



## JETAA OTTAWA DECEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

<http://ottawa.jetaa.ca>

### EDITOR'S FOREWORD

By JP Davignon

As this year comes to a close, my adventures as Newsletter Editor are drawing to an end. I am interested in remaining in the chapter's executive, but under a different role. Interested in joining the team? In that case, make doubly sure you attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) taking place on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

And don't miss the Networking Wine and Cheese coming up on November 21<sup>st</sup>! This event truly is one of the highlights of the year.

I would like to thank you all for your readership and hope you will continue to be involved in JETAA activities in the coming year.

### EVENTS AT A GLANCE

See the events section for more information

#### November

##### **Japanese Language Classes - Fall Session 2008**

When: Mondays (6:30 pm–8:00 pm): November 24<sup>th</sup> & December 1<sup>st</sup>

Where: Routhier Community Centre, 172 Guigues Avenue (Byward Market) Conference Room

What: Japanese language classes – all levels welcome

Notes: Bring a notebook & pencil/pen

##### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Networking Wine and Cheese**

When: Friday, November 21, 2008

Where: Les Suites Hotel, Byward Suite

What: Re-entry Seminar #1: 5:30pm start

Re-entry Seminar #2: 6:15pm start

Networking Event: 7:00pm

#### December

##### **Bonenkai and AGM at Suisha Gardens! [Please note the new date for this event!](#)**

When: Thursday, December 4, 6:30 pm

6:30 pm – Appetizers and Annual Report (including bylaw/mandate amendments)

7:00 pm – Position summaries and platforms, and election of new Executive

Where: Suisha Gardens, 208 Slater St.

What: Come out and celebrate the end of the year, and help elect next year's Executive!

Notes: If you can't attend but want to submit a platform for the election, please send it to [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca) by December 2.

Non-JETAA members are welcome after 8:00 pm.

**If you have any questions regarding JETAA events contact Eileen at [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca)**

**For more Japan-related events in the Ottawa region, see the Japanese Embassy's Web site at [www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp)**

## **EXECUTIVE UPDATE**

**By Yuko Mitrovic**

The fall months have been a very busy time for the Executive. Among other events, we were recently invited to a welcome reception for Monkey Majik, the Japanese-Canadian rock band that was named Ambassador of Goodwill between Canada and Japan. The reception was held at the Ambassador's residence, where the band gave us and other guests a preview of the songs they would be playing at their live performances in Ottawa (see JP's article, below) and Vancouver as part of the 80th Anniversary of Japan-Canada Diplomatic Relations. The guests, who included many JET alumni, were delighted to mingle with band members and take part in the delicious reception. Many thanks to the Ambassador for the kind invitation to this event!

Some executive members will also be attending a reception for the Japanese Emperor's birthday in early December. We are honoured to be part of this historic event as well!

On the home front, the Executive is busy wrapping up this very successful year and getting ready for the AGM and election in December (**please note that this event will now be held on December 4**). We hope to see many of you there!

If you have any questions about what the executive is up to, or you'd like to view a copy of the meeting minutes, don't hesitate to contact us anytime. Meetings are usually on the first Sunday of each month and all members are welcome to attend.

## **UPCOMING JETAA EVENTS**

### **JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES - FALL SESSION 2008**

**By Eileen d'Eon**

The fall session of Japanese Language Classes is well underway. The small but dynamic group has been enjoying casual Japanese conversation and prepared lessons with Kubota Sensei. New students are always welcome if anyone is still interested in joining the remaining classes. Please email Eileen at [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca). Ganbarimasho!

### **4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NETWORKING WINE AND CHEESE**

**By Jessica Sellars**

It is once again the time of year for our annual networking wine and cheese. This evening event aims to provide JET alumni with an opportunity to attend re-entry seminars, renew their ties with fellow JET alumni and network with Special Guests representing various employment sectors (such as Teaching, Government, Temp Agencies, Embassy/Foreign Affairs, International Development, High Tech, Communications/Journalism, Non-Profit, etc.)

Our re-entry seminars will be presented by two very knowledgeable speakers. Nathalie Sirois will be presenting the seminar on "Returning to Canada Culture and Life," and Christa Amyot will be presenting a seminar on, "How to Gear Your JET Experience in Future Careers."

Did we mention the free wine, sushi, cheese and other refreshments!?!

Please contact Eileen at [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca) to RSVP or if you have the name and contact information of a person interested in being special guests (including yourself.) Both events are open to all JETAA members, and we encourage members to RSVP for the event(s) you will be attending (Re-Entry Seminars or Wine and Cheese, or both.)

