

Asian Heritage Festival Returns to Daniel Boone Branch

The Asian Center is proud to host the Asian Heritage Festival in honor of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month on May 3, from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Daniel Boone Branch of the St. Louis County Library, 300 Clarkson Rd.

The Festival will include dance and vocal performances, cooking demonstrations, cultural exhibits, and children's activities representing eight Asian countries: China, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Korea, and the Philippines.

Located inside the Daniel Boone Branch, the Asian Center houses a collection of materials geared specifically to the interests and needs of the Asian population in St. Louis County. The collection features books, periodicals, videos, and various kinds of reference materials. More specifically, the collection includes books in Chinese, Hindi, Korean, Japanese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, English, as well as bilingual books.

The Asian Heritage Festival is free and open to the public. Please contact the Asian Center/Daniel Boone for questions or more information: 636-227-9630. A full listing of activities follows.

Performance Schedule:

All performances will be held in the auditorium.

- 12:00 The Philippine Art Foundation will present a variety of traditional folk dances in exquisitely bright and colorful costumes accompanied by traditional music.
- 12:30 St. Louis Modern Chinese Language School will perform a Chinese Lion Dance.
- 1:00 Beautifully costumed dancers will perform graceful, traditional dances of Thailand.
- 1:30 The Bangladesh Association of St. Louis will present traditional music and dance.
- 2:00 Traditional Japanese instruments and dancing with Group Fuji. Dances include the "naruko dodori." Instruments include kotos, shamisens, a small taiko, a flute and a keyboard.
- 2:30 The Bollywood Shuffle, under the artistic direction of Pallavi Chandak, will present folk and contemporary Indian dances.

3:00 “P'ungmul,” Korean traditional drumming and “kayagûm,” a traditional Korean stringed instrument.

3:30 Vietnamese martial arts followed by traditional dance and music.

Cooking Demonstrations:

Cooking demonstrations will be held in the Asian Center.

12:15 Chinese dumplings. After tasting pre-made dumplings, participants will have a chance to make their own dumplings with help from a Chinese chef.

12:45 Come see and sample Indian pakora snacks, cooked by the talented Bewarchi from Arbor Bluff Cooking Corner.

1:45 A member of the Philippine Art Foundation will demonstrate the cooking of “maruya,” sweet banana fritters, as well as the delicate art of pineapple carving.

2:15 Observe the creation of “gỏi cuốn,” or Vietnamese spring rolls, literally translated as “mixed salad roll.”

2:45 Watch the sweet and spicy “som tum” or Thai papaya salad being made, as well as the popular appetizer, crispy Thai spring rolls.

3:15 Join us to learn about the preparation of spicy Korean cuisine.

3:45 Mrs. Ikuyo Yamaoka, instructor of the Japanese cooking program at the annual Japanese Festival, will demonstrate the preparation of elegant and delicious Japanese appetizers.

Children’s Activities:

Children’s activities will be held in the back room. This space may be accessed through the Asian Center or Auditorium.

Throughout the day, children can participate in a wide variety of hands-on activities such as Chinese paper cutting, Vietnamese folding flowers, creating Indian wind chimes, and more.

The first 500 children will be issued a passport when they arrive. As they view each of the exhibits and demonstrations in the Cultural Showcase, they will get their passport stamped by each country. When children collect all of their passport stamps, they may visit the lollipop tree in the children’s area for a special reward,

Cultural Showcase:

The cultural showcase will be held in the Red and Blue rooms.

Visit the Festival's Cultural Showcase and browse cultural exhibits from each participating country. A few examples of what you might find: Japanese ikebana and origami, traditional cultural attire and artifacts, printed material related to the countries, cultural demonstrations, and Chinese calligraphy.

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Contact St. Louis County Library by phone 314-994-3300, (TDD\TTY) 314-994-9255 or visit www.slcl.org.

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