

FALL 2007

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE NEWSLETTER



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Phyllis Forward Simpkins
San José State University
International House
360 South 11th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
Phone: 408-924-6570
Fax: 408-924-6573
Web: www.sjsu.edu/ihouse

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Welcome to another edition of the International House's biannual Newsletter! This semester the newsletter committee brainstormed the idea of an Around-the-World trip. Within this newsletter you will be given information on holidays and festivals in many countries, everything from music festivals in Portugal to the festival Navratri in India. We hope that you enjoy the trip we have planned for you. We wish to bring you a chance to go around the world and experience many cultures and events, even if you are only living vicariously. Amanda Kelley
United States



Waltz This Way to a Musical Night

Want a little taste of Vienna, Austria, while in California during the summer? Then head over a couple hours east of San Jose to enjoy Elk Grove's Strauss Festival.

Located south of California's capitol, Sacramento, Elk Grove hosts this annual performance and celebration of dancing and the music composed by the Strauss family. There is a special emphasis on Johann Strauss Jr., the nineteenth-century Austrian composer who is known for his waltzes, including his famous and probably most recognizable piece, "The Blue Danube." He also wrote other pieces of music such as polkas, marches, and the operetta, "Die Fiedermaus."

Each summer, there's a new theme and storyline for the festival. What stays consistent, though, is the level of dedication: a 32-piece orchestra plays the melodies, while costumed volunteers dance waltzes and polkas under the stars at Elk Grove Regional Park.

Bring folding chairs or a blanket to become comfortable. In fact, while you may want to purchase food and beverages, including wine and beer, from on-site vendors, you can also bring your own food for a picnic. Each night is capped with a fireworks show.

According to its website, the Strauss Festival attracts more than 30,000 people each year, since its start in 1987. The event is free, though parking at Elk Grove Regional Park is \$10. The 2008 Strauss Festival will take place on July 24-27. For more information, visit www.straussfestival.com.

Sarah Kyo

United States

Photos courtesy of www.straussfestival.com



For a Better World

Since the sixties, Portugal has been part of the international show business circuit and had its first big music festival in 1971. From the north to the south during the summer, each week you can find a different music event with the most famous bands in the world. Usually each event has a purpose, like letting people know different styles of music, gathering funds for the fight against AIDS, showing new technologies used in the performances, or even gathering artists from each country on five continents!

I want to let you know about one of the biggest music events in the world: The Rock in Rio. As the name suggests, the first three editions took place in Brazil, in the City of Rio de Janeiro. But in the fourth edition, the founder of this event, Roberto Medina, decided to take the event to Europe, where the real purpose of the festival, "For a Better World," could be better developed. Since Portugal had already hosted events like the International Exposition (Expo'98), the Football European Cup 2004 and even the MTV Music Awards, the necessary infrastructure and communication systems were already built. Still, a place capable of receiving more than 100 thousand people per day was needed so the organization decided to build a brand new park in a zone near Lisbon. The Bela Vista Park, which has a surface of nearly 200,000 square meters, is one of the best places

in Portugal, where the Rock in Rio festival took place. The sloping terrain, with trees all around, is perfect for the City of the Rock. Besides concerts, this place also has recreation zones where anyone can do ice skating, radical sports, body painting, etc...

On the main stage, RIR already had rock bands like Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Incubus, Metallica, Guns 'n Roses, Ben Harper, Foo Fighters, Evanescence, pop artists like Britney Spears, Sting, Anastacia, Alicia Keys, Black Eyed Peas,

Jamiroquai,

Shakira and even great artists from other times like Paul McCartney or Roger Waters. Besides this main stage, RIR also has another place where a band from each part of the world is invited to perform. And for the ones who prefer dance music, there's also a big tent with the most famous DJ's like Carl Cox, David Guetta, Groove Armada or 2 Many Dj's.

During this event, there are activities with the objective of letting all visitors know about the problems in the world. At the end of the festival, the organization donates large amounts of money to charity associations, mainly the ones that

help children, all of this, to try to change the Earth, in to a Better World.

