

 RCI 红叶年刊

2021

YEAR BOOK

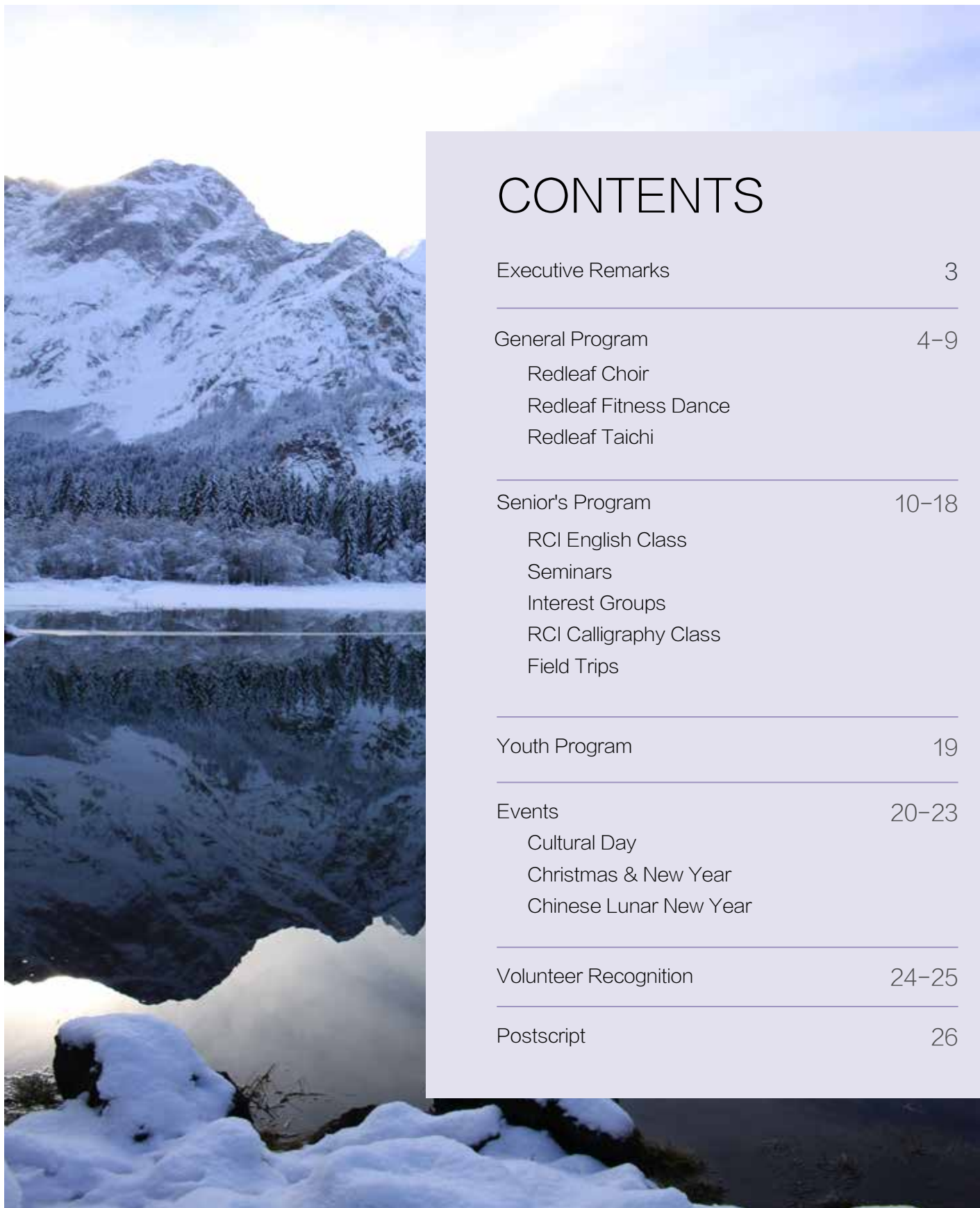


2021年我们一起走过

BETTER TOGETHER BECAUSE WE ALL BELONG

红叶文化协会

REDLEAF CULTURAL INTEGRATION



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# Executive Remarks

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Time flies! Looking back on the year of 2021 that we have gone through together, there is confusion, challenges, innovations, and gains. Bit by bit, it is worth commemorating and reflection.

I never thought that we would still need to spend another year in the haze of the pandemic. A long-term "isolated" life will inevitably bring helplessness, trouble, and anxiety to our lives. To reduce everyone's sense of isolation and maintain a positive attitude in our daily activity, Redleaf Cultural Integration (RCI) has been trying to explore new online classes and gathering methods to meet the needs of people of different ages.

For the community, RCI provides programs including: Redleaf Choir, Redleaf Dance Class, Redleaf Tai Chi Class and Calligraphy and Painting Class. For the elderly, our programs include: Physical Fitness Class, Reading Club, Vocal Class and English Class, etc. We also provide volunteering opportunities for high school students to help seniors learn English and make greeting cards for seniors living alone.

