



Calgary Japanese  
Community Association

**August 2021**  
*Volume 26, issue 4*

**SPECIAL ISSUE**

# **A Taste of Omatsuri**



## Mission Statement

"By honouring and celebrating our ancestry, The Calgary Japanese Community Association will be a vibrant and inclusive organization that encourages and promotes our Japanese heritage, culture and legacy within the Nikkei Community and with all Canadians."

## Calgary Japanese Community Association

### 2020-21 Board of Directors

#### President

Roger Teshima

#### Vice-President

Maureen Coleman

#### Treasurer

Katy Takaoka

#### Secretary

Susan Matsumoto

#### Directors:

Tomo Honda

Ben Lim

Ken Richardson

Harvey Tanaka

**Big shoutout to  
Doug Hironaka  
who designed  
the Omatsuri  
poster and logo,  
  
Thank you,  
Doug!**

## Calgary Nikkei Cultural & Seniors Centre

2236-29th Street SW

Calgary, Alberta T3E 2K2

403.242.4143 , cjcmain@shaw.ca

**The centre is currently closed.**

**[www.calgaryjca.com](http://www.calgaryjca.com)**

### Newsletter Team

CJCANewsletter@gmail.com

Co-editors: Mary Fujiwara Burke

Kristin Midori Muraki

Contributors: Ken Richardson, Roger Teshima,

Maureen Coleman

# 2021 Annual General Meeting

## Sunday, September 12 at 1 pm

In past years, we would have held a spring AGM but given the restrictions of COVID on our community, your Board decided in February to postpone the meeting until September. Additional information will be distributed to 2021 CJCA members in the coming months. In the meantime, think about someone in the community, including yourself, who would be willing to run for a Board position. Contact the Nomination Committee for further details.

### Significant dates:

**August 13:** Nominations for Directors to be submitted to the Nomination Committee

**August 13:** Motions submitted to the Executive

**August 29:** Through a CJCA News bulletin, members will be provided with a copy of the agenda, the financial report, any motions accepted for the agenda, and a list of candidates for election.

**September 1:** Registration link will be provided to current 2021 CJCA members

Nomination Committee:

Roger Teshima, Maureen Coleman

## Write With Us!

We're looking for volunteers to contribute content for the newsletter. Do you have a passion that you'd like to share with our readers? Do you love to talk to community members and learn their stories? Research local history or current events? How about exploring a new restaurant or shop? We'd love to hear from you! Email [cjcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:cjcanewsletter@gmail.com) with your ideas!



Thank you to all the behind the scenes volunteers:

Article contributors, proof-readers, printer, illustrators & photographers.



## President's Message by Roger Teshima

### COVID Stage 3

As I write my message a few days after Alberta has reached Stage 3, many Albertans are celebrating the lifting of restrictions but the virus is still with us. The increasing number of cases of infections with the Delta and Lambda variants is cause for concern. Those in the higher risk group still need to take precautions. Just because the province has removed restrictions, this doesn't mean that CJCA has no restrictions. Your Board will continue to meet during the summer to assess the situation and cautiously move toward select groups using the Nikkei Centre. This is Teshima analysis of the COVID situation. Imagine that it is pouring and you decide that you want to go out in the rain. You put on your rain gear, coat, pants and boots, and even put up an umbrella. You will still get wet but the impact of the rain will be minimized. Having all the protective gear will keep you dryer but it doesn't make the rain disappear.

### CJCA presents A Taste of Omatsuri

This Newsletter contains lots of information about the August 14th event so there's no need for me to describe what's in store for you. What I must do is to thank the incredible team of organizers who have worked so hard since February to bring the events to you. Because we are going online, we are expecting people from other parts of Canada to be part of the experience. Fortunately, we have added some key volunteers who have the technical knowledge and social media experiences to take Omatsuri to the next level. There will be a number of online events leading up to the Saturday event. There will also be a Silent Auction and we are expecting you to place your bids on items that you want and in turn, this will help in our fundraising.

We are grateful to the many sponsors and donors who have given their support to CJCA for this event.

We know you will join us on August 14 to show your support for CJCA.

### AGM: Sunday, September 12 starting at 1 pm

We are prepared to hold an online meeting but one of the main reasons we postponed our usual spring AGM was that we were hoping that by September the COVID situation would have much improved so that we could gather at the Centre. We will wait and see what happens after the lifting of restrictions in July.

I will keep our members informed through the distribution of the CJCA News eBulletins.

If you have been thinking about joining us on the Board, the call for nomination papers will go out later this summer. If you want to find out more information, please contact Maureen Coleman or myself (Nomination Committee).

### JCSHWF

**Nikkei Survivors:** People of Japanese descent who were impacted by the BC government's policies and actions (1942 – April 1, 1949) that resulted in the forced removal of Japanese Canadians from their homes.

We have gathered names of Nikkei Survivors that belong to CJCA / Kotobuki but are struggling to connect with those in our community that are not part of our organization. If you might know of anyone who qualifies or a family caregiver of a survivor, please contact them or provide me with their contact information.

Send me an email at: [NikkeiSeniors@shaw.ca](mailto:NikkeiSeniors@shaw.ca)





**Saturday, August 14th at 1:00 pm MT**

You won't want to miss this year's *Taste of Omatsuri* which will be a 90-minute online presentation celebrating the Japanese culture and showcasing the annual event which is typically held in-person. The link to the event will be "live" on the Omatsuri website (<https://calgaryjapanesefestival.com/>). There will be demonstrations of traditional dance, martial arts, music and so much more!