Vitor (Ian) Silva

Portugal



Holy Week

Spain is in the south of Europe and borders France, Portugal, Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Spain is 19 times smaller than EEUU, nevertheless when tourists visit Spain they think of it as is a little continent on its own. Why? Because you can find different dialects (Spain has four official languages: gallego, catalán, vasco and Spanish), climates, geography and kind of town. There are big and important towns (Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Seville and so on) and a lot of little villages full of charm everywhere. There are snowy mountains and wonderful beaches that go on forever. One of Spain's most popular and well known celebrations is Holy Week which takes place during Easter every year.

Holy Week: For seven days, Andalusia is surrounded by a spiritual halo. Semana Santa is a tradition which is repeated year after year; a time when the devout and curious join together to participate in the procession and converge on the street and squares which take on the ambience and mystique of an open air temple. Penitents and



musicians, along with thousands of members of a brotherhood take part, some carry candles, rods or banners depending on their level of seniority. The most senior carries a golden rod and is the president.

The "costaleros" are those who carry the weight of the floats and the sculptured representations of the biblical scenes. The thrones are followed by Nazarenos dressed in tunics, hoods and mask and women dressed in traditional costume. The high point of the procession is when the float exists and enters the respective church. This is the moment when art and religion seem to merge into one. Superb craftsmen create the sculptures of images. The best floats date back to the 16th and 17th centuries and can still be seen today.

Even if you are not religious, it is difficult not to be moved, the atmosphere is so vital and poignant. Holy Week is a tradition that is an integral part of the culture in Andalusia, although each and every village proudly enjoys the beauty and mystery of Semana Santa with some variances.

Malaga and Sevilla are the two Andalus cities where the festivities are perhaps best known for the sheer sense of spectacle and size. One of the most spectacular features in Malaga is that the floats are monumental and can weigh up to six tons. The sheer size of the floats means that they cannot enter through the churches and therefore have to be assembled in the street. More than a hundred young men support each one.

Juanle del Viejo Dominguez

Spain



American Weddings with a Nigerian Twist

May I start off by saying how much I love Nigeria and that I am honored to share with you my culture. Well, in America weddings are a symbol of the man and the woman coming together and exchanging their vows. It is a nice



Photo courtesy of www.britannica.com

big ceremony and everything is happy and that is the same in Nigeria, but there is a difference. Here in the United States, Nigerians have adopted the American culture and have the big white dress and such. The difference is that they still have what we call a "Traditional Wedding", and this ceremony goes on before the American Wedding.

Before the Traditional Wedding takes place, there is a party with both sides of the family meeting, and a long discussion about family lines. This is to ensure that neither part of the family has ever been related. The groups that I mentioned are the male elders of families: The fathers, brothers, male family friends, uncles, etc. Women are not really allowed to join this discussion, not even the bride and the groom, because they are the ones concerned. This meeting also takes place because it symbolizes the unity of the two families. In Nigerian culture, when a man and woman get married, it is not just the two who are getting married, but also families coming together. At the American Wedding, the father gives the bride away; in the Nigerian culture, it would be the whole compound (family) giving the bride away to his compound. The Nigerians do it this ways to ensure that there will not be a divorce, because it takes longer and is harder to divorce both families. It is not about the couple, it is about family, and how they all work together as one.

Next, is the actual Traditional Wedding once everything is clean (?), and both families agree on this unity taking place. The bride and groom definitely wear there tradition clothes, because it is their ceremony, and they might even have match-

ing traditional outfits which is common at the weddings. For those attending, the attire of this wedding is traditional wear, or at least your best wear.