In 2021, we have organized more than 500 various sessions, with total of more than 10,000 attendees. The three major events were a virtual Spring Festival Gala with the theme of "Helping each other through Pandemic", a Mid-Autumn Festival Cultural Day Event, and Christmas/New Year Celebration online. In 2022, we again held an excellent Redleaf Spring Festival Gala with the theme of "Sharing Our Stories". These activities not only brought laughter, happiness, and unforgettable times for everyone. The event also allowed residents to learn more about Chinese culture. The stories of new immigrants further enhanced mutual understanding and respect, receiving a good response.

In the past year by participating in the above programs, although we cannot meet in person, our hearts are connected and our strength to overcome difficulties



together is tenacious! We thank every friend who actively took part in our program and the volunteers for their valuable contributions! Let's continue encouraging each other in the new year, cherish everything we have today, and work together to build a welcoming community!

**Lily Hudson**

Founder of RCI

Burlington, March 2022

# Redleaf Choir

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Redleaf Choir was established in 2018. Under the guidance of professional teachers, the members' singing skills have been continuously improved. During the pandemic, members switched to online practices twice a week, and recorded more than ten exquisite chorus videos.



Three years ago, by chance, I joined Redleaf Choir in Burlington. When the pandemic began in 2020, I started working from home. I spent most of my time in front of the computer and rarely met or talked to people. Participating in choir activities has become a major channel for me to connect with others. Although it is an online event, seeing the faces of the other singers makes me feel less lonely. I really thank Redleaf Choir for enriching my life and bringing

me comfort during the pandemic.

There is a lyric "there are so many people in this world, how lucky I am to have you by my side". I hope the pandemic will be over soon, and we can sing and gather in person together to have picnic and camping again...

-Weiqi Li

# Friendship Through Music

In 2021, during the second year of the pandemic, the choir insisted on online practicing twice a week. Singing makes us feel good. In the summer and autumn, when the pandemic eased a little bit, Redleaf Choir carefully arranged onsite class and outdoor video recording. Everyone was very happy, and finally met group members in person. We took a lot of precious group pictures.

As the head of the alto group, I would like to express my special thanks to our lovely sisters for their passion for music. Common hobbies lead us to know each other, and we built our friendship through music. Because of everyone's efforts, our voices were brought together synthesizing a beautiful chorus.

Thanks to the teacher for your patient guidance, thanks to Lily and the two group heads for their hard work, and to every member of the choir, because of you, the chorus is even more exciting!

-Carol Tan

During the two years of pandemic, we practiced singing online together. We did not only learn to sing many songs, but also established friendship with each other. We care and encourage each other fighting against Covid 19 and creating a better and healthy lifestyle. Many thanks to our organizers for their time and efforts for the continuous growth and improvement of our choir.

-Shuohua Liu



Redleaf Choir 5

# Redleaf Fitness Dance

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## Meet the Best of Yourself

In 2021, I participated in two of RCI's Fitness Dance classes, namely "reminiscing Youth" and "Jiuer". Under the leadership of Instructor Ms. Lu Yu and class leader Sunny, we took online classes every Sunday afternoon, and practiced at home on weekdays. Occasionally we would seize the opportunity to have in-person training at the community center when the Pandemic had eased a little bit.

My biggest achievement is to have met a better version of myself in the dance class. Regardless of age,

dance foundation, or physical condition, you can keep advancing at your own pace in the dance class. From zero foundation when I joined the dance class to performing on stage at the end of the class, although I still look like an elephant among the swans, I can see my own progress, my enhanced confidence will help me to continue the dance practice.

The sisters in the dance class all assist, support, and encourage each other, submit comments online for the dance homework, and practice dancing on the nearby elementary school playground or in a quiet park. RCI's combined online and in-person platform allows everyone to follow Instructor Lu Yu to learn classical dancing, to motivate oneself and to continue with aerobic exercises. Like a ray of warm sunshine in the heavy haze of the Pandemic, it let us maintain a positive attitude toward life to enjoy every single day. I miss the good times when we all practiced dancing together. I offer my sincere gratitude toward RCI.

—Helen Liu





From getting to know Instructor Lu Yu, to participating in each of RCI's Fitness Dance Classes, my love and pursuit for dancing has been greatly strengthened. With an instructor who is both virtuous and artistic, and a group of sisters with beauty from inside out, I have learned to soften my body, relax my emotions, and enrich my social life. During the Pandemic, I took online classes, communicated with my classmates on WeChat, and practiced dancing with everyone over and over in the summer, and this has made my heart more fulfilled. I love this group immensely, because everyone in this group has brought her own a sense of beauty. The dance class not only cultivates our body, but also improves our spirits, I would like to thank Instructor Lu Yu and all my classmates.

