

# CrossTalk

February CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2006

## IT'S CARNIVAL TIME!



Flamboyance and Power  
- Rio

It's February and in the streets of many cities all over the world it's **Carnival Time!** In Rio de Janeiro Brazil, it is *Carnival* and Samba. In Venice Italy, there's the famous *Carnevale di Venezia*, and, of course, in New Orleans Louisiana, there's Mardi Gras.

These are just three of the many famous carnivals celebrated during this month. But why February? And when did it all start?

In spite of its **boisterous** nature, *Carnival*, believe it or not, comes from a Catholic religious festival celebrating the start of lent, a time when Catholics are not supposed to eat meat for 40 days before Easter. The name itself comes from the Italian word, *carnevale*, literally "to put away the meat" or "to throw the meat out"! (Somehow the image of Brazil's **buxom** samba dancers just doesn't quite fit with this notion, or then again on second thought, maybe it does...)



Style, Elegance and  
History - Venice

For the roots of *Carnival*, however, some historians would have us go back to the ancient Romans. In mid February, the Romans celebrated the "Lupercalia", a circus like festival not entirely unlike *Carnival* as it is celebrated in many countries today.

When the early Christians tried to spread their faith, they decided it was better to incorporate certain aspects of pagan rituals rather than attempt to **abolish** them. *Carnival* evolved into a period of gay **abandonment** and **merriment** (some would say taken to extremes) that preceded the **penance** of Lent.



A mix of Old World and  
New - New Orleans

In Rio, it has evolved into wild Samba dancing, **extravagant** floats and breath-taking feathery costumes.

Along the famous streets of water in Venice its **exquisitely** crafted masks, beautiful costumes, elegance, and **intrigue** – in a carnival dedicated to abandonment behind an **anonymous** mask!

New Orleans' Mardi Gras seems to be a mix of both, floats, costumes and masks, plus a lot of ...JAZZ!

## Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

**boisterous** 騒々しい **buxom** 豊麗で快活な **abolish** 廃止する **abandonment** 放棄  
**merriment** 快樂 **penance** 苦行 **extravagant** 贅沢に飾りたてた  
**exquisitely** 絶美絶妙に **intrigue** 好奇心 **anonymous** 身元不明の

# A Word From Us



**Joshua Says:** Well, the big news is that Steve and Magnolia have decided to move on from Crossroads to pursue their own agenda. On behalf of the staff, and, I'm sure, our students, we all wish them the best of luck in their future. Their contribution to our school has been much appreciated – a big thanks to you both!

**Junko Says:** I am sad that Magnolia and Steven will be leaving us. As much as it saddens me to see them leave, I take heart in the knowing that Natacha will be returning in March. Many of you will remember her as our very popular English as well as French teacher. We're very happy to announce that she's rejoining our staff. And, we will have a new Guitar and Drum teacher too! William is a professional musician and we look forward to him joining us in March.



**Greg Says:** By the time you read this the winter Olympics would have come and gone. It was good to see Australia win a Gold medal for the second winter Olympics in succession. I don't think anything will ever surpass the way Australia won its first ever winter gold medal back in Salt Lake city four years ago. It was won by Steven Bradbury, a short-track skater from Sydney. He qualified for the final after several skaters fell down in front of him. In the final, everybody except him fell on the last turn, giving him gold.

**Iain Says:** I'm going to America for the first time in two years. I'll be away from Monday the 20th of this month to the 17<sup>th</sup> of next month. Since I've been away my grandfather and my dog passed away, but my younger sister gave birth to two children! A lot has changed, but it will be good to get back. I'll see you all again when I return next month!



**Steven & Magnolia Say:** February will be our last month teaching with Crossroads. We would like to send a special thank-you to all of our students for such an enjoyable year. We wish the new teacher all the best and thanks to Crossroads for being such a great place to work.



**Marita Says:** On February 3<sup>rd</sup> I went to the Ishiteji Temple and I was really impressed by the number of visitors there. It was the first time for me to celebrate the coming of spring on setsubun. What a nice custom. It is said that eating as many beans as you count in years brings you happiness and health. How do older people get along with it, I asked myself, counting my years...

**Yuka Says:** It looks like the flu is around. I heard lots of people eat hot chicken soup when they have a cold. I don't usually eat chicken meat, but I'm sure chicken soup is helpful. And here is a book I found for our mental health – "Chicken Soup for the Soul" contains more than a hundred stories which give us a warm feeling all over. I hope you will also enjoy reading this book also.



# A Word From You

## A Special Article from our student Shinobu Nakao, Architect:

Architects not only design and draw the plans of a building, they act as the mediator between the client and the contractor. They also make sure a building's design, construction, costing and building permission meet local government (or private) building standards. They make a contract with the client agreeing to undertake these assignments and in doing so they guarantee the building's quality. This commitment is made at the time the client submits a building project (with drawings) to local authorities and asks for building permission to begin construction.

The client, by this time, has selected the best construction company for his needs (usually the cheapest) and the architect checks the company's estimation sheets.

During construction, the architect inspects the site and supervises the construction process (once a week is common practice).

With an architect in control of a project, all of the materials and finishings (even down to the door furniture, etc.) are designed and planned in order to coordinate with the available space.



Guess whose **Notice Board**  
coming back to town...!?  
Natacha will be here in  
March to join us as a  
full-time teacher (this  
time) and we all welcome her back.  
Many of you have already expressed  
excitement about this and we are  
all waiting impatiently for her return  
- get ready for the FUN!!!



### **NEW START FOR OUR GUITAR- ENGLISH CLASSES**

OUR NEW GUITAR-ENGLISH  
LESSONS WILL BE ON THURSDAYS  
AT 8:00PM AND OUR NEW  
TEACHER IS WILLIAM FROM  
CANADA. WILLIAM HAS ALREADY  
MADE 3 CD'S IN CANADA AND IS  
WORKING ON A NEW CD HERE IN  
MATSUYAMA. HE HAS ALSO HAD A  
LOT OF EXPERIENCE TEACHING  
ENGLISH IN JAPAN SO WE ARE  
LOOKING FORWARD TO  
WATCHING HIS STUDENTS  
PROGRESS ON  
TWO  
FRONTS-  
GUITAR  
AND  
ENGLISH!



## Net News

### NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet* -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

### NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Follow the links in French or English for info on yet another famous February Carnival:

<http://www.nicecarnival.com>

**NET NOTEBOOK:** Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

### **Courses you can take at CROSSROADS**

#### GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week  
1 x's 90mins / week  
Private 1 x / week  
Semi-Private 1 x / week

MOTHER & CHILD, group or private  
KIDS, group or private

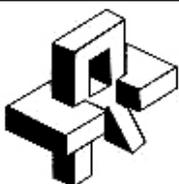
#### COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with William  
Yoga with Natacha  
Guitar with William  
"Cooking in English" with Natacha  
"Magic in English" with Iain  
Piano with Adrienne  
Drumming with William

GERMAN with Marita  
SPANISH with Leo  
RUSSIAN with Natasha  
FRENCH with Bam & Natacha  
CHINESE with Noriko  
KOREAN with Kim



**NETLESSONS:**  
group or private



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