

FESTIVAL GUIDE



ASIAN PACIFIC

FESTIVAL OF FORTUNE



Victorian Square
May 20th thru 22nd, 1994



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Sponsored By The Reno Gazette-Journal

ASIAN/PACIFIC

Great Wall Of China Tranported to Victorian Square

Inspired by the Great Wall of China which was completed during the Ch'in dynasty, reign of Shih Huang-ti, students of the Washoe County School District and a school in San Francisco have been working with the Sierra Arts Foundation to reproduce a Great Wall of Nevada in honor of the Asian-Pacific Festival of Fortune.

The wall is approximately eight feet tall and 200 feet long and on display on Victorian Square. Cellular One and Dick Donnelly Automotive are the major contributing sponsors for the work.

The students were invited to take part in the festivities and have worked through instructors from these participating schools: Greenbrae Elementary School, Kate Smith Elementary School, Diedrichsen Elementary School, Katherine Dunn Elementary School, Sparks High School, Sparks Middle School, and West Portal Elementary School in San Francisco. Each class, or group, will be submitting up to six panels which will then be linked with the rest of the panels.

Much of the coordination of the project was through Joan Dyer of the Sierra Arts Foundation. The students are receiving not only an art lesson by working on the Great Wall, but also facts about the Asian-Pacific culture in order to impress upon them the diversity of the countries to the East as well as those countries' histories.

The Great Wall itself has a main-line length of 2,150 miles with a further 1,780 miles of branches and spurs with a height of from 15 to 39 feet and up to 32 feet thick.

It has been estimated that it took 300,000 laborers over a decade to build the Great Wall.



Witness Drumming San Jose Taiko Style

Injecting theater, choreography and joyous energy into an extraordinarily well-rehearsed presentation, the San Jose Taiko will energize Victorian Square crowds both Saturday and Sunday. All performances are free and open to the public.

The group was formed in 1973 by Asian Americans searching for an artistic expression of their unique experiences. Many members of the group are third generation Japanese Americans, or Sansei, who look to Japan for their inspiration. The instrument they selected was the symbolic Japanese taiko or drum.

Taiko has its origins in the daily lives of common people. Priests used taiko to dispel evil spirits and insects from the rice fields. Samurai used taiko to instill fear in the enemy and courage in themselves. Peasants used taiko in their prayers for rain, in festivals, and in thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest. Taiko as a symbol holds much of the essence of the spirit of Japan.

Taiko is also replete with continued possibilities, renewal and transformation. San Jose Taiko has taken the traditional rhythms of Japanese drumming and introduced the beat of world rhythms including African, Balinese, Brazilian, Latin and jazz percussion. Its sounds are new and innovative, bridging many styles and resonating of the Asian soul in America.

San Jose Taiko has performed in concerts throughout the United States and Canada. The group has collaborated in joint concerts with internationally renowned performing artists from Japan such as KODO and Ondekoza, Eitetsu Hayashi, Michiko Akao, O Edo Sukeroku, Osuwa Taiko, Miyarbi Taiko and in the United States with Brenda Won Aoki, George Coates, Kenny Endo, the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, Eth-Noh-Tec, and San Jose Repertory and the San Jose Museum of Art.



Ancient Future to Present Irresistible World Music

Imagine the irresistible rhythms of a jungle of African, Balinese, Indian, Middle Eastern and South American percussion. Exotic instruments from around the world in concert with the latest state-of-the-art synthesizers, electric violin and scalloped fretboard guitar.

Ancient Future, the World Music instrumental group with a new-age sound will bring that feeling and more to the Asian Pacific Festival of Fortune May 21 and 22 on Victorian Square.

The group, which hails from the San Francisco Bay Area, has enchanted audiences throughout the United States with its infectious blend of world music, headlining such venues as New York City's Carnegie Recital Hall, San Francisco's Great American Music Hall and the Eugene Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

Their music ranges the whole spectrum of what Indian aesthetic philosophers call the nine rasas, expressing emotions as diverse as joy, pathos and triumph. Ancient Future has maintained its commitment to its original vision.

Says the New Age Retailer Magazine, Ancient Future "has consistently delivered albums that sound unique — to one another, as well as to anything else out there on the market....Smooth ensemble rhythms are perfectly punctuated by the gu zheng (a board zither predating the Japanese Koto), beautifully played by Ms. Zhao Hui — considered a national treasure in her Chinese homeland." Their "world diary" of musical styles encompasses elements as diverse as reggae rhythms and Oawwali, the Sufi devotional form of music popular in India and Pakistan.

The group will perform, free to the public, at the main concert stage Saturday and Sunday. Zhao Hui will make two solo appearances at the Cultural Village Stage; one at 7:00 pm Saturday, & the other at 4:30 pm Sunday.



