

# Weekly Cultural News

Substitute for monthly Cultural News June 07 - 13, 2021 (Reiwa 3)

## Keep Japanese Culture Alive



In the Huntington Library, the Magistrate's House from Japan will join the existing Japanese Garden and the newly expanded Chinese Garden in Fall 2022. (Cultural News Photo)

### Huntington Library reconstructing 320-year-old house from Marugame, Kagawa Pref., in its Japanese garden

SAN MARINO, Calif — On May 19, the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens hosted a Shinto roof-raising ceremony, known as a *jotoshiki*, to ask the spirits to bless the reconstruction of a 320-year-old house from Marugame, Kagawa Prefecture, that was donated to The Huntington in 2016 and is being rebuilt in the Japanese Garden.

A *jotoshiki* is typically held when the basic framework of a structure has been constructed and the ridgepole of the roof is raised. A similar ceremony was held in Japan in 2019, to bless the project before the house was disassembled in preparation for its relocation to The Huntington.

Originally anticipated for completion in 2021, the project was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The public opening date is now projected for Fall 2022.

The traditional *jotoshiki* ceremony was performed by members of the Shumei America—a Shinto faith-based group with its headquarters in



**ROOF BEAMS:** An interior view of the traditional post-and-beam construction of roof of the 320-year-old Magistrate's House. The ancestral home of the Yokoi family from Marugame, Japan, it is being reconstructed in the Japanese Garden at The Huntington, using the original materials. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Photo by John Diefenbach.

Pasadena, that promotes living in harmony with nature.



View of the Magistrate's House in its original location in Marugame, Japan, before it was deconstructed in 2019 for

relocation to The Huntington. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Photo by Hiroyuki Nakayama.

## Huntington Library reconstructing 320-year-old house from Marugame, Kagawa Prefecture in its Japanese garden

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Symbolic offerings were placed on an altar as humble gifts to the spirits. Salt was scattered throughout the framework of the house in ritual purification. Pieces of pine bough were placed on the altar to symbolize the regeneration of nature. And an ancient chant called the *Amatsunorito* or Heavenly Prayer invoked purification and divine blessings.

"Through these offerings, we hope to fill the house with good spirits so it can serve the community for generations to come," explained Robert Hori, gardens cultural curator at The Huntington.

The ceremony was followed by remarks by Karen Lawrence, president of The Huntington; Akira Muto, consul general of Japan in Los Angeles;



**SAKE TOAST:** Akira Yokoi, the 19th generation descendant of the Yokoi family and the donor of the Magistrate's House, his family's ancestral home, lifts a glass of sake as a toast to the success of the reconstruction project. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens.

Photo by John Diefenbach.

and Akira Yokoi, the donor of the house which was his family's ancestral residence.

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Weekly Cultural News is an alternative publication for Monthly Cultural News which we had to stop the publication in April 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.



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## Huntington Library reconstructing 320-year-old house from Marugame, Kagawa Prefecture in its Japanese garden

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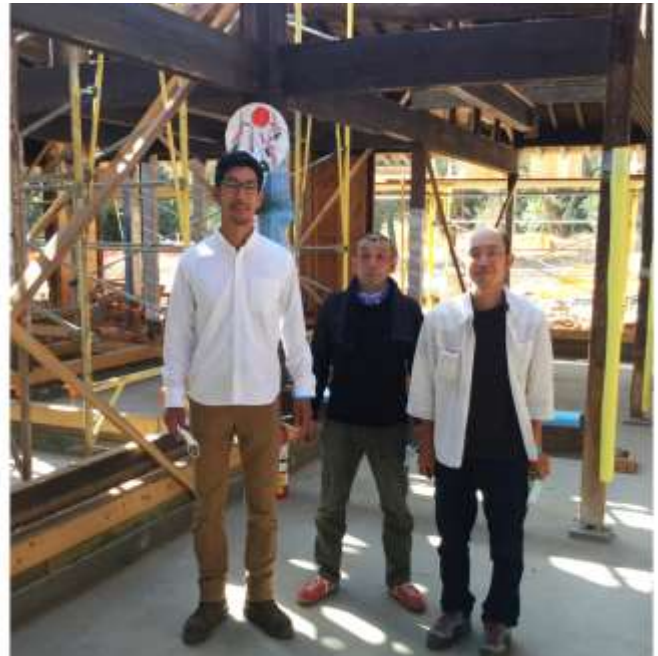
Nicole Cavender, who joined the Huntington staff this week (of May 19) as the new Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens, was also in attendance, making her first public appearance. “This event honors not just the spirits but the entire community—including the community of plants and nature,” said Cavender. “And it presents us with an opportunity to reflect on the past to create a better future.”

