



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Andrew Thompson, Gard Communications

503-552-5010 | athompson@gardcommunications.com

Valarie Grudier Edwards, Gard Communications

503-552-5004 | vgrudier_edwards@gardcommunications.com

www.mochipdx.org

Portland's Japanese New Year Event, Mochitsuki, in its 21st Year

Family-friendly festival offers a wealth of cultural experiences, tastes and entertainment

Portland, Ore. — On Sunday, January 29, 2017, join over 2,000 attendees at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Student Union for a New Year celebration of Japanese American traditions. Mochitsuki, literally translated, is the pounding of rice into mochi, a tasty, sticky rice cake, symbolizing the start of a New Year full of hopes for abundance ahead. The 21st annual Mochitsuki event is a family-friendly festival offering a feast for the senses, with food, art, performances, and many exceptional hands-on cultural experiences for all ages. New this year is a kimono dressing area, where families can dress in traditional Japanese attire for photos provided by Newcon PDX.

Special guest Alton Chung will be back to emcee the entertainment. Witness nationally renowned performer, Robert Kikuchi-Yngojo, as he mixes theater, movement and music. New to the celebration this year, Mochitsuki will host performances by The Slants, the world's first all-Asian American dance rock band, founded right here in Portland. Experience traditional Japanese drumming and musical guests: Portland Taiko, Utsuki-Kai, Takohachi Taiko, Oregon Koto Kai, Dance Leo and the International School Chorus.

Experience hands-on cultural demonstrations including calligraphy with Sekko-Kai Calligraphy School, kabuto origami, ikebana (traditional flower arranging) demonstrations with WILD Chiharu's Flowers, fukuwarai (Japanese New Year's game) with The International School of Portland, tea ceremony with Nikkei Fujinkai, a kendama performance by Wyatt Bray, New Year's card making with Japanese Women Portland, and learning to play go (Japanese Chess) with the Portland Go Club.

Enjoy food with rich cultural significance. There will be mochi pounding demonstrations with Utsuki-Kai throughout the day, free mochi samples by Konko Church, and children's bento cooking classes with Daizu Kitchen. Indulge in appetizing Japanese fare. Plus, take advantage of the opportunity to purchase these foods to enjoy at home!

Presented by Portland JACL, and co-produced by Konko Church of Portland, Oregon Nikkei Endowment and Portland Taiko. Sponsored by the Consular Office of Japan and gold level sponsor Hamada Wealth Management.

WHAT: Mochitsuki 2017, the 21st annual celebration of the Japanese American New Year in Portland, featuring a feast for the senses. Enjoy traditional foods, art, performances and many exceptional hands-on cultural experiences for the whole family at Portland State University's Smith Memorial Student Union.

WHO: Over 2,000 attendees of all ages plus cultural organizations, artists and performers mentioned above, as well as: Frodin Art, Ikebana International, Japan America Society of Oregon, Japanese Ancestral Society, JETAA, Kalé, Karen Fullerton Art, Lynn Geis, Nichiren Buddhist Temple, Obon, Obukan Kendo Club, Oregon Buddhist Temple, The Portland Japanese Garden, Sakurakai, and Shokookai of Portland.

WHEN: Sunday, January 29, 2017, 11:00am to 4:00pm

WHERE: Portland State University's Smith Memorial Student Union,
1825 SW Broadway Street, Portland, OR

TICKETS:

<u>Advanced Sale</u>	\$10 Adult
	\$7 Student (w/ ID), Senior (62+)
	\$4 Child (ages 4-12)
<u>Day of Event</u>	\$12 Adult
	\$9 Student (w/ ID), Senior (62+)
	\$5 Child (ages 4-12)

Free Admission For:

Children three years of age and younger
Honored Seniors 88 (beiju 米寿) and older

Ticket Sale Locations

- Online with no service fees: www.boxofficetickets.com
- Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Ave., Portland, 503-224-1458
- Shogun's Gallery, 1111 NW 23rd Ave., Portland, 503-224-0328
- Kalé, 900 SW Morrison St., Portland, 503-227-5253
- Uwajimaya Market, 10500 SW Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy, 503-643-4512
- Spielman Coffee Roasters, 2200 NE Broadway St., Portland, 503-477-9045

Please call ahead for hours. Cash/checks payable to "Mochitsuki" accepted.

VOLUNTEER: We always need volunteers to help at the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our website www.mochipdx.org.

And if you would like to be part of the Utsuki-Kai mochi pounding team, you are encouraged to join and contact Chris Lee, leechristopherd@gmail.com.

MORE INFO: Please visit: www.mochipdx.org, www.facebook.com/MochitsukiPDX,
www.twitter.com/mochitsuki

PRESENTED BY

Portland JAACL
Oregon Nikkei Endowment
Konko Church of Portland
Portland Taiko