A *Taste of Omatsuri* is more than just a date to watch an online video. To build anticipation, excitement and encourage participation, the Omatsuri committee welcomes everyone to take part in the **Photo Contest**; plan to take advantage and watch the informative **Daily Special Features**; and place bids on amazing **Silent Auction** items being offered to support this event. There are also plans to offer a children's activity/coloring book which will be available from the website for our younger audience members.

### Daily Special Features

Beginning on Sunday, August 8th and every day leading up to a *Taste of Omatsuri*, there will be **Daily Special Features** which will be posted on our website. There will be unique cultural and informational videos on topics such as kimono dressing, ukiyo-e (woodblock printing), kimono dyeing, taiko drumming, sponsor and vendor demonstrations, and much, much more. Watch for more details and information regarding these **Daily Specials** on the Omatsuri website!

### Silent Auction

Also beginning on Sunday, August 8th, is the *Taste of Omatsuri* **Silent Auction** which will be posted on the Omatsuri Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/CalgaryJapaneseFestival>. An "Album" will be created and the bidding rules and guidelines will be posted. Bidding starts on Aug 8th and auction closes on August 14th at 5:00 pm. A separate article can be found in this newsletter for a sampling of the great articles up for grabs!



### Photo Contest

Visit any of our wonderful **Sponsors, Donors, and Vendors**, take a photo of yourself alongside their signage to show you're at their establishment, for a chance to win a Nintendo SWITCH! A separate article can be found in this newsletter for more details.





## Program Outline

The CJCA was very fortunate that performers and martial arts groups were excited to be involved in a **Taste of Omatsuri** as a virtual sampling of the annual festival. We are so grateful for their support!

A **Taste of Omatsuri** would not be complete without the captivating Japanese dance groups such as our own **Kaede no Kai** and the **Minyo Dancers** sponsored by the Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area. These groups have graciously been loyal performers at the annual Omatsuri event since its inception.



You also won't want to miss the heart-pounding beat of the taiko drumming sounds of **Yama no Oto** and **HIBIKIYA** from Lethbridge; the riveting martial art demonstrations by **Ka Muso Kai**, **Calgary Aikikai Aikido Club**, and **Calgary Seiyu Karate**; the energetic **Yosakoi Soran**; the mesmerizing performance by **Sari of Oriental Motion**; music by **Poco a Poco** and **Ina Harris**; and listen to a talk about sake!

There will also be special greetings, clips from past events, and more.

**Note: Program is subject to change.**

Let's share the success of past Calgary Japanese Festival Omatsuris by supporting and engaging in this year's virtual event. Mark your calendars and be captivated by a **Taste of Omatsuri**!

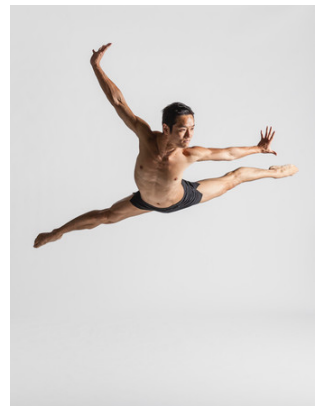
**To view on Saturday, August 14th at 1pm mountain time, go to the Omatsuri website:**

**(<https://calgaryjapanesefestival.com/>).**



Traditionally, every region of Japan has its own Bon-odori. In that spirit, **Yukichi Hattori** created a "**Calgary Odori**" for everyone to learn and dance together. It is simple, joyful and full of Calgary specific references. A **Taste of Omatsuri** will include an instructional portion which teaches you the dance step by step. Fun for the whole family to get together and dance around!

The **Feature Presentation** is a dynamic performance choreographed specifically for a **Taste of Omatsuri** by **Yukichi Hattori**. The dance is based on "**Kimetsu no Yaiba**" (*Demon Slayer*) and the dance incorporates **Midnight Taiko** musicians and dancers from the **H/W School of Ballet**. They called the dance "**Kokyuu no Ma**" (space between breaths) which is a beautiful dance representing their energy and motivation to burst out once the world is ready to fully open up. Based on today's situation, a brilliant and appropriate theme that you're sure to enjoy.



# *A Taste of Omatsuri*

## Feature Performance

*A Taste of Omatsuri* will feature a collaborative performance by **Mr. Yukichi Hattori** and **Midnight Taiko Kai** which has been specially choreographed for our virtual event. **Yukichi Hattori** is a renowned Japanese-Canadian ballet dancer, dance teacher and choreographer who is a former principal dancer with the Alberta Ballet Company. **Midnight Taiko Kai** is a talented community group of performance-based Taiko drummers based in Calgary who love to spread the art of Japanese drumming.

This will be an incredible performance that local, national and international audiences will want to see!

### Ways to Support *A Taste of Omatsuri*

#### 1. Event Sponsorship

#### 2. Be a Vendor

**3. Donations-in-Kind:** For the Silent Auction, new products or items, or services are welcome. This is another way to be involved or to promote a business!

