

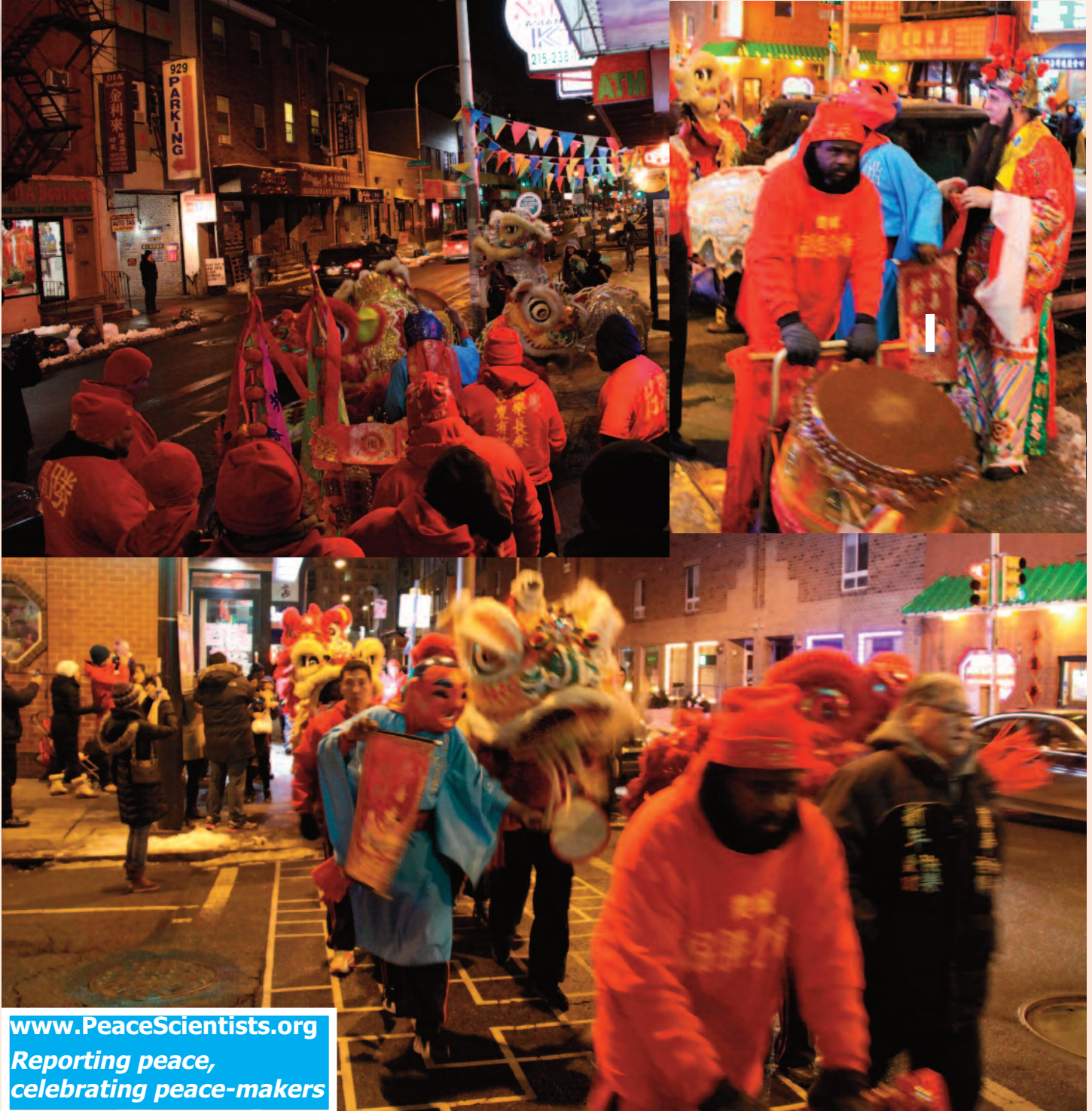


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Chinese New Year in Philadelphia. SJ Dodgson 2016 MJoTA v10n2 p0205

At 5, I learned that life was unpredictable. After walking home from school with my brothers, my mother told me she was taking us from England to stay with her mother in Ireland, and then on a 6-week sea voyage to the end of the earth. We stopped in Curacao, Trinidad, Panama, Samoa and Fiji, staying in New Zealand, where we joined my father, and then Australia. Finally, in 1978, I came to Philadelphia, and built a nest where I fly the Union Jack.

I spent my first few nights in the International House of Philadelphia, which for a century has welcomed international scholars from 70 nations, most young. Some stay. I did. Generations of Chinese settled in Chinatown Philadelphia, near where America was born. They created their own economy, have the best vegan Chinese buffet I know of, and bring out the lion dancers on Chinese New Year's Eve.



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**International
House
of
Philadelphia**



Chinese New Year is a festival of hope, and of light. Of chasing away evil with red colors and fireworks. Spring is on its way.

In Jan 2013, an American of Congolese birth flew to South Africa for what he believed was a 2-week trip during which time he was going to be paid enough take care of all his debts in Delaware, where he lived in a neat 2-story house in a development with his wife and 3 young sons. He was told, and believed, that he would be working for the South African government, and his entire job was to distribute USD400,000 and keep USD100,000 for himself. What might have tipped him off that it was too good to be true was that his contacts told him that on no account was to tell anyone, especially not his wife.

publisher@mjota.org

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Ten days later, his wife answered a telephone call from the United States Embassy in South Africa. James had been arrested along with 19 other sons of Congo.

For 2 years, James remained in jail and I wrote about the 20 good men. I visited them in jail in South Africa, talked about them to anyone who would listen. I put together an e-book which was discussed in court in Pretoria, <http://emeraldpademelonpress.com/congolese20.html>, and published in Dec 2014, 2 weeks after the first 16 were released. Finally the last 4 were released, including James, on the eve of the Chinese Lunar New Year, in Feb 2015. I was ready to celebrate.

I took these pictures were taken around Philadelphia in Feb 2015: in Chinatown, and in the International House of Philadelphia and in the Chinatown branch of Philadelphia public library.



Celebrate the Chinese New Year and Welcome the Year of the Sheep!
新年快乐 迎年吉祥

Wednesday | February 25, 2015
12:30 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the Chinese New Year and usher in the Year of the Sheep. Students from Holy Redeemer Elementary School will perform exquisite traditional Chinese folk dances. The students will perform the traditional Lion Dance with drummers to dispel evil spirits and also usher in a year of good luck for the Year of the Sheep. Jennifer Chang, Director of Northeast Regional Library, will regale the audience with captivating Chinese folk-tales.

This program is presented by the Friends of the Independence Branch.

For information on joining the Friends, please contact indyfriends@comcast.net

费城天主教小学表演
星期三, 2月25日, 2015年 下午12:30

欢迎来参加独立图书馆举办的迎新活动。天主教小学的学生们将为我们带来中国民间舞蹈、舞狮, 以及中国故事等表演。我们的故事将由东北区图书馆馆长詹妮弗·张为大家带来精彩的中国民间故事。

本次活动由独立图书馆之友为费城费城图书馆增加了更多志愿者或加入图书馆之友, 请联系 indyfriends@comcast.net

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