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Tulsa library's 12th annual Asian-American Festival set for June 7

■ The event will feature a Japanese tea ceremony demonstration.

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Fumie Horne preforms a formal japanese tea ceremony during her class on Tuesday. The ceremony will be part of the Asian Festival at the library on Saturday. JACKIE DOBSON/Tulsa World

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Asian-American Festival

Where: Martin Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett Road

When: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

What: The festival will include dances, performances, arts and crafts activities, martial arts presentations and food.

Admission: Free

For more, including a schedule of events, visit tulsalibrary.org/asianfestival or call

Posted: Wednesday, June 4, 2014 12:00 am

By NOUR HABIB World Staff Writer | 0 comments

Every motion of the Japanese tea ceremony is precise and purposeful.

How the containers of tea are transported. How the handkerchief that cleans the utensils is folded. How the guest changes the direction of the tea bowl to show respect to the tea master.

That's because, Fumie Horne says, the tea ceremony is about more than just tea.

"It's a discipline, a way of life," said Horne, who has been studying the performance of the ceremony for five years and still thinks of herself as a beginner.

Horne is among the students who learn the art of the Japanese tea ceremony from Yumie Farringer.

Farringer, who has been in America nearly 40 years and learned the ceremony while in school in Japan, teaches the class every other week in her home in Sand Springs. She says it's a way to keep the Japanese culture alive in America.

Farringer sometimes hosts the ceremony on special occasions, but mostly she and her students put on demonstrations at various cultural events in the area, including this

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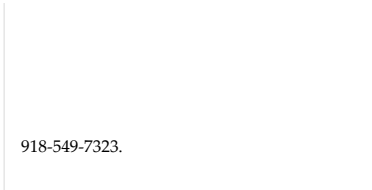
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weekend's Asian-American Festival.

The 12th annual festival, hosted by the Tulsa City-County Library and sponsored by the Tulsa Library Trust, will be held at Martin Regional Library from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

In addition to the Japanese tea ceremony, the festival will include Asian dances, drumming performances, arts and crafts booths, costume contests, martial arts presentations and food from India Palace and the Lone Wolf food truck.

Among the countries that will be represented are Burma, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The Japanese tea ceremony demonstration will be held from 11-11:45 a.m. in the Lecture Room of the library, 2601 S. Garnett Road.

Horne said formal tea ceremonies are important to Japanese culture because they signify being in the present.

"At all moments, we focus on our movements and our guests," she said.

The ceremony — mainly conducted in silence so strong that the water can be heard boiling — is meant to create an atmosphere that promotes four principles: harmony, respect, purity and tranquility.

Farringer says events like the Asian-American Festival are a great way to explore cultures.

"I want to (show) people a tradition that they have never seen before," she said.

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