Heartbeat of the New Year Festival

By Eric Woods

The sound of taiko drums is more than sound. It’s feeling your body, your soul, vibrate to the mighty beats. It’s the surreal experience of being enveloped by music that captivates your primal nature yet wows your conscious mind. It’s a truly unforgettable experience.

The Chinese New Year Festival presented by CSCCI shared this taiko experience as well as so much more memorable immersion in Chinese culture. There were activities for everyone: martial arts performances, traditional Chinese clothes and souvenirs, soothing tea and live musical performances in the tea house, delicate and graceful traditional dances, fun crafts at the Kid’s Zone, and even an ornate Lion Dance. All the while, you can enjoy handmade dumplings, noodles, and stir-fry as you browse through the dozens of cultural and community organizations with booths at the festival. One of everybody’s favorite booths is the Chinese Folk Art Studio where you can get your name painted in a one of a kind way. Using a foam brush, watercolors, and a gentle touch, they form letters out of detailed sea creatures, lush plants, and so much more. It’s a perfect mix of creativity, individuality, and aesthetics into one memorable souvenir.

The taiko drumming was captivating with its power and force, yet the New Year Festival had a unique balance that allowed elegance to compliment excitement. One performance that particularly drew attention was the traditional Tibetan dance, Sky Road, interpreted by XiaoMei Xu. Her long sleeves that twirled and swayed around her during the elaborate and agile dance gave it a unique flair that dazzled the audience. XiaoMei’s young dance students from the Chinese Language School also gave a performance, an entertaining way to actively teach children about an interesting aspect of Chinese culture.

If you would like to join in the fun and immersion with us next year, come to the City Auditorium on February 7, 2015 to continue your Chinese experience into the Year of the Sheep!
Mother’s Day Dinner
By Eric Woods

Make sure to join CSCCI for our Celebration of Mother’s Day Dinner on May 9th. Our dinners are the best way to experience a wide selection of handmade, traditional Chinese cuisine such as Shredded Duck, Sweet & Sour Fish Filet, and Pork with Chives Dumplings. We will also be featuring a performance by local musician Liping Woods playing the erhu (Chinese violin). The Lazy Susan style meal is a perfect time to make connections and new friends who share a common interest in culture and community. If the entree list to the right entices you, please see the Dinner Events section at www.cscci.org or contact us at 719-287-7624. The price is $30 per person or $27 for CSCCI members. We hope to see you there!

The Art of Taiko
By The Taiko Society

Blending ancient and modern influences, Colorado Springs’ Taiko Society brings the art of Japanese drumming to the Pikes Peak Region. Formed three years ago by Jesse and Carla Maddox of Monument, Taiko Society has grown from a core of six performers to nearly twenty students and performers engaged in teaching and presenting Taiko drum technique and “songs” to a growing audience.

Taiko – literally “fat drum” – traces its origins to village and religious ceremonies in Japan as early as 4,000 years ago. Taiko ensembles including wind instruments and gongs along with the drums, also occupied an important place in Imperial Palace activities as well as Noh and Kabuki performances. In the mid-Twentieth Century, a trend to combine different types of drums into an ensemble reflecting the structure of a contemporary drum set provided the impetus for a worldwide growth of interest in Taiko.

A featured favorite at the CSCCI Chinese New Year celebrations, the Taiko Society offers weekly classes in basic and advanced Taiko technique and songs. Members also perform for schools and community groups, with a growing schedule of upcoming performances. For more information about classes and availabilities, go to www.taikosociety.com, or phone 719-297-1171.

Dinner Entrees

- 潤拌海蜇
- 韭菜鮮肉水餃
- 牛肉捲餅
- 鮮蝦扒豆腐
- 蟹肉餛飩
- 豬肉掛包
- 醋溜魚片
- 冬菇佛手瓜
- 燒餅包鴨絲
- 茶水

Chinese Cold Cut Platter
Chinese Chives with Pork
Chinese Beef Burrito
Shrimp with Tofu Dish
Crabmeat / Cream Cheese
Pork Wrapped in Bread Pouch
Sweet & Sour Fish Filet
Chinese Chayote / Black Mushroom
Shredded Duck In Chinese Biscuits
Hot Tea

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.

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....

