



In this Issue:

- CJCA Virtual AGM
- A Mountain Village Experience
- In Spite of Covid-19
- Tsuru Fold-In Update
- and more



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."

Editorial

Initially planned for September, this issue was delayed by health concerns (non Covid-19 related) which were destabilizing enough to sap my energy and my focus for over a month. My apologies to all those who worked diligently to submit their material to us by the deadline. Now that I'm back to full strength, the newsletter team has put together this light version with messages from regular contributors and other topics of interest.

For those of us with access to the internet, there have been online presentations, concerts, art exhibits, movies, etc. to keep us informed and entertained when social distancing limited our physical activities. Check out these Japanese Canadian organizations which offer links to past and current events: NAJC (see page 11), the Japan Foundation's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/c/JFToronto/playlists), Vancouver's Japanese community newsletter (issuu.com/bulletin.geppo/docs).

We are grateful for the CJCA Board of Directors and other community volunteers that maintain the building and sustain the organization that so many of us rely on. We are appreciative, too, of the other Japanese organizations that contact their members and keep us connected in spite of the social distancing that we all practice to stay safe.

And thank you, Roger, for keeping us informed of the centre's "activities" and our spirits buoyed with your eBulletin messages.

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

Calgary Nikkei Cultural & Seniors Centre

2236-29th Street SW
Calgary, Alberta T3E 2K2

The centre is currently closed.

403.242.4143 , cjcamain@shaw.ca

www.calgaryjca.com

Newsletter

CJCAnewsletter@gmail.com

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Kristin Midori Muraki

Designer: Ken Richardson

Cover photo credit:

Japanese Garden at the CJCA in summer

Photo credit: Roger Teshima

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!



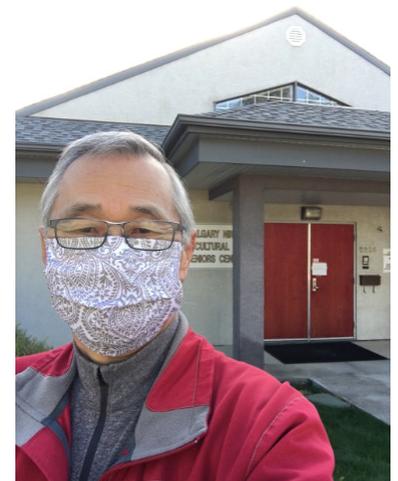
Thank you to all the behind the scenes volunteers:

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

Who is this masked man?

Do you have a serious, fun or unusual mask that you'd like to share with the community? What about one with a message? We plan to put together a fun collage of many different masks. If you wish to participate, send a jpeg photo, 300 dpi resolution to our email address.

If you think you know who this is, email us at cjcanewsletter@gmail.com and tell us. Creative answers are welcome!



President's Message by Roger Teshima

This publication of the newsletter is a small step but an important one. We are slowly moving back to a few things we had before COVID but it will never be the same. While we were "shut down" and our operations went into hibernation, there was a solid core of people who made sure that CJCA didn't disappear. Your Board continued to meet monthly in virtual meetings to assess our situation and do some preliminary planning about eventually coming back. We're not there yet but we are making preparations. Financial affairs had to be dealt with as bills and invoices continued even when our activities ceased at the Centre. When storms hit our city, most might have had concerns about their own homes and property but there were three of us that made sure we didn't have major water damage to the Centre. Many visits were made to the Centre to check on seepage of water into our basement. Gene Yamada has been a regular visitor to the Centre to take in our mail and during those stormy days, he was right on top of the situation. Did you know that our gardeners have been to our site? Sprinkler repairs were completed and roof assessments were done. Maureen Coleman has been to the Centre numerous times to look after business. During the past several months, we have had work completed in a storage room for a newly acquired Taiko drum as well as some improvements to the cupboards in that room. A major audio/visual upgrading project has just been completed. Although you may not notice the changes once you are allowed back into our Centre, the upgrades and relocation of equipment will make our operation at the Centre so much more efficient and effective.

During times like we have been enduring the past six months, when there are so many unknowns about family, business and school routines, we strive to survive. Parents have tried to maintain some familiar routines for their homes, particularly if there are young children in the family. I think during times like this, we are all looking for positive signs, something that we can envision that will make our lives better. We don't want to be satisfied with simply going back to our pre-COVID-19 life. I want to grab onto something

that will build our association to be better for ourselves and for the next generation.