While the roof-raising is a key milestone, it does not mark the end of construction. In the year ahead, work will continue on the various structures that comprise the house: the original *shoya* residence, two original *kura* storehouses, and recreations of the gatehouse and interior garden.

The Magistrate’s House, with its authentic details, original fittings, and fascinating history as a center of village life during the samurai era, will join the existing Japanese Garden and the newly expanded Chinese Garden as a focal point of The Huntington’s educational outreach programs, helping to promote a deeper understanding and appreciation of Asian culture.

Since the Huntington Library opened to the public in 1928, [the Japanese Garden](#), has attracted more than 20 million visitors and remains a site of both fascination and contemplation.

**PRAYER** : Officiant Sensei Eugene Imai of Shumei America recites a ritual prayer asking the spirits to bless and protect the house. The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Photo by John Diefenbach.



**CARPENTERS:** From left, Kensuke Kumada, Masanori Suzuki, and Yasushi Fukuoka from Japan, are working on the reconstruction project of the Magistrate’s House.

(Cultural News Photo)



### Weekly Cultural News

Only comprehensive source of Japanese Culture in Southern California  
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# Japanese Percussion Lesson #51: Kabuki Hayashi vs. Hogaku Hayashi

By Mariko Watabe

There are dance videos and shamisen videos. But KABUKI HAYASHI (Japanese percussion) videos are rarely found or discussed especially in English or with English subtitles.

I have decided to make them as I believe this art is too precious to be hidden or lost. With the guidance of Master Katada Shin-juro, I am trying to uncover the world of HAYASHI by producing YouTube videos in Japanese language with English subtitles.

To view the previous videos from #01 to #50, visit [Tsuzumibito Chanel at YouTube](#)

Ohayashi Juku (Kabuki Series) #51 <https://youtu.be/jD9BpkAs6fk> explains the difference between “Kabuki Hayashi vs Hogaku Hayashi.”

Kabuki started in the 17th century. Kabuki’s acting, dancing and music are highly structured and performed by professional troupes. All roles of Kabuki’s performing arts are played solely by men in tradition.

At Kabuki theaters, the same programs run at least for a month. The songs have been focused on actors’ performances rather than narration or artistic values of music and dance. Since early 20th century, Kabuki business has been monopolized by a private company called Shochiku Company.

Private musicians and dancers who perform outside of the Kabuki theaters contrasts with musicians and dances who belong to the Kabuki theaters.

Such musicians and dancers usually have one-



time only performances for their recitals and student performances. They focus on the artistic value of dance and music instead actor centric philosophy of Kabuki. Musicians for Kabuki theaters and private musicians share the same Hayashi music. But when these Hayashi music are performed outside of Kabuki theaters, those type of music is called “Hogaku Hayashi.”

They perform various music and dance pieces in short and long and from simple to fancy. They use formal and informal theatres nationwide Japan and overseas. Also, they are performed by men, women as well as children.

*Mariko Watabe has been introducing Kabuki dance and music to American audiences nationwide for over 40 years.*

*She goes by her stage names such as; Kimisen Katada for Hayashi, Kyosho Yamato for Yamatogaku, Kichitoji Kineya for Nagauta; and Marifuji Bando for dance.*

*She is currently living in Los Angeles area. Her activities and performances are found at <http://fujijapanesemusic.org>*

## Japan House RECONNECTING: A Vision of Unity by Kengo Kito

JAPAN HOUSE Los Angeles announces the new exhibition "[RECONNECTING: A Vision of Unity](#)" opening on Wednesday, June 16.

