

SAKURA-CONDUIT

Fall/Winter 2010 Members' Newsletter

Sakura-Con Wants YOU!

Do you want to be a part of the coolest anime convention in the Pacific Northwest? Then volunteer for one of the many jobs available with Sakura-Con. All the hard work that is put in by volunteers goes directly toward supporting the event and never toward paying a wage to anyone in the corporation; Sakura-Con is a federal 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

There are many perks that come with being a member of Sakura-Con staff. Those choosing the path of the staffer get a free staff shirt as well as free membership for the convention; who can resist the lure of free membership to three days filled with entertainment and fun? Other perks include staff discounts, hotel reimbursements/credits and of course staff parties!

This year's Halloween party was a killer... or hid a killer amongst guests. A Murder Mystery Theater Game entertained those in attendance with a murder and challenged guests to identify the killer. The partygoers were surprised at the theatrical death... and reanimation of the corpse as they sampled the delicacies provided and strutted in their costumed best. The newest Rock Band provided a full night of entertainment as staff members belted out hits or tested their skills on guitars, drums and keyboards.

Visit the Volunteer Page for more information and sign up!

<http://www.sakuracon.org/volunteering/index.php>

Staff members share the best things about being a part of Sakura-Con:

- the chance to be a part of everything, to lend a hand
- the great memories created with friends old & new
- the appreciation expressed by fans & panel members at the hard work put in
- knowing insider information (*-*)
- the camaraderie with other people who also love anime
- having input in the creation and running of our kick@\$ convention



Cosplay Competition Update

We have had many people asking about what is going on with the Cosplay Competition this year, and hopefully this will assuage some concerns and answer some questions. Some of you may have heard already that we are separating the traditional Cosplay Contest into two contests this year: The *Costume Contest* and the *Skit Contest*. The reason for this is so that more people can feel free to enter one (or both!) competitions and the general atmosphere will be more inclusive.

That is not to say we are not taking either contest seriously; based on feedback from Sakura-Con attendees we have planned two contests that we feel will be very exciting, fun, and still take costuming very seriously.

Continued on page 15>

Satoshi Kon 今敏

In Memoriam

The anime world suffered a great loss on August 24th of this year when the great director Satoshi Kon (今敏) was taken from this world at the age of forty-six. In mid May, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer while working on his latest film, and during this time that he made the decision to remain at home with family.

The last entry of Kon's blog details what he went through after he and his wife found out about the cancer and the prediction of doctors that he would have less than six months to live. Kon wrote about the support of friends and family during treatment and thanked the many important people in his life. He wrote of the wish to die at home rather than the hospital, which he was able to do with the help of a doctor and nurse team who took care of him in his last weeks. In the blog, he wrote that he was feeling surprisingly calm despite the pain and that he thought his early death was a part of his destiny.

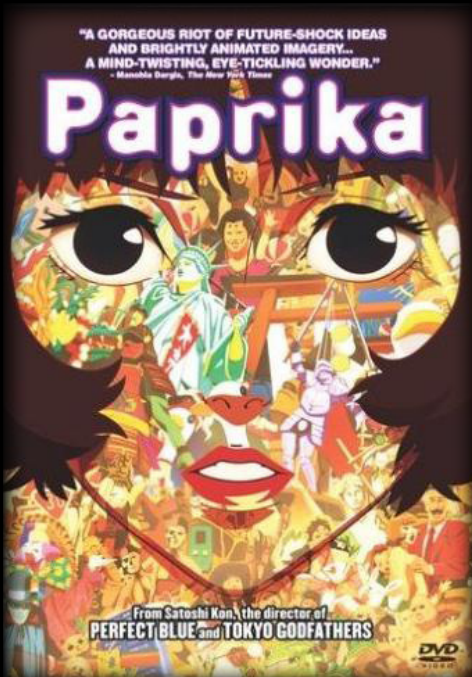
Many of us know Kon for his creative directorial work with anime such as *Perfect Blue* (1997), *Millennium Actress* (2002), *Tokyo Godfathers* (2003), *Paranoia Agent* (2004) and *Paprika* (2006).

It is unknown at this point whether Kon's last work, *Yume Miru Kikai* or *The Dream Machine*, will be released posthumously as there is no information listed on the MadHouse Inc. website.



Photo by Aaron Webb

We will miss you Satoshi Kon.



The Japanese Garden...

