

Chiisai Shinbun 2023-2Q

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 2023 (April, May and June) and a forecast of our activities in the near future.

We hope all of you are well!!! Time flies and the half of the year 2023 has past already. During the second quarter of this year we accomplished several interesting events to report.

1. Japanese Language Class for Adults

At the second week of April, 3 levels of Japanese classes (L-1; 4 students, L-2; 3 students, and L-5; 5 students) have completed the JASV's spring classes. We thank the teacher, Ms. Linda Sokop, very much for this wonderful work for the JASV. Also we at the JASV are very proud of the 5 students who completed the L-5, which is the highest class level the JASV ever offered.

2. Japanese Language Class for Children

At May 13th the Children Japanese Language Class has completed the JASV's spring class. 4 students enjoyed the class. We thank the teacher Ms. Maki Farnham and Ms. Masako Carter who coordinated the class.

3. Donation of an unusual Doll Set of Imperial Palace, Dolls and Ornaments for the Girl's Day Festival

This wonderful and unusual doll set of imperial palace, dolls and ornaments used for the Girl's Day Festival in Japan was donated to the JASV by the Burlington resident, Ms. Wendy Coe. Reportedly her grand parents lived in Japan in the 1930's for 10 years and they purchased them then. We displayed the doll set in the JASV's spring festival event described below. The Imperial Palace is a museum item, very rare to find nowadays.

4. Girl's Day and Boy's Day Event at the Club House

March 3rd is Girl's Day and May 5th is Boy's Day in Japan. At the party, we displayed some Girl's Day dolls and Boy's Day dolls.

Girl's Day:



Imperial Palace donated by Wendy Coe



Ichimatsu Doll

Many families who have girls will celebrate March 3rd displaying Girl's Day dolls. The most formal and expensive doll set is the one we received from Ms. Coe, but there are other more cost effective doll sets or even one doll called Ichimatsu dolls. The Imperial Palace Doll Set is a symbol of prosperity and peace. People will enjoy some traditional sweets made of sweetened rice flour and sweetened red beans on that day.

Boy's Day:



Right: Doll given to Toshi when he was borne.

Many families who have boys will celebrate May 5th displaying Boy's Day dolls. The dolls will have more varieties than girl's day dolls. Some show bravery and royalty. Some shows intelligence. Some show strength and courage, etc.

For Boy's Day around May 5th you will see another decorative display called "Koinobori" (Flying Carp) outside houses in Japan.



Edo Period (1600—1868) Nowadays (father, mother, first son
second son and daughter)
(Internet: History of Koinobori)

Carp is considered as a symbol of strength and courage which will go against the current. Historically people started to display one carp only during Edo Shogun period (1600—1868) but it was changed nowadays. They put all family members including even girls. And officially we don't call May 5th as boy's day. We call it "Children's Day", a national holiday formally. And we call "March 3rd" "Momono Sekku"(peach flower festival day) formally.

Thank You for the Delicious Food!!!

A total of 15 people participated and enjoyed the party with the food people brought. Of those there was some Sushi made by professional. Thank you very much!



Enjoying the food!!!

Japanese Speeches by L-5 Class Students

And 4 Level-5 students gave us a speech in Japanese. Indeed they are L-5 students!!! They speak Japanese very well!!!



Ethan



Jeff



Kira



Kyle

The JASV congratulated each student by a commendation and a piece of pottery donated by Toshi Saitoh.



Middle: Linda-sensei

Slide Presentation of two places out of the three most beautiful nature scenery places in Japan people call

Toshi Saitoh presented a slide show by using his visit to Amano-Hashidate and Iwajima (Itsukushima Shrine).

AmanoHashidate:

As you can see from the picture below, it is a natural bridge (not

man made bridge) and considered as one of the three most beautiful nature scenery places in Japan.



Natural Bridge



Road on the Bridge

There is a temple at the bottom of the hill where I took a picture of the bridge(left picture above), named Chionji and they displayed several pictures showing Heaven and Hell. Here is the Hell picture(Oni monster is handling human beings like an animals), which reminds me of Russian's invasion of Ukraine.



Chionji Temple gate



Hell Picture

Iwajima (Itsukushima Shrine)

From Osaka we take a bullet train to Hiroshima and then switch to a local train to Iwajima port and take a ferry to Iwajima and Itsukushim Shrine, which is also considered as one of the three most beautiful scenery places in Japan.



Gate in Water



Itsukushima Shrine Built on water by Heike leader Kiyomori Taira, late 12 century

5. Next Event

5-1. Participation in the Independence Day Parade in Montpellier (7/03) --- Canceled

We have participated in the Independence Day Parade in Montpellier for many years. Unfortunately we didn't have enough people this year who can participate in it and we canceled the participation. It is a good place to show people that the JASV is still alive even after COVID pandemic. The parade coordinator indicated to us that they will not remove us from their list and hoped that the JASV will come back next year. We thanked them.

5-2. Moon View Meeting Event

We usually have a moon view meeting in September. This year the full moon is Friday, Sep 29. So we will have the meeting on Saturday, Sep 30. Our experiences indicate that the meeting day isn't necessarily a beautiful day to look at the moon. So, at this event we usually will also enjoy other events.

At the Spring event Toshi made a presentation about two most beautiful places in Japan. At the next meeting he is happy to share his visits such as France and/or UK or even Kiev. In the past the former president of the JASV, Larry Solt, visited Italy and he gave a presentation

about his trip. I know that two of the JASV members visited Egypt recently. I am currently asking whether they can give us a slide show about Egypt, which will be a wonderful experience for all of us.

Also we would like to practice musical performances (singing, playing musical instruments or dancing) so that we can present them at the next Matsuri. Please practice anything you are interested in.

6. Membership Dues

As you know, the JASV keeps a fiscal year closing from July to Jun. We have received membership dues from a total of 16 people from Jul 2022 to Jun 2023. Thank you very much!!!

However we need to pay the rental of our self-storage \$1,680 per year(\$140 per month). Please help us with the dues if you are forgetting to pay this year yet.

Thank you! Be well!
JASV