

Moshi Moshi

Edmonton Japanese Community Association

Vol. 23, No. 6, July - August 1998

Nikkei Heritage Day Celebration

10th Anniversary of the Redress Settlement & 4th Anniversary of EJCA Centre
EJCA Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday, September 26, 1998

Place: Japanese Cultural Centre (Edmonton)
6750 - 88 Street, Edmonton

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

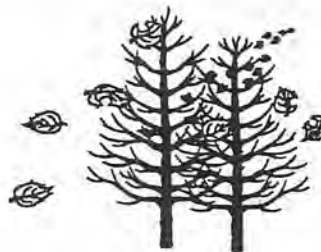
Fees: \$10 per person for dinner

Please make reservations by contacting any of the following by September 23:
Ken Tanaka (Centre) 466-8166, Takashi Ohki 459-3862,
or Jim Hoyano 437-7730



Program:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 4:00 p.m. | Doors open - NFB film (see page 7) |
| 5:30 - 6:00 | Cocktail hour |
| 6:00 - 7:00 | Dinner and Table Speeches |
| 7:00 - 7:30 | EJCA General Meeting
Annual Reports
Election of New Board Members
EJCA Community Contribution Award
EJCA Scholarship Award
Announcement of the Mrs. Shimizu Arts & Cultural Development Grant |
| 7:30 - 8:00 | Special Guest, Ms. Linda Ohama and her documentary film
"Wataridori: A Bird of Passage" (see page 9 for background info) |
| 8:00 - 8:15 | Odori by Wakaba-kai |
| 8:15 - 9:00 | Social time |



Nikkei Heritage Day is officially on September 22, the anniversary date of the Redress Settlement. However, Nikkei Heritage Day is to celebrate and honour all Nikkei who have contributed to the community and to Canadian society as a whole through their work and volunteer activities. Come out to this event to meet and pay tribute to some of these Nikkei!!

In This Issue

English & Japanese (J) Sections

EJCA AGM.....	1, J-1	Mrs. Chiyoko Nishimoto... 4, J-4	Nikkei Heritage Day.....	7	
EJCA Board.....	2	NAJC President.....	5	Table Tennis.....	7
Submission Deadlines.....	2	Casino News.....	5	Japanese Movies.....	8, J-4
From the President.....	3, J-2	Nikkei Directory.....	6	Origami Festival.....	8, J-4
Donations.....	3	Taiko Workshops.....	6	Linda Ohama.....	9
		Upcoming Events.....	6	Heritage Festival.....	J-3

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Published by

Edmonton Japanese
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"Moshi Moshi" is a publication of the Edmonton Japanese Community Association. Its objective is to disseminate information of interest to the Japanese community, including announcements of upcoming events.

We are grateful to the businesses who have placed advertisements which help to defray the cost of publishing.

Deadline for Submissions for the Next Issue (Vol. 24, No. 1) is October 10, 1998

Submission Deadlines for other upcoming issues:

Volume 24, No. 2 - November 10, 1998

Volume 24, No. 3 - January 10, 1999

Volume 24, No. 4 - March 10, 1999

Volume 24, No. 5 - May 10, 1999

Volume 25, No. 6 - July 10, 1999



President's Corner

Takashi Ohki

Locking the trailer that contained all the materials we used for the Japanese Pavilion at 8 o'clock in the evening in Hawrelak Park on August 3, the last day of the Edmonton Heritage Festival, I enjoyed the best moment of the Heritage Festival, telling myself, "we have done it again this year." After having participated in the Heritage Festival over the past 20 years, it still amazes me that we can organize and attract a large number of people to support the Japanese Pavilion.

The preparation for the Japanese Pavilion started early this year when EJCA executives and representatives of the Metro Edmonton Japanese Community School agreed to participate jointly in the Heritage Festival and put in an application to the Edmonton Heritage Festival Association. Even though our group has continuously participated in the Heritage Festival for more than 20 years, we have to put in an application every year. The number of sites available for pavilions at Hawrelak Park is less than the number of groups who want to participate in the Heritage Festival. Once we miss a year, we will be put on a long waiting list to recover our place in the Heritage Festival.

On June 3, Mr. Shukuda and Mrs. Shigemitsu from the Japanese Community School and Mr. Hoyano and myself from the EJCA held a planning meeting at the Centre. The Japanese Community School had already held its own planning meeting and decided the menu for the food concession including 3,900 chicken on the stick, 250 rolls of futomaki, 160 inarizushi, 200 dorayaki, 200 manju, and mugicha and iced coffee. Chicken on the stick was prepared at the Centre on July 18. About 50 people showed up to cut chicken into pieces, put them on the stick, barbecue them and pack them into boxes and keep them in the freezers.

Mr. Shukuda has developed a very efficient chicken-on-the stick production system. The whole lot of 3,900 chicken on the stick was done in less than six hours. Only thing that is missing at this time was that we had to wait until the Heritage Festival to taste the chicken on the stick we made. We knew that they would taste excellent because the recipes for the chicken on the stick and the sauce have been perfected from our long experience in selling them at the Heritage Festival.

