

THE APPA Newsletter
Feb. 16, 2010

See This Weekend

MISSION STATEMENT:

Promote full utilization of the capabilities of the Enterprise's employees and champion the betterment of the company and community. Promote interest in Asian Pacific issues and culture and act as a bridge to all groups within our community. (substitute in your Enterprise and company, etc...)

ed. by Douglas Ikemi
(dkikemi@pacbell.net)

Back issues of the newsletter for all of 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009 are available at
<http://www.ikemi.info/APPA/newsletters>.

if you want to look up some past event.

This newsletter was originally published under the auspices of the Hughes Asian Pacific Professional Association (no longer extant). It currently has no affiliation and is available to anyone who is interested in downloading it.

Please send in information on cultural events and news items to dkikemi@pacbell.net.
The mac.com address will be shut down soon. Thanks to those who have.

Long range calendar items:

Chinatown Farmers Market EVERY THURSDAY FROM 2-6PM, the Chinatown Farmers' Market takes place at Hill & Alpine bringing fresh fruits and produce by California Farmers to the Chinatown Community. FRIED BANANA, FRIED YAM, HAWAIIAN CHICKEN. We invite you to come and experience the Chinatown Farmers' Market. Free parking with purchase.

The Downtown Arts District/Little Tokyo Farmers' Market
Weller Court 2nd & San Pedro in Little Tokyo Summer Hours 10-3pm
Features fresh produce, Hawaiian Chicken, more food gifts...and live jazz band.
Tuesdays from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.

The weekly market is held every Tuesday from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m year round, rain or shine. Sponsored by LARABA the market will include farm-fresh produce, Asian produce, organic produce, eggs, seafood, cheese, olives, olive oils, flowers, plants, bread and prepared foods and more. Hawaiian Chicken, Roasted corn on the cobb Local businesses interested in having a prepared food booth at the market or individuals interested in volunteering at this non-profit event, please contact Susan Hutchinson at 323-660-8660 for more information

Los Angeles Public Library Celebrates our DiverseCity

<http://www.lapl.org/kidspath/events/diversecity/index.html>

Jan 22 - Feb 13 A Play "Kataki" (The Enemy), War from the Pacific Brought to the Hollywood Stage

War is coming. Starting Jan. 22, thru Feb. 13, Hollywood will be taken back into the pacific front of World War II when Kataki opens at the McCadden Theatre located at 1157 N McCadden Pl. in Hollywood's Theatre Row every Friday and Saturday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm and Sunday 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

One American soldier and one Japanese soldier will be stranded together on an island in the Pacific with nothing but a solitary battle knife separating them.

The Los Angeles stage will for the first time witness the English and Japanese languages sharing the same stage when Shimon Wincelberg's Kataki is remade since its original 1959 Broadway debut.

Kataki tells the story of an American soldier, who regains consciousness after crash landing on a deserted island somewhere in the Pacific Ocean during the war. He awakens to find himself in the hands of a Japanese Imperial soldier, his enemy combatant.

With their respective languages of little use and one bayonet between them serving as judge, jury, and executioner, two soldiers must find ways communicate and coexist. The only possible alternative would be the extermination of either one of them.

This incredibly unique production brings together the creative team comprised of Director Peter Haskell and the Prince Livingston Players which includes Stars/Producers Fernando Aldaz and Yas Takahashi all of which come from a strong foundation and belief in truthful and riveting acting that captures the real essence of human nature.

A graduate from Harvard University, Haskell's directorial approach is heavily influenced by his long time mentor Peter Kass, who was a member of the Original Group Theatre, founded on the revolutionary acting approach that gradually swept the United States in the 30s and 40s that eventually came to be known as 'Method' acting.

Haskell also brings to the table his United States armed forces expertise having served in the 11th Airborne Division from May 1954 thru April 1956. Haskell's creative approach to Kataki is also influenced by his experience of three uncles who served the armed forces during the Second World War.

Aldaz, who plays Alvin, brings to the table his extensive training having studied at the Circle in the Square Theatre School on Broadway and the Stella Adler Academy of Acting in Los Angeles.

Takahashi who plays Kimura, completes this versed creative triad, having been born in Osaka, Japan and a member of Los Angeles's only Japanese theatre company, "Arigato-Kai," Takahashi also received his acting foundation from the Stella Adler Academy of Acting of Los Angeles.

Audiences will get an authentic taste of the war's pacific front conflict when this creative teams' vision hits the stage at the end of January. Tickets can be bought online at the Kataki official webpage, www.kataki2010.com or at the door of the McCadden before show times. Additional information is available at Kataki's official [Facebook page](#).

Your individual reservation number is: (323) 960-7721.

[from Cultural News, <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs026/1102629591878/archive/1102918859079.html>]

2009-2010 International Human Rights Film Series

The UCLA International Institute is proud to present the second annual Human Rights Film Series, featuring monthly presentations of recent documentaries and feature films, on human rights issues that receive little attention in the United States. These films stand out for their depiction of issues on terms dictated from within the countries and cultures that they examine. Featuring commentary from filmmakers and scholars, each screening will also be an opportunity for public discussion about the issues.

All films screened at James Bridges Theater, 1409 Melnitz, UCLA

Sponsored by the International Institute, African Studies Center, Asia Institute, Center for European and Eurasian Studies, Latin American

Institute, Center for Near Eastern Studies, Center for Southeast Asian Studies, and the UCLA School of Law International Human Rights Program, and Human Rights Watch

The Bitter Taste of Tea: A Journey into the World of Fair Trade

Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 6:30 pm

A film by Tom Heinemann and Erling Borgen, Denmark, 2008.

Reception at 6:00. Screening followed by a forum on tea and fair trade.

