

Chiisai Shinbun 2023-1Q

This is a quarterly newsletter of the Japan-America Society of Vermont describing what we have accomplished during the first quarter of the year of 2023 (January, February and March) and a forecast of our activities in the near future.

Happy New Year!!!

Finally the number of the people who are wearing masks is getting smaller all over except for hospitals. At super markets there are a very small number. We have been suffering from the COVID pandemic for almost three years. Finally it has almost ended. Wonderful!!!

This year is the year of the rabbit. You can see a rabbit painted on many ornaments such as hanging scrolls, noren (room dividers), oshi-e, etc in Japan. It is very romantic to imagine that a rabbit is making Mochi in the moon in the Japanese traditional stories.



(Can you see a rabbit is making Mochi?)

1. New Year Potluck Party (1/21)

The new year potluck party took place at the club house in South Burlington on Saturday, 1/21. A total of 18 people participated including two people who later participated. We enjoyed the food the people brought, the conversation and **three presentations**.



(Enjoying food and conversation)

1-1. Three Year Teaching Experiences in Japan

Zoe Nugent, a board member, had an English teaching experience at Ojiya city in Niigata prefecture for about 3 years through the JET program (Japanese government program) and she presented a well organized presentation about her experiences there.

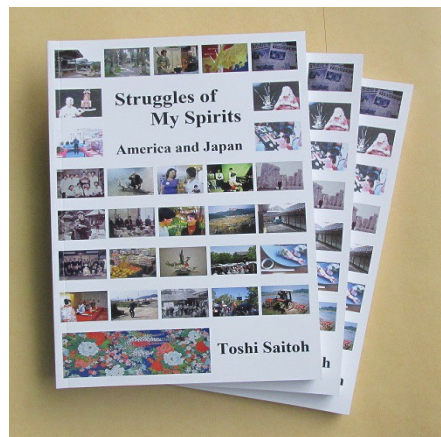




She was recently hired by the Consulate General of Japan in Boston and started to work there in its Culture Department from 3/6. Congratulation!!! She joined the JASV when she was a freshman at UVM. Since then she contributed to the JASV by helping at many events and went to Japan many times, such as volunteer work through WWWOF, studying abroad at Nihon Daigaku and teaching English in Japan for almost three years through the JET program. We are pretty sure she will also contribute to the Consulate General of Japan. We sincerely thank Zoe-san for her great help given to us and wish her good luck on her new job.

1-2. Publishing A Book

Toshi Saitoh, the president, recently self published his book titled **“Struggle of My Spirits”**. It is written about culture differences between the US and Japan based on his experiences in the US and Japan. Both countries are great countries, but he wrote it hoping that the both countries could be even better.



He explained some of the topics quoting his book,

1. What was the most surprised thing after he came to the USA.
2. Why he started studying pottery in the USA.
3. What was the hardest and saddest thing experienced after he moved to the USA, etc.

The book was sold to the attendees for \$20 and 50% of the proceeding was donated to the JASV. 7 books were sold. Thank you very much!!! Toshi is pretty sure that the people who bought the book will enjoy reading it.

1-3. Fun with Music

Larry Solt, the former president, played a **Flugelhorn** made by the Yamaha company in Japan. He played the following three pieces of music and all enjoyed the beautiful music.

1. Fuyu no Yoru (Winter Night)
2. Ashitaka and San Theme from Princess Mononoke
3. Sakura





2. Japanese Language Class for Adults

Japanese language classes started from January 30th via Zoom and will end April 6th, 10 week classes. This semester the teacher, Ms. Linda Sukop, offered 5 classes (Level-1, Level-2, Level-3, Level-4 and Level-5) and we got three class registrations (Level-1, Level-2 and Level-5.) A total of 12 students started to study Japanese language this semester.

The Level-5 class is the highest level we ever had. Toshi sent an e-mail to the five students in the Level-5 class and asked them whether they are interested in attending the next JASV's Spring meeting and would like to challenge giving us a 3 minute Japanese speech. Also they will have an opportunity to practice live Japanese with some of us from Japan. Three students responded positively depending on the event date. It will be either 5/6 or 5/13. Currently the club house coordinator is out of the country.

(For your information: University and Colleges in Vermont have a skit contest among the students of Japanese Language classes.)

3. Japanese Language Class for Children

Currently under advertisement it will start from 4/1 and will end 5/13, 7 classes. The ad. went out to the JASV website by a board member Masako Carter and Webmaster Steve Gorman.

4. Next Event (Spring Event)

Next JASV event will take place in early or mid May, called Spring Event. Cherry blossoms will start to open mid or late March in Japan depending on the location. But here we will have it around early or mid May. We will let you know the event date shortly. It will be 5/06 or 5/13.

Some of you may not know that JASV has been donating cherry trees for several years to the Veteran's Memorial Park in South Burlington before COVID pandemic. A total of 8 trees were planted near ice skate link building entrance over four years. Unfortunately 3 were dead. Cherry trees are hard to grow in Vermont. We still have 5 trees alive. It would be wonderful if we could have the next meeting near the trees. But it is very difficult to plan an outdoor event in advance since you never know whether it will be non-rainy day. We cannot predict the weather in advance. And therefore, we will have the next meeting also at the club house in South Burlington, the same place as the New Year Potluck Party. Following are pictures of us planting cherry trees in the past.



(2016)



(2017)



(2018)



(2019)

March 3rd is Girl's Day and May 5th is Boy's Day in Japan. Many traditional families who have girls and/or boys will celebrate those days by displaying their dolls. Toshi will display a total of 6 Girl's Day and Boy's Day doll examples plus music from his collection.



(This doll was given to Toshi when he was born. 3 feet tall.)

We will invite the Level-5 students of JASV's Japanese language class and listen to their speeches. This is the first time event we ever had. We are proud of those students and the class teacher Ms. Linda Sukop.

We will also have a **slide show** about Japan. Toshi will present a slide show about two places (Amanohashidate and Miyajima) where he visited out of where they call historically three most beautiful places in Japan (Amano Hashidate, Miyajima and Matsushima bay).



(<https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2250.html>)

We will also have **fun with music and song**. Please participate in it with your talent. The detailed agenda will be sent to you shortly..

Thank You!
JASV