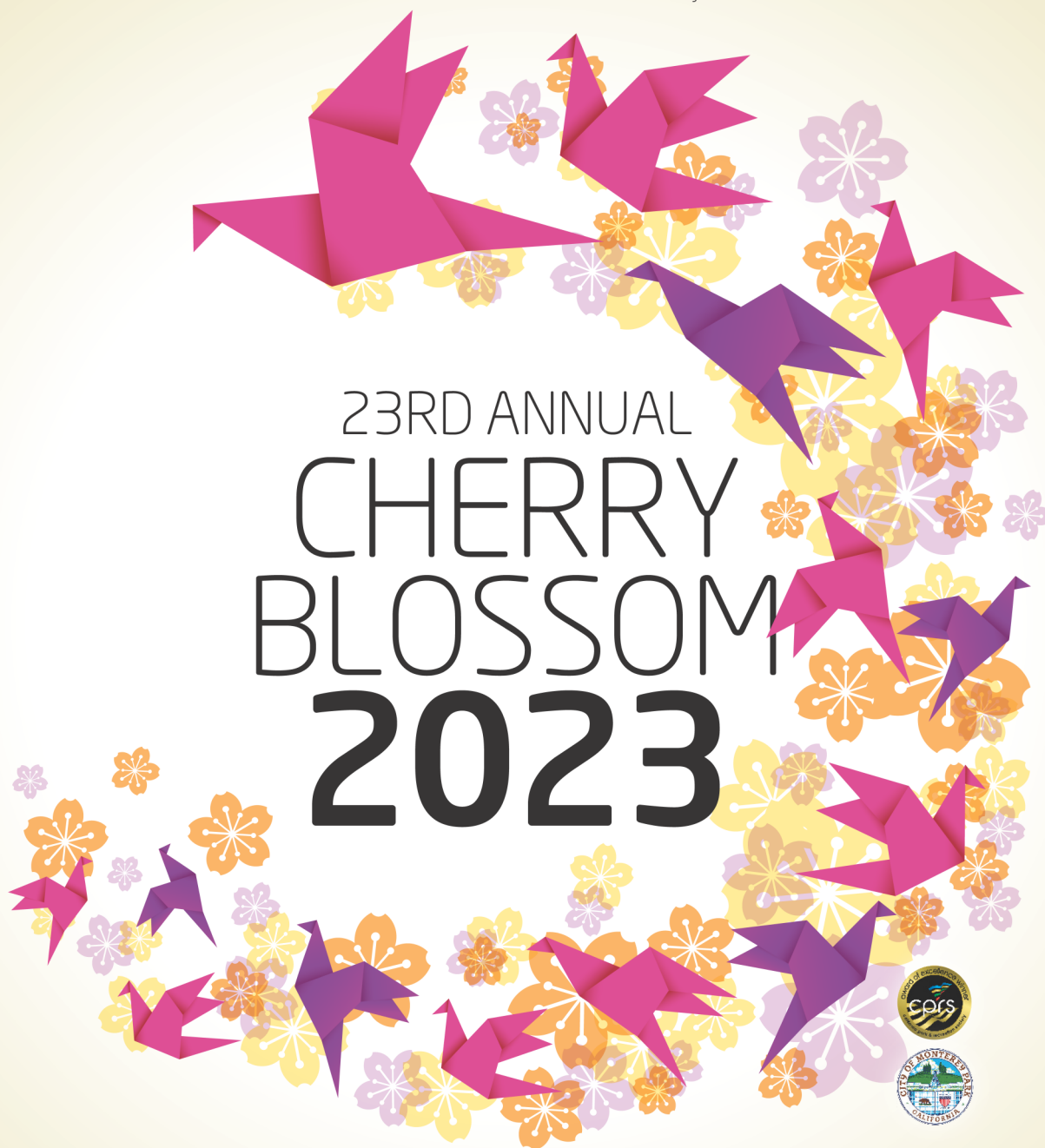


"MONTEREY PARK'S TRIBUTE TO THE BEAUTY OF THE JAPANESE CULTURE"



# 23RD ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM 2023



**APRIL 15-16, 2023**

Saturday, April 15, 11:00 am to 7:00 pm  
Sunday, April 16, 11:00 am to 6:00 pm



**Monterey Park  
CHERRY  
BLOSSOM  
FESTIVAL**

**BARNES PARK**

350 S. McPherrin Avenue  
Monterey Park, CA 91754

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Call (626) 307-1388  
Visit [www.MontereyPark.ca.gov](http://www.MontereyPark.ca.gov)  
Web search  
"Cherry Blossom Festival"

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**MONTEREY PARK  
CHERRY BLOSSOM  
FESTIVAL 2023**

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AND DONORS.**





The City of Monterey Park

# Cherry Blossom Festival

23rd Anniversary

Welcome!

The Cherry Blossom Festival Committee is delighted to welcome you to the Festival as we celebrate our 23rd Anniversary in 2023. Ironically, this alignment is only due to a hiatus imposed by a global pandemic. But the Cherry Blossom Festival is making a triumphant return after an absence of three years to once again to celebrate Japanese and Asian Pacific Islander culture by showcasing a wide array of traditional and contemporary arts,

The Cherry Blossom Festival has a long history of being held in Monterey Park since the early 1970s. Discontinued shortly after, the Cherry Blossom Festival was resurrected by a group of community volunteers in 1997. Their efforts were realized through the successful reestablishment of the Cherry Blossom Festival in April 1998.

Organized completely by community volunteers, many of us being teenagers during the Festival's early years, the Festival's goal is to offer exhibits, cuisine, demonstrations, performances, vendors and community-based information, all at no cost to the public.

With our 23rd Anniversary upon us, our thanks to everyone who participates in and supports this community event.

Sincerely,  
2023 Cherry Blossom Festival Committee



## CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

### Chairperson:

Karen Ogawa

### Performance:

David Ikeda

Gary Kanemoto

Guy Higashi

### Exhibits & Demonstrations:

Colleen Ishibashi

Sandy Hidalgo

### Craft, Commercial and Community Booths:

Gwen Kishida

### Food Court:

Karen Ogawa

### Publicity and Marketing:

Travis Kaya

### Poster / T-Shirt Design:

Kurt Ogawa

### Program/Booth Banners:

Gwen Kishida

### Volunteers and Information:

Margaret Endo

Lila Leong-lizumi

Carol Sullivan

### Executive Committee Member

Shihoko Tatsugawa

# FESTIVAL SPECIAL GUESTS



## **CONSUL GENERAL KENKO SONE**

Kenko Sone assumed the post of Consul General of Japan, Los Angeles in September 2022.