Thank you and hope to see you there!

## **BONENKAI AND AGM AT SUISHA GARDENS**

**By Yuko Mitrovic**

**Please note: the date for this event has been updated to Thursday, December 4.**

Come out and enjoy our annual Bonenkai and, while you're at it, attend the Annual General Meeting! What better way to celebrate the end of a great year than with excellent food at Suisha Gardens. Delicious appetizers will be covered by JETAA Ottawa.

You'll learn more about how JETAA Ottawa runs, and there will be a brief annual report. Next year's council will be elected following position descriptions and platform presentations. Every alumna and alumnus has a vote, so come and be involved!

If you would like to run for the 2009 Executive but cannot attend the meeting, we will accept platforms e-mailed to [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca) by December 2. These platforms will be read at the meeting on your behalf.

## **Position summaries**

### **Duties common to all the positions include:**

- attending monthly executive meetings
- managing the position's e-mail account
- helping out with JETAA Ottawa events (organization, set-up, etc.)
- promoting JET and the JETAA Ottawa Chapter

### **President**

[jetaaottawa\\_president@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_president@yahoo.ca)

The main responsibilities of the President are twofold:

1. To network and maintain good relations with the Embassy of Japan, CLAIR, JETAA-International and local community groups
2. To ensure that the mandate and annual goals of the council are achieved

This position requires a time commitment of 10 hours a week on average.

Duties include:

- attending quarterly meetings with the Embassy of Japan
- maintaining frequent contact with Embassy staff regarding upcoming events and funding
- liaising with other Canadian chapters and JETAA International through online meetings
- writing and submitting bi-annual reports to JETAA-International

**Vice-President**

[jetaaottawa\\_vp@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_vp@yahoo.ca)

The VP's responsibilities are to assist the President and other members of the executive and to liaise with the local community and Japan-related organizations. The VP will often be called upon to temporarily fill other positions or fulfill duties related to major events.

Duties include:

- assisting the President and other executive members
- leading at least one major event during the year (e.g., Natsu Matsuri, Networking Wine and Cheese, etc.)
- developing strong network ties with the local community and relevant organizations
- meeting with outside organizations (the Embassy of Japan, CJSO, etc.)

**Treasurer**

[jetaaottawa\\_treasurer@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_treasurer@yahoo.ca)

The treasurer is responsible for most of the financial aspects of the organization, from issuing cheques to paying for activities and reporting on expenditures to the Embassy or CLAIR, including submitting yearly and quarterly budgets proposals.

Duties include:

- producing financial reports for the Embassy or Clair
- submitting yearly and quarterly budget proposals
- issuing cheques to pay for the events (or pay back members)
- keeping copies of all the receipts
- keeping track of money in the bank

**Events Co-ordinator**

[jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca)

The Events Co-ordinator organizes and coordinates events for JETAA Ottawa while working closely with the executive and Embassy of Japan. This position requires a time commitment of one to five hours per week on average.

Duties include:

- organizing, planning and booking monthly and special events
- co-ordinating volunteers for and at events
- writing event newsletter submissions monthly
- working closely with the President and Treasurer regarding budget

**Membership Co-ordinator**[jetaaottawa\\_membership@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_membership@yahoo.ca)

The Membership Co-ordinator ensures that the membership list is up to date and adds new members (including recent returnees) to the list.

**Duties include:**

- updating the JETAA Ottawa membership list and spreadsheets

**Communications Officer**[jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca)

The Communications Officer checks the main e-mail account every day and acts as a triage for the JETAA Ottawa executive by answering e-mails if possible and passing along those that might best be dealt with by other members of the executive.

**Duties include:**

- checking and managing the Communications e-mail account daily, including forwarding e-mails to other executive members and replying promptly to any requests

**Secretary**[jetaaottawa\\_secretary@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_secretary@yahoo.ca)

The Secretary is in charge of taking the minutes and distributing by e-mail the minutes of the monthly executive meetings. The minutes are stored in the Secretary e-mail account. This position requires a time commitment of one to two hours per week.

**Duties include:**

- recording, preparing and distributing meeting minutes

**Newsletter Editor**[jetaaottawa\\_newsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_newsletter@yahoo.ca)

The Newsletter Editor is in charge of putting together the JETAA Ottawa newsletter every month and editing other JETAA documents when needed.

**Duties include:**

- writing and editing articles and compiling them into the monthly newsletter
- distributing the newsletter to JETAA Ottawa members

**Webmaster**[jetaaottawa\\_webmaster@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_webmaster@yahoo.ca)

The Webmaster manages and updates the JETAA Ottawa Web site.

