



JAPANESE CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA INC.

OUTLOOK

WINTER EDITION 2024

VOLUME 72 ISSUE 2

JCAM is a federally registered charity # 12064 6021 RR0001

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

明けましておめでとう!



今年もよろしく申し上げます



JCAM Board of Directors 2023-2024

President:	Kelly Kaita	Alexandra Allen Chaput	Sarah Keating Sangalang
Vice-President:	Debra Takeuchi	Satoshi Takeuchi	Cory Rybuck
Treasurer:	Jim Suzuki	Kyla Letkemann	Junko Bailey
Secretary:	Grant Voakes	Lucy Yamashita	
Past President:	Ken Teramura		

OSHOGATSU 2024

Thank you to all our members who came out to celebrate the New Year with JCAM. It was a wonderful afternoon of delicious food prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Ono, beautiful Kakizome by the JCAM Shodo class led by Yayoi Brandt, and performances by Akane Akamatsu, Eric Napier-Strong, Yuko Nozoe, and Hinode Taiko.

Many thanks to the organizing committee – Sara Ebata, Debra Takeuchi, Satoshi Takeuchi, Miwako Hoppe, Miwako Miyoshi, Sadao Ono, and Miyuki Cumming.



For ongoing news from JCAM, check out our social media sites:

www.jcamwpg.ca

Twitter: @WpgJCAM

Instagram: @jcamincofficial

Facebook: @jcam.inc.org

Youtube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCIM3M-5wI3fVBhNEjgcNkFQ

Tik Tok: @jcamwpg



President's Message

Dr. Kelly Kaita

It is hard to believe that another year has quickly passed and with it, we have so much gratitude and cause for celebration. We have returned to a pre COVID state which has led to a growth in membership and a whole host of new individuals who have taken a strong interest in what JCAM represents, an organization striving to preserve Japanese culture and heritage. You will notice fresh faces around the centre and a strong growing involvement in our future with an increasing representation of our newcomers and their families. Our membership has grown from around 500 just prior to 2020 and now we are nearing 1000 members strong.

Our largest program continues to be the Japanese Language School, led by our Language School Committee Miyuki Cumming, Hiroe St. Louis, Tomoko Kehler-Yokobori, Yayoi Brandt, Akane Akamatsu, Megumi Ishibashi, MacKenzie Sato, lead coordinator Mari Nemoto, and a talented group of teachers. This year's school registration is the largest to date with many returning students and many new ones, too. This is a pivotal part of JCAM since our language is a big part of preserving our heritage in Manitoba. Other programs that continue are our very own Aurora Dancers who continue under the leadership of Kumiko Lucy Yamashita. In fact, we have seen a renewal of the Children's Kaede Odori classes this year led by Sumi Saito Kimanivong. The other programs that have been offered have included Koto lessons with Junko Rybuck, Shodo classes with Yayoi Brandt, and Shakuhachi lessons with Eric Napier-Strong. Heritage cooking classes have started again and have been a tremendous success thanks to the Food Committee headed by Joy Letkemann and Caroline Yamashita. A phenomenally successful new program this year was the introduction of Kids' Club which has provided a wonderful morning of arts, crafts, games, hobbies, and martial arts. Many thanks go to the Kids' Club committee - Debra Takeuchi, Sarah Sangalang, Sara Ebata, Valerie Hoshizaki-Nordin, and Pamela Okano. A new program still in its infancy stage is the Japanese Knife group with committee members including, Junko Bailey, Todd Koga, Tanner Jangula, and other knife enthusiasts.

Some of our major events this past year included Folklorama, Bon Odori, Whiskey Tasting night, Izakaya Night, Karakoro Eisa concert, Halloween and Christmas kids' parties, Christmas Craft sale, Bento and Ramen pick up, Donburi Fridays, and hosting the annual NAJC conference. Thank you to all of you who were involved as committee members or volunteers. Events like this are what brings our community together, which is so important for the future of JCAM.

You have noticed a few changes over the past year, but there are so many more that will take place over the next 12-24 months. These changes will make our centre even more inviting for everyone.

I want to express my gratitude to the past board and the new board for all their hard work and dedication to JCAM. They continue to impress me with their commitment and skills that make our organization the one to be reckoned with across the country. THANK YOU! Also, a big thank you to Pamela Okano who is the heart of the organization. She is always the first to arrive and the last to leave, ensuring that the centre is always left in perfect condition.