Co-sponsored by the Asia Institute

Burma VJ: Reporting from a Closed Country

Friday, November 20, 7:00 pm

A film by Anders Østergaard, Norway/Sweden/Denmark/UK, 2008.

Reception at 6:30

Co-sponsored by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, the Asia Institute, and Human Rights Watch

The Reckoning: The Epic Story of the Battle for the International Criminal Court

Wednesday, October 21, 6:00 pm

A film by Paco de Onís, Peter Kinoy, and Pamela Yates, USA, 2009.

Wednesday, February 24: (Film TBA)

Co-sponsored by the Center for European and Eurasian Studies

Wednesday, March 31: (Film TBA)

Co-sponsored by the Latin American Institute

Reception at 6:00 pm. Screening at 6:30 pm followed by a discussion with Maximo Langer, UCLA School of Law, and

Cesare Romano, Loyola Law School.

Co-sponsored by the UCLA School of Law International Human Rights Program and Human Rights Watch.

For more info visit www.international.ucla.edu/humanrights

Hollywood Chinese: The Arthur Dong Collection Exhibition / October 23, 2009 – May 31, 2010

Hollywood Chinese: The Arthur Dong Documentary Collection presents selections from over 800 pieces of movie memorabilia that was collected during the ten-year research for Arthur Dong's groundbreaking film, Hollywood Chinese. Through posters, lobby cards, film stills, and scripts and documents dating from 1912, visitors journey into a

vivid and graphic study of how Chinese have been imagined in the movies, reflecting the social and cultural history of the Chinese in America during the last century. In addition to iconic depictions evidenced by material from films such as *The Good Earth*, *The Vengeance of Fu Manchu*, *Charlie Chan in Honolulu*, and *Flower Drum Song*, highlights of the collection include the surviving archive of pioneer Chinese American filmmaker James B. Leong, who produced the 1921 film, *Lotus Blossom*, in Los Angeles.

Filmmaker Arthur Dong is the Guest Curator for this exhibition.

The Chinese American Museum

425 N. Los Angeles Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(The cross street is Arcadia)

camla.org

Jan 3 - Feb 28, 2010 12th Annual Shikishi Exhibition

Japanese American Cultural and

Community Center

Doizaki Gallery

244 South San Pedro Street

(between 2nd and 3rd Streets)

Los Angeles (Little Tokyo), CA 90012

(213) 628-2725

Asia America Symphony's 2010 season brings world renowned musicians to Los Angeles

The Asia America Symphony Association (AASA) led by Music Director & Conductor, David Benoit announces its 2010 Concert Season, featuring a line-up of world renowned and celebrated artists.

Heading up the concert series on Saturday, February 20 is the nation's most sought after cellist, Ben Hong presenting a diverse program of "Classical and Jazz" with the David Benoit Trio and musicians of the Asia America Symphony Orchestra followed by one of the major voices in today's chamber jazz scene, Er-hu and premier violinist, Meg Okura, performing for the first time with the David Benoit Trio on March 20.

Two other outstanding performances include the Asia America Youth Orchestra in concert on April 18, premiering David Benoit's new composition, "Native California", and the finale concert featuring platinum selling artist and six-time Grammy nominee, saxophonist, Dave Koz performing with the Asia America Symphony Orchestra under Music Director and Conductor, David Benoit on June 5.

Mr. Benoit also announced AASA's Annual International Composition for Orchestra Competition open to all young composers up to 25 years of age.

Monetary prizes are awarded to winners in two youth divisions.

CONCERT I: Saturday, February 20, 2010 - 8pm / Harlyne J. Norris

Pavilion, Rolling Hills Estates

Evening with BEN HONG, the David Benoit Trio and members of the Asia America Symphony Orchestra

Called a "Ninja Cellist" by Soloist film actor, Jamie Foxx, Ben Hong is anything but your typical cellist. In addition to being the youngest cellist of the Los Angeles Philharmonic as Assistant Principal Cellist, Ben's desire to grow musically has resulted in a number of diverse performance opportunities.

Most recently, Ben was hired by Dreamworks to train several cast members of the movie, "The Soloist", including Academy Award winner, Jamie Foxx and Tom Hollander. He also served as an on-set technical advisor. The movie is based on Steve Lopez's columns in the Los Angeles Times about Nathaniel Anthony Ayers, a former Juilliard student who ended up on the streets of Los Angeles, homeless and schizophrenic, yet held tight to his music.

Ben's playing is featured on the film's soundtrack. He will be performing with the David Benoit Trio and members of the Asia America Symphony Orchestra: concertmaster, Yun Tang and principal clarinetist, Darryl Tanikawa in a program of classical and jazz.

Ticket Prices: \$50 Preferred, \$35 General Seating; Harlyne J. Norris

Pavilion, 501 Indian Peak Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

CONCERT II: Saturday, March 20, 2010 - 8pm / Harlyne J. Norris Pavilion, Rolling Hills Estates

Electric Violin & Er-hu Virtuoso, MEG OKURA with the David Benoit Trio

A native of Japan, composer, Er-hu player and premier jazz violinist, Meg Okura has appeared in over fifty albums, movie soundtracks, television programs and music videos.

Juilliard trained, Ms. Okura has performed with musical icons such as David Bowie, Mary J. Blige, Michael Brecker, Philip Glass, Ziggy Marley, Lee Konitz, Lenny Kravitz, and Kanye West.

Directing the Pan Asian Chamber Jazz Ensemble, Meg is inventing and defining "world chamber jazz" today.

Performing together for the first time with the David Benoit Trio, this concert will invigorate your musical senses and is not to be missed.

