from Tufts University, who specializes in Children Education, gave a seminar on unique issues, which are however often overlooked by parents, encountered by Chinese-American Children during their development.

Ms. Su elaborated on the challenges and opportunities of living in two very different cultures for the Chinese-American children. Ms. Su advocated for helping the children learn to appreciate and be proud of their Chinese heritage and build the confidence that the multi-cultural exposure does not diminish, but enriches their life experiences. The five C model of positive youth development, competence, confidence, connection, character and caring was introduced. And Ms. Su emphasized on connection and caring, two important elements that were traditionally not well appreciated by Chinese parents.

Finally, Ms. Su acknowledged the lack of research in this area and encouraged collaboration between parents and researchers. Ms. Su can be reached via WeChat ID: shaobingsu.



## March 4, 2019. Six Chinese Americans Elected Town Meeting Members

CALex congratulates the six Chinese Americans who won the Lexington Town Meeting Member election. CALex thanks all eight Chinese Americans candidates who came forward and ran in one of the most competitive town elections.

CALex also thanks all volunteers, who has spent countless hours helping the candidates prepare flyers, canvassing the neighborhood and holding signs at the polling stations.





## Feb 8 2019. Joyful Chinese New Year Celebration with Food and Entertainment

About three hundred people gathered to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year – the Year of the Pig. The second such celebration hosted by CALex. The celebration was also joined by State Senators Mike Barrett and Cindy Friedman, State Representative Michelle Ciccolo, Lexington Selectmen Suzie Barry (Chair) and Joe Pato, and School Committee Chair Eileen Jay and Superintendent Julie Hackett.

The event started with a potluck dinner for which the participants brought their own favorite dishes. A huge variety of dishes was shared. There were dumplings, Shanghainese soup (YanDuXian), Shichuan spicy dishes and Northern style cold noodles, to name a few, reflecting the diversity of the Chinese community in Lexington.

The participants also enjoyed wonderful entertainment, including folk dances, standup comedy, piano and classic Chinese rock songs, performed by Lexington residents and groups from the Greater Boston area. The folk dancing performance Love for Kang-Ba was one of the highlights of the night for its vivid costumes, artistic choreography and impeccable performance. CALex is planning to host the New Year celebration annually.



## Feb 2, 2019. Town Election Candidate Forum Well Attended

To promote civic engagement of Chinese American community, CALex held a Candidates Forum at the Lexington Community Center, which was well attended. Four selectman candidates (Suzie Barry and Joe Pato for three-year term, Matthew Cohen and Mark Sandeen for one-year term and two Planning Board candidates (Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti and Robert Peters) participated in the 2-hour forum.

The candidates conveyed their reasons for running, shared their relevant experience and answered questions from the Chinese American community. The candidates emphasized the importance of community involvement in town fairs. At the end of the forum, CALex encouraged fellow Chinese American to vote on March 4th and get their voices heard.



## January 9, 2019. Cary Library Donation Exceeding Goal

To celebrate the 150th birthday of the Cary Library, CALex raised donations totaled of \$4,553.63, greatly exceeding the \$3,000 fundraising goal. The donations came from Lexington Chinese American community including several small businesses, showcasing the generosity of the community and the love and appreciation from the community for our wonderful Cary Library.