Maureen and I are going to propose an idea to our new Board of Directors in September and we are hoping to share this with you later this fall. It is something that we are really excited about and we are hoping you might feel this way too. Your Board will be working towards sustainability of CJCA into the future but that won't happen without making substantial changes. Our Vision Statement for CJCA remains constant but our membership is changing and our needs are changing. Without accepting and planning for these changes, I fear that CJCA will eventually fade away. We are building our legacy for our future generations.

Annual General Meeting: Sunday, August 23

CJCA held its first-ever virtual annual general meeting. I want to thank those who attended our meeting, although there were a few others who were not able to participate due to a variety of reasons. Given the nature of the meeting, it was decided to hold a truncated meeting during which we dealt with only the essentials. Shirley presented her Financial Reports and described our financial situation during a most difficult year. With some of our reserves on hand, we'll be okay but we will need to be creative to add to our revenue stream, as many sources are not available. The most exciting part was the addition of two new directors to our Board: Katy Takaoka and Susan Matsumoto. They are bringing a wealth of experience and ideas to our team and I most certainly look forward to begin our planning for CJCA. Someone did raise the question about my name appearing on the list of candidates. Our by-laws stipulate the length of each term and it was time for me to be elected again.

On behalf of all the members of CJCA, I wish to express our thanks to Wendy Nagata Mahtoy, Fong Louie and Shirley Shigematsu for their years of volunteer service on our Board. Each has contributed in their own way to building a stronger association for us. In addition to serving on the Board, each has contributed countless hours helping us run our activities.



First-ever Virtual Annual General Meeting August 23, 2020

by Mary Fujiwara Burke

The CJCA held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on the Zoom platform because of Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings. A total of 24 members attended including current and new board members. This is an overview of what transpired at the meeting for those unable to attend.

Financial Report: After approval of the agenda and 2019 minutes, Shirley Shigematsu took us through the 2019 financial report. Then she outlined the impact that the closing of the centre and cancellation of external events have had on the 2020 financial year. Since usual revenue sources do not exist now, Shirley anticipates that the 2020 year will end with a deficit.

Election of Board of Directors: Maureen Coleman announced the slate.

Returning directors are Tomo Honda, Ken Richardson, Harvey Tanaka, Ben Lim and Maureen Coleman.

Retiring directors are Shirley Shigematsu, Fong Louie, and Wendy Nagata Mahtoy.

New director nominations are Katy Takaoka, Susan Matsumoto and Roger Teshima-required since his term of service was complete this year. (Bios of the new directors were sent by email in mid August.)

Although having only eight directors on the board of directors is fewer than the CJCA bylaws stipulate, the CJCA can operate with eight if approval is granted at the AGM. Yes, of course, it was approved.

Retiring Directors: Appreciation was expressed recognizing the contributions that the three retiring directors have made to the CJCA community during their tenure. They will be sorely missed at the board level and hopefully will continue to share their knowledge and skill sets at future CJCA events.

Wendy Nagata Mahtoy, with her committee consisting of Susan Matsumoto and Fran Esler, administered the Calgary

Nikkei Cultural Fund (CNCF) among many other responsibilities. The CNCF gave its first award to Noah Richardson and has since awarded several others.

Fong Louie's handiwork was evident in the detailed recording of procedures and minutes of the board in addition to his experience at negotiating business contracts. His computer and design skills will be missed.

Shirley Shigematsu spent six years on the board as treasurer, an invaluable expertise that she also shared with the Omatsuri organizing committee. She also organized special events like the volunteer appreciation, Keirokai and the Founders' wall recently installed at the centre.

Other Updates: During the time that the CJCA building has been closed, Gene Yamada, Maureen Coleman and Roger Teshima have checked in regularly to ensure that the building has remained intact. Gene has made repairs due to flooding that occurred during spring rainfalls. Roger responds to emails and phone messages and handles other admin tasks.

As most of you are aware, sadly, the position of Office Administrator was eliminated as a financial decision. As a result, during March, Mari Sasaki helped organize and prepare the closure of the Nikkei Centre in early April. (ed. We are grateful for the help that Mari provided to us as we familiarized ourselves with the community. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.)