One final note is to you, our members and volunteers. THANK YOU! The centre is your home!

On behalf of the JCAM Board of Directors, Pamela, and myself, we wish you a healthy and happy 2024!

Kelly Kaita

JCAM DONATIONS

(October 24 – December 31, 2023)

In Memory of Lillian Shimoda

Glenn & Joyce Matsumoto
K. Lucy Yamashita
Thomas Yamashita
Cheryl & Richard Tyslau
Karen & Ted Stewart-Paley
Miyoko & Joe Okano

In Memory of Mariko Sato

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Kelly Koga
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In Memory of Akio & Mariko Sato

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In Memory of Akio Sato

Linda Schmid

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Glenn & Joyce Matsumoto

In Memory of the Kawata Family

Yoshimi Takeuchi

In Memory of Tetsuo Odaguchi

Shigeko Sato

In Memory of Yosh Ito

K. Lucy Yamashita

In Memory of Yvonne Zarnowski

Sadao Ono

Christmas Market

Jennifer Hashimoto

Goodwill

Henry Kojima & Vivien Laurie
Andrew Winkless
Harry Tonogai
Kelly Koga
Mona & Ernie Hiebert
Sharon Litzenberger
Terry & Barb Pettitt
Akemi Ebata

In Memory of Asako Taniguchi

Jim Taniguchi

In Memory of Faye and Bruce Hashimoto

Christine & Terry Hashimoto

In Memory of Faye Hashimoto

K. Lucy Yamashita

In Memory of Hiro Hashimoto

Jennifer Hashimoto

In Memory of Mickey Kojima

Glenn & Joyce Matsumoto

In Memory of Toki and Henry Kuwada

Terumi Kuwada

In Memory of Yoshi and Yuri Abe

Yumi Falk

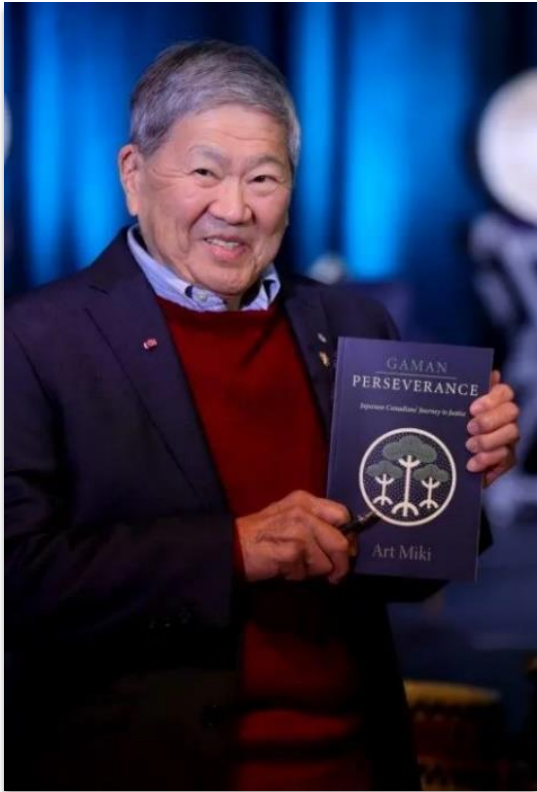
Volunteer Appreciation

Jennifer Hashimoto

JCAM extends its appreciation to all donors for their generosity and support.

JCAM is now able to receive donations through e-transfer – etransfer@jcamwpg.ca

Congratulations to **Art Miki** on the recent release of his book
GAMAN/Perseverance – Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice



“As President of the National Association of Japanese Canadians in 1988, Art Miki was one of the key architects of the Redress agreement with the Government of Canada, signing the historic document alongside Prime Minister Brian Mulroney on September 22 of that year. In a new book, *Gaman – Perseverance, Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice*, Miki shares the intense negotiations leading up to the settlement, through the lens of his past experiences and family history, from being a youth in British Columbia during the 1940s, to an educator in Manitoba post-war, and ultimately a community leader across Canada. Detailing his involvement with Indigenous communities and the dispute that would lead to the historic Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, his foray into politics during the 1990s, and his role as a Canadian citizenship judge, Miki recounts a life of activism guided by his own experiences and deeply-held beliefs, shaped in part by his family's wartime experiences.”