-Sunny Sun



# Redleaf Tai Chi Class

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Tai Chi is a Chinese intangible cultural heritage. It is based on the concepts of Tai Chi and Yin Yang in traditional Chinese Confucian and Taoist philosophies, and integrates various functions such as maintaining temperament, strengthening the body, and combat fighting. It is a traditional Chinese boxing technique which trains both internal and external strength, combines all elements of Tai Chi's slowness, lightness, rigidity and softness.

In 2021, RCI invited Mr. Zhigang Yan, a 12th-generation descendant of "Chen's Tai Chi", to teach the family style Tai Chi. So far, the RCI Tai Chi Class has been held twice, with hundreds of people signing up, and it is deeply loved by Tai Chi lovers.

Mr. Zhigang Yan



I recall that I also learned Chen Style Tai Chi more than ten years ago, but at that time I simply copied all the routines, but the teachings only stayed skin deep. Over time and without practicing, I forgot all about it. Thanks to RCI for organizing the Tai Chi training class during the Pandemic, However, I was very doubtful in the beginning and listened to the teacher's first class only in the mood to give it a try. I deeply felt by then that Mr. Yan is a rare and hard-to-find good teacher! With a professional background, Mr. Yan is knowledgeable, and has both civil and martial art skills. His teaching is systematic and comprehensive; he thoroughly explains the essence and basic principles of Tai Chi, and through his own demonstrations, he not only lets us "know the truth", but also "know the reason behind the truth". After each class, we would soon receive a complete and clear teaching video from Mr. Yan, which is convenient for us to practice repeatedly to consolidate and improve our skills.

This kind of well-designed, interlocking, rigorous and comprehensive teaching has received good results comparable to any physical teaching. Apparently, Mr. Yan, the class leader, and volunteers have poured a lot of hard work and sweat into all this! Although I have only learned Tai Chi with Mr. Yan for just over two months, I deeply believe that he has first-class boxing skills, high morals with low-key and humility. I am very fortunate to have such a good teacher to guide us on the right path of learning Tai Chi!

-Wang Jiyang





## My Tai Chi Encounter

It happened in the 80's that after I graduated from a university, I got a job in the same school. Young and energetic, with an "Iron Rice Bowl", I had a lot of free time. The college's huge office building has not had a single visitor for many days. The old gentleman guarding the door had nothing to do and was too bored. He would often go to the hall to exercise his lower back and legs, and he would also bring a few teachers to practice Tai Chi. Curiosity played a role, and I followed it for a few days. Soon the school sent me to a project out of town for a while. The Tai Chi study that had only started for a few days came to a sudden end.

My family immigrated to Canada more than ten years ago. In the second year, everything was ready, and there was more free time. By coincidence, I came across a message on the Burlington Post that was recruiting Tai Chi students, and my eyes lit up, so I went to sign up. This was a Western Tai Chi club: the students and teachers were all Westerners. The Tai Chi teaching were all Westernized Tai Chi moves. It was like the "Watermelon Tai Chi" invented by a guy in North America. The teacher doesn't know the meaning of Tai Chi, let alone all the reasons behind it. I practiced with the Western teacher for more than two months, and the more I practiced, the more awkward it became. I finally listened to my heart and gave it up.

WeChat has brought a lot of changes to the lives of the Canadian Chinese. Two years ago, I joined Burlington's Tai Chi group on WeChat, and I met a group of Chinese people practicing Tai Chi. Because we were Chinese, I felt very comfortable. However, there was no Tai Chi Teacher for the Group, we had to practice with each other for one hour every week then then go online to follow the Tai Chi

teaching videos. Often, we could not tell the move direction, positions for hands and feet, so we were not really advancing in Tai Chi.

Fortunately, a few months later, an old lady from Beijing came here to see her daughter. She lived in Chaoyang Community in Beijing and taught Tai Chi in her spare time. Even though the lady was in her 80's, she was in good spirits, and walked with wind. It was said that she was very well-known locally, and everyone respectfully called her Teacher Mao. I studied with Teacher Mao for half a year, and I have benefited quite a lot. Soon, the lady returned home. With the coming of the Pandemic, the Tai Chi practice has also been stranded.

Last September, luck came again. An online Tai Chi class organized by RCI had invited Mr. Zhigang Yan to teach Tai Chi. Mr. Yan has a deep relationship with Tai Chi. He has practiced Tai Chi for more than 50 years. Mr. Yan is humble, peaceful, and patient. In the class, he often uses simple words in our daily life to illustrate profound and mysterious Tai Chi principles, which is vivid and easy to understand. We have systematically learned Tai Chi preparation exercises, stance standing, "silk wrapping" skills and Tai Chi routines, including the essential 18 Chen Style Tai Chi Forms and the Chen Style Tai Chi Old Frames. The students have benefited and learned a lot from Mr. Yan. We were all very grateful for the instruction. While learning Tai Chi, I also volunteered in the Tai Chi class. I am honored to have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the local Chinese community.

