



The Egret



Winter 2010

A Publication of the Maridon Museum

Special points of interest:

- Memories of Mary
- Were You There for the Year of the Ox New Year's Celebration?
- Recent events and tours
- Things to do at the Maridon

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Chinese New Year: Year of the Tiger

By Donna Reeder



Tiger Netsuke

SAVE THE DATE to celebrate Lunar New Year 4708 and the **Year of the Tiger** at the Maridon Museum's sixth Chinese New Year Celebration. The event takes place **Saturday, February 20, 2010** at the Butler Country Club in Penn Township. The Country Club will be decorated in a Chinese theme and elements of Chinese culture will be visible throughout the evening.

On the Western calendar, Chinese New Year actually falls on Valentine's Day—Sunday, February 14, 2010. The Chinese New Year is very similar to the Western celebration on January 1, 2010. However, the Chinese celebration lasts 15 days and is rich in age-old traditions, beliefs, folklore and rituals. One source describes their celebrations as a combination of the Western Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year in

one! However, the main theme no matter where one lives is a time where crowds and families gather to feast, watch fireworks and wish peace, joy and happiness for family, friends and the world. The Maridon's Gala includes an evening of fun, friends, food, Chinese raffle baskets, entertainment, dancing and much more. Festivities begin at 5:30 PM with a Cash Bar, followed by hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 PM, and an elegant dinner at 7 PM. Music for listening and dancing will be provided by the Trinity Jazz Group.

Special entertainment will be provided by the Kung Fu and Lion Dance Team. Special dances have been an integral element of the Chinese culture for over a thousand years.

Stop by to see the tiger

A 20th-century ivory Tiger carving is found in the side gallery of

the museum in the Chinese Zodiac display group. Two Japanese ivory Kataburi netsukes depicting the tiger are found along the large netsuke wall. On your next visit to the museum, make a special note to see them.

Are you a tiger?

People born in **The Year of the Tiger** (1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010) are characterized as strong, straightforward and generally well-liked. They are fond of competition and look forward to a year in which to really shine, either personally or professionally. The tiger is a symbol of courage to the Chinese and wards off fire, thieves and ghosts from their homes. Famous people born under the sign of the Tiger include Tom Cruise, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Marilyn Monroe, Marco Polo,





Fond Memories of Mary

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Memories of Mary will be a continuing column in future issues.

If you have a special memory of Mary, please contact the Maridon with your remembrance for possible publication.

Maridon founder Mary Hulton Phillips touched the lives of many. We invite you to share your favorite Mary memories. Send us your stories and anecdotes or tell us about a time that Mary made you laugh. We'll publish your story in a future issue of the Egret. We can't think of a better way

to remember Mary, a life-long resident of the Butler area and supporter of its many cultural institutions. She passed away Monday, January 19, 2009 at her home in Butler Township at age 88.

Below, Cyndy Sweeney shares her recollections of Mary. GFWC Pennsylvania was the organization that brought Mary and Cyndy together over twenty years ago.

Mary Phillips --- the name inspired awe in every Federated Junior. She had done wonderful things, supported philanthropic organizations, given from her heart and her pocket to boost people and projects, and set the standard for what a volunteer could do to make Butler better. Though I had yet to meet her, I knew that she was attending Hollyberry, a Junior event, that my friend, Elaine Linamen, and I were chairing. Someone mentioned that the event "better be good," or I would hear from Mary. Imagine my trepidation about meeting the icon. Then I actually met her.

Mary was an icon but she was so much more than that. She was a presence, yes, but a welcoming, motivating, encouraging, amusing, and loving person. She immediately set me at ease and erased any nervousness. Our friendship began for the two of us -- the Butler

lady and the import from another State. Federation was our link but friendship and dedication became our bond. Always encouraging often motivating, Mary always had a hug and smile to bolster my efforts.