Ticket Prices: \$50 Preferred, \$35 General Seating; Harlyne J. Norris Pavilion, 501 Indian Peak Road, Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

CONCERT III: Sunday, April 18, 2010 - 7pm / James Armstrong Theatre, Torrance

ASIA AMERICA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Music Without Borders

The Asia America Youth Orchestra (AAYO) will debut the world premiere performance of David Benoit's new composition, composed specially for AAYO, "Native California", spotlighting many members of its orchestra in a variety of musical styles.

Also featured will be AAYO violin virtuosos, Eleanor Dunbar and Jessie Chen performing Bach's Double Violin Concerto.

The Asia America Youth Orchestra was founded in 2001 by Music Director and Conductor, David Benoit, to provide opportunities for young musicians from all cultures, races and backgrounds to play in a professional-level ensemble.

Ticket Prices: \$40 Preferred Seating, \$25 General Seating; James R.

Armstrong Theatre, 3330 N. Civic Center Drive, Torrance, CA 90503.

CONCERT IV: Saturday, June 5, 2010 - 8pm / Aratani Japan America Theatre,
JACCC, Los Angeles

ASIA AMERICA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

David Benoit, Music Director and Conductor

with special guest, saxophonist DAVE KOZ

A Night at the Movies

Platinum selling artist, humanitarian, radio host and six-time Grammy nominee,
saxophonist Dave Koz will join Music Director & Conductor David Benoit and the Asia
America Symphony Orchestra performing music from his "At The Movies" CD.

A 2009 recipient of a "star" on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Dave Koz has played with
musical luminaries such as Burt Bacharach, Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Celine Dion,
Kenny Loggins, U2, Barry Manilow, and Rod Stewart.

Also featured in this concert will be the fantastic music of John Williams.

Ticket Prices: \$100 VIP Seating with post-concert reception, \$75 Premier Seating, \$50
General Seating; Aratani Japan America Theatre, 244 South San Pedro St. Los
Angeles, CA 90012.

[from Cultural News]

Feb. 26 Japanese Garden at California State University, Long Beach
to Host "Kimono In Color: A Spectrum of Seasons"

How the beauty of changing seasons is reflected in harmonious colors of kimono in
ancient and modern Japanese culture is the topic of the Winter Lecture titled "Kimono in
Color: A Spectrum of Seasons," presented by Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden at
California State University, Long Beach (CSULB).

The program takes place Friday, Feb. 26, in the Daniel Recital Hall on the CSULB
campus. Light refreshments will be served at 7 p.m. followed by the program at 7:30
p.m.

Kimono will be displayed and Alison Redfoot-DiLiddo, the garden's assistant director for
education, will discuss examples of color use in kimono, the imagery of the four
seasons based on the garden's kimono collection and the garden itself, as well as her
research into this topic.

Admission is free to members of the Friends of the Japanese Garden and \$10 for non-
members.

Seating is limited and reservations are required by calling the garden's Education
Department at (562) 985-8420.

www.csulb.edu/~jgarden

[from Cultural News]

Feb 27 Koto musician Yukiko Matsuyama to present new CD concert,
Yukiko Matsuyama & The Koto Yuki Band

Saturday, Feb 27, at 8:00PM

Remo Recreational Music Center

7308 Coldwater Canyon, North Hollywood, CA 91605

Tickets are \$15 in advance sale, \$18 at doors

Ticket info: (760) 576-KOTO (5686)

www.KotoYuki.com

To celebrate the release of a new CD "Creme Brulee," koto musician Yukiko Matsuyama and the Koto Yuki Band will perform at Remo Recreational Music Center in North Hollywood on Saturday, Feb 27 at 8:00 p.m.

It's a joyful blend of Smooth Jazz, New Age & World Music that will excite and delight the audiences.

A native of Osaka, Japan, Yukiko is blending the traditional sound of the koto with western music. "It's definitely not what comes to mind when one imagines traditional Koto music." says one critic.

The band features Diana Dentino on keys, Vince VanTrigt on bass, Voyce McGinley III - drums & percussion with Special Guests: Remo Signature artist Leon Mobley - percussion, & Greg Vail - sax & flute. Tom Kurai of the Taiko Center of Los Angeles will be opening the show.

Yukiko Matsuyama bridges eras and cultures. Her compositions for koto and western instruments delve into a joyous and celebrative blend of world and pop music.

She delivers the sounds of the ancient 7th century instrument with authority and grace while managing to infuse elements of jazz, pop, new age, and world music into her mesmerizing compositions.

Born in Osaka, Japan, Matsuyama was classically trained at the Ikuta School of Koto from age 9. She received her professional certification and teaching credential in 1986.

In 1993 Matsuyama came to Los Angeles and began composing original music, blending the traditional sound of the koto with western music. She has released three original recordings, Kazaguruma, Tsubomi, and Koto and has just finished her fourth CD Creme Brulee.

Matsuyama has performed with a diverse array of artists including the Paul Winter, John York (The Byrds), Rei Aoo Dance Planet, Hirokazu Kosaka, Billy Mitchell, Tadashi Namba, Akihiro Ito, Hirotaka Ogawa, Diana Dentino (Kitaro & Peabo Bryson), Koji Nakamura, Dave Iwataki (Hiroshima), Mike Bennett (Hilary Duff), & Dr. Reed Gratz (Buddy DeFranco).

She's performed at the Japan America Theatre, the John Anson Ford Theatre, the Grand Canyon National Park, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Huntington Library, and many music festivals, cultural and community events, universities and schools. Matsuyama also performs several times a year in Japan.