...not as far away as you'd think

Gardens in Japan are known for their beauty and tranquility; those fortunate enough to travel to Japan can experience something breathtaking. Luckily for the rest of us, there is a homegrown solution: a Japanese garden that is a hidden treasure of Seattle and more accessible to the masses.

Built in 1960, the Japanese Garden was created to strengthen ties between Pacific Rim cultures. The idea had been around since the Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition in 1909 and in the late 1930s, additional support for an authentic Japanese garden coming from the Arboretum Foundation.

The Japanese Garden was designed by Juki Iida, renowned designer and builder of over one thousand Japanese gardens across the globe. The three and a half acre (14000 m²) area includes a pond where koi and turtles swim, stone bridges, stepping stones, a moon-viewing platform and of course a bounty of flora. The garden is a blend of traditional Japanese maples, Ginkgo bilobas, pines, and of course cherry trees, mixed with the plants of the Northwest like the rhododendron, cedars and azaleas.



Consul General of Japan Kiyokazu Ota and his wife touring the garden; pictured here with the white birch planted by Crown Princess Michiko.



One of the most important trees in the garden is a European white birch that was planted in October of 1960 by Crown Princess Michiko of Japan during the centennial celebration of the friendship and trade treaty between the United States and Japan. Other pieces of history and culture are also tucked into the landscape, like the three and a half ton, hand-carved lantern in the rear section of the garden that was a gift from the citizens of Kobe, Japan, Seattle's sister city.

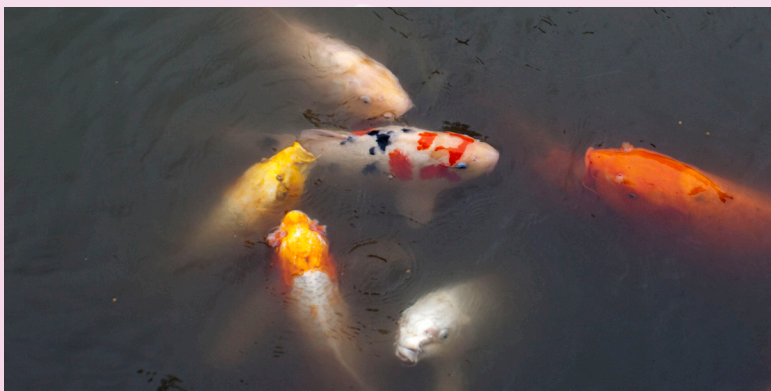


...exploring the Japanese Garden

Walking through the garden leaves one feeling restored. The perfectly manicured garden is a joy to walk through; everywhere you look, no matter what time of year, there are interesting things to see. The Japanese Garden is a haven for reflection and respite and visiting the garden gives one a sense of peace.

The Japanese Garden celebrated its fiftieth anniversary in June 2010 and is regarded as one of the best Japanese gardens outside of Japan. In addition to the garden itself, there are many events held on the grounds that celebrate the beauty of nature and the changing seasons as well as Japanese culture.

For more information about the garden, visit:
<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/japanesegarden.htm>



雅 Miyavi in Concert

Miyavi (雅) is a phenomenal guitarist on tour from Japan. This leg of his Neo Tokyo Samurai Black World Tour had him playing at The Showbox at the Market in Seattle on June 18, 2010. Miyavi has some hardcore fans, like the members of a local visual kei band, *Cositus*, who were camping out for over forty-eight hours to ensure they got the much-coveted spots directly in front of the stage. These extreme fans were excited about the opportunity to see the guitarist formerly from the band *Du  le Quartz*, by whom they are inspired. Other fans entertained themselves by playing cards; one brought a leashed kitten along for the wait and, apparently, there was even a rat present at some point. Some fans were there solely for the music and some, like blue-haired Sam, were not exactly excited by the presence of "fan girls." One thing all fans had in common was appreciation for Miyavi's amazing slap guitar skills and his ability to remain true to himself and his music.



Some of Miyavi's fans waiting in the warm sunshine...and the cat who came along on the adventure



A small crowd of fans gathered in the twenty-one-and-over Green Room, enjoying drinks while waiting to be let in. Many people began to get excited as the sounds of Miyavi warming up drifted down the hall until the wait was over and the doors opened. Primo spots in front of the stage were taken immediately and the area got crowded quickly. Anticipation rose as the start was nearing, fans eager for Miyavi to come on stage, going as far as cheering for the roadie who was making last minute adjustments.

