



LEGACY OF THE PLAINS MUSEUM

Japanese Hall Newsletter

Welcome to the fall edition of the Japanese Hall Newsletter. We want to update you on happenings at the museum and invite you to a couple of events in November. We also want to congratulate several on our team who have won recognition for their work. Thanks for your support and interest in the Hall. If you find yourself in a situation where making a gift to the Hall is feasible, please let us know as we are needing funds to finish our addition and to update our archives and exhibit space. Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, project Coordinator ■ Kim Hachiya, newsletter editor

Volume 4, Issue 2

A Challenge Grant Will Help Complete Our Addition

Here's an opportunity to make a huge difference for Japanese Hall. An anonymous donor has made a challenge grant of up to \$50,000 to be put toward completion of our addition and begin planning for our archives, accessioning work, and development of a small exhibits area in the lower level. For every dollar donated, we will receive a matching dollar amount that will help us achieve our goal. We continue to work with the Legacy of the Plains and Oregon Trail Community Foundation (OTCF) to gather donations for the Japanese Hall at Legacy Of The Plains Museum.

Ways to donate:

- Oregon Trails Community Foundation: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-japanese-hall>
- Legacy of the Plains: www.legacyoftheplains.org. If you donate through the Legacy of the Plains, please be sure to indicate on your gifts that you are donating to the Japanese Hall campaign.



Or scan this
QR code to
the OTCF:



Here's how Nebraska Public Media describes the show:

This special episode of Nebraska Stories follows the efforts of Nebraskans of Japanese heritage to preserve Scottsbluff's Japanese Hall — a social hall built in 1928 that served as a hub for cultural, religious, and educational gatherings.

At the heart of the story is third-generation Japanese American Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, whose determination, alongside many others, helped save this historic landmark.

The program documents key milestones, including the hall's relocation and archival research conducted at the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

Interwoven with the preservation effort is the story of Father Hiram Kano, whose life reflects the broader experiences of the Issei, the first generation of Japanese immigrants to Nebraska. From his early years as a farmer and community leader, Kano went on to become an ordained Episcopal priest before being incarcerated in an American internment camp during World War II. His journey, which later included a path to U.S. citizenship, speaks to the challenges and resilience of Nebraska's Japanese American pioneers.

The episode concludes with the hall's grand opening and dedication at Gering's Legacy of the Plains Museum in June 2024.

The Nov. 11 event is part of the Paul A. Olson Great Plains lecture series by the Center for Great Plains Studies.

“Saving Japanese Hall” screening Nov. 11 in Lincoln

Everyone is invited to a free screening and discussion of the Nebraska Public Media production “Nebraska Stories: Saving Japanese Hall” at 6 p.m. Nov. 11 at the Lied Commons on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.

Doors open at 5:30 a.m. for this event. Lied Commons is attached to the Lied Center for Performing Arts at 301 N. 12th Street. Use the east doors to access the Commons.

The format will be similar to the event held in Scottsbluff in May when Nebraska Public Media premiered the film. We will screen Nebraska Public Media's documentary “Nebraska Stories: Rescuing Japanese Hall” episode (30 minutes), followed by a panel of Japanese American community members, Vickie Sakurada Schaepler (Japanese Hall and History Project Coordinator), Kim Hachiya (community descendant), and Sharon Ishii-Jordan (Professor Emerita at Creighton University and community descendant), and the senior producer of “Nebraska Stories,” Kay Hall. This event will be moderated by Dr. Donna Doan Anderson, UNL assistant professor of history.

Art piece commemorates a family's heritage

By Vickie Sakurada Schaepler • Stableyard Blue-Homeland Security 1942

Joyce Miyagishima, daughter of Alfred and Nancy Miyagishma, created this artwork, moved by her family's history and the thousands of Japanese Americans forcibly removed from their homes during World War II. The stability the family had enjoyed for years quickly changed as they were sent to the San Joaquin Fairgrounds, Stockton Assembly Center and issued a family ID number: 10400

This art piece was donated to Japanese Hall and touched so many as we remembered those who contributed so much to our museum and the history we are gathering for future generations. For Alfred Miyagishima and his sister Jeanne Miyagishma Turnage, the Japanese Hall Project had profound meaning, and their excitement was always felt. I met them early in our

project as they had been at the museum and met with previous director, Kate Bradshaw to share their story in 2012. They offered encouragement at times when you get discouraged. They never saw the museum open but their spirit along with many others live on through our stories and artifacts.

