

Writing Samples

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Contents

- p.1-2 Newsletter article, Korean Tea Ceremony
- p 3 Newsletter article, Teance Warehouse
- p 4 Email campaigners going to 2,000+ recipients
- p 5 Company Newsletter article going to 1,000+ recipients
- p 6 Company Intranet article, International Day Against Child Labor

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E-Newsletter article

Teance Fine Teas, August 2008

A Glimpse Into the Korean Tea Ceremony

On a warm Friday night in July, the Teance hosted a gathering for the traditional Korean tea ceremony, called "Darye". Bamboo mats were spread, and guests removed their shoes before entering—but it was tea master Yoon Hee Kim's graceful tea demonstration that made the atmosphere special!

Wearing a traditional hanbok dress, Ms. Kim performed a form of the ceremony called the Everyday Tea Rite. While this "everyday" ceremony is shorter and more casual than other versions of the Korean tea ceremony—which can last up to several hours—the name belies the great skill and care that are required in every step.

Tea culture in Korea has a rich 2,000-year history, yet few outside Korea are familiar with it. Tea was first introduced via China, by way of an Indian princess that came to Korea to marry a king, but it was soon discovered that indigenous tea plants were already growing in the country. It gradually expanded from the royal court, to Buddhist monks and scholars, to the literati and the public at large.

Foreign invasions, internal politics, and colonial rule often hampered the development and enjoyment of Korea's tea culture, at times forcing it to go underground. Only after Korea began to rebuild after the devastations of colonial rule and war in the late 1960's were dedicated tea masters able to revive Korean tea culture. Today, the reinvigorated tea culture and industry has had an important and dynamic impact on Korea's modern day tea drinking - and on the nation's overall cultural landscape as well.



At Teance, Ms. Kim prepared a whole leaf green tea harvested in Korea during the early spring plucking. The tea is called "sparrow's tongue" because the delicate tea buds are so small. The jade green liquid yielded a roasted chestnut flavor. It is vegetal and smooth, with a lingering sweetness.

The tea server must be in tune with his or her environment to prepare the perfect cup of tea.

"Nature will speak to you," Ms. Kim said. "It has its own story and attributes that affect the tea." When color, fragrance, and taste are all in harmony, the tea can be best enjoyed.

Two hours spent with a Korean tea master were just enough to provide a glimpse into intricate art and philosophy of the Korean tea ceremony. But for all who attended, certainly color, fragrance, and taste were in harmony on that evening.



The utensils used in the Korean Tea Ceremony included a water discard bowl, a hot water cooling bowl , a bamboo scoop, and a small round jar containing whole leaf Korean green tea.



Colorful hanboks make a unique sighting at Teance's teabar.

E-Newsletter Article
Teance, November 2008

Behind the Scenes at the Teance Warehouse

Teance cares deeply about providing fresh, whole leaf teas to our customers. Our tea buyer travels to Asia at least twice a year to purchase the most premium, fresh tea harvests.

While some seasonal teas sell out very quickly due to the limited quantities available, the rest of our teas are carefully stored in Teance's warehouses in China and Berkeley, California, to ensure they are at optimum quality when they reach our customers. Rows of teas are stored in heat-sealed, vacuum-packed bags, and in airtight tins.

Rather than keeping a large stock of packaged teas, we hand-pack teas every week into our signature silver pouches. Our lead tea packer, Sonia, is one of Teance's first employees, and probably the staffer customers love most! She is always ready with a hug, and demonstrates her care in the meticulous way she packs all of our teas.

We are sure that Sonia's love enhances the flavors when customers brew our fresh, whole leaf teas at home.



Sonia packing tea for the week.



The "Wall of Tins" at the Teance warehouse.

Email Campaigner
Teance Fine Teas

Teance Winter Harvest Party I: China

Some of the best oolong teas are picked and produced during the "winter harvests" which begin in November. Right now our tea buyer, Winnie, is traveling through China, looking for the finest of these teas to bring back to our store!

On November 15, you can be one of the first to taste these fresh teas, including:

- Anxi Mao Cha Tikuan Yin (available for sale only at this event)
- Phoenix Mountain Oolongs
- Monkey Picked Tikuan Yin
- Yellow Gold Oolong

Winnie will be at the harvest party, sharing stories of her November buying trip and describe the wonderful flavors of the winter teas.

[Click here to purchase your ticket!](#)

Email Campaigner
Teance Fine Teas

Special Event at Teance Fine Teas: An Evening of Tea, Zen, and Poetry

Celebrate the publication of Norman Waddell's book *The Old Tea Seller: Life and Zen Poetry in 18th Century Kyoto*. Nelson Foster, a renowned Zen teacher, will read from *The Old Tea Seller* and share his thoughts on tea and Zen.

