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桜 コンデュイット Sakura-Conduit

Congratulations ANCEA and Sakura-Con!

Every spring, the Asia-Northwest Cultural Education Association (ANCEA), organizes the anime convention known as “Sakura-Con” to celebrate the blossoming of sakura, or cherry trees in Seattle. ANCEA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, strives to provide access to education and fun while giving people a taste of Asian Culture; the main focus is on Anime/Japanese Animation, Manga/Comics, Gaming and Cultural Arts.

For 15 years, Sakura-Con has had a presence in the Pacific Northwest and has grown in attendance every year, bringing in 20214 attendees and over 900 all-volunteer staff during the 2012 convention.

This past year was a special year for the Asia-Northwest Cultural Education Association, as the Japanese Foreign Minister awarded ANCEA a commendation for "distinguished service in helping to deepen relations between the United States and Japan, as well as to recognize their contributions to furthering mutual understanding between these countries for over a decade."

On May 30th, the award conferment ceremony and reception for ANCEA took place at the Official Residence of Consul General Kiyokazu Ota, who presented the Japanese Minister’s Award to Mr. Christopher M. B. Louck, Chairman of ANCEA.

http://www.sakuracon.org/documents/publicity/Sakura-Con_2013_Press_Release_ANCEA_Receive_FMAward.pdf



Table of Contents

<i>Aki Matsuri Guest From Japan.....</i>	<i>2-4</i>
<i>Restaurant Review.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Sakura-Con Guests.....</i>	<i>6-10</i>
<i>Registration Announcement.....</i>	<i>11</i>

秋祭り - Aki Matsuri - Fall Festival

For Aki Matsuri 2013 info visit www.enma.org

4th Generation Sendai Tansu Blacksmith and Chaser, Eikichi Yaegashi

Each year at Aki-Matsuri, a special guest artist is brought over from Japan. This past year, the Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association welcomed Eikichi Yaegashi, a traditionally trained blacksmith and owner of Yaegashi Sendai Tansu Metal Fitting Craft Studio, located in Wakabayashi-ku, Sendai-shi. Yaegashi-san is a chaser, a person who uses various embossing and engraving techniques to decorate and work with metal and is most famous for the metal used to decorate tansu, or chest of drawers. Yaegashi-san's pieces have sold for upwards of \$40,000-50,000; one such Sendai Tansu was given to the Emperor's wife as a wedding chest.

During the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, over 1 meter of seawater came rushing through the property on which Yaegashi-san's house and workshop were located, just 3 miles from the ocean. Yaegashi-san was working when the first earthquake hit, making a watari no date, a metal family crest, which he took with him as he ran outside and later to safety. The water that flooded the entire first floor of the workshop receded later that day, leaving behind mud covering everything including items that he was working on as well as his tools. The majority of Yaegashi-san's hand-made tools were ruined when they rusted from the exposure to the water and salt. Yaegashi-san, who always meticulously organized and took care of his tools was forced to remake all of his tools; "you have to have good tools to make good product."

Since the earthquake, Yaegashi-san and his wife, Toshiko, have worked to rebuild what was lost in the tsunami. Yaegashi-san has returned to work; he began with his remade tools - his chisels, between 70 and 80 hammers, and over 1300 tool tips.

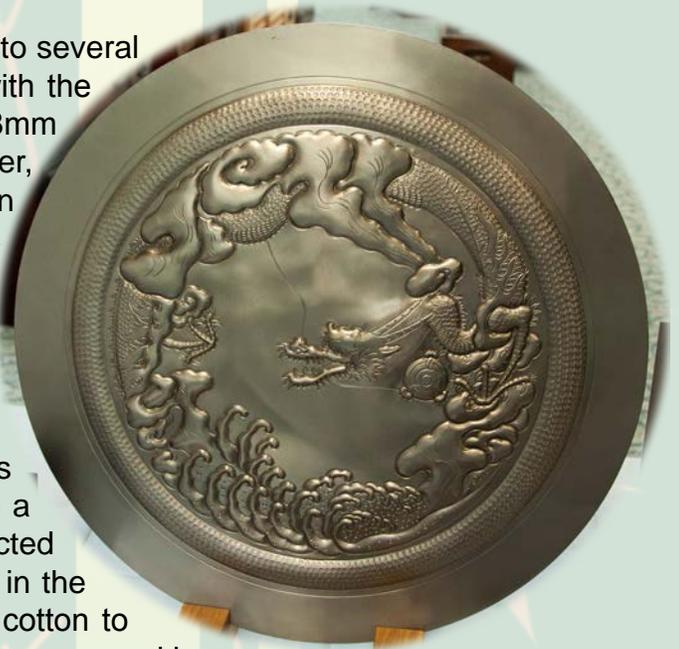


Aki Matsuri - Sendai Tansu continued...

