OUTLOOK

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President's Report

By Geoff Miki

On Wednesday, May 30, the University of British Columbia held a special ceremony during their spring congregation to recognize and honour Japanese Canadians whose university studies were disrupted in 1942 when they were uprooted and exiled from the B.C. coast during the Second World War. This disruption impacted the lives of the UBC students as most never completed their studies after the war. During the May congregation, UBC granted 61 students who were unable to complete their studies and an additional 15 students had their original degrees re-conferred as they missed their graduation ceremony when they were sent to internment camps in 1942.

I didn't attend the ceremony, but I did watch the ceremony via webcast on the UBC website (thanks Tani for the information!). I watched as these students (now quite elderly) proudly walked, hobbled or wheeled themselves across the stage to finally accept their long deserving degrees. The guest speaker for this special ceremony was appropriately, Judge Dr. Art Miki who spoke about the long negotiations with the government that eventually led to the redress agreement. Without the redress agreement, these violations of their citizenship rights probably wouldn't have been acknowledged. This honour was a long time coming and I'm glad at least some of the students were still alive to receive this recognition in person. Classy move UBC!

I'm writing this report on May 31st and for the people in Winnipeg it's a special anniversary. It was a year ago this day that NHL hockey returned to the city with the announcement we were getting a team that would be become the Winnipeg Jets (2.0). Many credited team owner Mark Chipman for his efforts to bring a team here. These accolades have led him to be one of the inductees to the Order Of Manitoba, the province's highest honour, recognizing individuals who have demonstrated excellence and achievement in any field of endeavour. More importantly to our community, Art Miki is being honoured for bringing forward the country's historic Japanese Canadian Redress Agreement in 1988. Though Chipman had to deal with NHL president Gary Bettman to convince the league Winnipeg was worthy of a team, in my opinion nothing compares to the hoops you have to jump through to negotiate with the government. The mind games and self conscience misconceptions the government tries to pull over our eyes was what our negotiators had to deal with and Art was able to keep the team together to accomplish its goal. This didn't take place overnight; this was years in the making. Though Chipman's contribution made a lot of people in Winnipeg happy and hockey fans open their wallets (and he's making million$), Miki brought attention to injustices and human rights violations not only for JC's, but for all people in Canada. It proves you don't have to be a millionaire businessman to make a real difference...the ceremony is July 12th at the Legislature.

Have a wonderful summer!

A Full Member of the NAJC

The Manitoba Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association is a non-profit volunteer organization that strives for equal rights for all Canadians and promotes cultural awareness and understanding within the multicultural society of Manitoba. The Outlook is a publication of the MJCCA in conjunction with the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. Its objective is to disseminate information of interest to the Japanese Canadian community, including announcements of upcoming events. If you have an article or event of interest to our community, or would like to offer comments or ideas, please contact the Outlook editors: Azusa Ozawa (Japanese editor) at md57654@yahoo.co.jp or Kristen Matsumoto(MJCCA editor) at outlook.mjcca@gmail.com.

Articles and Ads for the next issue are due August 6, 2012.

Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre

Public Schools Program

The 26th year of the Public Schools Program is drawing to a close for the current school year. We began with one school attending at the Centre and today have so many schools participating that some teachers ensure their space by booking their dates a year in advance. With attending groups ranging in size from 40 to 75 students per session, we need many volunteers, usually 30 or more in number for each session, teaching or assisting with shodo, origami, folk dance and introducing the children to Japanese customs. They are particularly interested in hearing how their counterparts in Japan spend their school days--"they clean the bathrooms?!!"

Children's Week in May brings hundreds of little visitors to experience "things Japanese" and special volunteers come in to demonstrate different aspects of Japanese culture. This year we enjoyed presentations by Budokai Karate, the Judo Club, Aurora Dance group, the Manitoba Kendo Club, Hinode Taiko, Weston Karate, and Japanese Folk Songs by the Newcomers Group.

And of course our volunteer kitchen staff never fails to provide us with wonderful lunches, enticement enough for many of us to come out and participate.

We so very much appreciate all our dedicated and faithful volunteers who help in so many different ways and without whom this valuable program would not be possible. It would be fitting to name every one of our workers, but we will content ourselves with just extending our heartfelt thanks in appreciation to everyone for all you do.

