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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

Calgary, Alberta T3E 2K2

The centre is currently closed.

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www.calgaryjca.com

Newsletter Team

CJCAnewsletter@gmail.com

Co-editors: Mary Fujiwara Burke

Kristin Midori Muraki

Contributors: Ken Richardson, Roger

Teshima, Maureen

Coleman

Front cover: Ken Richardson

Our cover this month reflects our commitment to reducing the spread of Covid-19. Photographers spent time with willing subjects to get just the perfect shot of their vaccine arm. Ken Richardson crafted this inspiring collage of friends, family and community members from the submitted photos.

**Do your part.
Get vaccinated.
We're in this together
and will conquer it
together!**

2021 Annual General Meeting

**Sunday,
September 12
at 1 pm**

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

Significant dates:

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

August 13: Motions submitted to the Executive

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

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

Nomination Committee:

Roger Teshima, Maureen Coleman

Editorial

This month, discover people making a contribution to the community in unseen ways. You'll learn what inspires the specialized caretakers of our peaceful garden and get some pruning tips. We've profiled a tiny but giant source of Japanese products in the NE to tempt your palate and also profiled a new addition to health services in the NW.

The *Kimono Life Drawing* event, held during the Asian Heritage Festival in May, inspired drawings from talented artists which they share with us.

Our mythology writer and *Tsunodoku* reviewer continue to inform and excite us about Japan.

Enjoy the issue and fine weather. See you virtually at **A Taste of Omatsuri!**

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.

President's Message by Roger Teshima

Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund

In September of 1988, then Prime Minister Brian Mulroney issued a formal apology and acknowledged the federal government's wrongful actions that resulted in the incarceration and internment of over 22,000 people of Japanese descent. The majority were Canadian born or had become naturalized citizens. In March of 1941, all Nikkei were required to register with the government and that labelled them as enemy aliens. The War Measures Act, invoked in 1939, was used to forcibly remove that Nikkei community from the coast. This ultimately led to the loss of their homes and businesses.

In 2012, the British Columbia government issued an apology for their role in the forced evacuation of Japanese Canadians from its coast. Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of Advanced Education, introduced a motion for the apology to Japanese Canadians. Tosh Suzuki from North Delta, B.C. had written a letter to her raising the issue of an apology. Unfortunately, plans for the reading of the statement did not include the Japanese Canadian community so most learned of the apology through reports in the news media.

Last month, the B.C. government decided to provide \$2M to fund a program as part of the B.C. Redress. The funding is earmarked for the development of a program that will be a "direct benefit to the Japanese Canadian survivors of the internment 1942 – 1949." All the details have yet to be determined but input from the survivors will be gathered through the NAJC member organizations.

It is towards this end that I ask the question, "In what ways can this fund be used to provide help for those impacted?" I wish to be pro-active and have some ideas already gathered from you. There may be some options that are related to seniors' health and wellness, education, and heritage preservation. We will need some specific ideas to spawn a project or projects that will help those impacted by the internment, those aged 72 and older. I am soliciting responses from our elder seniors but it may be other family members that may need to speak on their behalf.

The most useful responses will be those that offer details:

- What are you proposing?
- When could this happen?
- How could this happen, given the COVID restrictions we have?
- What kind of costs would be anticipated?
- Would the program be online? in-person?

Please send me your ideas. Click on this link [R.Teshima](#)

or address your email to: rteshima.cjca@shaw.ca Subject: Program Suggestions

If you know of others in the Calgary area who do not engage regularly with CJCA but may qualify, please speak to them and ask them to contact me. We want to reach out to as many of these Nikkei Seniors as we possibly can.



CJCA Garden Volunteers

Lee Sudrich.

"Where?" That was my question to Stephanie Jacobson when she said she volunteered at a Japanese garden in Calgary. We had met at the NAJGA Regional Conference in Lethbridge at Nikka Yuko in 2016. She invited me to join the team with her, Lynn Montgomery and then-Board President Joanne Planidin.

The Garden is a secret. Even walking by the Calgary Japanese Community Association, you would not know it was there, hidden behind the spruce trees. It is a place of peace and calm. Maintaining it has been a joy and I have learned much. Stephanie and Lynn met taking the Master Gardener course from the Calgary Horticultural Society. They encouraged me and I completed the Organic Master Gardener from Gaia College in 2017.

