

Weekly Cultural News

Substitute for monthly Cultural News

August 24 - 30, 2020

Keep Japanese Culture Alive in Southern California

Japanese Garden in Pasadena is available to visit on Saturdays and Sundays

Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden in Pasadena announces new garden schedule of Saturdays starting August 29.

On Saturdays, visitors are invited to **Happy Hour in the Garden** from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Or come for the second session **Twilight to Dark** From 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

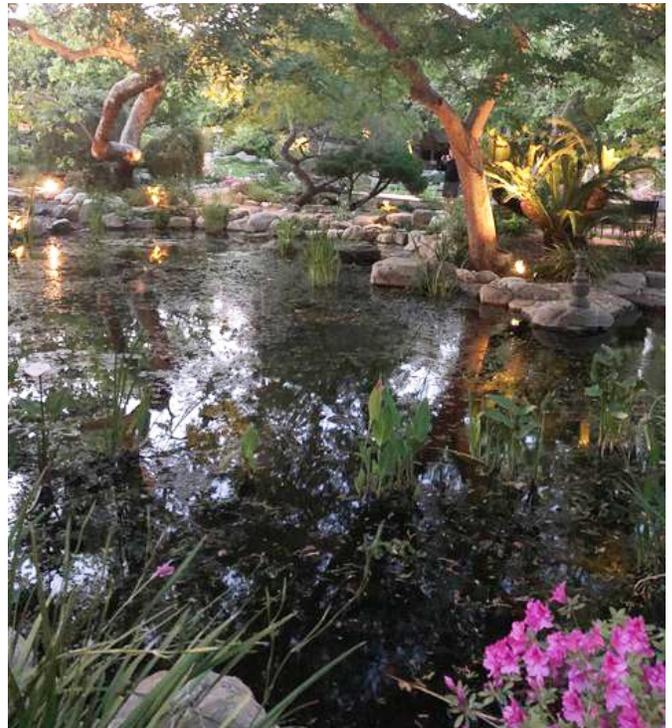
Registration is required. No walk-ins / Maximum is four people who live in the same household / Admission is \$12 per person / Children 12 and under are Free

Happy Hour in the Garden

Bring a bottle of wine (or whatever), find a place to sit at a distance from others and enjoy the garden at dusk. You must be registered and attendance will be extremely limited to facilitate safe social distancing. You may remove your mask while seated but it must be on at all other times. Be sure to read the additional guidelines on the registration page.

Twilight to Dark (No alcohol or snacks allowed and face coverings must be worn during your entire visit)

What a special place the garden is in the evening! It is cool and the light is ethereal as twilight dissolves into night. When it's dark, garden lights add to the beauty. You will find that spending a couple of hours in this oasis is a lovely thing to do on a Saturday night.



Open on Sundays

Find respite during one of these extremely popular two-hour visits to the garden. Safety is a priority so you can relax. There are some changes like one-way paths but the fish haven't changed and the breeze is still cool and the waterfalls and birds continue to fill the air with peaceful sounds.

Registration is required and opens 10 days in advance

Weekly Cultural News is a substitute publication for Monthly Cultural News
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A webinar video of the 75th Annual Commemoration Service of Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-Bomb Victims on Aug. 9 is available at <https://youtu.be/6CWrkfBUvX0>.

Atomic Bomb survivors hold annual commemoration event online

ASA's Annual Commemoration Event for the Victims and Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

A Report by Gloria R. Monteburno Saller, Ph.D.

On Sunday, August 9, 2020, the American Society of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors (ASA) held its annual commemoration event for the victims and survivors of the atomic bombings virtually.

MCs for the event were ASA Directors Ms. Midori Seino (Secretary), Dr. Gloria R. Monteburno Saller, (Honorary Director and Historian), and Mr. Darrell Miho (Media Coordinator).

Reverend Yuju Matsumoto of Koyasan Betsuin Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo opened the event with a bilingual prayer and blessing for all

in attendance. The President of ASA, Mr. Junji Sarashina delivered his address and shared his personal experiences from the Hiroshima bombing.

A video of hibakusha's testimonies by Darrell Miho was screened. Among the hibakusha featured in this video were also Mr. Satoru Ernest Arai, Mr. Taniguchi Sumiteru, and Ms. Keiko Ogura.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui and Nagasaki Mayor Tomihisa Taue sent official messages to be delivered on this particular occasion.