- 1989 Graduated from Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan
- 1989.4 Entered the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA)
- 2008.8 Director, OECD Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, MOFA
- 2010.3 Director, International Economy Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, MOFA
- 2011.7 Economic Counselor, Embassy of Japan, USA
- 2013.9 Director, First North America Division, North American Affairs Bureau, MOFA
- 2014.7 Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Public Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat  
Director, Office of Global Communications, Prime Minister's Office
- 2016.7 Minister (Economic & Development), Embassy of Japan in India
- 2019.9 Deputy Director-General, Economic Affairs Bureau
- 2020.7 Deputy Director-General, Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau
- 2021.6 Assistant Minister, Director-General for Cultural Affairs
- 2021.7 Ambassador in charge of Sport and Budo
- 2022.9 Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles



## **IRENE CRUZ**

Irene Cruz is a weekend morning anchor and general assignment reporter for ABC7 Eyewitness News. She joined the station in June 2022. As an Irvine native, Irene has always held Southern California close to her heart throughout her entire career. She graduated with a B.A. degree in Literary Journalism from UC Irvine and a scholarship award from the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA).

Prior to ABC7, Irene anchored the 10 p.m. newscast weeknights and reported for WOAI-TV in San Antonio, Texas. She was nominated for two Emmys, including a report regarding the risks of deepfake technology. Before Texas, she anchored and reported for KXTV-TV in Sacramento, California, covering everything from the Northern California wildfires to the potential Oroville Dam failure to protests at the state Capitol.

Irene started her career at KYMA-TV in Yuma, Arizona. In the Desert Southwest, Irene anchored the 5 p.m., 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts, produced shows and reported as a multi-media journalist who shot and edited her own stories. She covered topics such as border security, immigration and agriculture.

Irene is the proud daughter of Filipino immigrants and comprehends Tagalog fluently. When she's not reporting, you can find her immersed in many of her hobbies: 3D printing, piano, singing, writing science fiction and attending Comic-Cons. She also adores her two Maltipoos, Kricket and Wrigley, who have both traveled with her across the country as she pursues her dream of being a journalist.

**Follow Irene on social media:**

[Facebook.com/ABC7Irene](https://www.facebook.com/ABC7Irene), [Twitter.com/ABC7Irene](https://www.twitter.com/ABC7Irene) and [Instagram.com/abc7irene](https://www.instagram.com/abc7irene)

# FESTIVAL SPECIAL GUESTS

## SAKURA KOKUMAI

Sakura Kokumai started karate at the age of 7 in Honolulu, Hawaii. She made the U.S. Junior National Team at 14 and has been representing the country in competitions ever since. She became the first American to qualify for the Olympics and the only female athlete representing karate from the U.S.A. at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Now she is focusing on sharing her experiences and knowledge across the country and around the world. RESULTS • Tokyo 2020 Summer Olympics Team USA Karate Athlete (5th place) • Member of USA Karate National Team since 2007 • World Bronze Medalist • 2019 Pan American Games Gold Medalist • 8x Senior Pan American Champion • 8x USA National Champion (Senior) • World Combat Games Bronze Medalist • 4x Junior Pan American Champion • 4x USA National Champion (Junior) • Junior and Cadet World Championships Silver Medalist • Karate Kid Musical, Karate Consultant EDUCATION Doshisha University (Kyoto) B.A. , Waseda University (Tokyo) M.A. SOCIALS Instagram: @sakurakokumaikarate / Facebook: @sakurakokumaikarate



## WAYNE KAWAMOTO - MAGIC WAYNE

A full time, professional magician for the past twenty years, **Wayne Kawamoto** (waynemagician.com) has performed for the Los Angeles Dodgers and Lakers and his client list includes Google, Target and Hollywood's Magic Castle. Wayne is also a YouTube creator with 60,000 subscribers to his channel [youtube.com/@aboutmagic](https://www.youtube.com/@aboutmagic). He has been a long-time performer at the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival and always welcomes the opportunity to entertain at the yearly event.



## SHIN ITO

Shin is a long time supporter of the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival. Currently, he enjoys working with the seniors at Sakura Gardens as their Community Relations Director. He will continue to support the festival in memory of his "idol", "Uncle" Rodney Kageyama.



Special thanks to the City of Monterey Park staff, especially Recreation and Community Services Director Robert Aguirre and Recreation staff members Guillermo Chavez, Orlando Muro, Scott Imaizumi and Michelle Chen.



Want to be part of the 2024  
Cherry Blossom Festival?

Stop by our information booth for more details on how to become a member of the planning committee or a sponsor of this great event! We are always looking for enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers!



# PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, April 15, 2023



## FIELD STAGE

- 11:00 a.m. Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church  
Japanese Language School Taiko Group
- 11:30 a.m. Ken Kanesaka Kimono Fashion Show
- Noon Opening Ceremony featuring Irene Cruz,  
City of Monterey Park Mayor Jose Sanchez  
and City officials, Consul General of Japan  
Kenko Sone and Sakura Kokumai
- 1:00 p.m. Yuujou Daiko
- 1:30 p.m. Halau Hula Moani'a' ala Anuhea
- 2:00 p.m. Bando Hidesomi
- 2:30 p.m. David Torres Kempo Karate
- 3:15 p.m. Kokoro
- 4:30 p.m. Magic Wayne
- 5:00 p.m. Taiko Center of Los Angeles
- 5:30 p.m. Elemental Funk



## INDOOR STAGE (located inside the Gym)

- 12:00 p.m. 50's & 60's Rock & Roll - A Tribute to Elvis  
by Gary Jung
- 1:00 p.m. Nippon Minyo Kenkyukai Kotobuki No Kai
- 2:00 p.m. Kyo No Kai
- 3:00 p.m. Donni & the Purple Pumpkins
- 4:00 p.m. Rock Band Camp



*Performers and Set Times Subject to Change Without Notice*



# PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 16, 2023

## FIELD STAGE

- 11:00 a.m. Mark Keppel High School Aztec Pep Band
- 11:30 a.m. Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko
- 12:00 p.m. Akaoni Daiko
- 12:40 p.m. Azuma Kotobuki Kai
- 1:10 p.m. Ramekega
- 2:00 p.m. TAIKOPROJECT Academy
- 2:45 p.m. Phyllis Chang
- 3:30 p.m. Ohana Polynesian Dancers
- 4:30 p.m. Ronin Stones



## INDOOR STAGE (located inside the Gym)

- 11:00 a.m. Vocalist & DJ Rodney Durand
- 1:00 p.m. Manju Demonstration by Brian Kito of Fugetsu-do
- 2:00 p.m. Nancy Hayata Classical Dancing
- 3:00 p.m. Japanese Traditional Music
- 3:30 p.m. Urasenke Ryu Chado Tea Ceremony
- 4:00 p.m. Magic Wayne



### FESTIVAL EMCEES:

#### SHIN ITO and WAYNE KAWAMOTO

Shin is the Community Relations Director for Pacifica Sakura Gardens and Wayne is a professional magician. Both are long-time supporters of the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival. We are honored to have them join us as our Festival's emcees.

