

Chiisai Shinbun 2025-1Q

This is a quarterly newsletter of the **Japan-America Society of Vermont** describing what we have accomplished during **the 2nd quarter of the year of 2025** (April, May and June) and a forecast of our activities in the near future.

1. JASV's Cherry Trees

The cherry trees that JASV planted in the Veteran's Memorial Park in South Burlington in 2017 gave us beautiful flower again this year!!!



(JASV's Cherry Trees at Veteran's Memorial Park in South Burlington)

2. Spring Potluck Party

We had the annual Spring Potluck Party on Saturday, May 3rd at the usual Clubhouse in South Burlington. The party started from 3:00 pm and ended 8:00 pm with the following events. **Unfortunately we received 6 absence notices by e-mail from members. Early spring may be a busy season for many people!!!**

UVM Taiko Club Performed!!!

Four players could come to present a wonderful Taiko performance. The group is named "**Yamaneko**"

Mara Surovell (leader)
Mollie Kurth
Kate Manitsky
Kyle Keoni Ikeda (Associate Professor)

Since the Clubhouse building is well architect for sound, the Taiko sounded very powerful and impressive. Thank you very much for the wonderful presentation. We are very sorry for the members who missed this wonderful performance. After the performance some of our members had a chance to bang Taiko. It was a wonderful experience for us. It started from how to hold sticks, which is very important. More surprisingly they did stretch exercise before they start to play. We totally understood it since the Taiko performance is hard work to play.



(Taiko Performance)



(Players must exercise before performance)



(JASV Members were invited for Taiko banging)

Toshi presented Taiko Performance video which he took at Ikeda City Mid-school in Osaka where his son used to work. Almost all the schools in Japan have a cultural festival day a year, where some of students perform on stage and occasionally some professionals are invited. Taiko Club team enjoyed the video and appreciated it.



(Ikeda Middle School's Cultural Festival in Osaka)

Mara is going to study abroad in Kansai Gaidai (Kansai Foreign Language University) for next one year. The university is in Hirakata city in Osaka, where a well known Kikuningyo (Chrysanthemum doll) exhibition takes place every year for about one and a half months in Hirakata park.



(All the figures are dressed up by live chrysanthemum.)

Mara is a JASV member. She may bring back some Japanese culture with her and add another skill on top of Taiko. (In fact Zoe-san, our associate board member, studied abroad at Nohon Daigaku and brought back Tea Ceremony skill with her. She has been demonstrating Tea Ceremony at our every recent Matsuri.)

All Taiko players received a commendation and a piece of pottery from the JASV for appreciation, including Ikeda-sensei who had to leave earlier.



(Mara is at right)

3. Enjoyed Food Everyone Brought

We enjoyed delicious food everyone brought and enjoyed communication. Thank you very much!!!



4. Presentation by Kelly Underwood

Kelly gave us an overview of **BETA Technologies** which is electrifying aviation here in Vermont. She opened with a brief introduction to the company footprint and its history before introducing the core principles of the company and how they shape the products that are being developed.



The economics of electric aviation and the market for electric aviation were introduced with regards to BATA's ALIA platform which includes both an electric conventional takeoff and landing (**eCTOL**) and electric vertical takeoff and landing (**eVTOL**) aircraft that still be initially developed to support medical and logistical cargo operations first before transitioning to supporting passenger operations.

The presentation then covered the enabling technologies that BETA develops to support the aircraft, those being the battery packs, electric motors, fly by wire flight controls hardware and software, power distribution units, aircraft charging, battery conditioning, and cabin conditioning solutions.

Finally, she wrapped up by discussing the existing and planned charging network, training program, and real life performance of the **BETA** aircraft.

Kelly is working as a system engineer. We learn many things about her company's future. Thank you very much, Kelly!!!

5. Community Outreach

5-1. Ikebana Presentation at UVM

On **April 6th** Mara arranged Ikebana Workshop at UVM Davis Center. Toshi was invited as its instructor.



(a part of Toshi's textbook)



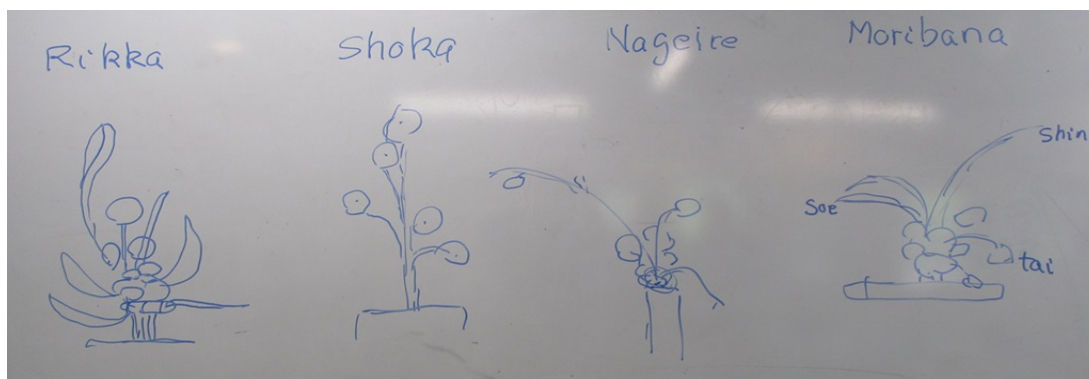
(Toshi's samples of Nageire, Rikka, Shoka and Moribana styles)



(Students were fast learners)

5-2. Ikebana Presentation at Shelbune Art Studio

On **May 11th** Toshi was also requested to have an Ikebana workshop at Shelburne Art Studio. The president of the studio arranged the class and provided flowers to the attendees. Toshi instructed Rikka, Shoka, Nageire



and Moribana styles and their history. Ikebana started as a men's hobby in Japan, but it was taken over as women's hobby by women nowadays. Interesting!!!



In the past, we had more community outreach events such as at **"YMCA Children's Day"** and **"Vermont International Festival"**. But both of them disappeared.

http://www.jasv.org/newsletter/Chiisai_Shimbun_19Winter.pdf

http://www.jasv.org/newsletter/Chiisai_Shimbun_18Summer.pdf

Another outreach we had in the past was **"Origami Workshop"** at **Colchester Community Library** when Miki-san was around. We wish someone do it somewhere. If you would like to help us with such event, please let Toshi know.

6. Next Events

6-1. Participation in July 3rd Independence Day Parade in Montpelier ---- Canceled

As a summer event we usually participate in the **July 3rd Independence Day Parade** in Montpelier. This year, unfortunately we don't have enough people to participate. So, **we canceled our participation.**

6-2. Possible Participation in Champlain Valley Fair

Champlain Valley Fair starts from Aug 22 and ends on Aug 31. Toshi sent an inquiry whether JASV can participate in it. **If accepted**, we would like to offer a half day for **Origami**, another half day for **Calligraphy**, another half day for **Gytaku**, **Ikebana**, - - **etc**. Thank you for your help if it happens!!! We will let you know.

Best Regards
JASV