MONTEREY PARK CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

"Monterey Park's tribute to the beauty of the Japanese culture"

April 21-22, 2018
Saturday 21, 11 am to 7 pm
Sunday 22, 11 am to 6 pm

BARNES PARK
350 S. McPherrin Avenue, Monterey Park

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Call (626) 307-1388
Visit www.MontereyPark.ca.gov
Web search "Cherry Blossom Festival"

FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE:
Langley Senior Center
400 West Emerson Avenue
Ynez Elementary School
120 S. Ynez Avenue
Repetto Elementary School
650 S. Grandridge Avenue

MONEY MAGAZINE 2017 RANKED "MONTEREY PARK #3 AS BEST PLACES TO LIVE IN U.S."

COME SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS:
FOODS WITH ASIAN FLAIR • HAND-MADE CRAFTS • KIDS GAMES
TAIKO DRUMS • TRADITIONAL JAPANESE DANCING • MARTIAL ARTS • JAPANESE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT • ORIGAMI
DEMONSTRATION AND CLASSES • IKEBANA DISPLAY AND INSTRUCTIONAL CLASSES • GAMES • MOCHI MAKING
Free shuttle from the Festival in front of City Hall to Langley Senior Center and Mark Keppel High School.
Welcome!

The 2018 Cherry Blossom Festival Committee would like to welcome you to this year’s Festival as we celebrate our 21st Anniversary. 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.

The Festival which is held every Spring in April coincides with the National Annual Festival held in Washington, DC to celebrate the 1912 gift to our Nation’s capital of 3,000 cherry trees from Mayor Ozaki of Tokyo.

Organized completely by community volunteers, many of us being teenagers during the Festival’s early years, the Festival’s goal is to showcase Japanese culture through a number of exhibits, demonstrations and traditional performances, all at no cost to the public.

With our 21st Anniversary upon us, our thanks to everyone who participates in and supports this community event.

Sincerely,
The 2018 Cherry Blossom Festival Committee

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Support the Festival!

Please stop by the information booth to purchase a raffle ticket for $2.00 each. All proceeds will go to fund next year’s Festival and you may win a great prize donated by our sponsors. Prizes include cash and restaurant, salon and car wash gift certificates. Drawing will be held on Sunday, April 22nd. Winner need not be present.

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CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Chairperson:
Karen Ogawa

Performance:
David Ikeda
Gary Kanemoto
Guy Higashi
Lila Leong-Iizumi

Exhibits & Demonstrations:
Colleen Ishibashi
Sandy Hidalgo

Craft, Commercial and Community Booths:
Gwen Kishida

Food Court:
Karen Ogawa

Kids’ Crafts:
Carli Ohara

Donations & Sponsorships/
Publicity and Marketing:
Margaret Endo
David Ikeda
Lila Leong-Iizumi
Karen Ogawa

Poster Design:
Kurt Ogawa

Program:
Gwen Kishida

Volunteers and Information:
Margaret Endo

Executive Committee Members
Shihoko Tatsugawa
Vickie Sill-Ohashi

Special thanks to the City of Monterey Park staff, especially Recreation Superintendent Robert Aguirre and Recreation Senior Clerk Typist Cristina Castillo
FESTIVAL SPECIAL GUESTS

CONSUL GENERAL AKIRA CHIBA

Akira Chiba assumed the post of Consul General of Japan, Los Angeles in July 2016. Born in Tehran, Iran, he is a third-generation career diplomat, after his father and grandfather before him. During his several decades career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), he has spent eight years in China, and the remainder of his overseas postings in Switzerland, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United States. The post of Consul General in Los Angeles is his third U.S. tour. During assignments in Tokyo, Chiba has been charged with legal affairs, grant aid, and economic cooperation portfolios, in addition to Oceanian regional affairs and several years as MOFA’s Assistant Press Secretary to the international media. He has written journal articles on Japan’s global relations and authored numerous texts, many published both in Japanese and Chinese on a wide variety of topics, from Japan-Sino relations to the intricacies of working with the U.S. Congress. He is a graduate of the Law Faculty of Tokyo University, attended Peking University in China, and graduated with an M.A. in Asian Studies from UC Berkeley.

DENISE DADOR

Health specialist Denise Dador is the Eyewitness News Health specialist. Her Healthy Living segment is seen every day on ABC7 Eyewitness News at 4 pm and 5 pm. She provides additional stories about health issues for other Eyewitness News broadcasts as well as anchoring ABC7 Health specials. Denise grew up in San Francisco and attended Lowell High School. She graduated from Mills College, where she majored in Communications with a minor in Comparative Government. In 1990, Denise took a position at Fox's KMPH in Fresno, California. Initially a general assignment reporter, Denise was appointed South Valley bureau chief and eventually became the main anchor of the station’s nightly news. She joined ABC affiliate WXYZ in Detroit, Michigan as their health reporter in 1993. She was served as the weekend anchor, and hosted a weekly news program called Healthy Living Live. Since joining ABC7 Eyewitness News in 1998, Denise has also covered breaking news, including the February 2001 Seattle Earthquake, as well as an exclusive interview with the President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo regarding terrorist activities in the Philippines. Denise has received numerous journalism and community service awards. She was the recipient of an Emmy for outstanding news feature reporting. She was awarded Best News Feature from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, as well as the Outstanding Health Reporting award from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. Denise received the Profiles in Progress award from the American Cancer Society for a series on breast cancer. The Filipino American Library, SIPA and various other notable Filipino American groups have also honored Denise for her commitment to community involvement.