Fred (Gontaro) Miyagishima had been a leader in the Scottsbluff Japanese community, owning Mount Fuji company and publishing a weekly Japanese Newspaper; he and the family moved to California in 1940 due to his poor health. Seven members of the family were incarcerated at Gila River Internment camp while their father, Fred (Gontaro) Miyagishima, remained hospitalized in California. He was too ill to travel. His wife, Kiku, and children Mabel, Ed, Alfred, Gladys, Jeanne and Becky remained at Gila River.

Ed was released from camp and entered the military intelligence service; Mabel would be released to work in Denver; and Alfred would be released to return to Scottsbluff where he was sponsored by a worker at the Eagle



Alfred Miyagishima and his daughter, Joyce Miyagishima in 2018 at Japanese Hall

Café, and finished his high school degree, but was drafted soon after graduation. He regretted never again seeing his father before Gontaro died in 1946.

Alfred shared many stories of the Japanese Hall, the area surrounding the hall, recollections about silent movies, theater events and the many activities that took place in the area. He remembered his mother making tofu to sell, and his father buying fish from California to sell in the market and getting truckloads of rice. There are pictures of his mother, Kiku, and sister, Mabel, with a theater group at the hall in the 1930s.



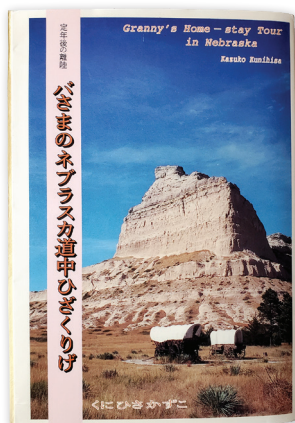
Kiku Miyagishima 1923



Stable Yard Blue-Homeland Security 1942, created by Joyce Aiko Miyagishima (1956-2023)

Fred (Gontaro) Miyagishima as publisher of the Nebraska Times

Hall Exhibits Showcase Artifacts and Heritage



We receive so many cherished artifacts making it difficult to select pieces to highlight. This new newsletter segment will spotlight a few. All our acquisitions are important and valued. Contact our Acquisitions chair Diane Mercer for information.

One of the Japanese Hall's newest acquisitions is an auto-graphed soft cover book, written in Japanese and published in Japan, titled "Granny's Home-stay Tour in Nebraska" by Kazuko Kuniyama. Kazuko was an exchange program teacher from Japan who was at Gering Junior High School around 1988-90. After returning to Japan, Kazuko published a journal and sent copies to some of her local connections. The book is a humorous look at her experiences staying with eight families, teaching at the junior high, friendships in the community, and challenges after she left. She helped students and staff learn how to do Japanese calligraphy, eat with chopsticks, and dress in kimonos. Students even produced a play "Midsummer Night's Dream" in Japanese style. There are a number of local photos in her book, including one which was taken inside Japanese Hall before it was moved.



Another unique acquisition is a 14-inch Composition Head-Articulated Doll wearing a fuchsia-colored kimono, green coat, and green velvet cap. Composition dolls were made worldwide from approximately 1909 through the early 1950s. Composition is generally a mixture of glue and sawdust. Heavier and

denser than papier mache, composition is easily molded and is thus an excellent material to make doll heads. This composition doll was probably made in Japan due to the way the body is put together. Also, composition materials used in Japan would probably be different from what was used in the U.S. and other countries.

The dolls below are new additions to Japanese Hall's collection of dolls made of unglazed clay. The geisha does have a label which confirms she is an authentic Hakata doll. The young couple are dressed



as a bride and groom. The Hakata Urasaki dolls are also made of unglazed clay; they show seniors depicting everyday life in Japan.

