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## The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival News

September/October 2009

### WELCOME!

Greetings to all this fall!

Thank you to everyone for helping us make the 9th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival (CDBF) on July 25 and 26 a great success! For the third straight year, 100,000 people attended this annual summer event at Sloan's Lake Park to watch the competitive boat races, sample the delicious food, see performers on three stages, shop in the Marketplace, and enjoy our special Hawaii 5-0 anniversary exhibits and programs! Whatever motivated you to attend or participate, we thank you, your family and friends for helping us present a wonderful weekend of free, family-friendly fun! [Click here](#) to see the many folks who helped us.



For more details on all that happened at this year's festival, please check out articles in this newsletter, as well as on the [CDBF website](#). Please also consider supporting the festival year-round by donating to CDBF on [GivingFirst.org](#) (just click on the DONATE button on our homepage to get started)! Your individual donation helps the festival continue its outreach to Asian Pacific Islander communities long after the festival ends!

I also want to take this opportunity to let you know I will be leaving the CDBF as of September 28th to pursue a career in education. I have enjoyed being the festival's first full-time Executive Director since 2007 and know I leave the festival in great hands. The CDBF Board of Directors will begin an immediate search for my replacement. Please look for information shortly on <http://www.cdbf.org/employment.htm>. There are also several Volunteer positions available within the CDBF starting in January.

I will continue to support the festival in other ways and look forward to attending next year when the CDBF celebrates its Tenth Anniversary on July 24-25, 2010. Until then, mark these dates, get some moon cakes, and celebrate the mid-Autumn Moon holiday!

Best Wishes,  
Alisa Zimmerman, CDBF Executive Director

Pictured above is the Autumn Moon celebrated in many Asian countries each September.

**2009 FESTIVAL DRAWS CROWD OF 100,000 FOR THIRD YEAR!**

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For the third straight year, 100,000 people came to soak in the culture and flavor of Asia and the Pacific at the 9th annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival (CDBF) held last weekend, July 25 and 26, at Sloan's Lake Park. A window to the Pan Asian world, this free family-friendly festival showcased traditional and contemporary performing artists, cultural customs and cuisine, in addition to two days of competitive dragon boat racing.

Throughout all Festival areas, the 2009 CDBF also saluted the colorful history and timeless appeal of Hawaii as it celebrates its 50th anniversary as the 50th state this year. The festival was filled with special performances, Polynesian music and hula dancing, as well as cultural exhibits and ceremonies. An outrigger boat was also on site to show how Hawaiians have historically taken to the waves to race.

"It was another fantastic event this year that allowed attendees to enjoy a trip to Asia and the Pacific in one weekend without leaving Colorado," commented Colorado Dragon Boat Festival Executive Director Alisa Zimmerman. "Despite the rain both days, we again welcomed 100,000 festival goers who were able to learn more about Hawaii in its 50th anniversary of statehood at our Hawaii 5-0 Explore Asia! area and watch cultural ceremonies and rituals in Gateway to Asia. Children enjoyed fun activities and engaging performances in Dragonland, and crowds were singing and dancing at our Performing Arts stage and experiencing the music and dance within hip-hop culture at the increasingly popular Cultural Unity tent.

Visitors were also able to take a piece of Asia home with them as they browsed the Marketplace and enjoyed the array of Asian flavors featured in the Taste of Asia food court. With all of this, plus a weekend full of races on two courses, it was an amazing experience for all. Make plans now to return to the Festival next year, July 24 and 25, as we celebrate the event's 10th anniversary!"

## THE SCOOP ON THE DRAGON BOAT RACE WINNERS!

This year at the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, teams from across the region and the country (Florida, Texas and Arizona) competed in division races on both a 500-meter course (Competitive) and a 250-meter course (all other divisions) using BuK-style Hong Kong boats. Nearly 1,000 racers making up 45 teams paddled to take home the gold. Pictured above are the Adult Novice Team Winners, Oars are Better than Yours.