Normally, the beginning of the year is when Yaegashi-san makes all-new tools. This process takes about one week and includes the melting down of his old tools. As he works to create the tools he needs, Yaegashi-san places the tool in a notch in the wood to keep the tool in place as he customizes it. Yaegashi-san is meticulous in all of his work, from his custom tools to the pieces that he creates; his work has to be beautiful in both front and back – “the mark of a good artisan shows beauty on both sides.” It took over 20 years for Yaegashi-san to train his hand to remain steady and sure as he etched his designs in the metal; it took about 10 years for him to get used to working with steel and feel at ease when manipulating it to create his masterpieces.

Working on a piece can take anywhere from a few days to several months depending on size. Yaegashi-san first begins with the outline and then fills in the details. He works with 2mm to 8mm thick metal and begins with a rough draft drawn on paper, which can then be reused for more pieces; Yaegashi-san has one design, a round dragon that is over 150 years old and has been modified throughout the years by his grandfather and father. Yaegashi-san includes a round signature in all of his creations and does the signature first, before continuing to work on the piece.

Some of Yaeashi-san's pieces are lacquered and others are just polished with steel wool; steel will rust when in a humid area so it has to be constantly polished or protected with lacquer. In the past, artisans used to put the metal in the fire pit to darken it and then used genuine 100% pure cotton to polish them until a shine was achieved. Samurai armor was covered in lacquer so it would not rust as quickly, but back then, lacquer was expensive so artisans had to make do with cotton as a substitute. These days, lacquer is the predominate process used to maintain the pieces even though it has a strong smell. Historical pieces found in museums that were covered in black lacquer are of high quality and are still shiny today.



Aki Matsuri - Sendai Tansu continued...

Yaegashi-san uses steel for 90% of his projects, but he also uses silver, gold and brass; copper is the quietest metal to work with. Of all the pieces that Yaegashi-san has created, his largest was over one meter long; he needed the help of his wife to hold the steel plate while he worked on it. No matter the size of the metal he is working with, the wood block upon which the metal sits is always the same size. The wooden stump seen in the photos is one that Yaegashi-san frequently works on top of; it was shipped alongside his display pieces because it is an essential part of his process.

When making tansu, Yaegashi-san draws the design and then asks a trusted wood carver to make the actual wooden chest out of keyaki, or the zelkova tree; Yaegashi-san is the owner of a grove of these 200-year-old trees. When choosing a tree to make a tansu, the zelkova tree must have dried for 50 years to ensure that it is watertight; only the bottom portion of the tree may be used to make the chest. The visible sections of the chest are taken from the outer area of the trunk; the center can only be used for sections that make up the inner compartments of the chest. Once the chest is completed, Yaegashi-san then attaches the metal decorative fittings himself, sometimes numbering upwards of 300 pieces.

Yaegashi-san believes that his art does not allow for any mistakes; “you cannot make a mistake – the lines show it,” he says. Most people looking at his pieces will not realize if a mistake has been made, but Yaegashi-san said that he always knows when it is there. Sometimes, if he does make a mistake, he can modify the design a little, but not always. Yaegashi-san is looking for an apprentice, but since it takes over 20 years to learn the art, he cannot have older disciples; though beautiful, the art of traditionally trained blacksmiths and chasers is disappearing.



レストランのレビュー

Restaurant Review



In the heart of Fremont, you will find Chef Hirohiko Kirita and his fellow chefs preparing Japanese culinary delights, following the tradition of fine Japanese cuisine at Chiso, a cozy restaurant tucked in the middle of a bustling neighborhood. Chiso offers a sushi bar as well as sit-down dining; those

lucky enough to get a seat at the sushi bar will be treated to a front row view of trained sushi chefs.

