



COLORADO SPRINGS
CHINESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE
科泉市中華文化協會

茶葉香談

TEA LEAVES

WINTER 2008

WWW.CSCCI.ORG

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CHINESE PROVERB

“The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.”

FENG SHUI TIP

Placing a fountain in your home or office is one of the easiest ways to add positive energy or *Chi*. To enhance your wealth and prosperity, position your indoor water feature in the southeast element of your home or office. For career luck, place in the north.

CSCCI leads members and friends through China

LORNE AND KENA KRAMER

(Lorne Kramer is the retired city manager for Colorado Springs. This is his and his wife's story of CSCCI's recent tour through China.)

For 15 days in October, we joined Mali Hsu, Wally Astor and 24 other people on a tour of China that was well organized, educational and insightful. It was also nice to meet new friends and enjoy the companionship of people we have known for many years.

The success of the trip started with the planning and information that was shared with everyone prior to the trip, including meetings that covered our travel plans, visas, what to expect, and an overview of the places. These meetings not only allowed all the travelers to meet each other but also eased any anxieties there may have been.

Our Chinese guide Philip Zhang was knowledgeable, gracious and helpful. The local guides in each city we visited enhanced the experience. Their local knowledge, patience and sense of humor really added to each region's visit.

Our first stop was Beijing, where we spent four enjoyable days. As the capital city, it has a rich history, and the excitement centered on the upcoming Olympic Games can be seen everywhere. We visited Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace and the Temple of Heaven, and took a rickshaw ride through Hutong. To the ladies' delight, we visited a pearl factory.

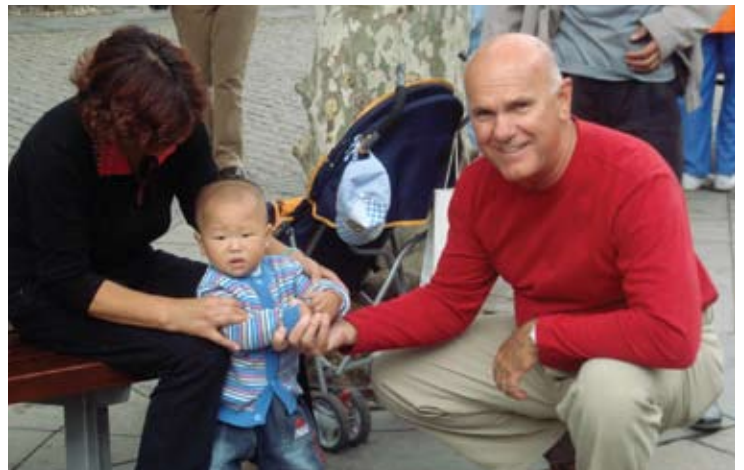
A highlight was the time we spent at the Great Wall. What a marvel – something you can only appreciate fully once you have seen it and walked on it. The cloisonné factory was fascinating, performing a form of art we'd never seen before.

Next we took a flight to Xi'an. During our visit here we visited the ancient city wall, the Big Goose Pagoda and the renowned terra cotta warriors and horses. The impulse to take photos is only limited by the space available on your camera's disk.

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The group on the Great Wall



Lorne Kramer with a new friend

Local ethnic churches celebrate the season with a Chinese twist

HERMAN TIEMENS II

Colorado Springs is home to two Chinese Christian churches, the New Life Chinese Church and the Colorado Springs Chinese Christian Church.

Most of the members of each church are “first-generation Christians.” Some of those who grew up in former colonies (Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore) were sent to private Christian schools, which had well regarded academic curricula. Many of those from Mainland China and Taiwan were only introduced to Christianity for the first time when they moved to the U.S.

These first-generation Christians have embraced many familiar traditions, such as Christmas trees, caroling and presents. However, the fusion of Chinese culture and Christianity also creates a unique mix. You are more likely to find Peking duck being served than turkey or ham.

Attendees may hear the sermon in English, Mandarin or Cantonese. Translators are on hand to ensure everything is translated into Mandarin Chinese – if not more languages.

For Chinese Christians, the holidays do not end on January 1. Rather, it kicks off celebrations in anticipation of the Chinese New Year. The coming year will be the Year of the Rat. ●



A ferry at Three Gorges in the Yangtze River

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We then traveled to Chongqing, the largest city in China with over 30 million people. We boarded a cruise ship in the evening and spent the next three days on the Yangtze River, going through the famed Three Gorges and the locks of the spectacular Three Gorges Dam, the largest modern man-made structure in the world, second only to the Great Wall.

Our trip moved on to Wuhan, the Tower of Six Harmonies and Hangzhou and Suzhou, where we were treated to the art of tea production, a cruise on the West Lake and a visit to a silk factory.

Our final stop was Shanghai, a city of mesmerizing beauty and industrial and business activity. We went to the Pearl Tower, one of the largest vertical structures in the world. The Jade Buddha Temple and the Yu and Humble Administrator's gardens were also highlights.

The trip was complemented by daily lunches and dinners at local restaurants that allowed everyone to experience the different foods of each region. All the proprietors and their staffs were courteous and gracious to their visitors from the West.

