

CONNECTION

Remembering David Chen

Thursday, September 22, 2011

 SHARE

Saturdays in the park were David Chen's favorite part of the week, said his wife Joanne Chang.

"His joy was contagious like a gentle breeze," said Chang.

Tai Chi opened his eyes, said his student Andy Unger. "He wanted everyone to see this astonishing opportunity."

Chen started to bring together groups on Saturday mornings at Cabin John Regional Park in 1997. He died in December 2005.

Members of the Wu Wei Tai Chi Club — founded by Chen — and the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission officially opened the David C. Chen Memorial Tai Chi Court with a blue ribbon cutting ceremony at the park on Saturday, Sept. 17.

"The concept was really a memory of a friend," architect Hsien-Yuan Chen said.

Rather than looking at a stage, he said, park users come upon the Tai Chi park from parking lots and the hill below. When they see people practicing Tai Chi, "it looks like people floating in air."

The Tai Chi Court is the best type of example of public-private partnerships, said all those involved.

"It took a lot of political courage and a lot of people fighting for this," said Charles Votaw, committee member of the Wu Wei Tai Chi Club.

One of its kind, said Councilmember Phil Andrews (D-3).

Since Chen's death, members of his Wu Wei Tai Chi Club and Tai Chi community at large, in states from Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York as well as from China had been involved.

Chang said she was honored for the support, both from the state, county and people donating their own money to the project. One donor offered to send money every month until the Tai Chi court was built or until that person's death, she said.

"The level of passion ... it encouraged me to do more," she said.

Randy Atkins called David Chang an international ambassador for Tai Chi. "David said he was no master he was just an experienced tour guide helping people find their own way," Atkins said.

Approximately 200 people attended the ceremony Saturday.

"We don't always get a chance to be at blue ribbon ceremonies" to see our



Del. Brian Feldman with County Council members Nancy Floreen and Phil Andrews.

 SHARE 

[Email this Article](#)
[Print this Article](#)

money and actions at work, said Del. Brian Feldman (D-15), who was joined by Del. Kathleen Dumais (D-15). "So this is fantastic."

An example of Montgomery County in action, said councilmember Nancy Floreen (D-At large). "People talk to other people, talk to the county, get other people involved and make it happen."

"As a wife, I'm deeply moved," said Joanne Chang.

<1b>— Ken Moore



©2011 [Connection Newspapers](#). All Rights Reserved. [Privacy Policy](#)
1606 King Street ♦ Alexandria, VA 22314 ♦ 703-821-5050
Site Design, Development and Hosting by [Timberlake Publishing](#)