Al White was a presenter at the conference, telling the history of Nikka Yuko as the Head Gardener for many years. He shared with us his knowledge of the Karesansui Garden, with its principles of asymmetry, tranquility, simplicity and naturalness. The biggest secret? The best place to view the Garden is from inside the hall. The windows frame the mountain, river, bridge and lantern and Al's expert pruning showcases the pine and the maple at their very best.

Discovering the Garden has opened a whole new world for me of friendship and community. My own garden has taken on a more Asian feel and I continue to learn about Japanese gardens around the world. My secret is that maintaining the Garden is never work but always a pleasure.

Lynn Montgomery

I came to the Nikkei Centre when Stephanie, a fellow master gardener invited me to help her with a Japanese garden in need of care. The journey began as a volunteer opportunity to complete the Master Gardener training program but evolved into something more. Yes, we cleaned out weeds, removed a diseased juniper and cleaned out the shrubs but with the labour came friendship, learning, a new connection and gratitude:

- friendship with Stephanie and Lee as we worked together sharing our gardening knowledge;
- knowledge and guidance in pruning, garden care and the culture of the Japanese garden from Al White;
- connection with my Japanese heritage through the garden and through people like Joanne Planidin and Maureen Coleman who welcomed us to the garden but more importantly to participate in Omatsuri, mochi day and the volunteer tea;
- gratitude for being able to rejuvenate the garden for the Japanese community to enjoy.

Stephanie Jacobson

The moment I stepped into the garden I knew it would be a journey. From wrestling with bindweed, braving the elements (we all live in Calgary, so I know, you know what I mean) the discovery of juniper hawthorn rust, a rabbit with a broken leg hiding under a juniper, the young woman writing in her journal, someone making offerings in the lantern and the delight of Sensei Keiko and my Ikebana friends seeing the garden through the viewing window for the first time. The garden has taught me to be in the present moment and respond to its seasonal needs. It is my teacher, refuge and the commitment to carry on the vision of the original visionaries/designers/engineers and gardeners, so this ancient practise is preserved for future generations. The garden is always evolving as it has to and I am only its caretaker and student. I hope that when COVID is under control, you can come here in person to see the garden again. It will be waiting for you.

From left: Lee Sudrich, Lynn Montgomery, Stephanie Jacobson



Prune in June

by Al White



The month of June sees the opportunity to prune your spring flowering shrubs, pine (depending on candle growth), and juniper.

Shrubs that flower in early spring, such as lilac, have set the flower buds the previous season. If pruning occurred during the dormant season, those buds would be cut off and flowering would be minimal.

Pruning just after they flower allows for a good spring show. Once they have flowered and the blossoms wilt and fade, we prune them back to the first set of buds below the spent blossoms before seed set starts. This allows for new bud set and lots of blossoms for next spring. If the shrub is older, you may consider removing 1/3 of the old stems each year for 3 years to allow for new wood to develop from the bottom. This regeneration will help the longevity and vigour of the plant.

June sees the elongation of new growth on pine plantings. As the candles or new growth elongates, we watch for the best

time to break them. When they are still soft without woody tissue forming inside them, we usually break the centre candle out of the cluster and reduce the remaining by 1/2, or the length of the surrounding needles from last year's growth. This helps keep the pine size under control to a certain extent, and allows a tighter branching habit, giving the gardener structure to prune back to, keeping the growth looking somewhat natural.

If juniper are being manicured, this is a good time for pruning and pinching back. Size and direction control can be practised at this time. Pruning back the central leader re-directs growth from the dominant centre and spreads it around the remaining tips. Pinching the remaining tips causes the plant to grow in all directions keeping the foliage pad thick and contained. One of the best practices if a juniper has not been maintained is to remove the dead wood back to the main stem. This greatly improves the look of the plant.

A good rule of thumb is do not prune if the the leaves are forming or falling. Once trees and shrubs have fully leafed out, then minor pruning can be done. Active season pruning sees immediate response by callus forming tissue, as opposed to dormant season pruning where the wound is open and left to the effects of freezing and desiccation until spring when it begins to form callus.

Al White is an ISA certified arborist/ municipal specialist with over 25 years of experience. He first visited our garden in June of 2016. Although he is presently retired, he continues to support the care and sustaining of our garden.

His Japanese mentor, Masa Mizuno of Portland Oregon called his gardening students: "Japanese Garden Technicians".

Legacy Project Update

By Henry Tsang

Over the last few weeks, our focus has been on strategizing our next steps and bringing some exposure to our CJA Legacy Project. The design team is now working on a masterplan, trying to map out a possible timeline, budget, tasks, and critical path. Hopefully, with this, we would be able to come together as a committee in the next few months to set some priorities and action items we can tackle.