DAN COSTLEY

Dan Costley began working in the recreation field in 1973 as a baseball umpire and became involved with Youth and Adult sports, aquatics, day care and camps, classes, transportation, senior programming, cable television and of course numerous special events. Dan was hired by the City of Monterey Park in 2000 as the Special Events Manager, became a Recreation Superintendent in 2008 and was appointed the Interim Director of Recreation and Parks in December 2010. The last six years he was the Director of Recreation and Community Services. In City Hall Dan was known as ‘Super Dan’ because of his work ethic. He was always in the office early and stayed late. During City events he was present all weekend. He was just as dedicated until he retired. He is the nicest gentleman and treats everyone with kindness and respect. For example, when asked about his work, he stated, “The department’s success can be traced directly to the volunteers who provide hundreds of hours of work to put on all of this programming; the Cherry Blossom committee is a perfect example of what can be done when dedicated people get together.” Dan has a 23 year old daughter who just graduated with a degree in Art and a 19 year old son who attends Long Beach State, studying engineering.
FESTIVAL SPECIAL GUESTS/PERFORMERS

JUNE KURAMOTO
Born in Saitama-ken, Japan, and raised in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles, June epitomizes America’s evolving art and music culture. Almost by destiny renowned Koto Master, Madame Kazue Kudo, protégé of Japan’s most famous kotoist and composer Michio Miyagi, immigrated to the United States and began teaching Koto in June’s family home. Using her grandmothers koto June, only six years old, found a connection for her life in the instrument and Japanese music. Subsequently June received classical degrees in koto from the Miyagi School of Koto in Japan through Kudo sensei. Along the way she has performed with some of the greatest musicians in the classical world from Japanese masters to Ravi Shankar. But being an American artist she wanted somehow to integrate this music that is her life with the American culture and music that she loves. June met an artist musician named Dan and they began merging her koto music with the diverse musical environment of Los Angeles. This was the beginning of Hiroshima. Her many recording credits include George Duke, Manhattan Transfer, Taste of Honey, Teddy Pendergrass, Stanley Clarke, Keiko Matsui and David Benoit. She can also be heard on television and movie scores including Heroes, East Meets West, Simply Ming, Pirates of the Caribbean, The Last Samurai and Black Rain. Commercials include the Hawaiian Electric Company.

LA KIMONO CLUB
On March 15, 2003, approximately 40 men and women who love Kimono met to form a club with the agreed objective of promoting mutual understanding and cultural exchanges between the US and Japan through Kimono. They officially formed the club now called “LA KIMONO CLUB” Throughout the year, members have the opportunity to share the joy of Kimono amidst good company at a host of events. The LA Kimono Club also started the “Miss Kimono L.A.” contest in 2010 in Little Tokyo to encourage kimono culture to the younger generation.

MADAME FUMI AKUTAGAWA
Madame Fumi Akutagawa has been teaching Japanese culture and arts in Southern California since 1976. She was awarded her instructor’s license in Japanese tea ceremony from the Edo Senke School in 1958, and she also holds master degrees from Koryu Shoto-Kai School of Ikebana and the First Kimono Academy in both Japan. She traveled a number of times to both Europe and America as a member of the Japan Kimono Mission. Frequently, Mme. Akutagawa demonstrates the art of kimono dressing in various festivals and venues in Southern California. She has presented kimono fashion shows every New Year’s Day at the New Otani Hotel (currently Kyoto Grand Hotel) in Little Tokyo since its opening in 1980, as well as the traditional Japanese celebrations of Girls Day (March 3), Children / Boys Day (May 5), and Tanabata Star Festival (July 7). Her kimono expertise was tapped when she worked on the films Memoirs of Geisha, and Spiderman. She has served as Japanese culture consultant for three separate productions of the opera Madame Butterfly: one staged by the Los Angeles Opera at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, another by the South Bay Opera Company, and the third by the Opera Pacific Company at the Orange County Performing Arts Center. Currently, she teaches weekly classes in kimono dressing and Japanese tea ceremony, both in Little Tokyo and at her residence in Moorpark, Ventura County.
FIELD STAGE

11:00 a.m.  Mark Keppel High School Aztec Singers
11:30 a.m.  Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church
            Japanese Language School Taiko Group
Noon       Opening Ceremony featuring Denise Dador,
            Consul General and Kimono Fashion Show,
            hosted by Rodney Kageyama and Shin Ito
1:00 p.m.   Yoki Daiko
1:30 p.m.   Allen Oshiro
2:30 p.m.   June Kuramoto and Friends
3:45 p.m.   Halau Hula ‘a’ ala Anuhea
4:15 p.m.   Yuujou Taiko
4:45 p.m.   David Torres Kempo Karate
5:30 p.m.   Kokoro

INDOOR STAGE  (located inside the Gym)

12:00 p.m.  Japanese Classical Dance Group - Nancy Hayata
1:00 p.m.   Kotobuki No Kai—Nippon
2:00 p.m.   Yuna & Tida
3:00 p.m.   Pop Rock Academy
4:00 p.m.   Angeles Dance Group
5:00 p.m.   Origami Demonstration by Michael Sanders

Performers and Set Times Subject to Change Without Notice
PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE
Sunday, April 22, 2018

