**ANNIVERSARY SPEECH**

**FOR**

**JENNY LEE**

Ladies and gentlemen, friends and neighbors, patrons, sponsors, distinguished guests.... and of course, golfers!!! (**Wait for the laugh**) ... it is with great pride that I stand here to welcome all of you to our 2019 annual New Year’s Celebration!! Every opportunity that we get to honor our rich heritage and our connection to our Dai culture and legacy is golden and this year is no exception. As we continue to share the stories and traditions of our homeland, and although our roots may have been planted thousands of miles away from where we are right now, with every gesture and acknowledgement, like a peacock, our colorful and majestic collective experience spreads and gets even more vibrant!!

Each year, while we dedicate our thoughts, activities, and resources to honoring our culture, our outreach grows and inspires even more of our friends and neighbors to join us as we commemorate those characteristics and traditions that continue to prove just how wonderful our culture is. Tonight is proof that, no matter where we may find ourselves, we are connected to Xishuangbanna, culturally, historically, and affectionately. I can proudly say that as the years pass, our outreach and participation has grown as well, and like a rock that is tossed upon the surface of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**Name a famous lake in your homeland**), the ripples echo and spread and reach further and further to include even more friends and neighbors. Tonight I am proud to welcome Dai neighbors from as far away as (**Name some of the other cities and states represented at the golf tournament and banquet**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Tiger Woods winning the Masters Golf Tournament last week **IS CLEARLY NOT** the biggest news in that age old sport!!! (**Wait for the laugh**). TAI LUE Cultural Heritage of the USA held its very **FIRST ANNUAL** Golf Tournament yesterday!!! I can see, as I gaze out at all of your smiling faces, that this is a milestone that has been eagerly awaited and thoroughly enjoyed! I want to express very hearty appreciation and thanks to Lao Lue Golf of America for their generous guidance and support in planning, arranging, and encouraging this event. Of course, I would be remiss if I “**missed a shot**” to acknowledge the enthusiastic contributions and assistance of Nick and Joe, and, naturally, the tournament would not have been possible without the energy and participation of our skilled and optimistic players!!! (**If you want, you can say**)... Our TLC “**SWINGERS**” really **WORKED IT**!! (**And wait for the laugh**). We will be announcing the tournament winners after dinner, so... stay tuned!!!

We are blessed to have such a supportive, inspiring, and colorful membership, and it is thanks to the dedication that each of you so proudly demonstrate, that I am thrilled and excited to make this next announcement. This summer, TLC will offer our very first summer camp session. Activities will include arts, language, food preparation... featuring our classic Dai cuisine, and, of course, sessions focusing on our rich and unique history. Every donation we receive tonight will go towards supporting this camp and spreading the legacy we share. I am sure all of you will agree that our children are our future, and to be able to provide an enriching, positive, and **FUN** cultural experience is a blessing and a gift for **ALL** involved. Any contribution of any amount will be greatly appreciated and put to very essential use by aiding, assisting, and funding this great summer camp experience. Of course, in initiating and establishing this camp, we insure the continuation of our outreach and our colorful legacy, and anything that inspires any and all of us to spread the word and continue the conversation of our Dai Culture is more than worth it!!

It’s no accident that there is a very common phrase... to be “Proud as a peacock” ... and no one is more aware of the truth and depth of that expression than each one of us. Xishuangbanna Is the home of the peacock, the colorful, gorgeous, enduring symbol of the Dai people, one that stands for good fortune, happiness, beauty, and kindness. Our peacock dance expresses the pride we each hold for the beauty firmly planted in our roots, and no matter where in the world we may find ourselves, just the thought of that dance reminds us of the elegance that is at our very foundation. As the dancers don their colorful costumes and perform to evoke the symbolism of that majestic bird, we notice that the lively, graceful, and flexible movements express our love and respect for that beautiful creature.... and the brilliant bonds that connect all of us.

In closing, I want to wish all of you a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful, Prosperous and **COLORFUL** New Year!!! May we all experience **ABUNDANCE**... in all **GOOD** things!!! ... and remember...in order to make sure **EVERYONE** is included... please stop by and visit our boys at the bar!!! (**Wait for the laugh**)... as is the case with **ALL OF US**.... it’s their **PLEASURE** to **SERVE**!!! Thank you all!!