*Performers and Set Times Subject to Change Without Notice*



# PERFORMERS

## AKAONI DAIKO

Akaoni Daiko is a community taiko group based out of the Valley Japanese community center in Sun Valley. The group leader, Michael Naishtut, lived in Japan for 20 years and first studied taiko at the Kodo Juku. He then trained under Miyauchi Yukihiro for ten years. He formed the international taiko group Akaoni Daiko in Tokyo. They have performed at various events and festivals including the Kodo Earth celebration fringe stage, Narita Temple taiko festival, OC Japan Fair, Anaheim Gardenwalk, SoCal Anime con and recently returned from performing in Oman. Regular practices are Sundays from 3-6 p.m. and beginners are welcome. They can provide mobile workshops for schools or companies anywhere!



## AZUMA KOTOBUKI KAI

The Azuma Kotobuki Kai, a branch of the Azuma-Ryu Classical Dance School (Tokyo, Japan), was established in Southern California in 1968 by Madame Sumako Azuma I. The current instructor is Kikusue Azuma who teaches students from Ventura, LA and Orange Counties and on the island of Kaua'i.

While the instructor teaches the classics, she also breaks new ground by incorporating classical dance technique with modern music to help reach the Yonsei, Gosei and younger generations. The purpose of the Azuma Kotobuki Kai is to preserve and promote Japanese culture through the art of Nihon Buyo, or classical Japanese dance. The Azuma Kotobuki Kai was honored to have been the choreographer and lead group at the 2022 Nisei Week Japanese Festival.

## PHYLLIS CHANG

Phyllis Chang is a Korean American singer/songwriter and educator from Southern California. She is the founder of Pinky Paws Productions and Be Studios Enhancing Wellness Through Creativity where she teaches music, art, language arts and other programs to enhance creativity and holistic self-care. Phyllis began her musical journey in high school as a self-taught musician. After college she started a home-based music studio where she recorded and produced several CDs of her children's and contemporary pop/jazz songs. Phyllis has performed locally and nationally and has worked with professional musicians from the U.S., Korea, Japan, Mexico and Europe. She has also been interviewed and featured on music programs in Portugal and Toronto, Canada. This will be Phyllis' first live performance since the pandemic started. During that time, she has been expanding her vision of Be Studios, writing new songs, producing music videos, working on her art and teaching online via Zoom.

## DONNI & THE PURPLE PUMPKINS

As a globally recognized artist, Donn delivers an inspirational message via his music combined with his uplifting tone, spirituality and powerful lyricism. Encapsulating a fusion of multiple genres Donn instinctively writes hits! Donn's new single, All My Love's For You, embraces the romantic within—a love song for the ages. Donn appears in the Oscar winning film 20 Feet from Stardom. Donn Wyatt is monumental music innovator as an American record producer, multi-instrumentalist, composer, arranger. As a Musical Director, he has composed and arranged for many iconic artists such as Bill Withers (Rock and Roll Hall of Fame), Lenny Kravitz, Sly Stone, Kenny Loggins, Dave Koz and a plethora of jazz artists including George Duke, Anita Baker, Earth, Wind & Fire and the legendary R&B group The Temptations.

## RODNEY DURAND

Rodney Durand is a Vocalist, guitar player, Events DJ and MC. Since the mid-sixties, he has been in the L.A. music scene, playing in bands, night clubs and numerous other venues. He considers himself blessed to still be able to perform and do the thing he loves the most, play music. He performs with his group 2 or More every other week at the Monterey Park Farmers Market, and DJs and hosts the market on the other weeks. Rodney has always been heavily influenced by Old School R&B, and Classic Rock, but loves pretty much all genres of music. Putting smiles of people's faces is probably his biggest reward and inspires him to keep playing music as long as he is blessed to do so.

# PERFORMERS



## ELEMENTAL FUNK

Elemental Funk was formed around 2005 when they played for a basketball tournament fundraiser. Lead singer and frontman Brian Yamamoto is a 1982 alumnus of Culver City High School. The band is comprised of Danny Hirota (lead guitar), Ed Shimizu (keyboards), Wade Inouye (trumpet, vocals), Dan Masuda (bass), Jeff Ng (drums), Miles Watanabe (trombone, sax, vocals), and Jon Matsunaga (sax and wind instruments).



## BANDO HIDESOMI

Bando Hidesomi has been teaching in the greater Los Angeles area for over 20 years. She started her training under Madame Bando Mitsuhiro, at the age of three. In 1985, she also started training under Madame Bando Hideko, daughter of Grand Master Bando Mitsugoro IX (9th). She trained under the care of headmaster Bando Mitsugoro IX for 4 years while attending Keio University in Tokyo, Japan.

Bando Hidesomi and her students have performed at many different venues throughout the years. They also share their passion by participating annually in the Nisei Week Festival, obons held at Zenshuji and Sozenji Temple and visiting different nursing homes. In recent years, she has had the privilege of teaching the queen candidates for their Nihon Buyo section in the Nisei Week Coronation Ball.

She is presently teaching at the Pasadena and Gardena JCI. She has also been a part of the after-school program at El Marino Elementary School for 18 years.

Through Nihon Buyo, Bando Hidesomi wishes to express her feelings of appreciation and respect for all cultures, and hope her passion for Nihon Buyo will bring love, joy, peace and hope to everyone, creating a bridge of unity between all cultures.



## HALAU HULA MOANI'A'ALA ANUHEA

Halau Hula Moani'a'ala Anuheha has been performing in the Monterey Park Community for the past 16 years and is proud to say that the Cherry Blossom Festival was one of the first shows performed at that very first year. We have been honored to be invited back every year since then! Under the direction of Kumu Hula Christina Nani Aiu-Quezada, the halau follows the hula lineage of Auntie Ma'iki Aiu-Lake, a very formidable hula lineage in Hawai'i. With a diverse enrollment, the halau, like Hawai'i, welcomes everyone with aloha ....