FIELD STAGE

11:00 a.m.  Mark Keppel High School Pep Band
11:30 a.m.  Mele Ohana Ukulele
12:00 p.m.  Bombu Taiko
12:245 p.m. Wu Shu Martial Arts
1:05 p.m.    Azuma Kotobuki Kai
1:45 p.m.    Erica Nagashima
2:30 p.m.    Phyllis Chang
3:15 p.m.    Koshin Taiko
3:45 p.m.    Ohana Polynesian Dancers
4:30 p.m.    Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko
4:45 p.m.    Asian Persuasion
5:15 p.m.    Ronin Stones

INDOOR STAGE  (located inside the Gym)

11:00 a.m.  Sunny and Judy Seki - Children’s Folktales
12:00 p.m.  Manju Demonstration by Brian Kito of Fugetsu-do
1:00 p.m.   Kyo No Kai Kabuki
2:00 p.m.   Shinshi
3:00 p.m.   Fuji Japanese Music and Yamatogaku USA
3:30 p.m.   Urasenke Ryu Chado (Tea Ceremony)
4:00 p.m.   Magic Wayne

FESTIVAL EMCEES:
RODNEY KAGEYAMA and SHIN ITO
An accomplished actor, Rodney has appeared in films such as The Next Karate Kid, Pretty Woman and on television shows such as Home Improvement, Quantum Leap, Married with Children and The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air. Shin is the Community Relations Director for Pacifica Sakura Gardens and a long-time supporter of the Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival. We are honored to have them join us for another year as our Festival’s emcees.
ALLEN THE ILLUSIONIST
Allen Oshiro has been perfecting his magic since the age of five! He is well known for his amazing magic using live rabbits and doves, astonishing slight of hand tricks and even incredible levitations. He has performed on national television and at the World Famous Magic Castle in Hollywood and he is a first place award winning magician at the “Magic Corner Battle of the Magicians”.

ANGELES DANCE GROUP
We are the Angeles Dance Group in city of Monterey Park. We are a group of children who love to dance and utilize our dance moves as a way of expression. We hope to spread our passion of dance to our community.

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 instructors are Sumako Azuma II (Los Angeles) and Kikusue Azuma (LA, Orange and Ventura Counties and Kapa’a Hawaii). While the instructors teach many classical dances, they also break new ground by incorporating classical dance technique with modern music to help reach the 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.

ASIAN PERSUSION
Asian Persuasion is a four member Asian American vocal harmony group. They sing favorite songs from doo-wop, Motown, and pop songs of the 50's, 60's, and 70's. Kenny Itagaki and Gary Asamura started the group over 40 years ago with Sharleen Inouye and Jeff Louie completing the group today. They invite their audiences to join them in bringing back the classic sights, sounds and memories of those “oldies but goodies” of their youth.

BOMBU TAIKO
Bomu Taiko is a community-based taiko group founded in 2002 at the Los Angeles Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple and is instructed by members of the TAIKOPROJECT. Named by Rinban Noriaki Ito after the "Bombu" of Buddhist philosophy, Bomu Taiko in its short lifespan has performed throughout Los Angeles at numerous events and gatherings, including the Nisei Week Festival, the L.A. Marathon, and gala events and dinners. "Bombu" loosely translates as "ordinary people" or the "unenlightened masses," and the joy of playing together is stressed in the group, as well as the Buddhist taiko philosophy developed by Rev. Masao Kodani and Kinnara Taiko, which emphasizes letting go of one’s ego and just having fun.

FUJI JAPANESE MUSIC AND YAMATOGAKU USA
Yamatogaku USA (lead by Yasoyo Yamato) and Fuji Japanese Music (Nagauta, Yamatogaku, Hayashi, and Dance, lead by Mariko Watabe) collaborate together. Nagauta is a traditional form of theatrical shamisen music, that was developed as a basic lyrical accompaniment of Kabuki and classical dances. It dates back to 1740. The Yamatogaku musical form is a more modern shamisen music which was created in 1933. The melodies incorporate western vocalization techniques including harmony, singing in rounds, and humming which is different from traditional Nagauta. Hayashi is percussion using various traditional rhythm patterns on three drums along with sound effects using various methods.

HALAU HULA MOANI’A’ALA ANUHEA
Based in Monterey Park, this group opened its doors in 2007. Under the direction of Christina Aiu-Quezada, this school is founded on the practices and principles of traditional hula school whose roots trace back to the island of Kaua’i.
PERFORMERS

JAPANESE CLASSICAL DANCE: NANCY HAYATA

Nancy Teramura Hayata lives life with a love of what is new and exciting, yet places a strong emphasis on the beauty and the traditions of her Japanese ancestry. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she studied Nihon Buyo under Fujima Chiseye Sensei for nearly twenty years. She also studied Minyo Dance under Imoto Hoshunju Sensei. Nancy teaches Japanese dance in Little Tokyo and choreographs the majority of the dances that she performs. She choreographed and taught the Nisei Week Court their Japanese dance for the 2014 Coronation.

KOKORO

In Japanese, “kokoro” is used to signify “heart” or “soul”. In music, the drums keep the beat, or the “heart” of the music. The keyboards, bass and guitar represent the body of the music, and the vocals embody the “soul”. The band Kokoro is a music group consisting of almost all Asian-Americans, and covers music from Motown to country, rock and pop; from the hits of the 60’s to current Billboard chart toppers. The members of Kokoro have had the good fortune to work with many celebrities in the industry, including Gladys Knight, Jessica Simpson, Hiroshima, and Gene Simmons. Additionally, throughout their own individual careers, they have played high-level venues such as the Palladium, the Sunset Strip, the Flamingo Hilton Las Vegas and the American Music Awards. The members of Kokoro came together to form a band out of the pure love of music – and together, they have found something beyond just performing together, but shaped their own musical family. Kokoro prides itself on performing not just the music and lyrics of the song, but getting down to the soul of the song. After all, as the saying by Frederick Delius goes: “Music is an outburst of the soul.”

