

**Let's Speak Mandarin Chinese!
A Gathering for Speakers of Mandarin Chinese
on Saturday, June 12, in Blacksburg, Virginia**

Members of the Mandarin Chinese-speaking community in the Blacksburg area – from novice speakers to native speakers – are invited to an outdoor gathering to speak Mandarin Chinese! Use of Google Translate is welcome! We will enjoy lively conversation, food and drinks, and play two speaking games with prizes. Appetizers from a local restaurant, plus beer, wine, and water will be provided. You are invited to bring a dish and beverages to share.

The first game is Mandarin Chinese Speed Speaking! Similar to speed dating, we'll set up a row of tables and chairs. Novice speakers will be seated on one side and experienced speakers on the other. Once we begin, each pair will have 3 minutes to speak in Chinese about whatever subject they choose. (Ideas will be provided!) Audience members are welcome to listen in and cheer! After 3 minutes, the novices will shift to the next seat and another 3-minute session will begin. We'll run the game for 30 minutes. We hope many will participate so each person can speak with 8-9 people. Prizes will be awarded by the novice speakers 学生 xuéshēng to the experienced speakers - our volunteer lǎoshī 老师 - who most helped them speak Mandarin Chinese!

The second game is Hànzì 汉字 Charades! Teams will consist of pairs of novice and experienced speakers. Details will be explained at our gathering. Teams will draw from a collection of flashcards hand-created by Vincent Cheng, an 8-year-old student at Blacksburg Chinese School.

What?	Let's Speak Mandarin Chinese! A Gathering for Speakers of Mandarin Chinese
For whom?	Mandarin Chinese speakers, from novices to natives, ages 21 and over
When?	Saturday, June 12, 2021 4:30 PM Arrive and enjoy conversation, food and drink! 5:00 – 5:15 PM Round robin introductions. No need to memorize! Name tags will be provided. 5:15 – 5:45 PM Mandarin Chinese Speed Speaking 5:45 – 6:15 PM Refresh yourself after all that talking! 6:15 – 6:45 PM Character Charades 6:45 – 7:00 PM Awarding of Red Envelope Prizes (Please see the categories below.)

Why come?	To help foster the growth of, and a sense of connection and community among, resident and visiting speakers of Mandarin Chinese.
Where?	In the backyard under catering tents and in the sunroom at the home of Anne Giles, 509 Fairview Avenue (near Margaret Beeks Elementary School). Parking is available along the street. https://www.annegiles.com/directions/
How much?	Free! You are our guest!
What can I bring?	Just bring yourself and your willingness to speak Mandarin Chinese! If you would like to do so, you are welcome to bring beer or wine or another beverage and a dish to share with guests. (Please label if spicy!)
What about masks?	Masks are optional outdoors and requested indoors. The hostess and her house guest each have had two Moderna vaccines and will not wear masks outdoors.
What about children?	Since alcohol will be served, this is a gathering for adults only.
R.s.v.p.	Please let Anne Giles know you are coming! Our capacity is about 40 people. anne@annegiles.com / 540-808-6334

Red Envelope Prizes

Speaker Prize	\$25 Kroger card	Awarded by the gathering's hostess, Anne Giles, to the person she never heard speaking English!
Principal's Prize	\$25 Kroger card	Awarded by Blacksburg Chinese School Principal, Ye Ding, to the person she thinks most helped novices feel confident about trying to speak Mandarin Chinese.
老师 Lǎoshī Prizes	10 x \$10 Kroger cards	Awarded by each 学生 xuéshēng to the person who most helped them speak Mandarin Chinese during Mandarin Chinese Speed Speaking.
Hànzi 汉字 Charades Prizes	5 x \$10 Kroger cards	Awarded to the winners of Hànzi 汉字 Charades. Details forthcoming.

Questions? Please contact Anne Giles, anne@annegiles.com / 540-808-6334.