The groom goes out and sits down in the crowd wherever he would like to sit. Then

the bride-to-be will be presented with her traditional wear, and she will dance to the music. Behind her, dancing, are her bride's maids, her mother, and other female parties of the family. Then the bride has to danceto the center of the event where father will be sitting in his best. When she is presented in front of her father, she asks for the father's blessings over the wedding. If the father gives her the blessing, which he could always deny, she is to then presented with a cup. The cup is made from the horn of a bull or a goat, and in the cup there is palm wine (palm wine is wine made from palm fruit). After she is given the wine she then dances by herself to find her husband, who from the beginning of the ceremony is sitting somewhere in the audience. When she is looking for her husband, all the men are in the crowd trying to get her attention so that she will give them the cup, and if she does not give the cup to her husband but to one of the men distracting her, that means she wants to marry him instead. This part of the ceremony symbolizes the woman not wanting any other man but her husband. The bride then continues to walk on a mission to find her husband, and once she finds him she offers (by kneeling down in front of the groom) him the cup of palm wine. He then drinks from the cup first, and she drinks from the same cup second. Everyone claps in celebration of the new happy couple, and they have a big party.

Usually after the traditional wedding the next day is the American Wedding.

Nkemka Egbuho

Summer Musical Festivals

What's your plan for this summer? If you come to visit France you will realize that there are a lot of places to discover. Especially in summer. Indeed summertime in France rhymes with events and particularly musical events or Festivals. There are for every taste and every budget; and that all around the country...

The first one to go is certainly the most important musical festival all around France and it is called 'Solidays'. Why the most important? Because it is the one which welcomes the greatest number of people. But above all because it is a festival like no



other. In fact Solidays is the blend of Solidarity and Holidays and the festival is organized for the help of AIDS foundation. Indeed, it usually takes place during July in Paris, and the money collected serves to

finance associations which fight against AIDS-spreading. Everybody, during the three days of the festival is gathered to help, to caution, to denounce or to pay tribute... Moreover, number of famous artists from around the world want to contribute to this event sharing their music; like this singers or bands like Lauryn Hill, Ben Harper, Alicia keys... have already participated to Solidays and allowed relief agencies to obtain more money.

If you want to see more about France, you should go at the East, in Belfort, next to Switzerland. Here is one of the most popular musical events called 'The international rock festival' aka 'Eurockeennes'. It takes place the first week end of July in the peninsula on the Lake of Malsaucy. Eurockeennes is one of the best known festivals in France because it builds up its reputation for 19 years in inviting a great number of artists from

the full range of the musical spectrum. Indeed with more than 6 different stages, Eurockeennes brings each year more and more people and receives artists always more famous. Since its early years, the public was able to see performances of singers or bands such as The Cranberries, Radiohead, The Smashing Pumpkins or again the Red Hot Chili Peppers...



Then, you should go to the South: go to the beach, take the sun or walk on the French Riviera but above all come to the beautiful small city of Nimes where concerts take place each year in July, in the famous Romans Arenas. Since 1997, "Nimes' Arenas" receive always more people, fascinated by the beauty and the quality of conservation of such an old place. In addition, registered as Historical Monument, the Arenas are by their own functions a show place and that's why a lot of various artists like Jamiroquai, Placebo, Bjork, Daft Punk and David Bowie have already been here and performed their songs.

Following your travel in France, just stop in Bretagne in the West and take part to one of the biggest festival in Europe



named "Les Vieilles Charrues". Originally, the event was a small local party to work on the development of the region and their aim was to make the place become famous at least around France. Challenge won, since now more than 200

000 people participate each year to the festival, and this, thanks to the large number of international artists (Iggy pop, Tracy Chapman, Muse,...) who took part in the event.



Their aim was to make the place become famous at least around France. Challenge won, since now more than 200 000 people participate each year to the festival, and this, thanks to the large number of international artists (Iggy pop, Tracy

charitable are invited to take part in the event organizing activities, promoting ideas or presenting works. In this way, people feel more concerned and can actively participate in the event.

So, if you enjoy concerts, travels and cultural events, you definitely want to try one of these festivals. It allows discovering different French landscapes, meeting new artists, helping relief agencies...and enjoying music!