While dining at Chiso, I wanted to try something in addition to the traditional sushi, so I tried the *chirashi*, which is a bowl of sushi rice layered with *nori*/seaweed and ginger, topped with sashimi and/or vegetables. I chose the to sample the Chiso Chirashi, which consisted of salmon, tuna, albacore, yellowtail, white fish, octopus, scallops, shrimp, *tamago*/egg and *ikura*/roe served over a bowl of sushi rice with some miso soup. The plate was colorful and delicious. The assorted tempura, with prawns and vegetables, was also sampled and deemed delicious.



Chiso
3520 Fremont Ave. N.
Seattle, Washington 98103
Phone | 206.632.3430
Email | info@chisofremont.com
<http://www.chisofremont.com/>

2013 Guests of Honor

There are many different opportunities to meet with Sakura-Con's Guests of Honor over the weekend. Our guests will be attending both Opening & Closing Ceremonies. Also, the Guests will be available for various panels and autograph sessions.



Atsuko Ishizuka

Atsuko Ishizuka is a Japanese animator and director at Madhouse, one of the leading animation production companies in the world. She has been with Madhouse since 2004. Since then, Ishizuka has worked on Madhouse projects as a staff animator (including the television series *MONSTER*), and has directed an additional short film for *Minna no Uta* entitled *Sen no Hana Sen no Sora* (A Thousand Flowers of a Thousand Skies). After this, she moved up to assistant director on *NANA*.

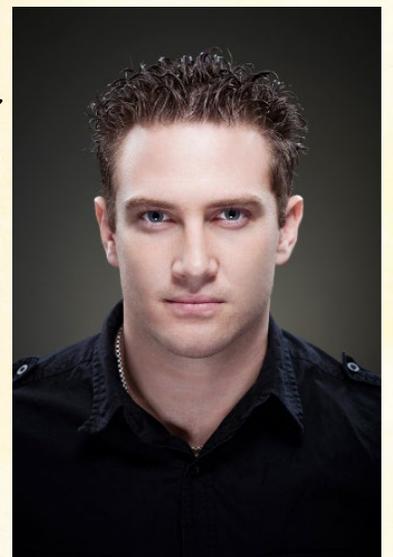


Ayumi Fujimura

A Tokyo native, Ayumi Fujimura is no stranger to the world of voice acting. Affiliated with Ken Production, she has held many leading roles including heroine Audrey Burne (Mineva Zabi) in *Mobile Suit Gundam UC*, Shion in *Naruto: Shippuden the Movie*, and Azaka Kokutou in *The Garden of Sinners*. She has held other roles as well such as Chiharu Harukzae in *Hayate the Combat Butler*, Kneesocks in *Panty and Stock with Garterbelt*, and Aiko Iwase in *Bakuman*.

Bryce Papenbrook

Bryce Papenbrook has been a professional voice over artist since the age of eight. He was introduced to the voice acting scene by his father, Bob Papenbrook, and has continued the trade in his footsteps. Bryce has performed in numerous video games, cartoons, and television shows. Some recent roles include Rin Okumura in *Blue Exorcist*, Asbel Lhant in *Tales of Graces F*, Zidane Tribal in *Final Fantasy Dissidia*, Masaomi Kida in *Durarara!!*, and Guan Ping in *Dynasty Warriors*.



2013 Guests of Honor continued...



Eir Aoi

Eir Aoi has loved singing since she was a child, during her high school period, she sang in a band she had formed. After graduating from high school, she continued performing publicly.

Her impressive and beautiful voice are easily recognizable and she has been selected to sing the ending theme song for the TV-anime series *Fate/Zero*, which was released as her debut single called "MEMORIA" on October 19, 2011.

GASHICON

In 2004, GASHICON entered the graphics production company of S-INC – "INCS." GASHICON became the person in charge for the graphic design of the fashion brand "h.NAOTO."