雅 Miyavi Mania

The arrival of Miyavi was indicated by the dimming of the lights and the noise level went up several decibels in a matter of seconds. With fast flying fingers, Miyavi wowed the audience from the opening bars of "Survive," Miyavi's new song. The Showbox at the Market was jumping from the get go and fans sang along to all the songs. Miyavi's interaction with the crowd made it a memorable experience for all.

Miyavi thanked his fans for their support, apologized for the delay in the tour due to his injury, and had a few words to say about the changes in his life. "I'm a father," he began. "Holy ****! I can't believe it!" He then made a joke about how the presence of his daughter, Lovelie, has changed his life: "I can't go clubbing anymore!" The audience enjoyed this shared moment between a "musical god" and his worshippers.



雅 Miyavi Madness



Takamasa Ishihara, as Miyavi is formally known as, is now president of his own label, J-Glam, Inc. He married pop singer, Melody, and has a daughter, Lovelie Miyavi Ishihara. His make-up achieved semi-androgynous looks, elaborate punk hair, and fanciful costumes only enhance Miyavi's stage presence; he has an inner spark that is carried through his music to the expectant crowd, waiting to hear the first chords of his latest hits. Miyavi has mad guitar skills and is able to blend acoustic bluesy sounds into a hard rock beat. Miyavi is truly a "Samurai Guitarist" who deserves to be known as the JRock ambassador to the world.

To listen to a sample of Miyavi's music, go to his MySpace page: <http://www.myspace.com/miyavi>
Official Website: <http://www.myv382tokyo.com/>

秋祭り - Aki Matsuri – Fall Festival



Every year the Eastside Nihon Matsuri Association (ENMA) puts together a fall festival highlighting not only Japanese festival traditions, but also the culture and crafts of Japan. Sakura-Con has a booth on location that sells memberships at a much lower price than at any other time; those purchasing tickets for the following year took advantage of this one-of-a-kind deal. (hint hint)

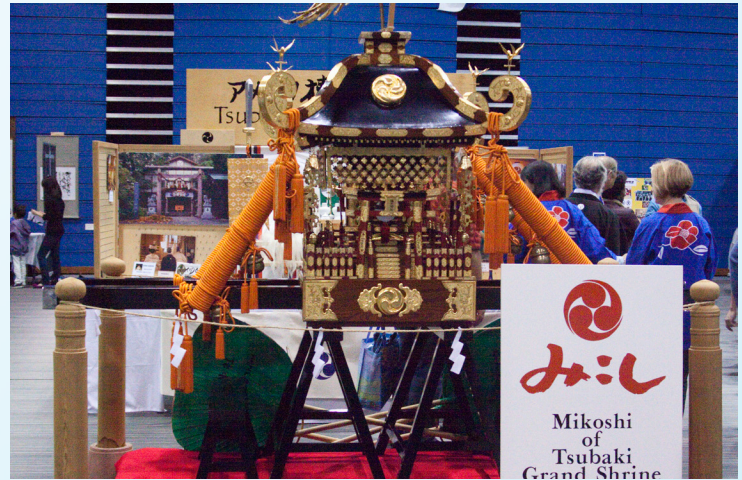


Japanese Taiko drummers - Kaze Daiko

The campus of Bellevue Community College was filled with people wanting to enjoy the fall festival. Many women and girls were dressed up in traditional yukata, or summer kimono; the colors and styles of yukata varied from the bright and colorful children's yukata to the simpler designs of the adult yukata. This year's festival included Japanese kimono master-craft artist, Mr. Osamu Hyodo, who brought samples of his work and taught a workshop about hand-painting kimono. Other kimono from the Uchida no Kimono shop in Tokyo were also on display. One of the goals of bringing this special collection was to educate visitors about the intricacies and use of kimono.



Website: <http://www.enma.org/index.htm>



Inside the main area was a Nomi-no-ichi, or Japanese-style flea market, with stalls selling handmade crafts. Other booths were more educational and gave visitors a chance to practice writing kanji, one form of Japanese characters, or to learn more about local societies and organizations. There was a booth from the Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America, which was selling omamori, yearly protective amulets, that are said to protect against misfortune amongst other things. This was also the display location of the full-size Omikoshi, a portable Shinto shrine, until the Shinto ceremony and mikoshi procession throughout the festival grounds.

The outdoor area included activities for children



such as mask making, drawing, and other festival games. One event that drew people young and old was the kingyo sukui or goldfish-scooping booth where one tries to scoop up as many goldfish into their bowl as they can with a small poi, a paper scoop. The trick is not to move the scoop through the water too quickly or else the thin and water weakened paper will break. Many lucky winners took bags of goldfish home, putting smiles on faces of observers.