**4. Donations:** We gratefully accept monetary donations.

**5. In Memory Donations:** As a way to remember and recognize someone special, consider making an "In Memory" donation.

- E-transfer, please send to: [CJCAaccount@shaw.ca](mailto:CJCAaccount@shaw.ca)  
Include the text "**CJCAF21**" as the reason for the e-transfer
- By cheque, made out to CJCA and mail to:  
CJCA, 2236-29th Street SW, Calgary, AB T3E 2K2  
Include the text "**CJCAF21**" as the reason for the cheque

*NOTE: The Calgary Japanese Community Association (CJCA) is a Non-Profit Organization.*

Event Sponsorship or Vendor inquiries, contact [vendors@calgaryjapanesefestival.com](mailto:vendors@calgaryjapanesefestival.com)

Donation inquiries, contact: [cjca.omatsuri@shaw.ca](mailto:cjca.omatsuri@shaw.ca)

**Thank you for your kind consideration and generous support!**





## You Don't Want to Miss This!

Thanks to Omatsuri committee member, **Yasuhiro Washiyama**, the talented **Yukichi Hattori** agreed to be a part of a *Taste of Omatsuri*. As a former principal dancer with Alberta Ballet, the committee could not believe how lucky we were to have Hattori involved! He connected with **Midnight Taiko Kai** in order to collaborate and choreograph the Feature Performance for our online event. As an added bonus, Hattori suggested having students from his **H/W School of Ballet in Calgary** participate plus include a Bon-odori segment to our online program as well which we readily agreed to – things just kept getting better and better!

We are extremely fortunate to have Yukichi Hattori, students from his school, and **Midnight Taiko Kai** play a big role in a *Taste of Omatsuri*. We deeply appreciate all the time and effort they put into their performance, and look forward to their continued participation in the Calgary Japanese Festival Omatsuri.

When asked for a brief description of the Bon-odori and the collaboration with Midnight Taiko Kai, Hattori provided the following:

First of all, I would like to thank CJA for this opportunity and Midnight Taiko for a beautiful collaboration.

Traditionally, summer festivals (*Natsu-matsuri*) have been the festival to pray for spirits of the ancestors and to protect us from misfortune. The *Bon-odori* is an event for the whole village to get together to sing and dance. We dance for the ancestors and pray for their peaceful slumber. We believed that the spirits come back to earth during the summer, so it was a way for us to reflect the past and pass it on to younger generations.

Traditionally, every region of Japan has its own *Bon-odori*. In that spirit, I have created a "*Calgary Odori*" for us to learn and dance together. It is simple, joyful and full of Calgary specific references. We have created an instructional video where we teach you the dance step by step. Our hope is for the whole family to get together and dance around.

We have also created a special dance video for a *Taste of Omatsuri*. CJA and I discussed what kind of dance would be the most appropriate for this event and decided to incorporate one of Japan's most recognized culture, Anime. We based the dance on "*Kimetsu no Yaiba*" (*Demon Slayer*) and the dance incorporates Midnight Taiko musicians and dancers from H/W School of Ballet. We call the dance "*Kokyuu no Ma*" (space between breaths). The piece revolves around discipline, self-reflection and strength. Utilizing the core theme of the source material, we have created a beautiful dance representing our energy and motivation to burst out once the world is ready to fully open up.

We hope you enjoy our little contribution. We dedicate this to all the ancestors and families we have lost. I am sure they will be dancing with us on the day of the event.

Yukichi Hattori (July 9/21)

## DANCE PROGRAMS

With Artistic Director Yukichi Hattori

**H/W**  
SCHOOL of BALLET

Quality Instruction • Small Class Sizes

403.474.0818

INFO@HWBALLE.COM

WWW.HWBALLE.COM

CURRIE BARRACKS



**MIDNIGHT**  
TAIKO KAI





## Silent Auction

A wide variety of fabulous items and experiences will be up for grabs in the *Taste of Omatsuri* Silent Auction. On Sunday, August 8 by 5pm, the *Taste of Omatsuri* Silent Auction will be posted on the Omatsuri Facebook site [www.facebook.com/CalgaryJapaneseFestival](http://www.facebook.com/CalgaryJapaneseFestival).

An "Album" will be created and the Silent Auction rules will be posted in the album for your convenience. The auction will remain open for bidding from August 8 at 5pm until it closes on Saturday, August 14 at 5 pm.



**Fukucho Legacy ZERO** - a special sake donated by **Sake Gami** with a market value of almost \$400! Only 680 bottles produced and 18 bottles in Alberta. Each bottle has been signed by the ONE & ONLY (Legendary "TOJI" brewery master) Miho Imada.

Why is it so special?? In the words of the maker: "*Fukucho Legacy represents a new awakening of our history. In 1990, previous generation Master Brewer Yasuhiro Kiyotaka and his team carefully drip-pressed a batch of Yamada-Nishiki Daiginjo.*

*Over 29 years later, we added this treasure back into a live fermenting mash to create Fukucho's first ever Kijoshu. The result is a sake that blends our inheritance of techniques from past Hiroshima Master Brewers in a tribute to their towering legacy."*



### Nintendo SWITCH - MSRP of \$399

Get the gaming system that lets you play the games you want, wherever you are, however you like.

Includes the Nintendo Switch console and Nintendo Switch dock in black, with contrasting left and right Joy-Con controllers—one red, one blue. Games sold separately.

MORE THAN ONE AVAILABLE!