KOSHIN TAIKO

Koshin Taiko traces its lineage back to the first professional taiko group in Japan. Oedo Sukeroku Taiko made history with its blend of classical Japanese music, martial arts, and Dance, and its influence can be seen in taiko groups around the world. Sensei Etsuo Hongo brought the Oedo Sukeroku style to his own energetic compositions when he founded Koshin Taiko in 1992. In his unique form, powerful and beautiful taiko sounds are created through carefully choreographed movement. This synthesis of powerful sound and graceful movement, along with their visually distinctive Okedou, of rope-tightened drums, makes Koshin Taiko one of the most dynamic taiko groups in Los Angeles. Now, under the leadership of Virginia Minami and Wes Hayashi, Koshin continues to build upon this long tradition. By incorporating aspects of other styles of drumming while still exploring the rich traditions of Japanese taiko, Koshin continues to live up to the name Hongo Sensei gave it over twenty years ago: Bright Spirit!

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-ju 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 50th Anniversary of Nippon Minyo Kenkyukai in Nagoya, Japan.

MAGIC WAYNE

Wayne Kawamoto has performed at Hollywood’s Magic Castle, entertained the Los Angeles Dodgers and been a featured performer at the LA County Fair. Wayne is the author of Picture Yourself As a Magician, a beginner’s book on magic. He is also a regular correspondent for Reel Magic Quarterly, a video magazine that covers magic and is distributed six times a year via DVD.

KYO NO KAI KABUKI

“Kyo no Kai” is an organization founded and headed by Kabuki actor Nakamura Gankyo (aka Bando Hiroshichiro). The mission of Kyo no Kai is to teach and promote various aspects of traditional Japanese culture with the emphasis on the performance art of Kabuki- (“ka” to act, “bu” to dance, “ki” ability) to people all over the world.
**PERFORMERS**

**MARK KEPPEL HIGH SCHOOL AZTEC SINGERS**
This group is a competitive show and concert choir. Since 1985, the Mark Keppel Aztec Singers have established a tradition of producing outstanding annual show productions, festival participation and community concerts across California.

**MARK KEPPEL HIGH SCHOOL PEP BAND**
The Mark Keppel High School Aztec Pep Band is a smaller ensemble of 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, Drum Major, Candace Lee, Assistant Drum Major, Renee Chung, and Drum Captain, Wesley Phung. The pep band would like to thank the Cherry Blossom Festival and will perform popular musical arrangements including *Carry on Wayward Son*, *Party in the USA*, and *Take on Me*.

**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.

**MELE OHANA UKULELE**
Mele Ohana is a community based ukulele group led by Mike Gregan, who teaches ukulele classes at the City of Los Angeles Barnsdall Art Center in Hollywood. Mele Ohana was started on “the island” of Gardena, California by its kumu Randy Dacoscos. The group maintains its strong ties with Gardena through its association with Kawika Dacoscos and its original members.

**ERICA NAGASHIMA**
Erica Nagashima is a professional vocalist and model living in Los Angeles. She obtained her degree in Opera Performance from UC Santa Barbara. Throughout Erica’s life, she has been enthralled by music. At a young age, she took music lessons for guitar, drums, french horn, and most notably, the violin (six years) and voice (eight years). Having studied classical, musical theatre as well as jazz, Erica has a passion for many genres. Currently, she is pursuing her contemporary music career and is enjoying living in Los Angeles where she is able to learn from many talented and inspiring artists. She performs jazz, current pop music and even Disney songs in both Japanese and English.

**RONIN STONES**
Ronin Stores, formally Local Mojo, is the most versatile and ONLY Japanese American band of professional Los Angeles freelance musicians with the goal of performing improvisational Old School Rhythm and Blues with a twist of Jazz.

**RYUKYUKOKU MATSURI DAIKO**
For the young and old a-like, this group is a “must see”. Incorporating current popular Okinawan jazz and rock music as well as traditional folk music, their performances relate to prayers and celebrations of good harvest, good wishes and good health. Their type of drum dancing is based on the old tradition of “eisa” (Okinawan drum dancing) and has a distinctive style of high kicking and karate moves. Founded in 1982 in Okinawa, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko also has chapters in Japan, Argentina, Brazil, Hawaii, and Washington, D.C.

**POP ROCK ACADEMY**
PopRock Academy provides professional acting, dance and music classes and lessons in Alhambra. We provide high quality training in on camera and stage acting, hip hop, ballet, Jazz, Kpop, break dance, singing, piano, guitar, drums, strings, songwriting lessons and more. We also offer a special triple threat Disney Musical and Glee workshop, a Youtube Acting and Production course, and performance groups including our PopRockers, Hip Hop Dance Crew and K-Pop Performance Troupe.
TORRES KEMPO KARATE
Lead by Sensei David Torres, a 10th degree black belt, with over 40 years of martial arts training, students will demonstrate traditional Kempo Karate. The group has performed across the United States and has won a number of National Championships.

