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Library to host 13th annual Asian-American Festival on Saturday

■ The event is sponsored by Tulsa Library Trust.

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Posted: Thursday, June 4, 2015 12:00 am

By NOUR HABIB World Staff Writer | 0 comments

The 13th annual Asian-American Festival is set for 10:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at the Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Road.

The free festival, sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, will feature a variety of activities that will allow families to explore the cultures of Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and other Asian countries.

The festival will start with a traditional Chinese dragon dance. Other events include martial arts demonstrations, tai chi presentations, drumming and performances, and kite-flying demonstrations. Arts and crafts booths will be set up, as well as interactive educational booths. Food concessions from India Palace, Yum Yum Eggrolls Food Truck and Nam Hai Oriental Supermarket will also be available.

"Pretty much everybody in Tulsa with any type of Asian background is here," festival co-chair Cher Lyons said.

Lyons will be making two Kamishibai storytelling presentations during the festival.

She said Kamishibai, pronounced kah-mee-she-bye, is a storytelling form that began in Japan and means "paper theater." Storytellers usually had a small stage set up on the back of a bicycle and would go into neighborhoods selling candy and telling stories that taught morals.

"It was just a form of entertainment for children," she said.

Kamishibai was popular in Japan during the 1920s. Many of the stories were serials, and children would come back to find out what happened the next time the storyteller returned.

Lyons said Kamishibai was thought of as "the poor man's theater."

Lyons will be telling two short stories and presenting a brief history of this form of storytelling at 11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Saturday.

Also part of the festival will be a Japanese tea ceremony, presented from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in the library's lecture room.

For more information, including a schedule of events, visit tulsaLibrary.org/asianfestival or call 918-549-7323.

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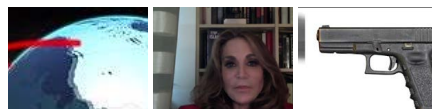
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