ASA's Guest Speaker was Mr. Robert Horsting, current director and co-founder of Shadows for Peace. His message of peace included recordings of his interviews with late Ms. Kaz

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Sueishi (former president of ASA) and Mr. Wataru Namba. Ms. Hiroko Nakano (ASA's Treasurer) and Ms. Taeko Okabe (ASA's Auditor) also contributed to the event by delivering messages containing personal experiences and future hopes for world peace.

Mr. Howard Kakita, ASA's Director since 2019, addressed the audience from a pre-recorded video where he conveyed his own experience with the Hiroshima atomic bombing, and concluded the event by calling for sanity to prevail among current world leaders when it comes to employing nuclear weapons to resolve conflicts.

During the event, Mr. Darrell Miho provided an account of the activities ASA carried out during the 2019-2020 fiscal year which included the biannual medical examinations of North America based atomic bomb survivors sponsored by the Hiroshima Prefectural Office and coordinated by ASA under the supervision of Ms. Midori Seino; public speaking events featuring Mr. Junji Sarashina and Mr. Kakita Howard on the occasion of the openings of the exhibit "Under the Mushroom Cloud" at the Japanese American National Museum; participation to "Afternoon of Peace" (a Shadows For Peace production) at the Aratani Theater; a Keiro grant sponsored luncheon for ASA's members at Koyasan Betsuin Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo, and the purchase of 1,000 medical masks that were distributed by mail to all ASA members at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Other activities included Dr. Montebruno Saller's invited guest lecture on ASA's history and social activism delivered at Ritsumeikan University (Kyoto) in October 2019; Mr. Junji Sarashina's video conference event on Sunday, August 2, 2020 with elementary school kids from Hiroshima (the event was sponsored by Japan-U.S. Friendship Bridge); and Mr. Howard Kakita's interviews by NBC The Today Show and the Washington



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American Society of
Hiroshima – Nagasaki
Atomic Bomb Survivors

米国広島・長崎原爆被爆者協会

Post.

Mr. Miho also announced Routledge / Francis & Taylor will publish Dr. Montebruno Saller's book on the history of Japanese American Atomic Bomb Survivors (forthcoming 2021-22).

People from both the USA and Japan attended this virtual event. In attendance were peace activists; media representatives from the USA, Japan, and the UK; atomic bomb survivors; educators; novelists and intellectuals; and people with a genuine interest in a world without nuclear weapons.

ASA has made the video of this event available to the public and it can be screened on YouTube under the title "ASA's 75th Annual Commemoration Service." <https://youtu.be/6CWrkfBUvX0>

For information on the American Society of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Survivors and its activities, visit www.nomorehibakusha.org or contact Darrell Miho at darrellmiho@gmail.com or Dr. Gloria R. Montebruno Saller at gmontebunophd@gmail.com

Los Angeles TV news anchor David Ono interviews Hiroshima survivor Shigeko Sasamori

With the headline of "Hiroshima remembered: Survivor in LA recalls the atomic blast on 75th anniversary," David Ono, Los Angeles TV news anchor, reported the interview of Hiroshima survivor Shigeko Sasamori on KABC News on August 6.

MARINA DEL REY, LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- Every dish has a story, like the delicious concoction on a hot griddle in southern Japan. It's an obsession called Okonomiyaki.

There are hundreds of these restaurants scattered throughout Hiroshima. It begins with a crepe, add some vegetables, eggs or meat, even noodles: Okonomiyaki means "anything you want."

But 75 years ago when the city was reduced to almost nothing, the first restaurant opened with little more than a grill. Citizens would bring whatever they had, and together they created what would become their culinary symbol of Hiroshima's fight to rise up from the ashes.

Shigeko Sasamori says Okonomiyaki makes her homesick. It's subtle, but you can see the scars she bares: her face, her fingers.

Like the city where she was born, Mrs. Sasamori has also fought back.

It was 1945, she was a 13-year-old child when on a sunny morning, she saw a beautiful silver plane.

"So I looked up to the sky. I saw the plane has a white tail, and the blue sky looks pretty. So I told my classmate, I said her look up. Airplane so pretty," said Sasamori. "I saw these white things coming down... just white."