Whenever we attended convention, her room was the site for the get-together after hours. She knew everyone and introduced her "Juniors" to one and all. She guided, nudged, and believed in us. Our goals were her goals, and our success was her success. At the onset of any new project were the words "You can do it!" She not only motivated, she inspired.

Mary was a leader at every level -- club president, county president, and district director. The skill and knowledge she garnered along the way were willingly shared with each of us. Her home was our Mecca. For a project, Mary's home was opened as

the workshop and the storage area. Several of us who served as county president had children which made it difficult to host board meetings in our homes. Mary opened hers for the meetings and then insisted on helping with the food.

Her generosity was legend. Every Federated project benefited from her monetary gifts. She also gave those little pats on the back: kind words, a short note, or a special gift that fit the person or the occasion. Everything was done with love and humor.

Mary's humor was legendary. A golfer who spent many hours on the course, Mary had a huge store of jokes, stories, and ribald anecdotes. Whenever we were together, she always had a story that I just had to hear to share with my husband. He loved hearing each one, and adored Mary.

When Mary conceived of an idea that became

Memories of Mary (continued)

the Maridon Museum, she gave many of us the opportunity to expand our horizons and embrace Asian art by becoming docents. She provided an education complete with classes and materials to learn how to be a docent and

to discover the art of Asia. Mary created the Maridon Museum but more importantly she opened the door to a new world of art and culture to all of her friends and to all of Butler. One year after her

passing, we remember Mary Hulton Phillips with love and laughter. She loved life and embraced every moment, every adventure, and every person that was part of it. I am so glad that she gathered me into her embrace.

Chinese New Year (cont.)

Charles Lindberg, Queen Elizabeth II and Emily Dickinson.

Help a great cause

The black-tie optional event benefits the Maridon Museum. A ticket is \$100 per person. The reservation deadline is February 13, 2010. Businesses and individu-

als are encouraged and invited to become sponsors for the event or to contribute items for the raffle. Please contact the museum to receive a special invitation, or for more information, call 724.282.0123. Don't forget to save the date—**February 20, 2010**—to enjoy this

恭賀新禧 HAPPY NEW YEAR

gala evening. Look for the special banner announcing this event that will be displayed on the North Main Street hill. Get set to welcome ***The Year of the Tiger*** and have a very prosperous New Year ahead!



**You are invited to the
Chinese New Year Celebration
Year of the Tiger
6:00 pm to 11:00 pm
February 20, 2010
Butler Country Club
\$100.00 donation per guest**

Elegant Evening of Dining, Dancing,
Authentic Chinese Entertainment, and Chinese Auction Baskets



Japanese Language Camp

Dixie Lipnichan, Maridon Board member and chairman of the Education Committee, provided the talent, ideas, and program for a Japanese Language Camp last August. Children from 1st and 2nd grade were able to learn some of the culture and language of Japan. Specifically they learned colors, shapes, family, food, and clothing. They used crafts, games, and songs to become more familiar with the culture. This event was held at the Maridon Museum where those attending were able to have a wonderful tour. As you can see, Buddha lived up to the legend that he really loved children.



Docent Tours



Susan Shamey brought her friend, Grace Moyer from Lititz, for a docent guided tour of the Maridon. Teresa English provided the tour.

Applebee's Display



To promote the local community, Applebee's asked our director to create a display. This is the work in progress. Stop in, and see the finished product!

The After Life, a 1999 Japanese film that's set in a way-station where the souls of the recently deceased are processed before entering heaven, was shown. The film series is made possible through a partnership with Slippery Rock



Movies

Changes



This picture was taken in the front gallery. Visit the Maridon and see how many changes were made!

Events

2010 Brings Something for Everyone *by Kelly Dreher*

Children and adults will find something fun and enlightening happening this year at the Maridon. The museum's Education Committee has been hard at work and has a dozen events planned from late January through August. Here's a sampling of events coming up.

