



PRESS RELEASE

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76TH NISEI WEEK JAPANESE FESTIVAL OFFERS FREE PUBLIC ONDO DANCE CLASSES STARING JULY 19

(Los Angeles – June 21, 2016) – Ever want to dance in the Nisei Week Ondo & Closing Ceremony or Grand Parade? Join us this year as the Nisei Week Japanese Festival celebrates its 76th anniversary August 13-21. To help the public prepare for the Grand Parade (August 14) and Ondo street dancing/Closing Ceremony (August 21), free public dance practices are being held from 6:30 – 9 pm on Tuesday July 19, Thursday July 21, Tuesday July 26, Thursday July 28, Tuesday August 2, and Thursday August 4 on the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza (JACCC). Please bring one set of naruko (wood clapper) to each practice. Questions should be directed to Miles Hamada at 323.620.0662 or mileshamada@yahoo.com.

The 2016 Nisei Week choreographer is Hanayagi Rokufukumi. Hanayagi Rokufukumi Sensei began her Nihon Buyo career at a very young age under the tutelage of the late Hanayagi Rokumiye. After many years of study, she received her Natori (rank and professional stage name).

Born and raised in Southern California, she traveled to Japan to live and study dance. She mastered the requisite techniques and earned her Shihan (teaching certificate) and Senmombu degree (specialty instructor's degree) from Grand Master Hanayagi Jusuke III.

Upon her return to the U.S., she began teaching in the Los Angeles County area with the assistance of her mentor, the late Hanayagi Rokumiye. Together, they participated in the Nisei Week Japanese Festival events and performed at multiple venues throughout Southern California.

Shortly after Hanayagi Rokumiye's passing, Hanayagi Rokumine Sensei provided Hanayagi Rokufukumi the opportunity to be the co-leader in the Nisei Week Parade. Together, they worked to promote the cultural heritage of the Hanayagi School of dance. This year, she is honored to serve as the choreographer and leader of the 2016 Nisei Week Japanese Festival Ondo.

The love of teaching and the enthusiasm generated by her students has allowed her to continue promoting traditional dance techniques and creative choreography infused with modern rhythms. Under her direction, Hanayagi Rokufukumi's students continue to perform at many local community festivals, community events, professional venues, and nonprofit organization events. Presently, Hanayagi Rokufukumi continues to teach the Hanayagi-ryu style in Los Angeles and Orange counties.

The 2016 Nisei Week Japanese Festival is a nine-day event first held in 1934, and is recognized today as one of the longest running ethnic festivals in the United States. Celebrating its 76th anniversary, the festival will take place in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo district from August 13-21. For a calendar of events, log on to NiseiWeek.org, call the Nisei Week Foundation office at 213.687.7193 or email info@niseiweek.org. The Nisei Week office is located at 244 South San Pedro Street, Suite 303, Los Angeles, CA 90012.