Chapman, Muse,...) who took part in the event. Usually during all of these festivals, a lot of associations which can be cultural, artistic or

Marine Dumas

France





Navratri: Nine Nights of Euphoria

Have you ever seen a man in rotation, with two full adult human bodies, clung to his waist, whirling in rotation in horizontal body position?

You may call it rotational power or human power but I choose to call it the power or rather the spirit of Navratri. This is just one such rarity that can be seen only in India during the Navratri festival.

No festival is celebrated with as much enthusiasm, pomp, color, gaiety and dance as Navratri. It is a festival of worship, dance and music celebrated for a period of nine nights, this year starting from 12th to 20th October. It is dedicated to the three main goddesses of Hinduism – **Durga**, goddess of action and cosmic energy; **Lakshmi**, goddesses of peace, plenty, fulfillment and bliss; **Saraswati**, the goddess of knowledge.

The cultural diversity of India is clearly illustrated in the manner in which Navratri is celebrated in different regions of the country. Though the ways of celebrating differ from region to region, the one thing that remains consistent in most parts of the country is that daytime is exclusively for prayers, fasting and solemnity while the

nights are spent in joy, dance and revelry.

In West Bengal, Navratri is celebrated as **Durga-pooja** where idols of Goddess Durga are worshipped for nine days in beautifully decorated 'pandaals' and on the tenth day, the Visarjan (immersion of idols) in the sea is performed. In Tamil Nadu, the festival of Navratri is called Kolu, where women of the region set up decorated planks in a corner and place all the dolls in the house on the planks. Songs are sung and a special sweet known locally as sundal, made from lentil and brown sugar, is served.

Another part of the Navratri celebrations is the **Ram Lila**. In places like Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, almost every locality has its own group of actors re-enacting episodes from the life of Lord Rama. This is because, the day after Navratri, i.e. on the tenth day called Dassera or the **Vijayadashmi**, it is said that Lord Rama killed Ravana and other demons to rid the earth of evil.

The most fascinating and colorful celebration of Navratri is perhaps the Dandiya-Raas and the Garba performed throughout Gujarat and in some parts of Maha-

rashtra and Rajasthan. Beautifully decorated 'mandaps' are set up for playing Garba & Dandiya by various cultural societies, housing committees & youth social groups. Ahmedabad is one of the greatest places to enjoy Navratri. Besides Ahmedabad, tourists can witness the Navratri celebrations at Baroda. The **Laxmi Vilas** palace of Baroda, rated among the 5 grandest palaces of India, is the site for folk dances organized by the royal family of this princely city.

One can witness the colorful tribal and rural fairs in Kutch during Navratri especially on the 7th-8th days. On all the nine days of Navratri, women as well as men dress up in a very traditional manner. Men wear kediyu (mini frilly frock with strings on sides) and women wear choli and ghageras with their dupatta's covering their heads, representing the women's shyness from the men. To be in Gujarat during Navratri is to witness Gujarat at her best.

Over the years, the traditional dance form has developed modern overtones, with disco and rain dandiya, which has become the craze of Mumbai. Garba has captured the stage and theatre.

Some troupes in big cities perform the Garba dances with light and sound effects, specialized dresses, professional singers and orchestration. While almost every building society in Mumbai is lit up with bright lights, loudspeakers, a stage et al., enthusiastic dancers prefer to frequent the city's hot Navratri spots. Popular singers like Falguni Phatak, Preeti - Pinky and Daler Mehndi's bhangra-pop blaring to the beat of the Gujarati dandiya are famous.

Navratri is thus the festival that combines religious, devotional, cultural and recreational activities for almost a fortnight in different places for various reasons.

Fairs & festivals in India are colorful commemorations of religious or historical events or celebrations of the change of seasons. They reflect the vigor and lifestyle of its people. One can witness the elaborate, ritualistic worship, while indulging in traditional delicacies too. Vibrant color, music and festivities make the country come alive throughout the year. Join us and be a part of it.

