

Sunday May 31st, 2009

Japan Day @ Central Park is an event designed by the Japanese community of New York to promote a deeper understanding of the Japanese culture and to say "Thank you, New York!" Now marking its third year as a New York City tradition, Japan Day @ Central Park returns to fill the green oasis of East Meadow with tents offering a wide range of Japanese traditional and family-friendly activities, free samplings of popular Japanese cuisine and powerful stage performances throughout the day, with top entertainers from New York and Tokyo. Last year, an estimated 40,000 New Yorkers participated in Japan Day in the East Meadow.

Japan Day @ Central Park 2009 begins at 8AM with the Japan Run, a 4-mile race, organized by New York Road Runners. The Japan Day Festival begins at 10AM with the opening of all the activity tents; the stage show begins at 10:15AM, and free samplings of Japanese cuisine begin at 11am. We hope that Japan Day will continue to be a highly anticipated event year after year!

Part One: Japan Run

Yoko Shibui, Japan's World Championship Women's Marathon runner in Berlin 2009 as well as Japan's entry in the Beijing Olympics Women's 10,000 meter race, will join a field of 5,000 runners.

8:00am Japan Run: 4 Mile Race followed by an Award Ceremony and Raffle
Pre-Race Performance by Chin-don Band ☆ Zakuro

9:30am Kids' Run

*This is a New York Road Runners event.
Please visit www.nyrr.org for registration
Japan Run 2009 is proudly sponsored by Nissin Foods.*

Part Two: Japan Day Festival

10:00am to 5:00pm @ East Meadow, Central Park
Main Entrance at 97th St. & 5th Ave.

Taste of Japan

<Sample>
Chow Mein
Gyoza Dumpling
Gyudon Over Rice
Miso Soup
Sanuki Udon Noodle
Tea

Food Samplings will be served from 11:00am while supplies last.

Activities

<Traditional>	<Family Friendly>	<Games>
Calligraphy	Chopsticks Game	Go
Origami	Kabuki Face Painting	Robot Sumo Battle
Saori Zen Weaving	Wellness Check Up	Shogi
Tea Ceremony	Yo-Yo Fishing	

Stamp Rally Participate by collecting stamps from Activity Tents and learn more about Japan!

Performances

Performance Schedule Subject to Change

Hosted by **Sandra Endo**, CNN Reporter
Co-hosted by **Brian Nishii**

10:15am ACT ONE – COOL JAPAN

- COBU
- Yoko Shibui Introduction
- Umami NYC
- The Japanese American Association of New York Chorus & The Reona Ito Chamber Orchestra
- Kenichi Ebina
- Cosplay Combat! by The KRAZY! CosPlayaz
- Chin-don Band ☆ Zakuro (Special Guest: Joey Morant)

12:30pm ACT TWO – TRADITIONAL JAPAN

- The International Karate Organization Kyokushinkaikan
- Mikoshi Parade
- Bon-Odori with NY HANAGASA KAI (Taiko by Ayumi Oikawa)

2:30pm ACT THREE – CONCERT

- Soichi Muraji
- Taro Masuda
- Yaz Band
- Ai Kawashima
- Orange Pekoe

Please visit www.JapanDayNYC.org for more information.



Front illustration: ©Keisuke Takahashi