## GARY JUNG

Gary Jung has performed to audiences throughout Southern California for over 35 years, as well as in Japan, Hong Kong and Hawaii. He has appeared in numerous newspaper and magazine articles as well as radio and television. The reason for all of this attention and publicity ... he has been billed as the World's First Asian Elvis Sound-Alike! He will be performing his special tribute to the King of Rock & Roll and those great songs of the 50's and 60's.

# PERFORMERS



## KOKORO

In Japanese, Kokoro translates to heart, mind and spirit. The band name was chosen to capture the feeling and enjoyment of live band music, and the excitement and energy it brings to the stage and the audience.

The band, Kokoro, was formed in 2010 by a group of friends wanting to bring back the popular Asian dance music scene of the 60's and 70's that use to perform at various venues to high schoolers, college sororities & fraternities, and live music enthusiasts. Currently, the band consists of a diverse group of 9 talented performers from different musical backgrounds ranging from amateur musicians to professional performers that have toured the world. This eclectic group brings to the stage their version of Soul, Pop, Rock, and current popular dance music that you love to hear and remember...their repertoire spans music from the 60's to current chart-topping hits, Motown to Ed Sheeran, Donna Summer to Justin Timberlake, and of course, Earth Wind & Fire. Kokoro has been the featured entertainment at many fundraising events for non-profits, charities and festivals in Southern California, as well as being hired for private parties.

## MARK KEPPEL HIGH SCHOOL AZTEC PEP BAND

The Mark Keppel High School Aztec Pep Band is a smaller ensemble within the Aztec Band, which performs at numerous school, sporting and community events and competes in both parade and field show circuits. The Band is under the direction of Mr. Justin Lee and student leaders, Drum Major, Rachel Le, Assistant Drum Majors, Trevor Konya and Justin Zhao and Drum Captains, Vincent Lu and Ethan Phan.



## KOTOBUKI NO KAI

This group is the Los Angeles Headquarters for Nippon Minyo Kenkyu Kai based in Nagoya Japan. Nippon Minyo Kenkyu Kai is considered one of the largest Minyo dance groups. Shihan Imoto Hoshun-Jyu Sensei teaches Japanese Folk Dance or Minyo Odori in the classical Minyo as well as Shin or new Minyo style. She also teaches Kayo Buyo or Dance accompanied by Popular Song. Her love of dance has led to her conducting class every Wednesday evening to students at Gedatsu Church in Rosemead, as well as Saturday evenings from the Pioneer Center at the Japanese American Japanese Cultural and Community Center. She also devotes time to teach the residents of Keiro Retirement Home in Boyle Heights. Kotobuki No Kai was the first group from the United States to be invited to perform on stage at the the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nippon Minyo Kenkyukai in Nagoya, Japan.



## OHANA POLYNESIAN DANCERS

Ohana Polynesian Dancers are a group of family members connected by family values and united sharing Polynesian culture through music, dance and entertainment. Based in Diamond Bar/Walnut California, under the direction of Thela Leimamo Nink and daughter Christa Kamalani Nink, professional dancer, teacher/choreographer. They provide lessons for all age groups and dance levels in Tahitian, Hawaiian, Maori poi balls, drumming, and ukulele. Members have traveled and performed at Tokyo Disney, China, Tahiti and Hawaii and are available for booking private shows, festivals, parades, etc.

# PERFORMERS



## RAMEKEGA

Ramekega is a band of sisters. For the past decade and a half, they've shared their original music on various stages and venues, and on television and radio stations. Their eclectic style and multi-genre songwriting will leave you wanting more and in suspense of what comes next.



## ROCK BAND CAMP

Rock Band Camp at New Light Learning Center aims to provide students a supportive environment to play in a band, fostering a love of music, personal growth, and community building. We encourage teamwork and lifelong passion for music through challenging performances, developing strong character, organization, and leadership skills for all challenges in life.



## RONIN STONES

Ronin Stores, formally Local Mojo, is an incredibly versatile Japanese American band of professional Los Angeles free-lance musicians with the goal of performing improvisational Old School Rhythm and Blues with a twist of Jazz.



## RYUKYUKOKU MATSURI DAIKO

Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko is modeled on the traditional Okinawan obon festival drum dancing called "eisa". The performers dance and drum simultaneously to an exciting blend of traditional and contemporary Okinawan and Japanese music.

The organization was founded in 1982 in Okinawa. It also has chapters in mainland Japan, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, and Hawaii. The Los Angeles chapter was established in 1995 and has performed at such venues as the Nisei Week Parade, Taiko Gathering, Coronation Ball, the Cherry Blossom Festival in Monterey Park, the U.S. Japan Expo, Los Angeles and the L.A. County Fair.



Want to be part of the 2024  
Cherry Blossom Festival?

Stop by our information booth for more details on how to become a member of the planning committee or a sponsor of this great event! We are always looking for enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers!

# PERFORMERS/EXHIBITORS

## **SAGE GRANADA PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL TAIKO**

Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church Japanese Language School Taiko Group was founded in 2016 after purchasing 4 taiko drums with a grant from the Japan Business Association to enrich the school's cultural studies. The 2022-23 members are: Akina Chien, Ella Eddow, Kai Eddow, Remy Eddow, Raegan Fujimoto, Tobin Fujimoto, Kenley Fujimoto, Vivian Gu, Kyle Hara, Max Hurtado, Tyler Kim, Leighton Lopez, Tyler Nakano, Aiyana Nitta and Umi Watanabe. They are led by Chiaki Toda and Evelyn Goto, both of whom performed extensively with L.A. Taiko Ichiza and have a combined 40+ years of taiko teaching and performing experience between them.

## **TAIKO CENTER OF LOS ANGELES**

Taiko Center of Los Angeles was founded by Reverend Tom Kurai in 1996. Our goal is to preserve the Art of Japanese Taiko drumming in the community. We have performed throughout the United States, Japan, and Europe. We currently offer Taiko Classes/workshops to new and advanced Drummers that would like to learn Taiko.



