

OUTLOOK

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President's Report

by Geoff Miki

I'm so busy this month; I don't even have time to form proper paragraphs. So, I'll just give you highlights of the upcoming couple of months.

The joint boards, the MJCCA and the MJCCC are very close to officially amalgamating. The legal paperwork is done, the structure of the new organization has been created and both boards have been hard at work to make this a reality. The new organization will be known as JCAM (Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba) and this will come into effect as early as this summer. This can only be a good thing, not only for the organization, but for our whole Japanese community. Stay tuned for more details.

The annual MJCCA picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 14 at St. Vital Park from 12 noon until 4:00 PM. Once again we are selling raffle tickets that are included with your Outlook or if you haven't received them by the end of June, please let us know. The picnic has been a tradition of the MJCCA as an opportunity for families and friends to get together for some good ol' fashioned fun and games. Let's hope the weather cooperates. See you there!

If you're like me, Folklorama is on your mind winter, spring and summer. Please keep in mind this year's pavilion has moved to a new location. Due to renovations at Sisler, the pavilion will be located at St. Joseph's Parish Hall at 515 College Avenue from August 11-17. It's across the street from the cool "castle house" in the North End, if you're

looking for a landmark. Thanks to Sandra Shibata, our pavilion coordinator and the pavilion chairs for finding an adequate alternative and though the venue itself is smaller in size, the spirit and enthusiasm of the Japanese pavilion will be bigger than ever!

This September 22 marks the 25th anniversary of the Japanese Canadian Redress. We are planning a special celebration dinner the following weekend to commemorate this important event in our history. The event will take place on Sunday, September 29th at the St. Boniface Golf Club, 100 Youville St. We are in the planning stages of this event, so the time and cost haven't been confirmed yet. Our hope is to keep the cost of the event reasonable since this is a celebration for our community and we would like to see as many people as possible attend. At this time we will be unveiling the Living Ancestral Document project which has tracked over 300 lineages so far. If you want to be a part of this project, contact us at mbjcfamilytree@gmail.com. Please stay tuned for more details and tickets will be on sale at Folklorama.

Enjoy your summer!

Geoff Miki

MJCCA President

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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 2, 2013.



Manitoba Japanese
Canadian Cultural Centre

Terumi Kuwada Receives Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



On April 16, 2013, the Honourable Philip S. Lee presented the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award to Terumi Kuwada, along with two other Manitoba recipients. This award recognizes individuals who volunteer their time and efforts to help their fellow citizens. This award also brings to light the example set by these unsung heroes and the positive impact they have in their communities.

The Caring Canadian Award consists of a certificate and a lapel pin and symbolizes Canadians who selflessly give of their time and energy to others. The maple leaf symbolizes the people of Canada and their spirit. The heart depicts the open-heartedness of volunteers and caregivers. The helping hand and heart support the maple leaf and the hand is outstretched to portray boundless generosity.

Terumi has been very active in her community for over 25 years. She has served on the boards as President/Director of many non-profit organizations including the National Association of Japanese-Canadians, the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association, the United Way of Winnipeg, and the Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg (Folklorama). She has planned and organized numerous events related to human rights and multiculturalism. Terumi was appointed in 2012 to the Manitoba Law Foundation Board.

Terumi has been involved with Project Peacemakers for over 15 years regarding the Hiroshima Peace Day. Since 2009, she has been a mentor and coach to the Canadian Muslim Leadership Institute together with other cultural/religious groups who wish to contribute to a stronger Canada. Recently, Terumi received the Ansar Award (which means "helping friend") from the Islamic Social Services Association.

The Caring Canadian Award is a well-deserved recognition for Terumi and we offer her heartiest congratulations!

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Public Schools Program

Since we last reported on the Public Schools program the Centre has experienced a very full schedule indeed. Over 770 grade 3 and 4 students visited our Centre Thursdays from April 6 to May 23 with a majority of them arriving throughout Children's Week (close to 500 – or 100 per day!), which took place every day the week of April 29 to May 3. Of course Children's Week is very special with our Hinamatsuri (Doll's Festival) display featuring Hina Ningyo (dolls for girls) and Gogatsu Ningyo (dolls for boys). This generated quite a few photo ops for the kids as well as their teachers!