Students from kindergarten through 4th grade (and their parents), won't want to miss three Japanese-inspired festivals:

- Late January brings a Japanese New Year's Program featuring the story of the rice cake and five jizos (divine protectors of children). Children will also participate in a bell-ringing ceremony to rid the world of its concerns.
- March brings Hina Matsuri & Tea Ceremony. Girls and boys are invited to this celebration traditionally held in honor of girls.

May brings the Children's Day & Tree Planting Ceremony where children will have fun learning about the Samurai values of courage and bravery and about being good stewards of the earth.

In August, 1st through 4th graders, are invited to a week-long day camp where they can explore Japanese language and culture in a fun and interactive way.

All of these children-oriented programs are made possible by the efforts of Dixie Lipnichan, a member of Maridon's Education Committee and a Japanese Language and World Cultures teacher at Allegheny-Clarion Valley High School.

Adults also have plenty of events to attend in 2010.

The Maridon is excited to introduce a **Spring Garden Lecture series**. It will kick off in April with a lecture on the Symbolism of Asian flowers. Discover the meaning behind Cherry tree blossoms and other flowers just before they bloom. And in May, discover how to add to your own garden the simple and elegant elements of a Japanese-style garden.

The Maridon is delighted to continue its very popular **Chinese Film Series** made possible through a partnership with Slippery Rock University fostered by Betty Anderson, a member of the Education Committee. Three fascinating films on are tap for March, April and May. We will continue to have Thursday evening showings but in May will have a Saturday afternoon showing. Dr. Alison McNeal of Slippery Rock University worked with Betty Anderson to select these three films and will introduce them to the audience.

In July, adults will have a chance to try their hand at making a beautiful origami ornament. Kusudama (medicine ball) makes a great Christmas tree ornament.

And, of course, in February, don't miss the always-enchanting Chinese New Year Gala at the Butler Country Club.

Attend an Event. Save in the Gift Shop.

The Maridon has one of Butler's most unique gift shops. When you attend an event at the Maridon, you'll get a coupon (good only on that day) for 10-percent off in the gift shop.

Pictured on Page 6 left to right :

The CNY committee—Ida Findley, Carolyn Marsico, Gail Paserba, Cathy Bronder, Nicole Robinson, and Jackie Bice; Carolyn & Peter Marsico and Deb & Jeff Lehman, Board Member; Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kelly, Board President; Board Vice-President Ken & Cathy Bronder; Suzanne & Bill Hulton, Board Member; Board Member Dixie & Robert Lipnichan; Janice & Harold Larrick; Museum Director Nancy Hile and Anne Miller, Board Secretary; Board Member Glenn & Dr. Lizbeth Gillette; Jackie & Charles Bice; Courtney & Ryan Ingram; Janice Larrick & Anne Thomson; Betty Anderson; Vicky Kelly & Elizabeth Phillips; Dale & Millie Pinkerton; Harold Larrick & Brendan Kelly; CNY committee member Donna Reeder; Carole Fruehstorfer; Doris Rose and Amy Rose Wissinger Kelly & Jonathan Dreher; Janet & Bob Hofer; Carl & Anabel Brunermer; and Zelda Wilbert & Teresa English

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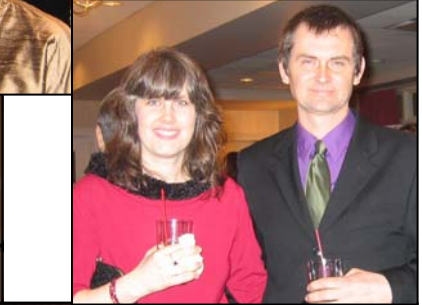
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Were you there?



**Year of the
OX**



2009

What's Happening at the Maridon

Oshoogatsu (Japanese New Year's Program for Children): Saturday, January 23rd from 10AM-11AM, the Maridon will host its annual Japanese New Year children's program. Children will learn about the holiday through story telling, singing songs, playing a card game, and much more. As is tradition, the children will help ring a bell 108 times to get rid of the 108 worldly concerns. Children from K -4th grade are welcome to attend. The cost for this event is \$5 per child; an adult must accompany all children. Reservations are required, as space is limited. Call for reservations or more information (724) 282-0123.

