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MORIKAMI'S SUMMER SMORGASBORD: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IS ON THE CALENDAR

Delray Beach, FL – March 22, 2004– The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens' calendar of activities continues, as it heads into the summer highs of May through September.

Summer Garden Walks

May 14 - Sept. 10, 2004

The Morikami re-introduces its Summertime Garden Walks for garden lovers everywhere. These self-directed walks are designed for visitors to beat the summertime heat by enjoying the *Roji-En* gardens in the evenings and early mornings on specific days. Last year, hundreds of people took advantage of being in the gardens at a time when they are normally inaccessible. Visitors came to take pictures, stroll in the coolness of the morning and relax in the shade of the early morning. The Cornell Café will be open to serve an optional dinner or light breakfast on these occasions.

Evening Walks:

Dates: May 14, June 11, July 9, Aug. 20, Sept. 10
Times: 5:30-8:30 p.m.; reservations are not required
Admission Fee: Members are free, non-members \$5
Optional dinner at the Cornell Café.

Morning Walk:

Date: June 19
Times: 7-9 a.m.; reservations are not required
Admission Fee: Members are free, non-members \$5

A Weekend of Taiko

Saturday, June 26 & Sunday, June 27

3 p.m. (matinee) & 7:30 p.m.

Fushu Daiko, South Florida's very own taiko drum group, presents a power filled taiko drumming performance. Throughout the program, Fushu Daiko guides the audience on a breathtaking journey through the elements, presenting the ancient art of Japanese drumming and choreography. Fushu Daiko enthralls audiences around the world with its skillful drumming, discipline and power. Tickets for the performance, sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Miami, are \$20 each and are on sale at The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens. The Cornell Café will be open from 3:30-7 p.m. the night of the show with a limited menu.

Tanabata

July 7-11

An annual astronomical phenomenon will be commemorated in an ancient Japanese rite known as *Tanabata*, the Star Festival. An ancient holiday on the lunar calendar (the seventh day of the seventh month, July 7), *Tanabata* marks the moment when the major stars Vega and Altair are prominent in the constellations of Lyra and Aquila. The holiday celebrates the mythical reunion of two lovers associated with the two stars. The Morikami invites visitors to join in the ritual of sending wishes to the goddess, by writing their desires on ribbons of paper and tying them to a special bamboo tree.

Bon Festival

August 14, 2003

Visitors are invited to attend as The Morikami celebrates Bon Festival in one fun-packed evening on August 14 from 5-9 p.m. Bon Festival is inspired by *Obon*, Japan's traditional three-day holiday honoring ancestors and thanking them for the quality of life enjoyed by the living.

Highlights of Bon Festival include rousing *taiko* drum performances, traditional Japanese folk dancing with audience participation, ghost stories and a street fair with shop booths and games, such as *Kingyo Sukui*, the goldfish scoop. The grand finale of the evening begins at sunset when Morikami Pond is transformed into a tranquil sea of lighted lanterns, which, in accordance with Japanese custom, guide the departure of ancestors' souls who have come for a brief visit among the living. A fireworks display caps off the evening.

Bon Festival admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for museum members and \$5 for children under 12. Free parking is available. Food vendors on the park grounds and at The Morikami's Cornell Café will offer a selection of Japanese and American foods.

Bon Festival is sponsored by *The Sun-Sentinel*, WXEL, Kirin Beer, Delray Medical Center, Searcy Denney Scarola Barnhart & Shipley, The Palm Beach County Department of Parks and Recreation, The Tourist Development Council and The State of Florida Department of State Division of Cultural Affairs.

Classes at The Morikami

- **Join Nancy Moore Bess in a hands-on workshop, Four Quick Japanese-Style Baskets**. \$40, plus \$17.00 material fee. Advance registration required, call 561-495-0233 extension 210 to register May 1
- **Ikenobo *Ikebana* Flower Arrangement Classes** Four-week sessions begin. Public \$70, (Members \$60) + flower fee. Advance registration required. Begins May 4
- ***Sumi-e* Ink Painting Introduction Classes** Four-week sessions begin. Public \$60, (Members \$55). Advance registration required. Begins May 5
- ***Sumi-e* Ink Painting Floral Classes** Four-week sessions begin. Public \$60, (Members \$55). Advance registration required. Begins May 6
- ***Sumi-e* Ink Painting Landscape Classes** Four-week sessions begin. Public \$60, (Members \$55). Advance registration required. Begins May 6
- **Sogetsu *Ikebana* Flower Arrangement Classes** Four-week sessions begin. Public \$70, (Members \$60) + flower fee. Advance registration required. Begins May 7
- **Sunday – *Sado Omote Senke* Tea Ceremony Classes** Two-lesson session begins. Public \$45, (Members \$40). Advance registration required. Begins May 16 & June 13

Saturday Family Programs

Adults and Children, ages 7 and older

Express your creativity and engage in some unique family togetherness. Enjoy this hour of cultural creativity alone, with friends or with the whole family. Programs are free with paid admission, registration is required. Call 561-495-0233 to register.

