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100 YEARS OF JAPANESE KIMONO EXHIBIT AND FUNDRAISER TO COINCIDE WITH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Washington, DC [January 24, 2012] -- In honor of the 100-year anniversary of the gift of trees from Tokyo to Washington, DC, a special kimono exhibit and fundraiser will take place at the Mandarin Oriental, Washington DC (1330 Maryland Avenue, SW). The collection features intricate, beautiful and finely woven kimono taken from a 100-year time span.

"100 years of Japanese Kimono" (February 15 through April 30, 2012) is curated by Paul MacLardy and Tena Turner of Arise Bazaar Gallery of Japanese and Asian artifacts. The exhibit showcases techniques and the evolution of kimono-making over 100 years. The carefully selected display expresses a shared vision of motifs that demonstrate Japanese culture, society, and history. All kimono are from the personal collection of MacLardy, Arise Gallery, and several collectors. Hours vary by day, please call 301-806-0337 before your visit.

Coinciding with the exhibit, a 3-day fundraiser will take place in the Corcoran Room of the hotel on April 4 (5:00-8:00pm), and April 5 & 6 (12-8:00pm). Beautiful kimono will be on sale, as well as accessories, jewelry, and a variety of Japanese items including yukata robes, obi socks, and obi and getta shoes. MacLardy, a Japanese textile connoisseur, will sign copies of his book, *Kimono, Vanishing Tradition*. A collection of official National Cherry Blossom Festival merchandise will also be available. To preview the offerings, visit arisedc.net and nationalcherryblossomfestival.org

The kimono available will appeal to a wide range of tastes and budgets. The collection includes kimono starting at \$10, attractive to quilters and sewers, to kimono from \$245 to \$1,000 for lovers of fashion and traditional Japanese wear. Collectors and designers will rejoice in historic kimono from 100-140 years ago. MacLardy and Turner will be available to assist people with questions about kimono and also offer evaluations of Kimono items from personal collections.

Proceeds benefit the National Cherry Blossom Festival, a 501-not-for-profit organization, and The Japan-America Society of Washington DC. The kimono for sale were a gift to the Festival and The Japan-America Society of Washington DC, arranged by MacLardy.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2012 Festival, March 20 through April 27, includes five spectacular weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. The 2012 Festival commemorates the 100th anniversary of the gift of the cherry blossom trees and the enduring friendship between the United States and Japan.

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