Visitors also had an opportunity to enjoy the wonderful food at the outdoor Yatai (food stalls), some of which included onigiri, sushi, roasted chestnuts, and other festival favorites.

Sitting Down With a Kimono Master

By Klaudina Pasko



Hyodo-sensei with his Tokyo Tegaki Yuzen Obi

At this year's Aki Matsuri – Fall Festival in Bellevue, Washington, one of the special guests from Japan was Mr. Osamu Hyodo, a master in the art of kimono painting and dyeing.

Hyodo-sensei has been interested in art since high school, his main love being painting. It was then that he realized that professional painting was not in his future and Hyodo-sensei instead set his sights on kimono; he observed that the fabric could become his canvas as he saw kimono with elaborate designs on them. After graduating from *Tokyo Senshoku Bijyutsu Gakuin* -Tokyo Senshoku Art Professional Training College, Hyodo-sensei was accepted into several exhibits organized by the Japan Craft Association and the Japan Kimono Dyeing and Weaving Craft Association. He has also won several prizes and awards for his work.

Hyodo-sensei has been dyeing kimono for over thirty-five years. He is a Master Craft Person and is a master of the Tokyo Tegaki Yuzen dyeing method. The Tokyo Tegaki Yuzen designs are made entirely by hand and to design and dye a kimono can take anywhere from a month to one year, depending on the complexity of the details.



Hyodo-sensei draws inspiration from nature, especially the details in the way plants grow and many themes for his shows show this source of inspiration. When it comes to designs, the customers are the ones who ultimately decide on what they want.

Hyodo-sensei's main belief is that the kimono are clothes to be worn and are not for decoration. He believes that kimono must not be too fancy, must be beautiful yet wearable and must support the beauty of the person wearing it.

At Aki Matsuri, Hyodo-sensei held a workshop where he explained the techniques that go into creating a Tokyo Tegaki Yuzen style kimono. Visitors could attend the workshop and try the painting technique themselves. Hyodo-sensei showed how to choose colors and paint on fabric using a delicate flat brush; it was not an easy paint-by-numbers process, but involved carefully applying the dye without letting it bleed outside the lines.



Holding the specially designed frame that holds the fabric aloft required some finesse as it was necessary to avoid the pins holding the piece in place; one hand held the frame while the other held the brush. Yuzen-zome (Yuzen dyeing) requires the painter to load some of the dye onto the brush, but make sure that it is not overly wet, which would lead to unwanted spreading of the dye. Following Hyodo-sensei's example, it was a pleasure to learn how to use of the colorful dyes with a delicate hand.



X Japan in Concert

Local fans of X Japan were waiting for night of October 1st 2010 for over a decade. This night marked not only part of X Japan's first-ever North American tour, but also part of their reunion tour. For fans new

and old, this was a special occasion not to be missed.

The Seattle concert was held at the Paramount Theater, giving fans a more intimate experience with the heavy metal band. Several female fans, originally from Japan, had arrived with elaborate bouquets of flowers to give to the Toshimitsu "Toshi" Deyama and his band members at the end of the concert, earning many looks of envy from fans who wished they had thought of it as well.

Upon entering the Paramount, dozens of pompoms were given out to celebrate the special occasion. Farther into the lobby of the theater, a stand selling band t-shirts and memorabilia had fans swarming to get their chance at a souvenir. One of the most coveted pieces of X Japan memorabilia was a YoshiKitty, a Hello Kitty stuffed toy dressed up as the drummer, Yoshiki Hayashi. Soon enough, the time came to go and sit down, for the show was about to begin.

The US heavy metal band Vampires Everywhere opened up for X Japan, bringing the audience back to life with their heady sound; fans, though enjoying the music, were eager for the real reason they made their way into Seattle that evening. As Vampires Everywhere finished their set, the lights went up and a prerecorded medley of X Japan favorites played while the roadies and stage crew set up for the headliner band.



