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**Send Us Your
COVID Vaccine
Selfie**

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

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Calgary Nikkei Cultural & Seniors Centre

2236-29th Street SW

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The centre is currently closed.

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Newsletter

CJCANewsletter@gmail.com

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Kristin Midori Muraki

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President's

We can be happy about the positive steps that have been taken in the vaccine rollout and the ever-increasing number of people who have been able to get their vaccinations. It's been a year since WHO declared SARS CoV-2 outbreak a pandemic and in a year's time, we now have vaccines available. This is truly unprecedented. This is a testament to our scientists and researchers and what they have been able to accomplish. In the midst of the quiet cheering, I want to pause and reflect on the efforts of those brave frontline workers who left the security of their homes so that the rest of us could live in relative safety. I have several family members who are in the healthcare field and I am so grateful that they too have been able to reach this point safely. The impact on those working with the public isn't always visible and I understand the toll of working in those stressful environments can have on one's mental wellbeing. I am also concerned about the impact this past year has had on the young children, their learning and their isolation from friends and family members. We need to keep a watchful eye on each other and make sure we provide support for those in need.

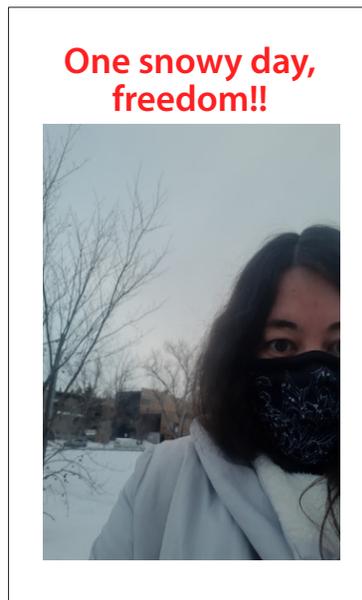
Re-opening of the Centre?

Your Board is faced with the task of making some critical decisions over the next few months as the easing of restrictions may allow us to begin opening up. We will use the Alberta Health guidelines but will also consider the unique situation we have in our association. We don't have employees who can prepare our Centre for opening, only volunteers who give their own time to plan and organize. Whatever the latest developments might be in the

cont'd on page 3

Front and back covers:

Ken Richardson



Editorial

Join us on an adventure within these pages: A scenic Japanese tea shop in Canmore. Meet a mysterious sea creature. Travel to the future... of our own community centre's stunning development proposal.

We wish to express our gratitude to Roger Teshima for his guidance and leadership in serving the whole community in such challenging times and to the Board of Directors, who have all stepped up to bring the community together.

A special thank you goes to Roger, Maureen and Ken, for their unfaltering support as we discover the joys of publication. A particular shout-out to Ken whose expertise and creative magic takes the newsletter to a whole new level.

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 with your ideas!



Thank you to all the behind the scenes volunteers:

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

Message by Roger Teshima

research for vaccines for children and the impact of the new variants, we are working towards reaching herd immunity. The problem is that scientists haven't quite been able to agree on what that level is. For polio it requires about 80% of the population being vaccinated. For measles, it's around 95%. Whatever that level might be, we need to get some under 16 year olds vaccinated too. At this point, we don't have a vaccine for children but it is coming.

Being vaccinated means being safer, not risk free.

Membership

I am pleased to report that our membership numbers continue to rise but are far below previous levels. I wish to thank all those who have taken out their 2021 membership. I know there are hundreds of other would be supporters out there who are waiting for activities to resume. When our memberships are a third of what we had two years ago, one wonders if the interest in the association is real or is it just what one hopes it will be. With the closure of our Nikkei Centre and suspension of activities, our revenues from rentals and fundraising activities have been severely impacted. The membership fees and many generous donations made to CJCA have helped us pay for our ongoing security, insurance and utility payments. These fees and donations will be used to re-open the Centre, whenever that may happen. I am still of the mind "You build it and they will come", that line in the film Field of Dreams. However, it is harder getting things done with one's fingers crossed.

AGM 2021

Due to the pandemic, we postponed our AGM last year to the end of August. Your Board has decided to move the date again from the usual spring meeting to September 12. We are hoping the COVID restrictions will

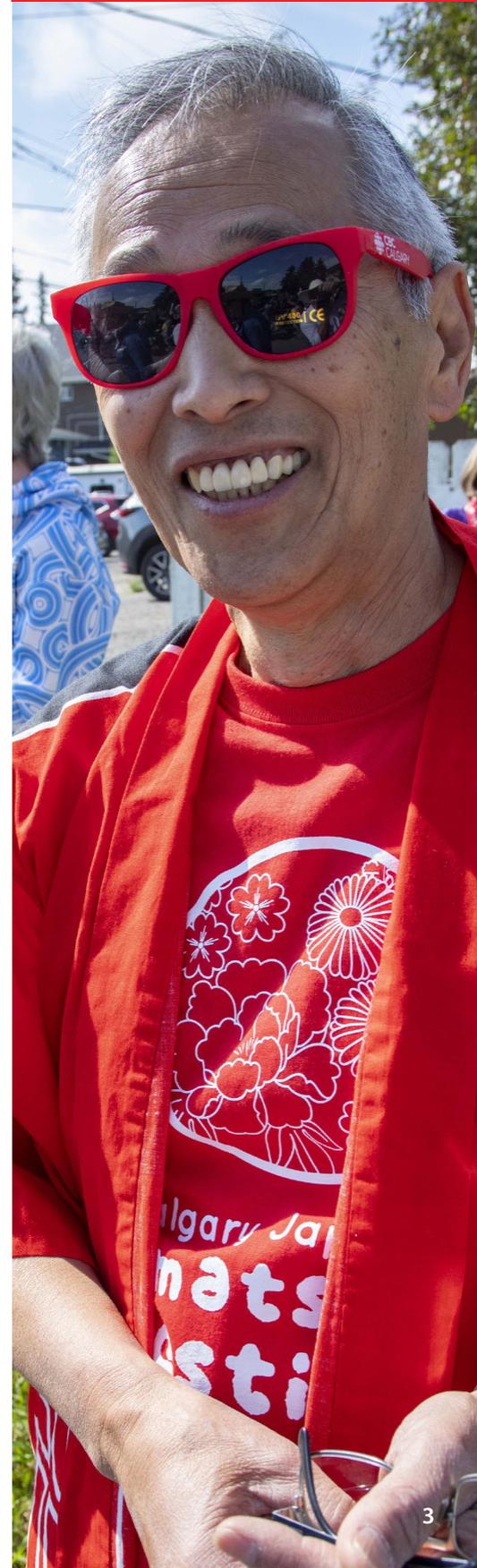
change so that we can hold a "hybrid" meeting in which a limited number of people might be able to attend in person and others attend through a Zoom online option. Once again we will hold an election of members to the Board of Directors. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving, please let me know and the Nominations Committee will begin the vetting process. More details will be distributed to CJCA 2021 members in the coming months.

Thank You

Under the direction of Mary Burke and Kristin Muraki, and all the contributors to the publication, this Newsletter is a reality. Your Board of Directors also deserves recognition for their efforts in keeping our association moving forward in these difficult times. Special words of gratitude go to Gene Yamada and Maureen Coleman who have been regular visitors to the Centre to ensure it is well looked after even though closed. The lights have been turned off but we want to ensure that they will go on again. A special shout out goes to Katy Takaoka, our treasurer, who has helped re-organize our operations so that we can truly operate remotely and ensure that our members can complete online transactions.

