

Weekly Cultural News

Substitute for monthly Cultural News January 18 - 24, 2021 (Reiwa 3)

Keep Japanese Culture Alive

Literature of Historical Community

Imagine Little Tokyo Writing Workshop with Author Naomi Hirahara and Leader Bill Watanabe. Jan. 28, 5PM

Author Naomi Hirahara and community leader Bill Watanabe will be leading a free virtual writing workshop on Thursday, January 28, from 5 to 6:30 PM (PST) to help individuals create entries for the 8th annual Imagine Little Tokyo short story contest.

Presented by Little Tokyo Historical Society (LTHS) in partnership with Discover Nikkei, a Japanese

American National Museum's project, the Imagine Little Tokyo short story contest seeks to raise awareness of Little Tokyo through a creative story that takes place in the historic neighborhood.

The story must be fictional and set in a current, past, or future Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. The short story committee will be specifically looking for stories that capture the spirit and sense of Little Tokyo.

Deadline for this year's contest will be February 28, 2021. Winners of three categories – adult, youth and Japanese language – will each win a cash prize of \$500 as well as publication in *The Rafu Shimpo*, Discover Nikkei and LTHS



Naomi Hirahara (left) and Bill Watanabe

website.

Noted actors will read the short stories as part of a special virtual awards ceremony.

"While we have to adhere to shelter-in-place orders, our imagination and minds can still travel to places that we've gone or wish to see," said Hirahara, co-chair of the Imagine Little Tokyo Short Story Committee with Miya Iwataki.

"I personally have found comfort in writing and

using my creativity. Our committee wants to inspire the same in other individuals, from the accomplished writer to the newbie. Past winners include individuals who submitted their first short story!"

RSVPs to the free workshop are required; go to <http://www.janm.org/events/> and click the event link to register.

Registrants will be emailed links and instructions to join the conversation on Zoom. Contact publicprograms@janm.org for additional questions or specific access concerns.

For the guidelines for the short story contest, go to <https://www.littletokyohs.org> and click on Current Events.

Weekly Cultural News is an alternative publication for Monthly Cultural News which we had to stop the publication in April 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Shige Higashi, Cultural News Editor
higashi@culturalnews.com (213) 819-4100

BOOK The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes

By Masahiro Sasaki and Sue DiCicco

Category: [Children's](#)

Price: \$10.99

SKU: 9784805316177

Publisher: Tuttle Publishing

ISBN: 9784805316177

Format: Paperback

Date Published: 04/07/2020

Illustrations: b&w illustrations throughout

Number of Pages: 148

Trim Size: 5 X 8

<https://sadakosasaki.com>

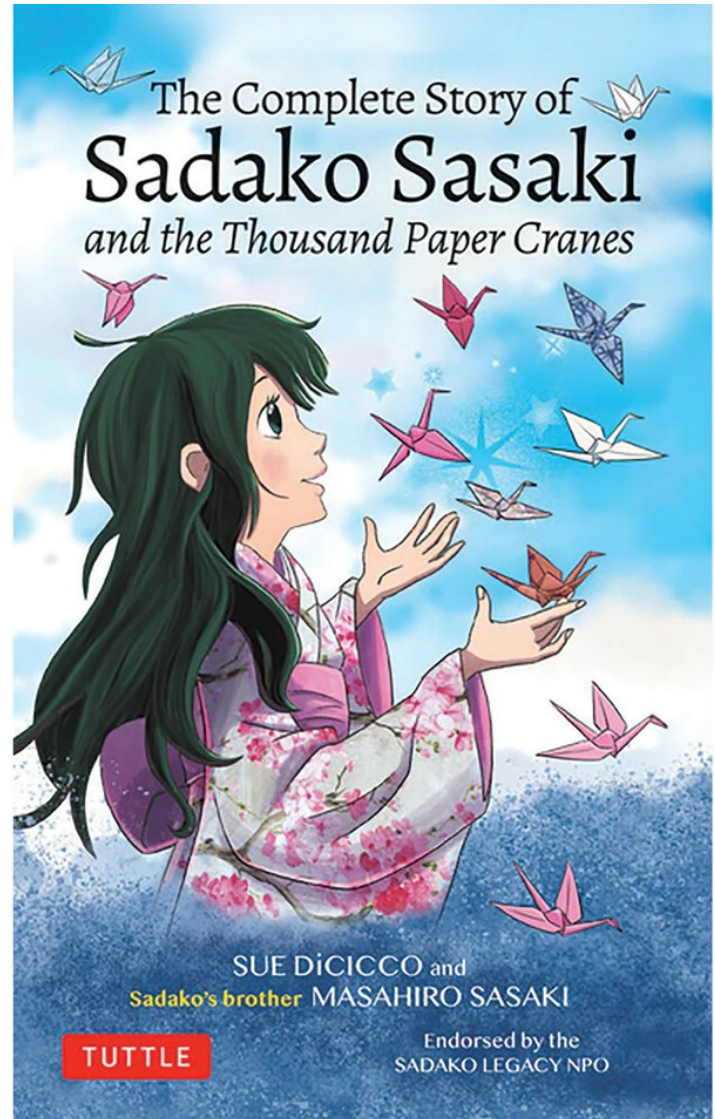
In this book, author Sue DiCicco and Sadako's older brother Masahiro tell her complete story in English for the first time—how Sadako's courage throughout her illness inspired family and friends, and how she became a symbol of all people, especially children, who suffer from the impact of war.