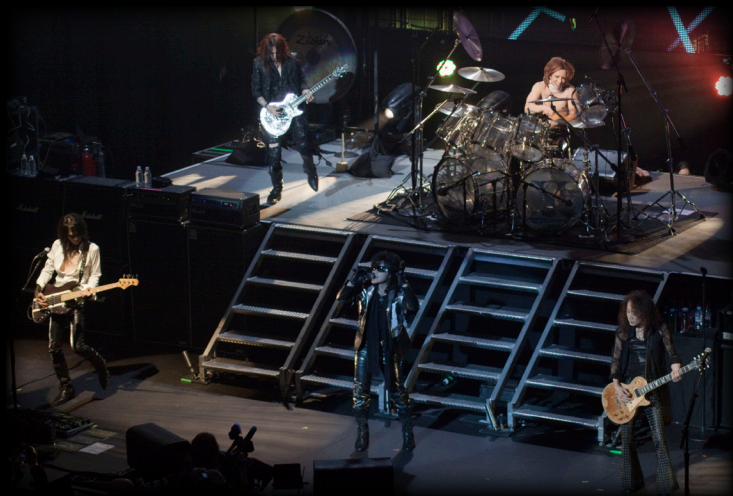
X Japan Lead Vocalist Toshi

X Japan opened with an instrumental intro followed by their new hit "Jade," followed up by the English version of "Rusty Nail," which many of the fans were singing along to, in its original Japanese. Many X Japan fans are hardcore and know all of the lyrics by heart, regardless of their language of origin. The audience was then treated to a violin performance by Yūne "Sugizo" Sugihara who was accompanied by Yoshiki on the piano. It was a truly moving piece; Yoshiki's mesmerizing piano skills enraptured the audience. Yoshiki took a moment to speak out to his fans, thanking them for their continued support and saying "We want to take the world. Will you help us?"

Throughout the evening, the band involved their screaming audience several times by yelling, "We are!" and having the audience shout back "X!" and cross their arms above their heads. These intense fans were extremely loud and adamant that X Japan return for an encore where "Endless Rain" was played followed by "Art of Life."

Fans said it was a truly amazing experience and commented on the good showmanship of the band members. If you haven't already heard X Japan's music, you are missing out. Fortunately for you, can hear their music for free on their website and find out more about Toshi, Yoshiki, Sugizo, Pata and Heath.

<http://www.xjapanmusic.com/>



X Japan Concert Photos



Sugizo & Yoshiki



Heath



Pata & Sugizo



Toshi

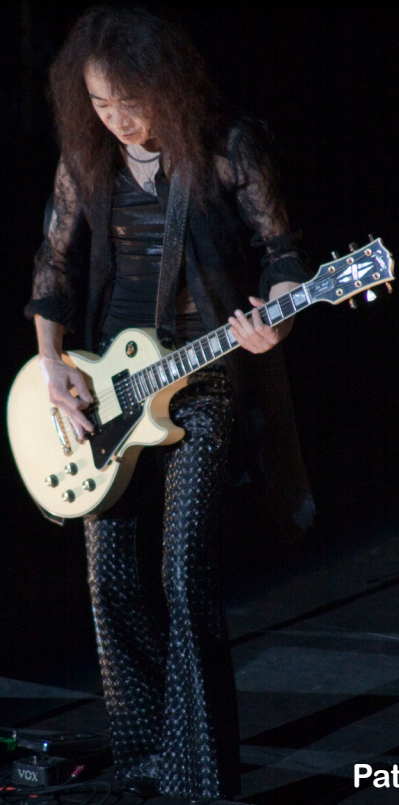


Yoshiki & Toshi



Yoshiki

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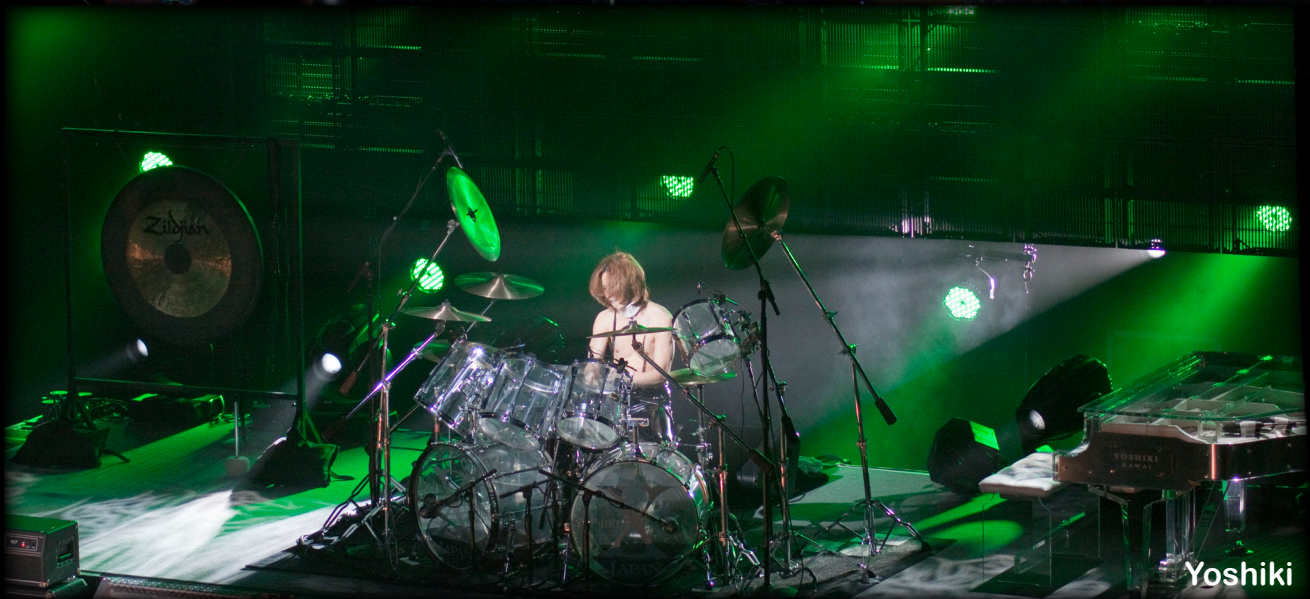
Sugizo



