

# Chiisai Shinbun 2024-4Q

This is a quarterly newsletter of the **Japan-America Society of Vermont** describing what we have accomplished during **the fourth quarter of the year of 2024** (October, November and December) and a forecast of our activities in the near future.

## 1. Used Family Book Donation

JASV received Children's book donation from Mr. Aki Soga who is Kimiko-san's husband. Kimiko-san was a well known talented person in Burlington. She used to be a Ikebana (Japanese style flower arrangement) teacher and a Taiko player. Unfortunately she passed away. Mr. Soga works for Free Press News Paper Company and ready to retire. Plus his children have grown up. Thank Mr. Soga! Toshi will bring those books to the New Year Potluck Party on Jan 25, 2025.



## 2. Consul General Takahashi-san's Apointment Reception

On Wednesday, November 13 Consulate General of Japan in Boston held Consul General Takahashi-san's Apointment Reception at his residence from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Toshi was invited and attended it as a representative of JASV. It took 5 hours to drive there due to rush hour and 4 hours to come home. Indeed it was a long drive!!!

Following are photos Toshi took at the party. Takahashi-san stated enthusiastically that he will reach out each state in New England and keep a good relation with us. It was a wonderful speech!!! There was a large attendance.



(Takahashi-san and Toshi)



(For your information! It was nice seeing Zoe-san who is working for the Consulate General of Japan in Boston. She used to be a board member of JASV for many years!)

### 3. Wonderful News

Japanese Language teacher **Suzuki-sensei of the University of Vermont** received a **prestigious national teacher award** by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (**AATJ**). This award ceremony luncheon was held in Philadelphia during the annual conference by **ACTFL** (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages). We hear this is the highest award in her field. Please congratulate her!!! Her e-mail address is **kazuko.suzuki@uvm.edu**. For more information,

Suzuki-sensei is an Associate Board Member of Japan America Society of Vermont We are very proud of her!!! She and Toshi have been working together over 10 years. She has been making big efforts not only to teach Japanese language but also Japanese culture to her students. She sent us a large number of her students to our Matsuri particularly at the time when we used to host Matsuri at Saint Micheal's College where we used to have larger number of audiences. She used to send us about 50 volunteers to every Matsuri. It isn't exaggeration to say we couldn't run Matsuri without her particularly when we had Matsuri at Saint Michael's College. She also invited Toshi to UVM for Ikebana workshop time to time.





We will congratulate her award and thank her for her contribution to the JASV at the New year Party planned for Jan 25, 2025.

#### 4. Japanese Constitution Article 9

JASV isn't a political organization, but everyone in the JASV had better know this. In fact Toshi learned this when he took a class of Japanese Constitution when he was an university student.

**Ms Solveig Overby** would like to talk about her father who dedicated his life for peace, particularly related to Japanese Constitution Article 9. She has many Japanese books owned and read by her father and now she would like to donate them to us. She will make a presentation about her father at the New Year Potluck Party scheduled on Jan 25, 2025 and she will bring the books with her.



## 5. JASV Website

Unfortunately we lost our website and currently our webmaster is working hard for its recovery. Main directories have been recovered, but more to go. Thank you very much, Steve Gorman!!!

## 6. Japanese Language Class

Although the JASV stopped offering the Japanese language classes as a JASV's business as we informed at the previous Chiisai Shinbun News Letter (the classes are totally running as the teacher's business), we are still helping for advertisement though our website.

We heard from the teacher Lind Sukop that she had two students in Level-1 class and two students in Level-2 class for the fall semester.

## 7. Next Event

We will have the first event of the year of 2025, Shinnen-Kai (New Year Potluck Party), at the usual Clubhouse in Ridgewood, South Burlington on Saturday, Jan 25 from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm with the following schedule. Please join us and enjoy it!!!

**Location:** (Google Map: 0 Concord Green, South Burlington, VT 05403)  
Clubhouse: left side of the road.

### [Event Schedule]

**3:00 pm -- 3:30 pm** : Japanese songs sung by non-Japanese

- Betsy & Chris : American
- Rosanna: Italian
- Daniele : French
- Nataliya : Ukrainian

**3:30 pm -- 4:30 pm** : Ms Solveig Overby will talk about her father who dedicated his life for peace, particularly related Japanese Constitution Article 9. She has many Japanese books read by her father and now she would like to donate them to us.

**4:30 pm -- 5:30 pm**: Enjoy the food the people brought and improve communication between us.

**5:30 pm -- 6:30 pm**: JASV Commendation Delivery

- **Kazuko Suzuki-sensei**: Congratulate her AATJ Teacher Award and Contribution to the JASV

- **Steve Gorman** : JASV Website was broken. As the webmaster. Steve

worked very hard and main subjects were recovered. We still need more work.

- **Brigitte Gagnon**: She performed Kamishibai at Matsuri, but the display TV stopped working. Her presentation was spoiled. She will try again today!

**6:30 pm -- 7:00 pm** : Kamishibai presentation by Brigitte Gagnon.  
(Momotaro)

**7:00 pm -- 8:00 pm** : **Continuation of 3:30 pm**: Nataliya : Ukrainian + Toshi's presentation--Photos of Ukraine and Belarus plus Video taken by Toshi's visit before the war. (**Hopefully the war will end next year!!!**)

JASV