

SJSU
Phyllis F. Simpkins
International House Newsletter
Spring 2011



I-House residents after Pancake Breakfast

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To Our Leaders

Each semester we have a group of residents we consider the “go to” people. You are the quiet leaders of the House, sometimes with titles or official roles, often not. You are the people we turn to throughout the semester to help us make the events and activities happen; you are the ones who most actively fulfill your commitment to play an active role in the life of residents at I-House and who give a lot of yourself.

As the semester wears on, you become aware of the difference between yourself and others and wonder: “Why me?”, “Why my circle of friends?”, “Why not call on the others?”. You are the person who takes responsibility for making our community a better place for all to live, even while peers take advantage of what is offered but may not take responsibility for themselves, much less others. **You are true leaders – those who make the community a better place for all of us and who may not immediately get back all that you give. You are the heart of the I-House.** You make it possible for residents and guests to come together and enjoy and benefit from the great spirit of the I-House.

There are MANY of you who are our leaders, our “go to” people – East and West, exchange/degree/SAL, younger or older residents. I hope you know who you are because you are the ones who take leadership on your own and you are the ones we turn to regularly for help. You are the people who’ve worked consistently “Behind the Scenes” to make the activities and events happen – the Regional Dinners, intramural sports, major trips, parties, Girls’ and Guys’ nights, Newsletter, Admitted Spartan Day, Student Council weekly meetings, Pancake Breakfast/International Quiz/Jazz Concert and more.... Many of you have done so and we thank you very much.

Many of you deserve personal recognition. Yet that is a slippery slope here at I-House. Even for me, for as much as I know and hear from others, and observe directly, there is quiet, behind the scenes leadership as well as very visible, very public leadership, that is occurring regularly and that goes unacknowledged. I count on your leadership – I know that it is what makes our community. It is the foundation of the I-House. **Most of you are about to become alumni of I-House and I know that this I-House experience will stay with you as one of the highlights of your life.** And those who have acted as leaders have gotten the most out of the experience that you could – whether I recognize you or not.

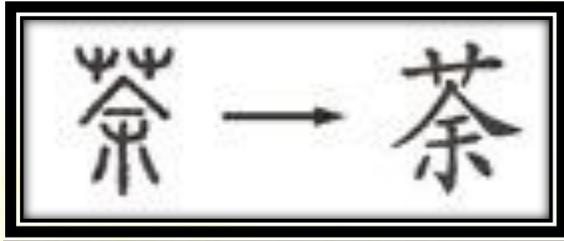
Congratulations to you, our leaders. Our Head Resident and RAs, our Student Council officers and committee leaders, our activity, event, and project organizers, and all of our “go to” people. All of you make it possible for us to come together and enjoy the spirit of I-House.

-Leann Cherkasky Makhni
USA
Director, SJSU International House

Chinese Character - a knowledge of beauty 中文之美 Every single stroke or piece in the character can be split and combine with each other and become another character with unique meaning.

Through 4 different pronunciations (漢語拼音), once again the meaning will be different. From the past till now, Chinese characters have been evolving, from the traditional character, a more complex character structure called “繁體字” to simplified character “簡體字”.

Grapheme



茶 (chá)



Meaning: Tea

“茶”字最初寫作“荼”，指的是一種苦菜，現在的“茶”字是由“荼”去掉一橫演變而來的。茶的原產地在中國，中國人的飲茶習慣始於公元前一千五百多年。

The initial form of the character “茶” is “荼”, referring to a kind of bitter lettuce. The current form of the character is created through getting rid of a horizontal line from “荼”. The origin of tea is from China. Chinese people discovered tea before 1,500 B.C.

Vocabulary:

茶几 [chájī]	Tea table	茶壺 [chá hú]	Teapot
茶水 [cháshuǐ]	Tea water	茶杯 [chá bēi]	Cup / Mug
紅茶 [hóngchá]	Black tea	茶具 [chá jù]	Tea set

Sentence:

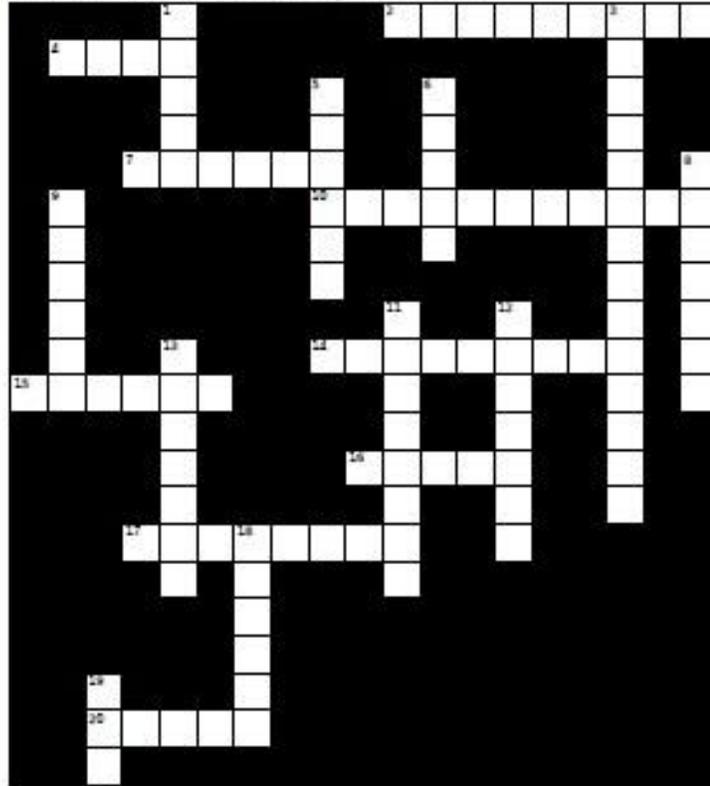
- 1、這個 茶几 怎麼樣？
Zhège chájī zěnmeyàng?
How do you like about this tea table?
- 2、我 覺得 紅茶 不錯。
Wǒ juéde hóngchá búcuò.
I think black tea is good.
- 3、可以 送給他 一套 中國 茶具！
Kěyǐ sònggěi tā yí tào Zhōngguó chá jù!
We can give him a Chinese tea set as a gift!