Lastly, for those who are annoyed at the filling of your email inbox with another CJCA News bulletin, please do a quick skim read and if it is not of interest to you, delete it. One of these days though, you will receive news that you will want to hear. For those who just don't want it, please use the Unsubscribe option at the bottom of the bulletin and your name will be removed from this email list.

Everyone take care and be safe.



Sylvia Oishi: A True Woman of Distinction

by Cindy Nagata-McMillan

Sylvia Lori Oishi, the eldest of five children born to Yoichi and Heidi, was raised in southern Alberta near the village of Stirling. Sylvia and her siblings understood well the meaning of character building, having grown up on the Oishi family farm, where they were recruited to assist with daily chores. To say that they came from humble beginnings is no exaggeration, as the main source of the family's income literally went up in smoke due to an electrical fire, with their livestock inside when Sylvia was just a young girl. The Oishis - ever resilient, banded together and rebuilt from scratch to operate a successful farming business.

For every step that Sylvia has taken in her life, she offers her deepest gratitude to her grandparents and parents, whose many sacrifices and hardships accorded her opportunities along life's path. "Gaman" (perseverance, patience, tolerance) was the mantra that was passed along to her that has carried her throughout life, from the beet fields to the Bench!

With Sylvia's solid spiritual foundation, strong moral compass, serene demeanor, joyful even temperament and sense of humor, mastery in elocution, and highly developed intellectual capacity, the pursuit of a law degree was a natural fit, and in 1985, her goal was achieved. After graduating, she articulated in Lethbridge and was admitted to the Alberta Bar in 1986. Shortly thereafter, she became a criminal defense partner at Jervis Oishi Law Office for twelve years, making appearances in all three levels of court in Alberta: the Provincial Court, Court of Queens Bench and Court of Appeal. From 1998 to 2008, Sylvia served as a Crown Prosecutor for Alberta Justice in Lethbridge, eventually becoming Assistant Chief Crown. During this time, she took on general prosecutorial duties including high profile and complex cases in Provincial Court and the Court of Queens Bench; administrative duties as Assistant Chief; was Crown representative on the collaborative community Domestic Violence Action Team from 2001 to 2008; spearheaded the development of a Domestic Violence Court in Lethbridge from 2004 to 2008; was the regional representative on the provincial Crown Family Violence committee for the



determination of trends, needs and best practices from 2001 to 2008; provided training instruction to enforcement officers, healthcare and social service providers from 1998 to 2008; and served as guest lecturer at the University of Lethbridge and Lethbridge College on a variety of topics regarding the law and justice system between 1998 to 2008. Throughout her 35 year law career, Sylvia has always sought to quell her thirst for knowledge and understanding by her participation in professional development through judicial educational conferences and seminars on subjects relating to indigenous history and culture, respect and leadership in the workplace, criminal law, advocacy and administration of justice, child and elder abuse, family violence, victims of crime, restorative justice, fetal alcohol syndrome, sudden death investigations and alcohol related driving offences. She has served her community well by participating on numerous boards throughout the years, including: Lethbridge Bar Association, Lethbridge Family Services (President), Big Brothers & Sisters (Board member and Big Sister), University of Lethbridge Alumni Association, Southern Alberta Ethnic Association, St. John Ambulance Society, Japanese Canadian Association, Japanese Garden Society, Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta (President), and Buddhist Churches of Canada.

In 2007, Sylvia's rapidly rising star brought her recognition from the University of Lethbridge Alumni Honour Society, as well as the YWCA Women of Distinction Award for

Social Advocacy. Her career continued on an upward trajectory, and Sylvia soon gained recognition from the University of Alberta Alumni Honour Society in 2008. Sylvia was appointed Queens Counsel in 2008 and became a Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta in Lethbridge shortly after. The highest accolade of all came on September of 2020 when Sylvia was designated Assistant Chief Judge of the Southern Region of the Provincial Court of Alberta. Now as Sylvia would say, rather than an upward trajectory, she has been moving in a circular direction, as all that has ever really mattered to her was what she started with. She is truly that humble.

To date, Sylvia's judicial roles have included: presiding in the Criminal, Family, Child Protection, Civil courts and the specialized Drug Treatment Court; service on the Provincial Judges Association Board; contributions to judicial education; administrative duties; and service on Provincial Judicial Committees relating to Indigenous Justice, Criminal and Family matters.

For all of Sylvia's immense professional accomplishments in pursuit of excellence, nothing is more important to her than the love of her family, who help keep her grounded. She has been married to Terry Hanna for the past 33 years, mother and role model to their children Mackenzie and Riley and is an integral member of a large close extended family. To help maintain her sense of balance and composure, Sylvia commits to a regular regimen of physical activity including yoga. Interests other than her passion for the law and justice that bring her bliss include: travelling, cooking, gardening, painting, literature, and an ongoing study of philosophy, history and human behaviour.

As Sylvia's cousin and one of her most ardent admirers, it has been my privilege to see her evolve throughout the years, yet stay true to her moral fiber, which is to always aspire to being thoughtful, loving, kind and compassionate.

"Those who have failed to work toward the truth have missed the purpose of living."

- Buddha -



Wagashi Tea House - Canmore

60 Lincoln Park Canmore Alberta
403-497-6144

by Ken Richardson

In the shadow of the three sister mountains, humbly tucked into the Bow Valley Garden Centre in Canmore, is the Wagashi Tea House. It's not big, it's not super formal; it's the passion project for owner/operator Mariko and her daughter.

Wagashi (生菓子) is a traditional hand-made Japanese dessert. Not too sweet, delicate and as much art and sculpture as it is food. The style of *Wagashi* that Mariko makes is *Namagashi* (raw sweets) and has a rice based outer layer with a red bean paste filling. Each item is hand made and sculpted to match the season and although the rice is not locally grown, Mariko locally sourced the beans for the filling from Alberta farmers. She has experimented and found a mix of beans that works well with *wagashi's* purpose in life - to be the perfect match for Japanese Green

Teas. Wagashi Tea House partners with another excellent local supplier, Michiko Ono, from Matsu Kaze Teas, bringing in a wonderful selection of green teas like *sencha, matcha, hojicha* just to name a few. Mariko is careful to brew each cup with the correct temperature for the specific tea ordered.

Prior to the current lock-down, we visited the Wagashi Tea House and sat in the indoor patio, and enjoyed lunch and tea while looking out at the gorgeous, surrounding mountains. Once the weather gets warmer, this would be a great place to take a break on an escape to the mountains. If you are in Canmore, I would highly encourage you to support this unique local eatery.

Wagashi Tea House does need you to give them notice if you are going to order the

Wagashi dessert; this is so that they can have it ready for when you arrive. They also serve a selection of other Japanese food items such as daily lunch bento box specials, eggs benny, and a soft-serve *Matcha* waffle ice-cream cone (worth the trip out). Mariko's daughter came up with her own custom waffle-cone recipe. The *matcha* cone was a great finish to our visit.

One last note. It is so important during this COVID crisis that we support our local small businesses. Take the time to shop local and order take-out from your favourite cafe or restaurant if dine-in is not possible.