(John Endo Greenaway, JCCA Bulletin-Geppo Vancouver, December 2023)

On December 10, 2023, “International Day for Human Rights”, the Canadian Museum for Human Rights held an event to celebrate the book launch of *Gaman/Perseverance – Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice* by Art Miki. This event was graciously hosted by the Embassy of Japan in Canada (Ambassador H. E. Kanji Yamanouchi) and the Consul General of Japan in Calgary (Mr. Takahiko Watabe) in collaboration with the CMHR and the Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba. In attendance was the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, the Honourable Anita R. Neville, the Minister of Economic Development, Investment and Trade and Natural Resources, Mr. Jamie Moss, and CMHR CEO Isha Khan.

This moving memoir is available at McNally-Robinson, Canadian Museum for Human Rights Gift Shop, Chapters, and online through Amazon Canada.



Photos by CMHR Ruth Bonneville

HORIZON CLUB NEWS

Akemashite Omedeto gozaimasu! Happy New year!

The year 2023 has been a busy one, with activities back in full swing. We were pleased to be able to add new programs with funding from the BC Redress Legacy Fund for survivors, such as a Bento program for shut-ins, and an exercise hour for active participants. We were also able to arrange trips to the Inuit Art gallery and the Leaf biome gardens. In December, the executive applied under the Intergenerational Wellness stream for the Horizon Club to continue offering these programs next year.

Susanne Tabata, Executive Director of the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society from Vancouver, offered an overview of the funds that are available under the program. Many members of JCAM came out to learn about the funds designated for survivors. The Survivor's Fund is set to open in the new year with a website and a team of outreach workers to assist with applications for eligible individuals.

We look forward to a healthy, prosperous 2024. The weekly lunches begin again Wednesday, February 7. If you are interested in joining the Horizon Club, to help prepare lunches, or to participate in the programs, please contact the JCAM office. We hope to see you there.

HINODE TAIKO NEWS

This winter Hinode Taiko was busy performing gigs and learning new skills—as the weather grew colder we began to practice the fue! Maybe the next time you hear us practicing you'll hear some flute accompanying our drumming. A standout performance of the season was a full ensemble show we performed at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights for the launch of Art Miki's new book: *Gaman - Perseverance: Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice*. To commemorate Art's achievement, Genki Daiko joined the performing group on stage to perform Ashura and Sando. It was wonderful to bring the whole group together and feel the energy of so many drummers in one space.

To celebrate another year filled with taiko, HT held year end parties in our beginner classes and at our regular practice. Old and new drummers alike joined the last session of the beginner class to play a rousing rendition of Matsuri. At the final HT practice of the year, Genki Daiko and the performing group took turns performing for each other and the group's two apprentices put together a two person arrangement of Akatsuki to commemorate their graduation from the apprenticeship program. With a one year apprenticeship behind them, they are now official members of the performing group! In the new year, Hinode Taiko will be offering more beginner workshops and classes. Anyone interested in learning how to drum can find out more information on our website or by contacting info@hinodetaiko.ca and asking to be put on our Friends of Hinode Taiko mailing list. We are wishing everyone all the best for 2024!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 HAROLD HIROSE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kevin Hearty

Born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Kevin is a proud 4th generation Japanese Canadian. Kevin's grandfather, George Miyake and great-grandparents, Takaharu and Namiye Miyake were survivors, who during World War II, were forcibly removed from their home in Haney, BC and relocated to work on a sugar beet farm near Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.

Kevin is a veteran, having served in the Canadian Armed Forces. After the time in the military, he then joined Manitoba Justice- Manitoba Sheriff's Services as a sheriff's officer. In 2017, Kevin graduated from Red River Polytech with a certificate in Primary Care Paramedicine. He then worked as a flight medic for several years, serving Northern communities as well as a first responder for the Province of Manitoba-Shared Health services. Currently Kevin is employed with Indigenous Services Canada and the First Nation's Inuit Health Branch as a contractor Paramedic.

Kevin is also currently enrolled at Holland College and pursuing a post graduate certificate in Advanced Care Paramedicine (ACP). He has volunteered his time and services to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba as a First Aid/Basic Life Saving trainer to healthcare providers and as a CPR/Safety trainer to Scouts Canada.

Kevin's family are lifelong members and supporters of JCAM. He has fond memories of attending the annual picnics with the family! Kevin would like to thank his aunty, Rhea Miyake & JCAM's Pamela Okano for all the support and direction, and to the Harold Hirose Scholarship Committee for helping to further Kevin's practice in the medical field.



