

# REFLECTIONS ON TEA AND CONVERSATION WITH YING PU, PUBLISHER OF THE ERIE CHINESE JOURNAL

—Cynthia Marek Lundeen

Dear Readers,  
Recently, I had the pleasure of sitting down to a socially distanced tea with Ying Pu, Publisher of the Erie Chinese Journal. A New Year often brings reflection and Ying Pu mused that she has now lived in the U.S. for twenty-nine years, which is longer than the twenty-eight years she had lived in China. She told me that she loves both countries, and it is clear that her adopted country loves her back, for she has been honored and recognized on a number of occasions throughout the years by the City of Cleveland for her service to the community.



As publisher of the Erie Chinese Journal, a bi-monthly publication, she has had the opportunity to meet heads of state and others in high positions, such as former U.S. Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, as well as former First Lady Laura Bush and Hillary Clinton, who was also a senator and secretary of state. Considering that meeting such personages is beyond the expectation of many average Americans, I asked her to tell me more of her amazing journey on the road from her childhood in China to her position now, of a well-known, well-respected and much beloved figure not only in the Asian-American community, but in the wider American community, encompassing people of all backgrounds.

Ying Pu told of her days studying Public Relations at the University of Shanghai, saying that she loves people. To this I can assuredly attest, for I have seen her warmth, generosity and exuberant personality draw people to her like a gravitational force! (Even the family dog, who Ying Pu's daughter, Diana, insisted must join the family, chose Ying Pu as his favorite. Keke, a miniature Schnauzer, joined us for tea... but don't worry about Diana, she is now happily married and living in London.)

Today, Ying Pu compares her newspaper to a strand of pearls: people are the pearls and the newspaper is the string which links them together. However, there were many years of hard work and uncertainty in the intervening years leading to the fulfillment of this lovely, poetic analogy, and Ying Pu spoke no English when she and her husband, Chester Lu, decided to come to the U.S. in 1991 to further his studies in engineering and computer science.

Their children, Diana and Frank were born in the early 1990s and Ying Pu worked as a waitress to help support her young family until her husband completed his advanced studies. Once her husband began working in his field, she was able to spend several years as a full-time mother, raising their children.

Ying Pu's inspiration to publish her own newspaper came in the early 2000s, after she had spent a few years writing articles for the World Journal, the largest Chinese language newspaper published in the U.S.

Her longing to connect people, an entrepreneurial spirit and a desire to earn her own income, she states, were all factors leading to her embarking upon the prodigious undertaking of becoming a publisher. From covering events, writing articles, taking pho-

tographs, soliciting ads and even delivering the print editions, Ying Pu has been a one-woman wonder, doing all of this in the early years, on a few hours of sleep per night. She works enormously hard, which her daughter confirms with an interesting story of a family vacation. Diana tells me that when she was young, the family went on a cruise, which was enjoyable to all... except Ying Pu. With thoughts of articles to be written, deadlines to meet and contacts to be made, she found it very nearly to be torture! Ying Pu's memory of it now is of too much food and being separated from her work by too much water, a clear indication that she truly loves her work and the people she connects along her strand of pearls.

Reflecting over the years, she states that her experiences in the publishing world have led to her growth in many ways, including spiritual growth. Her happiness comes from the happiness which she brings to others.

Through the internet, the Erie Chinese Journal is available globally at www.ecjweb.net and she is proud of the fact that the print run of each edition numbers over 10,000 copies per issue and is distributed in areas of Cleveland, Columbus, Pittsburg, New York and Chicago, among others. Covering stories of international, national and local interest as well as sports, human interest, entertainment and culture, her readership has come to depend upon the Erie Chinese Journal as an important part of their lives.

Karis Tzeng, AsiaTown Project Manager for the non-profit MidTown Cleveland, cites the benefit to the community on many fronts, including the dissemination of valuable and reliable information to aid in protecting against the coronavirus. Particularly, Ms. Tzeng also noted the importance of the physical newspaper due to the lack of computer access in some areas.

However, news organizations, both large and small were suffering in the pre-pandemic era, and now, Ying Pu notes, the struggle for survival in this era of pandemic is very real. As a testament to the value of her work, the Erie Chinese Journal was awarded a Covid-19 Local News Relief Fund grant from the Facebook Journalism Project Community Network Grant Program in May of 2020.