Incredible Acrobats to Perform Death Defying Feats

Gravity-defying lifts, a writhing dragon, and disappearing heads accompanied by comedy, acrobatics and balancing feats are what you can expect when the Incredible Acrobats of China take the stage during the Asian Pacific Festival of Fortune, on Victorian Square. Their performance is one the whole family can enjoy.

The group has been training for more than 2,500 years in preparation for these performances in America. Highly skilled, rigorously trained and superbly talented, these performers follow an unbroken tradition since 700 BC.

Ancient stone tomb carvings, earthen pottery and early written works trace the ancestry of today's spectacular acts to an era long since vanished. Even Confucius' father was an acrobat — a strongman of unrivaled strength who, it was claimed, lifted 1,000 pound city gates to let an army storm through. There are more than 250 professional acrobatic, magic and circus troupes in The People's Republic of China, with an estimated 25,000 performers, trainers and artisans, presenting more than 200 different kinds of acrobatic skills.

A typical troupe will have about 150 members. Half are active performers and the balance is spread among instructors, choreographers, costumers, equipment designers, craftsmen and artists. Training for aspiring acrobats begins between 8 to 12 years of age, with public performances allowed only after two to five years of intense daily practice. Each acrobat is taught several different skills, usually a unique solo act, as well as supporting roles in group performances.

Some of the amazing feats Victorian Square crowds will witness include head to head balancing in which one acrobat balances another upside down teammate, comedy acts, foot juggling of jars, tables and

rugs, and nose balancing of many objects at once. Other talents include contortionism which was a favorite of Chinese emperors, especially the delicate balances of a multitude of fish bowls and filled wine glasses. Plus there is no end to what acrobats can do on bicycles or on stacks of ordinary chairs or with spinning plates.



They are just one of several amateur and professional groups from many Asian-Pacific cultures that will provide continuous free entertainment at the Festival of Fortune weekend.

Luau Represents Opportunity to Experience Polynesian Culture

The Polynesian Cultural Center, a Hawaiian musical and dance group hailed as the Island's most exciting authentic group which blends old Hawaii and the Hawaii of tomorrow, will headline the Pacific Islands luau at John Ascuaga's Nugget Casino Resort during the Asian-Pacific Festival of Fortune on Friday May 20.



By 6:30 pm, the Nugget's Rose Ballroom will be beautifully transformed into an island of paradise featuring delectable, authentic Polynesian food. Audiences will be delighted by the talents of dances that represent all the islands. From the lively fire dances to the beautiful Hawaiian hula, this group will present all.

Bank of America and Polynesian Airlines are sponsors of the Polynesian Cultural Center.

Tickets are \$39 per person or \$310 for a table of eight. Admission for children under age 12 is \$25. Tickets are available for purchase through the Nugget Concierge Desk or by calling 1-800-648-1177.

Colorful Parade of Nations to Capture Spirit of Festival

With elephants marching, fire-crackers blazing, and every flag unfurled proudly, the Parade of Nations will take to Victorian Square Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. for all to see.

This celebration, which will embrace all the nations participating in the three-day festival, will feature each of the eight groups represented by the Asian Pacific Americans of Northern Nevada and will include the Filipino "Santa Cruzan," a tradition that is celebrated during the month of May for the Feast of the Virgin Mary. It is a unique procession which portrays the courageous biblical story of St. Helena's finding of the cross.

Other groups enchanting the crowds will be San Francisco's Chung Ngai Lion Dance group, the Chinatown Dragon Dance group and the Incredible Acrobats of China. The 30-foot long dragon will be guided by members of the lion-dance group and the University of Nevada Chinese Students Association. The dragon is the very one used every year in San Francisco's Chinese New Year Parade.

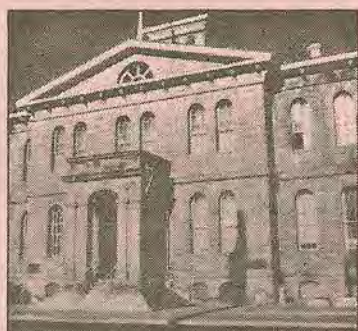
The major float in the parade, which will last about 20 minutes, will be a slice of the Great Wall of Nevada which displays the colorful works of arts by San Francisco and Washoe County students representing every grade level. The float and the lengthier display on Victorian Square are sponsored by Dick Donnelly Automotive and Cellular One.

(see parade pg.6)



Carson City Is A Treasury Of The Old West

This is your chance to really feel like you are a part of the Old West — among pioneers, and the haunts where they lived. Now's your chance. Carson City's Kit Carson Trail — the tour of the city's historic district — will feature a special walk through time and Victorian homes with colorful "characters" from its past, Saturday May 21.



Tours start at the Nevada State Legislature at 10 am and leave every 15 minutes until 4 pm. The route is one mile through town and 120 years through Carson City's past.