Two upgrade projects were planned and completed during the shutdown: Cupboards were rebuilt in the storage room that housed the taiko drums; the audio-visual system was upgraded thanks to a donation made to the CJCA. Although these changes won't be obvious to most, they will improve the functioning of the building.

Roger, Maureen and Ken Richardson have

been working on plans to safely re-open the centre and will be sharing their findings soon. They seem to be excited about the potential!

A feasibility committee was struck over a year ago to review the future of the four-plex and our Nikkei Centre.

Final Thoughts: Roger Teshima and Tomo Honda organized the Zoom session, which ran without incident. As an attendee, I was struck with how well this virtual AGM went. Although I missed the camaraderie of an in-person meeting, the contact with the community was welcomed in these unprecedented times.

Calgary Japanese Community Association **Calgary Nikkei Cultural Fund**

The Calgary Japanese Community Association is pleased to announce that applications for the Calgary Nikkei Cultural Fund (CNCF) are now available. The Calgary Nikkei Cultural Fund (CNCF) is a program under the Calgary Japanese Community Association that provides limited funding (up to a maximum of \$1,500) to Japanese cultural activities, which promotes, educates and preserves Japanese culture in Calgary and the surrounding area. The fund is intended to serve currently in existence or newly initiated, and projects or on-going activities must be non-profit activities. The fund currently in existence may be one-time events. The activities and non-political. The must also appeal to the general public, and most likely would include plans for public displays.

Applications for the Cultural Fund may be submitted by both individuals and organizations. Applications will be reviewed 2 times per year. The due dates are September 30 and March 31 of each year.

Applications will be available at the Calgary Nikkei Cultural & Seniors Centre office or obtained via email:

2236 - 29th Street SW
Calgary, AB T3E 2K2

Phone (403) 241-4243 or email: cjcain@shaw.ca

The COVID19 Pandemic Experience

– A Mountain Village’s Experience

by Kevin Okabe

September 2020 marks the 20th year of operations for us. While we eagerly anticipated celebrating this milestone, little did we know what 2020 would actually bring to us and to the world.

It was way back in the summer of 2000 when my wife, Naoko Maebashi, first identified the opportunity to take over the small souvenir shop that she worked in. Over the years, we managed to grow and expand when at our peak we had five store locations. Due to renovations at the hotel we consolidated three of our stores and now run two souvenir shops and a deli. (Sparrowhawk Gifts and Convenience and Moose Family Kitchen in Kananaskis Village and Wild about Nature in Banff).

When the pandemic restrictions were first implemented back in March, we were already preparing for our staff, who were mostly temporary foreign workers, to start planning to return to their home countries. Some were nearing the end of their work term, so they departed quickly with relatively little impact on their own lives. A couple of staff were barely in Canada, but chose to go home given the uncertainty created by the sudden closures. A few decided to hunker down in Calgary, where access to essentials and medical services would be easier. A couple of permanent residents settled in Canada, so they chose to wait it out in their homes. Within a span of a couple of weeks, we lost all ten employees we had, with the exception of the two of us.

Fortunately for the residents in the Kananaskis Valley, the Alberta Government chose to restrict access to Alberta Parks. As there was only one highway coming into Kananaskis, it was relatively easy to lock this area down. A roadblock staffed 24 hours a day checked on all incoming traffic, only allowing those that resided or had business in the area through. All three hotels in Kananaskis closed down and while some staff chose to return home, most people in the area chose to stay in staff accommodations and wait the situation out. We have chosen to remain out in Kananaskis the majority of the time, making day trips to the city to restock and pick up supplies.

Kananaskis became all but a ghost town. The hotel was completely empty and shut down – all entrances locked up and all lights shut off. Sure we experienced some shut downs over the years (when they were setting up for the G8 summit and when the 2013 floods washed out access to the village for 10 days) - but this was almost post-apocalyptic with not a soul to be seen for hours on end. We shut down two of our stores completely, but opted to keep the deli open a couple of days a week to service locals that may have grown tired of cafeteria style food each day. For Naoko and I, we actually looked forward to the days that we opened. A regular base of 20-30 customers would always drop by, looking forward to getting a fresh brewed cappuccino or a teriyaki beef bowl made to order. Others

would come and get supplies, wary about leaving the village to venture into town and risk COVID19 exposure. With most residents in the village housed in staff accommodations, sharing their room with 1 or 2 others, it was really

surprising that we never had an outbreak in Kananaskis.