The Consulate General of Japan still continues to support this program with a generous grant and we are very grateful for this assistance.

So this final report for this school year is one big "THANK YOU" to everyone involved in any way with our Public Schools Program. It may be work but it is enjoyable and productive work. Have a restful and enjoyable and healthy summer. We look forward to seeing you all again in the fall.

Family Notices

Sincere condolences to the families of

Grace Granger (nee Eyemoto)

Frederick (Freddie) Shizuo Matsuo

Toru Suzuki

2011-12 MJCCA BOARD

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gcmiki@mts.net

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md57654@yahoo.co.jp

MJCCA Donations

The MJCCA gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions received from the following members:

Goodwill:

Mrs. Ikuko Oikawa

Horizon Club News

The club has had its ups and downs during the past two months..On a sad note, Freddie Matsuo, passed away on April 17th, and we offer our sincere condolences to Lee and the family. On May 16th, we said farewell to Mr.T. Nakai. He was one of our older members and has moved to Houston, Texas to live with his daughter, Keiko. He was a long time member who loved playing poker with the boys. He will be missed and we wish him well in his new home.

On a happier note, Sue Yoshino marked her 95th birthday and the members helped her celebrate this happy occasion by sharing her birthday cake. Congratulations!!

Plans have been finalized for the club's 30th Anniversary Luncheon. It will take place on Wednesday, June 27th at 12 noon. Chinese food will be on the menu followed by dessert and a few games of bingo. Invitations have been sent to JCCA members who are 90 years of age or over. The phone committee will be in touch with the other members of the club. The cost will be $10.00.

In the meantime, the usual activities continue every Wednesday until the end of June. There will be a break during July and August but activities will resume on September 5th. The AGM will take place the following Wednesday, September 12th, 2012.

Have a safe and happy summer and come and join us in September!

MJCCA/MJCCC Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Inc. and the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association is to be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 commencing at 6:00 p.m. at 180 McPhillips Street in Winnipeg.

All members are welcome.

KEIROKAI 2012

Normally, planning for Keirokai starts in January but this year it began in June of 2011 with a questionnaire given to Horizon Club members to gauge interest in having the event held at the Cultural Centre. A majority favoured the Centre as a venue as well as Japanese cuisine for the dinner. With many of the "seniors" actively volunteering at Centre activities and Keirokai being held in their honour, the Keirokai Co-chairs, Brenda Mark and Keiko Burke decided to have the event catered at the Centre by Yujiro's Japanese Restaurant.

While most people in the community are aware that Keirokai is an event to honour the seniors, many families may not have been aware that they can honour their parents and grandparents by attending with them. Thus, an Outlook ad was written by Mitsuko Miyamoto to especially invite family and friends.

On a sunny and warm April 22, 94 people attended Keirokai. MJCCA was pleased to honour 43 seniors and welcome special guests: Lucy Yamashita, President of MJCCC; Nancy Nishibata, Co-President of Horizon Club; Ken Zaifman, Honorary Consul of Japan and Alex Miki, MJCCA Scholarship recipient.

During the cocktail hour, guests were treated to entertainment with odori. Kaede dancers Danica Muller and Jessie Nekwinda performed Aka Tombo; Cassidy Nekwinda and Maddy Pineau danced to Ina No Kouta. Aurora dancers Gail Cumming, Hailey Sato and MacKenzie Sato performed Hanagasaondo while Mitsuko Miyamoto did a solo performance of Inochi Kurenai. The dancers were well received by their proud parents / grandparents along with the other guests.

Following grace by Rev. Masaki, a wonderful, traditional bento box prepared by Masa Sugita of Yujiro's Japanese Restaurant was served. Emcee Naomi Krasovec once again entertained the audience with her great sense of humour. MJCCA President, Geoff Miki gave greetings, followed by introduction of the special guests. A moment of silence was held to remember those seniors who have passed on.