Natasha Gupta

India

Sway to the music and participate in the preservation of the cultural heritage at the following places in the Bay Area:

Event	Ticket Rates	Venues
Rhythm Master Dimple Patel & Group Sept. 15 & 22 7:30 p.m. - midnight	\$5 (non-members) ages 5 and under- free	Holy Spirit Church 37588 Fremont Blvd. Fremont, CA 94536 For tickets contact: Rajesh Patel 510-790-1094
Sankara Eye Foundation presents SEF Dandiya 2007 Oct. 20 & 27 7:30 p.m. - midnight	\$12 (non-members) age 5 and under- free	San Jose Convention Center (Oct. 22) Santa Clara Convention Center (Oct. 27) For tickets contact: Sonal Solanki 408-319-0227 Amit Patel 408-719-1850
Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation presents Ekal Dandiya 2007 Oct. 13 7:00 p.m. - midnight	\$15 (non-members) age 5 and under- free	Quinlann Hall Cupertino Community Center 10185 N. Stelling For tickets contact: Sukanya 408-309-1901

Get 'Naked' in Japan



Photo Courtesy of <http://www.gonomad.com>

There are many festivals in Japan. One of these festivals is called Hadaka Matsuri, or the Naked Man Festival.

This festival takes place in different parts of Japan. For instance, on the third Saturday of February, the all-male participants, only wearing a loincloth called fundoshi and sandals, go to the Saidai-ji Kan'onin Temple of the Okayama Prefecture at around 11 p.m. They wash in freezing cold water to purify themselves and then stand, jog or hop around outside on a cold night before they visit the deities, SenjuKan'on and Go'ousho Daigongen.

The festival is more than 500 years old. In the past, a priest would throw paper amulets from a window to the crowd. At midnight in today's world, a priest throws sacred sticks called shingi from a window to the

crowd. The men who are able to grab the shingi are considered the luckiest men of the year. Many of the participants get in a tussle to obtain the shingi and maintain control of it.

A boy version of Hadaka Matsuri begins at 6 p.m. Instead of shingi, first and second grade boys receive soft rice cakes, while third and fourth grade boys receive octagonal treasure tubes called Gofukuzutsu and fifth and sixth grade boys receive treasure tubes called Takarazutsu.

There are also fireworks, as well as a party-like atmosphere. People who are not from Saidaiji or even Japan can still watch the frenzy as spectators. Sometimes, male foreigners join in the actual festivities as well.

For more information, visit the Japan National Tourist Organization's website at www.jnto.go.jp.

Sarah Kyo

United States



Photo Courtesy of <http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

Celebrating the New Year

In Hong Kong ...

the Chinese culture. However, we will never use white coloured envelopes as it symbolizes death and ghosts!

Flower market

Also known as the New Year market, it is open for citizens to bid for spots in a large area. Traditionally, vendors in the flower market sell mainly New Year-related products such as Chinese calligraphy posters, floral products and lanterns. However, nowadays in Hong Kong, the flower market has emerged into a business place for youngsters who want to gain experience in how to run a business. People now sell products ranging from toys and decorations to innovative products, if not totally irrelevant to the festival. We have various flower markets in Hong Kong. The most popular one is located in the Victoria Park in Causeway bay where you will probably have a hard time to move even a step within the crowd!

The Seventh Day of the New Year

China has long been known as a country with oneness and collective spirit. Interestingly enough, all Chinese peoples have a birthday on the 7th day of the New Year! In Chinese fable, the creator of the world created chicken, dog, pig, sheep, cow and horse in the first six days, and eventually, human on the seventh day. This festival is to commemorate the creation of the human.

Traditional Greetings

'Gung hei fat choi!' is virtually everywhere in the air in the New Year. It literally means 'congratulations and be prosperous'. People greet each other with different phrases. For instance, 'sui sui ping on' is to hope for everlasting peace; 'si si shun li' is to wish for smooth going for everything; 'sin jong li gin' is to hope for good health. In order to receive a red packet, juniors need to first do such a greeting to show respect to their seniors.