### Stunning original painting by Yoko Galvin

A visual artist, her unique perspective on life, love, and relationships results in some of the most captivating and inspiring pieces of musical and visual works.

### Shogun Kokeshi Bento box & Kabuki Furoshiki

donated by nanao kimono

Bento box: 850ml

Furoshiki: 50cm x 50cm

Value: \$64.99



## Important points:

- Remember to read over the Rules for *A Taste of Omatsuri* Auction prior to participating to ensure you understand how the Silent Auction works..
- At a minimum, each item included in the auction will have a description, approximate value (if known), starting bid, and bidding increments.
- If you bid on something and win, you will need to make arrangements for pickup. Delivery is not included.
- You bid, you buy! Kindly do not bid if you are not serious.
- C/JCA Omatsuri reserves the right to remove or block any Facebook user for inappropriate or misleading posts.



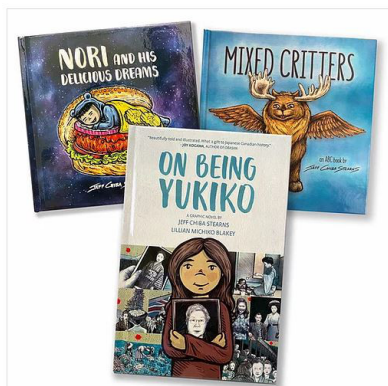


**Two separate original ukiyo-e pieces** donated by **Helena Hadala**. Both are framed.

*Untitled* (left) - 10.5" x 9";  
*Stepping Stones* (right) - 12.5" x 16.5"

**Meditating Bunny/Jeff Chiba**

**Stearns** is generously donating a set of autographed books – Value: \$44.99



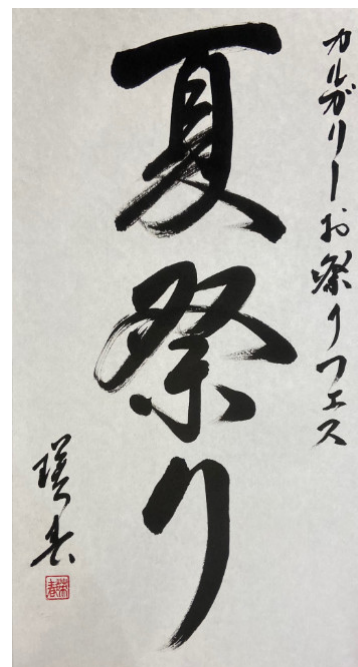
**Shizu-kokoro / Quiet Mind** donated by **Sho Artworks (Mami Humphries)**

Framed size 13" x 17".



**Natsu-Matsuri / Summer Festival Calligraphy** donated by **Sho Artworks (Mami Humphries)**

Framed size 20.5" x 28"



**Two separate gift certificates,** donated by **Soma Hamman & Spa** – Value \$120 and \$90



**Beautiful, contemporary Japanese Tea Set** purchased from **Nakagama's** in Lethbridge – Value: \$44.95



**Glass cat dish with matching lid** purchased from **Nakagama's** – Value: \$16.95

**Dates: August 8 at 5pm to Saturday, August 14 at 5 pm.**

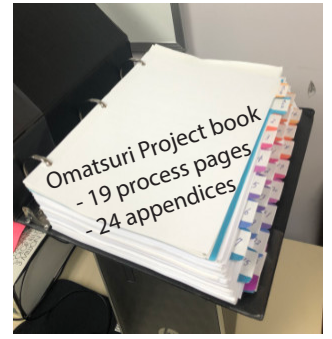
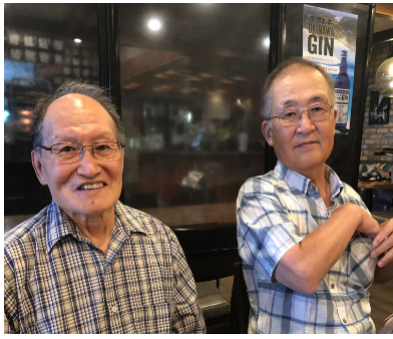
**Omatsuri Facebook site [www.facebook.com/CalgaryJapaneseFestival](http://www.facebook.com/CalgaryJapaneseFestival)**

To pique your interest and encourage participation, this is **just a sampling** of what will be in the Silent Auction. More items such as gift certificates and merchandise will be included in the auction, so be sure to check-out the Facebook Album on August 8 for the complete and incredible variety that awaits your bids!





## Evolution - In the beginning...



Rocky & Ted

This year, we celebrate the 10th Omatsuri (having missed 2020 due to the pandemic), and for the first time ever, we are going virtual! But how did Calgary's Japanese culture festival come to be, and how did we get here? Let's take a look.

Matsuri is a celebration of Japanese customs, traditional music, dance and singing – and of course, food. The word Matsuri means “festival”, and it describes a traditional community celebration giving thanks for a rich harvest, good health, community harmony and respect for elders. Such festivals are held throughout Japan – small centres and large cities have their own festivals, and some include special activities, unique to their own areas.

Half a world away, inspired by the Japanese festivals, Rocky Oishi had a wish: he wanted to share the spirit and beauty of the Japanese culture with Calgarians. Although he had not attended a festival in Japan, he could envision Calgarians embracing a

Matsuri event. And he knew he needed help to pull it off.