While we knew that there was growing interest in reopening everything, little did we know that the Province of Alberta would allow everything to open back up in mid May, with less than one week’s notice! That announcement took all of us out here by surprise, leaving us scrambling to hire new staff and get our operations up and running again. Banff waited a couple more weeks to reopen so that did give us a bit more time to staff up there, but we basically wound up working our stores with half of the usual amount of staff.

Nothing would prepare us for what we saw this summer though! Once July hit, Albertans flocked to the mountains in droves, with numbers that we have never seen out here before. Apparently eager to get out of self-quarantine, families could not wait to re-explore the mountain areas. The loss in international traffic was more than made up by Albertans seeking a mountain staycation. The fact that we were still trying to hire staff to work in our stores all summer meant that we relied heavily on the five staff that we managed to hire to carry the load. Even some of the hotel full time staff agreed to help us on a part time basis, feeling sorry for seeing us open up each day at 8 AM and closing up at midnight each day! We will be grateful for their extraordinary hard work and efforts.

As we now approach the Thanksgiving long weekend, we continue to enjoy wonderful weather and strong crowds. Seeing the colourful green/yellow mosaic created by the changing colour of the leaves last for over three weeks now has been a special treat. We are all wary about the growing COVID19 numbers however, and are mindful of keeping our guard up and being diligent in doing our small part to try to avoid the spread of COVID19.

Kevin Okabe and Naoko Maebashi

Owners – Sparrowhawk Gifts and Convenience/Moose Family Kitchen/Wild about Nature stores in Kananaskis and Banff



Inside a shut down hotel

In Spite of Covid-19

compiled by Mary Fujiwara Burke

Life isn't the same anymore after seven months of this pandemic. But that hasn't stopped community members from finding ways to stay in shape, keep in touch and continue to be of service.

As many did this year, I planted a garden. I grew rainbow chard, kale, lettuce and other vegetables that we love in our 8' x 4' plot. We nurtured our little plants, watering daily to keep the soil moist from the fierce winds that howled over them. In mid-June, the tops of the chard and beets had been cleanly lopped off. Who did that? Deer - had found them impossible to resist.

Well, although the chard and lettuce grew back, the deer always got there before us. Even chicken wire didn't stop the doe and her fawn from enjoying their snack.

Does anyone have any tips for this Calgary gardener to thwart these clever deer?

My neighbours, Hiroko and Aiko, rise with the sun every morning. They get dressed and meet outside the condo for a walk through the neighbourhood. Masked and protected

from the elements, they never miss a day. I admire their commitment to health and to each other.

A little birdie told me that Kotobuki member, Nancy, known for her talents in the kitchen – baking goodies to share at Wednesday meetings - has skills that extend well beyond the kitchen and her prolific garden. She has been industriously making masks which she has kindly donated to members of the community as well as to health care professionals. Thank you, Nancy.

Some members travelled to Lethbridge, and made a stop at Nakagama's store. They picked up some shopping items for people who were unable to make the Nakagama drop off in the summer. Upon their return to Calgary, they delivered the purchases and engaged in socially distanced visits. What a great way to be of service to their friends and catch up on the news!

The Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary, in collaboration with the Japan Foundation and other Japanese diplomatic missions in

Canada, provided a free online screening of "Ramen Heads," at the end of May.

The documentary followed Japan's king of ramen for 15 months, capturing his passion and revealing Japan's ramen culture.

The film inspired us to improve our own recipe, albeit with mixed results. Sigh...

Do you have a ramen recipe that your friends and family rave about? Or a secret ingredient that you use? Perhaps a different culinary journey that you'd share with us?

Nakagama Japanese Food & Giftware is coming up from Lethbridge to the CJCA's parking lot for pick-up on pre-orders only. Tentatively planned for Sunday, November 22, 2020. Pick up times will be confirmed when you order.