The Old Tea Seller is a masterful translation and presentation of poems, letters, biography, and commentary, which gives readers a compelling look into the life of the 18th-century Japanese Zen priest-cum-tea merchant, Baisao.

Reflect on the life of Baisao over cups of premium Japanese green teas sencha and gyokuro paired with traditional Kyoto-style sweets, and listen to the soothing sound of shakuhachi music performed live.

Hardcover copies of Waddell's book will be available to purchase at a 15% discount. RSVP now for this very special event!

World Vision Staff Newsletter
World Vision U.S.

One Year Later: World Vision's Tsunami Team program officer reflects on life in the tsunami zone

December 26, 2005: the one-year anniversary of the tsunami in south Asia. In just eight minutes, an earthquake shook the region and triggered a tsunami from which south Asia is still recovering. At that time, World Vision staff member Rachel Brumbaugh was working at the World Vision Bangladesh headquarters. She felt the tremors of the earthquake from the capital city of Dhaka. "It was like having this terrible event happen in my own backyard. The images from the TV were almost unbelievable," she said.

As the scale and complexity of the disaster became apparent, Rachel decided to contribute her expertise with disaster management to World Vision's work in the tsunami zone. She has since relocated from Asia to the States, but her role as program officer for World Vision's Tsunami Team still contributes to ongoing programs in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, and India.

World Vision reacted quickly to meet the needs of survivors—helping survivors just hours after the tsunami hit. A year later, World Vision is still working alongside the survivors to rebuild communities. Rachel takes special pride in the 170 Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) that provide tsunami-affected children with a place to play, participate in structured activities, and heal from traumatizing experiences.

Many children were separated from their parents during the disaster, and were reunited with their parents through the CFS program. Child kidnapping and trafficking also poses a threat in the four countries where the Tsunami Team operates, so the Spaces give parents a much-needed refuge in which to leave their children while they collect relief distributions or search for employment.

"[Through the CFS program], World Vision boldly lived out its promise to protect the rights of children and help them attain their potential, even in such a challenging context," Rachel said. "This is what makes me proud to work for World Vision!"

What will Year Two of the tsunami response entail? Emergency relief activities will give way to projects that help rebuild communities for long-term sustainability. World Vision will reconstruct permanent shelters and public buildings, improve access to health care and education, and support economic development.

"It is this integrated approach," Rachel explained, "that will, over the long term, fulfill World Vision's commitment to assist in rebuilding communities—not just houses."

Intranet Article, World Vision U.S

International Day Against Child Labor

Every day millions of children wake up in the morning—and head not to school, but to work! Around the world, many of the estimated 200 million children who labor by force or by necessity are exploited or are working in hazardous environments.

Eliminating child labor is not just a distant dream. According to the International Labor Organization's recent publication *End of Child Labor: Within Reach*, child labor fell by 11 percent between 2000 and 2004. If this rate continues, the worst forms of child labor could be completely wiped out within 10 years.

World Vision is dedicated to helping children like Emmanuel, who had to drop out of school because his family could not afford to buy him a school uniform and supplies. He began working in a stone quarry to raise money for the fees, but he longed to return to class.

In sub-Saharan Africa where more than a quarter of boys and girls ages 5 to 14 are involved in labor, World Vision is helping children gain access to education through the Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia Together Project (KURET). The KURET project supported Emmanuel's education, and he excitedly returned to school to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

But the causes of child labor are complex; much remains to be done. Not only do children need to be removed from harmful or exploitative work, but it is also crucial to address the reasons children are made vulnerable in the first place—social structures and the economic needs of families and communities.

"Children who are forced to work in appalling conditions are some of the most vulnerable," said World Vision U.S. Children in Crisis Specialist Azra Kacapor. "Not only are they denied a childhood, but their development physically, psychologically, and emotionally is threatened."

World Vision is fighting against Child Labor to address these problems on many levels, including:

Prevention: Setting up community-based protection programs, implementing awareness-raising programs, and building the economic capacity of communities, families, and children to prevent child exploitation.

Rehabilitation: Helping children who are victims of exploitation or adverse working conditions through psychosocial and education activities.

Education: Increasing a child's access to education and vocational training.

Economic development: Enabling parents to support their families without putting their children at risk--through microenterprise development, agricultural training, continued education, and other programs.

Advocacy: Speaking on behalf of child laborers at the local, national, and regional levels as well as working with governments and leaders to establish policies and protocols to prevent abuse.

"Life in all its fullness," as set forth in World Vision's vision statement, is not a reality for millions of children involved in labor. This Monday, June 12, let us dedicate our work to these children World Vision is striving to serve.