



CULTURALLY SPEAKING

The monthly newsletter of the Earth Cultures Project of Educational Communications

February 2011

MESSAGE FROM NANCY PEARLMAN



Later this year, plan to attend some great shows. The holiday season (November and December) is a superb time to hear and see performances that are not usually available throughout the year. One of my favorites every Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) is the 51st Annual L. A. County Holiday Celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion at the Music Center. If you don't want to join the audience, tune into the live broadcast on KCET. When the L. A. County Board of Supervisors first started offering it, there were twelve hours of Christmas carols by a variety of local groups. Unfortunately, now there are only three hours but it now includes a diverse range of performers from the many ethnic groups in southern California. What is so wonderful about these events is that each performance by the singers or dancers is for a short time period so it is a great introduction for newcomers to international song and dance. No one is stuck with watching something they don't like. On the other hand, when you do like it, you wish they were on longer.

The most recent show included: Eileen Ivers (Celtic/Irish violin), Salvation Army Tabernacle Children's Choir, Jung Im Lee Korean Dance Academy (with drums), Los Angeles City Elementary School Music Association Women's Chorale, NDM Bollywood (Indian movie dancing), South Bay Children's Chorus, Gabriella Axelrad Education Foundation (tap dancers), Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, Elliot Deutsch Big Band, Philippine Chamber Singers of Los Angeles, Balle Fette bu Senegal (West African dance), Santa Monica Chorus, Mr. Vallenato (Caribbean/Cuban), Yong Angels Choir, Pacifico Dance Company (Mexican), Christian's Community Center

Cathedral Choir, Harmonic Bronze Handbell Ensemble, Colburn Children's Choir, Halau O Lilinoe (Hawaiian), Los Angeles Children's Chorus, Loch & Key, Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers, Antics Performance (dance), Palmdale High School Choral Union, and Mariachi Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez. Whether they were young or old, each person and group was outstanding.

Another must see show is the Pierce College Dance Theatre Folk Dance Concert in Woodland Hills. Every November you can see some great ethnic dance by the classes' students as well as by invited community dance groups. The countries represented change every year. The show opened with a Scottish bagpiper. The printed program and announcer explains some of the background of the dances. Some dances that I saw were: Tarantella (Italy), Yblachka (Ukraine), Daichovo Oro (Bulgaria), Chantilly Lace (Lindy Hop from America), Horsetail Atsia (Benin in Africa), Kummi and Kolattam (India), Celebration (Armenia), Desi Spice (Bollywood from India), The Women of Crihalma (Romania), Malakas and Maganda (The Philippines), Ghawazee (Egypt), Warriors (Ireland), Solo (Iran), Dame 5 (Cuban), Spirits from St. Petersburg (Russia), Tango International (Argentina), Boee (Israel), Gypsies (Ukraine), Darbazouli (Sakartvelo, formerly Soviet Georgia), Tokoe (Africa), Women of the Revolution (Mexico).

*Nancy Pearlman, Executive Director
Educational Communications*



On January 15th I was celebrating the New Year dancing at the Macedonian Church in Whittier. New Year? Yes, New Year. The Macedonian Orthodox Church still uses the Julian Calendar which differs from the Gregorian calendar by 14 days. We ate and danced Macedonian line dances to music played on instruments like drums and bagpipes. They had a drawing to give chances on 12 pieces of pastry. One piece has a coin embedded in it, redeemable for a real gold piece. I think the gold piece is to pay for your dental work after biting into the first coin!

*contributed by
Preston Ashbourne*

ABOUT THE EARTH CULTURES PROJECT

Earth Cultures is one of the projects of Educational Communications, a non-profit 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization founded in 1958, dedicated to improving the quality of life on this planet. The organization produces documentaries and works with several performing groups and individuals through its Earth Cultures Project to promote cultural awareness and provide education through the arts.

Support the Arts & Education!



Milton Guerrero

THE QUECHUA

To understand a culture, one must first understand if not learn its language. It saddens me to know that the Quechua language is being spoken less and less, and can't help but feel jealous of my mother who translated myths, worked, and lived among the Quechua. Even though we are of Quechua descent, fewer and fewer people speak it due to marginalization. Once the predominant language of South America, Quechua now faces extinction. Less than 17% of the population speaks it in Peru which was the heart of this civilization. Quechua or "Runa Simi" (people's speech), is key to many traditions and beliefs of the Incan culture. Traditionally the Quechua would greet each other by offering advice. There is no word for "hello", but rather "Ama sua"(Don't be a thief), "Ama quella"(Don't be lazy), "Ama llula"(Don't be a liar), and "Ama llunk'a"(Don't be servile). Of course they also had "Imaynan Kashianki" (for How are you?), but it was only used if one truly wanted to know how the other person was. My family from my mother's side is from the city of Cusco, which means the navel of the world. More precisely, from Urkos Lake where most my aunts and uncles learned to swim.