I've received some questions from some of you asking how we will be funding the project. The answer is: we are studying all our options. Right now, we are looking closely at grants we would be able to receive from different levels of government. A list has been developed, and we are studying these in detail to narrow them down to the ones that are most suited to our proposal. As an example, the "Green & Inclusive Community Building" program by Infrastructure Canada that can sponsor up to \$25 million for retrofits and new building projects for community buildings. If there is anyone amongst the membership who has experience as a grant writer, please get in touch with us!

Meeting former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, MOFA

On March 25th, I had the pleasure of speaking at a virtual conference for Japanese MEXT Scholars organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, attended by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. I had an opportunity to report to MOFA about the Japan-related activities happening in Calgary, including CJA's own Alberta-famous Yosakoi dance team, and our visionary plans for a new Legacy Project.



Calgary Japanese Community Association Feasibility Study Report on YouTube

For those of you who are just tuning in. The design team has just recorded a video of our feasibility study report, and design proposal that can be viewed on demand on YouTube.

Presented by Henry Tsang Architect, Dustin Couzens (MoDA) & Jim Madden (CREATE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e46sl2qfGW8>

What's Next?

A second call for action. If there is anyone interested in contributing to this project either as a committee member or volunteer in any capacity, please get in touch with Roger or myself. As soon as the masterplan is ready, we will be convening as a committee for a kick-off meeting.

Any questions or inquiries can be sent to:

Dr. Henry Tsang
Architect & Assistant Professor
Athabasca University RAIC Centre for Architecture
E-mail: htsang@athabascau.ca

"Understanding Japanese Architecture" Talk, Japan Foundation Toronto



On May 6th, I was invited to give an online presentation about Japanese architecture for the Japan Foundation Toronto, and I spoke in detail about the intricacies and rich history of Japanese architecture. I ended the presentation showing our own interpretation of Japanese architectural design for our CJA Legacy Project. If you missed it, you can still check it out on YouTube.

Understanding Japanese Architecture by Dr. Henry Tsang
Hosted by the Japan Foundation Toronto
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lh9ZotJQgBM>



True World Foods

10-1826 25 Avenue NE

It's the small things that make life better and sometimes, these are the things that have a surprise for you. The smile of the person that lets you merge into traffic or the taste of real wasabi. Let me dwell on the last one for a minute. That green paste that can blow out your nasals that you get with Japanese takeout isn't real wasabi. 99% of the time it's a form of coloured horseradish. Real, fresh, ground wasabi root has a complex and delicate flavour that only lasts for about 20 minutes after it's been ground. If you're a sushi lover, it's something you need to try.

The only place you can get it in Calgary is at a tiny little shop in the industrial park south of McCall Lake Golf Course. That humble little storefront is True World Foods. But, size isn't everything. Behind this small shop is a huge distribution network for Japanese foods. True World started in New York as a wholesale business supplying Japanese restaurants with top quality seafood. They slowly moved across North America with the goal of bringing the best quality foods from Japan to the North American market. Hayato Nagao has been with True World Foods pretty much from the time that they opened a location in Calgary 16 years ago. Like their other locations, they started as a wholesaler, supplying Japanese food to the restaurant and retail shops around Calgary. Hayato said that they realized that there didn't seem to be

anywhere in Calgary that specialized in food items straight from Japan. Much of the 'Japanese snacks and food' available in Calgary were actually from Taiwan, Korea or China. Seeing this, True World opened up a retail shop in Calgary about 6 years ago.

Hayato says that they are able to leverage True World's international import network to bring in lots of specialty items directly from Japan. They carry a huge selection of the latest snack foods that are popular today in Tokyo and Osaka. These foods are constantly changing and evolving and True World tries to keep up with the most popular ones in Japan.

At the start of the article we talked about fresh wasabi root, but there are lots of other special foods that, to our knowledge, can only be purchased at True World Foods. Dashi in tea-bag form, fresh shiso leaves, Hokkaido Uni, Japanese rice that was grown in Japan, and A3, A4, and A5 Japanese wagyu beef just to mention a few.



Kotobuki Kai

by Cheryl Ali and Ruth Nagata

with photographers Ted Wada and Lorraine McNeill



Special thanks to Pat Jette for her photo expertise and suggestions!

March

March 20: President's Message sent out to all members by e-mail.

April

April 1: President's Message sent out to all members by e-mail.