As Ying Pu spoke of her love of the culture of both the east and the west, saying that being immersed in each makes life colorful, I could not help but recall the words of a 19th century writer:

"Trade has ever been the grand pioneer of civilization, and wherever in the past or present we find a nation or people engaged in commerce, we find also the highest type of civilization. Commerce between nations, as well as between people, breaks down national antipathies, removes local prejudices, and binds the whole family of man by the strong ties of association, and of mutual and dependent interests... How unlike war is its mission! The one showers upon a people wealth and happiness; the other riots in blood, misery and desolation!" (Prof. G.A. Gaskell 1880)

How very pleased I am to call Ying Pu my friend, knowing that her strand of pearls works to link the family of humankind, weaving a wealth of happiness along the way.

Ying Pu's 50th birthday celebration was a joyous occasion, with many friends and family members gathered to celebrate her milestone. The event was held at a restaurant and featured a large cake and a variety of dishes. Ying Pu was the center of attention, surrounded by loved ones who wished her well and celebrated her achievements.

The celebration was a testament to Ying Pu's life of hard work and dedication. It was a chance for her to reflect on her journey and share her experiences with those who have supported her along the way. The event was a beautiful reminder of the love and support that have surrounded her throughout her life.

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## 世界因為您的善良變得美好



利華報在俄亥俄州已經堅持 18 年，在當今新媒體和疫情的衝擊下，傳統媒體的艱難，使得伊利華報已經成為俄州目前唯一僅存的一份中文印刷報紙。

2020 年疫情開始後，美國不少紙媒開始淪陷，有的還是著名主流大報紙，我非常感謝我們一起工作的同仁更加敬業，更好的為新老讀者提供可讀性有意義有價值的文章。

伊利華報英文專欄記者 Cynthia 還特意採訪我寫了她對伊利華報和我的認知，也許 Cynthia 沒有與我一樣，生活在一個陌生的國家從頭開始生活學習創業。她對伊利華報堅持這麼多年，她看到伊利華報的價值和意義。

今天我們就收到讀者的來信，也就是有讀者的信任和愛護，讓我們堅持，讓我們走得更遠。

親愛的女士或先生

我是伊利華報的忠實讀者，居住在哥倫布市，俄亥俄州。這份報紙的豐富多彩的信息內容，活潑生動的文章風格深深吸引著讀者。而我今天寫這封郵件是想詢問有否機會與您們聯繫、投稿。

我有意寫一些散文、或雜文，寄給您們。假如合適的話，能否在報上發表？不知您們能否考慮？

假如可以的話，又如何與您們合作？

請指教，萬分感謝！  
丁建農



# 創辦 18 年 伊利華報 服務為華裔

ERIE CHINESE JOURNAL  
We greatly appreciate your support of community newspapers  
感謝您支持伊利華報繼續為社區服務！

## 2021 年支持伊利華報的人

- 黃唯 (Wong Wai)
- Kitty (Kitty Lee)
- Irene (Irene)
- Jenny (Jenny)

- 李活玲 (Li Huo Ling)
- 黃小波 (Wong Xiao Bo)
- 張小倫 (Cheung Xiao Lun)
- Wilerin Cheung
- 黎華趙 (Lai Hua Zhao)
- Susan Cheung
- 高華 (Gao Hua)

Thank you 謝謝

感謝那些默默無聞的讀者朋友的支持

希望您也可以成為他們其中一員！



## 辭舊迎新知難而進不忘初心

2019 年 12 月 31 日晚上，伊利華報一屋子人在金太郎自助餐館舉辦的跨年火鍋聚餐會，彷彿就在眼前。2020 年的跨年活動只有我們 7 人在寶龍餐廳，在我們準備離開餐廳的時候，看到整個餐廳只有我們 7 人加上 2 位警察。

2020 年，全世界各國就像宇宙萬物的轉換：大變小、小變大；富變貧，貧變富，好變壞，壞變好，疫情讓我們有了新的生活方式，唯有只有時間的長短，自然界的規律，還沒有變化。每一年的年底我都會回顧一下自己這一年里的成長，一見到美國 29 年了，比我在中國還多了一年，2020 年，每一個人都有著自己的想法和看法，我也發現了曾經的自己，也明白“當下”兩字，我總是對自己說“把握當下”，這當下真的放不下，人在逆境中成長快，但一定要好的引導。

