



Iron Chef



Description

- The Portland and Pacific Northwest JETAA chapters get together for a cooking contest.
- Takes place in Portland, with visiting Pacific Northwest JETAA members using Tatami Timeshare.
- 2016 was the 14th year!

Details

- Four categories: Side dish, Main dish, Dessert, Battle with Seattle
- Battle with Seattle category requires use of a secret local ingredient in a recipe.
- 1st and 2nd place from each category
- Prizes are Uwajimaya gift cards; Japanese snacks for runners up
- Funding covers prizes and special ingredient
- CLAIR event open to all

Tips

- Springtime is good for hanami-style event, or Summertime is good for BBQ
- Nice if it's hosted in a JET alum's home—free!
- Some local companies might even donate the special ingredient to JETAA (ex. Ota Tofu in Portland)
- Non-competing attendees can bring store-bought foods
- Family-friendly event—games could even be included



Taiko Workshop



Description

- Intro to Taiko Workshop held by Unit Souzou, local taiko group in Portland.
- Great way to connect people through music and physical activity and experience Japanese cultural tradition.

Details

- A brief history of taiko is presented alongside fun taiko exercises that introduce basic form (kata), voice (kiai), oral tradition (kuchi shouga), and a beginner taiko song.
- CLAIR event open to all

Tips

- Many cities have taiko! They might be:
 - professional instructors,
 - volunteer community groups, or
 - university student groups.
- If they offer workshops, you could buy a block of tickets and subsidize them.
- Some groups schedule private team-building taiko workshops.
- If a group doesn't normally offer workshops, it doesn't hurt to ask and tell them your idea!



Career Panel



Description

- Job search and career information session organized by JETAA Portland.
- Intends to serve new returnees and current alum in transition.
- Long-term career path advice from established senpai alum.

Details

- Senpai alum panel members represent business and education sectors.
- Job search overview presented by JETAA members.
- Job search advice compiled as downloadable ebook.
- Networking Nijikai follows the event.
- MOFA event open to all.

Tips

- Host nijikai at a quiet place where it's easy to mingle.
- Delegate nijikai arrangement to increase alum participation.
- Offer to meet with attendees in weeks following the event.
- Only offer downloadable ebook (incentive) to attendees.
- Bring snacks. People love snacks.