Heath



Toshi



Yoshiki

Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America

Hidden in the forest near Granite Falls, Washington is the Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America, one of the few Shinto shrines in North America. Located on a green seventeen acres, the shrine sits next to a silently flowing river. It is the American branch of the *Tsubaki Okami Yashiro*, Tsubaki Grand Shrine, located in Suzuka, Mie Prefecture, Japan. It is the main shrine of the *Kami*, or essence/deity, Sarutahiko-no-Okami and his wife, Ame-no-Uzume. In the Shinto faith, they are the Kami of of positiveness, guidance, protection and justice as well as the Kami of arts and entertainment, meditation, marriage and joy, respectively. The Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America also houses several other Kami including America-Kokudokunimitama-no-Okami, protector of North American continent.

The shrine's Shinto priest, Rev. Koichi Barrish, conducts many different types of ceremonies, which include wedding ceremonies in addition to traditional Shinto rites. Throughout the year, the Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America holds *matsuri*, or festivals, that are open to the public. The *Nen-chu-gyo-ji*, year-round discipline rituals, include seasonal offerings/blessings, as well as the traditional Japanese rites of passage such as *Schichi-Go-San Taisai*, that blesses seven, five and three-year-olds.



Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America *Torii*, shrine gate

The shrine is open every day from 8am to 5pm, but it is best to call and make sure. Omamori, or yearly protective amulets, can be purchased at the shrine. There are many types of omamori, including those for a general purpose, protection from misfortune, success in business, personal travel safety, safety for your vehicle, safety for children, relationships, fertility, inspiration, good health, etc. There are even protective amulets for your pets!



Indicating the presence of *Kami* this *shimenawa*, plaited straw rope, with *gohei*, paper strips, is tied around one of the trees on the shrine grounds



The Beauty of a Shinto Shrine...

This October 3rd was the *Shyuuki Taisai*, or Great Fall Festival. During this ceremony, rice and other special foods were offered to the Okami. In addition to the traditional ceremonies, the *Torii Hounoshiki*, Shrine Gate Ceremony, was also observed. The old *torii*, or shrine gate fell into disrepair and needed to be replaced and the ceremony on the third included the blessing of the new torii.

The Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America is a place to visit if you are seeking a place to regain balance in life. It is also a great place to see what a traditional Shinto shrine looks like without having to leave the country. The property is beautiful and offers a glimpse into the many different facets of the Shinto faith.

For more information about the shrine visit:
<http://www.tsubakishrine.org/index.html>



The *torii*, gate, to the shrine building is guarded by two *Shishi* or lion-dogs, sometimes called *Koma-inu*. One *Shishi* (on the left) has its mouth closed to keep and shelter the good spirits, while the other *Shishi* (on the right) has its mouth open to scare off demons.



Tsubaki Grand Shrine of America Ema



The *Honden* or Inner Shrine that is the main dwelling of the *Kami* of the shrine. This ceremony is one of the few times in the year that the *Honden* is open to the public. The Shinto Priest makes offerings to the *Kami* on the altar.



Ema, or wooden plaques, hanging on the ema stand. Visitors and worshippers may purchase these plaques and write their wish on the back, hoping that the *Kami* of the shrine will grant their wishes. Any type of wish can be made here, students wanting to pass their exam, couples wanting children, people seeking true love, family wanting their loved one(s) kept safe, etc.