SAGE GRANADA PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL TAIKO GROUP
The Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church Japanese Language School Taiko Group was founded in 2016 after receiving a grant offered by the Japan Business Association to enrich the school’s cultural studies. The school bought four taiko drums and started to teach taiko as one of their cultural study classes. This year’s taiko players are Chelsea Chien, Fumio Chung, Kenley Fujimoto, Tobin Fujimoto Reagan Fujimoto, Kyle Hara, Tyler Nakano, Jorden Okura, and Bryce Wada, aged 4 to 12 years old.

SHINSHI
Shinshi means “gentleman” in Japanese language as an aspiring gentleman of bossa nova. Shinshi was 17 years old when he first heard Neon Genesis Evangelion’s version of Fly Me To The Moon and that led him to start playing the guitar and aspire to become a gentleman instead of whiny little brat. Since then he has performed bossa nova in various festivals. Currently, he plays bossa nova at Japanese bar Can-zo in Gardenia every Friday night.

SUNNY AND JUDY SEKI
Sunny Seki is the author/illustrator of three Japanese children’s books: Yuko-chan and the Daruma Doll, The Last Kappa of Old Japan, and The Tale of the Lucky Cat, which won awards from NAPPA Parenting Publishing and Creative Child Magazine. Born in Tokyo in 1947, he graduated from Nihon Daigaku with a degree in Photography. He then came to the United States, where he studied illustration at Pasadena Art Center of Design. For the next 32 years he operated Sunny Seki Photography in Rosemead. Today he presents his books and other Japanese folktales at community events. Sunny and wife Judy have nine children, and they live in San Gabriel.

U.S. CHINESE WU SHU MARTIAL ARTS TEAM
Wu Shu is China’s national sport, largely a performance version of various martial art styles. The team is directed by Coach Ming Qiu, who started training at the Jiang Su Wu Shu academy and won many gold medals in the Chinese championships. In 1995, she moved to Monterey Park and competed in the North American Sport Karate Association (NASKA) for five years and was awarded the 1999 Black Belt magazine’s Competitor of the Year. Ming Qiu has worked on more than 60 movies and television shows as a stuntwoman. She teaches Sunday mornings in Barnes Park.

YOKI DAIKO
Yoki Daiko, which means Joyous Drumming, was formed during the summer of 1996 at the Tenrikyo Church in Boyle Heights. Through the dynamic rhythms of Japanese drumming, Yoki Daiko strives to bring positive energy wherever it performs and to create a vibe that everyone can live a joyous life together as brothers and sisters.

YUNA & TIDA
Yuna & Tida are a musical duo who bring a taste of Ryukyuan soul through the traditional Okinawan 3 string lute known as the “Sanshin”. They are based in Los Angeles and are available for public/private events. Their interests include travelling, singing, adventuring, bike riding, drawing, painting, and making fun of each other.

YUUJOU DAIKO
Yuujou Daiko is comprised of a group of friends who have come together to form this taiko group. Yuujou means “friendship.” Yuujou performs for community and corporate events, private parties, and workshops. They are based at Gedatsu Church in South San Gabriel. They teach taiko classes out of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute on Sundays, beginners through advance starting at 12. Yuujou Daiko are dedicated to sharing the traditional art of Japanese taiko drumming through discipline, spiritual togetherness, fellowship and for the pure enjoyment of playing taiko together. They would like to share their love of taiko with you.

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The Sage Granada Park United Methodist Church Japanese Language School Taiko Group was founded in 2016 after receiving a grant offered by the Japan Business Association to enrich the school’s cultural studies. The school bought four taiko drums and started to teach taiko as one of their cultural study classes. This year’s taiko players are Chelsea Chien, Fumio Chung, Kenley Fujimoto, Tobin Fujimoto Reagan Fujimoto, Kyle Hara, Tyler Nakano, Jorden Okura, and Bryce Wada, aged 4 to 12 years old.

SHINSHI
Shinshi means “gentleman” in Japanese language as an aspiring gentleman of bossa nova. Shinshi was 17 years old when he first heard Neon Genesis Evangelion’s version of Fly Me To The Moon and that led him to start playing the guitar and aspire to become a gentleman instead of whiny little brat. Since then he has performed bossa nova in various festivals. Currently, he plays bossa nova at Japanese bar Can-zo in Gardenia every Friday night.

SUNNY AND JUDY SEKI
Sunny Seki is the author/illustrator of three Japanese children’s books: Yuko-chan and the Daruma Doll, The Last Kappa of Old Japan, and The Tale of the Lucky Cat, which won awards from NAPPA Parenting Publishing and Creative Child Magazine. Born in Tokyo in 1947, he graduated from Nihon Daigaku with a degree in Photography. He then came to the United States, where he studied illustration at Pasadena Art Center of Design. For the next 32 years he operated Sunny Seki Photography in Rosemead. Today he presents his books and other Japanese folktales at community events. Sunny and wife Judy have nine children, and they live in San Gabriel.

U.S. CHINESE WU SHU MARTIAL ARTS TEAM
Wu Shu is China’s national sport, largely a performance version of various martial art styles. The team is directed by Coach Ming Qiu, who started training at the Jiang Su Wu Shu academy and won many gold medals in the Chinese championships. In 1995, she moved to Monterey Park and competed in the North American Sport Karate Association (NASKA) for five years and was awarded the 1999 Black Belt magazine’s Competitor of the Year. Ming Qiu has worked on more than 60 movies and television shows as a stuntwoman. She teaches Sunday mornings in Barnes Park.

