



OKINAWA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC. (aka 北米沖縄県人会)

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For immediate release

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Annual Okinawan Picnic at Whittier Narrows

The annual picnic of the Okinawa Association of America, Inc. (OAA) will be held on Sunday, July 19, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Whittier Narrows Recreation Park #2, 750 S. Santa Anita Avenue, S. El Monte, off the Pomono Fwy. (60). Celebrating its 100th year, and “remembering Elysian Park days”, the OAA promises more entertainment and a Nintendo Wii Game Console as the raffle Grand Prize.

Entertainment will feature the popular Okinawan taiko group, Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko; modern interpretations on traditional dance by USC Kazan Taiko/So-Trad; and uniquely arranged Okinawan pop music by band, Ramen Tree. Additional entertainment will include Okinawan dance and minyo music, hula, martial arts, games and Okinawan bon dancing. A special activities booth for kids demonstrating Okinawan taiko will be at the park, including a take-home souvenir photo.

Bring your folding chairs, goza/blankets, family and friends! Bring your own lunch or pre-pay for the \$6 beef bbq bento (includes drink). Deadline for the pre-sale bento and raffle tickets is July 9. Picnic attendance not required for raffle winners. All picnic proceeds will go to the OAA Centennial Celebration.

Don't forget your hapi coat or *yukata* (kimono), castanets (*yotsudake*) and fans (*uchiwa*) for the bon dancing. Practice not necessary, but all are welcome to join the fun and learn them at the OAA Center, 16500 S. Western Avenue, Gardena 90247 on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

For more info or to request bento/raffle order form, please call the OAA Center, (310) 532-1929 or email at mensore@earthlink.net.

Photo caption: Plenty of activities for kids!

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