



Brian Steele Clackamas Print

ABOVE: One of the many dancing lions from Lee's Association parades around Lan Su Garden.



Kayla Berge Clackamas Print

Another lion shows its stuff in front of the Tower of Reflections tea house.

BOTTOM: Kids color tiger masks and make paper lanterns.



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Lions dance at La

By Kayla Berge & Mark Sunderland
The Clackamas Print

The moment of stepping through the threshold of the Lan Su Chinese Garden the visitor is transported to another world. A world of the past.

Red paper lanterns hung from roof tops, beautifully grown plants filled the air with their rich scents, a small school of fish lazily swam their way across the large lake in the center of the garden. This was a place of magic.

After showing the Garden's greeters the receipt, the visitor is handed a pamphlet and a hongbao, a red envelope that has two pennies already inside. The hongbao is to be passed on to a younger child to protect them from evil and to bring them good luck in the upcoming year.

Feb. 14, 2010, was the start of the Year of the Tiger reaching record attendance for the Garden. The Lan Su Chinese Garden has put together

what they feel is the largest Chinese New Year (or to what is more commonly referred to as the Lunar New Year) celebration in the country. The festival started on the new year (the Feb. 14) and will continue everyday until the Feb. 28, 14 days later. No two days will have the same program.

One visitor, a Portland Art Institute student, Dylan Wainwright came to film the event.

"Oh, it's great; it's a beautiful location we've been here for just a little while now, but so far it's been really interesting. The lion dance was pretty cool," said Wainwright. This was his first visit to the Lan Su Chinese Garden.

"I love looking at all the bonsai trees," Wainwright admitted.

Last Sunday's program consisted of tiger mask coloring, red paper lantern making, story time, calligraphy demonstrations, a performance from the Portland Orchids and Bamboo Chinese Ensemble and the highlighted Lee's Association lion dance and dragon procession performances.

Starting at 11:30 a.m. and an hour after until 2:30 p.m., Hoern read stories from vivid picture books to her audience.

"I love interacting with the children and having them make animal sounds," Hoern said with a smile.

A table stood before her stuffed animals spread across her props. Each animal represented the animals of the big race to be part of the Lunar Year calendar. A young volunteer held the stuffed animal above his head and waved it in the air like a toy rocket after Hoern the boy his cue.

"There's only a few Chinese Gardens outside of China and we are really blessed to have one in Portland," Hoern stated. "The garden is in bloom all year long. I wish the garden was like that."

From noon to 2 p.m. Dr. Yoon behind a desk demonstrating calligraphy on red sheets of paper.

Every hour from noon until there was a lion dance put on



By Mark Sunderland
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Passing through Chinese gardens that are filled with various flora and fauna with a stone walkway that winds its way through the various halls. The stone walkway leads one through the Hall of Brocade Clouds and past the Painted Boat in

Misty Rain to a hall marked by its two stories and windows carved in simple scroll work. Entering the two storied hall, one is greeted by a simple cluster of wooden tables and woven mats resting upon them.

The place is the tea house in the Chinese garden and the tea house is called 'The Tower of Reflections' that is located on 239 Everett St., and is part of the Chinese gardens.

The interior of the tea house is floored in simple stonework with pillars of polished wood and a display case off to the left as one enters. The display case is filled of various tea serving ware and tin canisters

of loose leaf teas. The air is filled with the soft sound of a Erhu playing; the Erhu is an instrument that dates 500 years in the past Chinese history and is a widely used two string violin.

The set of tables downstairs are lined with either simple



Chinese te

wooden benches or carved chairs. The ceiling is lined with lamps that one might find in a Chinese restaurant. Walls are decorated by various wall scrolls of plants and animals with potted plants scattered here and there to add a quiet atmosphere.