If you have a favourite small business that promotes Japanese culture, please let us know. We would love to feature them in future issues.



May is Asian Heritage Month

The Calgary Asian community will be doing a wide variety of on-line programming throughout the month. Please take some time to check out some of the events. For example:
Saturday, May 22 - Kimono life drawing session - free on-line figure drawing opportunity - open to all drawing levels and ages

National Association of Japanese Canadians

Statement on Anti-Asian Hate



The National Executive Board of the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) has heard from our members and member organizations across Canada who are shaken by the ongoing incidents of anti-Asian hate. We expressed our solidarity with Asian Americans who were reeling with the news of the six Asian American women who were killed in Atlanta. Whether in the news, social media, or by personal account, the incidents are increasing on both sides of the border.

We asked our JC members to report any incidents. One of our Japanese Canadian elders, a sansei (third generation Canadian of Japanese ancestry) told us she was walking outside when she was

verbally attacked and told that she is the cause of the virus and “to go back where she came from.” The elder said it brought back horrible memories of the internment. Other JCs have also reported similar attacks.

There is an upsurge in the attacks against Asian Americans and Asian Canadians which started at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Asian Canadians, Asian Americans, and anyone who looks Asian are being attacked and unfairly blamed for the pandemic.

The Vancouver Police Department reported an over 700% increase in the number of anti-Asian hate incidents in 2020. There needs to be more race-based data collection to support changes in policy and legislation. Filling the gap for now, community groups have started documenting the incidents. What we do know is that there are more cases of anti-Asian hate than what is reported to the police. We also see that women are disproportionately the target of the hate.

We need to emphasize Anti-Asian racism is not new. Historical accounts often lack the stories of racialized settlers and Indigenous peoples. If more people understood the injustice of the past, maybe we wouldn't keep repeating the mistakes. Anti-Asian racism started when Asian settlers first came to Canada.

Our Japanese Canadian ancestors experienced anti-Asian racism when they arrived as settlers in the 1800s. They and Chinese Canadians experienced it in the anti-Asian riot that took place in 1907 in downtown Vancouver, a planned event organized by both Americans and Canadians. Anti-Asian racism persisted and manifested in the injustice against Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. In 1942 nearly 22,000 Canadians of Japanese ethnicity were forcibly uprooted, dispossessed, interned until four years after the war ended, and exiled.

Other Asian Canadians have their own stories to tell. There is diversity within Asian communities. Our communities comprise newcomers and multigenerational families. We're not all the same, but unfortunately, we do have the experience of anti-Asian racism in common.

More work needs to be done to stop the stereotypes, the marginalization of racialized people, and the “othering” of people through comments, questions, jokes, and racial slurs. These attacks take place in person and are increasing online. We need to set up processes and policies to prevent toxic environments where bullies thrive.

The NAJC is committed to our human rights work including education and creating safe spaces where we can share our stories and build inclusivity. We are working with our community, other community groups, other organizations, and all levels of government.

This will take the effort of all of us, individually and collectively, to stop the anti-Asian hate and all forms of racism. Doing nothing is not an option.

www.najc.ca



Keepin'
it safe



Online
August 14

The Calgary Japanese Festival "Omatsuri" was first held in August, 2011 and has grown bigger and better each year. We had hoped to celebrate our 10 year anniversary in 2020 but had to reschedule and now in 2021, due to the continued uncertainty and the effects of COVID-19, the Omatsuri committee made the difficult decision to postpone the "live" event at Max Bell for yet another year. Let's keep our fingers crossed that next year we'll be able to gather together again and make it the best Omatsuri ever! Our dedicated Omatsuri followers, volunteers, family and friends as well as the general public will all miss the chance to take part in the annual Calgary Japanese Festival "Omatsuri" in person. So, how can we still engage in 2021 and provide **"A Taste of Omatsuri"** but keep everyone's safety in mind? A new committee has formed so watch for an official announcement – stay-tuned as you won't want to miss exciting news!



Introducing the CJCA Legacy Project



Henry Tsang is our new Project Manager for the CJCA Legacy Project. He is a registered architect and assistant professor in the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Centre for Architecture at Athabasca University. He studied architecture at McGill University in Montreal and completed his Ph.D. in architecture at the University of Tokyo as a government sponsored Monbukagakusho Scholar. He lived 10 years in Tokyo, working for Nihon Sekkei, one of Japan's most prominent architecture firms, and was also actively involved in the reconstruction of

Tohoku after the 2011 Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. In 2017, he was the Canadian delegate to Japan's Ship for World Youth Leaders program, during which he met with former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Emperor Naruhito. He is also the current president of the University of Tokyo Alumni Association of Canada. Henry and wife Yukari immigrated to Calgary in 2019, and their son Issey was born here last year amidst the pandemic. Henry & Yukari are both members of our Yosakoi dance team YOSOCA.

Hajimemashite! My name is Henry Tsang and as announced in the last CJCA newsletter, I have been appointed as the Project Manager of the CJCA's Legacy Project. Since this initiative started in November 2019, a lot of work has been done so far, but it is really still just the beginning. In this article, I would like to provide everyone with an update on what is the situation now, what are the next steps, and a recap of the events and milestones thus far. And as we move forward, I will be giving regular updates of the project through the newsletter. I ask for your involvement and hope to receive lots of feedback from everyone. This is all very exciting!

The Feasibility Study: Takeaways

Over the last one and a half years, I have been putting together a feasibility study of the CJCA assets that was submitted to the board last October. To make this happen, I put together a Consultant Team working with me, to gather accurate information and expert advice. This team was comprised of Dustin Couzens, principal architect at design firm Modern Office of Design & Architecture (MoDA), and Jim Madden, vice-president operations and construction manager at CREATE Construction Group. Both graciously volunteered their time to help me study the technical issues and potentials surrounding the CJCA's existing assets, which include the two sites housing the current CJCA building and the neighbouring 4-plex. The team carefully analysed the risks, conditions and potentials of the buildings and sites of the

CJCA. The following main takeaways were established:

- »» There is not very much room for an at-grade addition without removing the garden and parking stalls.
- »» The current land use hinders highest and best use due to setback requirements.
- »» The current building program flow of spaces and adjacencies between uses are not optimal.
- »» The current floor plan would require significant changes to the distribution of program in the building.

Further, an analysis of renovation versus new build also revealed that a new build option is more cost effective, time effective and sustainable; and has a lot more upside when taking things into account like:

2019

April: AGM held with open forum about the CJCA assets.

May: A call for members was sent out to produce a feasibility study to assess the risks and conditions of the CJCA assets. My wife responded to this post, volunteering me to be part of the project.

November: Roger, Maureen and I met at the CJCA for a walk through of the assets and reviewed the architectural & engineering drawings together. We uncovered an old set of drawings that were produced by Hasegawa Pond Engineers and Architects in 1996. I agreed to work on the assessment and also lead the production of the feasibility study

2020

March: A Consultant Team was formed, introducing Dustin Couzens (MoDA) and Jim Maddens (CREATE Construction Group) to assemble the information of the feasibility study.

April-July: Weekly meetings were held between MoDA, CREATE and me, with consultation with Roger and Maureen.

June: The feasibility study (Version 1) was presented to Roger & Maureen, with feedback received.