Running a full school program for an entire week, morning and afternoon, is quite demanding of our many volunteers but they persevered, despite being taxed at times by the sheer volume of little ones keen on knowing more about Japan, and learning origami, shoto and a folk dance. The folk dancing itself led to quite a cute little story. We teach the "Coal Miner's Dance" as it is rhythmic, fun, with steps that are easy to pick up. In this age of gas and electricity, sensei usually has to explain what coal is to children who have likely never seen it. At the start, they're usually asked "Who knows about coal?" Very few do. In one memorable case, however, two hands shot up with the answer. "We have TWO Coles!". Sure enough, there were two boys named Cole in this class! It was a lovely moment.

During Children's Week, each morning and afternoon session featured live entertainment in the centre gym. Hinode Taiko showed the kids drumming skills on Monday, while the Newcomers provided a highly entertaining story-song everyone was challenged to sing along with as it got faster and faster. Wednesday the Manitoba Kendo Club elicited ooh's and aaah's as their shinai (bamboo swords) clashed loudly on their protective Bogu (armor). Thursday students witnessed the genteel artistry and grace of the Aurora Dancers, while Friday morning Winnipeg Budokai Karate raised excitement levels to a new high; while the afternoon's demonstration actually got a few students pinned to the mat! Praise quickly came flying back from the teachers who brought their students!

The Schools program is deeply indebted to all of its volunteers for such demanding undertakings, for they truly make it educational yet fun.

Alas, the Manitoba school year is ending and with it our Public School Program, until later this Fall. We hope to see all of our volunteers back with us and don't forget, you too can help if you can spare a Thursday morning.

Horizon Club News

Activities continue as usual on Wednesdays at the Cultural Centre. Our oldest member, Mr Takeo Kawata, passed away on May 3rd at the age of 107 years. Sincere condolences are extended to his family. Condolences are also offered to Jake Marks, whose Mother recently passed away

The Annual Natsu-no-Atsumari luncheon will take place on Wed. June 26th at noon followed by a presentation of their trip to Japan by Terumi Kuwada and Valerie Hoshizaki-Nordin. The luncheon will be prepared under the supervision of Chef Ono. Members will be contacted by the phone committee. Tickets will be sold for the event. The cost is \$10.00 for members and \$12.00 for senior non-members.

The following donations are gratefully acknowledged:

In memory of George Nagasaka - Jim, Margaret and Tracey Suzuki, Nagasaka family

In memory of Takeo Kawata - Al and Pat Mackling

MJCCA Donations

Itoko and Suzue Nishibata

In Memory of George Nagasaka:

Eileen Furutani

Nagasaka Families

Margaret, Jim and Tracey Suzuki

We apologize to those we may have missed.

Family Notices

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of the following:

Mr. Takeo Kawata

Mr. Tadao Takeshita

Japanese Community in Winnipeg Raised \$9,000 for Orphaned Japanese Kids

Written and edited by Lora Quitane and Atsushi Kawazu

"It felt like it would never end as my friends and I ran outside crying while we waited for the shaking to stop," said Wakana Sato, a survivor of the Fukushima earthquake in 2011.

The Mirai 3.11 Benefit Committee, composed of Japanese Canadians and Japanese people who live in Winnipeg, held a fundraising event on Saturday June 1, at the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (MJCCC). The event was for the orphaned children affected by the earthquake in Fukushima, Japan in 2011.

"It's an event to raise awareness of the current situation in Japan," said Atsushi Kawazu, a Mirai 3.11 Benefit Committee member.

"Two years and three months have passed since the disaster and most people think that Japan could recover quickly. But there are still devastated towns in rural areas that are still in the beginning process of recovery and local residents still live in temporary housing."

Everyone was quiet while Ms. Sato was sharing her experience in Fukushima.

"Two years after the nuclear accident, there are still many problems in Fukushima. The people of Fukushima are fed up with the slow progress of the repair work," she said. "Friends who lived near Sendai airport and Ishinomaki City are still missing."

In addition to her speech, traditional Japanese cuisine, provided by the head chef Mr. Ono, the former owner chef of Winnipeg's prized Edohei Sushi restaurant, entertainment such as Taiko and dance performances, and a silent auction sponsored by generous businesses contributed to make the night an unforgettable night. The



committee sold out all 140 tickets and raised \$9, 000.

