

# Weekly Cultural News

Substitute for monthly Cultural News February 15 - 21, 2021 (Reiwa 3)

## Keep Japanese Culture Alive



Dogu (Tools): **Tana** (Utensil stand)  
**Daisu; Kaigu** (A set of water container, ladle stand, water receptable, and led stand) **Asagi Kouchi Shippomon with Hounsai Daisoshō hako, By Suiran; Hibashi** (Metal chopsticks) **By Joeki; Usuki** (Tea caddy) **Ohiranatume Shiogama makie with Hounsai Daisoshō hako, By Iccho; Chashaku** (Tea scoop) **By Hounsai Daisoshō, Mei Tokiawa**



Mme. Soyu Uyesugi and all the participants celebrated the new year by making tea remotely. (Courtesy of the UTLAA)

**Chawan** (Tea bowl) **Sansai, By 10th Chozaemon** (Courtesy of the UTLAA)



**Top:** Participants of an online event of Urasenke Tankokai Los Angeles Association on Jan. 10. **Left:** The Consul General, the Hon. Akira Muto **Right:** UTLAA President Sohaku Hori (Courtesy of the UTLAA)

## Los Angeles' tea association holds major event online

In fully remote, the Urasenke Tankokai Los Angeles Association held the 2021 general meeting, and followed by *Hatsudate* (First Tea of the Year) ceremony with guest participants on Sunday, Jan. 10.

Sixty-nine people attended the *Hatsudate* Ceremony, including guests from Urasenke Tankokai Orange County Association.

In her opening remarks, Chief of Administration Soshin Robinson expressed pleasure to be able to hold activities like the wagashi workshops and Sotanki in 2020, and wished the new year will be peaceful.

President Sohaku Hori mentioned that Kakufukudate which was created by the 13th grand tea master, Ennosai over 100 years ago and reintroduced by Zabosai oimoto sama. And Hori reviewed the new attainments, including North

America Chado Relay under the pandemic.

The Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles, the Hon. Akira Muto greeted UTLAA's activities by saying that the Urasenke slogan "Peacefulness through a Bowl of Tea" is very meaningful especially during this difficult time in his video message.

Instead of *tatezomeshiki* in person, all the participants made their own bowl of tea, led by Mme. Soyu Uyesugi, and celebrated the beginning of 2021 together.

*Wagashi* contest followed. Ms. Soshin Kodama from Zenshuji *chadobu* commented on the beautiful pieces the members had.

After the participants enjoyed a raffle, Robinson closed this event with gratitude.

## Cultural News to host webinar presentation of samurai armor and sword from Takamatsu, Japan, Feb. 22, 7:00PM, PST

Cultural News hosts a virtual presentation of “Samurai Tools and Accompanied Stories” from the Kagawa Prefectural Museum, Japan. A webinar presentation will be held on Monday, Feb. 22, at 7:00 pm, PST. Admission free. Registrations are required at [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_sy3FZwXhR3CAyhQ4osO6cq](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_sy3FZwXhR3CAyhQ4osO6cq)

The Kagawa Prefectural Museum is located in Takamatsu City, Kagawa Prefecture, which was a castle site of Matsudaira Clan for more than 200 years. The first feudal lord of Matsudaira Clan was Matsudaira Yorishige who was a grandchild of Tokugawa Ieyasu, founder of Tokugawa Shogunate in 17th Century. Tokugawa Ieyasu changed his name four times, and his original family name was Matsudaira.

Because this close family relationship of Tokugawa Ieyasu, Matsudaira Clan of Takamatsu inherited treasures from Tokugawa families, and those treasures are currently preserved at the Kagawa Prefectural Museum.

Selected from the Matsudaira

Collection of the museum, and borrowed from local collectors, the Kagawa Prefectural Museum featured samurai armors and swords in special exhibition “Samurai Tools and Accompanied Stories” from Oct. 24 through Dec. 6, 2020.

Because COVID-19 travel restriction, the museum used social networking services in December to introduce the exhibitions to the rest of Japan.