Contest Changes

< Continued from Page 1

On the Friday of the convention, there will be a pre-meeting for entrants to attend; it is mandatory for entrants for the costume contest, as your eligibility to participate will be verified at the meeting. If Costume Contest entrants do not attend the pre-meeting, they will forfeit their spot in the contest. Skit Contest entrants do not need to attend the pre-meeting; we will be meeting with you shortly before the skit contest.

Anybody is eligible to enter both contests, and even win both. Please keep in mind that the rules for both the Costume Contest and Skit Contest are based on the rules for the ICG (International Costume Guild). The following is specific information for entrants in either category.

Costume Contest

- You have to have made your own costume to enter the costume contest.
- You have ninety seconds from the time you enter the stage until the time you leave the stage to make your impression. Don't feel pressured to use the entire time, though. You can take as short or as long a time as you want within the time limit.
- You can win prizes in several categories (some per level) that include Best in Show, Best Craftsmanship, Best Presentation, Best Group, and multiple judges' choice awards.
- You have the option to enter the costume contest in any one of three levels; Novice, Intermediate, or Master.
 - Novice Category: 75% of your costume must be made by you (for instance, sword, shield, and wig could be made by someone else)
 - Intermediate Category: 85% of your costume must be made by you (for instance, your jewelry and wig could be commissioned or bought outright)
 - Master Category: 95% of your costume must be made by you (you can buy and style a wig)

If you have doubts as to which category you belong in, make your best guess and we will review your costume for category eligibility at the pre-meeting.

Please bring your costume to the pre-meeting on a hanger. Please bring photos of your costume progress to the pre-meeting as well (printouts from your computer are fine, of course).

- Novice Category – please bring no fewer than three pictures
- Intermediate Category: bring no fewer than five
- Master Category: bring no fewer than ten.

It is important to us to verify that everyone's work is their own, so the competitive emphasis on craftsmanship is fair to everyone.

Skit Contest

- We are allowing thirty groups, maximum, for the skit contest.
- Groups may consist of no more than seven people.
- Each group has four minutes from the time they enter to the stage until the time they leave the stage. Do not feel pressured to use the entire time, however! You can take as short or as long a time as you want within the four-minute time limit.
- Dance numbers are perfectly acceptable for the skit contest.
- You can win prizes in several categories, including: Best In Show, Most Creative, Best Presentation, and multiple judges' choice awards.
- You do not have to have made your own costume for the skit contest. The focus of this competition is pop culture-relevant creativity, not craftsmanship.
- We will be having three levels for the skit contest: Novice, Intermediate, and Master. You can select which level you feel is appropriate for your group.

Entries must be submitted by March 31st at the latest. We welcome walk-ins for the Costume Contest only, provided there are less than fifty entrants pre-registered per category. Due to the prerecorded and complex nature of the Skit Contest, walk-ins cannot be accepted.

Please keep in mind that all media must be pre-recorded in mp3 form; no microphones will be provided, no exceptions. You can send your media to cosplay@sakuracon.org no later than March 31st, 2011. If you do not send us anything, we will provide you with music from our own personal playlist of awesomeness.

Cosplay Chess

By Amanda Lemoncelli

Imagine a room filled to the brim with eagerly awaiting spectators, watching as the actors take their places out on stage. The Emcee comes out, microphone in hand and announces the show is about to begin! The lights dim and music begins, signifying the beginning of the show, with one important difference; instead of dialogue or a big musical number, a chess game begins. Pieces move forward, to the side, diagonally - in various ways that are directed by their respective Kings. All of a sudden, a pawn or a bishop receives an order to take the neighboring piece. The remainder of the board clears and the two selected pieces do battle - only one comes out on top.



Cosplay Chess, is a live action chess game that features 32 anime, manga, video game, television and book characters that are popular among the crowds of people that come to watch at various conventions. Some games are scripted with all the moves, fights, victories and losses planned well ahead of time. Some of the battles are choreographed and rehearsed for months prior to the convention. Other games are more daring - they don't script anything. Instead, they place a chessboard between two people and let them play a game right on the spot. This creates a level of entertainment that no one, not even the "Chess Masters" can predict.

Sakura-Con's Cosplay Chess began in 2007. It began as a single game that was unscripted, meaning nothing as far as battles or piece movement was planned ahead of time. The game was fun, quirky and not quite as mature as it could have been.

