

Spring and Summer (1Q and 2Q 2021)

JASV

Chiisai Shinbun News Letter

Finally COVID Pandemic is being improved. Although, we still have some uncertainty about under 12 school children. Hopefully, all the concerns will be cleared by the start of the fall semester and we will return to normal operation.

It has been more than one and a half years since the pandemic started. We didn't think it would continue such long time. How are you? I hope all of you are vaccinated and your family are all well.

Usually we release our Chiisai Shinbun News Letter every quarter. But since we temporarily closed most of our events except Adults' and Children's Japanese Language classes due to the social distance guide lines imposed by the government, I combined 1Q and 2Q Chiisai Shinbun News Letters. The language classes were continued by Zoom. Thanks to Zoom and the language instructors.

1. Adults Japanese Language Classes by Zoom

The instructor, Ms Linda Sukop, ran two Japanese classes on Monday and Wednesday a week from Feb 17 to Apr 26. A total of 13 students enjoyed learning Japanese language and culture.

Level-1 : 8 students (of those 3 were return students)

Level-2 : 5 students

We need a minimum of 5 students' tuition per a class to cover the honorarium and Seven Days advertisement. We were lucky to have no problem about it this semester. (The return students get a discounted tuition fee to half.) Some students commented that language classes by Zoom are very helpful since it saves travel time. Particularly students far away from SMC. And they asked us to continue the classes by Zoom even after COVID the pandemic is over.

2. Children's Japanese Language Classes by Zoom

The instructor is Ms. Maki Farnham. She ran a Japanese class on Saturday from April 10th to May 22nd. A total of 4 children enjoyed the classes. Due to the Zoom class younger children dropped out. The students who joined are three 11 year old and one 14 year old. This is an issue we have to discuss about with their parents

after COVID pandemic is over.

3. Generous Donation from Tuttle Publishing

We have received a very generous check of **\$1,680 donation** from Tuttle Publishing. It is the amount we pay to our self-storage to store our belongings every year since we left (we had to) the SMC building, i.e. they donated our **minimum operation cost of one year**. We at the JASV sincerely appreciate such a generous donation. In May Tuttle Publishing made a big effort for the JASV by announcing May of this year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and had determined that 50% of profits from website sales will be donated to the JASV. Again, thank Tuttle Publishing very much!!!

4. Inkind Donation

4.1 Kendo Bohgu Set (and others) Donation

We received a Kendoh Bohgu set from Mr. David and Ms. Natalie Keller. Their son studied in Japan as an exchange student when he was in high school, but unfortunately he passed away leaving a Kendoh Bohgu set. Mr. and Ms. Keller decided to donate it to the JASV.

Kendoh is one of the martial arts. If you want to be a policeman or woman in Japan you must practice either Judo or Kendo. Probably I will be able to explain and demonstrate about Kendoh at the next Matsuri on stage. Thank Mr. and Ms. Keller for such an opportunity.



(Men)



(Doh)



(Doh Shita)



(Kote)



(Uniform – Blue)



(Uniform – White)



(Shinai / Kendo Bohgu Bag)



(High School Uniform)



(Tenugui, wear under Men)

4.2 Kimono Donation and One Frame

We have the second donation from Ms. Brenda Bankart. In 2019, she and her husband donated many beautiful kimono including three Uchikake which we planned to display at the Matsuri 2020, but we couldn't have it because of COVID. We will display them at the next Matsuri. I reported about this donation two years ago. For those who don't remember, here is the partial donation pictures we received at that time. (Please look at Chiisai Shinbun 3Q 2019.)



(I took these pictures in our ex-office. We don't have an office any more. I miss it.)

This time, they donated the rest of her collection which includes man's and woman's easy dress up kimono plus one Haori and a Frame. We can add these to our Kimono Try-on booth at our Matsuri. Thank Ms. And Mr. Bankart.



5. Donation to Mr. Coffrin's Memorial

As you remember that our first president Peter Coffrin passed away almost two years ago. Since then, we at the JASV has been collecting donations according to his wish that donations be made in lieu of flowers. We collected \$455 from 9 people.

His son Mr. Daniel Coffrin would like to establish a scholarship for those who want to go to study in Japan. I agreed, but let him know that it is a one time only one, \$500. The JASV isn't wealth enough to maintain such a scholarship. He agreed. So, we will establish Mr. Coffrin's Memorial Fund like Tenny Memorial Fund.

6. JASV Membership

As you know, JASV has been keeping financial closure at the end of June every year and reporting our financial status to the IRS.

We have received membership dues from 10 people this year. Yes, exactly 10 people. I know everyone is suffering from COVID. However, please don't forget us. We need \$1,680 at least for our storage rent every year. This year we made \$1,462.62 debt, which is better than \$1,680 debt. It is because we made some profits by Japanese Language adult class, which is unusual.

For the nest 6 months (until the end of this year), I will offer you a half price membership. Please help us!!!

- Adult & Family membership: \$25 ---> \$12.5

– Senior And Students: \$10 ---> \$5

I will personally make up the other half as a donation. Currently we have no office, so please send your membership dues to

JASV

C/O: Toshi Saitoh, 1 Concord Green, South Burlington, VT 05403

Yes, Tuttle Publishing helped us with the next one year storage rent donation. Next year is wonderful, but we cannot expect that every year.

7. Return to Normal Operation (Plan)

July 3rd Independence Parade was canceled this year. But COVID pandemic has been improving. We hope our operation will return to normal by the end of this year so that we will be able to participate in the Vermont International Festival (if it happens). Also, we canceled biannual Matsuri 21 due to the pandemic. We would like to have it at on March next year. I have sent the request to SMC, but no response has been received yet. They started to work for it.

Looking forward to meeting at the next VIF (if it happens).

Have a wonderful summer!

Toshi Saitoh

President, JASV