

35th annual visual and performing arts  
**SEATTLE CHERRY BLOSSOM AND JAPANESE CULTURAL FESTIVAL**

April 16-18, 2010 at Seattle Center  
Fisher Pavilion, Center House, Skatepark, Seattle Center Pavilion  
Free Admission

**After 150 Years: Youth, Skateboarding and Hapa Experiences**

**Highlights:**

- ✚ The Japan Foundation Photo Exhibit **Scenes of Childhood: Sixty Years of Postwar Japan**
- ✚ Japan's Pro Teen Element Skateboarder **Ryo Sejiri** comes to Seattle (pending)
- ✚ Demos and Clinics with Skate Like A Girl and Scott Yamamura, and Seattle Skateboarding Community
- ✚ Zany antics of **NANDA**, juggling ninja-like acrobaticists Saturday only
- ✚ Hapa – Part Japanese, Part Other concerning Identity and Cultural Traditions
- ✚ Origami Airplane Contest co-sponsored by Boeing Asian American Professional Association/The Boeing Company
- ✚ Skateboard Art Contest and Exhibit

**Lectures:**

- ✚ Panel discussion on learning about and celebrating **Hapa Experience**
- ✚ **Skatepark/Skateboarding** by Film Maker/Skatepark Designer Scott Yamamura with commentary on Saturday only
- ✚ **“Tradition and Modernity in the Heart of Japan”** Photo Exhibit by Rob Tilley in Harrison Gallery with Slideshow
- ✚ **“Japan’s Environment and Recycling Procedures”** by Shinya Asami, President, Ecosphere (pending)
- ✚ Public Awareness/Information covering Nikkei legacy with talk by Dr. Frank Kitamoto

**Celebrations:**

- ✚ 150 years since the official ratification of U.S.-Japan Treaty of Amity and Commerce with first official Japanese envoy to U.S.; 50 years since planting of cherry tree by Crown Prince Akihito during the royal couple's Seattle stopover.
- ✚ Seattle Japanese Garden 50 years
- ✚ Japan Business Association of Seattle (Shunju Club) 50 years

**Special:**

- ✚ The art of **Ikebana, Tea, and Brush**
- ✚ **Cherry Tree Planting** information area
- ✚ **Taiko** sounds

**Pleasers:**

- ✚ Try our Cherry Blossom Gyudon, beef bowl, Spam Musubi, Obento Box, and Sweets by Umami-Do
- ✚ Culinary demonstrations
- ✚ **Go** tournament and lessons for all ages at Center House Conference Room H
- ✚ Kids Access including **traditional toys and games**. Try origami and kite making/flying
- ✚ Learn Japanese
- ✚ Children and adults **Kimono Dress Up** with Seattle-Kobe Sister City Assn/Hyogo Business & Cultural Center

**More activities:**

- ✚ **Seattle Art Museum** hands-on activity
- ✚ Demonstrations of traditional calligraphy and Sumi-E painting; Mizuhiki, Kiri-E, Bunka Shishu, Chiyogami Dolls, Zokei Bonsai, Sword Polishing, Joinery, and Wood Carving
- ✚ Performing arts include traditional dances, music, vocals, plus demonstrations of Aikido, Iaido, Judo, Karate, Kendo, Kyudo, and Shorinji Kempo

At Seattle Center site we expose quality Japanese traditional and contemporary cultural arts/technology; introduce practitioners, native and non-native; and link the resources of governmental, private, corporate, and educational institutions.

The Festival was founded in appreciation of the gift of 1,000 cherry trees to the city by Prime Minister Takeo Miki on behalf of the Japanese government in commemoration of the nation's Bicentennial.

Come spend the weekend at the Cherry Blossom Festival and see the fun things going on at the Seattle Center grounds with hands on activities for the whole family. Subject to change.

**Times:**

Friday 10-6 Opening Ceremony on Friday at 6 P.M. public invited  
Saturday and Sunday 10-6 PM



## 35th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival

### ***Last Samurai's visit commemorated at the Festival (150 years)***



Photo of the envoy was taken during their visit to Washington's naval shipyard

In the year of 1860, following 242 years of national isolation (sakoku), Japan's first envoy was sent to a foreign country. The last samurai government's envoy included notable and eventual new era leaders as Kaishu (Rintaro) Katsu, Yukichi Fukuzawa (founder of Keio University) and translator Manjiro (John) Nakahama, amongst the official team of 173 members. A main group of 77 boarded U.S. naval flagship Powhatan sent by the U.S. government. Another group of 96 boarded the newly Dutch acquired Japanese ship Kanrin-Maru, to guard the envoy as it made their first ocean crossing.