**Duties include:**

- uploading the monthly newsletter to the Web site
- making sure the events page is up to date

## **New! Fundraising Coordinator**

The Fundraising Coordinator will organize and coordinate sponsorship activities for JETAA Ottawa.

Duties will include:

- liaising with external groups to secure sponsorship
- organize and coordinate fundraising activities

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **JAPAN DAY 2008**

**By Cheryan Glasgow**

The embassy, in co-operation with the various local Japanese community groups, presented Japan Day in the great hall of the Museum of Civilization. There were information booths from many groups including the Embassy, OJLS, Ottawa Taiko, Oshinkan and Camellia Tea as well as booths showcasing particular aspects of Japanese culture and society such as ikebana, Bonsai and manga. JETAA members helped at the children's games table and the origami table. I had fun showing both adults and children alike how to play kendama and daruma. The hall was full of people and the event was a definite success. All the different presentations, kendo and karate, taiko, Japanese traditional dance, and Kimono fashion show were really interesting to watch but the children's taiko was hands down the most kawaii of all!

If you would like to be involved with the Japan activities at the Museum of Civilization and the Children's Museum, there is another event for which the museums are looking for volunteers:

Oshogatsu (Japanese New Year): December 27 to 31, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm (3:00 pm on December 31)

### **THE HAUNTED WALK RE-CAP**

**By Alina Stubbs**

On Friday October 17<sup>th</sup> JETAA members and their guests enjoyed a frightful evening on a Haunted Walk with Ottawa's most popular walking tour company, the Haunted Walk of Ottawa. The Ghosts and the Gallows tour – "Are you Afraid of the Dark?" explained the murder of Thomas D'Arcy McGee. We were guided on a tour of the old Carlton County Jail, now known as the Ottawa Jail Hostel with some surprises along the way. The group then returned to D'Arcy McGee's for a few refreshments and enjoyed music by a live band at the pub.

### **MONKEY MAJIK**

**By JP Davignon**

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, I had the pleasure of attending a reception at the Ambassador of Japan's residence in honour of the Japanese pop-rock band named Goodwill Ambassadors by the Government of Japan: Monkey Majik. This group is unique in that it is composed of two brothers from Ottawa, Maynard and Blaise Plant, and two Japanese members, Tax and Dick. While I thoroughly enjoyed conversing with Maynard, who worked as an ALT in a town neighbouring the village I was living in while in Japan, the real fun took place the following evening.

Those lucky enough to score tickets to the sold out show at Zaphod Beeblebrox on the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup> were in for a treat, as the band performed some of their greatest hits. Singing in both English and

Japanese, and throwing just a tiny bit of French in the mix for good measure, they provided us with a truly multicultural musical experience. I can definitely understand why fans from all over Canada and Japan made their way to Ottawa just to hear them live. A definite addition to my musical library.

## **FINDING YOUR FAVOURITE JAPANESE FOODS**

**By Cheryan Glasgow**

Here's a list of stores that stock Japanese ingredients, along with some of their more specialized products. This is by no means an exhaustive list, but I hope it helps you find some of your old favourites. Happy shopping!

**Arum Korean Market**

**613 230 8488**

512 Bank Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 1Z6

- okonomiyaki and yakisoba sauce
- inexpensive organic tofu
- lots of kimchi
- Japanese pickles
- fresh yakisoba noodles (packaged with sauce)
- mochi ice cream
- Pocari Sweat, mugi-cha (wheat tea)

**Win Tai Market**

1137 Ogilvie Road, Ottawa, ON K1J 7P6

- large Japanese rice selection
- fried tofu from La Soyarie (large bag for a very reasonable price)
- fresh mochi, inarizushi pockets
- large selection of Japanese pickles
- very large selection of Japanese curries
- huge selection of Japanese snacks and treats
- variety of Asian vegetables (Asian eggplant, daikon, etc.)
- frozen items ex edamame, gyoza, shumai, unagi
- Ramu pop, mugicha, Japanese teas

**New 168 Market**

**613 729 8895**

1050 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, ON K1Y 3C5

- huge selection of Japanese snacks and treats
- variety of Asian vegetables (Asian eggplant, daikon, etc.)
- frozen items ex croquet, gyoza, natto
- Japanese tea
- large selection of sauces incl. unagi sauce and j-mayo
- tofu, assortment of noodles and nori

**Green's Food Market**

**613 244 5237**

484 Rideau Street, Ottawa, ON K1N 5Z4

- enoki mushrooms (the long skinny ones)
- good snack section, goma (sesame) dressing
- inexpensive organic tofu
- lots of kimchi