Beth Trupp, who is one of the Japanese Hall docents, gave a demonstration on how to make Temari balls at a recent docent meeting. Once a children's

plaything, Japanese temari balls have become a carefully crafted item of beauty. Temari balls are wrapped in intricate geometric designs of cotton and silk threads. Beth still maintains the tradition of putting rice in the center of the ball, which you can hear when shaking the ball. Attached are photos of temari balls Beth has made, which were donated to the Hall.



Japanese-themed books win top Nebraska Book Awards honors

Two books featuring Japanese themes have received 2024 honors from the Nebraska Center for the Book. They are Isamu's *American Dream* by D.D. Davenport (Donald D. Davenport) in the fiction category and *Most Honorable Son: A Forgotten Hero's Fight Against Fascism and Hate During World War II* by Gregg Jones (Citadel Press) in the Nonfiction - Biography -category.

The authors will be honored at the Nebraska Celebration of Books – Festival & Awards Ceremony Saturday, Nov. 15 at the Nebraska Union and Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center, 1400 R Street, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Nebraska Celebration of Books honors the state's rich literary tradition and thriving community of authors. The day includes panel discussions, a writing workshop, a State Poets session, the One Book One Nebraska author talk, and more.

The book awards presentation will begin at 4:00 p.m.

A reception will precede the ceremony at 3:00 p.m., with author signings and books available for purchase from Francie & Finch Bookshop.

Isamu's American Dream

Isamu's American Dream is part of a four-book series that profiles three generations of a Japanese family leading up to WW2 and incarceration at the Topaz relocation center near Delta, Utah. It begins in 1873 when a young man walked away from a secure position in his father's Tokyo factory in search of a more fulfilling future. A thousand kilometers to the north,

a seventeen-year-old girl was forced from her farmland home by an abusive father. A chance encounter placed them on the same mountain trail near the small village of Kamaishi, and it changed their lives forever. Thus begins the saga of *Kamaishi Heritage*. Follow three generations of the Ozawa family as they encounter success and disappointment, some caused by man, others by nature. Toshi will endear you with his high moral character, mixed with moments of elevated naiveté.

D.D. Davenport has published four books of historical fiction, the most recent in May of 2025.

Davenport was born in Custer County, Nebraska, attended public schools in Callaway and later graduated from Shelton High School and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. A lifelong learner, he continued his studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the Metropolitan Community College of Omaha. He worked at a variety of places during his career as an IT specialist and now lives in Omaha.

Most Honorable Son

Gregg Jones, a Pulitzer nominee and author of the book "*Most Honorable Son: a forgotten hero's, fight against fascism and hate during World War II,*" visited the Legacy of the Plains Museum in summer 2024

and presented a lecture on the development, research and historical background related to his book. Over 50 people were in attendance, enjoying his interesting presentation.

This book is a comprehensive look at the life of Ben Kuroki, who was from Hershey, Nebraska. It documents Kuroki's fight to remain in the U.S. Air Corps during WWII and fly over the South Pacific. Several Japanese Americans from Nebraska volunteered for the Air Corps but were removed and sent to the regular army.

When the average gunner flew just 25 missions Ben Kuroki flew 58, in both the European and South Pacific theaters, including bombing raids over Japan.

Jones was touring Nebraska and gave presentations at the History Nebraska museum in Lincoln, Lincoln County historical museum in North Platte, and at the Legacy of the Plains. He was on his way to Heart Mountain confinement camp in Wyoming.

The Nebraska Sandhills

Also recognized with an award is *The Nebraska Sandhills* edited by Monica M. Norby, Judy Diamond, Aaron Sutherlen, Sherilyn C. Fritz, Kim Hachiya, Douglas A. Norby, Michael Forsberg (Bison Books). Hachiya is a member of the Japanese Hall and History Project Advisory Team. This book won in the category Nonfiction - Nebraska as Place.