Annual Chinese New Year Celebration: Saturday, February 20th beginning at 5:30 PM at the Butler Country Club. Enjoy an elegant evening of dining, dancing, authentic Chinese entertainment and Chinese auction baskets. There is a \$100 donation per guest; all proceeds benefit the Maridon. For more information, please call (724) 282-0123 or visit www.maridon.org.

Hina Matsuri & Japanese Tea Party: Saturday, March 6th from 10AM-11AM. Children (K-4th grade) will learn about this Japanese festival that focuses on health, happiness, and a good marriage for daughters. Children will take part in a tea ceremony (they are welcome to bring their own doll), hear stories about the festival, learn Japanese phrases, and make a craft. The cost for this event is \$5 per child; an adult must accompany all children. Reservations are required, as space is limited. Call for reservations or more information (724) 282-0123.

Spring Garden Lecture Series: Saturday, April 17th from 10AM-1PM. Dixie Lipnichan, Japanese Language and World Cultures teacher at AC Valley High School, will present a lecture on the Symbolism of Asian Flowers. The day will consist of the lecture, a tour of the museum, and a luncheon. The cost for this event is \$20 for non-members, and \$15 for members. Adults only please, reservations are required. Call for more details or to make reservations, (724) 282-0123

Children's Day & Tree Planting: Saturday, May 8, 10 AM –11AM, the Maridon will host its annual Japanese Children's Day program accompanied by a tree planting ceremony. Children from K-4th grade are welcome to attend. They will help plant and decorate a cherry tree and through storytelling learn the Samurai values of courage, bravery and standing up for what you believe in. The cost for this event is \$5 per child; an adult must accompany all children. Reservations are required, as space is limited. Call for reservations or more information (724) 282-0123.

Spring Garden Lecture Series: Saturday, May 22nd from 11AM-1PM, the Maridon will continue its garden lecture series with a lecture from Jonathan Dreher, owner of Dreher Garden Design. The lecture topic is Adding Elements of a Japanese Garden Into Your Garden. The cost is \$20 for non-members, and \$15 for members; lunch is included in the class fee. Adults only please, reservations are required. Call for more details or to make reservations. (724) 282-0123

Samurai Dolls are Back!: Throughout June, our 19 Samurai dolls (brilliantly conserved by Ms. Rhonda Wozniak, Objects Conservator LLC, of Pittsburgh) will be displayed in the museum's multi-purpose room. If you didn't get a chance to see them last year, come in and take a look at this fantastic exhibit.

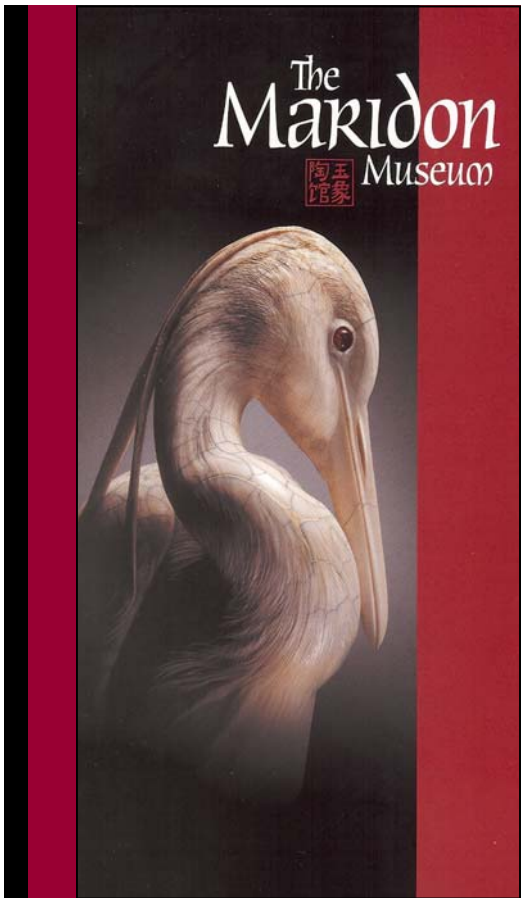
Kusudama Ornament Origami Class: Wednesday, July 7 from 10AM-1PM, Dixie Lipnichan, Japanese Language and World Cultures teacher at AC Valley High School, will instruct an adult origami class. Kusudama, which means medicine ball, is a beautiful ball-shaped ornament. The cost is \$30 for non-members, and \$25 for members. All materials and lunch are included. Space is limited, reservations are required. Please call for more information or reservations (724) 282-0123.