-Wang Yanmin (Steven)

# RCI English Class

RCI online English classes are very popular among the students. Mr. Wang Xiner, who has rich teaching experience, has written systematic and practical English textbooks by himself. After studying 30 texts, a comprehensive review was conducted this year. In the review class, Mr. Wang focused on the basic knowledge, emphasized the interaction between teachers and students, and vigorously strengthened the training of listening, reading, and speaking. Everyone benefited a lot!



I studied in the English School for over a year, and although the weekly hours are long, I don't remember much. During the Pandemic, I listened to Mr. Wang Xiner's online class once a week. It was very useful to learn terms that are closely related to our daily life, such as "taking a bus", "going to the groceries", "going to the dentist", "going to the airport", "opening a bank account", etc.

In the review class, Mr. Wang pays attention to listening and speaking training. After the class, he asked us to listen and read again and again on the computer. Because only when you pronounce your own words correctly can others understand you; only when you understand what others say can you communicate with them. I suggest setting up role play question-and-answer exercises in the classroom to improve students' English listening and speaking skills.

-Yan Junduan

I like learning English very much. Under the guidance and leadership of Mr. Wang, my interest in learning English has become stronger and stronger. "If you want to learn English well, you can't be lazy and take shortcuts"; "Listen more, read more, watch more, practice more". "One day without listening your ears become dull, two days without reading your mouth become stiff, and three days without seeing your eyes become blurry" These teachings by Mr. Wang are very good.

-Wei Yingxue

I think learning English requires perseverance. My memory is good, and I have developed good habits over a long period of uninterrupted study. I like English and don't take it as a burden. Recently, I feel that my English comprehension has improved significantly. Mr. Wang's teaching level is very high, and the teaching content is also rich. For me, it just feels a little deep, so I must work harder.

-Pan Shuying

# Reading Club

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Chinese culture is broad and profound, with a long history. RCI seniors who love literature have set up a Literature Group. They are guided by a professional teacher. They often read classics and recite poems to promote excellent culture, to understand the meaning of life, to pursue a better life, and make their life more colorful and picturesque!

Since the establishment of the Literature Group nine months ago, we have analyzed 130 poems and more than 20 essays. With a quiet and eager mood, we turned the pages of shining books and swam in the long river of cultural history. We have held three "Read Aloud Recitals ", all together 48 people attended the Recital, and 72 poems were read aloud. The ancient style and the present rhyme can be extended for a long time. We use various excellent chapters to weave into colorful garlands to dedicate to 2022!

I am very happy to participate in the activities of RCI Literature Appreciation Group. Every week, Ms. Tian Fengwu will explain the ancient and modern poetry to us. She spoke elegantly and explained the profound things in simple terms, leading us into the picturesque garden, learning the knowledge of literature, and looking at the historical scenery. We also read poems aloud by our own choice, the mutual exchanges have enhanced the friendship between literary friends. I feel that after participating in this activity, I have strengthened the mentality of not being distracted when I am busy and not being empty when I am free. I am deeply grateful to RCI for hosting the Literature Appreciation Group, and I hope we can do this for a long time.

-Liu Tinghui

To give students a bowl of water, you have to prepare a bucket of water yourself." Because Ms. Tian has been teaching Chinese for many years, most of the selected articles she has taught before. However, for the seniors at RCI, she did not use the teaching method for children, but tried to explain to us in simple terms, both concise and comprehensive. To do this, she needs to relearn, prepare lessons, and find various materials. We can all feel a kind of fun listening to her class and learn a wealth of knowledge in a relaxed atmosphere, and behind this is her rigorous teaching attitude and great dedication. Ms. Tian also presided over 3 poetry reading sessions. She asked everyone to choose their own poems or create their own works, which greatly aroused everyone's enthusiasm and initiative in learning. Every event was lively and entertaining.

Ms. Tian is over 80 years old, and she has served the seniors for many years. She can be seen in various RCI activities. Although she is very busy, as soon as the class begins, everyone sees a teacher who is energetic, loud and clear in reasoning.

Confucius once said, "Don't get tired of learning, never be tired of teaching", Ms. Tian is the best example.

-Deng Jiaming

I attended every RCI literature lecture. Ms. Tian displayed ancient and modern Chinese and foreign literary treasures to us one by one, which has enabled us to gain a lot of knowledge, enriched our cultural literacy, cultivated our sentiments, and improved our literary appreciation and appreciation abilities. We have all benefited a lot! I hope the lectures will continue and it will get better and better.

-Shen Zhicheng

# RCI Vocal Class

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Ms. Lei Liping, a professional vocal teacher, teaches the vocal class at RCI. She devoted great efforts in the class to encourage the students. We learned to sing many beautiful classic songs and performed at the Redleaf Chinese New Year Festival Gala, which fully demonstrated the vigorous and progressive spirit of RCI seniors.