Ted Wada and his wife Grace had been working and raising a family in Calgary for about 25 years at that time. After retiring as a project manager, Ted joined the CJCA, particularly enjoying the activities and friendship to be found in Kotobuki-kai. Having been born in Japan, he had attended smaller festivals in villages around his hometown, and could share Rocky's vision for Omatsuri – it was a perfect match!

Their main goal was to bring the Japanese community of Calgary together by collaborating to bring the festival to Calgarians. That first year, 2011, they worked with the Calgary Buddhist Temple to launch the inaugural event at the site of the old Calgary General Hospital. They engaged various vendors, dance groups and others to consider setting up some food stalls. (For several years all the food was prepared by volunteers for weeks in advance of the festival!) And they ordered *chochin*







(Japanese paper lanterns) to provide a festive atmosphere.

Connecting so many different groups for this endeavour was a hurdle – many did not know about Matsuri festivals, let alone have an idea about how to put one together. Ted set about pitching the idea to one group after another, convincing the CJCA board to provide some seed money. Despite all the skepticism and challenges, they developed a plan, booked a site, and found volunteers to help them with their vision.

Ted remembers thinking if they could get even 500 people to attend, he and Rocky would consider the event a success. Imagine their surprise when it was estimated that over 1000 people attended that first festival!

From then on, Omatsuri became a CJCA sponsored event with many groups working together to build on the first successful year.

In the third year (2013), Ted had an omikoshi commissioned from a local builder, (Tomo Nakahara). Omikoshi are central to Matsuri festivals. They are miniature shrines which are carried by a lively group in hapi coats, chanting and raising the shrine as they parade around the festival site. The torii (gate), commissioned in 2014, remains one of the most popular photo ops at the festival.

In 2014, the festival moved to the Bowness community. The committee set up all the tents and had the grounds ready the night before the festival, but that night there was a severe storm. When they arrived back at the site the next morning, all the tents had collapsed and the ground was saturated. It was a race against the clock to set up the alternate kiosks inside the community centre. Amazingly, by the 9:30 am opening, there was a line up to get in. Attendance that year was also boosted by Mayor Nenshi

tweeting “that Omatsuri was a festival that shouldn’t be missed.”

April of 2016 was a critical time, when the Bowness community announced they would be doing major renovations in the summer, and so could not continue the contract with the Omatsuri committee. It was calamitous news, but no match for Ted’s planning skills. This is how the Omatsuri came to be held at the Max Bell Arena from years six through nine. Rocky remembers his shock when Ted told him they were moving to Max Bell. He wondered how they would ever fill that site? Even still, Rocky is in awe when he is on the grounds, of how his idea has grown in such proportions! He attributes Omatsuri’s progression to Ted’s genius and capabilities.

Rocky and Ted are both very humble in how they speak of their part in Omatsuri. Both point out how they have always had solid support from their partners, Jean and Grace (respectively). Not only have Jean and Grace always been there to support and encourage them, they have also been instrumental in planning and helping to set up the food stalls.

There are innumerable volunteers that make this event happen. Many families forego, or plan their vacations around this event. Ted and Rocky are grateful for all the volunteers, the support of the community, and the trust instilled in them to make their dream a reality.

As we approach this Omatsuri, we, the community are grateful that these two men got together and took a chance. We share many happy memories from years past, and through this festival we are proud to display our Japanese food, customs, and heritage.





## Photo Contest

Join us for our Photo Contest! All you need to do is visit any of the Omatsuri Sponsors, Donors, or Vendors, take a photo of yourself alongside their signage to show you're at their place of business, follow us @yycomatsuri, and post the picture on your instagram with hashtag #yycomatsuriphoto.

A random winner will be drawn every evening at 7pm from August 8-13 for some amazing prizes with the grand prize draw of a Nintendo SWITCH (valued at \$399) taking place on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.



For the most up-to-date list of all the businesses and organizations that are supporting a *Taste of Omatsuri*, please visit our website <https://calgaryjapanesefestival.com/>.

Enter as many times as you like but only once per person per place of business – the more places you visit, the more times you can enter! Winners will be notified via Instagram and have 24 hours to respond. If no response after 24 hours, another winner will be drawn. Arrangement for prize pick up must be done by August 21<sup>st</sup>; delivery not included.



**Taste Of Omatsuri 2021**

# Photo Contest

**TAKE A PICTURE**  
Show us you visited one of our Sponsors/Donors/Vendors

**TAG IT**  
Follow @yycomatsuri and use #yycomatsuriphoto to participate in the contest

**SHARE IT TO WIN**  
Post your photos on social, chance to WIN NINTENDO SWITCH

**Contest Ends on Aug 13**  
Participating vendor information and rules, please visit <https://calgaryjapanesefestival.com/>

**Grand Prize Nintendo Switch**

**Taste of Omatsuri**  
Sat Aug 14, 2021 1:00 to 2:30pm MDT

A virtual sampling of the annual Omatsuri Festival which will showcase the rich Japanese heritage, food, and traditions including amazing performers and vendors.

