

Chiisai Shinbun 2022-2Q

This is a quarterly newsletter of the Japan-America Society of Vermont, describing what we have accomplished during the second quarter of the year of 2022 (April, May and June) and a forecast of our activities in the near future.

As a result of the COVID pandemic we closed our activities for over two years. However, this year the situation was improved compared with two years ago. Yes, an Omicron or new variant virus pandemic began, but I hear that such variants are weaker than COVID 16. Mask mandates started to be removed here and there such as UVM or schools or even in airplanes.

The JASV participated July 3rd in the Independence Day Parade at Montpelier for the first time after two year cancellation. It was a big surprise to find that all the participants and audience along the road wear no masks. The world has changed and was improved.

1. Accomplishment during the First Quarter

1-1. Japanese Language Class for Adults

Three classes, Level-1, Level-3 and Level-4, started by Zoom from Feb 15 and successfully ended Apr 27. A total of 14 students improved their Japanese language skills. The teacher was Ms. Linda Sukop. Thank you Ms. Linda Sukop!!!

1-2. Japanese Language Class for Children

A Japanese beginner class started from April 2 and end May 14. via Zoom by the instructor Ms. Maki Farnham. 5 students participated in the class. The class was arranged by Ms. Masako Carter. Thank you very much Maki-san and Masako-san.

1-3. Participation in July 3rd Independence Day Parade in Montpelier

This parade didn't take place for two years due to the COVID pandemic. But finally they arranged the parade this year. We participated in it. After the parade, the parade coordinator declared it a success. There were many people in the audience and surprisingly they were not wearing masks. The number of audience looked slightly smaller than usual years, but not much different from before the pandemic.

Although I requested your participation not many responded. JASV

Member Ms. Suzuko Kern and her family helped a lot and greatly contributed to this parade. The JASV sincerely thanks them. Following are snap pictures.



2. Near Future Event

2-1. Matsuri '22

The last Matsuri took place in 2019 at Saint Michael's College's Sports Center. Then we started to have COVID pandemic and many things have changed since then. The biggest problem for us now became finding a venue. Saint Michael's College cannot help us to have it at their Ross Sports Center anymore. So, we had been looking for a possible place for our venue.

We thought Veterans Memorial Park in South Burlington would be the best candidate for the venue. When we discussed this with the South Burlington City Hall they suggested to have Matsuri '22 at Tuttle Middle School since outdoor event is weather dependent and this offer will solve the issue completely. It was a wonderful offer!!! We sincerely thank South Burlington

Recreation and Parks.

We concluded to have Matsuri '22 at Tuttle Middle School in South Burlington on **Sunday, Sep 18**. The JASV sent an e-mail to the previous Matsuri '19 booth participants and performers on stage to get their support.

Another big change is that this event will be a free participation event. In other words, the audience doesn't have to pay an entry fee. It is a headache for the JASV since we need to pay running expenses. We are going to apply for a grant from the Japan Foundation in New York. Hopefully, everything will go smoothly and we can continue our Matsuri for many years to come.

2-2. Ms. Zoe Nugent Returned from Japan

Zoe-san returned in April this year from Japan after teaching English in Ojiya city in Niigata prefecture through the JET program (Japanese government program) for three years. She experienced interesting life there. We would like to hear those experiences through her American eyes, which are also very valuable to Japanese. Zoe-san have been our board members many years. She also went to study abroad at Nihon University in the past. We will arrange a Potluck party and have her as a guest speaker. The date is to be defined.

Thank you!
Toshi Saitoh
JASV