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APRIL 17-19 at Seattle Center Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival



Illustrated by Sugako Sasaki

Experience Japan's Now and Then



North American Post photo archive

Over 30 years, the annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival has introduced Japan to persons in the Greater Seattle area. As a free public service, the Festival presents exceptional cultural and educational Festival programs including traditional Japanese dance, music, beautiful costumes, martial arts, tea ceremonies, educational activities and foods.

This year, the largest and oldest event of its kind in the Pacific Northwest will be held Friday through Sunday, Apr. 17-19 at Seattle Center.

The Festival was initiated in 1976 by a gift of 1,000 cherry trees from Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Miki to Seattle from Japan, in commemoration of America's Bicentennial, and to acknowledge the long and close friendship between the peoples of Japan and Washington State.

It will celebrate its 34th anniversary this year and focuses on "Centuries in Space: Princess Kaguya to Moon Satellite Kaguya."

The special guests and activities this year include:

- A retelling of Japan's oldest folk tale, Tale of the Bamboo Cutter

and technological look through exhibits and films of Kaguya.

- Special lectures on the success of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Japan's artistic love of the Moon, and Japanese environment and recycling technology.

- Origami Plane Contest.

- Participant construction (using 800 paper cups) and launch of a 17-foot model of the rocket that sent the Kaguya Satellite into space.

- Go tournament and lessons for all ages.

- Kids Access including origami and kite making/flying and Japanese language lessons.

- Children and adults kimono dress up.

- Cherry Blossom Gyudon (beef bowl), Obento Box, and sweets.

Presented by the Seattle Cherry Blossom & Japanese Cultural Festival Committee, the festival's mission is to deepen mutual understanding between the people of Japan and the people of the Northwest; to exchange ideas and friendship; and to promote the culture, and technologies of Japan.