A 13-string zither or harp, the Koto is Japan's national instrument.

www.KotoYuki.com

[from Cultural News]

The Grateful Crane Ensemble Presents The Betrayed

Saturday, February 27 * 11 AM & 3 PM

Sunday, February 28 * 2 PM

\$23.00 members; \$25.00 non-members. To purchase tickets, please call (323) 769-5503

A Play by Hiroshi Kashiwagi Directed by Darrell Kunitomi Southern California Premiere Award-winning Nisei playwright, actor, poet, and author Hiroshi Kashiwagi's Southern California premiere of his new two-act play about a young Nisei couple torn apart over the infamous loyalty questions #27 & #28. Forty years later, we meet Tak and Grace

again, and learn how these questions and the decisions they made back then affected them for the rest of their lives.

APANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

369 East First Street

Los Angeles, California 90012

phone: (213) 625-0414

February 28, 2010 "The Harimaya Bridge" Film Screening

Date: Sunday,

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Aratani Japan America Theatre in Little Tokyo

244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

The Aurora Foundation is proud to present "THE HARIMAYA BRIDGE" Film Screening.

Q&A with Director Aaron Woolfolk(2002 Aurora Challenge Grant Winner) & Special

Guest right after the screening

The screening will be presented at the Aratani Japan America Theatre in downtown Los Angeles.

Tickets \$12 + \$2 handling fee + \$1 shipping fee(optional)

<http://www.auroraevent.org/JLSF/index.php/AURORA-EVENTS/qthe-harimaya-bridgeq-2010-film-screening.html>

Feb 27-28 Chinatown Firecracker 5/10K Feb 28

The 10K course is a challenging run through the hills of Elysian Park. From N. Broadway, the course winds up into the park to it's highest elevation (see elevation map). The course winds through tree-lined rolling hills with the summit of Angels Point providing spectacular 180 degrees of the city.

The early morning vistas of downtown Los Angeles to the south and neighborhoods to the north from the various vantage points in Elysian Park are quite breathtaking and not commonly seen, even by longtime Angelenos.

Whatever your competitive level, enjoy the scenery and the camaraderie of fellow runners.

There is no vehicular traffic to contend with. Mile markers indicate where you are. Split times are called out by supportive course workers.

5K and 10K Starting times will stagger to accommodate all entrants.

Entry fee includes a complimentary "Carbo-Load" meal on Saturday.

Note: Course descriptions and images may change without notice due to construction, accessibility and other factors beyond our control.

The 5K run/walk is an up and back loop that takes participants to Dodger Stadium. The course begins on North Broadway for approximately 1/3 mile, then turns left onto Bishops Road. An immediate right turn at Stadium Way takes you over the 110 freeway toward Dodger Stadium for about a 1 mile uphill climb. This distance includes a right at Lookout Dr., then onto Lilac Terrace which leads again onto Stadium Way. A U-turn a little past Elysian Park Ave. returns you to Stadium Way directly to Bishops Road, then onto North Broadway toward the finish line. There is one water station on the course.

5K and 10K Starting times will stagger to accommodate all entrants.

Entry fee includes a complimentary "Carbo-Load" meal on Saturday.

Feb 27

20+ Mile Ride

Similar to the route from the 2009 inaugural event, this is a loop from Chinatown to Griffith Park and back. This year, a portion of this ride uses the L.A. River bike path. Fully supported with a refreshment stop near half distance in Griffith Park. Since this ride is mainly on city streets, young riders are not encouraged to participate. Return to Chinatown for post-event refreshments, a Carbo-Load meal and Nite n' Day entertainment. This ride is suggested for beginner to intermediate riders. Mostly flat with a few rolling hills.

42+ Mile Ride

A ride to provide separation between you and other riders. This ride has a mixture of flats and challenging hills with an emphasis on the latter. After a relatively sedate ride into Griffith Park, you'll encounter the first climb in the hills toward Travel Town. After a brief stop for refreshments in the park, it's onto a rather flat ride through Glendale (Glenoaks Blvd.) to Chevy Chase Dr. Then prepare for a 4 mile climb to the top of Linda Vista for another rest area. Another short climb on Figueroa St. leads you downward toward the Rose Bowl in Pasadena via the lush neighborhoods near Descanso Gardens. A final rest stop at the Rose Bowl begins the mostly downhill finish through the streets of South Pasadena and neighborhoods north of Chinatown via the Arroyo Seco Bike Path. Be prepared for cool weather, quiet streets, scenic vistas and out of the seat climbing. Ride level: Intermediate to advanced. Refer to the enclosed map and elevation chart. If this were a spicy barbecued chicken dish, it would be an 8 on a scale of 1-10. The Los Angeles Firecracker Run Committee, Inc. (LACFRC, Inc.) is a community based-based, 501.3(c)(3) non-profit organization with a non-salaried group of volunteers who donate their time and energies to organize and stage an annual run/walk event and to promote activities beneficial to the Los Angeles Chinatown community. The "Firecracker Run" is recognized as one of the best organized events in the running community. For 31 years, the event remains participant-oriented; to make his/her participation as memorable and enjoyable as possible.

<http://firecracker10k.org/>

March 11, Hiromi Uehara in Concert

Thursday, 8pm

The Jazz Bakery's "Movable Feast" series and JACCC are proud to present the brilliant young Japanese fusion jazz piano virtuoso, Hiromi Uehara. She is heralded as one of the brightest new lights on the jazz landscape on both sides of the ocean. Hiromi's unique piano styling is a melding of power; grace and passion that displays an astonishing range of mood and emotion.

Making a very rare appearance in Southern California, the protégée of such jazz veterans as pianist Ahmad Jamal and bassist Richard Evans, Hiromi is the latest artist on the Jazz Bakery's "Movable Feast" roster that has included Ernie Andrews, Dori Caymmi, Mose Allison, Hubert Laws and Bill Henderson. Hiromi's Little Tokyo concert performance follows on the heels of her most recent releases, Hiromi Live in Concert and Hiromi's Sonicbloom Live in Concert.

