



SASAKAWA USA
Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA

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For more information please contact:

Jessica Santana
Congressional and Media Relations Manager
jsantana@spfusa.org
(202) 296-6694 ext. 109

Sasakawa USA event to explore the evolution of American perceptions of Japan as depicted in film

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On April 6, 2016, Sasakawa USA will celebrate more than 70 years of friendship between the United States and Japan with a clip reel viewing, panel discussion and audience Q&A looking at films that portray Japan and Japanese people.

“Evolution of American Perceptions on Japan: Through Film,” an official event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, will explore topics including stereotypes, propaganda, realism, war, globalization, and history as depicted within Hollywood movies.

“Film is a medium that can help a country come to grips with its past, learn about its mistakes, and improve,” said Admiral Dennis Blair, Chairman and CEO of Sasakawa USA, who will provide introductory remarks at the event. “As you will see at this event, films also can unintentionally reinforce stubborn biases and stereotypes that hold back progress. But I am optimistic based on some of the more recent movies we will discuss that we are taking a more balanced and honest approach to events of the past. To the extent we do, we are much better equipped to move into the future.”

The event, which runs from Noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Mayflower Hotel, will delve into American portrayals of Japan and Japanese people and culture within a wide selection of films ranging from *Breakfast at Tiffany's* to *Letters from Iwo Jima*. An esteemed panel of experts will be on hand to offer context, praise and criticism on a selection of clip reels. The group includes:

- **Frederick H. Katayama**, Anchor and Producer, Reuters Television
- **Jeffrey Lyons**, Emmy Award-Winning Movie Critic
- **Yoko Narahashi**, Casting Director and Producer, *The Last Samurai*, *Memoirs of a Geisha* and *Emperor*
- **Dr. Sheila Smith**, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

The event also will include a keynote speech from a prominent figure from the film industry who will be announced in the weeks to come.

The event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.SPFUSA.org/events.

For more information on the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the nation's greatest springtime celebration featuring creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit, visit www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.

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