For more information please phone or email. 403-327-5337 or info@nakagamas.com

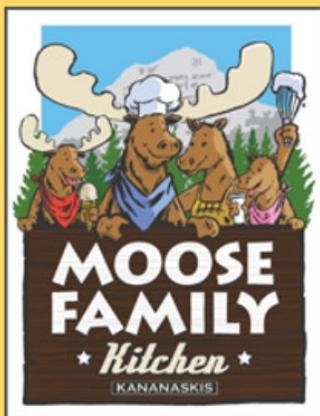
SPARROWHAWK GROUP

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"

Kotobuki Kai

by Cheryl Ali and Ruth Nagata

with photographers Ted Wada and Lorraine McNeill

February 12: Valentine's Day lunch organized by Toban D and volunteers... onigiri, kinpiri gobo, pickles, orange.

Treats... a small box of Bernard Callebaut Chocolates from the Board and a bag of Valentine's S'mores from Cheryl.

Entertained by Rod and Mary and ended the day playing assorted games.

Thanks everyone for your contributions to this day!



February 19: After lunch, Kotobuki joined community members to make origami cranes for *Tsuru for Solidarity*, organized by Kristin Muraki. (ed note: see page 12 for details)

March 1: Amy Okazaki passed away at the age of 88.

March 4: Hinamatsuri (Girls' Day-March 3) was celebrated with mochi and sweet bean soup (zenzai). Thanks to Haruyo Onishi who displayed her doll collection.

March 10: Misao Ikeda passed away at the age of 94.

March 11: Commenced with exercises and Tai Chi and as there was no Line Dancing, we watched Japanese movies that Ted had taped. After lunch some members played games and others worked on making coasters for the Board Room.

Kotobuki's Executive voted to cancel Wednesday meetings until April 30 due to the virus and the SALT Luncheon (April 21) was cancelled. The Centre was officially closed on March 16. It was agreed to pay the instructors for March and April; Grace advised them of this decision. Kathrine contacted Dr. Nakai and Ruth notified vendors. Sakura Festival (April 18) was cancelled.

March 19: Kathrine contacted members by telephone.

March 29: Kotobuki sent birthday wishes to Hiroshi Kuwahara who celebrated his 106th birthday.

Kerry Nagata passed away at the age of 60.

March 30: The Executive decided to close Kotobuki until further notice.

April 14: Kotobuki closure message sent to all members.

April 25: Kathrine contacted membership by phone. An official notice was sent to all vendors and service people/instructors advising them of our

decision to remain closed. Instructors will be paid to the end of June once they provide us with an invoice.

May 7: Mother's Day Message sent to all members from Kathrine.

May 19: Kay Kuwahara celebrated her 100th birthday; birthday wishes sent.

May 29: Kathrine contacted the membership by telephone.

June 11: An e-mail message was sent out to the membership. The AGLC Kotobuki Casino of June 17-18 was postponed to a date in 2021.

June 26: Hiroshi Kuwahara passed away at the age of 106 after a bad fall the day before.

July 21: An e-mail message was sent out to the members from Kathrine.

August 4: Norio Yamamoto passed away at the age of 84.

August 20: The Executive made the very difficult decision that Kotobuki will not resume in September as previously scheduled; an e-mail message was sent out.

On Going: Well-being calls are being made to those in care by Ruth. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

During this unprecedented time, we are functioning as a charity with Kathrine looking after directives and her executive (Ted, Yuri, Julie and Cheryl) looking after business matters; Chris Jim makes phone calls to those with no e-mail; Grace notifies the instructors; Ruth notifies the service/businesses of the directives and stays in contact with AGLC; Ruth Nagai keeps our statistics up-to-date and Cheryl documents ongoing procedures.



LONG-LIFE

**CALGARY
KOTOBUKI SOCIETY
Board of Directors**

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Kathrine Nugent

Vice-President

Ted Wada

Treasurer

Yuri Delisle

Assistant Treasurer

Julie Kamitakahara

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Cheryl Ali

DIRECTORS

Tom Horiuchi

Nancy Kondo

Ruth Nagata

Shoko Nakazato

Satomi Okabe

Haruyo Onishi

INFORMATION

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Tributes



Amy (Emiko) Okazaki

June 15, 1931 -
March 1, 2020
Calgary, Alberta

Amy Okazaki was one of the original founders of the senior's groups in Calgary. Back in 1987 she organized a group of 40 seniors who were interested in having a group of their own. They each paid \$1.00 and the group was started. At first they met at the Buddhist church till they purchased the current facility.

Amy served on the Kotobuki Board as Secretary for 3 years and as Vice-President for 3 years. She was a very active and vocal member of the group and worked hard to keep the group a huge part of the Japanese Community.