April 10: Forwarded information from Laura Saimoto re "*Launch of Digital Archives Database by Landscapes of Injustice of each of the 15,000 case files of each adult Internee*"

May

May 6: Tom Kosaka passed away at the Rosedale Hospice in Calgary. After a private funeral service, burial followed at the Temple Hill Cemetery in Raymond, Alberta.

May 11: Yuriko Lily (Saka) Yoneda was born in Welling, Alberta in 1927 and passed away at the Mount Royal Care Centre in Calgary.

May 19: Zoom Board Meeting held..





LONG-LIFE

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KOTOBUKI SOCIETY
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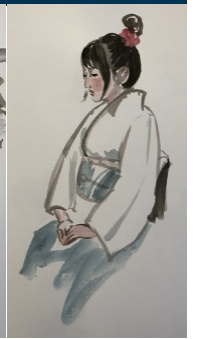
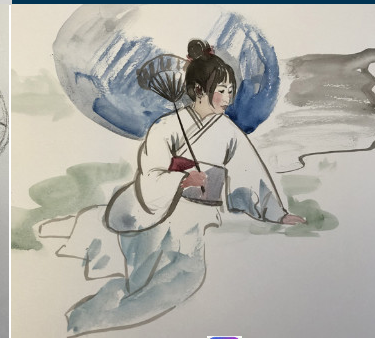



NOTE: We apologize if we missed other milestone occasions. Please share any special photos or events with Ruth at rnagata@telus.net or Cheryl at guider86@icloud.com.




Kimono


Life drawing
goes on-line





 Noahharuki

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 rodzzart

 creativityisjoy

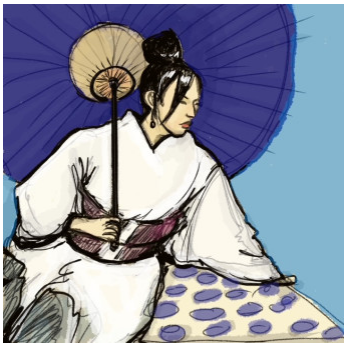
 praspovich



Noah (Haruki) Richardson teamed up with professional kimono dresser **Chichi** (Chichi Kimono) and model **Keiko** for another *Kimono life drawing* session. This was their first time trying to do an on-line version (due to Covid-19). Over 40 participants joined in from Calgary, other parts of Canada and the United States. The session was part of the celebrations of **Asian Heritage Month** (May) and was open to all levels of drawing/painting abilities. One participant said that they "haven't drawn in years but it did feel good to use [her] sketchbook again". Hopefully soon the *Kimono life drawing* sessions can once again be live and in-person.



 [chichikimono](#)



 [tart.life.drawing](#)

 [Ken_j_Richardson](#)



Special thank you to Kimono model Keiko for her poses and inspiration



Introducing Dr. Crick Donghyun Ko

A Japanese-speaking dentist



In 2012, after completing high school, Dr. Ko's family chose to emigrate from Korea to Canada and Winnipeg become their home. During his studies at the University of Manitoba, he included two Japanese language courses and he met and made many Japanese friends. Dr. Ko attended a National Japanese Speech Contest held in 2015 in Calgary. He had earned a spot in this competition after winning first place in the Manitoba Intermediate-Level Japanese Speech Contest.

Dr. Ko said, "As an immigrant student, I never thought about the possibility of an advanced degree at a post-secondary university, perhaps limiting my ambitions to a college program. I was so fortunate to have met a friend who inspired and motivated me to not put limits on myself, and work towards a goal that I truly wished to achieve." A goal was set to become a dentist to financially support his family. He also wanted to demonstrate to other immigrants, who were experiencing the extra challenges of being a new immigrant, that barriers, including language, could be overcome. Dr. Ko is forever grateful to that special friend who gave him the support that he needed to find

his way. That friend is currently working as a dentist in Red Deer.

Outside of his work, Dr. Ko enjoys music, cooking and travelling. He loves *Hoshino Gen's* music and listens to a playlist of his music. He said that at the moment *Kudarai No Nakai* is his favourite song. Dr. Ko also enjoys writing lyrics and recording his own songs. He has visited Japan three times, including a special trip in 2018 with his dental school friends. Dr. Ko said that his fluency with the Japanese language made his trips more enjoyable and meaningful.