June 12 – *Cultural Creations*: Paint a Fan

10:30 and 11:45 am

June 26 – *Origami*: Flowers & Insects

10:30 and 11:45 am

July 10 – *Cultural Creations*: Create a Crest

10:30 and 11:45 am

July 24 – *Origami*: Modular Pagoda

10:30 and 11:45 am

August 28 – *Origami*: Animals

10:30 and 11:45 am

September 11- *Origami*: Fold a Crane for Peace

11:00 – 3 p.m.

Experience Sado, The Way of Tea

May 15, June 19

Sitting in the *Seishin-an* Tea House you will observe the exchange between host and guests, students of the Omote Senke tea group as they demonstrate The Way of Tea. This hour long presentation includes narration by tea instructor, Chieko Mihori, an opportunity for questions, a sip of green tea and a sweet.

Usually held the third Saturday of the month from October to June at noon, 1 pm, 2 pm, and 3 pm in the *Seishin-an* Tea House. \$5 for members and with paid museum admission. Groups of 10 or more should call 561-495-0233, ext. 225 for reservations.

Public Museum Tours

Looking for a special treat for your visitors over the spring holidays, or any Wednesday or Thursday – spend an afternoon at the museum complete with a docent-led public tour which are held twice a week. They cover the current museum exhibit, the *Seishin-an* tea house and an overview of *Roji-en*: The George D. and Harriet W. Cornell Japanese Gardens. Meet in the lobby at the **Tour** sign Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the year from 3 - 4:00 pm. Reservations are not required. Free for members or with paid admission!

Out-of-School Summer Tour-Plus Program

This 1 -1/2 program is available June through August. It includes a guided tour of the air conditioned Morikami Museum exhibit, tea house and library. You may also engage in a hands-on cultural activity and a Japanese Folktale. On your own, visit the Yamato-kan where you can experience a selection of interactive displays for children and our Japanese Gardens complete with bridges, stone lanterns and wonderful, colorful koi. To schedule your group's visit to us, call 561-495-0233, ext. 210.

EXHIBITS

Resilience, Versatility and Strength: Bamboo in Japan

April 6 through June 6, 2004

Bamboo, valued in Japan for its qualities of resilience, versatility and strength, pervades almost every aspect of Japanese life. The Morikami's exhibition demonstrates how this remarkable natural resource brings beauty to everyday utilitarian objects while at the same time inspiring art and a rich, enduring symbolism. Objects draw from The Morikami's collection and several lenders, and include utensils for the tea ceremony; leisure articles such as kites and other toys, musical instruments and sports gear; ceremonial items, from a trousseau chest to wedding garments,

that employ bamboo as a motif for its auspicious connotations; baskets and other bamboo implements for use in farming, food service and fishing; and personal accessories like fans, hair ornaments and footwear. The exhibition also explores bamboo in fine art with an 18th century folding screen and contemporary paintings by Japan-born Miami artist Nao Tanaka, sculpture by Dennis Morinaka and an installation piece by Soei Chieko Mihori. A highlight of the show will be fine antique and contemporary baskets by several of Japan's leading bamboo artisans.

Message on the Street: The Banner as Advertising Medium in Japan

June 22 through September 19, 2004

Advertising banners are relatively rare in the United States, but in Japan they can be found on nearly every street where there are retail businesses, rippling in the breeze and selling everything from soup to nuts. As a graphic medium, the Japanese advertising banner is versatile, its narrow, vertical format as suited to the writing of Japanese as it is to the need of packaging the message in a compact visual format. Sixty banners will be displayed from a local private collection, offering a unique manner of viewing both Japanese popular culture and design aesthetics.

The Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, dedicated exclusively to the living culture of Japan, is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. The museum is located at 4000 Morikami Park Road off Jog Road between Linton Boulevard and Clint Moore Road in Delray Beach. For more information about The Morikami, its exhibitions and programs, call 561-495-0233 or visit www.morikami.org

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