Amy received her BEd at the University of Alberta, a BA from the University of British Columbia, a MEd from the University of Hawaii, and a MA from Columbia University.

She started teaching in 1949 and worked for the Calgary Board of Education for over 37 years. She taught grades 1 - 9 at Haultain School and grades 10 - 12 at Central High School. She retired in 1987.

The Japanese Community was a huge part of Amy's life and her dedication to Kotobuki Kai was unwavering. She attended our Wednesday meetings till her health prevented her from coming. We missed her very vocal comments when she was unable to attend.

Tribute courtesy of Kathrine Nugent.



Kerry Nagata

November 15, 1959
Calgary, Alberta -
March 29, 2020
Calgary, Alberta

Our family is truly devastated to announce the departure of our gentle natured and loving son, husband, father and brother - Kerry. He lost his valiant battle with pancreatic cancer which he fought with incredible courage and grace from the time he was diagnosed in September until his peaceful passing early the morning of March 29. He lived his life with purpose, carefully balancing family, career and community. After the shock of receiving his diagnosis, he intentionally set out to make every remaining moment count, never once feeling self pity and moving immediately towards acceptance of the cards that he had been dealt. He lived his life gratefully and appreciated all of the people who gave his life meaning & especially those who extended loving kindness towards him and his precious family throughout his illness. What he taught us with every fibre of his being was love, caring and compassion until his dying day. We are truly grateful for the privilege of having Kerry shape our world so profoundly.

Tribute courtesy of Cindy Nagata McMillan.

Norio Yamamoto

July 1, 1936 - August 4, 2020, Calgary

With sadness we announce that Norio Yamamoto passed away peacefully on August 4, 2020 at the age of 84 years. Yamamoto-san was one of the founding members of the Calgary Japanese Language School.

"I fondly remember the times that Jim (Norio) & I would go fishing and golfing together."

Robert Sameshima



Hiroshi Kuwahara

March 29, 1914
Vancouver, B.C. -
June 26, 2020
Calgary, Alberta

Hiroshi Kuwahara was a very active and prominent member of the Calgary Japanese Community. His contribution to the Kotobuki Kai was a very important part of who we are today. He served as Treasurer on the Kotobuki board for 13 years.

He was one of six children of Sataro Kuwahara and Setsu Matsubayashi. Hiroshi was born in Vancouver in 1914.

His father opened a small Japanese artifacts store in Calgary in 1922 and Mr. Kuwahara moved his family to Calgary in 1923. Hiroshi attended school in Calgary and worked after school at his father's store. The store was originally known as Nippon Silk but changed to Silk-O-Lina in December of 1941.

Hiroshi worked in the business for 55 years until he retired. One recalls on his 100th birthday how he remembered that you could purchase an 8 place china set for \$10.00 in the "good old days".

Hiroshi will always be remembered as a quiet and gentle man who was a huge part of who we are as a Japanese Community today.

Tribute courtesy of Kathrine Nugent.

Masakuni Yokoyama, (see February issue).

Mr Yokoyama smiled all the time. He grew tomato plants and other things. He liked to cook at home and eat a variety of different foods. At New Year's, he made ozoni.

He volunteered at Omatsuri and was a cashier at the casino. We will remember him.

Tribute courtesy of Robert Sameshima



Misao Ikeda (nee Hosaki)

April 25, 1925 Maple Ridge, B.C. -
March 10, 2020
Calgary, Alberta

Misao was known to friends and family as lovely, warm and friendly, with a wonderful smile. She will be greatly missed.

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.

Milestones

The Honourable Judge Sylvia Oishi

The community is pleased to congratulate Lethbridge's Honourable Judge Sylvia Oishi, who was recently appointed as one of two assistant chief judge for the Province of Alberta whose five-year term began on September 1, 2020. Judge Oishi will serve the Southern Alberta region.

She was a partner with the Jervis Oishi Law Office from 1986 to 1998 and was a Crown prosecutor from 1998 to 2008. From 2008, she had been a Provincial Court of Alberta judge.



Harrison Matsuoka

Congratulations to Harrison Matsuoka, who was drafted by the Calgary Roughnecks of the National Lacrosse League in the first round, pick #14, on September 17, 2020.