Irain Lung
Hong Kong

International Trivia Crossword Puzzle!

Questions compiled by Linzy Branson

Test your knowledge of International Trivia (and relive International Quiz!) with this puzzle!



Across

- 2 _____ is the world largest archipelago
 4 The currency of Botswana is the ____
 7 St. Patrick banished all of the ____ from Ireland
 10 If you want to see Mount Rushmore, you would have to visit the U.S. state of ____
 14 The currency of Bolivia is the ____
 15 _____ composed the "The Marriage of Figaro"
 16 Silk was discovered in the country of ____
 17 The ____ in Rome was a temple to the Roman Gods until the 7th century and was then converted to a Roman Catholic Church
 20 Ghandi is from ____

Down

- 1 Raku, a ceramics technique that allows artists to create a metallic sheen was created in the country of ____
 3 The English author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created popular fiction character ____
 5 The October Revolution (October 25th 1917) took place in the country, ____
 6 ____ smoke signals are released when a new Pop is chosen
 8 ____ was the artist who painted starry night
 9 The ____ is the world's largest food crop and caused the Great Irish Famine after a massive crop failure
 11 The ____ is the largest living land animals, found in asia and Africa
 12 ____ is the country Nokia was founded in
 13 The Treaty of Paris in 1856 ended The ____ War
 18 ____ is the Roman name for the Greek Goddess Hecate (Goddess of Crossroads and Magic)
 19 The Amazon River and its subsidiaries flow through ____ countries

An English Foodie in America

Food is a big part of everyone's life. It gives you routine (in the form of breakfast, lunch and dinner), defines culture around the globe & most important gives us energy and life. I've always considered myself a foodie, so I thought coming to America would shine new light on my food palette and help me explore different influences on American cuisine and see how they differed from my European diet. Upon arrival to the States, I was thirsty for a good cup of tea so like any Brit I packed my own teabags in my suitcase – which was hidden away in the dark depths of LAX. So I thought to myself, it can't be that different than tea back in the U.K. so I ordered a large English breakfast tea in Starbucks, added a dash of milk and went to enjoy my favourite beverage. But, horror struck me when I took my first sip! It was absolutely awful but being me, I couldn't bear the thought of throwing it away – so I manned up and drank the rest of it and prayed to the tea gods for forgiveness hoping that I wouldn't have to experience that again!

The fascination with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches is something which I grew up with seeing it on my favourite American T.V. shows but I never dared to try the famous concoction at home. By sheer mistake, and ignorance on my part, I ordered a peanut butter bagel (which was interpreted as a PB & J bagel). As I took a bite into the bagel that I had been longing for all day, the mix of salty, smooth peanut butter and sweet, strawberry jelly was strange. At first, I couldn't decide whether I liked it or not. After a few more bites, I started to enjoy it. But by the time I had finished half my bagel, I felt like I was about to fall into a diabetic coma and had to stop! Left without a decision on whether I enjoyed it or not, I'm still to see whether the PB & J sandwich really is the best thing since sliced bread...

One thing I absolutely love is trying new cuisine and from my experiences with some American classics, I decided to divulge into a little Latino and try my first burrito. When I entered Chipotle with one of my new American friends and her foodie boyfriend, I was overwhelmed with aromas of cilantro, salsa and steak. I ordered a veggie burrito with all the trimmings and then some and proceeded to attack the monstrous burrito that was before my eyes. In my first bite, I could taste black beans, guacamole and cheese and with the next I could taste tomato salsa, sour cream and sweet corn. It was absolute heaven. The flavours, the smells and the sheer size of the burrito were honestly incredible and I have never felt so full (as were my fellow diners, displaying certain traits and characteristics of food intoxication!). Mexican food appears to be a big thing here in the States, especially here in California, and I'm stupidly excited to explore it more before I head back to the U.K.

Although I've not enjoyed absolutely everything I've tried here in the States, I've had some incredible food so far. Of course I miss British food (namely cheese, baked beans and chocolate), but I most certainly will miss what the States has to offer in forms of Mexican dining, fresh bagels (without peanut butter & jelly, obviously!) and Californian vegan restaurants (especially Good Karma in San Jose and Saturn Café in Santa Cruz).

-Natasha Poltorak
England

Photos: See I-House Play!

Clockwise from top right: Yosemite, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Coachella, Pancake Breakfast, Asha Holi



Memories And Impressions.
(a blank verse)

Amidst clouds in the land of angels i stood
Yet something was missing

Crossed lofty peaks that stood majestic
Yet something was missing

On roads smooth and on roads broken i traveled
Yet something was missing

Saw natures wrath and natures beauty
Yet something was missing

Experienced pain and pleasure both
Yet something was missing

Dwelling on this, the answer to me came in a flash

The angels werent there for me, cause i already had mine

Natures beauty didnt awe me, cause it palled in front of the beauty of my love

Natures wrath didnt scare me cause i had experienced the safety of her arms

The roads smooth reminded me of the great times we had

The roads broken reminded me of the difficulties we overcame

So amidst clouds i stood

In the land of angels i stood

And mocked myself for not realizing this sooner

The part that was missing was one that no longer belonged to me , it now belonged to everyone
that touched my life

And the only way that i could be whole again,
was to keep their memories with me forever.

- Vilok Bhatia, India.
President , Student Council Spring 2011.

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