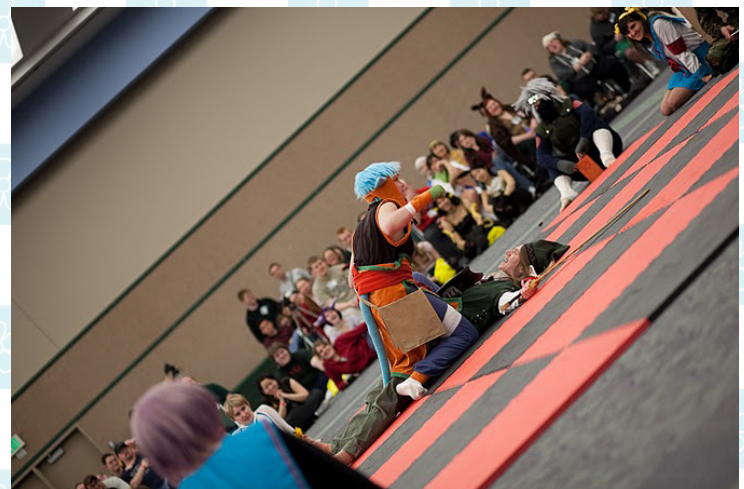


Fast forward to 2008 with two games held; the Saturday Main Game, which has since become a scripted game and the Sunday unscripted version. That was also my first time participating in Sakura-Con's Cosplay Chess game. Being there was all it took - I was hooked. I recall 2008 featuring KazZu and NinjAttorney as the Kings, their final battle consisting of them taking off their Phoenix Wright costumes right down to maid outfits and duking it out. That year was also the first time we had seen the Sunday Unscripted game, which unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to other conflicts.

Two games were planned for 2009 as well. Things were going steady, audiences filling the room. Cosplay Chess went from being on a stage in the theater to the round set up, which allowed fans a 360° view of the game. I began to help more with the preparation for Cosplay Chess. I was able to see what went into setting up the event and how things worked. Mistakes were made on the board, as the Kings skipped some moves; it was a learning experience.

For 2010, the Coordinator and assistants strove to make sure that the movement list was simple, explaining the positions of each piece to the so the mistakes of 2009 wouldn't happen. This was also a year of surprises; instead of the usual two games planned, an additional game was added to the mix a Late Night version to spice things up. The newest game is exactly what it sounds like - a raunchy late night Cosplay Chess game meant to entertain the 18+ crowd.

Cosplay Chess is growing and expanding every year at Sakura-Con, doing things other conventions haven't yet tried. Based on the reviews, Sakura-Con has done a good job to meet and beat everyone's expectations.



Sakura-Con Welcomes Berryz Kobo!



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ANCEA is pleased to announce Berryz Kobo as musical guests for Sakura-Con 2011.

All girl super group Berryz Kobo originally hails from Hello! Project and consists of Saki Shimizu, Momoko Tsugunaga, Chinami Tokunaga, Maasa Sudo, Miyabi Natsuyaki, Yurina Kumai and Risako Sugaya. With 7 Albums and 24 singles to their credit, Berryz Kobo's first North American appearance is a dream come true for many fans.

Berryz Kobo had their debut single, "Anata nashi dewa ikite ikenai" on Girls Day (March 3rd) in 2004, and have been consistently impressing fans ever since. There are many highlights to their 6+ year history, including their 2005 Oricon top 10 hit "Special Generation". In 2007, Berryz Kobo gave sold out performances in the Saitama Super Arena (20,000 seats), becoming the youngest band to perform in this arena with an average age below 14 years. One year later, they won the Best Newcomer Award at the Asia song Festival in South Korea and then the Nihon Yuusen Taishou Award for their cover song of "Dschinghis Khan". In March 2010, Berryz Kobo was the first all girl Japanese group to perform in Bangkok Thailand. Their latest single "Shining Power", released on November 10th is an ending theme for the anime "Inazuma Eleven". Berryz Kobo are excited to perform in the USA for their international fans!!

Berryz Kobo appear courtesy of
Up Front Agency and
Japanfiles.com

Official Site

<http://www.helloproject.com/berryzkobo/index.html>

☆ Official Berryz YouTube Channel

「Berryzchannel」

<http://www.youtube.com/user/berryzchannel>



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For more information about ANCEA/Sakura-Con please contact info@sakuracon.org or visit our website at www.sakuracon.org

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contributing Sakura-Con volunteers.



On behalf of ANCEA/Sakura-Con,
we'd like to wish everyone a safe
and happy holiday season!