And the people! They were curious about us as we were about them, and once we overcame the huge language barrier, smiles and laughter always worked. We have referred to this trip as an adventure and, as with any adventure, we came away from this experience with a new appreciation for the history, culture and people of China. We are already talking about our next trip and the excitement of seeing more of this fascinating country. ●

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Chongqing, a city of endless celebration

JUNE CHAN

Chongqing is a picturesque mountain city that clings to the steep cliffs of the Yungui Plateau. Located at the confluence of the Jialing River and the upper reaches of the Yangtze River, Chongqing is often referred to as “Yu,” the “Mountain City,” the “River City,” the “Foggy City” and the “Furnace City.” Covering an area of 31,800 square miles, Chongqing has a total population exceeding 33 million people, making it the world’s largest metropolitan region. The native language is Southern Mandarin Chinese with the main ethnic groups being Han, Tibetan, Miao and others (Yi, Qiang, Yu and Tujia).

The city’s origin dates back to over 3,000 years ago when it served as the capital of the ancient Ba Kingdom, before it fell to the expanding Qin state in 316 B.C. Chongqing served as China’s wartime capital and headquarters of Chiang Kai-shek’s Nationalist government during the war of resistance against Japan (World War II). During the war, the island over which the Yangtze River Bridge is now built served as an airstrip for the Flying Tigers. Afterwards, Chiang Kai-Shek and Mao Zedong participated in

the famous Chongqing Talks, which unsuccessfully sought to negotiate a reconciliation between the Nationalists and the Communists. Chongqing was formally established in 1997 by China’s central government as the nation’s fourth directly administered municipality.

Because Chongqing is very hilly, it is the only major metropolitan area in China without a significant number of bicycles. It is known for its beautiful gardens, including the scenic and historic sites of stone carvings in Dazu County, the Three Gorges scenery, the South Hot Spring Park, the North Hot Spring Park and Red Crag Memorial Museum.

When you are in China, don’t miss Chongqing. More importantly, have dinner at one of the numerous Sichuan hotpot restaurants along the Jialing River. Chongqing’s hotpots are famous for their hot, peppery taste; fresh and tender meats like fish, pork and chicken; bean sprout and scallion, which are placed into a bubbling pot of soup or spiced oil and enjoyed throughout the entire evening while chatting and socializing. After the meal, take a stroll along the Jialing’s banks to enjoy the nighttime spectacular light show emanating from the high-rise buildings, which coordinate an incredible light show. ●

CHINESE CHICKEN WITH RICE

marinade:

- Ginger wine: 1 Tbs
- Soy sauce: 2 Tbs
- Salt: ½ tsp
- Sugar: 1 tsp
- Sesame oil: 2 tsp
- Green onion, minced: 1 Tbs
- Bamboo shoots: ½ lb
- Carrots: ½ lb
- Chicken fat: 4 tsp
- Chicken: 2/3 lb
- Germinated rice: 1 ¼ lb
- Water: 3 ¾ cups

- 1 Cut bamboo shoots and carrots into small cubes.
- 2 Cut the chicken into thin, bite-sized pieces, soak in marinade for 20 minutes.
- 3 Soak rice in water for 20 minutes, add bamboo shoots, carrots and chicken fat, and mix.
- 4 Boil this mixture at a high-heat for 5 minutes, add the soaked chicken, then turn the heat to low for 15 minutes.
- 5 Remove from the heat and cover the rice for 5 minutes before serving.

Recipe courtesy of www.xianzai.com.

Become a member

Join Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute! To become a member, call (719) 287-7624 or print your information and send in this form along with a check or money order to:

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

Benefits of membership:

- Support awareness of Chinese culture in the community
- E-mail announcements of all future events
- Discounts on all CSCCI-sponsored events
- *Tea Leaves* newsletter mailed to your home quarterly

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CALENDAR

JANUARY

27
Spring semester begins for
Colorado Springs Chinese
Language School. cschineseschool.org.

FEBRUARY

07
Chinese Year 4706,
Year of the Rat, begins.

07
CSCCI Annual Chinese
New Year Dinner, *Jade Dragon*
Chinese Restaurant, 3958 N Academy
Blvd. 6:30-9:00 p.m. Telephone:
(719) 287-7624. \$30 for non-members,
\$25 for CSCCI members. Reserve your
seat by sending a check payable to
CSCCI to: CSCCI, P.O. Box 2625,
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Please submit future events
to tea.leaves@cscci.org

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Colorado Springs World
Affairs Council Luncheon,
"The Three Faces of China,"
Prof. David Lampton, Director of
Chinese Studies at The Nixon Center
and Professor of China Studies
at Johns Hopkins. csworldaffairs.org.

MAY

Asian Pacific American
Heritage Month

JULY

26-27
Colorado Dragon Boat Festival,
Sloan's Lake Park, Sheridan Blvd. &
W. 17th Ave., Denver.

SEPTEMBER

TBD

CSCCI-Sponsored Trip to
Taiwan, Hong Kong, Guilin
and Chengdu, details to follow.
Call CSCCI at (719) 287-7624 to
express interest.