For information or to purchase tickets visit the Jazz Bakery website at www.jazzbakery.org or call (310) 271-9039

\$35 General Admission

\$20 Seniors/Students. Limited seats available and ID is required at will call.

JACCC Members' discount available by purchasing tickets directly through the Jazz Bakery. Membership ID is required at will call.

VENUE: The Japan America Theatre

Japanese American Cultural and

Community Center

244 South San Pedro Street

(between 2nd and 3rd Streets)

Los Angeles (Little Tokyo), CA 90012

(213) 628-2725

Aratani/Japan America Theatre Box Office Info:

(213) 680-3700

Mar 11-13 Wakayagi school dancers to perform for "Memoirs of a Geisha" music at Pacific Symphony concert,

Dancers of Wakahisa-Kai, a Wakayagi School group in Orange County will perform for "Sayuri's Theme from Memoirs of a Geisha" in "A Salute to John Williams" concert by Pacific Symphony at Orange County Performing Arts Center Renee and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall from Mar 11-13 at 8:00 p.m.

Having a long-standing collaborative relationship with Steven Spielberg, John Williams has composed numerous original music for hit movies as Jaws, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Star Wars, E.T., The Extra-Terrestrial, Hook and Jurassic Park. Williams also composed music for Memoirs of a Geisha (2005) because Spielberg was a producer for the film.

Wakahisa-Kai lead by Mme Hisame Wakayagi (photo) of Cypress performed at the similar concert for "Sayuri's Theme" with Pacific Symphony in August 2007.

Two of Wakahisa-Kai members danced in the movie Memoirs of a Geisha.

Dancers who are dubbed as Group Yume (Dream), are Kiyoka Wakayagi, Ayaka Wakayagi, Shiho Wakayagi, Hisaki Wakayagi, and Sophia Jeon. The choreographer of the stage is Mme. Hisame Wakayagi. Shuho Wakayagi helps the stage.

Mme. Hisame Wakayagi has taught Japanese classical dance in Orange County for near 15 years. Her studios are located at Cypress, Costa Mesa, Culver City and Sawtell in West Los Angeles. She is also the president of the Asian Traditional Dance and Music Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization to spread Asian dance in Orange County. Music in "A Salute to John Williams" includes Superman, ET, Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, Star Wars, Jaws, Raiders of the Lost Ark, and Memoirs of a Geisha.

Orange County Performing Arts Center is located at 615 Town Center Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626. Tickets are \$185 - \$25. To buy tickets, visit www.ocpac.org.

[from Cultural News]

March 31 Jero in Concert 8PM Aratani Theatre

www.jaccc.org

April 24 Hidden Legacy, A Tribute to Teachers of Japanese Traditional Arts in the WRA (War Relocation Authority) Camps

For one performance only actual artists who taught and learned Japanese Traditional arts during the camp period will be presented in performance and discussion.

Koyasan Buddhist Temple
342 E. 1st St., Los Angeles

Suggested donation:

\$20 General Admission, \$15 Seniors with ID

Call 213-628-2725, x133, kelly@jaccc.org

<http://www.jaccc.org/events.htm>

See LA Library DiverseCity events at <http://www.lapl.org/kidspath/events/diversecity/index.html>

This Weekend (and earlier/later)

"Device Art in Japan" symposium and exhibitions to be held at UCLA, Feb 18-19
Device Art challenges traditional paradigms of art. The borders between art and other related fields are no longer clear-cut. Device Art explores new ways of bridging art, design, technology, science and entertainment by using both latest innovations and everyday technology. It also introduces elements derived from the Japanese traditional culture such as the appreciation of tools and materials.

Device art is often playful and can be realized as gadgets. Some of them are even turned into commercial products meant to make our lives a little more interesting and to help us understand what it means to live in a media society.

While it reflects elements of the Japanese culture, Device Art is also influenced by worldwide phenomena in art, design, fashion, architecture, etc, and the do-it-yourself technology movement.

GADGET OK!: Device Art in Japan Symposium Lecture, Performance and Exhibitions will take place on Feb 18 and 19 on UCLA campus at EDA, Broad Art Center.

<http://www.f.waseda.jp/kusahara/GadgetOK/Top.html>

<http://www.design.ucla.edu/events/calendar.php?ID=612>

<http://artsci.ucla.edu/artsci/GADGETOK!/#body>

THURSDAY, February 18, 2010 Keynote and Opening Performance

Keynote

Frederik Schodt, (Writer, Specialist of Japanese popular culture)

"Astro Boy and Robot Love in Japan: The Nexus of Fantasy and Technology"

5:30 pm, Feb. 18, 2010 at EDA, Broad Art Center

Keynote outline: In this illustrated presentation, Frederik L. Schodt will discuss how the popular manga and anime character of "Astro Boy" (Tetsuwan Atomu) can be seen as a metaphor for the relationship between popular culture and technology in Japan.

Frederik Schodt is a winner of major awards given to outstanding researchers in manga and anime. Among critics and scholars in Japan his book Dreamland Japan: Writings on Modern Manga is considered a best writing on manga. Schodt has already analyzed

robot culture in Japan in his book *Inside the Robot Kingdom: Japan, Mechatronics, and the Coming Robotopia* as early as in 1988.

Opening Performance: Maywa Denki New Product Presentation (Art Unit by Novmichi Tosa)

"Otamatone: Maywa Denki's latest product"

6:30pm, Feb 18, 2010 at EDA, The Broad Art Center

Otamatone is a music instrument in a shape of a quaver, or a tadpole ("otamajakushi" in Japanese, often associated with musical notes for its form). By pushing its "tail" and opening its "mouth" anyone can play music, with effects such as wah-wah, vibrato and glissando.