Terumi Kuwada, MJCCA Scholarship Committee Chairperson, along with Geoff Miki presented the MJCCA Scholarship award to Alex Miki, daughter of Cheryl and Geoff Miki and granddaughter of Keiko and Art Miki. Alex excelled academically and was one of the recipients of the School Board Book Award which is given to the top students in the graduating class. She is in her first year of studies at the University of Winnipeg with hopes to enter the Faculty of Pharmacy in the fall of 2012. Alex has also been an avid volunteer in our community for many years having taken part in many activities and programs including Folklorama, Japanese Language classes and Japanese Dancing to mention a few. She was an active participant in the Connecting Generations project which connects the older generation to the youth in our community.

We would like to thank the many volunteers who made this year's Keirokai such a success: Naomi Krasovec (emcee); Motoko Miyamoto (RSVP contact person); MJCCA Board members - Terumi Kuwada, Geoff Miki, Mitsuko Miyamoto; Carol Matsumoto (Kaede); Lucy Yamashita (Aurora, set-up, clean-up, advisor); Tom Yamashita and the Kendo Club (set up); Kaede and Aurora performers; Terumi Kuwada, Glenn Koga (photographers) and Kathy Grabowski, Howie Mark, Noriko Takahashi (set-up, servers, clean-up).

KEIROKAI 2012 DONATIONS

The following donations were gratefully accepted:

Doreen Amadatsu

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Dr. Fred Aoki

Paul Bainbridge

June Ebata

Mr. & Mrs. T. Fukumura

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Folklorama

Japan Pavilion – August 5 through 11

Volunteer Opportunities. Help make the Japan Pavilion a success!

The Japan Pavilion would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the many volunteers. There are well over 300 volunteers required over the week of festivities to make the pavilion a success.

Here is a sampling of the different volunteer opportunities available:

- Set up and take down
- Admissions
- Bar and ice shaving stand
- Clean Up
- Cultural Displays
- Entertainment
- Food Preparation
- Food Handlers
- Cashiers
- Group Tours
- Security
- Signage
- VIPs / Bus Tours

If you are interested in learning more about our volunteer opportunities, please email Sandra Shibata, Volunteer Coordinator, at sshibata@mts.net.

Thank you!

Amalgamation Update

During the past year the two organizations MJCCA and MJCCC have been meeting to discuss the amalgamation of the two organizations into one new body. The process has led to tentative agreements to the structure of the organization and how it would operate. At this stage the lawyers from Thompson Dorfman Sweatman have reviewed the Statements of Activities of both organizations and have prepared a Statement of Activities for the new organization. This was reviewed at a joint meeting of MJCCA and MJCCC on May 22, 2012. There were minor wording changes suggested and some questions raised for the lawyers to comment on. Once we are satisfied with the revised Statement of Activities, this will be submitted to Canadian Revenue Agency for approval so that we would be able to maintain charitable status for new organization.

At the joint meeting the name for the new organization was discussed. After a lengthy exploration of various names we settled on three possibilities:

Japanese Association of Manitoba (JAM)

Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba (JCAM)

Japanese Community Association of Manitoba (JCAM)

We would like your opinion on which name you would favour.

Send your response by email to: artmiki@mts.net

WINNIPEG 25 FRINGE™

Fubuki Daiko at the Winnipeg Fringe Festival Venue #12 - WAG - Muriel Richardson Auditorium 300 Memorial Blvd.

Thursday, July 19, 2012 @ 7:15 PM

Friday, July 20, 2012 @ 5:30 PM

Monday, July 23, 2012 @ 2:00 PM (special 2 for $10 ticket discount)

Tuesday, July 24, 2012 @ 5:30 PM

Wednesday, July 25, 2012 @ 9:15 PM

Thursday, July 26, 2012 @ 1:45 PM

Saturday, July 28, 2012 @ 8:00 PM

Please visit www.fubuki.ca for more information

Please come join us at the

MJCCA Annual Picnic

All are welcome to attend – the more the merrier!

Whether you're 9 months old or 99 years young
Whether you are Japanese yourself or related to one in our community
Whether you are already an MJCCA member or would like to become one...

We want you to join us in some good old-fashioned summer fun!

drinks – games – raffle prizes

Sunday, July 22, 2012
12:00 – 4:00PM
St. Vital Park, Lot 1 A/B

Cost: Free!