Ishii-Jordan a finalist in Omaha's 'Inspire Awards' program

Sharon Ishii-Jordan, a member of the Japanese Hall Advisory Council, was named a finalist for the Omaha World-Herald's Inspire Award, which honors women in leadership in a number of categories. She was nominated by Lorraine Chang, who serves with Sharon on the Nebraska Asian Pacific American Leadership Alliance executive committee.

Sharon, a professor emerita of education at Creighton University, was nominated in the category of "excellence in education."

The awards in all categories will be conferred Oct. 29 in Omaha.

Japanese Immigration Featured in Summer Chautauqua Aug. 8

Julie Ushio, formerly of Alliance, was one of the featured speakers for this year's 2025 Nebraska Chautauqua presented by Humanities Nebraska. Her talk, "Early Japanese Settlers in Nebraska," focused on those Issei who came to Nebraska. Although the majority of Japanese immigrants settled in Hawaii, California, and the West Coast, some pushed further inland to work on the railroad and coal mines, ending up in Nebraska. Many of these people settled in the Nebraska Panhandle, working as farmers, business owners and other enterprises. Julie's presentation tells their stories and it can be seen at this link: <https://youtu.be/mh8Gfl6q0Gw>

J Hall Participates in June 13th festival

By Rick and Suzanne Meyers

Friday the 13th of June was a very lucky day for the Japanese Hall as we were able to be involved in the Panhandle Multicultural Festival, sponsored by Empowering Families. The event was held at the Downtown Broadway Plaza in Scottsbluff. Other groups that joined the

Japanese included Germans from Russia, Native Americans and Mexican Americans along with numerous non-profit community organizations. Representing Japanese Hall were Wayne Nochi, Dennis Morimoto, Leann Sato, and Rick and Suzanne Meyers. The group shared Japanese games,

origami and snacks. We had many return visits for several of the games. Several enjoyed having their pictures taken with traditional Japanese masks. A Taiko Drum group from Denver gave a dynamic performance at the end of the event.



New book examines racism in Nebraska

Heather Fryer and Sharon Ishii-Jordan were chapter contributors to a new publication titled *"Roots of Justice: A History of Race and Racism in Nebraska."*

The book explores the historical and current treatment of Native Americans, African and African Americans, Latino and Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans, as well as new immigrant populations

Fryer and Ishii-Jordan's chapter is *"Asian Americans — Exclusion from the Good Life: The Impact of Anti-Asian Racism on Asian Nebraskans."*

Both Fryer and Ishii-Jordan were professors at Creighton University — Fryer in history and Ishii-Jordan in education. Both were major contributors to the development of exhibits at Japanese Hall.

Here's an excerpt of the book's foreword, written by Bill Arfmann:

"There is much to understand about the history of Nebraska and how the past shapes the present. This book attempts to bring into clearer focus the triumphs and trials of five broad groups whose lives have often been overlooked when the state's history is told. The authors know some of this history of racism

firsthand: Most of them have lived as people of color in Nebraska. They've experienced "the good, the bad and the ugly" that makes up our state story. We encourage educators, scholars and family historians to continue to dig, to document and to tell these stories. And then to ask: How can we best acknowledge the racism that is part of our history? How might Nebraskans remedy the wrongs of the past and create a future in which racism is no longer a divisive issue? Can we imagine a culture in which differences and stereotypes do not rule the future for our children and grandchildren? How is it possible for all Nebraskans, through what organizations and institutions, to work for the common good in Nebraska? May this history compel us all to imagine a better future — and then to take action to make it happen!"

Published by Zea Books on Sept. 22, 2025, the printed book will be available late fall and can be accessed now online at <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/zeabook/170/>

Miyoshi honored by Nebraska NRD group

Japanese Hall board member John Miyoshi was named to the Nebraska Natural Resources District's Hall of Fame in September in the category of NRD Employee; he was nominated by the Lower Platte North NRD board of directors.

With 33 years of service, Miyoshi is recognized for his leadership and dedication to conservation. As the Lower Platte North NRD general manager, Miyoshi oversaw multi-million-dollar budgets and led major projects in soil conservation, water quality and quantity, and flood control. He was instrumental in securing federal funding for the Upper Wahoo Creek Watershed flood reduction dams, that began construction this year.