"Harrison is a speedster. He's a real strong defender, a loose ball hawk and finishes off in transition. And he's a local kid. Always stoked to have Calgary kids grow with us and expand their careers," said Roughnecks GM Mike Board.

Matsuoka, a 6-foot, 180-lb leader, is a four-year captain of the NCAA's Stony Brook Seawolves and has starred for five seasons within the Okotoks Junior A Raiders.

"It felt unbelievable to hear my name called by the Roughnecks, like a dream come true," commented Matsuoka. "The possibility of playing in front of my home town crowd...it just doesn't get much better than that."

Harrison is the son of Rob and Carol Matsuoka (sister Alex), grandson of Pat and Rose Matsuoka and grand nephew of Kathrine Nugent and John & Maureen Coleman.

Source: calgaryroughnecks.com/roughnecks-select-nine-in-2020-nll-entry-draft/



Howard T. Shikaze FCPA, FCA

Congratulations to Howard Shikaze of our Calgary community, who has been awarded the Chartered Professional Accountants Alberta Lifetime Achievement Award. This honour is in recognition of Howie's many professional contributions and successes, and the tireless effort he gives to his community and the causes he is passionate about.

Howie attributes his success to the inspiring example his family set: "My parents and grandparents always took stock of their plight, never complained about the past and constantly worked to empower us to a brighter future. Embracing this history or narrative has brought me to where I am today."

Tsuru Fold-in Participants in Action



A Message from the NJCA President

I hope you are all doing well.

I have never thought that I will experience such a pandemic during my lifetime. I imagine many of you feel the same way. "How much can I protect myself?" We can all feel a little frustrated when we think about how difficult it is to fight against something that is invisible to the naked eye.

So when can we resume our events? Honestly, it's hard to predict. But I believe this is a good time to think about new events and reflect on past events. So if any of our members have any good ideas or comments, please contact us as we would love to hear them.

I wish all of you good health and a quick recovery to those affected by COVID. I will continue to think about what I can do and make effort to bring good changes.

Taeko Nagao
NJCA President



Board of Directors

President

Taeko Nagao

Treasurer

Michiko Kajita

Secretary

Mai Mulhern

Membership

Rebecca Scheiris

Website/Social Media

Ryota Suyama

Tomomi Suyama

2236-29th Street S.W.

Calgary, AB T3E 2K2

njca@njcayyc.com

www.njcayyc.com

Library (Japanese)

NJCA会長からのメッセージ

皆様いかがお過ごしですか？

この様なパンデミックが私の生きている時代に起きるなんて夢にも思っておりませんでした。恐らくほとんどの方が同じ気持ちだと思います。「何処まで自分自身を守るのか？」目に見えないものとの戦いほど、訳のわからない難しいものだと言うことに、毎日苛立ちを覚えます。

私たちのイベントもいつ再開できるのか？全然先が見えません。でもこの時期に色々考えて新しいイベント、今までのイベントへの方向性のあり方を思案していきたいと思っております。会員の皆様方も、良いアイデアなどございましたらお知らせいただければ嬉しいです。

どうか、皆様方が健康で楽しく過ごせることと、コロナ被害を受けられた方達の1日も早い平癒を心より御祈りして 私が今出来ることをしっかり考えて実行していきたいと思っております。

新移住者協会会長 永尾多恵子



Event Report

As many of you are aware, all NJCA events have been cancelled/postponed since the announcement of the COVID-19 outbreak. Unfortunately, even though we were hoping for things to get (somewhat) back to normal by the end of summer, it seems that situations are still unpredictable at the moment. As such, all events until the end of this year will remain "on hold until further

notice." This means that we will let you know if we decide to hold an event as planned. If there is no update from us, please assume that the event will not happen.

We apologize for the lack of clarity, but we will do our best to prepare ahead of time if we plan on holding an event or resuming our on-going activities (such as library, choir, meetings, etc.) Until then, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

We wish to see you all back at our events in the near future.



Update from the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC)

By Kevin Okabe, Executive Director

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS
"Leaving a proud legacy for future generations"
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204.943.2910, national@najc.ca
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While the COVID Pandemic has had a widespread, global impact, the NAJC and Japanese Canadian organizations across Canada have not been immune to its impact either. Most organizations have had to shut down their operations, resulting in the closure of cultural centres and the cancellation of major festivals. Some organizations are facing financial hardship, with revenue streams all but dried up while bills still need to be paid. Now more than ever, Japanese Canadian and community organizations need your support and help – please reach out and do what you can to ensure that these organizations can exist to

serve our future generations.