Membership Application

Name

MailingAddress

City

State

Zip

Phone (H/W/C) (H/W/C)

Fax

E-mail

Annual Membership

- Student/Senior/Military $15
- Individual $20
- 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
- Platinum Patron $500

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As I was walking down Irving St., in the Inner Sunset area of San Francisco, I overheard a young man comment, “The Chinese are everywhere, you cannot go anywhere without running into a Chinese.” That is not far from the truth if you live in the San Francisco Bay Area. In fact, according to the 2012 Census, the San Francisco-Oakland and San Jose combined Chinese population numbers 629,243! – out-numbering the entire population of Colorado Springs! In 2010, the San Francisco Asians represented 33.3% of the population, with 21.4% being Chinese or 172,181 in number. This does not include the multinational Chinese (married to Caucasians) that adds another 14,286 or 1.8% to the total Chinese population of San Francisco. Whew…all this started in 1848 when 2 Chinese men and a woman immigrated to San Francisco on the American brig, Eagle.

Chinese steadily immigrated to San Francisco during the century from 1850 to 1950 when Cantonese-speaking Taishanese from the Guangdong Province of Southern China immigrated to San Francisco. In the 1960’s and later, immigrants came from Mainland China and Taiwan where the spoken language is Mandarin or Taiwanese. Others also came from Hong Kong, Macau, and Guangdong Province who are primarily Cantonese speaking. Offspring of these emigrants, referred to as the first generation (born in the United States), have become fully Americanized.

When visitors arrive in San Francisco, one of their first destinations is Chinatown, the largest and oldest Chinatown in North America. Peppered with touristy gift shops and restaurants, it is also the place where local Chinese conduct their daily meal shopping at meat, vegetable and fish markets and bakeries. Clearly a sightseer destination, Chinatown is an experience not to be missed. However, for those that want a more laid back community experience, visitors should wander to what is often referred to as the Other San Francisco Chinatown. The Inner Sunset Chinatown is located just south of Golden Gate Park and has a funky ethnic mix of people including multigenerational Chinese and Irish people and students and faculty from the University of California San Francisco. This accounts for the fact that 35% of the locals have a graduate degree or higher (another 35% have their bachelor’s degree). The Inner Sunset businesses are locally owned restaurants, coffee houses, produce markets, shops and drinking establishments where one can watch the SF Giants on screen with locals. There is a wide selection of Chinese restaurants to choose from: Nan King Road Bistro for Asian fusion dishes; San Tung which is famous for its steamy bowls of homemade noodles and shrimp-leek dumplings; South Sea Seafood Village, a Hong Kong-style restaurant with waitresses in Cheongsam attire serving ginger-encrusted crab and Peking duck; Sunset Star, for take-out; and King of Noodles for you know what. The largest grocery store is the Sunset Supermarket or the Man Hing Market with aisles stocked with fresh produce, dried and canned foods or prepared foods of all Asian types. Being eco-friendly, San Francisco enforces a 10 cents per grocery bag or 25 cents per box fee.

By the way, while you are in the Inner Sunset neighborhood, don’t miss two of SF’s hidden gems – The 16th Avenue Tiled Steps Projects where two steep steps are adorned by handmade mosaics.
Dragon Boat Festival Excursion - July 19, 2014
By Eric Woods

Last year saw CSCCI’s first excursion to the Denver Dragon Boat Festival, and this year we are excited to continue the journey. This is your chance to join in the fun of cheering on the intense athletes, enjoying delicious Asian Cuisine, and learning about Asian culture through dozens of exciting demonstrations and displays. In addition to the wonderful experience of the festival, taking the journey with CSCCI gives you many benefits. We provided a spacious and relaxing bus trip both to and from Denver, as well as snacks and drinks for your comfort. All of our guests will also get an in-depth exploration of the Festival’s history with a special behind-the-scenes tour given by one of the Festival’s cofounders.

If you would like to join us, check out our website, www.cscci.org, for more details and registration. We hope to see you there!

P.S. For more about the traditional history of the Festival and to get a better picture of what the Denver Dragon Boat Festival is like, please read the 2013 Spring and Fall editions of the CSCCI Tea Leaves Newsletter.

Upcoming Asian Cultural Events
CSCCI Dinner Event*
Jade Dragon Chinese Restaurant, Colorado Springs
May 9, 2014

42st Annual Cherry Blossom Festival
Sakura Square, Denver
June 28-29, 2014

Colorado Dragon Boat Festival*
Sloan’s Lake Park, Denver
July 19-20, 2014

CSCCI Chinese New Year Festival
City Auditorium, Colorado Springs
February 7, 2015

*Register online at www.cscci.org

Upcoming Asian Cultural Holidays
Quin Ming (Pure and Bright) Festival 清明節
April 25, 2014

Mid-Autumn Festival 中秋節
September 9, 2014

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