Japanese Language Camp: Monday, August 9th through Friday, August 13th from 9AM-12PM, this language camp is open to 1st -4th graders. During this interactive program, students will be exposed to the language and culture of Japan. Topics to be discussed include: geography, colors, shapes, weather, family, food and clothing. Participants will enjoy crafts, games, songs, fun and laughter. Reservations are required, \$50 non-member fee, \$45 fee for members. Please call the Maridon with any question or reservations (724) 282-0123.

Chinese Film Series, "The Personals": Thursday, March 25th at 7PM. This 1998 Taiwanese film is 118 minutes long, and follows a woman named Du Jeazhen. Jeazhen meets with prospective suitors in a fancy Taipei restaurant. All of these men are respondents to a personals advertisement that she's posted in a Taipei newspaper. The film follows Jeazhen's search almost exclusively through conversations. Space is limited, reservations are required. Please call for more information or reservations (724) 282-0123.

Chinese Film Series, "King of Masks": Thursday, April 20th at 7PM. Wang Bianlian is an aging street performer known as the "King of Masks" for his mastery of Sichuan Change Art. His wife has passed away, leaving him aching for a male descendent to learn this rare and dying art. As the story ensues, Wang is sold a young boy by a slave trader, only to find out later that his adopted son is really an adopted daughter. Space is limited, reservations are required, please call for more information or reservations (724) 282-0123.

Chinese Film Series, "Raise the Red Lantern": Saturday, May 15th at 2PM. Set in the 1920s, the film tells the story of 19-year-old Songlian who is forced to marry Chen Zuoqian. Fifty-year-old Chen (a powerful warlord) already has three wives. Each wife lives in a separate house within his great castle. The competition between the wives is tough, as the master's attention carries power, status and privilege. Each night Chen must decide with which wife to spend the night. Each wife schemes and plots to make sure Chen chooses them, however things get out of hand. Running time for this 1991 Chinese film is 125 minutes. Space is limited, reservations are required. Please call for more information or reservations (724) 282-0123.



The Maridon Museum was a gift to our community by Mrs. Mary Hulton Phillips. The museum evolved from Mrs. Phillips' wish to share the beauty of her collection with others in her community but has had the far reaching effect of drawing visitors from around the world. The museum is asking for your support of the continuing operation of what has been called a cultural "gem" in Butler. Please mail your contribution to:

Maridon Museum
322 N. McKean St.,
Butler, PA 16001

*The Maridon is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Tuesday through Saturday
and 12 to 5 p.m. on Sunday*

Not Yet a Maridon Member?

There are so many reasons to join:

- Support a unique museum in the Mid-Atlantic region dedicated to connecting Eastern and Western cultures
- Get free admission to the museum and enjoy gift shop discounts
- Get invitations to opening receptions for exhibitions and other members-only events.

Join today at www.maridon.org.

Visit the Gift Shop

Just inside the museum, you will find one of the area's most unique shopping experiences. The gift shop is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 12-5 p.m. on Sunday.

The Egret was made possible with the help of a dedicated group of volunteers, including editor Kelly Casey Dreher, designer Cyndy Sweeney, and writers Chriss Swaney and Donna Reeder.