The 2009 Dragon Boat Race Winners are:

### Adult Competitive:

- \* Gold: Chop Suey - A team from Florida racing for the first time this year in the CDBF.
- \* Silver: The Flying Dragons - Last year's winner of the Competitive Division and the winners of the Novice Division in 2007
- \* Bronze: Spirit of Cambodia

### Adult Corporate:

- \* Gold: Rocket Dragons
- \* Silver: WagenKamp's Frozen Fish Sticks - The winner of the Novice Division last year
- \*Bronze was not awarded for this division

### Adult Novice:

- \* Gold: Oars are Better than Yours
- \* Silver: PowR3d by Chopstix
- \*Bronze was not awarded for this division

### Youth:

- \* Gold: Chinggis' Warriors
- \* Silver: PASCO Pinoy Dragons
- \* Bronze: Lao Community of Colorado - Defeated this year after winning the Youth Division for six straight years!

For those interested in paddling in the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival races next year or for more information on participating in the sport year-round, e-mail [race@cdbf.org](mailto:race@cdbf.org).

## 4TH ANNUAL CDBF CULINARY COMPETITION

### Associate Sponsors:

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The Denver Post

JACK FM

### Supporting Sponsors:

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## CROWNS WINNERS!

At the 2009 Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, attendees enjoyed mouthwatering food from all of Asia, including cuisine from Mongolia, China, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines and Laos. The fourth annual Culinary Competition was held on Sunday morning, judging cuisine featured at the Festival's 20 food vendors in the Taste of Asia Food Court.

The judges were Big Mike's BBQ Chef/Caterer Mike McCrea, who joined the Festival for the first time as a culinary judge; and Shamrock Foods/Culinary Committee Chair for the Cherry Creek Arts Festival, Jan Humphries, who judged the competition for the third year. Culinary judging was based on six distinctive categories: relevance to Asian culture, creativity, presentation, overall taste, value and challenge of preparation.

The winners of this year's **Meal competition** were:

- \* Best of Show: Taste of Thailand - Mango Shrimp Salad (Taking home the title for the second year in a row)
- \* First Place Meal: Savory Saigon - Saigon Shrimp Slaw (Moving up from Second Place in 2008!)
- \* Second Place Meal: Chez Thuy - Chicken Kabobs
- \* Third Place Meal: Imperial Restaurant - Sesame Chicken

For the first time this year, three winners were also selected in the Dessert category. The winners of the **Dessert category** were:

- \* First Place Dessert: Tropical Paradise - Sticky Rice Bamboo Stick
- \* Second Place Dessert: Taste of Thailand - Fried Banana
- \* Third Place Dessert: Berrie Kabobs

Keep an eye out in future CDBF newsletters for the award-winning recipes from our Culinary Competition!

## GETAWAY RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED ON JULY 26TH!

Congratulations to our first-ever Getaway Raffle winner, Charles Anderson, of Denver! And thanks to everyone who bought raffle tickets at the festival for a chance to win round-trip airfare for 2 on Southwest Airlines, a Wyndham Resort one-week stay, and an Embassy Suites at DIA "park sleep and fly package," all within the continental U.S. Your raffle ticket purchase helps the festival remain a free annual event for all to enjoy.



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Many thanks to Southwest Airlines, the CDBF Board of Directors, and Embassy Suites at DIA for their kind donations.

## GET PADDLING FOR NEXT YEAR'S RACES - JOIN DRACO!

Be ready to compete at next summer's festival races by joining the Dragon Boat Racing Association of Colorado (DRACO) for year-round paddling practice and more!

DRACO was formed in 2007 (originally established as CDBRA), an affiliate of CDBF whose goal is to increase awareness and excitement for this fast-growing sport, and to train competitive dragon boat paddlers and teams so that they're ready to compete at national and international races.

Practices take place at Standley Lake, using Hong Kong-style boats\* which are lighter, narrower and sit lower in the water than Taiwan-style boats. This enables them (and you!) to go much faster! Membership benefits include paddling and coaching clinics, gym workout sessions, steer and coxswain training, use of DRACO dragon boats and equipment for practices, and more. Individual and Group/Corporate memberships are available. Short-term memberships are also available. (Members must be 21 years of age.) For additional information, contact: Michael J. Boyd (Captain Bligh) at [MJB@MJBoyd.biz](mailto:MJB@MJBoyd.biz)

\*Thanks to Coors Brewing Company for their sponsorship of one of these boats for use during practices and at the 2009 Festival.

