

*NEWS RELEASE April 2010*

*4th Annual Fort Wayne*  
*Japanese*  
**cherry**  
BLOSSOM  
FESTIVAL

Sponsored by: Japanese American Association of Indiana, Fort Wayne Sister Cities International Inc., Fort Wayne Museum of Art, City of Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, Fort Wayne Dance Collective

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When: **Sunday, April 18, 2010, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.**

Where: **Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Arts United Center & Plaza and Freimann Square**

**Free for the public with donations gratefully accepted.**

**Opening Ceremony Sunday, April 18, 2010**

**12:00 p.m. Opening Ceremony**

**Fort Wayne Taiko**

**Fort Wayne Children's Choir**

*singing the Star Spangled Banner and the Japanese National Anthem, and Sakura, Cherry Blossom (in Japanese)*

**Mayor Tom Henry** with the Official Welcome with the Proclamation from the City of Fort Wayne

**Featured Artists and Events throughout the Festival**

**TAIKOPROJECT**, Japanese Taiko Ensemble from Los Angeles, CA

**Fort Wayne Taiko**, from the Fort Wayne Dance Collective

**Okinawa Yuyukai Taiko**, from Indianapolis

**Garret Uyeno, Koto**, musician from Indianapolis

**Minyo Japanese Folk Dancers**, from Indianapolis

**Fort Wayne Children's Choir, Treble and Lyric**, conducted by Phyllis Boester  
**Mrs. Shie Otani**, Japanese Tea Ceremony  
**Sayaka Ganz**, Sculpture Artist of recycled materials display and hands-on booth  
**Chikuen Kato**, Sumie Artist display  
**Martial Arts**, several groups demonstrating  
**Hiroshi Kaneko**, Japanese Toymaker from Chicago  
**Dorothy Kittaka**, Japanese Storyteller, Kamishibai Storycard Theater  
**Mike Schmid**, Origami demonstration and hands-on origami for all  
**Laura Semba**, Haiku Lecture on Matsuo Basho's Oku no Hosomichi and  
Haiku Reading by students

**TAIKOPROJECT will perform their full program prior to the Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival at the Arts United Center on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 p.m. Purchase tickets through Dance Collective for the Saturday performance.**

### **COMPETITIONS**

**Anime!** Draw a famous anime character or your own original character for prizes.

**Can You Haiku?** Students will submit work prior to festival and public may compose haiku at the festival for prizes.

**CosPlay!** Students may wear costumes depicting favorite anime character for prizes.

### **TASTE OF JAPAN**

**Toyko Seoul Restaurant**, purchase authentic Japanese cuisine.

**Woo's Oriental Grocery & Mart**, buy Japanese candies, drinks, ice cream, crackers etc.

**Sampling of Japanese Beer - ASAHI BEER**, Five Star Distributing

### **HANDS-ON JAPANESE ACTIVITIES**

**Bonsai Display and Demonstration** and sales by Fort Wayne Bonsai Club

**Origami Demonstration and Hands-on session**, Mike Schmid, Art Specialist

**Japanese Kites and Toys handmade by Hiroshi Kaneko** from Chicago

**Videos of Japanese Culture** – continuous

**Japanese Children's Games and Crafts**, origami Samurai Hat making and Japanese Fan making and other Japanese hands-on activities

### **Information**

**Log on to:**

[JapanInFortWayne.com](http://JapanInFortWayne.com)

For more information contact:

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