Exhibition Gadget OK!

February 18 - 24, 2010

Bermant Grad Gallery, Entrance, The Broad Art Center

Exhibiting Artists: Novmichi Tosa (Maywa Denki), Kazuhiko Hachiya, Sachiko Kodama, Hiroo Iwata, Ryota Kuwakubo

Selected gadgets from Japan: TENORI-ON (by Toshio Iwai and Yamaha), USB gadgets, miniature robots, cell phone straps, etc.

FRIDAY, February 19, 2010 Symposium, 10 am - 5 pm, CNSI Auditorium

Speakers & panelists: Victoria Vesna (Art Sci center Director), Hiroo Iwata (Tsukuba University), Masahiko Inami (Keio University), Sachiko Kodama (University of Electro-Communication), Erkki Huhtamo (UCLA), Eddo Stern (UCLA), Kazuhiko Hachiya (Artist), Machiko Kusahara (Waseda University/UCLA), Novmichi Tosa (Artist, Maywa Denki), Peter Lunenfeld (UCLA), Casey Reas, Frederik Schodt

10:00 Opening remark and session chair: Victoria Vesna (Art | Sci center Director)

Hiroo Iwata (Tsukuba University)

Sachiko Kodama (University of Electro-Communication)

Masahiko Inami (Keio University)

11:30 - 11:40 Break

11:40 Session chair: Erkki Huhtamo (UCLA)

Eddo Stern (UCLA)

Kazuhiko Hachiya (Artist)

12:40 - 1:20 lunch break (the exhibition will be open through the lunch break)

1:20 Session Chair: Machiko Kusahara

Machiko Kusahara (Waseda University/UCLA)

Novmichi Tosa (Artist, Maywa Denki)

Erkki Huhtamo (UCLA)

2:50 - 3:00 Break

3:00 - 5:00 Panel discussion Chair: Peter Lunenfeld (UCLA)

Panelists: speakers including Frederik Schodt

5:15 Exhibition opening reception at Art |Sci Gallery

D|MA2 - Device | Machine Arts X Design | Media Arts

Feb. 18 - March 4, 2010

Art | Sci center Gallery, CnSI (Opening: 5:15pm, Feb. 19)

Works by UCLA artists: Jonathan Cecil, Megan Daalder, David Elliot, Michael Kontopoulos, Lauren McCarthy, Eric Siu, Pinar Yoldas

Co-curated by Eric Siu and Machiko Kusahara

The exhibition and symposium are sponsored by DMA, Art | Sci center of UCLA, and CREST program of Japan Science and Technology Agency
Broad Art Center is located at 240 Charles E. Young Drive, Room 1250, Los Angeles, CA 90095.

Parking is \$10 all day, and is available in structure 3, adjacent to the building. For more information, call (310) 825-9007.

[From Cultural News]

Chinese New Year Festival

Saturday, February 20, 2010 to Sunday, February 21, 2010

[Central Plaza Entertainment Stage](#)

Central Plaza

943-951 N. Broadway

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Entertainment Schedule (tentative)

Saturday, February 20, 2010 (12pm-8pm)

Sunday, February 21, 2010 (12pm-5pm)

Golden Dragon Parade

Saturday, February 20, 2010

And Festival

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Five Star Parking Lot

Broadway and Cesar Chavez

Saturday and Sunday, February

20 and 21, 2010

Feb 20 Day of Remembrance

Legacy of Korematsu

2-4PM at JANM

Community Day of Remembrance

*SPECIAL: Pay what you can!

The Day of Remembrance marks President Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, which authorized the unconstitutional forced removal of 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast and Hawai'i during World War II. Keep checking back for more information and an updated program schedule.

Presented in collaboration with the Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, the Japanese American Citizen's League—Pacific Southwest, and the National Museum.

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

369 East First Street

Los Angeles, California 90012

phone: (213) 625-0414

janm.org

Saturday, Feb 20, 2010 Six Taste's Little Tokyo Food Tour

Little Tokyo is home to several restaurants, bakeries, and other historical eating establishments. Its 100-plus years of history provide some fascinating stories. Six Taste's Little Tokyo Tour will take you throughout Little Tokyo, from Fugetsu-Do, a confectionary shop and the oldest building in Little Tokyo to Chado Tea Room, where you'll get to taste some authentic Japanese tea, to several other restaurants and other eateries.

Six Taste's food tours are more than just walking and eating. They hope to provide you with an entertaining, educational, and exciting experience. You'll learn about Japanese culture, the history of Little Tokyo, the art and science of tasting, and have great conversations over great food.

The "Gastronaut Tour" includes a balance of history, culture, and delicious food. You'll stop at some of the most fascinating historical locations in Little Tokyo, meet owners of some of the longest running stores in Little Tokyo, try amazing food at seven different locations, and learn about Japanese culture and culinary customs. This tour is perfect for tourists or LA natives that have never ventured into Little Tokyo before.

\$50 members; \$55 non-members, includes Museum admission. Comfortable walking shoes and warm clothes recommended. Weather permitting.

For more information about Six Taste, go to www.sixtaste.com.

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Feb 20 Free Rakugo comedy storytelling at Culver City, Buster's Baskets and Flowers and Rakugo performer William Crowley presents free "Rakugo" comedy storytelling show with koto music on Saturday, Feb 20 at 4:00 pm at its store located at 3951 B Higuera Street, Culver City, CA 90232.

Admission free. Space is limited. RSVP with William Crowley at williamcrowley07@gmail.com

Wear warm clothes, because one wall will be opened to the outside.