June: The Consultant Team visited the CJCA buildings and sites to tour and collect data of the current conditions of the assets.



The Design Proposal: A Sustainable Solution

- »» The current CJCA building is in poor condition, with weakened exterior walls and vulnerable to floods.
- »» Updating to current building codes (fire ratings, egress, etc)
- »» Updating building to current energy standards
- »» Updating building to accessibility standards
- »» Upgrading of mechanical and electrical systems
- »» Upgrading of structure (below grade and above)
- »» Not enough space to support proposed programming
- »» Possibility of mold and asbestos
- »» Building life-cycle

From the many consultations I have had with the CJCA to understand its needs and the deficiencies of the current conditions, the Consultant Team went beyond the scope of the feasibility study and developed a design proposal to illustrate the potentials and possibilities of the CJCA assets. The Consultant Team concluded that the optimal use of the assets would be to combine both sites, and integrate all the functions into one single building. The main points of the design proposal are summarized in this description of the project:

The Calgary Japanese Community Association currently resides in two adjacent buildings: an aging four-plex from the 1970s, and a mid-century community

centre that has undergone many ad hoc renovations. To optimize the use of its property and reverse its declining membership, the Association’s board set out to create a new contemporary cultural centre and community hub for Japanese immigrants in Calgary.

Through their research, the architects learned about the notion of *Kakehashi*, which translates literally as “bridge” or “bridge-building.” They harnessed this concept to develop a widely inclusive program that goes beyond regular cultural, social, and educational functions to also include a daycare and eight affordable senior’s housing units.

The building’s irregular form and asymmetry invoke the Japanese concepts

2020

July: The feasibility study (Version 2) was presented to Roger & Maureen, with feedback received. In addition, the Consultant Team presented a potential design proposal to illustrate the optimal use of the CJCA assets.

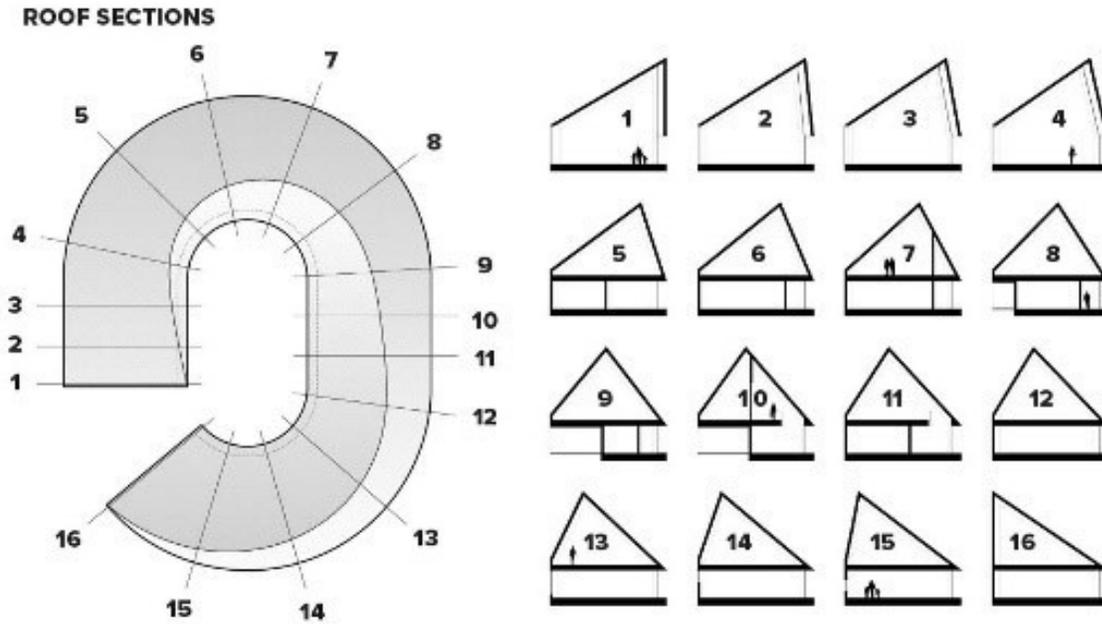
September: AGM held and the feasibility study & design proposal was revealed to the Board of Directors.

October: The feasibility study & design proposal (Version 3) was presented to the Board of Directors, with feedback received.

November: The feasibility study & design proposal (Version 4) was presented in a virtual Town Hall meeting to the CJCA membership, with feedback received.

2021

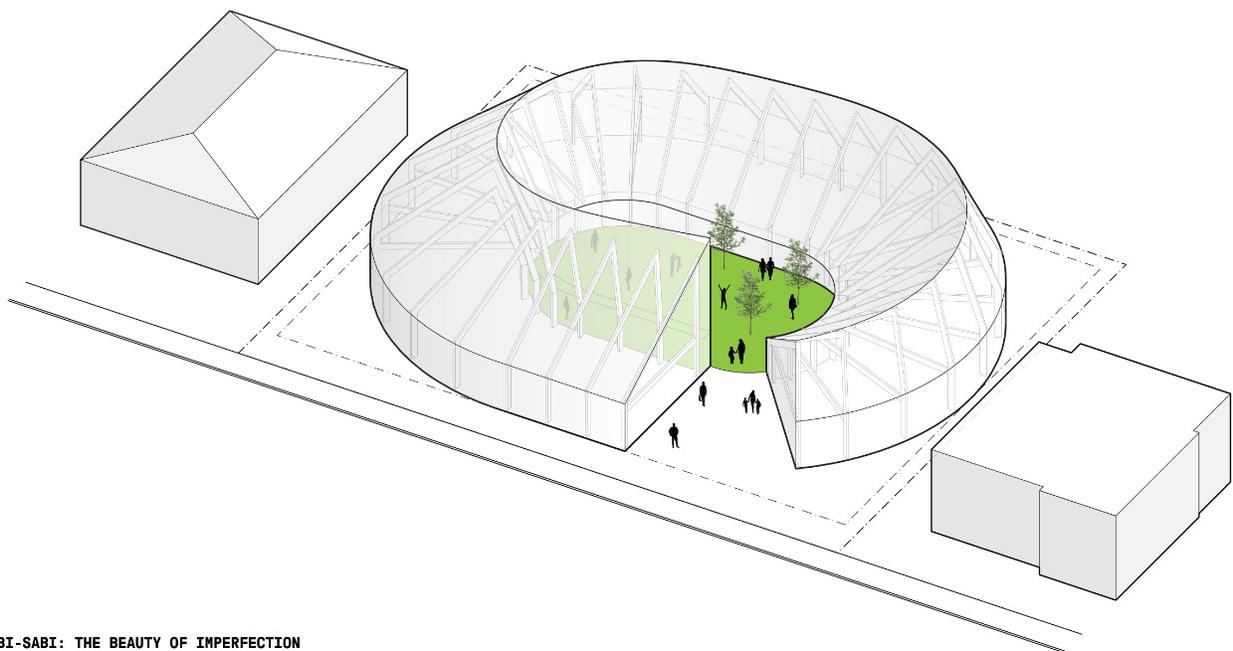
March: Forming of CJCA Legacy Project Steering Committee and establishment of a masterplan of action. Call for action.



of *wabi-sabi*, or appreciating imperfection, and *ma*, the balancing of solid and void. A discontinuous oval volume holds the diverse programs and surrounds a void space. During the schematic design process, the void developed into a contemporary interpretation of *engawa*—the traditional threshold between structure and garden. This threshold provides an auxiliary space and access point for the various programs. It also frames a traditional Japanese garden

that is carefully relocated from the existing complex into the new courtyard. The massing incorporates passive solar and sustainable design principles. The traveling ridgeline of the structure's Möbius-strip-like roof responds to Calgary's sun path, funneling natural light into the courtyard and interior. Generous overhangs control glare and heat gain. Stormwater collected from the roof surface is used for the building's gray water needs and for

garden irrigation. The entire building will be clad with cedar shingles treated with the Japanese technique of *shou-sugi-ban*, a charring process that creates natural resistance to weather, fire, rot and insects, avoiding the need for toxic finishes. The project's overall sustainability is enhanced by the use of local wood and mass timber.