都冒汗，人最大的成長財富是內心的平靜，與自己好好交流。2021 年要改變人心靈世界，人因為善良而變得美好，讓我們理性去面對自己，慈悲善良。身體出了問題能感覺到，心靈出了問題看不到，心靈也需要像車一樣常常換機油，人減少慾望是健康的鑰匙，人是經不起考驗，不要考驗自己，管理好自己的起心動念，人一輩子時間很短，如果活著只想“佔有”，走了還是裸著消失，最後還是一場空，我們沒有時間來浪費生命，活著只要活出自己的精彩，把自己照顧好了，才能更好愛護他人。

疫情讓社會也病人膏肓，看到這麼多人感染病毒，失去親人，到目前為止，美國全球已有超過 35 萬人死于新冠疫情，僅俄亥俄一州也有逾九千人死亡。據美國勞工局統計，有上千

2020 年已經過去，2021 年是更艱難的一年，疫情加劇蔓延，總統選舉讓人心分裂，只要是共和黨的人就攻擊民主黨的人，民主黨的人就攻擊共和黨的人，現在應該二黨團結，一起讓美國的政治經濟走上正軌，讓人們學會尊重大自然，讓我們有時間去思考人生，想想停下來，在風雪中向人們祈求的人，今天我就看到一位白人，手上拿著“單親母親，沒有工作，上帝保佑您”的牌子。

萬人失去了工作。此次疫情已經給我們每一個人的生活造成了嚴重的影響。您是否回想疫情到底是怎麼來的，是海鮮市場的蝙蝠傳染，到目前還不知道源頭在哪里？



浦瑛 你辛苦了很久了 這次一定能過關 疫苗已出相信到年底 可以恢復正常的生活 百業必然能復興 新舊客戶 必然而來 一定要堅持下去 別人做不到你一定可以做到 你非常堅強而且有極大韌性 為人善良天報以福 新年快樂開門大吉 心想事成平安喜樂 浦瑛 明天會更好向前看 華報的成長有目共睹 我有幸在華報大家庭中 跟著你一起歡樂與共 至為感恩 飲水思源 在克城留下了詩人的驛名 全因華報給我園地自由發揮 思緒 感謝你 浦瑛 祝新年愉快心想事成 平安喜樂 恭禧發財 劉天擊

我腦海里的 2019 跨年的情景還在浮現，也許是留戀過去的自由自在，每次出門還要考慮要不要出門，出門不要忘記戴口罩... 失去的東西總是留給自己許多美好的記憶。

2021 年，我們伊利華報團隊還是有始有終信心滿滿，18 年的堅持，二位編輯認真負責，加上您們親愛的讀者對伊利華報的喜愛，雖然我常常會為下個月缺少的資金焦頭爛額，甚至不知道報紙到底還能走多久，但我不怕，有您們的相信，有我們的奮鬥，我們深知面對的是一個越來越複雜和動蕩的世界，我們知道沒有一種商業模式是長存的，即使我們這一份小報。

最後我想告訴您，作為我創刊伊利華報 18 年，我只有一個信念：不放棄，因為放棄是最容易的事。伊利華報 18 年我們挺過來了，2020 年我們挺過來了，這就是最大的勝利，我們都是有福氣的人。伊利華報走到今天，美國一步人走到今天，我們一人肩上一份責任，活著，健康快樂，朝著自己的夢想目標努力。浦瑛

我們明白：這個世界沒有絕對公平合理的事情，有句話說的好：想要簡單人生那麼就會遇到許多困難，你有困難人生，一切對你都是簡單，有時間多多照顧自己的靈魂，擺脫脫望的追求，昨日與好朋友 Kitty 一起到哥倫布送報，沿路我們回憶了許多我們小時的事情，人活著就是一瞬間，回克利夫蘭的路上下了大雪，我發現我沒有恐懼，我還記得幾年前也是這麼大雪，我開車的手

劉天擊揮筆寫詩盛贊華報鼓勵浦瑛