Koto will be played before and after the show by Ruth Handy (left photo), a member of Awaya Kai Koto School in Gardena. Ruth Handy runs [Jizo Peace Center](#) at Pine Mountains in Kern County, California, 50 miles north from Los Angeles.

The Rakugo performance runs for about 30 minutes with Q and A session. After the show free tea and desserts will be served to the audiences.

Rakugo, traditional Japanese comic storytelling, is a 400 year old art form.

William Crowley is the first non-Japanese to professionally perform this internationally, in English and Japanese.

www.youtube.com/user/williamcrowley07

[From Cultural News]

Feb 20 - Feb 21, 2010 LA TET FESTIVAL 2010

[Whittier Narrows Park](#)

(Rosemead Blvd. & Freeway 60, South El Monte)

(714) 270-4515

Event: The eighth annual LA Tet Festival, year 2010

Objective: To preserve and promote the Vietnamese Culture in Southern California

Theme: **Flowers of the Spring**

Date:

Attendance: Expect 40,000 people

Overview of Event:

Program of LA Tet Festival 2010

Saturday Feb 20th, 2010

- 11:00 a.m.** Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
- 11:30 a.m.** Speech from the government and sponsors. Opening Celebration with Firecrackers & Lion Dance Performance.
- 12:30 p.m.** Martial Arts Performance.
- 12:45 p.m.** Armanian Dance Group
- 1:00 p.m.** Vietnamese Dance & Music performances
- 1:15 p.m.** Mexico Dance
- 2:00 p.m.** Music Bands with famous singer
- 3:00 p.m.** Chinese Dance Group
- 3:30 p.m.** Modern and Fashion Show
- 4:00 p.m.** Vietnamese Traditional Dance
- 5:00 p.m.** Break
- 6:00 p.m.** Miss LA TET 2010 Beauty Pageant (Introduction)

- 7:00 p.m.** Hawaii Dance Group
- 7:30 p.m.** Miss LA TET 2010 Beauty Pageant (Round 1)
- 8:15 p.m.** Miss LA TET 2010 Beauty Pageant (Round 2)
- 9:30 p.m.** Miss LA TET 2010 Beauty Pageant (Final)
- 10:00 p.m.** Ended

Sunday, February 21st, 2010

- 11:00 a.m.** Dragon Dance and Welcome Ceremony
- 12:00 a.m.** Children Traditional Costume & Talent Contest
- 2:00 p.m.** Artistic Dance and Music Skits
- 3:00 p.m.** Korean Dance Group
- 4:00 p.m.** Concert (Bands and Singers)
- 5:00 p.m.** Break

- 6:00 p.m.** Mrs. LA TET 2010 Beauty Pageant (Introduction)
7:00 p.m. Traditional Music and Live Band
7:30 p.m. Mrs. LA TET 2010 Beauty Pageant (Round 1)
8:30 p.m. Vietnamese Dance Group
9:00 p.m. Mrs. LA TET 2010 Beauty Pageant (Round 2, Final)
9:30 p.m. Ended

The program can change without notice

[Sequence of the Tet Celebration](#)

Do it right

Here's a step-by-step sequence of the Tet Celebration

Preparation. During the week before Tet, some families visit the graves of parents and grandparents. Fresh earth is placed on top, weeds removed from around it and incense is burnt to invoke the souls of the dead from the other world to return to visit the family home.

The Kitchen God (Ong Tao or Mandarin Tao) is also called the Hearth God, the Stove God or the Household God. This god who was privy to the family's most private business and intimate secrets for the ending year, returns to Heaven to make his report to the Jade Emperor. This report includes the year's activities of the household in which he has lived. On the 23rd day of the 12th month, a farewell and thank you dinner is given to the Kitchen God by the household. The Kitchen God will need a week for his mission to Heaven.

Folklore has made the spirit of the hearth into a picturesque character, a buffoon who is the butt of crude jokes. Although he is a messenger of the Jade Emperor in Heaven, he is depicted as so poor as to be unable to afford much clothing. He wears an important mandarin hat but goes about with bare legs because he has scorched his pants in the hearth fire. Another version tells that he was in such a rush to get back to Heaven that he forgot his pants and ascended in only his underwear. Efforts must be made to put him in a proper mood to secure a favorable report to the Jade Emperor of the family's activities. Offerings are made to him. These gifts certainly aim at influencing the outcome of the report. But no one considers such gifts to be crass bribery. Such pleasantries merely sweeten the god's way, as perhaps cookies placed by the fireplace will please Santa Claus, who might be tired from delivering so many gifts on Christmas night.

The paper carps, horses and clothing (hats, robes and boots) will be burned by the family and thus transformed into a spiritual essence usable by Ong Tao in the world beyond. Like Santa Claus, the Kitchen God is loved and respected. Both have the capacity to bring fortune and happiness into the home depending on the previous year's behavior. Although beliefs about the Kitchen God have changed over the years, he remains an important figure in the rich texture of Vietnamese New Year. The Kitchen God travels on the back of a brightly colored and powerful paper horse or sometimes a grand bird with great wings, such as a crane. Or he might ride on a carp with golden scales. Paper images of these vehicles are purchased at Tet or a living specimen of fish

is bought and later set free. The day of his departure is marked by the calls of fishmongers from the countryside carrying baskets of fish hanging from their shoulder poles and calling "Fish for sale, fine mounts for the Household Gods to make their ride!" Live fish held in tanks of water and plastic bags are released into ponds, lakes, rivers and streams to impress the god with the kindness of the household. In Hanoi, the Sword Lake is a favorite spot for releasing Ong Tao's fish-vehicle. In some cases, three fish are released to account for the possibility that one must please all three Hearth Gods. After the Kitchen God has left, preparations for the New Year festivities begin in earnest. The week before New Year's Eve is a period of Tat Nien. Tat Nien (literally meaning the end or 'to extinguish the year') is the celebration of the last session of a period, such as the last class of school, the last bus home, the last day in the office, even the last bath, all with parties and great ceremony. There is a festive holiday atmosphere before New Year's Eve with dragon dances.