On July 22, we held the last planning meeting at the Centre, inviting all groups participating in the Japanese Pavilion such as the Japanese Community School, Wakaba-kai Odori Group, Kita-no-Taiko, Kenjutsu-Kai, Chigiri-e Group, EJCA Arts and Crafts Group, Edmonton Bonsai Club, Mr. Priegert's Karate Club, and the Edmonton Japanese Teaching Training Program Group. Most of the members of these groups are also members of the EJCA and are using the Centre for their activities. It is the combined efforts of all those groups that have made us possible to keep participating in the Heritage Festival year after year and gave the Japanese Pavilion a unique and wide variety of activities.

In the evening of July 31, we put up and readied the Japanese Pavilion. This involved building a wooden structure around the tent, getting the food concession part ready, and placing tables and chairs from the Centre in the tent. The wooden structure was originally designed by a group of Japanese architects in Edmonton including Mr. Hashimoto about 20 years ago and gives the Japanese Pavilion a unique characteristic. Over the years, however, a number of modifications has been made, and now putting together all these components has become a big jigsaw puzzle.

The weather is always a big factor for the Heritage Festival. Rain or shine, we keep the Japanese

Continued on page 9...

Donations

EJCA gratefully acknowledges generous donations from the following:

Ruby & Mas Okamura, Taiwan

Farewell to Edmonton's Last Pioneer Issei Mrs. Chiyoko Nishimoto, 1902-1998

John Takahashi

On Friday, August 7, 1998 family and friends bid a final farewell to Edmonton's last Pioneer Issei, Mrs. Chiyoko Nishimoto, at the age of 96 years.

As a young bride of 18 she left her home in Hiroshima, sailed out of Yokohama on December 25, 1920, arrived in Vancouver January 7, 1921 and then was thrust into a tiny farming community of Opal, 30 miles north of Edmonton, under the harshest conditions of a northern prairie winter.

Living under very crude conditions providing life's comfort for her husband and toiling in the field, she was the mother of seven children. The eldest, Michiko, died at the age of 16, and her only son, Minoru, died in infancy. She however survived under grimmest and most forbidding conditions that the prairie could offer.

Her dreams of "riches" she envisioned of Canada vanished more rapidly than the melting snows of Spring. Further, her lifelong dream of meeting her father was never realized. One enduring dream remained and she clung to it tenaciously - the education of her five daughters.

For this reason the family moved to Edmonton to be near the university. All five daughters graduated from educational institutions beyond high school at a time when few females were privileged to attain higher education. Her daughters earned Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Science Honors (Lab Technology), Doctorate of Pharmacy, Bachelor of Social Work degrees, and Business College Graduate.

Her Grandchildren would earn degrees in Computer Science, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Master of Business Administration, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Architectural Technology, Master of Public Administration, and Doctor of Medicine. The dream of this magnificent Issei, Chiyoko Nishimoto, were fulfilled beyond her expectations.

Her concern for an education went beyond her immediate family. Her home became a "home away from home" for a number of students, including the writer and his brothers, who came

to Edmonton to further their education. She was "Mom" to them and she was always delighted whenever any of them returned to visit and tell of their life.

She led an active life and was an active member of the Edmonton Japanese Community. She enjoyed and excelled in crocheting, knitting, sewing, gardening and cooking. The latter trait she passed onto her daughters for which the writer is truly thankful.

One of the hardest decisions the family had to make was placing 'Mom' in a nursing home. She was temporarily placed in a Toronto nursing home with the condition that she would return to Edmonton as soon as a room became available in the Jubilee Lodge Nursing Home. After 6 months she returned to Edmonton in May 1992. Minor strokes had seriously affected her memory, but the thought of returning to Edmonton was so fixed in her memory that she constantly spoke of 'going home' even to the very end.

About 15 years ago her granddaughter encouraged her to take daily walks. During her 6 years at the Jubilee Lodge she would walk ten or more blocks enjoying and admiring the flower and vegetable gardens of the Lodge's neighborhood, accompanied by her daughter or a very dear friend, Florence Shikaze. Although for a much shorter distance, she was out walking a few days before her death.

She was a miraculous Issei. Three months earlier she stumbled head over heels down eight flights of stairs, got up, walked to her place at the dinner table and had her supper. Stiffness and soreness set in. X-Ray from head to toe showed no broken bones, only bruises. Prior to and after this incident she suffered several heart seizures, one of which placed her in the hospital for three days. The Medical Staff couldn't believe that someone her age and in that serious condition would survive. Survive she did, but each bout took its toll physically.

It was her custom to always serve 'tea' to guests in her home. This was another thing that remained

Continued on Page 7...



NAJC President's Report

August 24, 1998



Randy Enomoto

The Tyranny of the Majority

As a BC resident, it has been perturbing to me to see a variety of players, some of them political leaders, demanding a public referendum on the recently concluded treaty with the Nisga'a people of BC.