The exhibition features an installation by Japanese contemporary artist Kengo Kito, who is known for using surprising materials like hula hoops to create eye-catching, fun and immersive spaces where visitors can explore thought-provoking perspectives.



RECONNECTING: A Vision of Unity by Kengo Kito

Kito, for the first time in his career, will remotely direct the Los Angeles-based team's installation process from Japan, allowing him to create art beyond his immediate surroundings.

As Japan hosts the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the installation will also align with one of its core concepts: Unity in Diversity.

In the words of the artist, "During the COVID-19 pandemic, the connections between people have been disrupted and weakened, so in my work I wanted to create a visual expression of the idea that our world is made up of 'connections' - something that is very clear to us all."

This vibrant, large-scale installation will unfold in phases at the re-opened gallery space at Hollywood & Highland, and a related satellite installation will be on view for a limited time at Westfield Century City.

### **Sneak Preview**

Wednesday, June 9 - Tuesday, June 15, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (PDT), JAPAN HOUSE Front-Gallery, Level 2, Complimentary

### **Main Exhibition**

Wednesday, June 16 - Monday, September 6, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM (PDT), JAPAN HOUSE Gallery, Level 2, Complimentary

### **Satellite Installation**

Wednesday, June 16 - Sun. July 4,, Click [here](#) for hours, [Westfield Century City](#), The Terrace, Complimentary

### **Online Exhibition Opening Event**

Tuesday, June 15, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (PDT)

### **Line, Circle and Space in Art Now and Zen**

Wednesday, July 14, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (PDT)  
[Online](#)

## Help Cultural News in funding \$30,000 to keep Japanese culture alive

In 1998, **Cultural News** was started by Shige Higashi to promote Japanese culture in Southern California. Due to Corona pandemic, the format of **Cultural News** had to change from monthly paper to weekly PDF. But the mission of **Cultural News** remains the same. Non-profit organization Cultural News Association has been formed to support the mission of **Cultural News**. Your contribution would be appreciated at <https://www.culturalnews.com/donation>



# Uyehara Travel

## Okinawa Tour in 2022

Uyehara Travel provides the 7th Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival tour from Oct. 28—Nov. 5, 2022 from Los Angeles.



**Tour Fee: \$2,800 + fuel surcharge, tax per person in twin room. \$400 surcharge for single room use.**

**Early Bird Special: \$2,600 by Oct. 31, 2021 .**

Full price refund guaranteed by Feb. 28, 2022. \$300 deposit required upon reservation.

The Worldwide Uchinanchu Festival has been held in Naha, Okinawa since 1990 to honor the achievements of Okinawan people from all over the world.

The 7th Festival originally planned in 2021 has been postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The 7th Festival will start the eve event on Oct. 30, and the main festival will be held from Oct. 31 through Nov. 3, 2022. In 2022,

many events also will be prepared for the 50th anniversary of Okinawa Reversion from the U.S. Uyehara Travel also provides airline ticket arrangements for deviating plans.

## Uyehara Travel

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## A Little Tokyo resident is the winner of the 8th annual Imagine Little Tokyo short story contest

A Little Tokyo resident is the winner of the 8th annual Imagine Little Tokyo short story contest's English Adult category, it was announced at the virtual awards ceremony on May 23.

A senior at Los Angeles Unified School District school won the youth division and a Japanese national, the Japanese-language category. The annual contest is organized by the Little Tokyo Historical Society in partnership with Discover Nikkei, a Japanese American National Museum project.

As part of the ceremony, Broadway actor Greg Watanabe read Jacob Laux's "If You Can See the Watchtower," the English Adult winner, which follows the pain of a man living in Little Tokyo who is separated from his young daughter in "Big Tokyo" during the pandemic.