## LIMITED SUPPLY OF CDBF COMMEMORATIVE

## POSTERS STILL AVAILABLE!

Did you miss your chance to take home a souvenir Commemorative Poster from the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival this year?

Good news! The 2008 and 2009 Commemorative Posters are still available at the CDBF offices for just \$15 each, or 2 for \$25, while supplies last. The 2009 winning design by Duc Huynh of Denver is displayed on the right. "The shape of the dragon's body suggests that it is a boat, with the rays in the back symbolizing boat paddles. The water is a more stylized approach to the traditional painting by Hokusai titled The Great Wave," says Huynh, a free-lance graphic designer who also teaches classes at Rocky Mountain Academy of Design.

The 2008 winning design by Patrick Spikes of Wheat Ridge is shown below. "I was excited about the opportunity to design a poster that commemorates both the richness of Asian culture and the colorful setting of Colorado. By creating an interplay between the colors and intricate design of the dragon and the colors in our state flag, I hope to bring new meaning to both."



Stop by the CDBF offices to pick up your posters in Wheat Ridge at 11049 W. 44th Avenue, Suite 110. Please call ahead at 303-953-7277 before you visit. You may also email your order at [info@cdbf.org](mailto:info@cdbf.org). All proceeds from the CDBF Commemorative Poster sales go to support the Festival and keep it as a free event for the whole family year after year.

The 3rd Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival Commemorative Poster Contest will start early in 2010, so keep your eyes and ears open for the Call for Artists. Many thanks to the Asian Arts Coordinating Council, Cherry Creek Arts Festival and Denver Art Museum for their support of the contest.

## MAHALO NUI LOA FOR MAKING THE 2009 COLORADO DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL A SUCCESS!

Submitted by George N. Yoshida

Celebrating Hawaii's 50 years of statehood at the 9th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival was in keeping with a day long conference in Honolulu on August 21, 2009 at the Royal Hawaiian Center in Waikiki, Hawaii. The conference was devoted to commemorating and reflecting on Hawaii's place in the world with sensitivity to the unresolved claims of Native Hawaiians regarding statehood, and acknowledging the strength and spiritual power of the Hawaiian people.



The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival's Hawaii 5-0 area included honoring the 442nd RCT & Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, George T. Joe Sakato for his "extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army." The 442nd RCT "fought racism and covered themselves in glory." (Photo credit - Kit Williams)

The gathering and coming together of many hula groups on Sunday on the Hawaii 5-0 stage with their performances conveyed the Spirit of Aloha and Ohana. The display of pride, respect and commitment to Hawaiian values was captivating and touched the audience.

From the island of Savaii, Samoa, High Chief I'iga Vui Siasoi wearing the colorful Tuiga head dress danced the

Tausaluga an ancient royal dance of Samoa. His performance was regal, majestic and spiritual, and he put his entire being into this dance which gave it life. The entire audience was truly enchanted by the royal High Chief's moving performance! (Photo credit - Juergen Kuebler)



The Canticle of Father Damien *A Breath of Life in Moloka'i* was a very special performance for the audience at the festival. Marsha Anne Talitimu wrote the "mele," in English, had it translated by two Kumu Hula into Hawaiian, transformed it to a chant, put it to music with Siaosi, and included songs by Randy and Linda Smith (Peasant Priest and Hula Moon.) The canticle was then choreographed and set to dance by Aiwa Batista.

This extraordinary piece honors Father Damien who will be officially recognized as Hawaii's first canonized saint on October 11, 2009.

Huge crowds at the special Hawaii 5-0 exhibit tent with its artifacts, art, and dress, at the demonstrations of Hawaiian cooking, music and dance, and surrounding the performance stage, attest to the great success by the Colorado Hawaiian community of proudly showcasing the islands' rich history, tradition and culture to the festival's enthusiastic guests.

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE FESTIVAL THROUGHOUT YEAR - APPLY NOW!

The CDBF is seeking to fill various positions within their Operating Committee, which meets monthly from January through July 2010. The Committee is made up of tireless volunteers who coordinate the logistics of the CDBF program areas, from Races and Cultural Education to the website, marketing, and more! The following positions will remain open until filled:

**Explore Asia** - Oversees the logistics of this program area which highlights the unique cultural traditions and arts of three Asian Pacific countries.

