HEART AND SOUL
CARRYING ON OUR TRADITIONS

Although the Issei were told and generally accepted that they and their children must adopt American ways, complete assimilation, rejecting their Japanese heritage, would have been impossible and even unattainable. As Japanese, they faced a society whose discriminatory laws and racial attitudes excluded them from full equality and integration. This required the Issei to pull together and reinforce their cultural and community norms. Also, Japanese cultural traditions were an integral part of the Issei’s personal identity and social structure, and ultimately their legacy to future generations of Japanese Americans.

Japanese Sports and Games

Tea Ceremony

Origami

Thatcherian Omedetto Gozamasu!
Ringing in the New Year

Traditional Arts

Japanese traditional arts are a prominent part of the Japantown celebration, and its cultural center provides a variety of cultural arts and Japanese aesthetics. The traditional arts are closely connected to the history, culture, and values of Japanese communities. These traditional arts are passed down from generation to generation, and they serve as a means of cultural identity and a way to preserve the heritage of Japan.

Akamashite Omedetto Gozamasu!
Ringing in the New Year

The New Year is a time to reflect on the past year and to plan for the upcoming year. It is a time for renewal and celebration of family and friends. Japan, like many other countries, celebrates the New Year with various traditions and customs. One of the most popular traditions is the ringing in of the New Year, which is called “Akamashite Omedetto Gozamasu!” The phrase “Akamashite Omedetto Gozamasu!” is a Japanese New Year’s greeting that is said to bring good luck and prosperity for the coming year. It is a time to reflect on the past year and to look forward to the new year with hope and optimism.

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