Dr. Ko currently works as a dentist at the Brisebois Dental Clinic, part of BDC Dental that has been in operation for over 30 years under Dr. Albert Tung. This clinic is located in Brentwood, just off the Brentwood LRT station, and has free parking in its large parking lot. In 2018, the clinic underwent an expansion and now has a wing dedicated to children called Dentoland. Open 7 days a week, it provides options for people on busy schedules. They handle a large array of dental procedures for all your needs. More information is available through their website at www.bdc dental.ca

Concerns about Alberta's Draft Curriculum

On April 18, 2021, Global News in Calgary aired a report by Tracy Nagai about the draft of the K-6 school curriculum which has raised concerns within the Japanese Canadian community in Calgary. Ms. Nagai interviewed two prominent Japanese Canadians about their opinion of the curriculum.

Kunji Ikeda, the artistic director of Cloudsway Dance Theatre, expressed concerns that the draft doesn't go far enough in humanizing the mistreatment of migrant workers when students in grade 4 are learning about the construction of the national railway.

Roger Teshima, president of CJCA, would like the Japanese Canadian internment taught at the elementary school level, much earlier than it is currently being taught (grade 11). He suggests that one appropriate way to introduce the topic would be through the graphic novel, *On Being Yukiko*. (reviewed in our February issue)

Read Ms. Nagai's complete report at <https://globalnews.ca/news/7767335/japanese-canadians-in-calgary-voice-concerns-about-alberta-draft-curriculum/>

Share your opinion at Alberta.ca/curriculum



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www.njcayyc.com

The NJCA is taking a break but will be back next issue.

Tributes



Tom T Kosaka
 January 4, 1938
 Raymond, Alberta
 - May 6, 2021
 Calgary, Alberta

Tom was born January 4th, 1938 in Raymond, Alberta. He worked on the farm in Raymond and Readymade. In 1962, he came to Calgary to attend SAIT to become a steam engineer.

He went to Carstairs, Alberta to work at the Home Oil gas plant. He was there for 22 years. He then came to Calgary to work at the University of Calgary in the

heating plant. He retired after 18 years at the heating plant.

Tom loved target shooting and curling. He was also a gifted singer and belonged to the singing group at the Kerby Centre. He often was a western soloist at the Kerby Centre. Tom also participated in the Kotobuki karaoke group.

Tom was married to Katsuko (Matsuura). They have a son Robert and two daughters, Sharon and Kay.

Tom always enjoyed coming to Kotobuki and greeted you with a smile and made time to have a few words with everyone.

Submitted by Kathrine Nugent



Yuriko Lily Yoneda
 August 11, 1927
 near Raymond,
 Alberta
 - May 11, 2021
 Calgary, Alberta

Lil was born August 11th, 1927 in Welling, Alberta. Her family was one of the first Japanese families to settle in the Raymond area. They worked the sugar beet fields and farmed in the area. She grew up in Raymond, Alberta and attended school there.

She moved to Calgary in 1947 and started taking hairdressing courses at Jacobsen Beauty School. She opened her own salon, LIL'S BEAUTY SALON. She

had a very thriving business and had a huge following. Lil always had a beautiful hairdo which was a sign of her hairdressing talents.

She married Casey on March 29th, 1952. They had met at a potluck and dance at the Nisei Club. Lil and Casey loved to dance. They have a son, Dana, who was born in 1963.

Lil joined Kotobuki in 1987 and enjoyed all the activities every Wednesday with fellow Kotobuki members. She always had a smile when she met you and a soft hello. Lil will be missed by many in the Japanese community.

Submitted by Kathrine Nugent

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.

Milestones



Congratulations to **Nancy Kondo** on her 85th birthday. Although they're separated, Nancy's family found a way to celebrate and convey their feelings.



Mieko Ouchi (left), daughter of the late Eugene Ouchi (creator of the CJCA logo), is a well-known Canadian playwright and the current Associate Director of Edmonton's Citadel Theatre. On May 15th, the Theatre held a national reading of her new work, *'Burning Mom'*, during its Collider Online Festival. This one-woman show tells of the journey of her mother,

Dorothy, and brother, Kevin, to the Burning Man Festival in the Nevada desert, an event that proved to be a life-changing moment in her mother's life.

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.

Calgary Japanese Community Association

2236 – 29 St SW Calgary AB T3E 2K2
(403) 242-4143

Email: cjcamain@shaw.ca



Annual Membership for 2021

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

Surname: _____

First: _____

Email address: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____

Prov: Alberta

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Individual \$15
(age 18 – 79)

Honorary 80⁺ (free¹)

Single

Couple Spouse's name: _____

Family \$30

Spouse's name: _____

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

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

Consent Signature: _____

Consent denied:

CJCA Newsletter

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

Colour copies: \$20/year

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

Donations to CJCA are gratefully accepted.