**Pacific Gateway** - Coordinates the details of this program area which includes various cultural demonstrations and live performances.

**Marketing/Public Relations Intern** - Supports CDBF staff and contractors with the marketing efforts to promote the Festival.

**Opening Ceremony** - Coordinates the details of the Opening Ceremony which takes place on the first day of the Festival.

**Website Manager** - Manages the CDBF website and special projects.

Check our website - [www.cdbf.org](http://www.cdbf.org) for upcoming details on the responsibilities of these positions. For more information or to express your interest in one of these positions, please contact us at [info@cdbf.org](mailto:info@cdbf.org).

## MAXIMIZE YOUR CDBF DONATION WITH GIVING FIRST!



A program of Community First Foundation

The Colorado Dragon Boat Festival (CDBF) is excited to announce our participation with GivingFirst, a program of Community First Foundation. GivingFirst is the most comprehensive online portal to Denver area charities. GivingFirst.org is a place where you can support the organizations who speak to your passion, while learning more about our mission, programs, impact and fiscal responsibility. All of the information presented is verified by

the Foundation's staff, so you can donate with confidence.

To encourage online giving, when you donate thru GivingFirst, Community First Foundation will pay the credit card processing fees (typically at three percent per gift!). This is a great way to maximize your generous donations, and those of your friends and family, in support of the Festival's annual Asian Pacific celebration.

Just [click here](#) to get started, and many thanks for your support!

## Upcoming Events & Information

For APA events and information on APA and Dragon Boat organizations please [click here](#).

Do you have an upcoming event that you want to share with the local APA community? If you would like your event listed in the next CDBF monthly newsletter, please email a brief description to [media@cdbf.org](mailto:media@cdbf.org).

## HAWAIIAN MUSIC LEGENDS RETURN TO DENVER on 9/17!

After last year's "standing room only" concert, Hawaiian music legends **Cecilio and Kapono** (C&K) are back in Denver at the Gothic Theatre, 3263 S Broadway in Englewood, on Thursday, **September 17, 2009** at 7:30 PM.

Cecilio Rodrigues, a Hispanic Native-American professionally trained musician, and Henry Kapono, a Native-Hawaiian self-taught musician have enchanted audiences around the world since 1973. Their 70's influenced pop songs have been favorite sing-a-long tunes for at least two generations of fans!

The concert will benefit the [Pi'ilani Hawaiian Civic Club of Colorado](#), a non-profit organization focused on the perpetuation of the native Hawaiian culture, native-specific health issues and educating others on ancient and contemporary Hawaiian traditions. The club is made up of native Hawaiians, former residents of Hawai'i and anyone that loves Hawai'i and its culture.

Ticket prices are \$28.50 for General Admission and \$38.50 for Preferred Seating. For more information on tickets and availability, please [click here](#).

## FACC PRESENTS KASAYAHAN ON 10/2!

The Filipino-American Community of Colorado presents Kasayahan featuring Miriam Pantig, the Dynamic Diva, on Friday, October 2, 2009 at 7PM at the Broomfield Auditorium. Enjoy a musical night of entertainment with songs in Pilipino and English. The evening will include a special performance by the FACC Dancers and a Cebuano Balitaw Presented by Mano Po.

Patron Tickets are \$40 and include the Artist's Reception. General Admission Tickets are \$20. The Broomfield Auditorium is located at 3 Community Park Road, Broomfield, CO 80020. For tickets or more information, please call 303-886-0478. Sponsored by the SCFD of the City and County of Broomfield.

## The 10th Annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival

*Your Weekend Passport to Asia and the Pacific* - Dragon Boat Races. Cultural Education. Performing Arts. Food. Marketplace.

### About the CDBF

Founded in 2001 to celebrate Colorado's diverse Asian Pacific American (APA) communities, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival (CDBF), a 501© 3 non-profit organization, has become the region's fastest growing, family-friendly summer festival. CDBF offers festival-goers the opportunity to explore APA culture through performances, educational programs, arts and crafts, shopping, dining and the exciting athletic competition of dragon boat racing.

### Office Location/Contact Information:

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Toll-free: 877.716.BOAT (2628)

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