

Weekly Cultural News

Substitute for monthly Cultural News January 25 - 31, 2021 (Reiwa 3)

Keep Japanese Culture Alive



Shukkeien: Japanese garden designed by tea master 400 years ago in Hiroshima

Cultural News presents an online presentation “Shukkeien: Japanese Garden designed by tea master 400 years ago” on Monday, Feb. 1 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm (PST) via webinar.

Shukkeien is a 12-acre traditional Japanese garden commissioned 400 years ago by lord Asano Nagaakira of the Hiroshima Clan. Now the garden is sitting in the center of Hiroshima City Downtown. The Hiroshima Prefectural Art Museum has been built adjacent to the garden.

The garden displays many features of the traditional aesthetics of Japanese garden. Around the garden's main pond there are a number of tea houses which offer visitors ideal views of the surrounding scenery.

Shukkeien was designed by a warrior and tea master Ueda Soko, who became one of the highest-ranking samurai (karo) of the Hiroshima

domain. The garden's name literally means “shrunk-scenery garden,” which encompasses the natural landscape of valleys, mountains, rivers, and lakes represented in the garden.

The Japanese garden in the center of Hiroshima was destroyed by the atomic bombing in August 1945. After the restoration efforts, Shukkeien reopened to the public in 1951.

Hiroshima-based city planner Manabu Yamasaki will explain about the history of Shukkeien through English translation as a part of “Kiteminsai Hiroshima” (Come to Hiroshima) series by Cultural News via Webinar on Monday, Feb. 1 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm (PST).

Webinar “Shukkeien: Japanese Garden designed by tea master 400 years ago” is a free event. But the registration is required at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>



The Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens

The Huntington Bonsai-A-Thon

Sat., Feb. 27, 2021, 10–11:30 a.m.

Sat., Feb. 27, 2021, 1:30–3 p.m. (PST)

Zoom lecture, Free with reservation

The Golden State Bonsai Federation presents its annual Huntington Bonsai-A-Thon virtually this year (due to COVID restrictions).

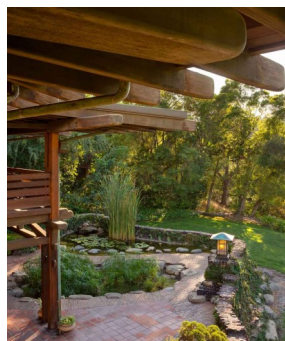
In the morning, Ted Matson, curator of the bonsai collection at The Huntington, hosts video tours of the bonsai courts, the Ben Oki Bonsai Nursery,

and the “Lifelines/Timelines” bonsai exhibition.

In the afternoon, Phillip E. Bloom, the June and Simon K.C. Li Curator of the Chinese Garden and Director of the Center of East Asian Garden Studies, introduces the garden’s new *penjing* court and discusses the history of this art form.

Both sessions include time for questions from audience members. The event will be held online via Zoom. Zoom link will be sent to attendees in registration confirmation email.

Tickets required at: <https://tickets.huntington.org/events/ee942c01-28cf-785e-ee8c-c8d2a0787422>



The Huntington Library
and Botanical Gardens

**Two Sides of the Pacific:
Japan and the Architecture
of Greene & Greene**
Thurs., March 18, 4–5
p.m. (PDT)

Zoom lecture, Free with reservation

Edward R. Bosley, Executive Director of The Gamble House, reveals the links between the architecture of Greene & Greene and their appreciation for Japanese architecture and design. The event will be held online via Zoom. Zoom link will be sent to attendees in registration confirmation email. (Photo: Gamble House)

Tickets required at: <https://tickets.huntington.org/events/43d290a6-9c5a-825a-8d24-3fb889b8e6d3>

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.

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“Eagle” by Kayo “Shuka” Beach

Online sumi-e show from San Diego, Jan. 30, 10:00AM

The Japanese Art Club of San Diego announces that the online exhibition of Japanese sumi-e painting will be held on Saturday, January 30, from 10:00 am (PST) via YouTube: <https://youtu.be/12bB9WoimfQ>

Online programs include sumi-e demonstration by Naoko Ozaki, member of the Japanese Art Club of S.D.

Contact: Joseph Cross at sumijoe@gmail.com,
Naoko Ozaki at naokoimcp@gmail.com

Virtual new taiko classes to start in February

Pasadena-based Makoto Taiko announces its new taiko classes will be starting in February. A new weekly class for beginning taiko players called “Foundations 2D Taiko” will start Thursday, Feb. 4 from 5:30-6:30 pm, and continue every Thursday at the same time.

To learn more about Makoto Taiko and to participate in a virtual taiko lesson, please attend the introductory workshop on Jan. 27 at 5:30 pm.

For those with taiko experience, Shoji Kameda will be teaching his original compositions “Ready, Set, kaDon” on Mondays at 7:30 pm and “Omiyage” on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.



Shoji Kameda

Shoji will also teach a song by Kaoly Asano called “ELEVEN” on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.

All classes will start the week of Feb. 1, and continue on a weekly basis. The introductory workshop on Jan. 27 at 5:30 pm will also provide a separate breakout session for experienced players.

Due to COVID restrictions, the introductory workshop on Jan. 27 and subsequent classes will be virtual until it is safe to return to the studio. All classes will be 1 hour in length while the classes are held virtually.

If you are interested in taking classes with Makoto Taiko, sign up for the introductory workshop on Jan. 27 at www.makototaiko.org

Japanese Percussion Lesson #32: Let's learn about "KAEDE" 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 #31, visit [Tsuzumibito Chanel at YouTube](#)

Ohayashi Juku (Kabuki Series) #32 https://youtu.be/4_V05MQvEaQ, is about "KAEDE," a shamisen ensemble melody. This is the fourth topic of "The Character of Music which compares the differences between the Western orchestra and kabuki music.

"KAEDE" is the different melody played over "HONTE," the basic or main melody. There are different types of "KAEDE" from the use of higher tuned shamisen, called "UWAJOSHI," and the bass shamisen, called, "TEION."

Western theory says that music consists of three



elements: melody, harmony, and rhythm.

However, kabuki music uses very different techniques in order to add more substance to melodies. Please enjoy discovering how the shamisen melodies are embellished by the use of different techniques and effects.

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>