The Feb. 22 webinar is planned to introduce the museum and the exhibition to the American public.

Mr. Yoshimichi Mikuriya, curator of “Samurai Tools and Accompanied Stories” will explain about the exhibition through English translation. Mr. Mikuriya is a specialist of historical Japanese document.

The webinar is made possible with collaborations with Cultural News and Japanese swords specialist Yurie Halchak in Los Angeles.

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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## Online lecture on “Kesa: *Patchwork* Buddhist Monks’ Robes in Japan” Feb. 27 at 10:00AM, PST

Textile Museum Associates of Southern California, Inc. presents online lecture “Kesa: *Patchwork* Buddhist Monks’ Robes in Japan, From Austere to Luxurious” with Alan Kennedy, Independent Researcher, Author and Asian Art Specialist, Los Angeles on Saturday, Feb. 27, at 10:00 am, PST.



disciple, and serve as a physical embodiment of the Buddhist teachings. This talk will survey *kesa* from its earliest history to modern times.

Since 1978, Alan Kennedy has specialized in

Asian art, while living in Europe and the USA. His main areas of interest are Chinese and Japanese costumes, textiles and paintings.

*Kesa* is the Japanese word for the traditional patchwork garment worn by Buddhist monks and nuns. These garments are among the earliest documented articles of clothing in Japan, based on inventory records dating to the 8th century.

The history of *kesa* in Japan is of significance for both sacred and secular reasons. They served as a vehicle for both the transmission of Buddhism and of luxury textiles to Japan from the Asian mainland.

*Kesa* that have been preserved in Japan are made of a wide variety of textiles, ranging from monochrome bast fiber textiles to sumptuous imported gold brocades.

The lay Buddhist community has traditionally donated garments that belonged to family members, and these garments have been taken apart, cut into strips, and then sewn into Buddhist robes.

*Kesa* are also handed down from master to

He was a student of the pioneering scholar, Schuyler van Rensselaer Cammann at the University of Pennsylvania, where he first learned how to look at and understand East Asian art. Mr. Kennedy’s research and writing has resulted in numerous publications and lectures all over the world.

Mr. Kennedy has sold works of art to over forty museums on four continents.

Log-in 9:55 a.m., Program at 10:00 a.m., Pacific Time, Saturday, February 27, 2021

Zoom registration link: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/1016111821180/WN\\_HaBZB0veSRm5MTns2ycKbw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/1016111821180/WN_HaBZB0veSRm5MTns2ycKbw)

The Log-In link will automatically be sent to you, when you Register for the program.

### Cultural News seeks \$30,000 donation in 2021



In 1998, *Cultural News* was started by Shige Higashi to promote Japanese culture in Southern California. Due to Corona pandemic, the format of *Cultural News* had to change from monthly paper to weekly PDF.

But the mission of *Cultural News* remains the same.

Non-profit organization Cultural News Association has been formed to support the mission of *Cultural News*. Your contribution would be appreciated at <https://www.culturalnews.com/donation>

## Webinar to commemorate 10th anniversary of Great East Japan Earthquakes and Tsunami, March 10, 5:00PM, PST

### Forward for Japan House & Love to Nippon Project

In Commemoration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquakes and Tsunami,

Love to Nippon Project and JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles Present International Webinar Conference:

**“Be Prepared! Lessons Learned on Readiness and Resilience” on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 5:00 PM - 6:15 PM (PST)**

**Thursday, March 11, 2021, 10:00 AM - 11:15AM (Japan Time)**

Registrations required at:

<https://japanhousela.swoogo.com/natural-disaster-readiness-resilience>

### Fee: Complimentary

Due to its climate and topography, Japan is prone to natural disasters, and throughout history it has experienced more than its fair share of typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and tsunamis.

In the upcoming complimentary webinar entitled, "Be Prepared! Lessons Learned on Readiness and Resilience," a panel of experts and a survivor of one of the strongest earthquakes in history will share how best to prepare for and survive a natural disaster.