Asian Grocers  
**613 841 3088**

3095 St. Joseph Blvd, Orleans, ON K1C 3W6

- selection of Japanese pickles incl umeboshi and takuwan
- large selection of Japanese snacks and treats
- variety of Asian vegetables (Asian eggplant, daikon, etc.)
- large selection of Japanese sauces incl. j-mayo
- frozen noodles, edamame
- teas, rice, mocha, nori

UNI Food Mart

**613 748 1038**

29 Selkirk St, Ottawa, ON K1L 6N1

- variety of Asian vegetables incl **Gobo**
- selection of Japanese sauces incl. j-mayo
- tofu, assortment of noodles and nori

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **I'm going back to school next September so won't be here for the whole year, but I'd love to get involved with JETAA Ottawa. What are my options?**

Come to our monthly general meetings and share your ideas. While you don't need to be an Executive member to be involved, we do have elections every December, so cast your vote to have your say! There are also many volunteer opportunities throughout the year—check out our monthly newsletters for calls for volunteers and other chances to be involved in a wide variety of events.

### **What are some of the perks of being on the Executive?**

There are, of course, time commitments, but being on the Executive definitely has many perks! You'll get to work closely with a dedicated group of fun people and gain all kinds of skills that you can add to your resume. You can also make sure we put on some of the events you really want to see happen, such as karaoke nights, haunted walks, picnics, sushi nights, pub nights and more.

We work closely with the Embassy of Japan and the Japanese community in Ottawa, so joining the Executive will give you the chance to meet new people and make new contacts. And you'll get invites to all kinds of events that are not open to the public, such as receptions at the Ambassador's residence, invite-only gala openings and events in the community, and opportunities to meet delegations from Japan. You may also get first dibs on limited spots to this kind of event.

But most of all, you'll get to be surrounded by a fun and enthusiastic group of people who are always willing and happy to share their Japanese experience, and you can be part of the continued success of this active and dynamic chapter. Priceless!

### **How do I make sure I'm not missing out on Japan-related events in the area?**

We send out a list of upcoming events in the newsletter every month, but sometimes events come up after the newsletter has gone out. In those cases, we post the events on our website, on the Events page (<http://ottawa.jetaa.ca/events.html>) or the Community page (<http://ottawa.jetaa.ca/communitynews.html>). Be sure to check out our website regularly for the latest on events and happenings!

## ABOUT JETAA OTTAWA

The Ottawa Chapter of the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme Alumni Association, or JETAA Ottawa for short, is a small group of enthusiastic JET Alumni keen to share their Japanese experience with each other and the community at large. JETAA Ottawa is part of a dynamic, international alumni organization.

### Your 2008 JETAA Ottawa executive:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| President<br>Yuko Mitrovic<br>Osaka 2004-2006<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa_president@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa_president@yahoo.ca</a>       |  |
| Treasurer<br>Tom Kruidenier<br>Osaka 2004-2006<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa_treasurer@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa_treasurer@yahoo.ca</a>      | VP<br>Jessica Sellars<br>Kumamoto 2000-2002<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa_vp@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa_vp@yahoo.ca</a>  |
| Events Coordinator<br>Eileen d'Eon<br>Hiroshima 2002-2005<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca</a> | Membership Coordinator<br>Eleanor Belshaw-Hauff<br>Hiroshima 2004-2006<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa_membership@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa_membership@yahoo.ca</a> |
| Secretary<br>Alina Stubbs<br>Iwate 2003-2006<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa_secretary@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa_secretary@yahoo.ca</a>        | Newsletter Editor<br>Jean-Philippe Davignon<br>Aomori 2005-2007<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa_newsletter@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa_newsletter@yahoo.ca</a>        |
| Communications Officer<br>Ala Ji<br>Kyoto 2001-2002<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa@yahoo.ca</a>                     | Webmaster<br>Cheryan Glasgow<br>Nara 2002-2005<br><a href="mailto:jetaaottawa_wm@yahoo.ca">jetaaottawa_wm@yahoo.ca</a>   |

## SEND US YOUR COMMENTS AND SUBMISSIONS

We welcome your suggestions for future JETAA events. Please forward your ideas to our Events Coordinators at [jetaaottawa\\_events@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_events@yahoo.ca)

If you would like to submit an announcement, travel essay, restaurant review or other article for the next newsletter, feel free to contact our Newsletter Editor at [jetaaottawa\\_newsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:jetaaottawa_newsletter@yahoo.ca)

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E-Group:

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