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

(See separate donation page) \$ _____

Total Remittance: \$ _____

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

or by cheque sent to our office.

Registration form: Email this form to rteshima.cjca@shaw.ca or mail it in to our CJCA office.

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



Calgary Buddhist Temple

By Laura Sugimoto

658 1st Ave NE, Calgary, Alberta

403.263.5723

calgarybuddhisttemple@gmail.com

<http://calgary-buddhist.ab.ca/>

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.

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

June 9th and June 30th:

The Calgary Buddhist Temple will be holding an **Introduction to Naikan** as a means for self-reflection led by our own Rev. Robert Gubenco. Wednesday, June 9 is Day 1, and Day 2 is a follow-up session on Wednesday, June 30. Start time for both is 7pm MST.

The Japanese word *nai* means inner or inside and the word *kan* means looking. When these two words are combined *Naikan* translates as inside looking which refers to looking within as a means of self-reflection. *Naikan* uses three simple yet structured questions for the purpose of self-reflection. The questions are designed to remove one's personal feelings and to bring one's attention or awareness to the reality of the give and take connection that exists in relationships.

If you have an interest in understanding oneself and relationships, please join us!

Upcoming events

Register in advance:

<http://bit.ly/Naikan-09Jun21>

August 29th at 1:00 pm:

The Hidden Messages in Water, presented by Sensei Tanis Moore of the Manitoba Buddhist Temple. This is a thought-provoking workshop that will look at Dr. Masaru Emoto's research, photos, relationships and Buddhist thought, and his rice experiment.

Please register in advance through link on 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.

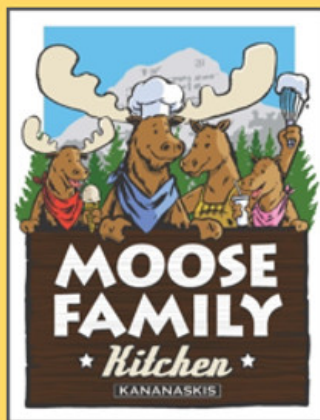
SPARROWHAWK GROUP

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

Submitted by Kevin Okabe

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

Excerpt from the May President's Message by Lorene Oikawa

The National Association of Japanese Canadians, since its inception in 1947, has focused on the needs and concerns of the Japanese Canadian community including our work on addressing racial discrimination so that we have a safe, inclusive society for all.

Our work today includes ensuring that the history of the Japanese Canadian community is preserved and shared to prevent future injustices. We also remember we have Japanese Canadian survivors who are living today and they deserve the respect and supports they were once denied.

One of our announcements is that Nikkei Seniors Health Care & Housing is receiving a BC government grant which will benefit Japanese Canadian survivors who were directly impacted by the actions of the 1942-1949 BC government. Seniors health and wellness is one area that has been researched and developed as a recommendation by the NAJC.

Editor's Note: More information about the fund will be available on the Nikkei Seniors Health Care & Housing website: <http://seniors.nikkeiplace.org/>

NAJC Endowment Fund 2021 Applications now open!

The Endowment Fund of the National Association of Japanese Canadians promotes and showcases Japanese Canadian culture. Grants are available to organizations, groups and individuals to help develop Japanese Canadian culture, and support the athletic, artistic and academic talents of Japanese Canadians.

Share your creative ideas and stories. Consider support to reach the next level of your athletic, artistic, and academic achievements. Funding is available under two programs: Cultural Development (max \$5,000); and Sports, Education, and Arts Development (SEAD; max \$2,500). NAJC is eager to connect to applicants in communities across Canada, especially those outside of major Canadian city centres, and in Eastern Canada. Please share widely with your networks and help connect your communities with potential funding and promotion of the rich history of Japanese Canadian culture and the dynamic abilities of Japanese Canadians.

Apply by June 30:

bit.ly/CDSEAD



**NAJC
ENDOWMENT
FUND**

GRANTS UP TO \$5,000

APPLY BY JUNE 30, 2021



NAJC.CA

TEMPORARY NAJC OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

POSITION AVAILABLE

10-week, full time contract position beginning May or June 2021 paying \$17 per hour

Responsibilities include:

- Communications and Social Media administration
- Compile web-based information repository
- Develop and track operational metrics and benchmarks
- Assist in the development of the organization's strategic plan and monitoring mechanisms

Applicants must be between 15 and 30 years of age (inclusive) at the start of employment as required under the Canada Summer Jobs program and be a Canadian Citizen or a Permanent Resident of Canada.

