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For Immediate Release

Tori Gate Festival Comes to The Domes *A Celebration of Japanese Culture*

Milwaukee, WI (May 20, 2015) – Tori Gate Festival will celebrate Japanese culture Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at The Domes. A special performance of taiko Japanese drumming will also take place Sunday at 1 p.m. The Domes, “Milwaukee’s Living Landmark,” is located at 524 S. Layton Blvd.

Named for the traditional Japanese gate marking the entrance to a shrine, the Tori Gate Festival will use a classic red wooden gate as the transition to the display area for ikebana floral arrangements. Traditionally, sacred objects are placed in the innermost chamber of a shrine; at the festival, the gate will lead to ikebana arrangements that are steeped in the philosophy of developing a closeness between nature and humanity.

Milwaukee Chapter 22 of Ikebana International, in partnership with Friends of The Domes and the Milwaukee County Parks, will exhibit 30 floral arrangements with the distinctive asymmetrical form and empty space as key components. Chapter members will also strive to create harmony between materials, the container, and the setting.

On Sunday the drum ensemble, Taiko Group, will perform on “fat drums,” demonstrating their rumbling power. The group promotes interest in and understanding of Japanese culture through taiko drumming.

Throughout the festival, Japanese arts to be demonstrated will be origami and furoshiki. Kids of all ages will enjoy origami demonstrations and hands-on folding activities, creating a variety of objects from single sheets of paper. Event goers will also see demonstrations of furoshiki wrapping cloths, the traditional Japanese answer to carrying objects in a sustainable way.

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Travel information on Japan will also be available from AAA.

The Tori Gate Festival is included in admission. Regular admission rates are: Adults, \$7; Youth, age 6-17, \$5; Children, age 5 & under, free; Seniors with proof of Milwaukee County Residency, \$5; College Students with school ID, \$5; and Friends of The Domes members, Free.

For more information visit countyparks.com or call (414) 257-5600.

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