

Weekly Cultural News

April 24 - 30, 2023 (Reiwa 5)

Substitute for monthly Cultural News (1998-2020)

For beautiful Japanese life style from Southern California

Makoto Taiko Presents Annual Concert – “Legacy” June 24, 7PM at Little Tokyo’s Aratani Theatre

Pasadena, CA – The power, precision and artistry of Japanese drumming will take center stage when Makoto Taiko presents its annual concert – *Legacy* – on Saturday, June 24, 7:00 p.m. at the Aratani Theatre in Los Angeles.

Legacy will honor Makoto Taiko sensei Koji Nakamura and celebrate his 40 years of playing taiko as well as his many years of leadership with the Pasadena-based group. The concert will also recognize Makoto Taiko’s achievements

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over the years, particularly that of becoming one of the largest community taiko group in Southern California.

Makoto Taiko’s ensemble will gather on stage with guest performers Grammy Award-nominated musician, composer, and producer Shoji Kameda; Grammy Award winner and koto artist Yukiko Matsuyama; Nihon Buyo dancer Hidesomi Bando; and taiko artists and former Makoto Taiko members Blaine O’Brien, and Aki Imai. The evening’s program will include both traditional and modern taiko compositions, including those written by Makoto Taiko’s own instructors, and several of the pieces will be presented in tribute to Nakamura sensei. The concert is expected to attract a sold-out crowd.

Founded in 1999, Makoto Taiko today boasts more than 120 members, ranging in age from 7 to 82. Makoto Taiko is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic secular ensemble open to all interested individuals regardless of drumming experience. Classes for kids, youth, adults, and seniors are offered weekly and range from beginner to advanced levels.

Proceeds from *Legacy* will help Makoto Taiko to continue its concert tradition, expand its curriculum to welcome new students, purchase and maintain drums and instruments, and continue its tradition of community outreach via events, charitable activities, and performances throughout Southern California.

The performance starts at 7 p.m. and will run approximately 90 minutes, plus intermission. Tickets are \$20, \$30, and \$45 and are available through the Aratani Theatre’s website at <https://jacc.org/events/>. An early bird discount of 20% is offered through April 30, 2023.

Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are also available. Please visit makototaiko.org for details.

The Aratani Theatre is located in the Little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles, at 244 San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

For more information, please contact info@makototaiko.org

Weekly Cultural News is an alternative publication in place of the Monthly Cultural News (1998-2020) which was suspended in April 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Cultural News Editor)

Celebrate Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month in Little Tokyo

LOS ANGELES - Go Little Tokyo, Little Tokyo Community Council's community-based small business marketing initiative, is pleased to present family-friendly springtime happenings in Downtown Los Angeles' iconic, nearly 140-year-old neighborhood in honor of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



Guests exploring Little Tokyo at the 2021 Children's Day Event. Photo Courtesy of KIBŌ NOBORI.

Kick off the month of celebration early on Saturday, April 29 from 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the The Japanese American Cultural & Community Center's annual Kodomo no Hi, aka Children's Day event. A celebration in Japan since ancient times, Children's Day activities include, Rajio Taiso, a national warm-up exercise in Japan that promotes good health and socialization, a Kids Craft Workshop hosted in Noguchi Plaza, Ukulele performances, a Japanese animated fantasy screening, and more! To see the full schedule visit jaccc.org.

The Children's Day festivities continue Saturday, May 6 at Terasaki Budokan, a nonprofit multipurpose sports and activities center in Little Tokyo. In collaboration with artist Faith-Ann Kiwa Young and AAPI market CO-MRKT, the free event will feature a full day of fun activities from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. including art workshops, musical performances, and an AAPI-curated marketplace for the whole family to enjoy. For more information visit terasakibudokan.org

Kickoff the 39th edition of the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival and celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month with communities through music, food, and art at the Japanese American National

Museum. The kickoff event will be free to the public and offer complimentary admission to the museum's exhibits throughout the evening. Festival Cinematic Presentations will begin on Friday, May 5 in Little Tokyo. For more information visit festival.nvmedia.org.

Experience the nation's premier Asian-American theatre with the opening night celebration and fundraiser for the East West Players' new musical, "*On This Side of the World*" on Thursday, May 14 at 5 p.m. With show dates through Sunday, June 4, this soaring world premiere musical gives voices to Filipino immigrants navigating old lives and new beginnings, eight-thousand miles from home. For tickets and more information visit Eastwestplayers.org.

Show support for Asian American and Pacific Islander filmmakers at the 39th annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival presented by Visual Communications from Thursday, May 4 through Sunday, May 13. This year's festival will feature a robust lineup of in-person programming along with virtual programming for audiences at home in Southern California and beyond. For more information visit vcmedia.org/festival.

Enjoy the spring season while honoring Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage month by supporting the unique array of Asian-owned businesses in the Little Tokyo community. To learn more about all the businesses in Little Tokyo visit golittletokyo.com.

Pasadena Festival of Tea is back at Pasadena Japanese Garden, May 14 from 10AM: Registration required

The Pasadena Festival of Tea at the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden

MOTHER'S DAY, SUNDAY, MAY 14

10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m.

\$20 per person

Children 12 and under are free

[REGISTER](#)

[Registration](#) is required
For Admission and Special Programs

Free parking at 355 W. State Street, Pasadena.
Corner of S. Orange Grove Dr. and W. State Street.

It is a short walk north on Orange Grove to the garden on Arlington Drive

After a long break, the Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden will host the fourth annual Pasadena Festival of Tea. Held in the Japanese garden on Arlington Drive and in the traditional Japanese teahouse, the festival will delight tea lovers and garden lovers alike. It will also provide a uniquely delicious and beautiful way to celebrate Mother's Day!

Six local tea vendors will represent Japanese, Chinese, Korean and contemporary fermented and herbal tea traditions. Every registered guest will receive a custom-made tasting cup at check-in and the tea specialists will offer samplings of their teas and share expert knowledge and advice. Additional cups for children can be purchased for \$2 each.

The Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden will also be joined



by ceramic artist Julie Bagish, with her Japanese-style tea ceremony wares and, as always, Takara-ten, the garden's gift shop, will be open with an array of antique and vintage items, including a special sale of vintage kimonos.

For a limited number of guests, traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony Demonstrations will be held in the garden's Niko-an Teahouse. The tea practitioner, Mikko Nakatomi, serves guests

Japanese tea and sweets while sharing information about the history and traditions behind the tea ceremony. Additionally, special Pu-erh Tea Tastings with Linda Louie of Bana Tea will be held for small groups at the garden's Waiting Bench.

[Register](#) along with admission registration
Tea Ceremony Demonstrations in the Niko-an Teahouse
11am, 1pm, 3pm \$25

Small-group Pu-erh Tea Tastings at the Waiting Bench
10:15am, 12pm, 2pm \$10

Vendors represented this year are:

[Tea Master of Little Tokyo](#) [Bana Tea](#)
[Steep LA](#) [Hankook Tea](#)
Ienaga & Co., Sencha [People's Potions](#)

Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden is located at 270
Arlington Drive, Pasadena, CA 91105.

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Subscription for \$36 per four months

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