Jacob, a native of St. Paul, Minnesota was raised in Illinois and earned his B.A. and master's degree of professional writing from USC before moving to Little Tokyo. Judges were Susie Ling, Gwen Muranaka and Tim Toyama.

Jully Lee, the artistic director of Cold Tofu, performed the youth winning story, Casey Murase's "A Walk Down Memory Lane," in which a granddaughter finally learns the mystery behind why the historic confectionary store, Fugetsudo, was so important to her late grandmother.

Casey is a senior at Eagle Rock High School who will be attending San Diego State in the fall.

Judges were Andie Kimura, Anne Shimojima and Lynn Yamasaki.

Eiji Inoue, most recently in AMC's "The Terror: Infamy," read the Japanese-language winning story, ShoRei's "Little Tokyo: *Saisei on Machi*," a science fiction tale about a man and his AI (artificial intelligence) companion, set in the 22nd Century, where global warming has left Little Tokyo as the only place to experience Old Japan.

ShoRei resides in Japan and enjoys writing stories for friends. Judges were Yukiko Yanagida McCarty, Misako Muto and Makiko Nakasone.

Honorable mentions were also announced by the ceremony's emcee, Michael Palma: (English Adult) Kendra Arimoto's "Little Tokyo, A.C."; Chiharu Cohen's "Race Queen of Little Tokyo"; Emily Beck Cogburn's "The Throw"; and Sophiya Ichida Sweet's "Mochi Wishes; and (Youth) Elise Chang's "The Creatures of Little Tokyo."

For those unable to watch the Imagine Little Tokyo Short Story Awards Celebration on May 23 may now view the entire program on JANM's YouTube Channel, and the Little Tokyo Historical Society (LTHS) website [www.littletokyoohs.org](http://www.littletokyoohs.org).

The three winning stories will be published in the LTHS website and *The Rafu Shimpo*; while winners and the five honorable mentions will be on the Discover Nikkei website, <http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/>

## U.S. Postal Service issues *Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of WWII* stamp

WASHINGTON DC — The U.S. Postal Service issued *the Go For Broke: Japanese American Soldiers of WWII* stamp on June 03. This commemorative Forever stamp honors the second-generation Japanese Americans, also known as nisei, that formed one of the most distinguished American fighting units of World War II: the all-Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, whose motto was “Go for Broke.”

The stamp was dedicated during a virtual ceremony and is now being sold at Post Office locations nationwide and online at [usps.com/shopstamps](https://usps.com/shopstamps).

News of the stamp is being shared with the hashtags #GoForBroke and #GoForBrokestamp.

“As a military veteran, I have the greatest appreciation for the more than 33,000 nisei, or second-generation Japanese Americans, that served our nation during World War II,” said Donald L. Moak, a member of the U.S. Postal Service Board of Governors, who served as the dedicating official for the ceremony. “Today, with this stamp, the Postal Service recognizes the contributions that Japanese American soldiers made while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.”

Joining Moak to dedicate the stamp were retired Army Gen. David A. Bramlett; World War II veterans Shinye Gima, Don S. Miyada and Yoshio Nakamura; and attorney Staci Toji.

The stamp was designed by Antonio Alcalá and is based on a photograph of a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The photograph was taken in 1944 at a railroad station in France. The stamp was printed in the intaglio print method. The color scheme of the stamp is patriotic, and the type runs up the side in manner suggestive of the vertical style in which Japanese text was traditionally written.



**Background** For a time after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, second-generation Japanese Americans were subjected to increased scrutiny and prejudice because of their heritage.

Known as nisei, these second-generation Japanese Americans eventually formed what became one of the most distinguished American fighting units of World War II: the all-Japanese American 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, whose motto was “Go for Broke.”

The Army also turned to nisei to serve as translators, interpreters and interrogators in the Pacific theater for the Military Intelligence Service. Nearly a thousand nisei served in the 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion and more than 100 nisei women joined the Women’s Army Corp. Altogether, some 33,000 Japanese Americans served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

A video of the virtual ceremony will be available on [facebook.com/usps](https://facebook.com/usps).