

Chiisai Shinbun 2020-1Q

A quarterly newsletter of the Japan-America Society of Vermont

180 Flynn Avenue, Burlington, VT 05401 (New Address)

This newsletter is to let you know about the JASV events accomplished during the 1st quarter (January, February and March) of 2020.

1. New Year Potluck Party (1/18)

Toshi thanked all the attendees for their great help during the year of 2019. All planned events were successfully accomplished and we could close a wonderful year of 2019. Toshi also added that the JASV had to move out of the Saint Michael's College last December and that we are now in a survival mode since we have to pay \$3,600 per year for the rent of the new office from now on. We need to find a new generous office lender.

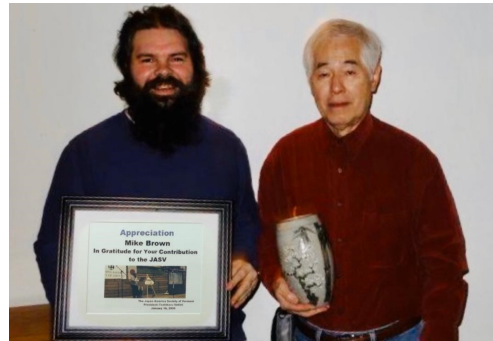
Although it was a snowy day, 16 people attended the party and enjoyed the food the attendees brought and after that the following events took place,

- Larry Solt played the Japanese national anthem and New Year song on the trumpet. The people sang the songs with the music together.

- Mike Brown presented the Kaguyahime story with Kamishibai.

- Toshi Saitoh presented singers he was familiar with while growing up, starting with Japan's greatest singer Hibari Misora, followed by Peggy March, (USA), Sylvie Vartan (French), Fance Gall (French), - -. Amira Willighagen (Holland). He had invited people from France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Holland and Russia, but only one lady from Austria made the party due to the snow storm. Later, Toshi presented a JASV award to Mike for his excellent participation in all events and his help with his idea throughout 2019.





2. New Office Cleaned

After office move on 12/18, the new office was full of JASV's belongings and there was no place to sit down. Since then we have been straightening up little by little targeting to be finished by the Manga Club on Feb 1st. With the help of Masako-san (books), and Mike, Steve and Shane (heavy things) we could make a space for meetings and we held Manga Club on Saturday, Feb 1st as scheduled. Particularly Toshi thanked Steve, Mike and Shane who took responsibility dumping two heavy metal desks and one wood table. They were also planning to put a JASV sign on the building entrance wall so that people will notice where our office is. Thank you very much, Steve, Mike and Shane! Steve and Mike took three unfolded chairs and I dumped the rest, 7 chairs. Unfortunately we didn't have more space to store them.

3. Manga Club

We had Manga Club as scheduled on Saturday, Feb 1st and March 7th. And then we canceled the club until the Coronavirus Pandemic problem will be solved.

The teacher Lydia and Toshi discussed about making T-shirts with her Manga design to start fundraising since we need to make money \$3,600 a year for our rent. Toshi followed up this with our board members and the idea was

approved. Following may be the first design on the T-shirts, drawn by Lydia at the last Manga Club.



“Magic Girl” by Lydia Nguyen

4. Japanese Language Class for Adults

This spring semester, we had only 3 students for Level-2. We started the classes at SMC from Monday, 2/17, but we had only 4 classes and had to stop the rest of the classes due to the Corona virus Pandemic problem, even though we have only 4 people in the class room including the teacher.

As soon as SMC opens the class room, we will continue the rest of the Japanese classes.

5. Mrs. Takie Dean Passed Away

Mrs. Takie Dean passed away on Jan 16th at the age of 90. And her memorial service took place on Friday, Feb 21st, in the evening. The memorial service coordinator asked JASV to help dress up a mannequin they have with Takie's favorite kimono at the service. Toshi e-mailed two persons who he knows are kimono experts, but both were very busy. So, Toshi offered another method to display the kimono which worked very well. They donated \$250 to the JASV.



6. The National Symphony Orchestra (NSO)'s Crane Project

NSO planned to travel to Japan and deliver 1,000 cranes or more in March. The JASV was invited to participate in the project. In order to give the JASV an idea of this project, Toshi sent the following pictures which he took several years ago. As you can see from the photos he took at Hiroshima's Memorial Park, children are praying for real world peace. We adults must be responsible for it. President Obama also stood there and prayed there for peace.



We asked our members to send us Origami cranes and also had a workshop at our office. Dorigen Martin traveled all the way from Stowe and Erik

Andrus and his son Robin from Vergennes also joined us for the crane workshop on 2/15 at our office even though it was an extremely cold day. Four of us made 63 cranes including myself.



Toshi also found a box full of 76 cranes made by Kyle Ledoux and his wife in front of our office door. And Suzuki-sensei delivered 63 cranes made by her UVM students to him. He sincerely thanked all of these people praying for world peace seriously!!! Toshi sent a total of 302 cranes to the National Symphony Orchestra and I got the following response from the NSO. Thank you very much, everyone who participated!!!

To all those who generously provided origami cranes,

I am proud to report that the National Symphony Orchestra received over 3,000 paper cranes sent from around the country. It was a remarkable response to our project in preparation for our visit to Hiroshima, Japan.

As I am sure you may have realized, the NSO tour to Japan was canceled due to COVID-19. After 15 months of preparation, we were very disappointed but our offices were full of the most beautiful and colorful origami cranes. We continued to organize and string the cranes together even after the cancellation of the tour.

On Friday, March 6, NSO musicians performed a concert at the Japan Information and Culture Center in Washington, DC. On that occasion, we were able to present 2,000 origami cranes to Minister Takehiro Shimada from the Embassy of Japan, along with a special poster made by members of the DC Youth Orchestra Program.

All of the origami cranes presented will be carefully packaged and mailed to the City of Hiroshima along with a record of everyone who participated and shared comments as part of this project.

To see the journey of the NSO Paper Crane Project, photos can be found here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/pQHRp7V6Eu7FFpAy5>. It has been a pleasure to work on this project with you, and we thank you for your contributions towards this project in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II.

Sincerely,
Andrew Brown

7. Haru Matsuri at Middlebury College(4/11) --- Canceled

We had planned to offer

- Ikebana Styles and their History on stage
- Kamishibai on stage
- Manga Workshop at a booth (new)

Stay Safe!
JASV