The event is especially timely as we commemorate the Tenth Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquakes and Tsunami and consider the recent ranking of the County of Los Angeles by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the riskiest county in the United States for natural disasters.

Attendees will hear a first-hand account of surviv-



ing a catastrophic 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami. They will learn about the recovery and rebuilding work in progress in Japan in the 10 years since 2011.

That will be followed by presentations from top experts in the field of natural disasters and a panel discussion covering the key tactics

to take before, during, and after a disaster to survive it. The program will be emceed by Yuko Kaifu, President of Japan House LA, and moderated by David Ono, award-winning news anchor of ABC7. It will include both English and Japanese translations.

### Moderator

**David Ono:** Award-winning Anchor, ABC 7 News

### Featured Speakers

**Dr. Lucy Jones:** Founder, the Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society

**Daryl L. Osby:** Fire Chief, Los Angeles County Fire Department

**Hon. Kimiaki Toda:** Mayor, the City of Ofunato, Iwate, Japan

**Larry Collins:** Deputy Chief, California Department of Emergency Services

**Kevin McGowan:** Director, Office of Emergency Management, County of Los Angeles

**Masako Unoura:** Founder, Love to Nippon Project, a Los Angeles-based non-profit organization

Webinar #1 “Be Prepared! Lessons Learned on Readiness and Resilience” will be followed by webinar #2 “Virtual Candlelight Vigil Service, Words of Love & Prayers, Performances hosted by Love to Nippon Project” from 8:30 pm to 10:00 pm on Wednesday, March 10, PST.

To update information, visit [www.lovetonippon.org](http://www.lovetonippon.org) or e-mail to [lovetonippon311@gmail.com](mailto:lovetonippon311@gmail.com).

## Japanese Percussion Lesson #35: Let's learn about rhythm of Kabuki music

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

Ohayashi Juku (Kabuki Series) #35 <https://youtu.be/iptjoyrG9CY> is about "The Rhythm of Western Music vs Kabuki Music". This is the seventh topic of the "Character of Music which compares the differences between the Western orchestra and kabuki music.

Much of the Western music made in the quadruple meter and they use time signature which is used to specify how many beats (pulses) are contained in each measure (bar), and which note value is equivalent to a beat. However, with Kabuki music, shamisen music is mostly made in the duple meter. One of the two sets of hayashi music, "Tottan Byoshi" is mostly made in the



eight meter. Both of them has music with no beats.

They do not use time signature as their tempos changes constantly. With each story going for 20 minutes to over an hour the changes to the meter as well as the exceptions add special impact to the story. 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>*

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Actress Tamlyn Tomita was one of the three performers reading Imagine Little Tokyo winning short stories at the 2020 virtual ceremony held on the Japanese American National Museum

platform. To view the entire program, go to [janmdotorg's YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjnm4d0torg) or the Little Tokyo Historical Society (<https://www.littletokyohs.org>).

## Deadline for Little Tokyo short story contest is Feb. 28, 2021

The Little Tokyo Historical Society (LTHS) seeks fictional short stories for its eighth annual Imagine Little Tokyo short story contest in the categories of English language, Japanese language and youth (18 and younger).

The deadline is February 28, 2021. The contest is presented by LTHS in partnership with the Japanese American National Museum's Discover Nikkei project.

The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness of Little Tokyo through a creative story that takes place in Little Tokyo.

The story has to be fictional and set in a current, past or future Little Tokyo in the City of Los Angeles, California.

The short story committee will be specifically looking for stories that capture the spirit and sense of Little Tokyo.

Each category winner will be awarded \$500 in cash with their short story being published in *The Rafu Shimpo*, Discover Nikkei and Little Tokyo Historical Society website.

A virtual award ceremony and dramatic readings of the winning stories are also being planned for 2021 at the Japanese American National Museum. For more information and guidelines, refer to the Events tab of <https://www.littletokyohs.org>

If you would like to financially contribute to the contest, e-mail [imaginelittletokyo@gmail.com](mailto:imaginelittletokyo@gmail.com)