By the way, Powhatan was named after the Native American chief who was the father of the well known heroine of Disney animation Pocahontas. Powhatan replaced flagship Susquehanna that was part of Commodore Perry's flotilla (Kurofune) as it made its historic first visit to Uraga Bay in 1853.

The Powhatan's official envoy stopped at the Sandwich Islands, today's Hawaiian Islands and met King Kamehameha IV. Meanwhile those on board Kanrin-Maru led by Kaishu (Rintaro) Katsu had a very difficult journey through rough seas and disease affecting three young shipmates who died and were buried in San Francisco's Colma cemetery. Thanks to the advisory American crew led by Captain John Mercer Brooke, they reached San Francisco ahead of Powhatan. Kanrin-Maru returned safely to Japan without the American crew.

From San Francisco, the journey of the official envoy to Washington continued through Panama. At the time, the Panama Canal was not yet built. The group crossed by train to the Atlantic side, taking another ship to New York, then to the Capitol.

The official envoy, led by Shinmi (Buzen no kami) Masaoki, met the 15<sup>th</sup> U.S. President, James Buchanan and completed the ratification of the Treaty. At the end of that year, a new leader was elected as the 16<sup>th</sup> president, Abraham Lincoln, and the following year, the Civil War broke out.

The envoy's return trip took them across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe route, thus completing around the world trip back to Japan. During their absence, Japan's domestic situation changed drastically. The Regent Naosuke Ii who decided to send the envoy was assassinated by opposition sympathizers who tried to topple over 300 years of samurai domination to the emperor's control. The last samurai's government led by Tokugawa clan dominance by 15 successors ended eight years later, bringing the Meiji Restoration in 1868 by enthroning Meiji Emperor and the dawn of modern Japan.

During this transition period, many historic heroes on both sides of the restoration movement were born and many died at a very young age. leaving indelible footprints on Japan's history.

Fifty years ago (1960), to commemorate the occasion of the Treaty's centennial the present Heisei Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, then Crown Prince and Princess visited the states including Seattle. The Cherry Blossom tree planted by Crown Prince Akihito still adorns and blossoms beautifully with care by those who continue the stewardship of the lasting legacy and peace between the two countries.



Picture of planting the cherry tree at newly opened Japanese Garden (Oct. 5, 1960)



Photo of the Emperor's cherry tree transplanted to Seattle Center (Apr. 2010)



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#### シアトル桜祭・日本文化祭(第35回)

今年、2010年は日米修好通商条約批准150周年の年です。万延元年(1860年)。締結された条約批准書交換の為に、240年に渡る鎖国後、日本人が初めて正式に外国を訪れました。今年の「シアトル桜祭・日本文化祭」は、この歴史に焦点をあてます。

日本でもNHK大河ドラマ「竜馬伝」で、この幕末期に活躍した人々が話題となっているようですが、今150年後のアメリカで生活する私達にとっても歴史を振り返ることで、今後の50年、100年後の国際社会の中での日本の姿に思いを寄せてみるのは如何でしょうか。

将来を見据えた時「若者の世代」も今年の焦点です。今年は10年に一度の国勢調査が行なわれています。当地日系人社会も4世では80%以上で異民族との婚姻が進んでおり、一口に日系人社会といっても、その定義、範囲が難しくなっております。「シアトル桜祭・日本文化祭」では日系、非日系に限らず日本文化を理解し実践する「日本文化社会」の広がり啓蒙してまいりましたが、若い世代にとって日本、日本文化がどのような意味をもっているのかの考察の機会を設けます。

「HAPAフォーラム」はそういった若い世代の意見交換の場です。HAPA(ハパ)とはハワイの原住民語(半分は他民族との意味)が転じて(半分は日系)の意に使われてきましたが、現在はカナダも含めて日系に限らず、多民族の血(文化)を受け継ぐ世代の総称として受け入れられています。

「若者の世代」の代表としては、会場シアトルセンターに新しく開設されたスケートパークにおいてスケートボード演技が行なわれます。当地スケボー界から日系プロスケーターの協力を得て、ともすると無頼のイメージのある現代の「歌舞伎者」に彼らのファッションも含めて日米で人気のサブカルチャーを紹介いたします。安全なスポーツとしての講座もあります。

例年の各分野に渡る100を超える定番展示や演技はもちろん、名物となった「桜祭牛丼」もお見逃し無く。

特別展:「国際交流基金「日本の子ども60年」写真展 - 4月12~21日

於シアトルセンター、シアトルセンターパヴィリオン

平成22年 4月 16、17、18日 午前10時 ~ 午後6時

於シアトルセンター

シアトル桜祭・日本文化祭実行委員会

問い合わせ: scbjcf@earthlink.net