## **TAIKOPROJECT ACADEMY**

Located in downtown LA's historic Little Tokyo district, the TAIKOPROJECT Academy offers taiko drumming classes for students of all ages. The TAIKOPROJECT Academy is Los Angeles' premier taiko school, established in 2002 by Bryan Yamami and Masato Baba to perpetuate the art form of taiko in America. The Academy offers classes to the general public for all ages and skill levels. Since its inception, hundreds of children and adults have studied taiko at the Academy under the tutelage of highly-skilled instructors from TAIKOPROJECT. The Academy is currently led by Director Courtney Deguchi.

## **TORRES KENPO KARATE**

Sensei David Torres is a 10th degree black belt with 59 years of experience in the martial arts. He earned his original black belt from a dojo in Monterey Park. That inspired him to pursue a career in karate to help pass on the teachings, customs and traditions of an ancient art of self-defense that promotes peace. Sensei David Torres has been teaching karate to children and adults for over 53 years and has had a Kenpo karate studio in Pico Rivera for 47 years. His demonstration team has performed across the United States and has been performing at the Cherry Blossom Festival for more than 25 years.

## **YUJOU DAIKO**

The meaning of Yuujou is friendship, which is indicative of the camaraderie and shared goals that formed this group in 2012. Yuujou Daiko is dedicated to mastering the beautiful art of taiko and bringing the high energy & powerful sounds to communities throughout the greater Los Angeles area. The group has played at events including the Long Beach Aquarium, Temple City Camellia Festival, Chinese Firecracker Run, Clippers Half-time, Legoland, and more! Yuujou Daiko is currently based at the Japanese Cultural Institute in Gardena.



## **JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM**

As the national repository of Japanese American history, JANM creates groundbreaking historical and arts exhibitions, educational public programs, award-winning documentaries and innovative curriculum that illuminate the stories and rich cultural heritage of people of Japanese ancestry in the United States. Stop by to try some origami and learn more.

# EXHIBITORS

## KIMEKOMI NINGYO DOLLS

### HIROFUMI KAI

Hisako Matsumoto will present Kimekomi from Hirofumi Kai. Kimekomi dolls were first crafted about 250 years ago, during the Genbun Era in Japan. Kimekomi dolls are also known as Gamo Dolls, or Willow Dolls (Yanagi Ningyou). The Founder of Hirofumi Kai, Mataro Kanabayashi, revived the orthodox technique of the Gamo doll. In reviving this method, the modern craft of the unique Mataro doll was established.

The method of producing the doll's figure has changed from that of the early days, when the body was carved from a pieces of wood. Nowadays, we blend Paulownia sawdust with paste to produce the model. As a result of this, Kimekomi dolls are now available to many people.



### YUKARI KAI

Kyūka (Kari) Kanesaka will present hand-crafted dolls with hand-painted porcelain faces (heads) and wooden bodies dressed in beautiful Japanese fabric. Yukari Kai will also be doing demonstrations throughout the festival and answer questions

Kyūka Kanesaka (AKA Yukari Kanesaka) obtained her *kyōju* degree (equivalent to a Master's degree) in Kimekomi Ningyo\* in 1978. In 1982, Kyūka was granted her *gagō* (equivalent to Ph.D.), or Master Artist pen name "Kyūka".

In 1979, Kyūka started teaching in local Japanese communities through the group she formed, Yukari Kai Kimekomi Doll Academy. One of her first regular classes was taught at the Westminster Presbyterian Church where her students consisted of Japanese Americans who were wrongly incarcerated at various camps during WWII. These incredible women were determined to honor their Japanese heritage as American citizens, and through Yukari Kai under the leadership of Kyūka, proudly displayed Kimekomi Dolls to the public throughout the United States.

Kyūka expanded teaching, teaching at the Orange County Buddhist Church, Huntington Beach class, the Long Beach Buddhist Church, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, St. Paul, Minnesota, and Vancouver B.C.

For over 40 years, Yukari Kai participated in various Japanese festivals throughout the United States, demonstrating the doll making technique, displaying the students' artwork, and explaining the rich Japanese history captured by these dolls.

In 2000, when the headmaster of Kyūgetsu Doll Academy (Tokyo, Japan) visited Los Angeles, Kyūka was appointed as the official representative of the Kyūgetsu Doll Academy to Los Angeles. Kyūka continues to teach and practice Kimekomi Dolls, passing on the knowledge and history of this wonderful Japanese art form. Under Kyūka's tutelage she has granted 30 *kyōju* to students through out the United States and Canada.

\*Kimekomi Ningyō ("ki" means wood, "me" means grooves, and "komi" the process of applying the fabric into the grooves) dates to the Genbun Era (1736-1741), when a Buddhist monk in Kyoto used leftover scraps of fabric to turn a willow branch into a doll. From there, the art form took off, evolving into its current form. The premise remains – the art of making wood (a hard, inanimate object) appear as a soft, animated animal or character suspended in action. Traditionally, the characters are dressed in Japanese traditional attire.



## VETERANS MEMORIAL COURT ALLIANCE

The Veterans Memorial Court Alliance was formed to bring together representatives of the Japanese American Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee, the Japanese American Korean War Veterans and the Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Alliance in the common cause of preserving both the physical edifice and the legacy of the Japanese American National Memorial Court, located within the courtyard of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in downtown Los Angeles, for generations to come. The mission of the organization is to ensure that the Memorial Court is maintained for future generations in a manner that honors the sacrifice and patriotism of those whose names are etched on the walls and to raise awareness in the community of the contributions Americans of Japanese Ancestry have made to the cause of freedom in America and throughout the world. The organization will display photos, video and information about the Memorial Court— the only location in the country that honors by name over 1,200 Japanese Americans killed in action in America's wars — 1898 - present.

# DEMONSTRATORS



## JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY - URASENKE SCHOOL

The Japanese tea ceremony (cha-no-yu, chado or sado) is a traditional ritual influenced by Zen Buddhism in which prepared by a skilled practitioner and served to a small group of guests in a tranquil setting. Cha-no-yu, literally “hot water for tea”, usually refers to a single ceremony or ritual, while sado or chado refer to the study or doctrine of tea ceremony.

Since a tea practitioner must be familiar with the production of types of tea, with kimono, calligraphy, flower arranging, ceramics, incense and a wide range of other disciplines and traditional arts in addition to his or her school’s tea practices, the study of tea ceremony takes many years and often lasts a lifetime.