In 2005, the "gro-kawa" (grotesque-cute) character brand "HANGRY&ANGRY" produced by h.NAOTO was started. As the illustrator "GASHICON", she is in charge of the production of HANGRY&ANGRY's characters and comics. The HANGRY&ANGRY comics became a serial comic strip appearing in magazines such as KERA and CURE. (They are still published monthly in CURE magazines)



John Swasey

According to *Anime News Network*, John Swasey is the most prolific male voice actor in North America with more roles and titles under his belt than any other male VA. John started down the road of anime in 1997, when he landed his first role in *Golden Boy* from ADV Films. Since then, John has gone on to voice hundreds of shows and characters with ADV Films, Funimation, and Illumitoons. Being more of the character actor type has given John the freedom to voice bazillions of characters such as Gendo in *Evangelion*, the Captain in *Halo* (VG), Lord Death in *Soul Eater*, Kogoro in *Sgt. Frog*, Huang in *Darker than Black*, Vulcan in *Orphen*, Ken in *Kaleido Star*, Captain Ahab in *Hakugei The Legend of Moby Dick*, Rikudoh in *RahXephon*, Karl Haushofer in *Fullmetal Alchemist*, Sir Crocodile in *One Piece*, Mister in *Coyote Ragtime Show*, as well as roles in the live action films *2009 Lost Memories*, *Conduct Zero*, *Yesterday*, *Jungle Juice*, and the *Gamera* trilogy.

2013 Guests of Honor continued...

Joji Wada

ANCEA is proud to present Joji Wada as a guest of honor for Sakura-Con 2013. This is Mr. Wada's first Sakura-Con appearance.

Joji Wada is the founder and the president of WIT studio, a subsidiary production and development studio established under IG Port (The parent company of Production I.G.). He was originally a Production I.G. producer and has produced many popular titles like *Sengoku Basara: Samurai Kings*, *Kimi Ni Todoke*, *Guilty Crown*, *Robotics;Notes* and this year hit series *PSYCHO-PASS*.



Katsuyuki Motohiro

Katsuyuki Motohiro is famous as a director and producer of live-action movies and TV dramas for Fuji Television. He made his directorial debut with *Seventh of July, Sunny Day* in 1996, then gained fame for his work on the hit police procedural TV series *Bayside Shakedown* in 1997. Afterward he went on to direct several theatrical releases and spinoffs, including *Negotiator: Mashita Masayoshi* and his most recent movie, *Bayside Shakedown: THE FINAL* in 2012. He is also known for *UDON*, a comedy movie. He fulfilled his dream of working on an anime by becoming the executive director of *PSYCHO-PASS*.

Luna Haruna

Born in 1991, Luna Haruna has loved singing and watching the animation since her childhood. While in junior high school, she auditioned for the Internet radio program called *Rental Magica*, and was selected to perform the opening theme.

In May 2012, Luna made her major-label debut with the single "Sora wa takaku Kaze wa utau". This song was written by Yuki Kajiura, a highly popular anime song producer, and was chosen as the ending theme song of the TV-anime *Fate/Zero* (2nd season).



2013 Guests of Honor continued...



Naoyoshi Shiotani

Naoyoshi Shiotani is one of the up-and-coming creators at studio Production I.G. He steadily worked up the ranks until he gained acclaim for directing the third opening sequence for the TV series, BLOOD+. Shiotani made his directorial debut with the 60-min. film, Tokyo Marble Chocolate in 2007. He also lent his talent as the animation director and storyboard artist for the CGI movie Oblivion Island: Haruka and the Magic Mirror (2012). He also directed the movie Blood-C: The Last Dark, and is now focusing on his role as the director for PSYCHO-PASS.

Reki Kawahara

Kawahara made his debut with his published work Accel World (published by ASCII Media Works' Dengeki Bunko) in 2008, which won the 15th Dengeki Bunko Prize. Along with Accel World, he has been writing his popular work Sword Art Online (SAO). The accumulative number of his books sold has exceeded one million copies worldwide and is still increasing. The Animated TV Series of Sword Art Online broadcasted in Japan in 2012 and instantly became a big hit.

Sakura-con will be Kawahara's first appearance at an anime convention in North America.



Stephanie Sheh

Stephanie is very excited to be attending SAKURA CON again. Although Stephanie has worked as a producer, writer, and director, she is best known for her voice acting work. She voices Hinata in "Naruto," Eureka in "Eureka 7", Orhime in "Bleach", Yui in "K-on!" and Mikuru in "The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya."

2013 Guests of Honor continued...

Toshihiro Kawamoto

Born in 1963, Mr. Toshihiro Kawamoto founded Studio BONES in 1998, together with Masahiko Minami (former Sunrise producer) and Hiroshi Ousaka (animator colleague who passed away in 2007). He is the board member of the said animation production company ever since. In his animator career of more than 25 years, he was involved in a long list of high profile works (see below) but probably best known outside of Japan as the character designer and animation director for *Cowboy Bebop*.