Silent Auction and Special Daily Events  
Online Market & Entertainment

[calgaryjapanesefestival.com](http://calgaryjapanesefestival.com)

Calgary Japanese Community Association



**Taste of Omatsuri**



**@yycomatsuri**

[calgaryjapanesefestival.com](http://calgaryjapanesefestival.com)





## Thank You for Your Support

The 2021 online **Taste of Omatsuri** is proudly being supported by businesses and the community in order to sustain the festival for years and generations to come. CJCA is grateful and appreciative for the generous backing from a wide variety of supporters. The following lists are as of July 20th and subject to change, so for the most up-to-date listing of all the terrific supporters, please visit our website at <https://calgaryjapanesefestival.com/>.

### SPONSORS:

APOGEE Petroleum (Rick Kunimoto)  
 Alberta E-File (Katy Takaoka)  
 Banff Park Lodge  
 H/W School of Ballet  
 IPC Securities (Harry Sakaguchi)  
 Jencor Mortgage (Miwa Weninger)  
 Kaede Cultural Society of Calgary  
 Kinjo Sushi and Grill  
 Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden  
 Midnight Taiko Kai  
 Sake Gami (Yasuhiro Washiyama)  
 Sugimoto & Company (Thomas S. Sugimoto)  
 Royal LePage (Gene Yamada & Stacie Mori)

### CULTURAL and COMMUNITY:

Calgary Buddhist Temple  
 Calgary Japanese Gospel  
 Chi Chi Kimono - Kimono Dressing  
 Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary  
 Crossover Japanese Church of Calgary  
 Gracepoint Fellowship  
 Hadala, Helena - Ukiyo-e (wood block prints)  
 Morton, Bill - Kimono Dyeing  
 Otafest  
 Sho Artworks - Calligraphy  
 Sogetsu Ikebana Studio

### DONORS:

Anonymous  
 Calgary Kotobuki Society  
 Nakagama's (Lethbridge)  
 Wever, John and Carole

### SILENT AUCTION & PRODUCT DONORS:

We are fortunate that many of our sponsors, cultural and community groups, and vendors have also donated items to help us fundraise for this event. Along with them, we have also received fantastic donations from:

AKB PoP  
 Amandine Bakery  
 Calgary Japanese Language School  
 La Petite Fraise  
 nanao kimono  
 Oguraya Bakery  
 Soma Hammam & Spa  
 Strawberry Boots  
 True World Foods  
 Yoko Galvin

Of course, no *Omatsuri* festival would be complete without wonderful and professional vendors! Our marketplace features businesses that are offering their services and showcasing unique and fabulous Japanese related merchandise (food, handcrafts, gift items, clothing, etc.). You'll find the vendors on our website so please support and patronize these businesses and thank them for being part of a *Taste of Omatsuri*!

### VENDORS:

Art Cards by Valerie  
 Charlesglen Toyota (Amane Kanai)  
 Cosplay Skilltree (Street Characters Inc)  
 Knifewear  
 Matsu Kaze Tea  
 Mission Wine and Liquor  
 Nakagama's Japanese Foods and Giftware



Remember that for the most up-to-date list of all the businesses, organizations and individuals that are supporting a Taste of Omatsuri, visit our website <https://calgaryjapanesefestival.com/>