After a gunfight from the Desperado Coalition, you will visit the St. Charles Hotel. Built in 1862, it's one of the oldest commercial buildings in Nevada. During the Comstock years, it served as Carson City's main stagecoach stop. Hank Monk, a famous stagecoach driver, will be on hand to tell stories of his adventures in the Old West. Monk became a celebrity when he set a record transporting Horace Greeley from Genoa to Placerville for a speaking engagement.

The next stop is the Ferris Mansion, constructed in 1869. It's noteworthy for being home to George Ferris, Jr., the inventor of the giant Ferris Wheel, a landmark of the 1893 Chicago Exposition. When Ferris was a child, he dreamed of riding on the wheel of a paddlewheel boat, so when he got his chance, he built his Ferris wheel so big that it held 40 people per car — a total of 1,440 people per ride.

Next stop on the trail is the Orms-

by-Rosser House, built by Margaret Ormsby in the winter of 1862-63. She was the widow of Carson City pioneer Major William M. Ormsby who was killed in the Pyramid Lake War of 1860. "Mrs. Ormsby" will tell of life and times in the old west — from a woman's perspective.

From a man's perspective, the home of "Tahoe Beer," The Carson Brewery Company, is the next refreshing stop. Built in 1864, the Carson Brewery Company was the home of the local beer for almost a century and now serves as an arts center. "Mr. Frank Hall," another Carson pioneer, will describe how he founded the Carson City trading post and why he named the area "Eagle Valley."

Then there is the Sweeney Building, which was constructed by Peter Cavanaugh, the builder of the Nevada State Capitol.

The homes will be able to talk to visitors. This May 21 tour will mark the first tour with the newly implemented "talking houses." When guests tune in to a special AM frequency on their radios, they will be able to hear

recorded messages from 16 of the houses along the Kit Carson Trail. The 90-second messages are professionally produced, including sound effects such as train whistles, horse drawn carriages and features such as John Wayne's voice at the Krebs Peterson house where he made his last film, "The Shootist."

While the "talking houses" will be on-line all year, future Kit Carson Trail themed tours with actors, will be offered over the holidays, during Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends. All tours are free of charge, but donations are gladly accepted. Tours are given throughout the summer every Saturday starting at 10am at the Nevada State Museum.

Maps of the Kit Carson Trail are available at the Carson City Convention & Visitors Bureau. Individually guided tours of the Trail are also available by calling the bureau to reserve a date and time. For more information, call 702/687-7410.

Embassy's Suite & Show

Tahoe's Big Ticket

If you are a theater goer, or musical fan, have your people call the people at Embassy Suites Lake Tahoe. The new South Shore resort is giving top billing this spring to its new "Suite and Show" package. The special price combines luxury and value in one night's accommodations in a two-room suite and tickets to your pick of Tahoe's hottest shows: "Hollywood," "E.Rock.Tica," "Twist & Shout" or "Little Shop of Horrors." This is an exceptional value for almost the price of theater tickets alone in the big city.

"Hollywood" features the glitter and pizzazz of Tinseltown with outrageous costumes, "Technicolor" sets, talented singers and long-legged dancers, and over 100 songs from America's greatest movies. Film buffs will want to memorize these titles. "E.Rock.Tica" is the sexy show late night at Harrahs.

"Twist & Shout" is the full-blown Beatles tribute at Harvey's and "Little Shop..." is this spring's monster hit at Caesars.

"Suite & Show" runs through May 30 and is just \$59 per person, Sunday through Thursday nights.

Also included is Embassy's trademark cooked-to-order breakfast and nightly manager's reception. A dining credit at Zackary's, (Embassy's continental restaurant with a party of two, holidays excluded.)

The next day, take advantage of their on-site activities, such as indoor swimming pool and spa, workout room and big screen TV located in the garden atrium. All suites feature two remote control color TVs and VCRs, with video rental available downstairs at Julie's delicatessen.

For reservations or information call 1-800-EMBASSY.

Come Celebrate Your Good Fortune.



Reno, Nevada
May 20-22

- Free entertainment including
- ✧ Free concert by "Tower of Power."
 - ✧ San Jose Taiko Drummers,
 - ✧ Parade of Nations,
 - ✧ The Incredible Acrobats of China
 - ✧ The world music sounds of "Ancient Future."
 - ✧ Children's activities all day each day and much more!

- ✧ Cuisine from top Asian/Pacific restaurants.
- ✧ Lavish Polynesian Luau. (Tickets on sale at the Nugget)
- ✧ Cooking demonstrations by Martin Yan of T.V.'s "Yan Can Cook" and Barbara Tropp of San Francisco's China Moon Cafe.
- ✧ Asian Pacific Artisans' Marketplace

From Kung Pao to Luau, it's the best of Asian and Pacific cultures blended into one unforgettable three-day celebration.

Call (800) 648-1177 for information.



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