Miyoshi championed innovation, especially in GIS and data management, helping NRD and NRCS staff work more efficiently. He played a key role in projects like the Sand Creek Environmental Restoration Project (Lake Wanahoo), the Western Sarpy/Clear Creek Levee Project, and rural water systems for Bruno and Colon, Nebraska.

Known for building strong partnerships across all levels of government, Miyoshi brought people together around shared goals—even on controversial efforts. His legacy includes the establishment of the Lower Platte North NRD's Ground Water Quality and Quantity Management Area, reflecting his commitment to protecting Nebraska's resources.

Docents and Volunteers Ensure a Great Visitor Experience

The Japanese Hall could not survive without the many docents and volunteers who dedicate their time and talents on a regular basis to the success of the Japanese Hall at the Legacy of The Plains Museum. We deeply appreciate our docents and volunteers and especially thank Diane Sakurada Mercer, our board representative, accessioning expert and full-time volunteer. Few people are more dedicated than Diane, who travels to the museum from her home in Wyoming nearly every day.

Diane leads a team of volunteers who have developed training manuals, answered questions from those visiting the museum, shared experiences, generated new ideas, cleaned, fixed displays and other unique needs. Inside our JH Museum the docents and volunteers have developed some simple activities for kids, including origami, stickers, coloring sheets, a few toys, and more. Diane also leads efforts to catalogue the many items that have been donated to the hall.

This past summer, Regan Nanbara, Wayne Nochi and Dennis Morimoto assisted in securing several large wallpaper photos with wooden slats. The photos, while glued to the walls, had started to peel away and our exhibits designers came up with a way to ensure they stayed up. Cecil Trenkle installed new equipment holders in our utility closet and built and designed some special display holders.



Steve Viessman, Deb Yamamoto, Dennis Morimoto, Joanne Kawaguchi, Beth Trupp, Wayne Nochi, first row Leann Sato, Gayle Rojas, Cindy Yamamoto, Vickie Schaepler, and Diane Mercer. (Missing docents are Rick and Suzanne Meyers, and Ed Huntsinger.)

At the Harvest Festival on September 20th and 21st they developed activities and games for all to enjoy including practicing Kanji with chalk, learning to pick up corn (the theme of the harvest festival) with chopsticks, dressing in kimonos and masks touring the hall. Some even tried the art of Kendama toys and the art of Daruma Otoshi Stacking toys.

At a recent meeting Beth Trupp showed off her skill of making beautiful Temari: Japanese Embroidered Thread Balls. In addition, she has donated a small collection for our museum.

JHall Addition Affords Full Accessibility

By Vickie Sakurada Schaepler

I worked in the field of disabilities my entire career and the new addition to Japanese Hall opens doors for people with mobility restrictions. It's a true milestone of which all of us can be so proud. This addition has been a goal since we learned that opening our lower level would require two fully functional exit/entrances. It would be sad if we were unable to accommodate those who rely on wheelchairs or had mobility problems and could not navigate the stairs in our lower level.

In 2026 we will complete our addition which gives full access and ADA compliance to our building. It will also eventually open access to our archival area. Our goals are to add research projects for veterans and genealogy, an exhibit commemorating the hall itself and the many activities it once hosted.

As you can see from these images, we have kept the original integrity of the building, giving a view that shows very little of the addition in our front entrance and preserving the shrine enclosure and all it represents for the people. Another dream fulfilled.

Few people realize the progress made for people with disabilities in the past 40 years. The efforts of visionary and compassionate leaders like former Lincoln Mayor Helen Boosalis and Tim Kolb, who worked to pass legislation granting rights of self-determination to people with disabilities, must be remembered.

Thank you to those who shared our excitement about including more stories, and those who have contributed to our project. Together, we will continue our Japanese Immigrant legacy.