Ms. Lei said: "I love RCI seniors so much because your love for life and music deeply touched me. I hope we will enjoy learning and growing together."

I am in my eighties now. I have loved to sing since I was a child. I especially like to sing melodious folk songs. Singing makes people have a good attitude and feel the beauty and happiness of life. Ms. Lei plays piano very well. She plays, sings, and teaches songs in class. She is flexible and active in teaching and frequently encourages us, which makes us become more confident and enjoy singing.

-Weng Shifang

In recent years, due to my poor eyesight, I cannot participate in many activities. In the past two months, my daughter encouraged me to take a vocal class. Ms. Lei's teaching is lively. Several times, after the teacher asked me to sing the song, I was praised by the teacher and encouraged by my classmates, which increased my confidence in participating in the vocal class. I hope to participate in vocal class every week to meet friends and enrich life.

-Li Aizhu

After I participated in RCI's vocal class, my singing skills have been greatly improved, and I feel very happy when I sing. I am willing to help my friends to print songs, make music videos, and help vocal music teachers to prepare materials. Singing reminds me of the good old days and brings me a lot of joy!

- SunMin song

Music is the messenger of happiness. To pass on music is to pass on happiness. The RCI seniors come from different backgrounds with pursue of health and happiness. I am willing to sing together with other seniors to ignite their enthusiasm for life!

Xing Luping

# RCI Fitness Class

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When the Pandemic hit, I was very honored to teach RCI's seniors fitness class online. In view of the large age range (50–80 years old) of the participants, I have successively compiled shoulder, neck and back stretching exercises, acupoint tapping exercises, nest exercises and finger acupoint exercises, etc., together. I have also choreographed two square dances for the seniors to practice.

In each class, we practice the strength from weak to strong, from strong to slow, from slow to completion.

During the Pandemic, it is my best wish to bring warmth and love to the seniors, so that they can do exercise at home and maintain healthy body and soul.

–Ms. Lu Yu, the teacher

I took the fitness class of Ms. Lu Yu, and I was very happy. It is very good for my health. I started to exercise for an hour and felt a little tired, but now I don't feel tired at all. The content of the course designed by the teacher is very interesting and helpful, which is very suitable for seniors.

– Song Ruzhu

I have been joining fitness class with Ms. Lu Yu for a long time, exercising my muscles, relaxing the meridians, I feel very good. After each class, I feel refreshed! Let us enjoy the health and happiness brought by sports.

Thank you, Ms. Lu Yu, for your love and dedication!

– Jiao Jian

Seniors should keep exercising, otherwise their arms and legs will become more and more stiff. Ms. Lu Yu's class is very suitable for seniors. Through the exercise, our physical fitness is enhanced, the immunity is improved, and the original chronic diseases can be effectively controlled. Being in good physical and mental health are what we and our children looking for!

– Su, Peizheng

# Seminars

The Pandemic in 2021 has not eased as everyone anticipated. RCI seniors still have to face long periods of lockdown and are unable to get together with friends.

To alleviate the anxiety and loneliness that may occur during the Pandemic, RCI launched the "Active life, Healthy Brain" program. In addition to the regular online classes every week, seminars with different themes were held for the seniors including Fire Prevention, Wills and Taxation, Emotion Management, Recitation Performance, and Video Post-Production, etc. These seminars not only meet everyone's different needs of study, but also help to keep emotional stability during the Pandemic.

红叶文化协会 REDLEAF CULTURAL INTEGRATION

## FIRE SAFETY FOR SENIORS 长者家庭防火安全讲座

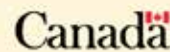
PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER KIM  
BURLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



- 烟雾警报
- 逃离计划
- 如何扑灭烹饪火焰
- 致电911

5月12日, 周三 3:00 - 4:00 pm

ZOOM: 535 658 8229 密码: 123456



红叶文化协会

## 长者心理健康讲座系列 情商和情绪管理



主讲: 杨丽霞

**Ryerson University** 心理系终身教授



- 中国科学院心理研究所心理学博士学位
- 德国马普研究所和多伦多大学心理系博士后
- 一直致力于老年人, 青少年及大学生的研究和心理保健工作
- 联合创办EPIC情商育儿启迪俱乐部和WeSupport加华心理健康互助平台

10月19日 周二 下午3:00 - 4:30

ZOOM: 535 658 8229 密码: 123456



www.redleafculturalintegration.com

红叶文化协会

## 长者心理健康讲座系列 亲密关系



主讲: 杨丽霞

**Ryerson University** 心理系终身教授



- 中国科学院心理研究所心理学博士学位
- 德国马普研究所和多伦多大学心理系博士后
- 一直致力于老年人, 青少年及大学生的研究和心理保健工作
- 联合创办EPIC情商育儿启迪俱乐部和WeSupport加华心理健康互助平台

11月16日 周二 下午3:00 - 4:30

ZOOM: 535 658 8229 密码: 123456



www.redleafculturalintegration.com

# Interest Groups

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There are many interest groups among RCI's talented seniors. Although the Pandemic prevented us from meeting each other in person, the common hobby allows the seniors to communicate and share their skills via online gatherings. They actively participated in Chinese painting and calligraphy classes, square dance practice, and gardening and planting groups. They presented their skills and shared their learning and planting experience through online activities.