Many organizations have used this pandemic as an opportunity to reinvent themselves. The proliferation of Zoom and other online collaboration tools have given organizations the opportunity to foster discussions over the Internet. Whether this be through holding on-line meetings, or to more sophisticated development of online seminars, webinars or exhibitions, the Internet has given groups a new way to do outreach and deliver programming.

Over the past several months, the NAJC has developed several on-line programs that have been made available to the general

public. We encourage everyone to go to our website at <http://najc.ca/online-programs/> and find out more about the on-line programs that we are holding. If you missed our sessions, check the website – in some cases a recording of the session is available to view.

Please stay safe and healthy!



Calgary Buddhist Temple

By Laura Sugimoto

Five years ago, on August 30th, 2015, in conjunction with Obon, the Calgary Buddhist Temple celebrated its grand reopening in its completely renovated building. Our attractive and practical building has been well used by our busy sangha – until six months ago, when the COVID pandemic swept the entire world and changed so much of our lives. The Temple was closed in mid-March and all activities were cancelled. In early April, Robert Gubenco Sensei started live streaming Sunday morning services through the Temple's Facebook page, which was much appreciated by the Calgary sangha as well as people across Canada. The Temple held its Annual General Meeting in April by Zoom, and the Board continued to meet by Zoom. In late June, the Temple once again reopened for services on Sunday morning with very limited attendance; attendees must pre-register and comply with

strict procedures adopted by the Temple in accordance with the Province's guidelines.

Even though the Temple was physically closed, we had several Zoom events which were well attended: a presentation for women on health issues and a lively discussion with John Ota on his experiences writing his book *The Kitchen*. We even got to see John's mother's electric frying pan! Robert Sensei led a small group from Calgary and Lethbridge through three classes on Naikan, a structured method of self-reflection developed by a Japanese businessman; for more information, see <https://tricycle.org/magazine/naikan-therapy/>. We celebrated Obon on August 23, again with limited physical attendance but a large presence online.

As we move into the fall, Robert Sensei is continuing to live stream Sunday services on Facebook at 10:00 am and a daily meditative

service at 9:00 pm. These services are live streamed on Calgary Buddhist (Jodo Shinsu) Temple Facebook page. In addition, Sunday services are posted to YouTube.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/CalgaryBuddhistTemple/>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtW0VjcC02o98KL_EWF8wrg

We have several Zoom sessions planned for the coming months, and we also have access to several online webinars being offered by Buddhist Churches of America. Please check our website or our Facebook page for more details. Website: <http://calgary-buddhist.ab.ca/>

We hope to see you online soon!

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Tsuru Fold-In Update

by Kristin Midori Muraki

Although it seems like a distant memory, here is an update on the Tsuru Fold-In hosted by Kotobuki on February 19, 2020. After community members gathered to fold paper cranes in support of *Tsuru for Solidarity*, we have 650 cranes folded and strung, not including the many additional *tsuru* that have been made but not yet collected because of the pandemic.

The original plan for the cranes was to send them to *Tsuru for Solidarity* in the United States to help them reach their goal of 125,000 *tsuru* to be used in their *Pilgrimage to Close the Camps* in June. Sadly, the nationwide protest of migrant detention centres was cancelled due to coronavirus and *Tsuru for Solidarity* was unable to accept the paper cranes by mail. They still gratefully accepted the community support by way of pictures on social media and added our numbers to their total. They far surpassed their original

goal, with contributions of *tsuru* from all around the world, and have set a new goal of 525,000 cranes. 125,000 for the number of Japanese Americans interned during World War II, and 400,000 representing the number of migrants incarcerated annually in the United States. Although unable to physically gather, *Tsuru for Solidarity* has continued to organize virtual fold-ins, protests and anti-racist programming, supporting migrant communities and the Black Lives Matter movement. See more details about their mission and their programming on their website at <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org>

Our paper cranes will be mailed to *Tsuru for Solidarity* when they are able to accept them again. Thank you so much to everyone who worked hard to make the Calgary *tsuru* fold-in a success!