Japanese Hall participated in LOPM's Fall Harvest Festival



The Legacy of the Plains Museum throws an annual Harvest Festival and this year's event was Sept. 20 and 21. This year's theme involved "corn" and Japanese Hall docents and other volunteers participated in a number of activities supporting the theme. Mask-making and dancing were two popular activities.

Documentary and Marker Dedication Celebrated May 6



Nearly 175 people attended the May 6 premiere of the Nebraska Public Media documentary “Nebraska Stories: Rescuing Japanese Hall” at the Midwest Theater in Scottsbluff.

The documentary screening was followed by a panel discussion and Q&A with Kay Hall, documentary producer, Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Julie Ushio, Sharon Ishii-Jordan and John Miyoshi. Kim Hachiya moderated the panel.

Activities during the day at Legacy of the Plains Museum included presentations by Julie Ushio, Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Sharon Ishii-Jordan and Kim Hachiya. The Nebraska State Historical Society unveiled and dedicated a historical marker, placed outside the hall.

Attendees John and Rita Stinner later remarked about the film: “What a triumph! The remarkable strength, pride, and history of the Japanese Americans was captured perfectly in Rescuing Japanese Hall, offering a glimpse into all that is Western Nebraska.”

Molly Delaney, chief strategy officer for Nebraska Public Media, also praised the successful event. “It was an absolute pleasure to partner with the Japanese Hall Project, Legacy of the Plains Museum, and the Midwest Theater to share ‘Rescuing Japanese Hall’ with the community. Collaborations like this remind us how powerful local partnerships can be in bringing history and storytelling to life.”

Folks at the museum said many visitors this year have related that they saw the program, learned about the museum, and made efforts to visit the museum.

There are dozens of people and organizations to thank and at the risk of forgetting someone here’s a list:

- Nebraska Public Media
- Midwest Theater
- Legacy of the Plains Museum staff and volunteers
- Japanese Hall docents and volunteers
- Nebraska State Historical Society
- Humanities Nebraska
- Japanese Hall Advisory Council

You can view the documentary here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oM6QpMLhrd0>





Japanese Hall Advisory Council, volunteers, friends, and folks from Nebraska Public Media.



Japanese Americans who attended the May 6 event.



(L-R) John Miyoshi, Sharon Ishii-Jordan, Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Julie Ushio, Kim Hachiya and Kay Hall, who participated in a panel discussion following the May 6 premiere of "Nebraska Stories: Saving Japanese Hall" at the Midwest Theater in Scottsbluff.

The new Nebraska State Historical Society marker was dedicated May 6, 2025.





Chester Black, Jodi Hara Black, Vickie Sakurada Schaepler and Diane Sakurada Mercer at the Lauritzen Gardens event in early October.

Japanese Ambiance Festival at Lauritzen Gardens

More than 2,500 people visited the Japanese Ambiance Festival Oct. 4 and 5 at Omaha's Lauritzen Gardens. Japanese Hall has had an informational booth at the festival for a number of years. This year's booth was staffed by Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Diane Sakurada Mercer, Sharon Ishii-Jordan, Kim Hachiya and John Miyoshi. Displays explained the history of Japanese immigrants in Nebraska. In addition to displays on Japanese in Western

Nebraska, we had posters about Father Flanagan and his work bringing Japanese and Japanese Americans from the WWII incarceration camps to work at Boys Town, and early Japanese families in Omaha. We also had a display about mochi making by three generations of one family. And we handed out packets of dessert mochi that were a big hit.

Omaha troupe presenting 'The Peach Boy' and cultural fair Nov. 8 at LotPM

Omaha-based Circle Theater will present a day of activities on Nov. 8 at the Legacy of the Plains Museum. This family-friendly event runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and costs \$10 (includes admission price to the Museum).

The day is built around the production of "Momotaro – The Peach Boy of Japan" and includes origami, masks, puppets, songs and haiku, culminating in a performance of the play "Momotaro—The Peach Boy of Japan" at 3 p.m.

Momotaro, or "Peach Boy," is a Japanese folktale about a boy born from a giant peach who grows up to defeat ogres. He is joined on his quest by a dog, a monkey, and a pheasant, who agree to help him in exchange for his mother's millet dumplings (kibi dango). After traveling to the demons' island, Momotaro and his companions defeat the ogres and return with treasure.