While this job is Calgary-based, due to pandemic restrictions the applicant will be working from home.

Apply online at <https://forms.gle/sMo9BNypV6Usg3Za8> or by email to ed@najc.ca.

Japanese Myth

Yurie: the Ghosts that Haunt Japan, part 1

by Calvin Jim

In 1998 a film was released in Japan that caused a huge stir around the world. Based on a novel by Koji Suzuki, the film follows a reporter named Reiko Asakawa as she investigates unexplained deaths in which all the victim's faces were grotesquely contorted in fear. Reiko unravelled the mystery of Sadako, a girl who was murdered and whose body was dumped down a well. Sadako's ghost, or Yurei as it is known in Japan, cursed anyone who stayed in a cabin built over the well. Sadako appeared to her victims crawling out of the well clad in a damp white kimono, her waist-long black hair covering her face. It was a visage that anyone who witnessed it would never forget. The Japanese title of the film was *Ringu*.

It is known in North America as "*The Ring*."

The Ring started the short-lived Japanese horror craze (known as J-Horror) in the early 2000s. Copycat movies and sequels such as the *Grudge (Ju-On)*, *Dark Water*, and others took the horror movie world by storm. Sadako even appeared in subsequent Japanese and American sequels. Horror fans loved Sadako. She was unique, something no one outside Japan had ever seen. But Sadako was nothing new in her native country. Her roots in Japanese culture ran deep.

Yurei is translated as "dim spirit." Like their ghostly counterparts in the west, they are the souls of the deceased who cannot move on to the afterlife. In Japan, this is commonly because the person died an unnatural death (murder or suicide), did not have the proper Buddhist rituals performed after they died, or more commonly, died while having stray thoughts or strong emotion (love, hate, anger, envy, etc.). Hate and anger especially created a Yurei who, like Sadako, lashes out in vengeance at anyone who comes near.

These ghastly spirits can be identified by their singular look: long, black, unkempt hair, dangling hands, a white kimono folded in the opposite manner from a living person, and triangular headdress used in archaic Buddhist funerals. This look is not a coincidence. In Japan, the bodies of the deceased are dressed exactly like this in Buddhist funerals. And it is not recent either. The earliest image of a Yurei dressed in this manner was painted in 1750 by Maruyama Okyo. The painting was of the ghost of Okiku, one of the most famous ghosts in Japanese literature.

So why am I talking about them now, in the middle of summer? Unlike North America, where October 31 is considered the spooky and haunted time of the year, ghosts come out in August in Japan. Why? That's when the Bon Festival, or Obon, happens. Bon Festival is the Buddhist festival when the living honour their ancestors. For two weeks during August, the walls between the world of the living and the dead are thinnest and that is when Yurei most appear.

Next month, I'll retell one of the most famous of all Japanese ghost stories, just in time for Obon.

Sources

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

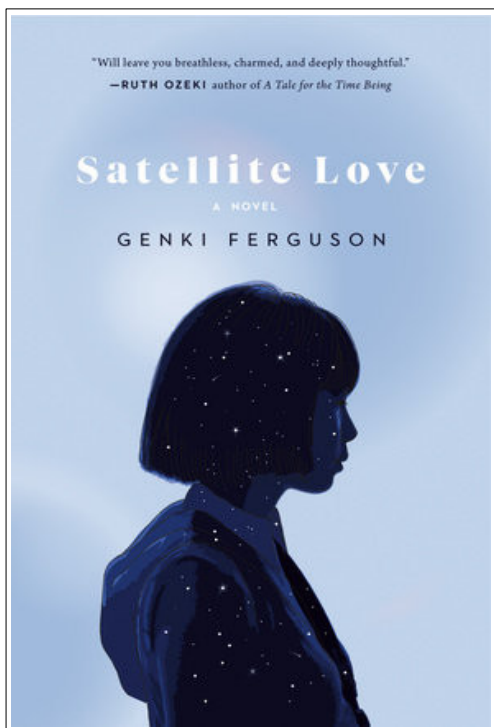
[Yurei](#) by Zack Davisson.



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



"We were all set on a fixed course—the problem was that none of us were aware of it. Would it be better to know our fates, even without being able to change them?"

It's a tale as old as time. Girl meets satellite. Girl and satellite fall in love. Girl brings satellite down to earth. But that's only the beginning of this beautiful, dark and unexpected story. Stargazing sixteen-year-old Anna Obata

doesn't feel there is much tying her to this world. Her classmates make fun of her, her mother is rarely home, and her grandfather has difficulty remembering her. All she has are her hobbies and obsessions to fill the hollow space she feels in her chest. But when Anna notices the LEO (the Low Earth Orbit satellite) traversing the night sky, watching her from above, she finally feels seen and understood. From then on, all she desires is to be with the LEO, at any cost.