Bryant Chau

Hong Kong

Morning determines a day; spring determines a year:

This is a straightforward equivalent to a Chinese idiom, if not a simple one. It stresses the importance of the start of a year. Chinese New Year is not only the beginning of a new chapter, it is also a precious time for family to gather, share happiness and enjoy meals together.

Cuisine in the Chinese New Year

The cuisine being served in the Chinese New Year is not only delicious and traditional; it also connotes a certain deeper meaning. Those connotative meanings come from puns of Chinese words; in other words, the pronunciation of the Chinese foods is similar to certain words of fortune. For instance, fish is homogenous with "more than enough" or "extra"; a whole chicken symbolizes 'luck within the whole family'.

Red packets

These literally come to every child's mind when talking about New Year. Generally speaking, red packets are 'lucky money' given by married seniors in the family to the unmarried juniors. In addition to that, although there have been different designs of envelopes with different colours, a red colour envelope is still considered a tradition. The red colour symbolizes good luck and success in





Photo Courtesy of <http://www.dkimages.com/>

Singapore is a multi-ethnic society and it gives rise to an interesting mixture of festivals and celebrations.

One of the main festivals that the people celebrate is Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year falls in January or February, depending on the Chinese Lunar Calendar each year. This is the biggest event in the Chinese calendar.

The day before Chinese New Year, families clean up their houses, decorate the living rooms with flowers, and have plenty of snacks and drinks.

During the first day of Chinese New Year, families come together as one and have lunch. Parents distribute red packets, also known as "ang baos" to the children as a sign of good luck and good health. It is significant to wear new dresses and clothes that are red as it is believe that red signifies

" People are not allowed to sweep the floor during this period, as it is believe to sweep away the good luck. "

good luck.

In addition to that, every family has a simple dish called "yu sheng." This dish consists of different types of vegetables of different colors, salmon, and biscuits. The different colors represent happiness and good health, and the salmon and biscuits represent prosperity.

Moreover, every household has their doors open, not only to welcome people who are visiting them, but also to welcome the god of fortune and bring them luck. People are not allowed to sweep the floor during this period, as it is believe to sweep away the good luck.

This festival is also welcomed in with dragon dances to signify good luck, happiness, prosperity, and good health.

Yvette Yao

Have Yourself a Wet New Year

Thingyan Burmese is the Burmese New Year Water Festival. It usually falls around mid-April, which is the Burmese month of Tagu. Thingyan is celebrated over a period of four to five days culminating in the New Year. We have a name for these four days. The first day is called a-kyo-nei; second day is called a-kya-nei; the third day is called a-yet-nei, and the last day is called a-tare-nei. The dates and days of the Thingyan festival are calculated according to the traditional Myanmar calendar and hence have no fixed Roman calendar equivalent although it often falls together with Easter. Thingyan festival is observed as the most important public holiday throughout Myanmar because it is a part of the summer holidays at the end of the school year.

Water throwing from any shape of vessel or device that delivers water is the distinguishing feature of this festival and may be done on the first four days of the festival. During New Year people go to temple and pray, pay obeisance, visit the elders, monks, release fish and do many good things.

During Thingyan, Burmese people eat the dessert called “Mont loun yeibaw,” which is one of the most famous foods served during water festival. Mont loun yeibaw is made of glutinous rice balls with palm sugar inside. It is thrown into boiling water in a huge wok and



served as soon as they appear on the surface. Sometimes people make fun and put the chili inside instead of palm sugar. There is another food that is also served during Thingyan and it is called “Mont Let Saung”. Mont Let Saung is another refreshing Thingyan dessert. It contains a bit of sticky rice with toasted sesame in jiggery syrup and coconut milk. Thingyan is comparable to other New Year festivities in Theravada Buddhist areas of Southeast Asia. They are: Lao New Year, Cambodian New Year and the more widely known Songkran in Thailand.