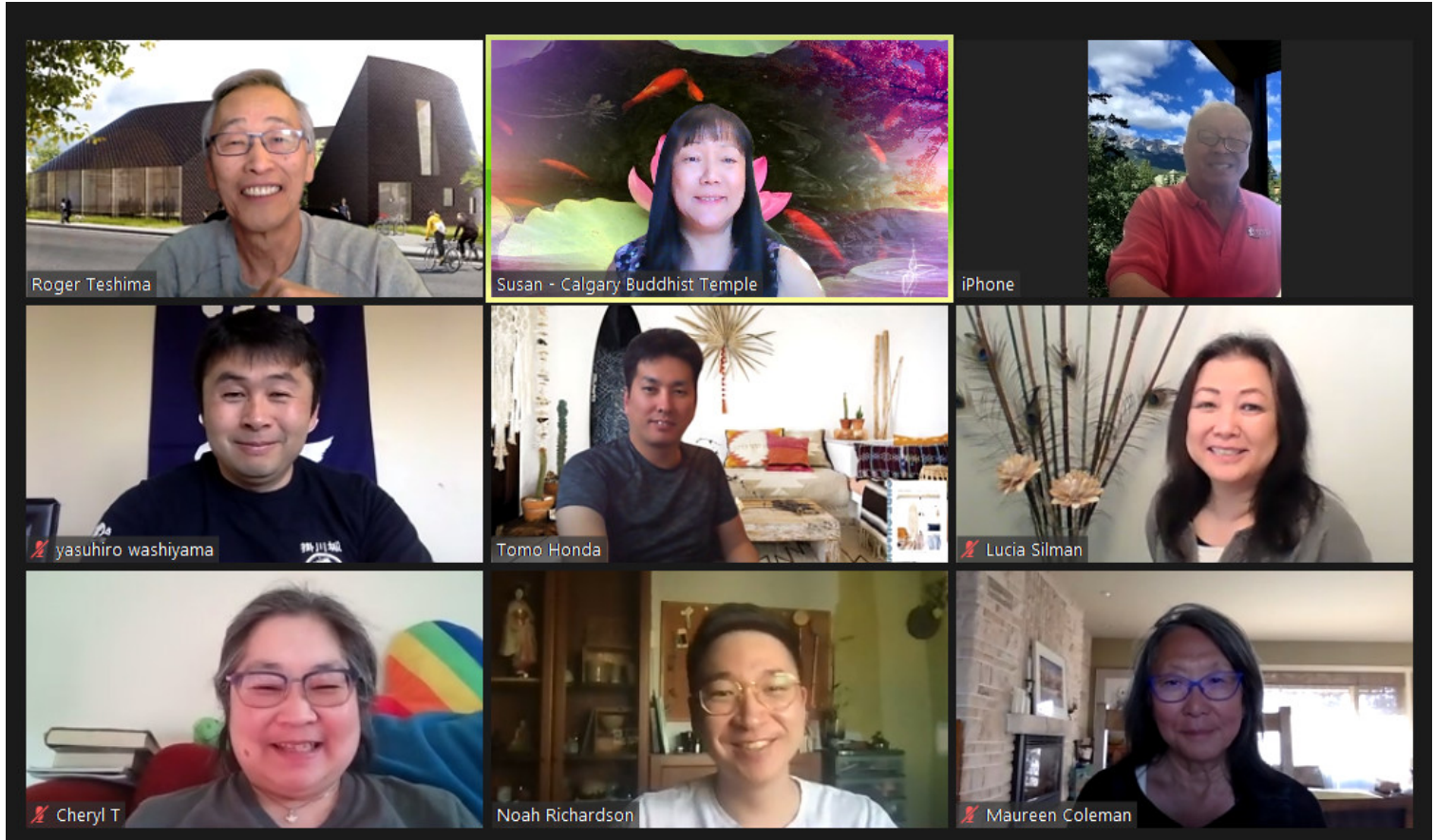


## Organizing Committee

An Omatsuri Committee came together to plan and organize a new look for this year's festival by offering an online version. With the intent that a *Taste of Omatsuri* would be a virtual sampling of the annual festival which highlights the Japanese culture, customs and traditions, the committee have worked diligently to keep the awareness of the festival alive until we are able to meet together again for the in-person experience.

These are the dedicated volunteers who made up the 2021 online *Taste of Omatsuri* Organizing Committee.

Thanks to their enthusiasm and tremendous efforts, a *Taste of Omatsuri* will be realized!



**Roger Teshima  
Yasuhiro Washiyama  
Cheryl Takaoka**

**Susan Huntley  
Tomo Honda  
Noah Richardson**

**Gene Yamada  
Lucia Silman  
Maureen Coleman**

**Missing: Carolyn Terakita**





## Memories of Past Omatsuris







## Legacy Project Update

by Roger Teshima

With the June 21 publication of the Calgary Herald's article *Japanese Community Association plans grand new home*, the whole of Calgary and regions beyond have become aware of our Legacy Project. The same day the story was published, a reader from Toronto sent me a congratulatory email for our community. A series of articles have been running in our Newsletters so that you could keep up with the current status of the project. Unfortunately, the COVID restrictions have not allowed in-person information meetings that we would have wanted so we used a virtual Town Hall and CJCA News to keep you informed.

We knew that there would be quite a number of very interested people in the project. Although we appreciated all those who were able to participate in the Town Hall, we were missing some key people from the audience. As the project moves forward, it is critical that we receive timely responses and comments as once decisions are made, we can't keep cycling back to previous stages.

Beginning in 2018, talks were once again revived about the Centre and four-plex. In early 2019, a call went out to ask for people to serve on a Feasibility Study Committee. This group headed by Dr. Henry Tsang, came forward with details about the state of both properties. The predicted cost figures skyrocketed for the upgrading and modernizing of our Centre to bring things up to code and to address

major structural problems such as roof repairs and substantial work in the basement to solve water leakage problems. As many of you know, water seepage in the basement has been an annual spring ritual for years and years, and our response has been to send out alerts when this happened to gather people to soak up the water with wet vacuums and mops. Every time it rains, Maureen Coleman and I text each other with our concerns about water leaks. This past year, we needed costly wall repairs, as we had to deal with a mould situation. We were soon reaching a point in which the ballooning costs wouldn't make sense anymore and even if the six-figure costs were spent, the result would have been an aging building that would have a very limited life span.

At the same time, CJCA has been faced with an ever-shrinking membership as those time-honoured events and activities with all its traditions were no longer attractive to the newer generations of Japanese Canadians. If things were left as they have been for the past twenty years, we felt that CJCA would cease to exist in a decade or so. Maureen and I believe that CJCA has had an incredible history in Calgary and it was our wish to preserve the best of what we have had and also move forward into the future. We labelled the project The Legacy Project because we felt that to honour the parents and grandparents who built the community, that CJCA should continue to exist. The seventy-year-old building was not going to attract a much-needed infusion of new blood. The proposed Nikkei complex





will not only be an iconic building within Killarney but an outstanding building for Calgary. Visitors will just come to see the building. Whether they come as participants or not is a question of what we have to offer.

We are very aware of the costs involved in real estate today. My parents' old home in Calgary was recently sold again for a price about 35 times the amount they paid as a new home. We are working tremendously hard, with many members of the team directly involved to minimize the financial impact on future generations of CJCA members. The mortgage we will need to finance this project will be substantial but the value will be minimized through grants and generous donations to our Building Fund.

