

A Series of Events Honoring the Concept of *Giri*: Giving Back – Going Forward

The Japanese word *giri* (ghee-rhee) means the obligation to reciprocate favors with acts of kindness. In this spirit, and the thanksgiving for the influences of very different cultures and what they owe to each other, there will be a sharing in the Gualala Arts Center of things Japanese in July.

Celebrating Japanese style, tradition, and culture, the exhibit in the Burnett Gallery will showcase the work of contemporary artists whose sensibilities strongly reflect Japanese influence. The exhibit includes work by artists who are of Japanese descent and those who are not, demonstrating the cross-pollination that occurs when people of different cultural backgrounds share an appreciation of the same art influences. From fiber, metal, and clay, to painting and printmaking, the work in this exhibit is truly a celebration of Japanese culture.



In the Elaine Jacob Foyer will be a unique display of historical materials surrounding the adventures of the fifteen would-be Japanese immigrants who crossed the Pacific in the small, flat-bottomed fishing boat that landed north of Point Arena ninety years ago. Displaying materials from the *Independent Coast Observer*, this installation will bring home feelings and ideas of interaction with Japanese, as well as the current conflicts over immigration. Additional materials from the Sonoma County Japanese American League include photographs and oral histories of both Japanese American and non-Japanese American individuals who lived in Sonoma County before, during, and after World War II.



The opening reception for these two exhibits will be on Saturday, July 8 from 5 – 7 p.m. Music will be provided by local musician, Karl Young, playing the *shakuhachi* – the Japanese flute. Special for this opening will be a display of the world-renown *bonsai* – miniature trees grown in pots – by Robert Shimon of Anchor Bay who is President of the Santa Rosa Bonsai Guild.

On Saturday, July 14 at 6 p.m. will be a Japanese dinner prepared by the Culinary Arts Guild, known for inventing truly unusual menus in celebration of various cultures. Tickets are \$25 and must be reserved by July 6. At the dinner will be an opportunity to purchase books on Japanese culture offered by the Four-Eyed Frog bookstore and clothes by the celebrated designer Yasuko who now lives in Healdsburg.



A Japanese Tea Ceremony will be conducted by Kiko Mouri, in full Japanese attire on Sunday, July 16 at 3 p.m. Eiko Mouri, originally from Shikou, Japan, volunteers at the Nichibei-Kai of San Francisco Cultural Center's "Way of Tea" program. Living now in Santa Rosa, she has been teaching the tea ceremony for 34 years to anyone interested. She misses her culture and wants to retain it for others by sharing. Tickets for this event are \$10. Though on one level the tea ceremony is very simple, the reverence with which it is performed raises it to an experience one will never forget. It will change your life and the way you think about food, drink, friends, and life.

On Thursdays, July 6, 13, 20, and 27, from 4 – 6 p.m., Akiko Docker will be conducting classes on cooking home-style Japanese specialties. Prepare and eat seafood or vegetable *tempura*, chicken *kara-age* (fried chicken), *gyoza* (pot stickers), ginger pork, *yaki-soba* (fried noodles), *okonomi-yaki* (cabbage and meat/sea food pancakes), ramen-style noodle soup and *onigiri* (rice balls with various fillings). Cost: \$20 per session or \$60 for all four. If you have questions, call Akiko Docker at 785-3929.

On Saturday & Sunday, July 29 & 30, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will a workshop on the art of Japanese Bookbinding taught by Terry McClain. This course covers all aspects of assembling a book using traditional Japanese methods which include designing, gluing a cover, punching and stitching. Japanese binding has a simple elegant look and is suitable for books and portfolios of all sizes and shapes, including non-traditional formats. Terry McClain has an MFA in fiber from the University of Oregon, with an emphasis on Japanese papermaking and fiber techniques. She teaches surface design on paper and fabric at Art Institute of California-San Francisco and was Artist in Residence in 1998 and 2003 at the Asian Art Museum. Workshop fee is \$80 for Gualala Arts members and \$95 for non-members. There is a materials fee of \$11. Class size 6 – 12 students, Age: 15 and older.



For these events, Michael Anderson will build at the arts center a *torii* – the traditional Japanese gate that marks the boundary of the physical and spiritual worlds and is usually the entrance to a Shinto shrine. **On Monday, July 31, Michael will give a lecture at 7:30 p.m.** titled, "Of Gates and Guilds: Architecture and Apprenticeship in Japan." Michael studied carpentry in Japan and often uses traditional Japanese building techniques in his Laughing Moon business. Suggested \$5 donation.