- WABI-SABI: THE BEAUTY OF IMPERFECTION**
- IRREGULARITY
 - ASYMMETRY
 - EVOLVING / CHANGE
 - NATURE - NATURAL LIGHT / SHADOW



Any questions or inquiries can be sent to:

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All photos and diagrams courtesy of Dr. Henry Tsang

CJCA Legacy Project: Winner of the 2020 Canadian Architect Award of Excellence

Since this design proposal has been revealed, it has garnered a lot of public attention and positive reaction. Images of the project were submitted to compete for the 2020 Canadian Architect Award of Excellence. This award is one of the most prestigious architectural design accolades in Canada. Since 1967, Canadian Architect has been recognizing architectural design excellence, looking for projects in the design stage that fulfill these criteria and standards: 1) Physical organization and form, including attention to composition and detail, 2) Response to program, site, geographic and/or urban context, 3) Innovation in concept, process, materials, building systems and/or implementation, 4) Demonstration of exemplary environmental and/or social awareness. In December 2020, it was announced that the CJCA Legacy Project's design proposal was to be one of the winners of the award, selected amongst hundreds of projects across Canada. See the announcement in the Canadian Architect's 2020 awards website: <https://www.canadianarchitect.com/awards>

What's Next?

A call for action. Roger will be sending out a call to join the CJCA Steering Committee and working groups, so we are hoping for lots of involvement from the membership. On my end, I am working on a masterplan, including schedule and workflow, as well as listing up potential grants we can apply for funding and financial support. As soon as the committee is formed, I will be presenting these to the group.



Tributes



Iwao (Ike) Ikenouye
February 7, 1926
Vancouver, BC
- February 5, 2021
Calgary, Alberta

Reverend Ikenouye was born in 1926 in Vancouver, British Columbia and raised in the beautiful Okanagan Valley in Kelowna. His family worked on farms and as sharecroppers before they bought land and settled on Scotch Creek Road in Ellison.

Iwao attended Briercrest Bible Institute in Saskatchewan and received his diploma in 1949. As a missionary, he sailed to Japan in 1951 for the Canadian Japanese Mission. As part of *Youth for Christ*, he preached in Ishigakijima, Okinawa. Here with other missionaries, he was broadcasted by the US Army radio system called *Coast-to-Coast*.

He became part of the Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta after he married Sachi and he joined her on her mission. Iwao and Sachi retired from missionary work in 1992 and settled in Calgary. They joined Kotobuki in 2007. Iwao taught English as a second language to the Kotobuki members.

Reverend Ikenouye will always be remembered for his kind and gentle ways and his total involvement in Kotobuki.

Submitted by Kathrine Nugent

See <https://ikenouye.ca/>



Tsutomu (Tom) Nawata
March 15, 1928
Maple Ridge, BC
- February 5, 2021
Calgary, Alberta

Tom Nawata was born on a farm in Maple Ridge, British Columbia. The family moved back to Japan and Tom remained there until they immigrated back to Canada; first to Raymond, Alberta, then to Barnwell. Tom attended Taber High School for one year before he came to Calgary to attend the Provincial Institute of Technology and Art.

After graduating from SAIT, Tom worked for Canadian Pacific Airlines and was seconded to the Department of National Defence. In this capacity he worked on the inspection of airport control towers in Western Canada. In 1961 he was employed by SAIT. Tom taught for 25 years at SAIT and worked five years in administration. He retired from SAIT after 30 years.

He was the founding president of the Nisei Club of Calgary in 1950. Founding director of Omi of Japan, chairperson of the Japanese Canadian Centennial Society in 1977. Tom initiated and formed the Hyakunen-kai which became the Kotobuki Kai. He was also a CJCA representative to the NAJC from 1991 to 1999,

Tom was a huge part of the Japanese community. His dedication to this community will be a living legacy for all of us to remember.

Submitted by Kathrine Nugent

www.McInnisandHolloway.com



Hisako (Esther Sato) Kitaguchi
October 19, 1919
Mill Creek, BC
- February 25, 2021
Calgary, Alberta

Born the second of five siblings, Hisako aspired to follow in her mother's footsteps, but was denied entrance to nursing school. She married Tadashi Kitaguchi in 1939 and in mid-1942, shortly after the birth of her daughter, Keiko, they moved east to Raymond where they lived in a converted granary and laboured in the beet fields, and later at Hancock Dairy. When restrictions relaxed in 1944, Esther and family moved just west of Crowsnest Lake where the extended family of six, spanning 3 generations, all lived in a tiny two-room log cabin. In 1954, Esther and Tad moved to Lethbridge as part owners and operators of Jack's Coffee Shop. After Tad's passing, Esther and her brother moved to Calgary to be near family.

An active participant in community life, she ran a small kindergarten, taught Sunday school and later was a member of Bowness Seniors Centre and Calgary Japanese Community Association.

Although her life was not easy, Esther was buoyed up by an inner strength that carried her forward with optimism. She remembered and was thankful for the good times and kindnesses that were bestowed upon her.

See www.mbfunerals.com for details.



Chizuko (Helen) Yamazaki
July 29, 1935
Vancouver, BC
- March 11, 2021
Calgary, Alberta

Helen was born July 29, 1935 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Before the war the family lived in Britannia Beach, Vancouver. The evacuation moved them to Tashme, B.C. They moved to Raymond, Alberta, as did many other Japanese families when they left the evacuation camps, where she attended church and school.

Helen worked in the Holy Cross Hospital for 35 years as a Medical Unit Clerk. She was remembered by many of her colleagues from the hospital even after she left her job at the Holy Cross.

Helen joined Kotobuki in 1995 and was an active member at many events that she took part in. We will always remember Helen for her participation in Kotobuki events with that smile and jolly laugh. She also helped with the phoning committee and kept us all in the loop about upcoming events and news. She enjoyed going on many Kotobuki trips.

She will be missed by everyone.

Submitted by Kathrine Nugent

See <https://mhfh.com/> for details.

We extend our condolences to those community families who have lost a loved one, and sincerely apologize if we have missed anyone. Full obituaries may be found online.

If you have celebrations of life, births, anniversaries, awards, or other milestones you'd like to share with the community, please submit them to: CJCANewsletter@gmail.com.

10th Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake

A Request for Your Support

I feel that there are many people who are worried about the current COVID situation especially when it seems like there is no end in sight. But even during this trying time, we mustn't forget that this year marks the 10th anniversary of the earthquake and that there are still many children who are living in orphanages. I remember just 5 years ago, I had the honour of delivering the donation money that the people of Calgary have so kindly offered to the Miyazaki Prefectural Office.