Okkar Lin

Burma (Myanmar)

TOP: Photo Courtesy of www.flickr.com/photos/alidarbac

BOTTOM: Photo Courtesy of en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thingyan





Floating Apologies in Thailand



Photo Courtesy of <http://www.thailand.net.au>

Loy Krathong or Loi Kratong, is a festival celebrated annually throughout Thailand. It is held on the full moon of the 12th month in the traditional Thai lunar calendar. In the western calendar this usually falls in November. The floating of a 'Krathong,' a banana leaf cup, is intended to float away ill fortune, as well as to express apologies to Khongkha or Ganga, the River Goddess.

The Loi Krathong festival has different and unique characteristics, because different states in Thailand celebrate differently. For example, in the Tak province, the Loi Krathong Sai Festival is celebrated, which reflects the unity of the local people. Groups of people gather at the river banks, each bringing along thousands of Krathong made from coconut shells with dried wicks made from coconut flesh and anointed with oil or ash for their inflammable as well as durable quality. There, they sing and dance with merriment. Thai people believe that the ritual is meant to worship the Buddha's footprint on the bank of the Narmada River,

while others say that it is to pay respect to Phra Uppakhut, one of the Lord Buddha's great disciples. Many Thai believe that floating a krathong will create good luck, and they do it to honor and thank the Goddess of Water, Phra Mae Khongkha.

Thai people usually make banana-leaf cups to float them onto the river. They will also cut their fingernails and hair and add them to the raft as a symbol of letting go of the bad parts. They also hold boat contests. The boats contain fried sticky rice and objects to be donated inside, while decorated with flowers, incense sticks, candles, lamps and tinder outside. The boats are created into various shapes such as important places or mythical creatures, which lend a bright and breathtaking sight when the boats illuminated by thousand of lamps are floated on the river.

Okkar Lin

(Burma) Myanmar

A Note From Your Director, Leann...

As you can see, there is a consistent theme of holidays and festivals around the world that runs through this Fall '07 newsletter. We have celebrated some in the House this year ranging from Chinese Moon Festival to Australian Dinner. At Pancake Breakfast, we sampled Turkish and Chinese breakfasts, as well as pancakes and eggs. Pancake Breakfast, by the way, has become so popular that in October, 350 alumni, neighbors, campus community members, friends and relatives stretched through the living room and out the front door!!!

It has been a friendly, wonderful semester with highly energetic, creative, involved residents. Even more than usual, positive vibes have been flowing through the House and residents and guests are aware of it. Almost every resident chose to sign a new contract to continue living in the I-House for the Spring '08 semester. We have received far more applications from prospective residents than we can accommodate. While it is comforting to be full for the next semester, we feel quite sad to turn promising applicants away, especially as many SJSU students truly wanted to live at the I-House and partake in this unique experience.

Alumni continue to visit and write about their memorable times at I-House. We love to hear from you. Write to us. Visit us. Volunteer your time. Make a small or large donation to the I-House; you can make it possible for others to become residents and to join our alumni network that stretches around the world.

It's easy to keep in touch:
SJSU International House
ihouse@sjsu.edu
www.sjsu.edu/ihouse

Fill out the alumni profile and you'll get an invitation to join LinkedIn.com

Look for the I-House on Facebook
408-924-6570
360 S. 11th Street San Jose, 95112
No excuses – keep in touch!

Next year in Thailand? We're hoping so – keep watching the website to find out plans for our 30th anniversary celebration...

Leann Cherkasky Makhni

United States



Contributors



Leann Cherkasky Makhni
USA
I-House Director



Amanda Kelley
USA
R.A./Editor



Bryant Chau
Hong Kong
Writer



Marine Dumas
France
Writer/Layout



Nkemka Egbuho
USA
Writer



Natasha Gupta
India
Writer



Jessica Jay
USA
Layout



Sarah Kyo
USA
Writer/Layout



Okkar Lin
Burma (Myanmar)
Writer



Vitor "Ian" Silva
Portugal
Writer



Juanle del Viejo Dominguez
Spain
Writer



Yvette Yeo
Singapore
Writer