

# MEMORANDUM



**TO:** CLAY PEARSON, CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** RANDY AULER, CPRP, DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION  
AND FORESTRY  
**SUBJECT:** JAPANESE POTTERY MASTERS OF SHIRGRKI-YAKI  
**DATE:** MARCH 11, 2008

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On Monday, March 10, 2008 the City of Novi proudly hosted the Lecture, Demonstration & Tea Ceremony of the Japanese Pottery Masters of Shigaraki-yaki. Attendees were welcomed with a magnificent display of pottery by the two artists, Shizuo Tamura and Eizan Okuda. In addition to this display, actual pottery was created on the potter's wheel by these artists and an informative lecture was given. One of the highlights to culminate the program was the viewing of an actual Japanese Tea Ceremony. Over 120 attendees witnessed the pottery masters at work and enjoyed light sushi refreshments.

*Shiga Prefecture and the City of Novi proudly present:*

田村静夫

奥田英山

Shizuo Tamura

Eizan Okuda

Japanese Pottery Masters  
of Shigaraki-yaki  
Lecture, Demonstration &  
Tea Ceremony

MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2008

NOVI CIVIC CENTER - ATRIUM • 6-7 PM

(POTTERY EXHIBITION WILL BE ON DISPLAY FROM 3-7 PM)

for more info, contact Novi City Hall • 248.735.5613 / [tringle@cityofnovi.org](mailto:tringle@cityofnovi.org) or 248.347.0437 / [cuglow@cityofnovi.org](mailto:cuglow@cityofnovi.org)



# Japanese Pottery Masters of Shigaraki-yaki



## What is Shigaraki-yaki?

Shigaraki-yaki refers to pottery produced in the Shigaraki region of Koka City (also famous as the home of the Koga Ninja Clan) in Shiga Prefecture (Michigan's sister state in Japan.)

Shigaraki-yaki is known for the special quality of its clay, and its rusticity has communicated the traditional Japanese spirit and the aesthetics of *wabi* and *sabi* throughout history to the present day.

## The History of Shigaraki-yaki

Pottery production in Shigaraki boasts a history of over 1250 years, tracing back to the year 742, when the Emperor Shomu built a palace in Shigaraki using roof tiles and vessels fired from local clay. Centrally located in the Osaka-Kyoto region (the hub of Japanese culture through the medieval period), Shigaraki-yaki took on an important role in people's daily lives (jars, vats, braziers) as well as in traditional arts such as the Japanese tea ceremony.

## About the Event

Watch as pottery masters Mr. Shizuo Tamura and Mr. Eizan Okuda demonstrate their craft on stage, using their potters' wheels and deft hand movements to make clay dance and bend into beautiful shapes. There will also be a lecture on the history of Shigaraki-yaki, as well as a traditional Japanese tea ceremony performed by Mr. Okuda (who is also a certified tea master) using Shigaraki tea ware, allowing the audience to experience all aspects of the unique role played by Shigaraki-yaki in Japanese history and culture.

## The Pottery Masters



Shizuo Tamura  
田村静夫

President and board member of multiple pottery associations in Shigaraki and throughout Japan, Mr. Tamura's works have won numerous art awards and been featured in exhibitions across the nation. Mr. Tamura's unique artistic vision seeks to remain true to the traditional Japanese aesthetics of Shigaraki-yaki while also introducing modern, creative elements that will resonate with audiences all over the world.

Eizan Okuda  
奥田英山



A certified master and instructor of both traditional Shigaraki pottery and the Urasenke school of tea ceremony, Mr. Okuda's teaware has been featured in exhibitions across Japan and has built up a large following among tea ceremony practitioners. Also a master of traditional flower arrangement, Mr. Okuda's works embody the refined subtlety of traditional Japanese art and culture.