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STONY BROOK
WELCOMES
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS
WITH JAPANESE MUSIC
AND DANCE **B2**

SOUNDS OF SPRING



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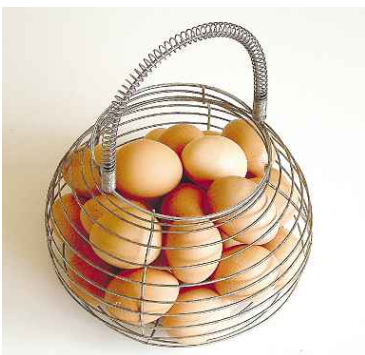
Bring the family to **Bayard Cutting Arboretum's** Arbor Day celebration, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **Friday**, in Great River. Planned activities include a mock game show, an Arbor Day tree planting and Earth Day-related exhibits from retailers. **ADMISSION** Free
INFO 631-581-1002, bayardcuttingarboretum.com



ISTOCK

chickclique

Flock to Talmage Farm Agway in **Riverhead** for Chicken Chat 201, 6:30-8 p.m. **Friday** or 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. **Saturday**. Hear about raising and caring for chickens and laying hens, how to grow a flock and anticipating possible problems. Call to reserve a spot. **ADMISSION** Free
INFO 631-727-3100, talmagefarm.com



MORQUE FILE

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See our top picks for events happening this week:
newsday.com/thingstodo



FRANK L. FUMELLI

Sensei Katie Roche wields a naginata, a weapon made of bamboo blades atop a pole, in a demonstration of martial arts.

Japan in bloom

Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates a culture old and new

BY DAVID J. CRIBLEZ
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It might be 6,750 miles to Japan, but you can get a taste of the country's culture at Stony Brook University's Sakura Matsuri: Cherry Blossom Festival at the Charles B. Wang Center on Sunday.

"This is Long Island's premier Japanese cultural event," says event producer Gerard Senese, who serves as community outreach programs director at the school's Japan Center. "It's to celebrate the Japanese culture both modern and traditional."

Here are the Japanese activities to participate in:

COSPLAY & ANIME FILMS

Watch Japanese anime short films like the Japanese manga (comic books and graphic novels) series "Magi: The

ON THE COVER Junko Fisher performs songs at last year's SBU Sakura Matsuri.

SAKURA MATSURI: CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

WHEN | WHERE Noon-5 p.m. Sunday at the Charles B. Wang Center at Stony Brook University, 100 Nicolls Rd.

INFO 631-632-6353, thewangcenter.org

ADMISSION \$20 (\$15 students/seniors) for all programs or choose individual activities for \$10, others are free

Labyrinth of Magic," a fantasy-action adventure story featuring a boy named Aladdin. Then take part in a cosplay fashion show featuring characters from Japanese anime like Sailor Moon, Envy from "Fullmetal Alchemist," DJ Sona from "League of Legends" or Goku from "Dragon Ball Z."

"It's about bringing your favorite characters to life," says Jason Linetsky, editor-in-chief and founder of Cosplay NYC magazine, who will oversee the

fashion show. "Every time a new series comes out, everybody jumps to see what they can cosplay from it."

WHEN | WHERE Anime films: 12:30 and 3 p.m.; cosplay fashion show: 2:30 and 4 p.m. in Lecture Hall 1

COST Free

IKEBANA

Learn how to make a traditional Japanese floral arrangement with Toyomi Shibahara, president of the Long Island Japanese Culture Center in Port Washington. Take two styles of in-season flowers mixed with branches and foliage, then build a unique arrangement you can take home (sans vase).

"Everyone brings their own personality to each arrangement," Shibahara says. "It's used to welcome visitors into your home."

WHEN | WHERE 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. in the theater lobby

COST \$10 (\$5 students/seniors)

SHAKUHACHI & HAIKU

Listen and learn how to write Japa-



FRANK FUMELLI

Taiko drumming will resound on the Stony Brook University campus.

nese haiku poetry while shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute) plays in the background.

“You have to capture the essence of a moment in nature through your poem by stripping down to the bare bones of what you are experiencing,” Senese says. “The flute helps get the creative juices flowing.”

WHEN | WHERE Noon, 2 and 3:30 p.m. in the chapel
COST \$10 (\$5 students/seniors)

TEA CEREMONY

Experience a traditional tea ceremony where matcha green tea is prepared with a bamboo whisk in silence and served with a Japanese confection made with azuki bean paste.

“The tea ceremony has its roots in the philosophies of the 16th century tea master Sen no Rikyu,” says Rie Telesca, president of Cha-no-Yu-no-Kai, an organization that specializes in the ceremonies. “It symbolizes harmony, respect, purity and tranquility.”

WHEN | WHERE 1 and 2:30 p.m. in the chapel
COST \$10 (\$5 students/seniors)



FRANK FUMELLI

Rie Telesca, president of Cha-no-Yu-no-Kai, prepares green tea in the traditional tea ceremony, which emphasizes harmony and tranquility.

INDOOR PERFORMANCES

The first show features world-famous koto (Japanese harp) performer Masayo Ishigure with the Miyabi Koto Shamisen Ensemble. The second performance focuses on Junko Fisher performing Okinawan dance and folk songs; iaido — the martial art of drawing the samurai sword with senseis Tony Aloe and Matt Ubertini; and then closes with a performance by Ryu Shu Taiko Drums of Japan.

WHEN | WHERE 1 and 3:30 p.m. in the theater
COST \$10 (\$5 students/seniors)

OUTDOOR PERFORMANCES

The Taiko Tides club delivers a drum show involving chanting and choreography at the start of the festival. Later in the day, there are demos of Okinawan karate, kendo Japanese fencing art and the naginata (a Japanese weapon with bamboo blades at the end of a pole).

WHEN | WHERE Drum performance: noon; martial arts demo: 2:30 p.m., outside the Charles B. Wang Center
COST Free

FOR KIDS — AND MORE

Bring your kids and let them experience the wonders of origami and how to draw manga with Kristen Sabatino, a Suffolk County Community College student who lives in Farmingville. Check out the bonsai tree exhibit from the Eastern Suffolk Bonsai Society or take a selfie dressed up in a Japanese kimono. In the main lobby, enjoy Asian cuisine at the Jasmine full-service cafe or shop for Japanese gifts, souvenirs and handmade crafts from an array of vendors.

WHEN | WHERE Origami and manga: 1 and 3 p.m.; other activities noon-5 p.m. in the theater lobby
COST Free

Come Join us in May!

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CHILDREN UNDER 12 EAT FREE ALL DAY
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