## SUMI-E

Sumi-e **Ink wash painting**, also known as **literati painting** is an East Asian type of brush painting that uses black ink—the same as used in East Asian calligraphy, in various concentrations. Asian aesthetic writing is generally consistent in stating the goal of ink and wash painting is not simply to reproduce the appearance of the subject, but to capture its spirit. To paint a horse, the ink wash painting artist must understand its temperament better than its muscles and bones. To paint a flower, there is no need to perfectly match its petals and colors, but it is essential to convey its liveliness and fragrance. East Asian ink wash painting may be regarded as a form of expressionistic art that captures the unseen. Ink wash painting uses tonality and shading achieved by varying the ink density, both by differential grinding of the ink stick in water and by varying the ink load and pressure within a single brushstroke. Ink wash painting artists spend years practicing basic brush strokes to refine their brush movement and ink flow. In the hand of a master, a single stroke can produce astonishing variations in tonality, from deep black to silvery gray.

## LONG BEACH SUMI-E

The Long Beach Sumi-e Group fosters an understanding of and appreciation of sumi-e, traditional Japanese ink wash painting.

## ORIGAMI

Origami is the traditional Japanese art of paper folding. The word origami is derived from 2 Japanese words - 'oru' which means to fold and 'kami' which means paper. With right paper folding techniques, you can watch interesting shapes and creations unfold before your eyes. Origami is a craft that requires patience and precision but it is also an art that demands creativity.



Join David Dao for origami demonstrations and lessons.



## FUGETSU-DO

Fugetsu-Do has been a family owned and operated confectionery store in Little Tokyo since 1903. Japanese rice cakes, more commonly known as mochi (rice cake) and manju (sweet bean filled rice cake), are the staple. The shop, which is currently operated by Brian Kito, is located on East First Street in the Historic District of Little Tokyo.

Founder Seiichi Kito was born in Gifu, in Central Japan. Seiichi came to the United States in May 1903 and went to where other Japanese immigrants were—in the East First Street District of Los Angeles. Seiichi started producing sweets and opened Fugetsu-Do with a couple of friends. Fugetsu-Do’s success was largely due to the hard work of the entire Kito family. In the past few years the number of visitors to Little Tokyo has increased and the area has welcomed new residents with the revitalization of downtown Los Angeles. For this diverse public Brian has introduced peanut butter and chocolate mochi and strawberry manju. - from *A History of Fugetsu-Do* by Nancy Kikuchi

# COMMUNITY BOOTHS

**ALPHA SHEN PRESCHOOL** - Promoting Alpha Shen Pre-school to the community for child care services and learning.  
[www.alphashenpreschool.com](http://www.alphashenpreschool.com)

**API RISE** - API RISE will be the partner organization with Asian Youth Center to cohost the Multicultural Popups booths.  
<https://www.alapi-rise.org/>

## **ARTS IN ACTION COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL**

- We are a public non-profit arts-based charter school located in East Los Angeles. We are looking to share more information about our school and offer an arts-based activity to the community.  
[www.artsinactioncharter.org](http://www.artsinactioncharter.org)

## **ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HEALTH CARE AT UCLA**

- APA Health Care is a UCLA student organization that aims to improve the health and well-being of Asian American and Pacific Islander communities in Los Angeles. We will provide free health screenings including BMI and body fat, blood pressure, vision, mental health and dementia. Participants will be able to talk to a physician or nurse and receive referrals to local, low-cost clinics and health insurance resources. [apahcare.com](http://apahcare.com)

## **ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN ISLANDERS WITH DISABILITIES OF CALIFORNIA**

- We are an outreach, resource sharing and advocacy non-profit organization which provides programming geared to the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) with disabilities communities, including a youth leadership training and a NIH program called the All of Us Research Program. Our mission is to provide a voice and face to APIs with disabilities.  
<https://www.apidisabilities.org/>

**ASIAN YOUTH CENTER** - AYC is a community-based non-profit organization whose mission is to empower low-income, immigrant and at-risk youth of all communities to overcome barriers to success. We will provide resources about affordable internet and phone bill service for low-income families and Stop Asian Hate resources. We will have cross-cultural partners to demonstrate their arts and crafts.

## **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE**

Providing information about homeowners/renters insurance, the California Low Cost Auto insurance program and insurance fraud protection. [Insurance.ca.gov](http://Insurance.ca.gov)

## **CALIFORNIA PHONES/CALIFORNIA CONNECT**

State program providing specialized telephones and accessories for individuals with hearing, vision, mobility, speech or cognitive challenges. There is no age, income or insurance requirement. For those having challenges with using their smartphones, classes are offered at no charge. <https://caconnect.org>

**E-LOGIX ACADEMY TUTORING CENTER** - A local afterschool tutoring program serving students and parents around Monterey Park, Alhambra and Rosemead. We strive to provide a different learning experience by connecting the bridge between traditional schooling and 21st century learning.

**FAIRPLEX** - Fairplex is a non-profit organization that is home to the LA County Fair and more than 500 events per year. We will provide information about the upcoming LA County Fair and offer discounts and promotional items. <https://fairplex.com/>

**FOOTHILL FAMILY** - We are committed to improving infant, child, youth and family development and are leaders in providing comprehensive mental health care, early childhood development programs and social services throughout the Greater Los Angeles region. We will offer activities and giveaway items that promote relaxation and positive coping skills. [www.foothillfamily.org](http://www.foothillfamily.org)

**GARFIELD HEALTH CENTER** - We are a non-profit community clinic believing in giving the best healthcare to people and families who need it. We will provide free Covid Bivalent Boosters, blood pressure screening and goodies.  
[www.garfieldhealthcenter.org](http://www.garfieldhealthcenter.org)

**HAIFENG SHI** - Chinese Dough Sculpture and sugar painting

**KIPP PODER** - We are a free public charter school that is recruiting students from TK-2nd grade. We will be offering school information, incentives, books and more. [www.kippsocal.org/poder](http://www.kippsocal.org/poder)

**LIONS CLUB** - We are an 84-year old service organization that volunteers to provide free eyesight checkups for Monterey Park elementary school students. We are having our annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser in conjunction with Fire Service Day on May 20.

## **LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**CLASSIFIED JOBS** - LAUSD Classified are technical professionals, skilled workers, support staff, executives and community champions with the crucial responsibility of supporting our future, the students of LAUSD. We invite you to build your rewarding career here by joining over 30,000 employees of the Classified service. [www.lausdjobs.org](http://www.lausdjobs.org)

## **LOS ANGELES TURKISH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION**

- LATAA is a non-political, non-profit organization founded in 2004 dedicated to enrich lives through recreational, social, cultural and educational events. We support No Hate. Our purpose is to promote better understanding between cultures by representing our culture and art at this festival. [www.laturks.org](http://www.laturks.org)

## **MARK KEPPEL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC BOOSTERS**

- We are a non-profit booster organization that supports the instrumental music program at Mark Keppel High School. We fundraise to help support student activities and volunteer at their events. We hope that you will drop by our booth to play a game, win some fun prizes and learn more about our program!