www.latetfest.net

Where I went last weekend (or the weekend before):
See dkikemi.blogspot.com

Resources:

LACMA calendar:

<http://www.lacma.org/events/Calendar.aspx>

UCLA Asia Institute calendar:

<http://www.international.ucla.edu/asia/events/index.asp?action=monthview>

Japanese American National Museum

<http://www.janm.org/events/>

Chinese American Museum

<http://camla.org/events/calendar.htm>

Korean Cultural Center

<http://www.kccla.org/>

Japanese American Community Cultural Center

<http://jaccc.org/>

Pacifica Asian Museum

<http://www.pacificasiamuseum.org/calendar/whatsnew.htm>

Links to selected articles from the LA Times and other papers. To actually access the articles, you may have to sign up for a free account.

OBITUARY

Lucie Cheng dies at 70; UCLA sociologist 'revolutionized' Asian American studies

Cheng broadened the field beyond Chinese immigrants and examined issues of class and gender in immigrant societies. She also was founding director of UCLA's Center for Pacific Rim Studies.

By Elaine Woo

February 16, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-lucie-cheng16-2010feb16.0,1011828.story>

South Korea's complicated embrace of gyopo

People welcome the many ethnic Koreans raised abroad who come each year to reconnect with their roots, but they also judge these gyopo by very high standards, expecting them to fit in seamlessly.

By Teke Wiggin

February 14, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nation-and-world/la-fg-korea-return14-2010feb14.0,7632186.story>

Past patterns repeated in 'Beyond the Page' at Pacific Asia Museum

Miniatures from the 16th to 19th centuries in Pakistan inspire vibrant works today.

By Karen Wada

February 14, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/news/la-ca-miniature14-2010feb14.0,5641957.story>

Pushing doughnuts to the Chinese takes ingenuity _ like flavoring them with pork or seaweed

WILLIAM FOREMAN

Associated Press Writer

February 13, 2010 9:06 a.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-as-china-discovering-doughnuts.0,6716161.story>

China court upholds 11-year sentence of activist who made daring call for political reform

CARA ANNA

Associated Press Writer

February 11, 2010 8:46 a.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-as-china-dissident-sentence.0,877661.story>

Toyota gets intense new U.S. scrutiny

Regulators launch three more probes into the timeliness and adequacy of the automaker's recalls for problems that can cause sudden acceleration

By Ralph Vartabedian, Ken Bensinger and Jerry Hirsch

February 16, 2010 8:51 p.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-toyota17-2010feb17.0,6930609.story>

Another Korean surprise: Mo Tae-bum wins gold in 500-meter speedskating on 21st birthday

PAUL NEWBERRY

AP National Writer

February 15, 2010 9:49 p.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-oly-spd-mens-500.0,4379714.story>

Figure skater may not medal, but she wins hearts

Mirai Nagasu of Arcadia is a one-woman media show with her candid talk and witty observations.

By Philip Hersh

February 14, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/la-sp-olympics-nagasu14-2010feb14,0,7391866.story>

OBITUARY

Henry Fukuhara dies at 96; watercolorist led annual painting workshops at Manzanar

He left art school in the Depression and was a florist for many years before returning to painting in his 50s. He led annual workshops at the internment camp but was not bitter about his time there.

By Elaine Woo

February 14, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-henry-fukuhara14-2010feb14,0,2273187.story>

Chinese activist who camped in protest at Tokyo's airport for 3 months arrives home

ELAINE KURTENBACH

Associated Press Writer

February 12, 2010 5:36 a.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-as-china-terminal-activist.0,4482165.story>

Proposed cuts would end California assistance for most new legal immigrants

Gov. Schwarzenegger's budget proposes saving \$304 million by eliminating several programs that provide a safety net for elderly, disabled and low-income immigrants who don't yet qualify for federal welfare.

By Alexandra Zavis and Anna Gorman

February 16, 2010 6:30 p.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-immigrant-cuts17-2010feb17,0,2170860.story>

Dalai Lama envoy says Obama meeting with monk probably won't be public but is still important

FOSTER KLUG

Associated Press Writer

February 16, 2010 2:13 p.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/politics/wire/sns-ap-us-us-china-dalai-lama.0,2614866.story>

Ancient tradition, new country: Artist struggles to revive Vietnamese opera in Little Saigon

AMY TAXIN

Associated Press Writer

February 16, 2010 12:08 a.m.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/wire/sns-ap-us-a-dying-song.0,3790065.story>

Fourth time is their charm

Two-time bronze medalists Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo navigate through injury, disappointment and retirement to become the first Chinese champions in any Olympic figure-skating discipline.

By Philip Hersh

February 16, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/olympics/la-sp-olympics-figures16-2010feb16.0.5798394.story>

Celebrating the new year with a taste of the past

Vietnamese Americans celebrate Tet with traditional banh chung, but to accommodate busy life in the U.S., the rice cakes come from a bakery instead of being made at home.

By My-Thuan Tran

February 14, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-lunar-newyear14-2010feb14.0.3871318.story>

The man behind the Chinese equivalent of YouTube

By David Pierson

February 14, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-himi-koo14-2010feb14.0.2801847.story>

Thrifty Chinese resist enticements to spend

An official push to promote consumerism as a way of reducing dependence on exports faces cultural hurdles.

By David Pierson and Barbara Demick

February 13, 2010

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-china-consumer13-2010feb13.0.1116500.story>