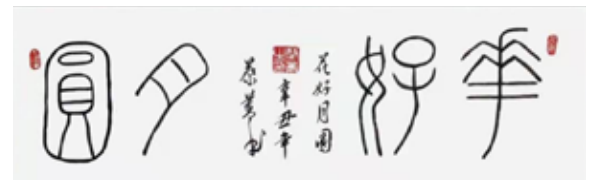
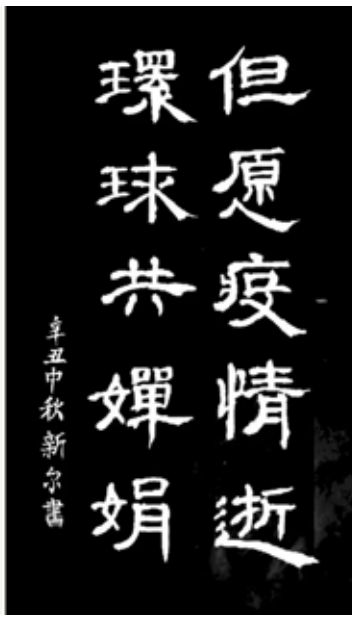
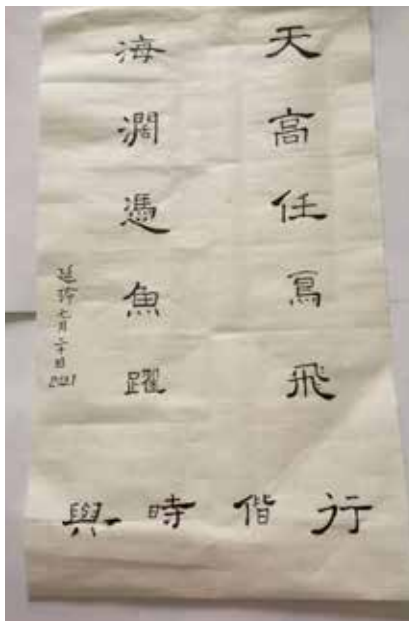
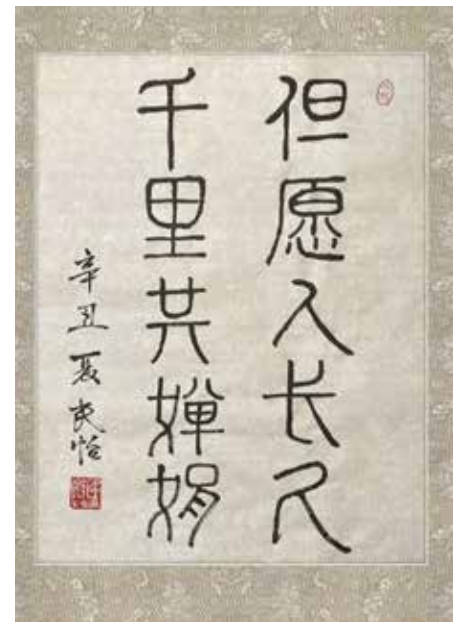
What is more worth mentioning here is our knitting club who overcame various difficulties during the Pandemic to knit dishcloths in different colors and patterns for the seniors living alone in Halton area to send them with greetings of love!



致遠 寧靜

# Redleaf Chinese Painting and Calligraphy Class

Calligraphy and Chinese painting have profound cultural connotations. Learning Chinese painting and calligraphy can cultivate people's qualities such as concentration, carefulness, patience, and perseverance, thereby enhancing physical and mental health. In 2021, RCI hired Ms. Li Xia and Wang Minyi to teach 10 sessions of Calligraphy and Chinese painting. The students gained a lot from the lessons.





# We Are Happy Friends

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In summer, the shade is dense, the breeze is smooth, and the grass is lush. On August 26, 2021, we went to Nelson Park to record the music video "We Are Happy Friends".

This was the first outdoor activity organized by RCI after the Pandemic hit the world. With our arrival, the quiet park suddenly became lively. Mary was busy measuring the temperature for everyone and gave away PPE. Mr. Sun was adjusting the camera.

After Luping, our chief director, gave a brief explanation,

our choir started to sing with the wonderful accordion accompaniment of Mr. Mu Sheng. 28 seniors sang in joyful spirits, and the recording was completed successfully!

