

The New York Yee Fong Toy Association held its annual Mid-Autumn Moon Festival celebration on September 7, 2008. Traditionally, this holiday falls on the 15th day of the eighth lunar moon. This year, on the Western calendar, it was on September 14. Many referred to this day as a harvest festival day. It is a time for some relaxation, family get-togethers and a time to give thanks for a good harvest. It is also a time to eat Moon Cakes.



For us, about fifty members along with some of our Ma and Tse cousins gathered for the luncheon and Moon Cake sampling. President Gong spoke briefly and welcomed everyone. Our Women's League President Kennie then introduced 楊淑敏, a renowned yang-qin (洋琴) player. Yang-qin is often called the "Chinese Piano" and is used as a solo instrument or as an accompaniment ensemble instrument. Although yangqin is very popular in China, it did not originate in China. Music is produced on this trapezoidal soundboard by hitting the strings with key hammers. Unlike a piano which has one hammer per string, yangqin uses two "hand held" wooden or bamboo hammers to hit the strings. I was amazed at the dynamic range of sound this instrument can produce. Also amazing was so many members were willing to sing along as 楊淑敏 played her yangqin.



For those who could not attend, I want to say "sorry for missing out on the fun." Unlike past years, events, such as these, have been enlightening. Thanks to Kennie. Not only do we eat and talk, we can have some fun and be entertained. Hope to see more folks next time.

Frank Yee, NY