



The Asian Reporter

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Exhibit offers children a peek into Japanese life, culture



NEXT UP: "IRON CHEF." "Five Friends From Japan," on display through January 15, explores childhood in Japan through the eyes of five students. One of the highlights of the exhibition is Aisa's kitchen and tofu shop (above), a big hit with children of all ages. (AR Photo/Malleen Hamto) Akio Egawa (below), Consul-General of Japan, accepts a one-of-a-kind clock at the opening ceremonies at the Portland Children's Museum. (Photo/Steve Hambuchen, courtesy of the Portland Children's Museum)

By Malleen Hamto
The Asian Reporter

How do children in Japan study, live, and play? Visitors to the Portland Children's Museum will be delighted to meet new friends in the travelling interactive exhibit called "Five Friends From Japan," on display through January 15.

The exhibit offers age-appropriate activities for children age five through 12 years and their families. By providing an avenue for school-age children to explore how their Japanese contemporaries live and play, the exhibition excels at helping children identify similarities and differences between North American and Japanese cultures.

Children and their families will welcome the opportunity to experience childhood in Japan. Five students — Aisa, Sakiko, Ken, Yusuke, and Shoko — serve as guides through the exhibit. Visitors are welcomed to "drop by" their homes to



learn more about their interests, families, and neighborhoods through video narratives and hands-on activities.

The exhibition features specific environments that were created as a result of input from real children who shared their lives with the exhibit's development team. Thus, the exhibit does more than present a garden-variety

Japanese culture lesson. "Five Friends From Japan" offers an excellent way to learn about the culture and lifestyle of children in Japan, while also highlighting idiosyncrasies that make every child's life colorful and interesting

One of the highlights of the exhibition is Aisa's kitchen and tofu shop, a big hit with children of all ages. Playing with the pots, pans, and

kitchen utensils allows children to experience what it's like to be a tofu chef. Role-playing as a tofu shop operator is a great way for children to explore the variety of foods favored by children in Japan.

A visit to Sakiko's bedroom allows children to dress up in traditional Japanese attire. Girls will love exploring Sakiko's collection of real Japanese *manga*, or comics. Those parents who grew up in the shadow of Hello Kitty will appreciate the lasting influence of Sanrio's popular feline on Japanese children today.

Enter Shoko's living room and listen to and create different types of Japanese music, from J-pop to classical. Like many American children, Shoko is a collector; her shell and stone collections are showcased in the living room. Books adorn the shelves of the living room, which serves as the hub of her family activities.

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Vietnamese in the U.S. invest in old country

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China's next Yao looks to 2007 NBA draft

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Another piercing mystery from I.J. Parker

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Multnomah County employees collecting holiday donations

Multnomah County employees are staging a canned food and toy drive in the Portland area this holiday season to help in the distribution of food and toys to needy people in local communities.

The drive runs through December 1 and is sponsored by county workers represented by Local 88 of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Canned food and toys may be dropped off at the following locations:

- Donald E. Long Facility (1401 N.E. 68th Ave., Portland)
- Gresham Library (385 N.W. Miller Ave., Gresham, Ore.)
- Sheriff's Office, Hansen Building (12240 N.E. Glisan St., Portland)
- Lincoln Building (421 S.W. Oak St., Portland)
- Midland Library (805 S.E. 122nd Ave., Portland)
- Multnomah Building (501 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd., Portland)
- Oregon AFSCME Office (6025 E. Burnside St., Portland)

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Prescription drug enrollment help offered

Staff and volunteers from the Multnomah County Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance (SHIBA) program will conduct neighborhood enrollment events to help citizens with the Medicare Part D benefit. Enrollment will take place through December 31, 2006.

"People with Medicare who enrolled in a Part D Plan earlier this year may think their plan will continue as it is. We're trying to help people avoid unhappy surprises at the pharmacy in January," says Janet Bowman, SHIBA Coordinator. "Read

your new 2007 plan carefully — coverage may have changed, prices may have changed. People who have questions should call their plan or 1-800-MEDICARE or attend an enrollment event to get answers before December 31."