Omaha presentations of this work at will be staged at 7 p.m. Nov. 26 and 2 p.m. Nov. 27 at the Alan J. Levine Performing Arts Theater in the Staenberg Omaha Jewish Community Center, 333 S. 132nd St. One hour before each performance, guests are invited to explore Japanese culture through a curated sensory experience. Activities will include games, arts, and crafts from Japan. Humanities Scholar Vickie Sakurada Schaepler will speak about the history of the Japanese Hall and Japanese Americans in Nebraska. Saturday evening, the pre-show entertainment will begin with a karaoke dance party hosted by members of the Munroe Meyer Institute's dance troupe. Sunday afternoon there will be a special presentation by Maureen Brase-Houchin and Kokyo Taiko from Lincoln. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$24 the day of the show. More information can be found at: <https://www.jccomaha.org/performing-arts/special-events/>

Circle Theatre Workshop

Momotaro at Legacy of the Plains Museum



Saturday, November 8th, 2025



9:00 AM – 5:00 PM



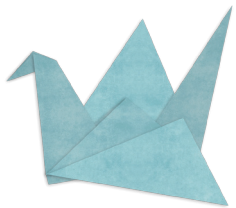
Legacy of the Plains Museum | Gering, NE



Included with Museum Admission (\$10)



Join artists from Circle Theatre--an Omaha-based theater for all abilities--for a full day of hands-on cultural workshops inspired by their production of *Momotaro: The Peach Boy of Japan*. Explore Japanese traditions through dance, puppetry, crafts, and performance!



Schedule of Events

9:00 – 10:00 AM | Momotaro Origami

Create your own dog, monkey, bird, and samurai helmet.

10:00 – 11:00 AM | Odori: Traditional Japanese Dance

Learn the graceful steps of Japanese folk dance.

11:00 – 12:00 PM | Bunraku Puppet Making

Craft your own puppet inspired by Japan's famous theatre style.

1:00 – 2:00 PM | Character Mask Creation

Design and decorate masks of Momotaro and the fearsome Oni.

2:00 – 3:00 PM | Songs of Momotaro

Sing traditional Japanese songs featured in the play.

3:00 – 4:00 PM | Performance Demonstration

Enjoy a special presentation of *Momotaro: The Peach Boy of Japan*.

4:00 – 5:00 PM | Haiku Poetry & Reflection

Write and share your own short poems inspired by the day.



✨ Perfect for families, students, and anyone curious about Japanese culture!



All activities are family-friendly and accessible for all ages and abilities.



www.circletheatreomaha.org www.legacyoftheplains.org





LEGACY OF THE PLAINS MUSEUM

2930 Old Oregon Trail
Gering, NE 69341



LEGACY OF THE PLAINS MUSEUM



JAPANESE HALL
AT LEGACY OF THE PLAINS
GERING, NEBRASKA
6-8-2024

Legacy of the Plains Museum
2930 Old Oregon Trail,
Gering, NE 69341
www.legacyoftheplains.org

David Wolf

Legacy of the Plains Museum
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Vickie Sakurada Schaepler

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Dr. Nathan Tye
Kearney, Nebraska

Susan Ugai,
Lincoln, Nebraska

Julie Ushio
Honolulu, Hawaii

Cindy Yamamoto,
Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Links of Interest

- Legacy of the Plains Museum – Japanese Hall and History Project
- Find all the Japanese Hall Newsletters and other items about the hall at www.legacyoftheplains.org. You may need to click on the tab for Japanese Hall in the upper right and scroll down.
- Newsletter contacts: to change your email address, USPS Address, your name or to add friends to the list, email JHALLNews@legacyoftheplains.org
- We are interested in items such as personal stories or links of interest regarding Japanese history in the High Plains.
- To donate to Japanese Hall, contact the Legacy of the Plains Museum. Be sure to designate your donation for Japanese Hall.

Thank you for your interest in preserving this unique part of Nebraska History.