Vic Mignogna

Vic has been acting for stage and screen since he was 8 years old. But he started his career in anime a little over ten years ago as Vega in *Streetfighter II*. Since then Vic has been in more than a hundred and fifty shows and video games, known for such roles as Edward Elric in *Fullmetal Alchemist*, Tamaki Suou in *Ouran High School Host Club*, Fai in *Tsubasa Chronicle*, Dark in *DN Angel*, Kurz in *Full Metal Panic*, Broly in *Dragonball Z*, Kougaijji in *Saiyuki*, Ikkaku in *Bleach*, Yukito in *Air*, Takanaga in *Wallflower*, Tatsu in *Peacemaker*, Luciano in *Code Geass*, Virgil Walsh in *Trinity Blood*, Hikaru in *Macross* and many more.



We encourage everyone to read the autograph and photography Policies regarding Guests. This ensures that the Guests of Honor and fans will have positive mojo for the entire weekend.

Autographs

Each Guest of Honor will have designated autograph times during the convention. To allow as many Members as possible to receive an autograph from convention Guests of Honor, please obtain only one autograph per trip. Members will not be barred from re-entering the line to obtain additional signatures during the scheduled autograph times, but please allow others to receive their autographs in a timely fashion as well. Members who arrive early should respect those who are in line for an earlier session by following directions given by Sakura-Con representatives. Please present only properly licensed products for autographing.

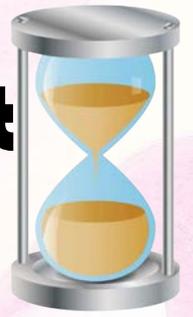
Photography

Cameras and camcorders are not allowed in the Art Show. Photography of art, model, toy and collectibles displays may be allowed with the permission of the Art Show Coordinator and the artist. Contact the Art Show Coordinator for more details. Photography of original artwork in Artist Alley is not allowed without permission of the artist.

Photography is restricted to specific events. Please see event descriptions to see which events allow photography. Photography of all other aspects of the convention is allowed, as long as it does not disrupt events or the flow of traffic, and the subject does not object. Please be considerate and ask first before taking pictures of guests, other Members, or the general public.



Registration Announcement



Did not pre-register? You can still enjoy Sakura-Con by registering at door and now there are more ways to avoid a long wait!

On March 5th, our pre-registration deadline passed. This may result in thousands of unregistered members dreading their worst fear: waiting in the at-con registration line for hours. Sakura-Con has very much mulled over how to speed that process up, and we have come up with three options!

1. Thursday Registration! New this year!

You can now purchase at-con full weekend memberships on Thursday! For the first time in our 16 conventions, we are allowing you to purchase your full weekend membership for \$60 on the Thursday of con! ***Don't forget that permission forms and valid government issued ID are required.***

2. Membership Renewal! New this year!

If you were registered in 2012 as an adult attendee, you can now re-register without filling out a paper form! All you need to do when you reach the registration counter is provide:

- Your last name
- The email address you used for your 2012 registration
- Your valid government issued ID card

You will still have to pay \$60 for your weekend membership, but we hope this will greatly speed up the process and reduce wait times.

3. Online Express Registration! New this Year!

On the Thursday before con, a form will go live on our website that allows you to fill out a registration form online on your smartphone. Once complete, you will receive a barcode. Simply present this barcode along with valid government issued ID and payment you you'll be good to go! Be sure to use a non hot mail email address, as we have encountered some problems with that email system which could impede the process (we have attempted to remedy the problem directly with hotmail but with no success).

If you have any questions about registration, email us at registration@sakuracon.org. We do get a lot of email this time of year, but we will do our best to get back to you in 24-48 hours. We look forward to seeing you at Sakura-Con!



For more information about ANCEA/Sakura-Con

e-mail: info@sakuracon.org

or visit

www.sakuracon.org



At your request, you can finally directly donate to support the ANCEA/Sakura-Con mission. ANCEA is a 501(c)(3) and your donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. Thank you!



Note - As per Sakura-Con Policy, Section III A: "ADA working animals are allowed in the convention space. Non-ADA animals are not permitted."

Newsletter Credits:
Coordinator Klaudina Pasko