That white was a parachute attached to the bomb, allowing for a slower descent. It detonated 2,000 feet above the ground for optimum destruction.

"At the same time everything at once, very strong forces... knock me down," said Sasamori.

When she came to, the world she knew was gone, replaced by indescribable horror. "Everywhere people sitting or lying down everybody was somehow hurt,"



Ten years after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, survivor Shigeko Sasamori was invited to America to receive surgery.

said Sasamori. "I was so shocked. I didn't hear anything. Very silent."

She was two miles from the point where the bomb exploded... the very edge of survivability. Anything closer: disintegrated.

Of the 340,000 who lived in Hiroshima, 140,000 were killed. What's unimaginable: tens of thousands of the dead were children. "Many, many people, my relatives and uncles and cousins, many those people died," said Sasamori.

Survivors were terribly burned. Sasamori says her mother hid the mirror, but eventually the then-13-year-old saw herself in a piece of broken glass.

"I really shocked. No eyebrows. No skin. Red," remembered Sasamori. "And mouth, just like a monster face, horrible face. Not a human face."

Ten years later, Sasamori would be invited to America as part of a group called the Hiroshima Maidens. They would receive badly needed surgery. "Saturday Review" editor Norman Cousins was instrumental in making it possible; raising funds, enlisting the help of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

With this kindness, Sasamori was reborn and decided to settle down in America. She now lives in Marina del Rey.

<https://abc7.com/hiroshima-atomic-bomb-survivor-75-years/6358635/?fbclid=IwAR0yUvOFpyrExRaKca5aQBUSM2r9h8PwwBYaqb6Nd24LzbTdNAglLrrcbl4>

Ohayashi Juku (Japanese percussion lecture) Kabuki Series #10 talks about “Battle Sounds”

By Mariko Watabe

There are dance videos and shamisen videos. But KABUKI HAYASHI (Japanese percussion) videos are rarely found or discussed especially in English or with English subtitles.

I have decided to make them as I believe this art is too precious to be hidden or lost. With the guidance of Master Katada Shinjuro, I am trying to uncover the world of HAYASHI by producing YouTube videos in Japanese language with English subtitles.

Oyahashi Juku - Kabuki Series #01: Shibyoshi
<https://youtu.be/KDMzTLuikCA> ,

Oyahashi Juku - Kabuki Series #02: The Ritualistic Music
<https://youtu.be/5fJx5UaQzAE>

Oyahashi Juku - Kabuki Series #03: Overture Music
<https://youtu.be/fpil5uOoUDs>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #04: Music Accompaniment During Dance Dialogue
<https://youtu.be/Job1zEJlprg>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #05: Sounds of Nature
<https://youtu.be/GjpwbjlwtIE>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #06: Spooky Sounds
<https://youtu.be/qFiyYB8hitM>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #07 Part I: Festival Music
<https://youtu.be/3hJpLyAz0dw>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series # 07 Part II: Festival Music
<https://youtu.be/LBcE6l1Zdw4>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #08: Debayashi and Kagebayashi
<https://youtu.be/w7tEuS0U63k>

Ohayashi Juku - Kabuki Series #09: Why is Hayashi So Special?
<https://youtu.be/SYxojFOy9LQ>



Kabuki plays can be categorized into two types depending on their content and plot. Jidaimono and Sewamono. <https://youtu.be/0M7Ua8SIHic> Jidaimono are the historical plays that are set prior to the Edo period in which the Tokunaga shogunate reigned.

The plays typically feature Samurai and nobles, and they usually contain a battle scene or two. Sewamono plays are set during the Edo period and encompass the daily struggles and lives of commoners and merchants.

In the next six videos in the series, the sounds that are used for Jidaimono will be introduced. The first one is “Battle Sounds”.

The sound which is the signal of a declaration of war as well as another purpose will be introduced followed by the example from a play called “Kumagaji Jinya”. I hope you enjoy!

Mariko Watabe has been introducing Kabuki dance and music to American audiences nationwide for over 40 years. She goes by her stage names such as; Kimisen Katada for Hayashi, Kyosho Yamato for Yamatogaku, Kichitoji Kineya for Nagauta; and Marifuji Bando for dance.

She is currently living in Los Angeles area. Her activities and performances are found at <http://fujijapanesemusic.org>