Her life and her death carry a message: we must have a wholehearted desire for peace and be willing to work together to achieve it.

Sadako Sasaki was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on her city of Hiroshima at the end of World War II. Ten years later, just as life was starting to feel almost normal again, this athletic and enthusiastic girl was fighting a war of a different kind.

One of many children affected by the bomb, she had contracted leukemia. Patient and determined, Sadako set herself the task of folding 1000 paper cranes in the hope that her wish to be made well again would be granted.

Illustrations and personal family photos give a glimpse into Sadako's life and the horrors of war. Proceeds from this book are shared equally



between *The Sadako Legacy NPO* and *The Peace Crane Project*.

“The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes” received “Middle School Book of the Year—2020 Northern Lights Book Awards.”

For the first time, middle school readers can

Turn to page 3

The Complete Story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Paper Cranes

Continued from page 2

learn the complete story of the courageous girl whose life, which ended through the effects of war, inspired a worldwide call for peace.

Sue DiCicco was one of Disney's first women animators, and is a sculptor and prolific author and illustrator of children's books. An early pioneer of the Internet, she designed and crafted the first online schoolhouse, serving up to 300,000 per event in the 1990s.

As part of her desire to creatively connect students from all parts of the world, she founded the Peace Crane Project in 2012 (www.peacecraneproject.org).

Today, Sue speaks globally, inviting listeners to explore the potential of the Internet to connect students in creating a more understanding,

educated, integrated, and peaceful future. She lives in Santa Barbara, California.

Masahiro Sasaki has been a peace activist since his teens. Since 2000 he has dedicated himself to sharing Sadako's true story and bearing witness to the plight of all atomic war survivors in the world.

He was the first non-American to receive the Spirit of America Award from the National Council for the Social Studies.

In 2009 he established The Sadako Legacy, a nonprofit organization. He has donated Sadako's cranes to venues all over the world. Today, he lectures globally and promotes activities to connect people for peace. He lives in Fukuoka, Japan.

UCLA to present "New Perspective on Japan" series focusing theater and performance, via Webinar, Jan. 26, 4:00PM-5:30PM

UCLA Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies presents:
New Perspective on Japan
Junior Faculty Roundtable Series
Roundtable 2
January 26, 2021
4:00PM - 5:30PM (PT)
Locating Japan in Theater and Performance Studies
Today

Webinar Registration is required to attend this event.
https://ucla.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9T0M0ifFRguVDu5M9FUzqg

As Theater and Performance Studies in Anglophone academia reckon with generations of Euro-centricity and seek to diversify curricula and research paradigms, Japan--with its rich range of performance forms both traditional and contemporary, and its complex history--offers a compelling site from which to broaden these disciplines.

What insights can be brought from Japanese Studies to Theater and Performance to help deepen understandings of Asia beyond passing references to Noh and Kabuki and, conversely, what insights might Performance Studies have to offer new studies on Japan?
Bringing together scholars working on Japanese perfor-

mance forms in both Theater and Asian Studies departments, we discuss the challenges and rewards of bridging research and teaching across disciplines, centuries, and cultures.

Speakers:
Reginald Jackson (University of Michigan)
Jessica Nakamura (University of California, Santa Barbara)
Tara Rodman (University of California, Irvine)

Moderator: Michelle Liu Carriger (UCLA, School of Theater, Film & Television)

Michelle Liu Carriger is an assistant professor of Theater and Performance Studies in the UCLA Theater department. Her research and publications have covered Japanese street fashion Gothic Lolita, fashion controversies in Victorian Britain and Meiji Japan, historical reality television, and kimono and cultural appropriation.

A long-time practitioner of the Way of Tea ("tea ceremony"), including a yearlong Midorikai fellowship at the Urasenke Gakuen Professional College of Chado in Kyoto, Professor Carriger is at work on a second book on tea as a contemporary practice of historical embodiment and cultural performance.

Japanese Percussion Lesson #31: Let's learn about "AIKATA" melodic pattern

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 #30, visit [Tsuzumibito Chanel at YouTube](#)

Ohayashi Juku (Kabuki Series) #31 <https://youtu.be/s0-f-MHP3OU>, is about "Nagauta Aikata, Instrumental Interludes". This is the third topic of "The Character of Music" which compares the differences between western orchestras and kabuki music.

In this video we learn about "AIKATA" which is a series of melodic patterns which have specific naming and patterns. They are shamisen only parts and express the themes or scenes in a song or in a moment in the song, and they are often used at the main transition in songs.

This is the longer of two types of instrumental interludes, "AIKATA" and "AINOTE." The main "AIKATA" discussed will be for adding nature



themes or activities done which were typically seen in nature in Japan.

This could be "TSUKUDA" or the sounds that depict a river scene, "MUSHI" which paints a serene setting to SARASHI which paints a picture of women washing fabric in the river.

It can also include different feelings such as "GAKU" which is used to bring a noble feel to a piece.

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>