YOKI DAIKO
Yoki Daiko, which means Joyous Drumming, was formed during the summer of 1996 at the Tenrikyo Church in Boyle Heights. Through the dynamic rhythms of Japanese drumming, Yoki Daiko strives to bring positive energy wherever it performs and to create a vibe that everyone can live a joyous life together as brothers and sisters.

YUNA & TIDA
Yuna & Tida are a musical duo who bring a taste of Ryukyuan soul through the traditional Okinawan 3 string lute known as the “Sanshin”. They are based in Los Angeles and are available for public/private events. Their interests include travelling, singing, adventuring, bike riding, drawing, painting, and making fun of each other.

YUUJOU DAIKO
Yuujou Daiko is comprised of a group of friends who have come together to form this taiko group. Yuujou means “friendship.” Yuujou performs for community and corporate events, private parties, and workshops. They are based at Gedatsu Church in South San Gabriel. They teach taiko classes out of the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute on Sundays, beginners through advance starting at 12. Yuujou Daiko are dedicated to sharing the traditional art of Japanese taiko drumming through discipline, spiritual togetherness, fellowship and for the pure enjoyment of playing taiko together. They would like to share their love of taiko with you.
EXHIBITORS

SOGETSU IKEBANA
This group practices a modern form of the ancient Japanese Cultural Art. The motto of the school is to make beautiful arrangements with any materials, in any place, by anyone. The group will present demonstrations by master instructors and an exhibition will feature arrangements created by advanced students as well as beginners.

IKEBANA
Ikebana is the art of beautifully arranging cut stems, leaves, and flowers in vases and other containers that evolved in Japan over seven centuries.

Over the seven centuries of its evolution, ikebana has developed many different styles of arrangement. Among the most common are the rikka (standing flowers), seika or shoka (living flowers), and nageire (flung flowers) styles when making arrangements in bowl-shaped vases and the moribana (piled-up flowers) style when using dish-like containers.

The choice of what flowers to arrange is guided by the desire to create harmony between flower and container and to find flowers that blend in well with its surroundings. Although layer after layer of flowers are used in Western floral arrangements, in ikebana, the key consideration is to use as few stems and leaves as possible in

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.

Where can you see Cherry Blossom Trees?
City Hall, 320 W. Newmark Avenue, Monterey Park
Garvey Ranch Park, 781 S. Orange Avenue, Monterey Park
Victory Park, 575 Paloma Street, Pasadena
San Rafael Park, Colorado Blvd/Melrose Avenue, Pasadena

Special Thanks:
The Cherry Blossom Festival Committee wishes to express its gratitude to Kurt Ogawa for designing the poster/program cover for the festival for so many years. We thank him again for his commitment and creativity. Thank you Kurt!
EXHIBITORS/DEMONSTRATORS

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
Kyuka (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.

OSAMU SAITO
Osamu Saito was born in Hokkaido, Japan. He studied sign design, Sumi-e (Japanese ink painting), calligraphy, and watercolor, acrylic and oil painting, both in Japan and in the United States. He moved to Southern California in 1975 to study and broaden his creative ideas and techniques. Osamu is the recipient of numerous awards from art competitions throughout California. He was a member of Rental and Sale gallery at LACMA for five years where his watercolor paintings had been exhibited. In 2001, his watercolor paintings were in three watercolor books published in Japan. He teaches watercolor at Yosemite National Park Art Center on the first week of September every year and he currently teaches at the Ken Nakaoka Center in Gardena, California.

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.

SHANE SATO
Over 18 years in the making, photographer Shane Sato has been shooting moving portraits of Nisei soldiers to create a one of a kind coffee table book. Poignant images of men who fought for America while America put their families and loved ones in prison. This 184-page 12x12 hardcover book contains portraits of over 80 Japanese American WWII veterans. His book unveils the wide range of feelings the Japanese Americans must have experienced after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Sato artistically captures these men’s emotions - expressively photographed in a way not many have seen. His ability to bring out personality in what are usually stoic subjects is touching. Without writing a history book, Sato “talks story” to share the lives of the Nisei to future generations so that their accomplishments and history are not forgotten. This portrait book is not just a glimpse into Japanese American history, but a triumphant story of American history.
DEMONSTRATORS/GAMES

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.

MICHAEL SANDERS
Michael Sanders is a 13 year member of the Westcoast Origami Guild and Origami USA, and for more than a decade he has been entertaining children and adults alike with the magic of origami.

Join Michael Sanders for free origami demonstrations and lessons in the gymnasium.

In remembrance -
Yoichi “Yami” Yamauchi passed away on Christmas Day, 2017. He was 81. Yami has been a popular origami teacher for the last 30 years, having also created many delightful origami models. Many of his designs are freely available in YouTube tutorials. A long-time member of Origami USA, he’s also been a mainstay attraction at our Cherry Blossom Festival for a decade, starting around 2004. He will be missed.

GAME ZONE
Play fun games and win prizes!
For all ages!

UMC LANGUAGE SCHOOL:
Waffle Ball
Bottle Ring Toss
Soda Game Toss
Basketball Game

BUNGEE TRAMPOLINE

AQUA BUBBLE POOL
COMMUNITY BOOTHs

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HEALTH CARE AT UCLA
APA Health Care will provide free health screenings, measuring Body Mass Index, blood pressure, etc., and health/diet consultation with UCLA medical and nursing students, doctors and faculty.

BODHI MEDITATION - An international non-profit organization that focuses on self-empowerment and creating a healthy lifestyle, our mission is to impart practical, effective meditation techniques as a way of strengthening the energy of the physical body and inspiring the spiritual mind.

