

CHINESE IN THE NEWS: PATRICK CHAN

Wendy Philip

When the World Championship finished this year everyone knew who Patrick Chan was. After a disappointing run of finishing 5th at the Winter Olympics, no one would have pegged Chan to make the splash he did in the athletic community.

Chan started skating the age of five and while he enjoyed hockey, fell in love with figure skating. A Canadian born Chinese, Chan's parents both are originally from Hong Kong and Chan speaks Cantonese, English, French and some Mandarin. Now Chan calls Colorado Springs home for part of the year, training at the World Arena Ice Hall. The 20 year old skater has slowly made his way up over the last few years. In 2005 he placed 5th in the Junior Grand Prix and improved from there. On April 28, he scored 280.98 and broke two world records. With such an amazing feat it's no surprise Chan was crowned World Champion.



CSCCI QUARTERLY DINNER

Eric Woods

The CSCCI quarterly dinner in April at the Jade Dragon was wonderful. I was invited as a guest speaker to inform the attendants about the Second Sino-Japanese War. Before my speech, new members of the CSCCI board were introduced and welcomed into the community, while we all enjoyed a tasty dinner. The meal was traditional Chinese food that ranged from pork, to duck, to salad with jellyfish and squid. Eating more exotic foods like jellyfish let me experience new flavors and I found that I actually liked many of the foods that I would never have dreamed of eating.

Since the main speaker's topic occurred right after World War II, I was asked to find information on part of the war that happened between Japan and China. The Second Sino-Japanese war officially started on July 7, 1937, but minor fighting in Manchuria between China and Japan started as early as 1931. This war was the largest war in Asia during the 20th century with over 20 million Chinese civilian casualties alone. The Sino-Japanese war weakened the Nationalist Party in China and eventually helped the Communist Party led by Mao Zedong take control of China.

The main speaker of the night was Paul Maruyama, the author of the book "Escape from Manchuria." The book tells the story of three men, including Mr. Maruyama's father, who rescued nearly 1.7 million Japanese citizens from Manchuria after World War II. Mr. Maruyama's speech was very informative about the struggles and suffering that occurred in Manchuria and inspirational for young adults to learn about lesser-known history.

UPCOMING CSCCI EVENTS

July 8th

Quarterly Dinner, Jade Dragon, 6:30-9:00. No speaker confirmed as of yet.

August 7th

A Celebration of Culture and Diversity, America the Beautiful Park, 10 am- 4pm,

CSCCI will be holding a Chinese Speaking Group:

Liao Tian聊天, every Tuesdays at 7 pm. We are still looking for a location. If you would like to participate please e-mail: wendyjphilip@gmail.com.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Colorado Technical University
Eagle Design Studio
Colorado Springs, CO
graphic design
June SL Chan
Newsletter Writer
& Editor-In-Chief



CALENDAR

July 24/25

Annual Denver Dragon Boat Festival: Sloan's Lake Park, 10 - 7pm

August 6

Double Seventh

The once in a year day when the goddess, Zhi Nu (the Vega star) and her lover, Niu Lang (the Altair star), separated (by the Milky Way), meets.

August 14

Ghost or Spirit Festival

A day when paper money and offerings are made to dead ancestors.

September 12

Mid-Autumn Moon Festival

Held on the 15th day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar to celebrate the end of the summer harvest.

October 5

Double Ninth

To avoid too much "yang", it is customary to climb a high mountain, drink chrysanthemum wine and wear the zhuyu (Cornus officinalis) plant to maintain balance.

November 10

Water Lantern Festival

Flower shaped lanterns or other offerings are placed on a stream or river to meet visiting spirits/ghosts.

December 1

Winter Solstice Festival

(Chinese Thanksgiving)

Jan 1

Laba Festival

A celebration of the day the Buddha attained enlightenment

Please submit future events to
tea.leaves@cscci.org

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TEA LEAVES

SUMMER 2011

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Dragon Boat Festival

Wendy Philip

When the street vendors stop encouraging browsers to buy the catch of the day and start pushing zongzi (糝子) it's clear the Dragon Boat Festival is fast approaching.

Dating back to ancient China, Dragon Boat Festival has a few origins. Stories include the minister and poet Qu Yuan. When an opposing country offered alliance, Qu Yuan went against the king and declared that the country would turn on them. For this, he was banished. When his prediction came to pass and his previous home was conquered, Qu Yuan threw his body into the river out of despair and drown. Here's where the story differs. Some stories say the local people quickly sped out in their boats to save Qu Yuan and then

threw rice into the river so the fish wouldn't eat his body. Another says they threw rice into the river for Qu Yuan to eat. Either way the rice was eaten by the river dragon, which is why today's zongzi is wrapped in leaves. People celebrate today by having Dragon Boat races and making zongzi on Qu Yuan's anniversary.

Today's Dragon Boat races are popular and including the official International Dragon Boat Festival, held this year in Tampa Bay. Teams train for months or even year round. A good team is able to keep rhythm together thanks to the drummer. The drummer stands at the front of the boat and keeps the beat for the paddlers. There's also the steersman that angles the boats. Last and perhaps the most exciting position is the flag grabber who hooks his or her feet around the top of the boat and leans out above the water to grab the flag and signify the end of the race. Add tons of vendors with games and food and Dragon Boat Festival is like going to a game. Grab some zongzi, find a seat and cheer for your favorite team.