Zen Kennedy

Zen was born in Kagoshima, Japan, and lived there until he was 6 years old. He moved to Canada where his mum and dad made sure to have him hold onto his Japanese heritage by participating in Language classes and other activities at JCAM. He attended Miles Macdonell Collegiate where he played multiple sports.

Presently, he is in his first year of university at l'Université de St.Boniface studying business administration, all in French!

He likes to play guitar, study music, and skateboard during his free time.

Zen thanks the JCAM Scholarship Committee for selecting him as the recipient of the Harold Hirose Scholarship so that he can focus on his studies and use Japanese in his future academics and career.



**JAPANESE
CANADIAN
LEGACIES**

JC Legacies Monument Database Project

A monument in Victoria, the province's Capital, is being planned to honour all Japanese Canadians who were uprooted, dispossessed, interned, and displaced in the 1940s. The research to gather names is taking place at the University of Victoria and will be completed by January 31 2024, under the guidance of Project Director, Michael Abe. The monument is a key initiative of the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society and will be managed through the Ministry of Citizens Services.

Thank you everyone for your valuable and important input to the Monument database project. Since the consultation with the community started on June 1, 2023 we've fielded input from over 900 community members. Our research team have been diligently researching each and every one of your enquiries and will continue to do so to the end of January when we wrap up the project.

We still need your help to ensure our list is as accurate as possible. Please review the database for spelling, omissions and locations and share this request with other JC relatives and friends.

The link to the website is <https://hcmc.uvic.ca/project/monument/index.html>

Ensure that you refresh any pages you may have visited before by holding the shift key and clicking the reload button in your browser.

We welcome English and Japanese forenames, provided they are legal names and not nicknames. Do not send any birth certificates, etc. just let us know that they appear on a legal document or on a gravestone, etc. You can send links to obituaries or scans of obituaries from newspapers if necessary.

We also ask that you review the area that your family was uprooted from. Often the custodian file reported multiple locations, please be sure to confirm with us where they were living at the time of the uprooting.

There are many people who had family in Japan at the time of the uprooting who couldn't return. Because we do not have the ability to identify every single person who was in this situation, we are unable to produce a complete name list. We are working on a way to honour these people as a group but unfortunately we won't add a partial list of names to the wall.

Send information that needs to be changed in the monument database to monument@jclegacies.com by January 23, 2024. Please note that it is outside of our scope and resources at this time to make adjustments to the Landscapes of Injustice database.

Thank you,
Michael Abe, Project Director

The dream and vision for the monument is that it will envelope the origin story of Japanese Canadians who settled in cities, towns, and villages, primarily along the coast. The tactile names on the wall will help to recognize individuals and families and where they lived before the forced uprooting, seizure and forced sale of assets, incarceration, internment, permanent dispossession, and two waves of displacement. We hope there will be a digital version of this project wherein people can search for the names and where they are situated on the monument.

– Susanne Tabata, CEO JC Legacies Society

DE LA GUERRE À L'AMITIÉ : LA RENCONTRE D'ALENA TAKATSU ET D'IRÈNE ROY

From War to Friendship: the meeting of Alena Takatsu (Matsuo) and Irene Roy
English Translation from *La Liberté* Newspaper Winnipeg (November 2023)

Written by Ophélie Doireau

Photo courtesy of Philippe Sabourin



Alena Takatsu and her family are part of the hundred or so Japanese families who arrived in Manitoba during the Second World War. Arriving at the age of ten, she made friends with a Franco-Manitoban, Irene Roy. Since then, they have never left each other again.

Both are now 91 years old. But gathered together, it is two young children who are squabbling, according to two of Irene Roy's children, Luc Roy and Monique Roy. Alena Takatsu lives in Winnipeg in her house and Irene Roy, née Catellier, lives in Saint-Malo in the Chalet Malouin home. If everything separated them, it is an unfortunate coincidence that will reunite their two families in 1942.

After the attack on Pearl Harbour by Japan in December 1941, the Canadian government and part of the Canadian population feared a Japanese

invasion. A distrust was spreading towards people of Japanese origin who had settled in Canada, mainly in British Columbia. This distrust led to the establishment of racist policies.