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL - The CHP will provide information on traffic safety and career opportunities, answer questions from the public and offer free handshakes. :)

CALIFORNIA TELEPHONE ACCESS PROGRAM - CTAP is a State program providing free telephone and adaptive equipment to individuals with hearing, vision, mobility, speech or cognition challenges.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY: PASADENA FOOTHILL CHAPTER - A non-partisan national non-profit that seeks to create the political will to address climate change legislation.

CITY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT - Information regarding firefighter positions.

CHINATOWN SERVICE CENTER - Providing information on Medi-Cal, medical clinics, dental services, social services and other resources.

GARFIELD MEDICAL CENTER - A non-profit community health center, serving the San Gabriel Valley since 2004, GHC provides a full range of services including Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Gynecology, Dentistry, Chiropractic and Mental Health.

GARVEY SCHOOL DISTRICT HEAD START / STATE PRESCHOOL - Free preschool services to families with children ages 3 to 5 years old. Our program implements a collaborative approach, inclusive of education, health, nutrition, mental health, disability and family services that will offer each child many opportunities to grow and develop.

GLOBAL ENERGY SERVICES INC. - Information from The Gas Company and Southern California Edison about energy efficiency and utility rebate programs.

JAPANESE CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - The Japanese congregation supports the community with their free Bible-based literature which is printed in over 700 languages and can help families, couples and children.

LAMP LITERACY & CITIZENSHIP (MONTEREY PARK BRUGGEMEYER LIBRARY) - From 11 am to 4 pm inside City Hall, offering extended hours of passport services with no appointments necessary, LAMP staff will accept your completed passport application and forward it to U.S. Passport Services for an issuance determination.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR/RECORDER - Community and voter outreach informing people of their voting rights and encouraging them to register to vote.

MONTEREY PARK BRUGGEMEYER LIBRARY
Library staff and volunteers will be promoting library programs and services including story times for children and teen activities, offering a cherry blossom craft project, selling books from the Friends of the Library bookstore to raise funds for the library and making wearable buttons for children.

MONTEREY PARK LIONS CLUB/FIRE DEPARTMENT - Information on Fire Service Day and the Lions Club Breakfast.

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

SAVE A CHILD'S HEART FOUNDATION - SACH saves the lives of children dying of heart disease in developing countries around the world. We will be fundraising and raising awareness by providing free face painting and gift bracelets to donors.

WORLD DIVINE LIGHT ORGANIZATION - Information and demonstrations of spiritual purification art of Divine Light, a type of healing energy that originated from Japan.
LOS ANGELES TANABATA FESTIVAL
The Los Angeles Tanabata Festival volunteers will demonstrate how to make tanabata kazari as visitors write wishes on wishing paper and tie onto bamboo as well as showing how to make paper flowers.

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.

-taken from A History of Fugetsu-Do by Nancy Kikuchi-

Japanese Dining Etiquette

Itadakimasu and Gochisosama
In Japan, it is customary to say itadakimasu (literally “I [humbly] receive”) before starting to eat a meal. When saying itadakimasu, both hands are put together in front of the chest or on the lap. Itadakimasu is preceded by complimenting the appearance of food.

Bows
The rice or the soup is eaten by picking up the bowl with the left hand and using chopsticks (hashi) with the right, or vice versa if you are left-handed. Traditionally, chopsticks were held in the right hand and the bowl in the left—in fact, Japanese children were taught to distinguish left from right as “the right hand holds the chopsticks, the left hand holds the bowl”—but left-handed eating is acceptable today. Bowls may be lifted to the mouth, but should not be touched by the mouth except when drinking soup. The Japanese customarily slurp noodle soup dishes like ramen, udon, and soba. When slurping noodles quickly, the soup clings to the noodles, making the dish more flavorful.

Chopsticks
The proper usage of chopsticks (hashi) is the most important table etiquette in Japan. Chopsticks are never left sticking vertically into rice, as this resembles incense sticks (which are usually placed vertically in sand) during offerings to the dead. This may easily offend some Japanese people. Using chopsticks to spear food or to point is also frowned upon and it is considered very bad manners to bite chopsticks. Other important chopsticks rules to remember include the following:

- Hold your chopsticks towards their end, and not in the middle or the front third.
- When you are not using your chopsticks and when you are finished eating, lay them down in front of you with the tip to left.
- Do not pass food with your chopsticks directly to somebody else’s chopsticks. Only at funerals are the bones of the cremated body given in that way from person to person.
- Do not move your chopsticks around in the air too much, nor play with them.
- Do not move around plates or bowls with chopsticks.

Communal dish
When taking food from a communal dish, unless they are family or very close friends, one should turn the chopsticks around to grab the food; it is considered more sanitary. Alternatively, one could have a separate set of chopsticks for communal dishes.
FOOD COURT

ROASTED CORN ON THE COB - BAKED YAMS
BAKED POTATO - KETTLE POPCORN
Gera’s Corn

SALMON ONIGIRI - KARA-AGE (FRIED CHICKEN)
SOFT-BOILED EGGS - UME-SHISO - ICED MATCHA
Jichan’s Onigiri-ya

SHAVED ICE
Eastside Optimist Club

SPAM & EGG FRIED RICE - CHIPS
SPAM & EGG SLIDERS - POCKY STICKS
Mark Keppel High School Instrumental Music Boosters

SPAM MUSUBI - CHINESE CHICKEN SALAD
Monterey Park Mustangs Basketball

TAKOYAKI (FISH BALLS W/OCTOPUS) - GREEN TEA
Takoyaki Tanota LLC

SLUSHIES - TACOS - NACHOS - QUESADILLAS
Twisted Potato

WAFFLES - RICE NOODLES - WATERMELON JUICE
ICED TEA - COCONUT
Waffleland

Want to be part of the 2018 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!