This year, we were hoping to hold a charity concert event in collaboration with our choir group, but as you know, it cannot happen due to the current COVID restrictions. Since we are still uncertain when the cultural centre will be opened, we plan on accepting donations through a period of one year, starting this year until March 11th of 2022.

If we are able to hold events this year, we plan on donating a portion or all of our profit to the cause.

In order to make sure we can accept your donations, we are currently in the process of setting up a system to accept payments online. We appreciate your patience and will let you know when we are ready to accept your donations. (Please note that we cannot issue donation receipts for tax purposes.)

Below is a list of possible future events if COVID restrictions are eased or lifted.

Otsukimi Bento Sale, Sweets and Desserts Day, Bazaar, Asian Taste Day, Christmas Party, Mochi Sale, New Year Party, Mame-maki (Bean Throwing), Hina-Matsuri (Girl's Day) Bento Sale.

We thank you for your continued support.

Taeko Nagao

NJCA President



「東日本大震災10年」 [寄付集めのお願い]

このコロナ禍の中、なかなか終結が見えず不安になっておられる方も多いかと思えます。この様な状況の中で3月11日に10周年を迎えました。いまだに孤児院住まいの子どももまだまだ沢山居られます。5年前には、宮城県の県庁にカルガリーで集めたお金を寄付させていただきました。

今年は私達の合唱団中心にチャリティーコンサートを開こうと思っておりましたが、昨年からの自粛状態でそれも叶いませんでした。何時会館の使用が可能になるのか見当も着きませんが、今回は長期期間で寄付を集めたいと思います。

今年の3月11日から来年の3月11日まで1年かけて寄付集めをしたいと思えます。

NJCAでは1年間のイベントの利益の一部又は全部を寄付したいと思っております。

それと並行して、私たちの会で常に寄付を受け付けられる様なシステムを考えております。ただ申し訳ない事に私達のグループからはタックスディタクトの領収書を出す事が出来ません。予め、ご了承ください。

以下のイベントはコロナ禍の状況次第となりますが、希望としては9月から3月にかけて予定しています。

[予定しているイベント]

*チャリティー お月見弁当、*チャリティー スウィーツ day、*バザー、*アジアンテイスト day、*クリスマスパーティー、*チャリティー お餅販売、*新年会、*チャリティー 豆まき、*チャリティー 雛祭り 弁当

永尾多恵子
新移住者協会会長



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Tomomi Suyama

2236-29th Street S.W.

Calgary, AB T3E 2K2

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Library (Japanese)

Kotobuki Kai

by Cheryl Ali and Ruth Nagata

with photographers Ted Wada and Lorraine McNeill

January

20: President's Message e-mailed to members on current situation.

February

13: Rev. Ikenouye's (02/05/21) Service held at Gracepoint Fellowship and streamed live and viewed by over 100 people. A donation was made to the Bible League of Canada.

14: 85-year-old, Ted Yoshida, closed his Forest Lawn Chiropractic Wellness Centre on Dec. 23, 2020 after over 50 years of serving the community. His biography from Chemainus to Calgary can be read in *Okage Sama De*. Ted received the Emperor of Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays Citation and Medal on January 19, 2018 (photo courtesy of the Consul General's Office).



17: We bid farewell to our dedicated, community "sentinel", Tom Nawata (02/05/21). In these unprecedented times, a private family interment was held at Queens Park Cemetery. We made a donation to the Tom Baker Cancer Centre.

17: Kotobuki Board of Directors' Meeting held by Zoom.

18: Notice of March 10, 2021 AGM emailed to all members.

March

3: President's Message, Statement of Receipts & Expenditures, Balance Sheet and Audit Letter from Shirley Shigematsu, Agenda and link to 2020 AGM e-mailed to all current members.

4: Well-Being dropped off 15 Christmas/Easter hampers at the doors of most appreciative recipients who, like all of us, are feeling quite isolated. When Julie made the delivery to Kay Kuwahara, Doug and Kay were going out for a walk. They had a nice visit, with Kay telling her all about her activities at Garrison.

10: Virtual Kotobuki 2020 AGM held with 32 members in attendance. Closing balance of the SAIT - Calgary Kotobuki Society Endowment Fund #600348 for the year ending June 30, 2020 was \$27,516. A student was awarded \$800; we received this thank you...

"I am writing you to express my gratitude for making Calgary Kotobuki Society scholarship possible. I am sincerely grateful and appreciative to be the recipient of this generous award, and I thank you for your support towards my education.

I am pursuing a career as a Heavy-Duty Technician at SAIT through their apprenticeship program, and am currently in my third year. The financial assistance this award provided took care of my third-year tuition, and was a great relief to my overall schooling debt.

By awarding me The Calgary Kotobuki Society award, my financial situation has lightened, which allows me to focus on learning and taking care of my family. Your generosity has inspired me to continue to work hard in school, give back to others, and hopefully be able to give back to students in the future - helping them achieve their career goals as you have helped me.

Sincerely, Cory"

11: Chizuko (Helen) Yamazaki passed away at Age Care Glenmore. Due to Covid-19, the family who live in Deep River, ON and Vancouver will hold a service at a later date.

11: Kay Hinatsu celebrated her 97th birthday - many friends Facetimed and called her. She so misses Wednesdays and all her friends at Kotobuki and was ecstatic and grateful to all the members who took the time to make this surprise contact suggested by her daughter Carol.

Since Covid began, Carol walks, with groceries in hand, from North Hill to visit her Mom every Wednesday to Facetime with Sharon, Kay's other daughter who lives in Winnipeg. Some Kotobuki members plan to Facetime with Kay when Carol is there. Interestingly, Kay (Minamide) and Ruth Nagai (Minamide) are connected; the Hinatsu family along with the Aiko Furuya (Mizuno) and Pat Jette (Hiraoka) families (before Pat was born), all did sugar beets on the Tulley Farm in Portage La Prairie. Lots of history to read about in *Okage Sama De*.





LONG-LIFE

Farewell to Consul General Drive-by

March 16: Drive-by to bid farewell to Consul General Kobayashi and Mrs. Kobayashi. Photo collage and Kotobuki Clock presented to them. What a great surprise for the Kobayashi's on a perfect day!! It was so much fun!! Madame Kobayashi had to walk through the people and park across the road when she came home as we had

parked in the driveway. We got out of our cars and did social distance - except for the photo. Ted took many pictures/Yuri bought all the flags and balloons and Kathrine did the presentation. It was so sentimental as the Kobayashis stood waving goodbye at the road entrance.



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INFORMATION

587.231.2217

knugent@hotmail.ca



NOTE: We apologize if we missed other milestone occasions. Please share any special photos or events with Ruth at rnagata@telus.net or Cheryl at guider86@icloud.com.



Calgary Buddhist Temple

By Laura Sugimoto

658 1st Ave NE, Calgary, Alberta
403.263.5723
calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com
http://calgary-buddhist.ab.ca/

Upcoming events

The Calgary Buddhist Temple remains closed to in-person services; the Board continues to review the provincial guidelines and will determine when it is safe to re-open. Sensei Robert Gubenco will continue to hold the online Sunday Service at 10 am on the Temple's Facebook Group page; he also holds a daily evening service on Facebook at 9 pm.