Then she meets Soki, a new student at school. His father is a Shinto priest who has lost his faith; their family has travelled across Japan in search of a new life. Anna recognizes Soki as a kindred spirit: tethered to the earth, but with his head in the clouds. Always searching for meaning and proof to uphold the faith of his Shinto upbringing, despite his father's disapproval. Anna's increasingly erratic attempts to bring herself closer to both Soki and the LEO will send their lives on a surprising trajectory, ultimately binding them together with the connections and answers they all so desperately long for.

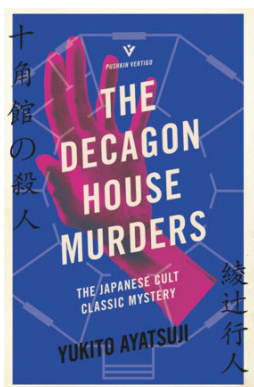
Author Genki Ferguson grew up in Calgary with a passion for stories and outer space, and a deep appreciation for his Japanese heritage, all of which make *Satellite Love* (his debut novel) the heartfelt, compelling tale that it is. He now lives in Vancouver, having recently finished his degree in Film Production.

Ferguson's film experience is evident in this novel. With a cinematic eye, he skillfully contrasts scenes of the soulless concrete city, muffled by snow, with the serene, natural beauty and crumbling stone steps of the Shinto shrines, inhabited by the *kami* (spirits), all blanketed from above by the grand expanses of outer space, lit by satellites in orbit. The narrative is fast paced, deftly shifting focus from one character to another. We get to experience events through the distinct voices of Anna, Soki, and the LEO (among others), gradually unveiling the circumstances that have led them to their fate.

This is a book for anyone who has felt themselves to be hollow, alienated, or lonely. It is for anyone who has looked at the night sky, or the elegance of nature and wondered what life or spirits might exist, unseen by the human eye. *Satellite Love* is an utterly original, bittersweet, and satisfying read, and (fittingly, in this time of global isolation and uncertainty), it is a beautiful tribute to connection, empathy, and the power of belief.

Satellite Love
By Genki Ferguson
ISBN 9780771049873
280 pages

Recent Releases



The Decagon House Murders
by Yukito Ayatsuji
Translated by Hong-Li Wong
9781782276340
Mystery



Tokyo Ever After
by Emiko Jean
9781250766601
Young Adult Fiction



Heaven
by Mieko Kawakami
Translated by Sam Bett, David Boyd
9781609456214
Fiction

Join Us for the Online A Taste of Omatsuri

Aug 14th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm MST

It is thrilling to announce that this year, there will be **A Taste of Omatsuri** held on **Saturday, August 14th, 2021** from **1:00 pm to 2:30 pm** presented by CJCA. With the cancellation of the past two in-person or “live” Calgary Japanese Festival Omatsuri events, it was important to remain engaged with the community, keep everyone safe, and sustain Omatsuri for the future.

A Taste of Omatsuri will be a virtual sampling of the annual festival which will showcase the rich Japanese heritage, food, and traditions including amazing local performers and vendors. **Be sure to mark your calendar in preparation and in anticipation of this online event! The link to view A Taste of Omatsuri will be publicized soon.**

In the days leading up to the “Taste”, there are plans for a Silent Auction and Special Daily Events so stay-tuned for further details or visit calgaryjapanesefestival.com for the most up-to-date information!



We are extremely excited to be able to offer this online event which will reach a much broader audience and attract viewers from all over the world. We invite you to share in the realization of this online event by being a sponsor or vendor, make a donation to the Silent Auction, a monetary donation of sustainability to our community during this time of uncertainty, or make a donation in memory of someone you hold dear.

We're all in this together - Let's not let Omatsuri be forgotten!

A Taste of Omatsuri

Feature Performance

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

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

Ways to Support *A Taste of Omatsuri*

1. Event Sponsorship

2. Be a Vendor

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

4. Donations: We gratefully accept monetary donations.

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

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

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

Event Sponsorship or Vendor inquiries, contact vendors@calgaryjapanesefestival.com

Donation inquiries, contact: cjca.omatsuri@shaw.ca

Thank you for your kind consideration and generous support!



Mr. Yukichi Hattori
in collaboration with