## **MONTEREY PARK BRUGGEMEYER LIBRARY**

- Library staff and volunteers will be promoting library story times for children, teen activities, literacy and citizenship classes, adult computer classes and other library programs and services. You will also be able to register for a new library card and browse a sample of our collection and check out library books.

# COMMUNITY / COMMERCIAL BOOTHS



## **MONTEREY PARK COMMUNITY HEALING FUND -**

Information on the Community Healing Fund established to support Monterey Park and its neighbors through aid to community members affected by the tragedy of January 21 as well as support for programs, initiatives and organizations designed to help Monterey Park heal and rebuild.

**MONTEREY PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT** - Information on Fire Service Day and Fire Department services

**MONTEREY PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT** - Information regarding police programs and recruitment

**THE REVERENCE PROJECT** - Information on Green space and African relics. @reverenceproject.com

**ROCK BAND CAMP** - Rock Band Camp aims to provide students with a supportive environment to play in a band, foster love of music, personal growth and community building. We encourage teamwork and lifelong passion for music through challenging performances, developing strong character, organizational and leadership skills for all challenges in life. [www.newlight.edu](http://www.newlight.edu)

**SAGE GRANADA PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH LANGUAGE SCHOOL** - A Japanese language school, we will be selling plumeria to fundraise.

**SAKURA GARDENS AT LOS ANGELES** - Established in 1975, Sakura Gardens was formerly known as Keiro Retirement Home. Sakura Gardens is a luxurious full-service Japanese retirement community offering independent and assisted living in a prime Los Angeles area. [www.sakuragardenslosangeles.com](http://www.sakuragardenslosangeles.com)

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS** - The SGVCOG is conducting a Transit Study and would like to share the latest information with the general public regarding the remaining bus routes to get their comments / input to help the SGVCOG shape the results of this study.

**UNITED STATES ARMY** - Information about the benefits of the U.S. Army

**AMO MARKETING** - Travel club information.

**CHOC ZERO / CHEMTECH ZONE** - ChocZero is a family-owned chocolate factory in Southern California that has made zero sugar chocolate with zero sugar alcohols since 2016. <https://chemtechzone.com/>

**DREAMSTYLE REMODELING** - Information on windows, doors and showers. [dreamstyleremodeling.com](http://dreamstyleremodeling.com)

**FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK** - Information on pre-planning cemetery properties and funeral services. [www.forestlawn.com](http://www.forestlawn.com)

**GLOBAL ENERGY SERVICES** - Information about the SoCal Gas rebate program to help save money. [geusa.org](http://geusa.org)

**JC AMERICAN** - Cricket Wireless provided cell phone services and equipment

**JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION** - Promoting financial services and membership to the credit union and its benefits. [jacomcu.org](http://jacomcu.org)

**JOANN WONG MORTGAGE GROUP** - HomeTown Heroes housing program helps make home ownership more affordable for eligible front-line workers in law enforcement, military or veterans. [JoannWongMortgage.com](http://JoannWongMortgage.com)

**LEAF FILTER GUTTER PROTECTION** - Information and promotions about Leaf Filter gutter protection. [leaffilter.com](http://leaffilter.com)

**ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK** - Pre-planning of cemetery properties and funeral services. [rosehills.com](http://rosehills.com)

**SOCCER SHOTS** - An engaging soccer program for children. Come practice scoring some goals and enter for a chance to win. We are a one-of-a-kind program in Monterey Park. [soccershots.com](http://soccershots.com)

**T-MOBILE** - T-Mobile services, phones ad accessories. [t-mobile.com](http://t-mobile.com)

**WINNING WAYS** - [winningwaysusa.com](http://winningwaysusa.com)

# CRAFT VENDORS



**AROMA BREEZ/HAWAIIAN BREEZ** - Muscle Mist, Hawaiian reusable bags, backpacks and gift items. [www.aromabreez.com](http://www.aromabreez.com)

**BIG CEDAR SPRINGS & LITTLE WOLF CRAFTS** - Wood art: chainsaw carvings, wood candle holders and lamps, hand-poured candles, goat's milk soap, bath bombs, natural stone jewelry and crystals

**CHAMPIONS TRADING** - Jewelry, novelties and toys

**DEM' NUTZ** - Handmade prepackaged honey-glazed walnuts and pecans. [www.dem'nutz.com](http://www.dem'nutz.com)

**ELEGANT BEAD DESIGN** - Jewelry with semi-precious stones, jade, freshwater pearls and crystals, hats with silk flowers, box frame pictures

**FASHION CLOSEOUTS** Women's clothing: sweaters, coats, ponchos and scarves

**HAIR STYLER BY SASHA** - Hair bun makers, handmade polymer clay hair wraps

**JAKE'S PINS** - Unique and fun anime-inspired goods

**JENNY'S CORNER EMPORIUM** - Handmade Terrariums featuring Pokemon, cryptids and other popular characters, handmade dog collars with interchangeable bows, hair accessories and crocheted kitchen towels (on [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com))

**KARUPI PAPER EARRINGS** - Unique and lightweight earrings made from natural elements. <https://www.karupi.jp/>

**KIEUTIE PIE** - Original animal and food themed art by an Orange County artist. Art prints, pins, stickers, keychains and bags. [kieutiepie.etsy.com](http://kieutiepie.etsy.com)

**MADE IN SGV** - T-shirts and hoodies with the print "made in San Gabriel Valley" printed on them. [www.madeinsgv.com](http://www.madeinsgv.com)

**MIDDLE AGE MADNESS** - Handmade crafts with an Asian flair: money leis, bowl cozies, hand towels, succulents, tea diffusers, eyeglass cases, ornaments, gift bags, etc.