Under the trees, on the hillside, with the blue sky and white clouds, you can hear our singing and laughter. Lily and Sunny use their cameras and quickly snapped the beautiful silhouettes, retaining the memories of friendship and happiness!



# Field Trip: Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

On September 30, 45 seniors from RCI came to Lowville Park to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival.

We seized the opportunity of the easing of the Pandemic situation and organized this event by following the related Covid protocols. After more than two years, friends from RCI were very excited to meet in person that day! We greeted each other and happiness was beyond words.

Sunny interviewed the members of the knitting club near a bush, and at the pavilion, Mr. Ge Jianguo gave a

lecture on videography to us.

Some seniors gathered around and sang old songs. Han Yanqing and Song Ruzhu danced on the green field, and Xing Luping directed the choir to sing songs. Ms. Tian recited the poem "I've been longing for this moment" written by herself which was the highlight of the party.

This was a special gathering. People who have experienced hardships during the Pandemic valued this moment so much. We sang of our great country, of happiness, and of a bright future!



# Youth Program

To provide seniors in the Halton area with the opportunity to learn English, reduce the language barriers they encounter during daily life, improve their English communication skills, and provide opportunities for high school students to volunteer during the Pandemic, RCI organized the "Study Together, Grow Together" cross-generation English study groups. By combining seniors and local high school students into English study groups, students teach seniors English on a weekly basis. More than 25 students and 40 seniors have participated and benefited from this activity so far.



红叶文化协会留学生之家 RCI YOUTH CLUB

## Help Each Other, Grow Together

*Make a difference in someone's life by helping out.*

In order to help Chinese seniors in Halton to practice English for daily communication, we are now inviting high school students to join our volunteer team to offer the online class:

- Paired with senior
- Practice English once a week

RCI will provide volunteer hour certificate



I realized that the seniors must learn English from scratch, learn the most basic grammar, the simplest pronunciation, and memorize every word. I really admire them. I will never laugh at anyone with poor English because I know they put in a lot of effort.

–Student: Angela Ye

Our young teacher gave us conversational lessons every week, which made us feel she is too cute! We asked the questions and she explained to us attentively, patiently, and meticulously. She led us to read words and sentences and corrected our pronunciation word by word, taught us the essentials of pronunciation, where to speak softly, where to pronounce the vowel or consonants, and where to open the mouth wide. We have learnt a lot!

– Senior: Wu Fenling

Thanks to our young teacher. Her teaching is serious and responsible, and she is good at giving instructions, so that we have learned many new words gradually. We practice the key sentences repeatedly during every lesson. I really appreciate the patience showed by our teacher.

– Senior: Song Ruzhu

My husband and I cherish one hour of English learning with our young teacher every week. We had a great time interacting with her. She teaches words, reads texts, and speaks the basic usage of sentence patterns. She also helped to improve our listening and reading skills. For the problems we encountered in our LINC class, she always patiently explained to us. After each class, she prepared a written summary for us to review.

–Senior: Ma Xiaotian

# RCI Celebrates Canada Culture Days

The last weekend of September each year is Canada's Culture Days Event. It is a national celebration of different arts and cultures. RCI took this opportunity to hold a unique online Mid-Autumn Festival party.

"The moon rises..." In the melodious and elegant sound of music, RCI's Mid-Autumn Festival Gala kicked off. Let us share a bright moon together and the feelings of our homeland.

The moon represents beauty and homesickness. The melodious song of "The Moon of Hometown"; the beautiful and elegant piano solo "Moonlight Sonata" and the chorus of "The Path of Hometown" demonstrated the longing for the motherland from overseas travelers.

The dance "Youth" performed by RCI Dance Team brought people back to that exciting and unforgettable years.

"We Are Happy Friends" praised the friendship of helping each other and the joy of reuniting after the lockdown during the Pandemic! The dance "Beautiful Home" expresses the Miao girls' love for their hometown with a cheerful rhythm. Ancient Chinese poem recitation "Shui Diao Ge Tou" and the display of calligraphy reflect the cultural hobbies of the seniors.

The party also shared how to make the traditional Mid-Autumn Festival food "Lotus Pastry," which reminded us of the taste of local delicacy.

This evening, the program was brilliant, reflecting the rich connotation of Mid-Autumn Festival culture. The party was compact in structure and exquisite in design, and successfully presented.

# CULTURE DAYS



20 Cultural Day

LOTUS PASTRY  
CHINESE FOOD

蓮花酥

It's family reunion time during the Moon Festival with dessert and tea.

# Christmas & New Year's Party

New Year's bell is about to ring! RCI's Christmas and New Year's Party was held on December 23, 2021.

The background picture of the party was very beautiful, setting off a strong festive atmosphere. The Red Leaf Choir played the main role of the whole party. The young choir, under the guidance of Ms. Li Na, provided professional performances. The chorus of "Ode to Candlelight" and "Silent Night" were harmonious and melodious. The melody of famous Chinese and western songs is beautiful and endless. Qian Zhiguang's solo "Song of the Hippo" is witty and humorous; Zhang Lei's solo "Ride on the Wings of the Song" is graceful and beautiful.

