

## Community Performance Invitation

# “A THOUSAND CRANES”

Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Schuylkill Riverfront, Reading



RiverPlace on the Schuylkill invites all elementary schools to participate in an exciting new community event at the opening of the 2009 Cherry Blossom Festival. At 1:00 p.m. on Friday, April 16, 2009, Reading Community Players will present the Play, *A Thousand Cranes*, along the beautiful Schuylkill River in Reading. Directed by Ruth Martelli, this special performance by a cast of young local actors will take place in a large tent set amid flowering cherry trees.

To decorate the set, RiverPlace, along with artists Alan and Lily Cernak, and the Community School of Music and the Arts, invites elementary students to join us! First, the students will create strings of folded rice paper cranes, and then walk together along the waterfront trails to become the audience for this free, special opening performance.

Teachers may request instructional support for making the cranes by contacting Alan Cernak or the Community School of Music and the Arts. RiverPlace will coordinate the timing of the walk with each participating school group in order that all students converge at the stage from all directions of the community simultaneously, and then together hang their strings of cranes around the performance tent and along the Riverfront. We hope to have not only 1,000, but many thousands of cranes in all sizes and colors. It is also a tradition that each paper crane can hold a prayer or wish from its maker.

Later, the cranes will be collected by artists Alan and Lily Cernak and the Community School of Music and the Arts to “travel” in a shipment sent to the Sadako Memorial in Japan. Photographers in Japan will record the event as the students’ cranes are placed at the Memorial and copies of the photographs will be forwarded back to all participating schools.

*“A Thousand Cranes” is the dramatic interpretation of the true story of Sadako Sasaki, as retold in the novel, Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes. When she was two years old, Sadako’s home city of Hiroshima was destroyed by the first atomic bomb in history. For ten years, Sadako showed no sign of illness from the effects of the bomb. However, at twelve, Sadako was diagnosed with leukemia. Although the story ends with Sadako’s death, the central themes speak of love, friendship, loyalty, and family.*

**NOTE: Seating is limited.** Please call our office to reserve space for your students. Should you have any questions, please speak with Phyllis McLaughlin, Executive Director of the Community School for Community and the Arts. Telephone 610-413-7050 or 610-374-7167. Email: [PMCL304@comcast.net](mailto:PMCL304@comcast.net). We welcome your ideas as well as your participation.



*I hope your school will join us  
for this wonderful, community-building arts  
performance and find ways to be involved  
in the 2009 Cherry Blossom Festival.*

Marcelino Colon, Chair  
Community Engagement Team  
RiverPlace on the Schuylkill