Not only the guests of the event, but also the volunteers enjoyed working at the event.

"After the event was successfully done, I felt I was proud of being Japanese. I was really happy to be at the event, though I was only serving food. I saw many guests laughing and smiling. It seemed that the event produced warm

feelings for the people who are still suffering from the earthquake." said Yuri Kodama, one of the volunteer servers.

Mr. Kawazu reviewed the event saying "That event was a huge success in a different way as well. This event brought together Japanese students and workers and Japanese Canadians of many generations"





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MJCCC Gala Dinner

Be sure to mark Saturday October 26, 2013 on your calendar. You will want to attend the 12th Annual MJCCC Gala Dinner at the Caboto Centre. This year's Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients are Theresa Oye and Mae Kawata, and Mackenzie Sato will receive our Rising Star Award. Tickets are \$75 (tax receipt for a portion). Stay tuned for more information on this special evening, which always includes great friends, food and fun!

A Reminder to come join us at
the MJCCA PICNIC on
July 14, 2013 at St. Vital Park!
Fun for all ages!

Aunty Kay



Stories

by Sally Ito

Sally Ito's Aunty Kay Stories

Sally Ito has put together a book of short-short stories for her recently deceased great aunt, Kiyoe Nakamura, who was a Nisei born in 1914. The stories give an account of her aunt's life and times in coastal BC and Alberta.

Copies for \$3 are available for sale at the Manitoba Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.



*The
Aurora
Dance
Group*

Silk & Sake Fundrasier

*November 9, 2013
1-4PM*

*Manitoba Japanese Canadian
Cultural Centre(MJCCC)*

Don't miss this exciting event which will include a fashion show, performances and sake tasting!

More details and ticket information to come



Welcome to “Tabanata” or “Star Festival” 2013

This year's theme for our pavilion will be the Tabanata Festival. Typically this is celebrated on the 7th day of the 7th lunar month. It celebrates the meeting of the deities Orihime and Hikebasha. Traditionally boys and girls wrote their wishes on taro leaves. For our celebration, we will ask our guests to write a wish and hang it on a tree or bamboo pole in our pavilion. If you have experienced a Tabanata Festival, and have other ideas we can try, please contact Sandra Shibata or myself.

In our last article, we advised you that the Winnipeg School Division #1 is renovating Sisler High School and it will not be available. We are very pleased to announce that we have secured St. Joseph's Parish Hall at 515 College Avenue (between Powers and Andrews). While slightly smaller than Sisler, the auditorium can seat 400 guests and our Cultural Display area will be housed in a smaller gym downstairs. The Planning Committee had our last meeting at the facility and all of us were very impressed. We know you will be as well.

We are also excited about our Ambassadors for this year. The adult Ambassadors are Alex Miki and Russell Kunz with our youth Ambassadors Cassidy Nekwinda and Haley Yamamoto. I know you will support all four as they represent our community.

Plans for the food menu are coming along nicely. Art Miki has advised that our menu is being finalized and some items you can expect are sushi, Japanese style noodles, gyudon (beef donburi), sunomono, miso soup, manju and other delectable snacks. The other exciting news is that Sadao Ono, former chef of Edohei, will be leading our volunteer cooks, and making sushi in our dining hall for our guests.

Our Cultural Display area plans are being finalized that will support our Tabanata Festival theme. Sit back and enjoy the energy and power of Hinode Taiko, the Aurora and Kaede dance groups, martial arts and so much more! Our Bar area has some exciting cocktails along with our traditional sake, Japanese beer and a special sake-infused sunrise cocktail.

We are looking for company sponsors or families who wish to contribute to our sponsorship program. The money raised from this initiative will go towards our Youth Mentorship program and other special projects. Last year's funds will be used toward new happi coats, cash registers and other much needed Folklorama items. Please contact Ken Teramura for further details and sponsorship categories.

And lastly, we are still looking for volunteers. We have a few chair spots available in some areas and lots of opportunities for the prior, during and post-event. If you want to come out and help us, please contact any of the Committee members or Sandra for a volunteer application.

See you at the pavilion from August 11 through the 17th! It's going to be great!

Sandra Shibata, Pavilion Coordinator (sshibata@mts.net)

Ken Teramura, Marketing & Communications Chair (kcteramura@shaw.ca)