Cusco is home to Macchu Picchu which means old mountain. Quechua folklore though not well documented, is somewhat extensive, varying from stories that tell of different races of people (bear people, people of the night) that existed before ours, to talking condors that fly people, and many spirits and deities. According to Quechua folklore, if a person harms a defenseless creature, its spirit will "ñak'ar" the person and come back to harm him. When I was young I remember I was forced to sleep because the condemned ones roamed at night and would find the children that were awake. Keep in mind that the condemned ones are scary creatures whose eyes burn like candles in the night, eat people, and one can recognize them because their feet are facing back instead of forward. There are many legends and myths that are used to shape society into moral consciousness. As my greeting to all that read this page: "Ama sua"(Don't be a thief), "Ama quella"(Don't be lazy), "Ama llula"(Don't be a liar), and "Ama llunk'a"(Don't be servile). May we all be reminded of these throughout the year.

Contributed by Milton Guerrero



Milton on an Andean Peak

VOLUNTEER AND DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Educational Communications always needs volunteers in the office to help with phone calls and other tasks that help support its many projects.. If you are interested in volunteering please call Nancy at (310) 559-9160.



Visit the Earth Cultures Project website to find easy ways to donate to any of our projects. Use "goodsearch" to search the web as you always do, and a small percentage goes to the non-profit of your choice. Sign up for "eScrip" or "GoodShop." Spend as you would anyway and donate to your cause at the same time. We hope you'll choose Educational Communications in Los Angeles as your non-profit of choice.

GoodSearch & GoodShop



Your donation will help bring the arts back to education under the Earth Cultures Project, or help fund other projects of Educational Communications.

CAN'T STOP DANCING!



COMING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2011 TO THE PASADENA CIVIC AUDITORIUM

“Culture of China Festival of Spring” - Celebration Performance



Group Contortion



Contortion Oversplit



Bowl Kicking

Sponsored by
Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of P.R. China
China Overseas Exchange Association

Co-Sponsored by
The China Press
Chinese Culture Development Center



文化中国 四海同春
Culture of China Festival of Spring

2011年洛杉矶迎新春
大型杂技晚会

2011 Los Angeles Spring Festival
Chinese Acrobatic Grand Performance

Pasadena Civic Auditorium
300 E. Green Street, Pasadena, CA 91101
February 13, 2011

Box Office
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PRESS RELEASE

The United States of America is a multi-cultural country. With the increase in popularity of Chinese culture in recent years, the Chinese Lunar Spring Festival, also known as the Chinese New Year, has been regarded as an important holiday in American society and celebrated not only in Chinese communities but also by the whole country.

Organized by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of P.R. China and the China Overseas Exchange Association “Culture of China, Festival of Spring” Celebration Performance has become an annual event for the overseas Chinese communities to celebrate the Spring Festival. Since its debut in 2009, “Culture of China, Festival of Spring” event has been successfully held in thirty-six cities of sixteen countries and regions and received numerous applause from the local Chinese communities and mainstream society by its spectacular performance.

As the sole event sponsor in the Southern California area, Chinese Culture Development Center of the China Press is proud to invite the famous Guangzhou Soldier Acrobatic Troupe to visit Los

Angeles in 2011 and bring a new episode of “Culture of China, Festival of Spring” show to the American public. Known as one of the best acrobatic troupes in China, Guangzhou Soldier Acrobatic Troupe will present its world-class and award-winning acrobatic programs to audience in San Francisco, Los Angeles, North Carolina, New York, Washington D.C., New Jersey, and Vancouver in the coming Spring Festival. We believe the 2011 “Culture of China, Festival of Spring” event will bring our audience in Southern California the most amazing enjoyment and will also extend greetings and best wishes from China to the local community.

Guangzhou Soldier Acrobatic Troupe Founded in 1951, the Soldier Acrobatic Troupe represents the highest level of Chinese acrobatic art. Since its establishment, the Troupe has received 280 awards for its 141 pieces of programs, including 47 first Golden Prize, 3 “Golden Clown” Prize of Monaco, 3 Presidential Prize of France, 2 gold medals of the First Golden Lion Prize of the National Acrobatic Contest of China, and 3 “Wenhua Great Prize,” the highest honor to Chinese artists

LINKS OF INTEREST

MUSEUMS

Bowers Museum

<http://www.bowers.org>

Craft & Folk Art Museum

<http://www.cafam.org>

Metropolitan Museum of Art

(search the database for works of art, costumes & more)

http://www.metmuseum.org/works_of_art/

Museum of Latin American Art

<http://www.molaa.org>

Pacific Asia Museum

<http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org>

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA

Current Cultural Happenings Around Los Angeles

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/caltechfolkdance>

Olvera Street in Los Angeles

<http://olvera-street.com>

Folkworks (click on “calendar”)

<http://www.folkworks.org/>

FOLK DANCE & FOLK MUSIC INFORMATION

Dick Oakes' Folk Dance Pages

<http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/folkdanc.htm>

Folkways (ethnic music)

<http://www.folkways.si.edu/index.aspx>

ARTS AND CULTURES

Smithsonian Magazine

Arts & Cultures

<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture>

Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage

<http://www.folklife.si.edu/>

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