

7th “Japanese Cupboard” School Alternative Festival of Japanese Language and Culture

On Sunday, September 22, Volgograd regional Maxim Gorky comprehensive academic library became the platform for the 7th “Japanese Cupboard” School Alternative Festival of Japanese Language and Culture.

Organized by the “Volgograd-Hiroshima” Friendship Society, numerous youth clubs and the Library itself (with the assistance of the international and regional relations directorate of Volgograd Mayor’s office), the festival welcomed over 600 attendants during the day.

During the **interactive part**, the visitors could participate in the martial arts open lesson, take their chance at the quests and quizzes inspired by everyone’s favorite books, TV-series, PC games, and movies.



The spacious corridors of the **third floor** were dominated by quiet tabletop games: colorful *hanafuda* cards, an erudite lotto *uta garuta* (“100 poems by 100 poets”), the Japanese-themed “Jeopardy” and book-crossing. The middle of it was swirling in action: first, there was a sword training session of the Volgograd Region Aikido Federation, then – the open dance floor with dance covers, afterwards – a social dancing master class, and finally – the **concert-auction**, where the most active participants of the interactive part were rewarded for their efforts.

The **fourth floor** was vivid with bright *kimonos* and colorful *origami*, and a quiet corner room emitted the most exquisite aromas: more than 400 visitors have followed their trail to discover a *tea ceremony*. The *manga* lecture hall rustled with paper pages, and the spacious performance hall hosted a major quiz tournament.

The festival also paid a tribute to the **75th –anniversary of the international twinning movement** founded by Stalingrad and Coventry in 1944. On the first floor of the Library, one could find a *photo exhibition* dedicated to Volgograd’s sister-cities and check one’s knowledge of them in a multiple choice quiz, as well as leave a signature on a *carp streamer*: it arrived from Hiroshima in the luggage of a Volgograd State Social and Pedagogical University student, who had taken part in the *International Youth Conference for Peace in the Future*.

Hiroshima and Coventry also became “sponsors” of the “Cupboard’s” auction: souvenirs from these cities could be found in numerous prizes.



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