



NISEI WEEK
Japanese Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Cory Hayashi
(714) 393-3229; cory.hayashi@gmail.com

JOEY CHESTNUT HEADLINES NISEI WEEK “COMPETITION SATURDAY” AUGUST 22

(Los Angeles – August 5, 2009) – On Saturday, August 22 in Little Tokyo, the Los Angeles Nisei Week Japanese Festival will host “Competition Saturday,” an exciting day of contests and attempted world records. Also present will be food, drink, game, and merchandise booths. Admission is free with seating limited to a first-come-first-serve basis.

The featured event is the 3rd Annual Nisei Week Gyoza Eating Championship – presented by Day-Lee Foods – which starts at 3 p.m. at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo district. Two-time defending champion Joey Chestnut (Nathan’s Hot Dog Champion and the top competitive eater in the world) returns to defend his title and break his world record of 231 gyoza consumed in 10 minutes.

Attempting to unseat Chestnut will be top-ranked eaters Tim Brown (#10 World Rank), rapper Eric “Badlands” Booker (#13), Nate Biller (#19), Kevin Ross (#23), and Sean Kirby (#42) as well as a field of local amateurs. Competing on behalf of charity will be the 2008 Nisei Week Queen and Court.

Anyone wanting to enter the contest may participate in an auction for the 20th and final spot, which will take place at the beginning of the event.

Also held at the JACCC at 8:30 a.m. is the Nisei Week Rubik’s Cube Open, featuring a host of competitors solving the world’s most popular puzzle in as little as ten seconds. The finals will begin at 11 a.m.

Registration for the Nisei Week Rubik’s Cube Open is open to all and will begin the morning of at 8 a.m. The entry fee is \$7. Contestants may also pre-register at www.worldcubeassociation.org.

The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza is located at 244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles, Calif., 90012.

Sponsors for these events include Day-Lee Foods, Target, Far East Café, and Sony Pictures.

Any inquiries regarding event sponsorship, participation, volunteering, or event attendance may be sent to the event organizer at Cory Hayashi at cory.hayashi@gmail.com or call (you should give a phone number).

The 2009 Nisei Week Japanese Festival will take place in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo district from August 15-23. For a calendar of events and volunteer information, log on to www.NiseiWeek.org or call the Nisei Week Foundation office at (213) 687-7193. The Nisei Week office is located at 244 South San Pedro Street, Suite 303, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The Nisei Week Foundation was established in 1999 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to oversee and organize the Nisei Week Japanese Festival. The Foundation’s mission is to promote Japanese and Japanese American heritage and traditions while bringing together the diverse communities of Southern California through arts and cultural education. It does this by producing the Nisei Week Japanese Festival, a nine-day event first held in 1934 and is today one of the longest running ethnic festivals in the United States.

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244 South San Pedro Street, Suite 303 • Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: 213-687-7193 • FAX: 213-687-6510 • www.niseiweek.org