

Weekly Cultural News

Substitute for monthly Cultural News January 11 - 17, 2021 (Reiwa 3)

Keep Japanese Culture Alive



Crowd shot looking west towards the Manzanar cemetery and the Eastern Sierras during the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, April 29, 2017, at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Photo by Gann Matsuda/Manzanar Committee.

52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage to be held online, April 24

LOS ANGELES — Manzanar was the first of the American concentration camps in which more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

The Manzanar Committee is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger.

A non-profit organization that has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs, the Manzanar Committee has also played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Under normal circumstances, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage each year, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former

52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage/2021 Manzanar At Dusk to be held online, April 24

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incarcerees. Planning is already underway for this year's online program.

Like last year, the COVID-19 pandemic will prevent the Manzanar Committee from sponsoring the traditional live program at the Manzanar National Historic Site. As such, this year's program will be a "Virtual Manzanar Pilgrimage," to be released on the committee's web site, YouTube channel, and on the Committee's Facebook page.

Likewise, Manzanar At Dusk, which was cancelled last year, will also be held online.

The program is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Fullerton, California State University, Long Beach, California State Polytechnic University,

Pomona, the University of California, Los Angeles, the University of California, Riverside, and the University of California, San Diego.

"Upholding Democracy and Constitutional Rights for All: No More Concentration Camps," is the theme for the 52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will be held online on Saturday, April 24, 2021, at 12:00 PM.

The 2021 Manzanar At Dusk program will also be held online in the hours following the 52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

Further details about the 52nd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and the 2021 Manzanar At Dusk program will be announced at a later date.

For more information, call (323) 662-5102, or send e-mail to 52ndpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

Portland Japanese Garden to present virtual panel discussion about Japanese Garden at Manzanar, Jan 20, 27

In conjunction with current exhibition [Healing Gardens: Gardens and Art of Manzanar](#), Portland Japanese Garden is offering a 2-part virtual panel discussion, which will explore the power of gardens.

[Healing Gardens: Gardens and Art of Manzanar](#) is an exhibition that examines the gardens and art at Manzanar Relocation Center through the lens of three leading twentieth-century photographers - Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, and Toyo Miyatake - to reveal the resilience, perseverance, and resourcefulness of Japanese American internees during World War II.

This virtual panel discussion event will be



moderated by Portland Japanese Garden's Sadafumi Uchiyama, Garden Curator, and Aki Nakanishi, Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education.

Wednesday, 1/20/21 (Part 1/2) at 3pm PST: ["A Garden of Humanity: From substance to the highest form of creativity"](#)

Wednesday, 1/27/21 (Part 2/2) at 3pm PST: ["Beautiful Resistance: A Garden as a Cultural Landscape at Manzanar"](#)

This event will be conducted in English only. Buy Tickets: <https://shop.japanesegarden.org/Events.aspx>

From Washington DC, virtual lecture “Shinto, Nature, and Impermanence: The Puzzle of the Ise Shrines” Jan 21, 7:00PM, EST

Embassy of Japan, Washington DC, Japan Information & Culture Center will present JICC New Year 2021 Virtual Lecture as following:

Shinto, Nature, and Impermanence: The Puzzle of the Ise Shrines
By Prof. Jordan Sand of Georgetown University
Thursday, January 21 at 7:00PM, EST

Japan's most famous sacred site is a pair of shrines in Ise that have been ritually rebuilt every twenty years for over twelve centuries.

The shrines at Ise are often seen to embody the essential features of Shinto, Japan's native creed, including a love of nature and acceptance of impermanence.

Yet these are in fact modern ideas, unsupported by the historical record of Ise. Shrine priests and others have meticulously documented Ise for a millennium.

These documents reveal a complex and eventful history, marked by war, natural disaster, and theft, as well as miracles and massive crowds of pilgrims. This presentation will introduce the history of Ise Shinto, explore the metaphors that have developed around the ritual rebuilding, and unpack some of the puzzles in the forgotten history of Ise.

About the Presenter

Dr. Jordan Sand is Professor of Japanese History and Culture at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He holds a masters degree in



"Ise Shrine" by Aleksander Dragnes

architecture history from the University of Tokyo and a doctorate in history from Columbia University. His research focuses on urbanism, material culture and the history of everyday life.

He is the author of *House and Home in Modern Japan* (Harvard University Press, 2004), *Tokyo Vernacular: Common Spaces, Local Histories, Found Objects* (University of California Press, 2013) and *帝国日本の生活空間* (Living Spaces of Imperial Japan; Iwanami shoten, 2015).

Free Event. Registration Required.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/shinto-nature-and-impermanence-the-puzzle-of-the-ise-shrines-tickets-133257094557?ref=emmad538672z148c7a72>

You will be able to access the lecture as a livestream only as it airs, on Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 PM.

Due to Corona pandemic, we had to stop publishing monthly Cultural News in April 2020 and started publishing Weekly Cultural News in June 2020

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Japanese Percussion Lesson #30: Japanese music is learnt through oral instruction

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.

To view the previous videos from #01 to #29, visit [Tsuzumibito Chanel at YouTube](#)

Ohayashi Juku (Kabuki Series) #30 <https://youtu.be/rYFQwH39xms>, is about "Oral Learning". This is the second topic of "The Character of Music" comparing the differences between the western orchestra and Kabuki music.

Western music uses universal music scores, which you can usually get at music shops. However, Japanese music has been mainly learnt through the Oral instruction and "Shoga," Learning with Singing Sounds. Japanese people made everything into words. Sounds of instruments and techniques are all made into songs.

People learned them by singing, making sounds that queued different strings or techniques, using



body movements, and copying instead of reading music. As far as notes, they wrote down only the essential parts of the music as a reminder.

The basis was to start with a strong foundation of the music. With that and very minimal guidelines, there is much more flexibility in the music compared with western music. This flexibility also meant that different schools and different musicians brought their own touches to the music.

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>

Weekly Cultural News introduces virtual events of Japanese art and culture in the U.S. One Month Subscription fee for \$9
<https://www.culturalnews.com/subscription>