

asian avenue magazine

Connecting Cultures
Linking Lives

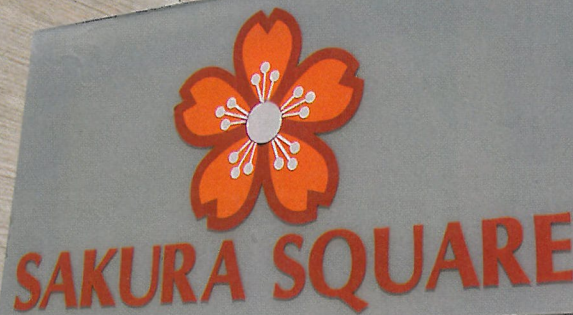
September 2014
Volume 9 Issue 9

Creators of
**FAT
RABBIT
FARM**

present the iconic
Babee Bunny

Get your
RAMEN BOWLS
while they're hot!
**GRAND OPENING
OF TOKIO**

DANakaDAN
shows "My Adoption"
documentary at
Auraria Campus

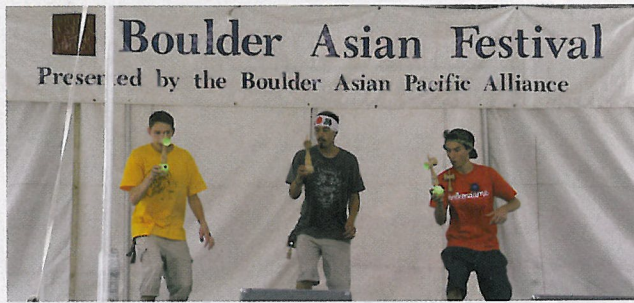


SAKURA SQUARE



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**DECADES OF JAPANESE HERITAGE
FOUND IN DOWNTOWN DENVER'S
SAKURA SQUARE**



20 years and still going strong!

By **Brenda Pearson** | Boulder Asian Festival



In the midst of a beautiful summer weekend, Boulder Asian Festival attendees enjoyed two days of vibrant, action-packed festivities on downtown Boulder's Pearl Street Mall.

The festival highlighted the thriving Asian culture in the Denver/Boulder area and showcased crafts, food, activities and musical performances from local Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Vendors sold wares from Nepal, Tibet, Hawaii, Vietnam, China and Indonesia, while performers included Wendy Woo, Denver Taiko, Gamelan Tunas Mekar and the world's top kendama masters from Kendama-Co.

This year's festival also included opportunities for audience participation. On Saturday morning, Chuna Grace Rai-Nelson of Sanjibana Yoga Sansar taught a free Himalayan-style yoga session on the Courthouse Lawn, while on Sunday, the Gu Feng Tai Chi Club invited attendees to partake in a few of their basic moves.

At the Community Tent, families

browsed Chinese artifacts, learned Chinese brush painting and furoshiki, the Japanese art of wrapping fabric.

For the past 20 years, the Boulder Asian Pacific Alliance has presented the Boulder Asian Festival. This is quite an accomplishment considering that BAPA is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. Several of the BAPA board members have helped with the festival for the entire 20 years and are still excited to help with future events. The festival has also become a family affair as several of the "BAPA babies" who grew up with the festival are now taking on volunteer roles.

BAPA a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was formed in 1994 and is a coalition of representatives from diverse Asian-Pacific populations, the second largest minority group in Boulder. BAPA strives to promote awareness, appreciation, and understanding of their rich, diverse cultures and heritage.

For more information, visit www.bapaweb.org.

Mending Faces held its fifth annual Rib Rub Off BBQ



Mending Faces held its Fifth Annual Rib Rub Off BBQ fund raiser on August 2nd. The event supports the organization's cleft lip and cleft palate surgical mission to the Philippines. More than 250 people attended and raised more than \$18,000 for the cause. Mending Faces wishes to thank all those who made the event a success, particularly the 6 great chefs who competed in the BBQ competition. Carrie and Sami Lababidi continue to host the party at their lovely home in North Boulder County. Carrie said "it is worth all the hard work by those of us with so much, to give those with so very little, a chance at a normal life."

The February 2015 mission is scheduled for Kalibo, Aklan. The mission team has just recently been assembled and includes 5 surgeons, 5 anesthesiologists, 3 Pediatricians, 20 nurses and 20 support personnel. As almost all missioner travel is self-funded, the \$18,000 represents a significant part of our mission budget.

Mending Faces has also scheduled its Restoring Hope event for November 7 in Denver. Mending Faces is a 501c3 and donations can be made through our web site: mendingfaces.org. For more information on the organization, Restoring Hope event or to learn more about participating in the mission: info@mendingfaces.org or call Maya at 303-531-5038,

By **Jay LaVigne** | Mending Faces