The instrumental ensemble "Three Sets of Cars" and the chorus "We Are Happy Friends" presented by the senior groups demonstrated the high spirits of the elders! Catherine, who has just been admitted to a prestigious university, sang the theme song of the movie "Mulan" with great passion.

At the party, RCI recognized the annual outstanding volunteers, and a lucky draw was held on the spot. It was fun and exciting!

The Christmas and New Year's party brought us a wonderful night full of love.





## Share Our Stories



"The Year of the Tiger reports good news, and firecrackers celebrate the Year of the Tiger." Redleaf Chinese New Year Festival Gala was held online on January 29, 2022. This is a festive and joyous time when thousands of families are reunited.

The party started with "Spring Festival Overture" and ended successfully with the singing of "The Same Song". The solo and small chorus of the Redleaf Choir were enthusiastic and pleasant, the songs of the RCI senior group were full of vigor, and the recitation of poems written by Ms. Tian was sincere and touching. The choreographer and director of the Spring Festival Gala interviewed Mr. Yan Zhigang from the Tai Chi class, Angela Ye, the representative of international students, and Mr. Ren Xiaou, a typical immigrant entrepreneur. "Share Our Story" is true, vivid, cordial, and inspiring.

Redleaf Chinese New Year Festival Gala was an unprecedented event and won unanimous praise from audiences at home and abroad!

### 赞红叶春晚（藏头诗）

红红火火过大年，  
叶茂根深万木青。  
春风化雨百花秀，  
晚会歌舞乐昇平。  
金玉满堂人欢庆，  
虎啸生威民安宁。  
呈现精彩赞不绝，  
祥和福溢家国兴。

-田凤舞

### Pan Pingping

The performance of the Redleaf Chinese New Year Festival Gala "Sharing our own stories" was very successful and wonderful. I would like to thank Lily and Mary of the organizing committee for their careful choreography and production. We want to thank our music teacher Ms. Lei for guiding us on the senior group to perform songs of "Red Raspberry Blossoms", "Katyusha" and "We Celebrate". The beautiful and melodious singing brought us back to our youth and wonderful memories.





## Mei Zi

Redleaf Chinese New Year Festival Gala is a multicultural feast. Interspersed with telling stories, making food, weaving and other programs are very down-to-earth, kind and touching.

I have a few comments: 1. Their creativity and production are very delicate and not rough; 2. Ms. Tian's recitation recounts how everyone can't meet during the pandemic, and the family and thoughts of friends are especially sincere and very touching; 3. Several songs performed by western children are lively which attract young audience; 4. The gala also includes a lot of public welfare content, which I think is very good; 5. It can be seen that the staff have used a lot of efforts in the planning and production as each program is very interesting and meaningful. The overall style is very atmospheric.

## Xiang Yin Cha She

My aunt in Canada recommended me to watch "Redleaf Chinese New Year Festival Gala". After watching it with the whole family, we thought the performance was great! It is unexpected that overseas Chinese can present such a large-scale event. The production was excellent with rich, interesting, and heart-warming content. Applaud and like the Redleaf Chinese New Year Festival Gala.



# Volunteer Recognition

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The work of Redleaf Cultural Integration has been strongly supported by friends who share the same value as us and are willing to serve the community. Whether it is in the seniors' group, the talented Redleaf Choir, the Fitness Dance Class and the Tai Chi Team, you can see the selfless efforts of the volunteers: assisting in registration, organizing transportation, voluntary videography, and delivery of materials, etc. The Pandemic is ruthless, but people are affectionate. Thank you to the outstanding volunteers in 2021 for their contributions to the community!



Minsong Sun



Fengwu Tian



Ruzhu Song



Luping Xing



Xiner Wang



Yanqing Han



Yaling Huang



Jiaming Deng



Shufang Zhan



# Better Together Because **We All Belong**



Shujun Ren



Xiaotian Ma



Yu Lu



Ziguang Qian



Yingchun Tan



Yuzhu Wang



Di Jia



Yanmin Wang



Zhongning Yan



# POSTSCRIPT

In 2021, we walked together. Spring, summer, autumn, and winter have recorded our heroic footprints, true thoughts, and moving stories among us.

2021 Yearbook has comprehensive contents, and each picture is a vivid portrayal of our real life. The persistence of love makes us more united, stronger, and more powerful! We are confident that we will soon get out of the haze, overcome difficulties and obstacles to embrace a bright future!

2021 RCI Yearbook is the fruit of collective wisdom and the best gift for readers. Thanks to all parties for your contribution and strong support. Thanks to all the friends who enthusiastically participated the interview and provided their thoughts and comments. We hereby dedicate it to all our dear friends.

RCI is proud to acknowledge the following Funders