In remembrance -

Marge “Ish” Kaname-Ogawa ... Mrs. Ogawa to most of us.
For the first time in 21 years the Cherry Blossom Festival will be without her. Ours hearts go out to Karen and her family.
Mrs. Ogawa along with Karen perfected the delicious teriyaki sauce served in the Cherry Blossom Committee chicken booth. For many years Mrs. Ogawa spent countless hours over the hot stove in the Service Center preparing and bottling the teriyaki sauce. Always the critic ...when Karen took over the production of the sauce Mrs. Ogawa still had the final say on the final product. : )

We will miss her smiling face and her presence at the Festival this year and for years to come.

With Warmest Regards, The Cherry Blossom Committee
AMO MARKETING - Information on vacation / travel clubs.

AURA HOME SYSTEMS - Information on ductless mini-split air conditioning and heating units.

CARE 1ST HEALTH PLAN - Information on health plans and benefits.

COSTCO WHOLESALE - Information on membership. Shop Costco for food, electronics, computers, furniture, outdoor living, appliances, jewelry and more. Costco offers pharmacies, optometrists, photo labs, gas stations and tire garages as well as travel agents, auto and home insurance and auto sales.

FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL PARK - Information on pre-planning cemetery properties and funeral services.

LIFE WAVE - LifeWave technology provides a natural and safe way to promote optimal body functioning without ill-fated side effects commonly found in prescription medications. LifeWave’s non-transdermal patches provide everything your body needs for pain relief and energy and sleep enhancement without the use of drugs, stimulants, chemicals or caffeine.

LOS ANGELES TIMES / BARDEN CIRCULATION - Subscription information and giveaways.

NEW YORK LIFE - Creating free child safety IDs for parents and their families.

ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK - Promoting cemetery and funeral pre-planning services.

SAITO & MADAN MEDIATION - Estate planning and mediation services.

TOUGH TURTLE TURF - Information on drought tolerant landscaping.

WARE DISPOSAL - Information on solid waste (trash), recycling and green waste services for commercial businesses.

WELK RESORTS - Promotion of resort property.

WSS MARKETING - Providing brand awareness.

WYNDHAM RESORTS - Promoting Wyndham Resorts including their vacation resorts in California.

Residential Real Estate Specialist
michelle@shimosells.com
www.shimosells.com

Scott Shimamoto
Senior Loan Officer
101 East Green Street, Suite 11, Pasadena, CA 91103
626-758-7377 Mobile
626-758-7577 Fax
Scott@FranklinLcs.com
NMLS #288977 / BRE #01766539
My Website: www.ScottShimanato.com

“Your Deal Is No Joke To Me!”
LAURA BENSON - Japanese, Asian and Hawaiian themed items including insulated totes, purses, scrubbies, foot mops, wallets and accessories

CHAO’S IMPORTS - Trinket boxes, hair clips, earrings, bags and gemstones

CITRON CLOTHING - Citron brand clothing and Japanese collectibles including authentic vintage yukata and haori as well as handmade folk craft, ceramic ware and more

CLENN DESIGNS - Original vector prints, artwork, postcards, shirts and stickers

EMII CREATIONS - Cute art and designs inspired by popular shows, games, animals and food as plushies, printed art, charms, jewelry, bags and coasters

GERRI’S TEES AND MORE - Kids toys, dog signs, wallets, clothing for adults and kids and costume jewelry

JAKE LOULAKIS - The latest Japanese Anime toys/collectibles

MIDDLE AGE MADNESS - Handmade money leis, novelty print trimmed eyeglass cases, towels, bags and gifts with Asian flair

M. LIN - Handcrafted, one of a kind jewelry

ORIGAMI OWL - Customizable jewelry. Every locket tells a story ... endless possibilities to personalize lockets, bracelets, watches and earrings

OU-REN GYPSY NOIR - Original drawings, art prints, jewelry, cosmetic bags, etched glass and accessories

PAWS AND PALS - Anime, lucky cat, Hello Kitty and animal-themed clothing, jewelry, shoes and gifts

PUJA - Henna/glitter tattoo artist

SAE ARC - Handmade wooden pillows and back stretchers

SAKE SISTAHS - Japanese and Hawaiian-themed items including insulated reusable bags, totes, wallets, blankets, cups with straws and Yumi and Hello Kitty paint sets

SANKYU - Clothing with a Japanese spirit

SPECIAL TOUCH - Jewelry, wallets, hair accessories, purses, dog clothes, harnesses, stuffed animals, dolls, and hand-painted wood items

TR & CO. - Hawaiian salt potpourri, oil burners, air plant globes and original Hawaiian art and jewelry

UCHI NI KAERU - Imported kimonos and accessories and presentations by Barbara Yasuda on Japanese textiles and how to wear a kimono, yukata and obi.

In remembrance -

The Monterey Park Cherry Blossom Festival offers its condolences to the family of Joanne Oba, who passed away on January 4. A long-time resident of Monterey Park and for many years a participant as a crafts vendor, Joanne was energetic, generous and will be missed.

Kids’ Crafts

There will be free craft activities for the kids. Come check out all the cool things you can make.
We would appreciate your patronage of our generous sponsors and donors.