Appointments are required for the enrollment events, which will take place at the following locations:

- Nov. 21, Midland Library (805 S.E. 122nd Ave., Portland)

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WINNING ENTRY BRINGS JOY. Twelve-year-old Linda Yu, right, shows her winning greeting card design with instructor Jiao Ying. (Photo courtesy of the Jiao Ying Chinese Culture and Arts School)

Local art student wins greeting card contest

Twelve-year-old Linda Yu of Lake Oswego, Oregon topped thousands of entrants across the country to take top honors in the 2006 Pier 1/Weekly Reader UNICEF Greeting Card Contest. The contest's theme was "Holiday Happiness."

Miss Yu's winning drawing shows the word "Joy" represented by a stocking filled with presents, a holiday wreath, and a reindeer with colorful antlers.

The daughter of Ming Yu and Julia Fei, Linda Yu studies art with Jiao Ying of the Jiao Ying Chinese Culture and Arts School, whose students have won

numerous awards over the past 10 years. Miss Yu's design will be reproduced as an official UNICEF greeting card and be sold in Pier 1 stores across the nation to benefit children around the world.

The young artist was invited to visit U.N. headquarters in New York from November 13 through 20 and to join UNICEF ambassador and "American Idol" singer Clay Aiken for the UNICEF 2006 Snow Flake Lighting.

To learn more about the Jiao Ying Chinese Culture and Arts School, visit <www.jiaoyingschool.com>.

Clatsop Community College seeks art show entries

Clatsop Community College (CCC) in Astoria, Oregon is seeking submissions for its first juried international art exhibition, the first of its kind to be held at a community college in Oregon. "Au Naturel: The Nude in the 21st Century"

will take place April 2 through 27, 2007.

The exhibition is open to all artists working in any drawing, painting, or print-making medium and will include a wide range of interpretations of the nude human figure, from representational to abstract.

The submission deadline is February 12, 2007.

A prospectus containing specifications on media requirements, fees, and terms is available online at <www.clatsopcc.edu>. For more information, call Kristin Shauck at (503) 338-2472.

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Visitors will also have fun exploring Ken's Tatami room. Ken is the eldest of four siblings with a Japanese father and American mother, and shares details about his family. He also shares his love of baseball and Harry Potter. In Ken's room, children can try out Japanese calligraphy and experience what it's like to have futon bedding. Visitors also will learn about traditional home architecture and materials used in Japan, such as *tatami*, straw matting used as floor covering.

Step outside to Yusuke's yard, where youth of all ages can practice *aikido* moves with the help of an instructor. In the garden, children will learn about the elements that make up Japanese garden design. Visitors to Yusuke's garden also will learn that Japanese children share a

passion for crawly critters and various sports.

To complement the "Five Friends" exhibit, the Portland Children's Museum is hosting Japan-related activities this month. Throughout November, the Clay Studio offers the opportunity for children to explore *raku* glazing and firing, a traditional Japanese ceramic technique. Raku glazing and firing is available from 2:00 to 4:30pm every Saturday in November.

The Portland Children's Museum is located at 4015 S.W. Canyon Road in Portland. Museum hours are 9:00am to 5:00pm Tuesday through Saturday and 11:00am to 5:00pm on Sunday. The "Five Friends From Japan" exhibit is free with museum admission. For more information, call (503) 223-6500 or visit <www.PortlandChildrensMuseum.org>.

Give2Asia grants 100 percent of Tsunami Recovery Fund

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GUARD Society is helping 500 women create new businesses in fish marketing and animal husbandry.

■ Twenty-five percent of the projects supported education, such as starting schools and services for orphans. A group called Education for Aceh and North Sumatra now runs a

teacher-exchange program between Aceh and the city of Yogyakarta, establishing 14 sister-school relationships and fostering quality education and a culture of peace.

■ Twelve percent of the projects provided immediate disaster relief. Months after the tsunami, families continued to

search for loved ones among 5,000 unidentified bodies in Thailand with the help of a database built in collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General in Thailand and the Asia Foundation.

To download the full report, or learn more about continuing needs in Asia, visit <www.give2asia.org>.

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RECOGNIZE

How to identify a possible gas leak:

- You smell a rotten egg odor
- You hear a blowing or hissing sound

REACT

What to do:

- Leave the area
- Don't use any electrical device like a light switch, phone, appliance or garage door opener
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Who to call:

- Use a neighbor's phone or public phone to call NW Natural and report the odor
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