April 17 @ 12:00 pm - "What is the Future of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in the West?"

A discussion sponsored by the Buddhist Churches of America Center for Buddhist Education and featuring the three Bishops from Canada, Hawaii, and mainland USA. Registration through the BCA is required: check Calgary Buddhist Temple website for information.

April 18 @ 11:00 am – Calgary Buddhist Temple AGM will be held by Zoom. Everyone welcome. Please email calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com for zoom invitation.

May 13 @ 7:00 pm – Quietening the Inner Critic

A 90 minute introductory session to open awareness to inner thoughts and dialogue.

Register through Calgary Buddhist Temple website.

June 9 @ 7:00 pm – Introduction to Naikan

Looking within as a means of self-reflection.

June 30 @ 7:00 pm – Second part of Introduction to Naikan

Both classes need registration through Calgary Buddhist Temple website.

Be sure to continue to check the Temple's website for updates on special classes and events and join the Facebook Group page to access the online services.

Editors' note:

Some readers may have missed events due to the delay of this edition of the newsletter. We apologize for the inconvenience.

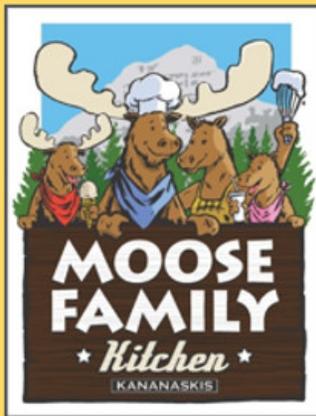
SPARROWHAWK GROUP

Kevin Okabe/Naoko Maebashi – Owner/Operators



Pomeroy Kananaskis Mountain Lodge

"Uniquely Canadian and Rocky Mountain gifts and souvenirs"



Kananaskis Village Centre

"Deli featuring eclectic mix of Sandwiches, Ramen, Teriyaki Bowls, Ice Cream and Fratello Coffee"



Fairmont Banff Springs Hotel

"Wildlife themed gifts and souvenirs"



National Association of Japanese Canadians President's Message

By Lorene Oikawa, President

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS

"Leaving a proud legacy for future generations"

180 McPhillips St. Winnipeg, MB R3E 2J9

204.943.2910, national@najc.ca

www.najc.ca

Spring is here! On the west coast, the crocuses and daffodils are in bloom and the cherry blossoms are making their appearance. Sakura, the ethereal Japanese cherry blossoms, capture our attention just like they have done since ancient times, in the Heian period (794-1185), in Japan. Local officials in Japan have been encouraging people to forgo Hanami, the gathering and parties, under the blooming trees because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the blooming of sakura starts making its way across the country, enjoy viewing the cherry blossoms, but please continue to keep safe. Follow the health and safety protocols such as wearing masks, avoiding gatherings, distancing and washing hands.

Vaccinations are taking place across the country, and we are seeing the benefits of vaccines in high-risk populations. At the same time, there are increasing numbers of variants which are being associated with outbreaks.

We could all use some relief. Asian American and Asian Canadian communities were shaken by another incident of violence. In Atlanta, six Asian American women were among the eight that were shot and killed. While the investigation continues, those of Asian ethnicity on both sides of the border are scared. There is an upsurge in the attacks against Asian Americans and Asian Canadians which started at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Anti-Asian racism is not new, and the rhetoric and tactics are similar to what we've heard and seen before. Scapegoating based on their perceived ethnicity; groups and individuals are unfairly blamed for the pandemic. There is the "othering" of people through comments, questions, jokes, and racial slurs. Attacks take place in person including graffiti, vandalism, verbal and physical assaults. We are also seeing an increase in online attacks through social media. The Canadian Race Relations Foundation and YWCA Canada have just launched an initiative to #blockhate & raise awareness of online hate speech, and abuse and racism.

Our Japanese Canadian ancestors experienced it when they first came to Canada as settlers in the 1800s. They saw it in the anti-Asian riot that took place in 1907 in downtown Vancouver. Anti-Asian racism persisted and manifested in the injustice against Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. In 1942 Japanese Canadians were forcibly uprooted, dispossessed, interned until four years after the war ended, and exiled.

Other Asian Canadians have their own stories to tell. There is diversity within Asian communities. We're not all the same, but we do have the experience of anti-Asian racism in common. More work needs to be done to stop the stereotypes, the marginalization of racialized people, and creating processes and policies to prevent the toxic environments where bullies thrive.

The NAJC is promoting education and creating safe spaces where we can share our stories and build inclusivity.

UPCOMING ONLINE SESSIONS

Learn a contemporary community dance which draws on elements of Radio Taiso and Tanko Bushi to be premiered at this year's Powell Street Festival. **Free Online Lessons!!**

Paueru Mashup Lessons

Every Thursday

April 22 - May 27, 5-6pm PDT

Book here: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/paueru-mashup-dance-online-lessons-tickets-150836721695>.

We continue to develop our online programming. Join us online. <http://najc.ca/online-programs/> For news and updates, subscribe to NAJC e-news at <http://najc.ca/subscribe/>

We will be providing more information about other online sessions during April and are looking forward to Asian Heritage Month programming in May.

A reminder that the deadline for the **NAJC Endowment Fund** applications is June 30, 2021. The purpose of the NAJC Endowment Fund is to enhance the development of the Japanese Canadian community. There is funding available under two programs. The Cultural Development program provides financial assistance to community and cultural organizations, and individuals for projects and activities which promote and develop JC culture and heritage. The Sports, Education, and Arts Development (SEAD) program promotes the athletic, artistic and academic development of Japanese Canadians at specialized or national levels. SEAD is not meant to replace scholarships or bursaries. The Endowment Fund Committee members, Sarah Matsushita, Sue Doi, and Yukari Peerless, are planning to have an information session for anyone interested in applying. Date TBD. Eligibility and application information is on the NAJC website. <http://najc.ca/funds-and-awards/>

Please keep in touch and let us know if you have any ideas for online programming. Also, we are interested in what's happening in your community. For example, do you know a JC senior who is celebrating a special birthday? Let us know by emailing national@najc.ca We will share our best wishes on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/najc.ca>

Just as *The Bulletin* (ed. note Vancouver's publication) is about to go to press, we have this breaking news. The Anglican Church of Canada and the National Association of Japanese Canadians are pleased to announce that an agreement in principle has been reached to provide healing support to Japanese Canadians affected by the actions of Mr. G. G. Nakayama. The full statement is on najc.ca

**Stay safe.
Enjoy spring.**

Japanese Myth: The Year of Amabie

by Calvin Jim

In 1846, off the coast of Higo province in Japan, a fisherman saw a strange, glowing light at night. A district's government official was sent to investigate, and he ventured out in a boat a few days later. A strange creature appeared before him from under the sea. The tri-limbed creature was part fish, part bird, and part human.

The creature identified itself as Amabie who lived in the sea. It said they would have six years of a bumper crop, but disease and death would accompany this. The only way to avoid this fate was to share Amabie's image with as many people as possible. Then Amabie disappeared into the sea, never to be seen again.

The government official drew a picture of Amabie and printed the picture and the story in Kawaraban (an early form of tabloid newspaper) and distributed it throughout Japan. And thus, disaster was apparently averted. From there, Amabie faded into obscurity.

