

# Chiisai Shinbun 2021-3Q

## A quarterly newsletter of the Japan-America Society of Vermont

First, I hope all of you are well. My wife and I had a booster shot at a pharmacy near by the other day. If some of you have not yet taken it, I will suggest you to take it. Please call a pharmacy near by and make a reservation. It is a very easy process.

This newsletter is to let you know about the JASV events accomplished during the 3th quarter (July, August and September) of 2021. However, most of them were still canceled this quarter continuously except Japanese Language class. But there are many other things to let you know.

### **1. Japanese Language Class for Adults**

We offer Japanese Language classes every semester. For this fall semester we offered 3 level classes, Level-1, Level-2 and Level-3, for the first time. We worried about the number of registrations in the beginning, but luckily we got 5 students for each level of classes. The teacher is Ms. Linda Sukop who made great efforts to bring in students. Each class is a 1.5 hour class once a week for 10 weeks via Zoom from October 4th. Thank you Ms. Sukop!!!

One issue we experienced was that some younger students don't have checks from their banks and use on-line payment for daily life. We at the JASV have no such a system to accept. We are strongly requested from the teacher Linda to improve our operation to accept on-line payment. I promised her to work on this issue. This time she received tuition on line from three students and she sent me a check. And I received one money order from a bank. She suggests us to have a PayPal account. It may also improve our membership dues payment and donation acceptance on-line.

### **2. Japanese Language Class for Children**

We had 5 students for beginner's level. The class is taught by Ms. Maki Farnham via Zoom every Saturday from October 2<sup>nd</sup> for 40 minutes for 7 weeks and the registration was coordinated by Ms. Masako Carter. Thank you Ms. Farnham and Ms. Carter very much!!!

### **3. Book Donation**

As I mentioned in my previous e-mail to you, Mr. Mike Coutu who lives in Newport wrote to me that his wife is a Japanese and has 3 totes of Japanese books including children's books to donate to the JASV because they are moving to Japan. Unfortunately the JASV has no library now and even no space to store those books to take care of them, I asked any JASV members to contact Mike and to take a look at them.

Several people were interested in taking a look at those books. **Jim Mayor** who lives in South Albarny and is a current active JASV member offered to pick those books up and deliver them to the Burlington area since those people who are interested in those books are living in the Burlington area. Thank you very much for Jim's kind efforts and kind consideration for others.

### **4. Mr. Coffrin's Memorial Fund**

As I mentioned in the previous Chiisai Shinbun, the JASV created "Coffrin Memorial Fund" for helping a student who wants to go to Japan. It is to help with traveling expense and is limited to \$500 and only one time.

<http://jasv.org/v2/coffrinfund.php>

Mr. Coffrin is the first JASV president. Without him, the JASV wouldn't have existed. Thank you Steve Gorman for our Web-site update.

### **5. Vermont International Festival**

Unfortunately, we won't have "the Vermont International Festival"(VIF) this year. COVID pandemic was much improved, and the Champlain Valley Fair 2021 was held normally from 8/26 to 9/4. I saw many visitors inside and outside buildings. Most of them were without masks. The reason why the VIF won't held this year is not the COVID pandemic, but it is more like organizational reason after

COVID. Hopefully, the problem will be resolved and we will have VIF from the next year,

## 6. Thank You for Your Membership

Since I requested your financial help with membership dues in my last letter, again 10 people sent me membership dues immediately. Thank you very much!!! Some people have sent me multiple membership dues. Also this time, some people have sent me some donations in addition to their membership dues, which were a great surprise. **Thank you very very much!!!** Following are the people who gave us donations.

- Matthew/Anne Dodds: a sponsorship + \$200 donation
- Robert Bliss: a sponsorship + \$25 donation
- Thomas Lynch  
Aika Inoue: 2 year membership + \$50 donation
- Mike Brown: a membership + \$93. donation for our website domain maintenance

Thank you very much!!!

## 7. JASV Officer / Web-Master Change

Up to now Kihachiro Umezaki-san has been updating our website for 7 years. We sincerely appreciate his excellent support and contributions to the JASV for many years. Steve Gorman will help us with our Web-site updates from now on. Thank you very much, Steve!!!

## 8. Matsuri-22 (March 27, 2022)

As I mentioned in my previous letter to you, we are going to host Matsuri-22 at the Sports Center of Saint Michael's College on March 27, 2021. It is our current plan!!! Although the COVID pandemic isn't completely solved particularly for the children under 12 years of age, the risk is very small with masks. We still have more than 5 months. Hopefully the situation will be even better than now. Financially, if the number of visitors is less than usual Matsuri, then

we will have big debts. In order to minimize such risk, I started to work on the grant application to the Japan Foundation in New York. We definitely need their support.

Unfortunately no one can predict precisely regarding the COVID. We had a bitter experience with stay home guide line through the COVID pandemic. But some of you may have taken such an experience positively to practice/improve/enjoy your talent. At the next Matsuri we will have a talent show on stage such as singing a song, playing a musical instrument, story telling- -. We will also prepare a booth to display your art objects and crafts you made. Please keep on improving your talent.

Best Regards  
Toshi Saitoh  
President, JASV