

ARTS & LEISURE



A Chinese folk dance by Southern Connecticut Chinese School students opened the Chinese New Year Gala held Saturday, February 14, to mark the Chinese New Year.



More than 40 students and parents from Woodbridge involved in performing as well as volunteering for the event. Howard Ding (center), a freshman at Amity Regional High School, played a Chinese folk music with a traditional free reed wind instrument, cucurbit flute, accompanying by Sophia Wang (left), a 7th grader at Amity Middle School at Bethany, and Alison Su (right), a 6th grader at Beecher Road School, with Chinese dance. All three students are Woodbridge residents.

SOUTHERN CT CHINESE SCHOOL CELEBRATED CHINESE NEW YEAR

On Chinese calendar, the year 4713 – the Year of the Goat – has begun. The celebration, held at Lyman Center of Southern Connecticut State University, was organized by the Southern Connecticut Chinese School (SCCS) with supports from Southern Connecticut State University, where the Chinese school is located. SCCS is a Sunday school devoted to Chinese lan-

guage teaching. Established in 1995, it has evolved from a small after-school class with one teacher and several students to a non-profit educational institution of over 500 students from 40 towns in the Greater New Haven area. The event also featured Chinese Kung Fu, Chinese folk songs, folk dances, Chinese short drama, poem recital and more.

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The winning band Grey Negative on the Toad's Place stage. [Adair Photography]

20TH ANNUAL BATTLE OF THE BANDS BENEFIT SHOW

On Presidents Day the Amity Teen Center hosted the 20th Annual TOAD's Place Benefit "Battle of the Bands" show at 300 York Street in New Haven. Eleven teen bands performed in front of hundreds of teens, friends and family members. The winning band, chosen by the judges, was Grey Negative.

After all expenses were paid, the Teen Center raised \$1,875.00 from the ticket sales, commemorative t-shirt sales and bake sale run by the Amity

Leo Club. Event sponsors were Parillo, Cohen & Co., Woodbridge UPS and Jay Jaser.

The Amity Teen Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was formed in 1987. We hold after school, evening and weekend activities for area teens in grades 7 – 12. We are located in our own building at 10 Selden Street in Woodbridge. Anyone wishing to learn more about the Teen Center, please go to www.amityteencenter.org.

TARZAN SWINGS ONTO THE AMITY STAGE!

The award winning Amity Creative Theater will dazzle audiences with its high flying production of the Disney Musical Tarzan. Single performances are scheduled for March 20th, 21st, 27th, and 2 performances on March 28th.

Amity Creative Theater has hired the world renowned ZFX, (zfxflying.com) flying effects company from Louisville, Kentucky to train the student cast and crew. ZFX personnel will be working with students from March 15-19th. 7 actors will be swinging through the trees, the audience gazing above in awe while this talented cast and crew tell the story of Tarzan's first experience with modern civilization and love.

A Broadway Hit in 2006, Tarzan features the music and lyrics of 5 time Grammy Winner Phil Collins, combined with the breathtaking character flying and acrobatics of this Amity H.S. student cast. Under the direction of Theater Teacher Robert Kennedy, Amity Creative Theater is known as one of the top Theater programs on the East Coast. Amity has won two Moss Hart Awards for Best High School Production from the New England Theater Conference and 21 awards from the CT High School Musical Theater Awards, including Best Overall Production

(Sweeney Todd in 2013), Best Actress (Ali Kramer in 2012) and Best Actor (John Jorge in 2010). In addition, in the Summer of 2016, Amity has been selected from a group of 2500 candidates to perform at the Edingburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland, England. It's the second time in 5 years the school has received this honor.

More than 110 students are working 5 days a week preparing this production. The play stars Max Karasnow (Woodbridge) as Tarzan and Addie Robbins (Orange) as Jane. Also featured are Khari Blue (Bethany) as Kerk and Morgan Guadagnoli (Orange) as Kala. The cast of 50, will work with a live student orchestra (36 members) and a stage crew of 30, to put on another captivating show. Tickets are on sale now online at amitytheaterdepartment.com. All seats are \$ 18.00. Show Dates are March 20th, 21st, 27th at 8pm and March 28th at 2pm and 8pm.

Amity Creative Theater would like to thank its corporate sponsors, Kenneth J. Burns Insurance, Chip's Restaurant, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Daniel E. Durkee, CPA, Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, Laticrete International Inc, Leibo Brothers Management, NJ, Pet Supplies Plus and New England Cat Care.