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CHINESE ARTS AND AUTHORS

MOVIE REVIEW

RED CLIFF

Wendy Philip

Red Cliff is a masterpiece from John Woo unfolding in the Han Dynasty. The northern chancellor Cao Cao convinces the boy emperor to go to war with the southern provinces. The south is ruled by two main warlords: Liu Bei and Sun Quan. Cao Cao's army is massive and swiftly conquers everything in their path. The only way to hold out against Cao Cao is to unite against him. Sun Quan who holds an advantageous position must decide to go to war against the bloodthirsty Cao Cao or to surrender or join Cao Cao and fight against Liu Bei. If they do unite, Liu Bei and Sun Quan will still be out numbered and need to use expert cunning and skill to defeat the clever Cao Cao.



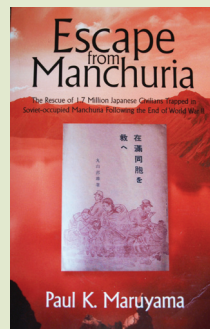
Released in two parts, the first in 2008, Red Cliff displays epic battles and amazing fight scenes, especially from Liu Bei's generals. Another favorite is Sun Quan's sister. A 21st century woman stuck in 208 AD and determined to help and fight in anyway she can. There are twists and turns and it's entertaining to watch how the enemies confront each other. The only disappointing part is that the movie ends with a cliff hanger. Fortunately, you don't have to wait like I did for the sequel, released in 2009.

BOOK REVIEW

ESCAPE FROM MANCHURIA; A SUMMARY

Wendy Philip

Escape from Manchuria, by Paul Mayruama, is about the 1.7 million Japanese living in Manchuria (Northern China) at the end of World War II and what happened to them when the Soviets invaded. Three men made a plan to escape and subsequently led to the evacuation of the Japanese.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Tea Leaves and Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute (CSCCI)! I am honored and excited to serve as President of CSCCI for 2011 along with a distinguished group of members from the Board of Directors. This is a milestone year for CSCCI: it marks our 10th consecutive year of community service. I would like to extend a sincere gratitude to all members, volunteers, sponsors, and participants for your constant support and help over the last decade to make CSCCI a successful organization today.

Established in 2011, CSCCI has carried on its mission to promote greater appreciation of Chinese culture in the Pikes Peak Region, to offer resources and networking opportunities to facilitate US-China exchange in culture, business and education, and to serve toward the betterment of our community.

The Pikes Peak Region offers a surprisingly number of opportunities to connect with Chinese culture: from the annual CSCCI Chinese New Year Festival to local martial arts classes; from the Chinese Language School to the Asian Pacific Market; from CSCCI's quarterly Gourmet Dinner to over 70 local Chinese restaurants; from CSCCI's spectacular China Tours to regional excursions. Our goal is to serve as a regional portal for you to find these opportunities, and to create new programs for you to experience the wonder and magic of Chinese culture. If you would like to know more about CSCCI and Chinese resources in the Pikes Peak Region, please visit our website: <http://www.cscCI.org/>. Feel free to contact us if you have any question or concern.

CSCCI is a volunteer-based non-profit organization. I became involved by simply attending a CSCCI event to try and understand more. Soon I began to help where I could. Eventually I decided to join the Board of Directors to take on more responsibility. CSCCI thrives because of active volunteers like you and me. Just send us an email or attend our Board meeting if you consider throwing some help. There is no pressure and we will happily take whatever help you can give. We look forward to your unwavering support in the future.

Sincerely,

Vincent Y. Yang, PhD
CSCCI President 2011



MISSION STATEMENT

The CSCCI is committed to fostering understanding of Chinese culture by promoting opportunities for events, networking, travel, education and services available to the people of Colorado Springs.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Wendy Philip

I'm so excited to be a part of the Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute (CSCCI). After moving to Colorado Springs in August my fiance and I quickly discovered we needed something. Something to connect us to where we'd just spent the last two and a half years and to the community. We've always enjoyed being involved.

We met in 2005 at the University of Northern Colorado's German Club. Both of us served as president during our time there and found we liked coming up with new ideas for the club. CSCCI was just what we were looking for. After the first meeting we talked excitedly all the way home about ideas that we had that could be applied. Getting elected to the CSCCI board was amazing and working on the newsletter not only makes me feel at home but allows me to use my education in journalism.

I can't wait to see how CSCCI is going to expand and evolve over the next few years. With people this inspired and dedicated there's no way we can't.

HERE ARE SOME BASIC FENG SHUI TIPS FOR A HARMONIOUS HOME:

- Have many happy images of your family throughout the house, especially in the living room/family room, kitchen and dining, as well as the East feng shui area of your home. East feng shui area of your home is "responsible" for the energy of health and family. Southwest area is connected to the energy of love relationships and marriage.
- Apply feng shui in your bedroom, as well as the bedrooms of your children.
- Balance the energy in your home according to the five feng shui elements by bringing the most harmonious colors. Choose the feng shui colors according to the energy you need and bring them into your space with the wall color, art, photography, or various decor items.
- Use feng shui energy purifiers, such as essential oils, crystals and candles to bring harmony, calm and balance into your space.

Feng shui is easy to apply once you understand the basics, as well as make an effort to really connect to your home to find out what it needs.

Become a member

Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute

To become a member, please complete the information below and send the form with your check or money order to:

COLORADO SPRINGS CHINESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE
PO BOX 2625
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901-2625

Membership Benefits:

- Discount ticket pricing for all events and activities
- Free Quarterly Newsletter
- E-mail reminders to all our future events
- and More....

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Annual Membership

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- _____ Family \$35
- _____ Business (up to 5 members) \$150
- _____ Business (up to 20 members) \$500
- _____ Non-profit organization (up to 5 members) \$125
- _____ Non-profit organization (up to 20 members) \$450
- _____ Silver Patron \$150
- _____ Gold Patron \$250
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