That is, until now. Until 2020: The Year of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Resurrected in the 1970s by the Japanese artist Shigeru Mizuki, Amabie was placed in an encyclopedia of Yokai (legendary Japanese monsters). But while other Yokai like Kitsune and Tanuki grabbed the public's imagination, Amabie continued to be noticed and studied only by a handful of scholars and die-hard Yokai enthusiasts.

All that changed in February 2020. With the COVID-19 pandemic spreading across the globe, an artist who knew about Amabie, sent out a picture over Twitter. Over the next few days, hundreds of artists sent pictures of Amabie. Then thousands. The Amabie challenge went worldwide with the hashtag #Amabiechallenge. Amabie was seen on Facebook and other social media and on many, many websites. Even the Japanese government adopted Amabie as their COVID mascot.

Clearly, the pandemic had plucked Amabie from the depths of obscurity to become the Japanese symbol of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yokai scholars think Amabie was just one of many creatures who would pop up, speak of some prophecy, claim that drawing their likeness would prevent disease and death, and then disappear. Seven of these Yokai have been identified. The reason they appeared during the Edo period may be because disease was a constant fear and people needed something to cling onto as a life-raft of hope and salvation from supernatural threats, even threats that hadn't yet appeared. Maybe possession of the drawing was enough to prove that the prophecy was real.

In 2020, Amabie had again become a symbol of hope as the pandemic spread worldwide. Hope that the pandemic would soon end. Hope that vaccines would be created. Hope that no more will die. Hope that we could again share a meal, a laugh, a hug with loved ones. Hope that life would soon return to normal.



Maybe all those drawings of Amabie have worked. Maybe Amabie has blessed us and given us what we needed most: each other.

Have you seen a picture of Amabie this past year? Let me know. I would very much be interested in seeing it.

Sources

[Amabie: Ancient & Modern](#) by Zack Davisson

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

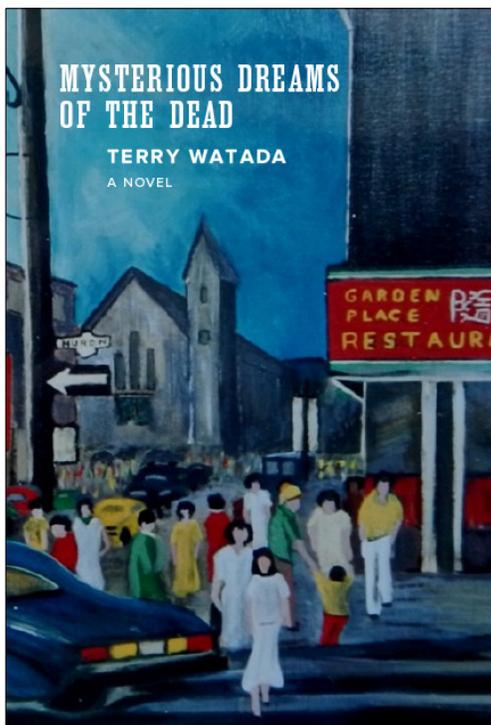
Background photo (Tsunoshima Island) courtesy of Samuel Berner on Upsplash.



Tsundoku Book Recommendation

By Kristin Midori Muraki

積ん読 *tsundoku*: (n.) the practice of amassing a great number of books, only to let them pile up, unread



Terry Watada's *Mysterious Dreams of the Dead* is the conclusion to a three-novel arc recounting the history of the Japanese in Canada. Each book in the trilogy reflects a generation: the Issei (*Kuroshio: the Blood of Foxes*), the Nisei (*The Three Pleasures*), and now, the Sansei.

Mike Shintani, a Sansei, lives with his elderly mother in their Toronto family home, many years after his father died in a plane crash north of Lake Superior. When Mike discovers a box of his father's mementos, including what turns out to be a dream diary written in Japanese, he sets out to translate it in the hopes of learning more about his father. His search for truth, identity, and a connection to the past is at the heart of this story.

The characters we meet in *Mysterious Dreams of the Dead* feel very true to life, multifaceted representations of people we all have known. They are Buddhist, Christian, university-educated, working class, traditional, rebellious, pro-redress, anti-redress. They are Sansei: lively, spirited, comfortable in their own skin, embracing both their Japanese heritage and the Canadian cultural mosaic in which they live. And yet there is an undercurrent of emptiness – a tacit understanding of past trauma: livelihoods lost, stories untold, and emotions unspoken. Driven by this lingering intergenerational

sense of displacement, Mike and his friends each cope in their own way. Some seek love and stability; some join the fight for redress; and one... well, one goes rogue in his own quest for epistemological truth.

The story itself spans over half a century, by necessity defining the Sansei experience in the direct shadow of their Nisei forebears. But the tone of the novel, the casual conversations and nostalgic meals give the events a palpable familiarity and intimacy. The narrative, at times dark, gritty, and realistic, is occasionally met with elements of otherworldly magic, moments of hope and clarity in a search for meaning.

This book is a worthy conclusion to a trilogy, epic in scope, following each generation's story. There is enduring value in the rich, well-rounded, often surprising perspectives offered throughout the series. In *Mysterious Dreams of the Dead*, readers will find a deeply personal sense of curiosity and connection that ties all of us to the past and to each other. Within these pages, readers just might see themselves.

Mysterious Dreams of the Dead

By Terry Watada

ISBN 9781772141504

256 pages

"We missed the connections found nowhere else in the world. And we missed the salt carried by the fractured light and wind of the sea that nourished us, that created us. We missed a home.

So we manufactured one with what was left, scattered and distant though it was."

(page 26)

Save the Date

In Conversation with Terry Watada

Join the CJA for an online book reading and Q&A session with Canadian author, playwright, singer, songwriter and producer Terry Watada. He will be presenting selections from his latest novel, *Mysterious Dreams of the Dead*.

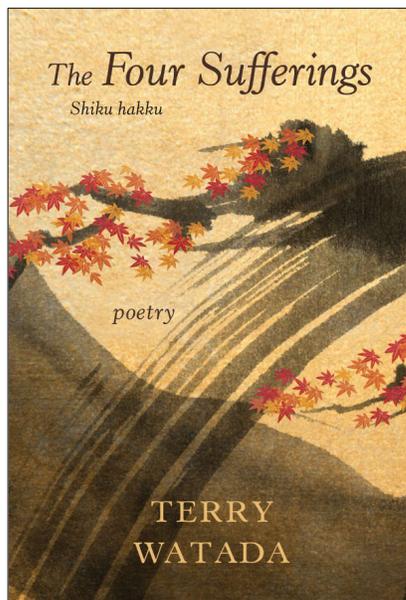
Tuesday, April 27, 2021

7pm - 8pm

Registration information will be coming soon.

Purchase *Mysterious Dreams of the Dead* for \$20 (tax included), or Terry's new book of poetry *The Four Sufferings* for \$15 (tax included). Shipping will be \$10 for one book, or \$18 for two. Request your purchase by writing to Terry at twatada@sympatico.ca

Signed books are available upon request.



Some day soon we will be able to meet again face to face.

Be kind, stay safe and reach out to friends and family within the covid guidelines.

Though we may feel isolated now, we will all get through this together.

