

Shanghai Journal
10-24-17

Wenhao Pengyou (Greetings, Friends),

I ended the previous journal with a note that our residence was having a party. It was called Shanghai Night and the staff really dressed up, many of the women wearing the traditional qipao dress. The party room was decorated with backdrop and images of old Shanghai and lots of food was provided, though Ravi and I could not eat the mostly meat dishes. It was lovely for them to do and we enjoyed the chance to talk to people we see everyday but don't get a chance to know better. The young women below all work at the front desk. Except for the one in black who is a manager. They are always so friendly and helpful.



The children were especially cute. One little boy kept trying to feed a girl his same age, but she was having none of it. He looks so solicitous.



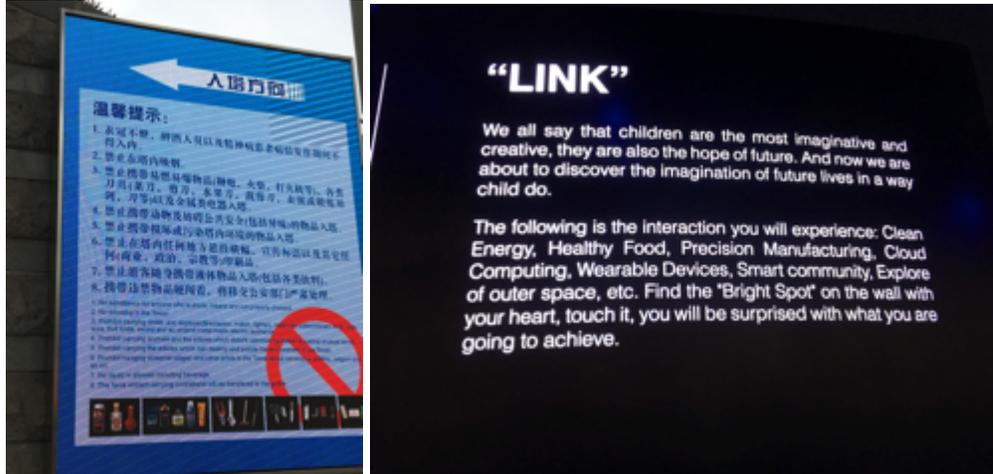
I think I mentioned that the Cirque de Soleil performers and crew are staying here. On Thursday they treated us to a performance. The residence provided car service to get there. The only other circus I've seen was the Flying Russian Circus that I took Seth to see in Phoenix when he was about seven.

The Cirque performance was quite a spectacle – colorful costumes and dance routines, clowns, music, lights and amazing tumbling and high wire acts. We had great seats right up front. I felt like a little kid again and I think the rest of the audience did too!



It was odd to recognize some of the performers the next morning in our gym. I talked to one of the aerial artists as we rode bikes next to each other. He is married to the woman above twirling the hoops and their six year-old daughter was with the mother in the yoga room doing her own routines. They are from Madrid. He told me he is 53 though didn't look it. They are all in amazing shape, except for the clowns and crew!

Linda and Marcella arrived and we spent the afternoon together on Friday before they headed off to Xian for the weekend. Yesterday we went to Pearl Tower and got the great views of the city. We got a kick out of a sign at the entrance listing what is not allowed, including: “No admittance to anyone who is drunk, insane and not properly dressed.”



Pearl Tower has made a lot of changes since we were here last year, including adding a floor with a futuristic display, “Link”, of what the city is planning for green energy and the like. It was really quite amazing and visionary. Think of the impact on all the children who go through here and will grow up assuming this is how things should be.

They have also added a space with lots of video games and, if you can believe it, a roller coaster! Inside this tower! Linda desperately wanted to ride but neither Marcella nor I were willing.

Then we met Ravi at Happy Feet. All of our friends from the Happy Feet club will know how wonderful that experience was (Anna, Kathy, Liz, Fabio, Pablo, Chuck – have I forgotten anyone?) Linda and Marcella really enjoyed it too. After, we had dinner at our favorite local place “You” (can’t add correct tone mark). I know Kathy and Liz will remember this place fondly.



Today I am going for an MRI on my knee and hope we can figure out what is going on and find a way to remedy the swelling. The orthopedist thinks it is tendonitis and not a meniscus tear, which would be a good thing. He may drain the liquid once he sees the MRI and that would relieve the pain.

Hope all is well with you.

Geng wan, Lee