This will be your building. We may not be here to enjoy the fruits of our labour for a long time, but it is our hope that our children and grandchildren will have a facility that they will want to connect with in the coming years. I know they may not be showing the interest now but I think that will change. I had a conversation with my son recently who said that he has had a minimal interest in the functions at the Centre but that he would travel back from Toronto to show his young sons the building and the community that was so important to their great-grandparents. The interest will grow. This may sound

like a far-fetched notion but it is something in which I believe. If I didn't, I wouldn't have spent the last five years with the Board.

Our plans have yet to be finalized or even formed but we will get you involved in the project in one way or another so that you can really feel that it is a part of you and that you will be leaving the legacy of the association for future generations. The Legacy Project is not merely a building plan but a hope that it will sustain CJCA well into the future.

***"CJCA has had an incredible history in Calgary and it was our wish to preserve the best of what we have had and also move forward into the future. . .***

***The proposed Nikkei complex will not only be an iconic building within Killarney but an outstanding building for Calgary. "***

# Japanese Myth

## Yurie: the Ghosts that Haunt Japan, part 2

### The Tale of Okiku

by Calvin Jim

It's August and that means it is Obon: the time when the walls between the real world and the spirit world over there are thinnest. Time to tell a ghost story.

Okiku was a beautiful young maid in service of a samurai named Aoyama. Aoyama loved Okiku and tried seducing her. When she refused, Aoyama hid one of ten fine and valuable plates (where these plates originated from is a matter of conjecture - they were said to have come from as far away as Holland). Aoyama threatened to blame Okiku for the loss of the plate if she didn't become his mistress. Again, she refused, but this time, she threw herself down a well, committing suicide.

The next night, and every night thereafter, when you wander the castle gardens you can hear Okiku's ghost counting the plates: 1...2...3... until she gets to nine. Then she will begin counting again.

Eventually, the whole sordid affair was revealed, and Aoyama was forced to commit seppuku (ritual suicide).

Okiku's tale is one of a trio of famous Japanese ghost stories known as the San O-Yurei: the Three Great Yurei. This story is said to originate in the 1500s and made the leap to Kabuki theatre in the Edo period. There are many variations of this tale, but the basics remain the same. And even though it is one of the most famous of Japanese ghost stories, it is also one of many handed down over the centuries. You could say that the Japanese were obsessed with ghosts. Koizumi Yakumo, better known as Lafcadio Hearn (author of *Kwaidan*, a collection of Japanese supernatural stories, and someone who would be a great person to discuss in

this column) referred to Japan as "ruled by the dead".

And Obon is another ritual meant to appease those who have gone before. Obon means "tray" and likely referred to the trays of food and drink the Japanese left for their ancestors. For two weeks in August, the Japanese go to cemeteries to honour their ancestors. The souls are said to return from the spirit world through the water, so the living stay out of rivers and waterways (your ancestors might mistake you for one of them and take you with them back to the spirit world). Then, after the two weeks, they light lanterns and float them down rivers to show their ancestors the way back to the spirit world.

Today, if you visit Himeji Castle in Osaka, you can find Okiku's well. You can read her story on the plaque dedicated to her. There is some conjecture about whether the ghostly story originated at Himeji Castle (since it predates the construction of Osaka's most famous landmark), but Okiku's tale continues to haunt the Japanese people no matter where they live on the island nation.

Sources:

[Yurei Attack! The Japanese Ghost Survival Guide](#) by Hiroko Yoda and Matt Alt

[Yurei](#) by Zack Davisson

[The Book of the Hakutaku](#) by Matthew Meyer





# Calgary Japanese Community Association

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## Annual Membership for 2021

(Membership is valid Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2021)

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

First: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Prov: Alberta

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$15 ☐  
(age 18 – 79)

Honorary 80<sup>+</sup> (free<sup>1</sup>)

Single ☐

Couple ☐ Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$30 ☐

Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_

How many children (under 18) are included in the family membership? \_\_\_\_\_

*Photos taken at CJCA events may be used in future CJCA related publications and on our website.*

Consent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Consent denied: ☐

### CJCA Newsletter

The newsletter will be emailed to all members who submit an email address. A printed copy of the newsletter will be made available to be picked up at the Nikkei Centre for those who select the option below. To offset the costs of your copies, please check the box.

Colour copies: \$20/year ☐

If you wish a print copy plus delivery via Canada Post: \$30/year ☐

**Donations** to CJCA are gratefully accepted.

\*The names of donors may be published  
unless we are notified.

(See separate donation page) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total  
Remittance: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment:** can be made by an e-transfer to [CJCAaccount@shaw.ca](mailto:CJCAaccount@shaw.ca) (In the note section, please indicate the payment is for your membership fees)

**or** by cheque sent to our office.

**Registration form:** Email this form to [rteshima.cjca@shaw.ca](mailto:rteshima.cjca@shaw.ca) or mail it in to our CJCA office.

<sup>1</sup>Free: must have reached the age of 80 **and** must have been a regular member for the past 2 years.



Calgary Japanese Community  
Association presents an online

# Taste of Omatsuri

Sat Aug 14, 2021 1:00 to 2:30pm MDT

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A virtual sampling of the annual Omatsuri Festival which  
will showcase the rich Japanese heritage, food, and  
traditions including amazing performers and vendors.

**Silent Auction and Special Daily Events**  
**Online Market & Entertainment**

[calgaryjapanesefestival.com](http://calgaryjapanesefestival.com)



Calgary Japanese  
Community Association