In 1942, the federal government promulgated an order allowing anyone to be moved anywhere in the country. Although the decree is broad, it mainly targets people of Japanese origin. Some will be locked up in internment camps, others will be offered the opportunity to work on sugar beet farms in Manitoba. This is the case of Alena Takatsu's family. Alena Takatsu's family arrived in Manitoba on April 19, 1942, by train, with very few things like other families at the time. "We had to get rid of everything we owned. We could only take a certain number of kilos of luggage and the like. So we left practically everything and we sold part of it, but the rest stayed there. It was very sad for my parents, because we had left beautiful things, dishes, books. It was really a very sad time for my parents. But since I was only ten years old, I didn't realize how serious the situation was."

Alena Takatsu remembers falling ill during her train journey. "I got sick on the train because it wasn't clean, it was very dusty. It was horrible."

/ La Rochelle

Upon their arrival in Winnipeg, Alena Takatsu and her family were staying in a hotel that has now disappeared. After a few days, Irene Roy's father, Lucien Catellier, came to pick up the whole family and provided them with everything they needed to start a new life. "He took us home and gave us things we needed." Unlike other families, Alena Takatsu was able to find a semblance of peace when she arrived in La Rochelle. "Our life in La Rochelle was really a lot of fun. I remember Blanche, Irene's mother. She treated me like one of her own. She was so sweet. And Mr. Catellier was so kind. We were very lucky to be in a family that treated us well. Because this was not the case in all families."

This is where Irene Roy and Alena Takatsu met, as Irene Roy tells us. "My father, Lucien, had given them a house so that they could live with dignity. We were the same age, so we went to school together. We were always the two of us. Even when her parents moved to Middlechurch, Alena stayed with us to finish her school year. We had a lot of fun together." Five years after their arrival in La Rochelle, Alena Takatsu's parents, Shunsuke and Tatsu, moved to Middlechurch thanks to a new job offered to her father. Irene Roy still remembers an anecdote. "I had to get to Middlechurch by bus. I don't know what happened, the bus was canceled

and I went on foot. At some point on the way, someone picked me up in his car and all of a sudden I saw Alena's dress drying on a clothesline! Thinking back on it now, I wonder how my parents let me do that (laughs)."

But life in Middlechurch was not always easy for the family, as Alena Takatsu recalls. "We lived in a stable, with a dirt floor. This is what they gave us to live in. They had put a stove in a kind of sink. It was just horrible, the smell! And we had to sleep there. After two or three months, my father decided that we could no longer live there. So we left. For years, when I walked past this place in Middlechurch, I had a lump in my throat."

/ A Timeless friendship

The years have passed and the friendship of Alena Takatsu and Irene Roy has not stopped. Each has made her life with children and a husband. However, they have always tried to see each other, as Irene Roy tells us. "When we were raising our families, we always tried to see a minimum of each other. But each one was very busy with our children and our families. But we have always been there for each other in all the big moments, whether it's weddings or funerals."

Alena Takatsu adds: "We used to call each other and try to see each other as often as possible. It wasn't as often as we wanted. But it was good. Irene is one of my most precious friends. We have a special bond. We understand each other without words. She is a strong and admirable woman."

Even today, Alena Takatsu and Irene Roy meet once a year. And each time, the separations are difficult, as Irene Roy explains. "Every time we see each other, time flies too fast. It's always hard to leave each other."



The Takatsu family (L-R): Don, Tatsu, Rosa, Alena, Henry, Shunsuke

JCAM Calendar of Events 2024

***Mark the following dates on your calendar and keep an eye out for
JCAM email updates for each of these events PLUS more!***

Sunday, January 28:	Ramen Takeout
Friday, February 2:	Donburi Lunch
Saturday, February 10:	Makunouchi Bento takeout
Sunday, February 25:	Ramen Takeout
Friday, March 1:	Donburi Lunch
Saturday, March 9:	Makunouchi Bento takeout
Friday, April 5:	Donburi Lunch
Saturday, April 13:	Makunouchi Bento takeout
Sunday, April 28:	Things Japanese Sale
Sunday, July 21:	JCAM Picnic (St. Vital Park)
Sunday, August 4 – Saturday, August 10:	Folklorama Japanese Pavilion

IT'S BACK! JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL

JAPANESE *Picnic*

Sunday, July 21st, 2024

10:00am - 1:00pm

ST. VITAL PARK

Oak & Aspen Shelters
(near the outdoor washrooms & playground)

BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS AND PICNIC LUNCH OF CHOICE!

**KIDS RACES BEGIN AT 10:30AM FOLLOWED BY ADULT RACES AND
SCRAMBLES. DRAWS WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER LUNCH.**

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JULY 14TH

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