

Bamboo Heritage

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Indianapolis, IN

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Saturday, May 22, 2010 Film, "The Cats of Mirikitani," and Pitch-in Luncheon, 1pm
Fishers Library, 5 Municipal Drive in Fishers
- Saturday, July 17, 2010 Annual Picnic Lunch, 1pm
Eagle Creek Park, Shelter D, Indianapolis

The Cats of Mirikitani – Film and Pitch-in Luncheon

You cannot help but enjoy this heart-warming story and marvel at the strength of the human spirit. This film is historically relevant to the Japanese American experience, and will be capably facilitated by David Suzuki.

"Eighty year-old Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani survived the trauma of WWII internment camps, Hiroshima, and homelessness by creating art. But when 911 threatens his life on the New York City streets and a local filmmaker brings him to her home, the two embark on a journey to confront Jimmy's painful past. An intimate exploration of the lingering wounds of war and the healing power of community and art, this film has won awards at some 20 festivals, including prizes at Tribeca, Tokyo, Quito, Bologna, Durban, Galway, Seoul, and Lyon."

The pitch-in luncheon and film will be held on at the Fishers Library, Saturday, May 22, starting at 1:00pm. Please bring a covered dish to share (salad, rice, vegetable/fruit, meat, or dessert). Drinks and paper/plastic goods will be provided. Family and friends are welcome.

Fishers Public Library is located at 5 Municipal Drive in Fishers. Take I-69/State Road 37 to 116th Street exit. At the top of the exit ramp, turn west onto 116th Street. Continue westbound just over the railroad tracks. Turn right (north) at the Municipal Drive stop light and follow it (a big circle) to the right. The entrance to the Library will be on your right. Enter through the front doors of the Library then turn right to the meeting rooms, or drive to the far (east) end of the parking lot to access the east doors.

NEWS AND NOTES

The third annual Asia Fest will be held on June 5, 2010, 11am to 5pm, at Garfield Park (Garfield Arts Center, 2432 Conservatory Drive, Indianapolis 46203). Asian American Alliance, Inc. and Indy Parks and Recreation will present food, music, art, and dance.

Saturday, May 8 at 7pm, the Japan America Society of Indiana in partnership with the Indianapolis Museum of Art and Arts Midwest present Agatsuma and the shamisen: a magical, world music experience. Award-winning musician Hiromitsu Agatsuma infuses the traditional sound of the shamisen, a traditional Japanese three-stringed instrument, with the modern musical influences of blues, rock, dance music, folk, flamenco, and funk. He will be accompanied by traditional Japanese taiko drums and a keyboard.

JACL is now accepting applications for its second annual JACL Collegiate Washington, DC Leadership Conference to be held June 10-13, 2010. The program is designed to give Asian American student leaders an inside glimpse of the national policy-making arena in Washington, DC. It is limited to Asian American college students who are in their freshman, sophomore or junior year in school. Deadline is May 7. For information, contact Bill Yoshino at (773) 728-7170 or Midwest@jacl.org.

A note of appreciation was sent to Toshi Ogawa for donating a Epson LCD projector and an Apollo Projector Screen to Hoosier Chapter.

JACL announced Sharon Ishii Jordan as our new governor for MDC (Midwest District Council). JACL has 113 chapters located in 25 states and one chapter in Japan. The Spring meeting of the MDC is scheduled for April 30-May 2, 2010 in the Twin Cities. Betsy Sato, president of Cincinnati Chapter, will vote for Hoosier Chapter by proxy.

The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946, is presented at the Renwick Gallery with the cooperation of the San Francisco Chapter of JACL. The James Renwick Alliance provided partial support for the exhibition, which opened March 5 and runs until January 30, 2011. (Note: Gaman is a Japanese word that means, "to bear the seemingly unbearable with dignity and patience.") (source: Yoshie Nahmens)

Scott Fujita, 8 year NFL veteran linebacker for the New Orleans Saints, grew up in a traditional Japanese household, celebrating Japanese festivals/holidays and eating with chopsticks. He is the adopted son of Rod (a Sansei or third generation Japanese American born in Gila River Concentration Camp) and Helen (a *Hakujin* or Caucasian) Fujita. His grandfather is a WWII veteran in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. (source: Chuck Matsumoto.)

Asian Americans make up 4.3% of the total US population---that's about 12 million people who identify themselves as at least part Asian. In terms of percentage growth, Asian Americans are the fastest growing of all the major racial/ethnic groups in the US. (source: IU Asian Culture Center)


Thanks to member Tae Carter for again taking charge of preparing the delicious ozoni for the chapter Shinnenkai on January 30. Thanks also to Yoshie Nahmens for an informative presentation on the Year of the Tiger.

ANNUAL PICNIC

Hoosier Chapter's annual picnic will be held on Saturday, July 17, 1:00pm, at Eagle Creek Park, Shelter D, in Indianapolis. This popular event is a must-do every summer, with fun activities, fabulous food, and wonderful company.

Please bring a covered dish to share (salad, rice, vegetable/fruit, meat, or dessert). Drinks and paper/plastic goods will be provided. There's plenty of space for a fun gathering, so please invite friends and family. See map.

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