**MITA SKY/MITA KIMONO** - Japanese kimonos, obi, yukata, zori, kimono purses and more Japanese goodies! Every item is from Japan and often one of a kind. [mitasky.com](http://mitasky.com)

**MOTHER OF HEALING** - Crystals, stones, incense, dream catchers, resin art and crystal jewelry. [www.motherofhealing.com](http://www.motherofhealing.com)

**O.R.D. ARTS & CRAFTS** - Plaster figurines available for painting on the spot and sale

**OTAKU COLLECTIVES** - Anime stickers, key chains and accessories (on [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com) and [Mercari](http://Mercari))

**PAWS & PALS** - Cat-themed merchandise, Japanese cat toys, vases, luminaries, freshwater pearl jewelry

**RAFFI REAL CREATIONS** - Hand-painted clothing featuring Japanese art and art that nature provides. [raffitee.com](http://raffitee.com)

**RAINBOW MAGIC PENS** - Pens and markers that change colors and erase. [ww.RainbowMagicPens.com](http://ww.RainbowMagicPens.com)

**SEA HIS CREATIONS** - Unique handcrafted jewelry from the ocean and hand-drawn artwork

**TR & CO.** - 14k gold-filled and sterling silver earrings, rings, necklaces and bracelets. [Renee.com](http://Renee.com)

**YU2 BOUTIQUE** - Designer cotton dolls, doll accessories and clothing. <https://www.etsy.com/shop/Yu2>

# KIDS' CRAFTS

There will be free craft activities for the kids.  
Come check out all the cool things you can make  
and take home!



## Where can you see Cherry Blossom Trees?

City Hall, 320 W. Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park  
Garvey Ranch Park, 781 S. Orange Avenue, Monterey Park  
South Garfield Avenue, Monterey Park  
Victory Park, 575 Paloma Street, Pasadena  
San Rafael Park, Colorado Blvd/Melrose Avenue, Pasadena



Special thanks to the  
Performers, Exhibitors, Demonstrators, Vendors,  
Volunteers, Visitors and Supporters of our Fundraisers  
who continue to make our Festival a success.  
We look forward to working with all of you again !



## Special Thanks:

The Cherry Blossom Festival Committee wishes to express its gratitude to Kurt Ogawa for designing the poster/t-shirt for the festival for so many years.

We thank him again for his commitment and creativity.

Thank you Kurt!



Sakura is the Japanese name for ornamental cherry trees, *Prunus serrulata* and their blossoms. Cherry fruit (known as sakuranbo) come from a different species of tree. Cherry blossoms are an enduring metaphor for the ephemeral nature of life, and as such are frequently depicted in art, and are associated with both samurai and kamikaze. Annually, the Japanese track the sakura zensen, or Cherry Blossom Front. They will go to parks, shrines and temples with family and friends and hold flower viewing parties known as hanami. Hanami festivals celebrate the beauty of sakura.

# FOOD COURT

## CHICKEN TERIYAKI

## SODAS - BOTTLED WATER

Cherry Blossom Festival Committee

## COTTON CANDY

Cotton Candy Central

## KETTLE, CARAMEL, CHEESE & BUTTER POPCORN

Nena's Gourmet Popcorn

## LOCO MOCO - CHILI RICE - ICED TEA

Mission Valley Free Methodist Church

Boy Scouts Troop #365

## MANJU

Fugetsu-Do

## PAD THAI - FRIED MUSSELS - CHOW MEIN

## FRIED RICE - ORANGE CHICKEN - PAD SEE EW

## VEGGIE ROLLS - THAI TEA - THAI COFFEE

Thai Chef

## PERUVIAN BEEF, CHICKEN, SHRIMP, YUCCA & RICE

Los Amigos

## SHUMAI - HAR GOW - STEAMED BUNS

## NOODLE SOUP - AGUA FRESCA DRINKS

Sunday Cafe

## SMOOTHIES - SHAVED ICE - POPCORN CHICKEN

Cruisin Juice

## SPAM MUSUBI

Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church

## TWISTED POTATO - BBQ SQUID

## BULGOGI BURRITO

Miister Potato

## WAFFLES - STINKY TOFU

## COCONUT JUICE - WATERMELON JUICE

Waffleland

## WONTONS

Nikkei Youth Organization

# ASIAN DINING ETIQUETTE JAPAN



"Itadakimasu"

Say "itadakimasu" just before you eat. It means "I gratefully receive."



NEVER pour your own drink. Top up the glasses of people seated around you.



When drinking soup, lift the bowl to your mouth and sip.



NEVER eat sushi in more than one bite.



When dipping sushi in soy, turn it over so that only the meat touches the sauce.



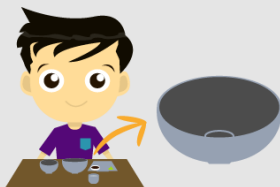
Use opposite end of chopsticks to take food from a shared plate.



NEVER mix wasabi into your soy sauce.



NEVER raise your food above your mouth.



Cleaning your plate down to the last grain of rice is considered proper Japanese dining etiquette.



"Gochisosama deshita"

Say "gochisosama deshita" after you've finished. This means "I thank you for the meal".

## CHOPSTICK NO-NOS



DON'T PASS FOOD DIRECTLY FROM CHOPSTICKS TO CHOPSTICKS.



DON'T HOVER CHOPSTICKS ABOVE FOOD WHILE DECIDING WHAT TO EAT.



AVOID SWIRLING YOUR CHOPSTICKS AROUND YOUR SOUP.

ALSO, DON'T 'DIG' THROUGH A SHARED DISH LIKE YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING.



DO NOT USE YOUR CHOPSTICKS TO DRAG SOMETHING TOWARDS YOU.



DON'T STICK YOUR CHOPSTICKS UPRIGHT IN A BOWL OF RICE. (OR ANY BOWL OF FOOD/DISH)

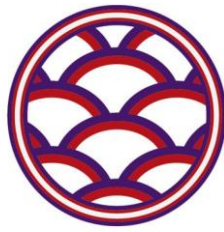
AND ALSO, DON'T STICK THEM THROUGH FOOD LIKE A SKEWER.



DON'T PLACE YOUR CHOPSTICKS CROSSING EACH OTHER.

DON'T POINT AT ANYONE OR ANYTHING WITH YOUR CHOPSTICKS

**All of Us**  
RESEARCH PROGRAM



**APIDC**  
Asians and Pacific Islanders  
with Disabilities of California



Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California (APIDC) is a partner of the *All of Us* Research Program from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and AANHPI Engagement & Recruitment Core, and proud to be a Platinum Sponsor of the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival.

The *All of Us* Research Program is seeking one million or more people from across the U.S. By doing so, it hopes to one day help speed up medical research. People who join will share information about their health, habits, and what it's like where they live. By looking for patterns, researchers may learn more about what affects people's health.



To learn how you can help shape the future of health for yourself, your family, your community, and generations to come, visit the APIDC booth and the *All of Us* Journey.



**The future of health  
begins with you.**

**JoinAllofUs.org**