Some voices have gone so far as to claim that the treaty amounts to apartheid. These individuals ignore the true history of apartheid, which is that South African leaders visited Canada, examined the reservation system, and used it as a model for setting up the apartheid system in South Africa. The treaty represents the dismantling of apartheid for the Nisga'a, not the creation of it.

The issei, nisei and older sansei of our communities can directly attest to the fact that if a public referendum had been held in 1941 in BC, the vast majority within BC would gladly have approved the internment and dispossession of Japanese Canadians. A referendum in a climate of racist hysteria is a sure guarantee of injustice. The demand for a referendum on the treaty with concurrent depiction of the treaty results as racially biased in favour of the Nisga'a is opportunistic, to say the least.

I hope that members of our community will reflect critically on the issues and read between the lines whenever political opportunists in the media invoke the notion of the "democratic majority". The Nikkei legacy should be one of vigilance and support for fellow minorities who have suffered from the tyranny of the majority.

Customized Environment at New Sakura So

Prior to a very productive meeting in Burnaby with the boards of the Greater Vancouver JCCA, its Human Rights Committee and the National Nikkei Heritage Centre (NNHC) on August 8, your executive committee had the opportunity to tour the new Sakura So, the first component of the NNHC. I was most impressed at the attention to detail and customization present in the apartments. Counter heights are lower than standard, window openers are designed to be operable even by someone with arthritis and each and every suite has a spacious, open-air balcony.

Kamloops Round-Up

To promote inclusivity and cross-institutional linkages, the NAJC has invited cultural centres, language schools and other groups with special projects underway to exhibit wall-mounted displays and models at the upcoming Thanksgiving Day AGM in Kamloops. Mieko Ouchi, Edmonton actor and filmmaker, is expected to show a newly completed film on the work of the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation (JCRF) at the AGM. The JCRF will hold its AGM on Saturday in Kamloops as well and its directors will attend the gala 10th Anniversary of Redress Banquet along with all members of the historic NAJC Strategy Team, the group who negotiated the Redress Agreement with the government of Canada. Art Miki, our president in 1988 and Gerry Weiner, the government minister responsible for negotiations, will describe how the deliberations appeared from opposite ends of the negotiating table.

Casino News

In late July, EJCA received the checks for our share of the pooled proceeds from the casino of April 21-22. The total amount received was \$28,666.34 (\$18,201.11 from the casino pool and \$10,464.23 from slot machine revenue). These funds will be used for Centre operations, equipment purchase, scholarships, and seniors programs. Thanks again to all the volunteers.

Many EJCA members also volunteered for the Casino of August 17-18/98 sponsored by the Argyll Community League. The proceed from their casino will be used for Centre operations, mainly for maintenance and upkeep (utilities, etc.). Thanks to all who volunteered: Barry Allport, Alder Currie, Hiroko Currie, Ricki Higa, Sam Higa, Jim Hoyano, Gail Ingham, Emiko Kinoshita, Bob Motokado, Mineko Sasano, Daiyo Sawada, Ken Tanaka, Midori Tanaka, Akio Tani, Brenda Madsen, Greg Shimizu.

1997 Alberta Nikkei Telephone Directory Now Available

This directory is a valuable source for looking up friends and relatives in Alberta, and also for services available to the community in the 3 major centres. This directory is now available at the EJCA Centre at a cost of \$5.00. You can pick up a copy at the Centre during the week, or at any of the EJCA functions, the next one being the Nikkei Heritage Day Celebration on Saturday September 26, 1998.

Cost: \$5.00
Availability: at the EJCA Centre, 6750 - 88 Street (466-8166)



Taiko Workshops

Kita no Taiko is holding workshops for the public. The workshops will be either:

- Sunday, September 20, 1998 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm**
- or Monday and Wednesday, September 21 & 23, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**
- or Sunday, September 27, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm**

The cost is \$45.00

Minimum age: a mature 14 years old

The workshop is fun with plenty of time drumming.
It is a workshop for people who want to try playing taiko.

If you want to have some fun, please attend.

It is also the primary source for us to find new members.

For more information:

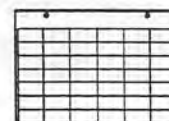
Phone: 431-0300

E-mail: brxm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca



Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 9/98	EJCA Board Meeting, at the Centre beginning at 7:30 pm
September 13/98	Ping Pong Club at the Centre, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
September 26/98	Nikkei Heritage Day Celebration and EJCA AGM at the Centre
October 4/98	Ping Pong Club at the Centre, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
October 10/98	Japanese Movies at the Garneau Theatre beginning at 1:00 pm
October 10-11/98	NAJC AGM & Council Meeting in Kamloops, BC
October 14/98	EJCA Board Meeting, at the Centre beginning at 7:30 pm
October 17-18/98	Origami Folding Festival at the Stanley Milner Library
October 18/98	Ping Pong Club at the Centre, 2:00 - 5:00 pm
November 11/98	EJCA Board Meeting, at the Centre beginning at 7:30 pm



Mrs. Nishimoto...Continued from Page 4

fixed in her memory. At the nursing home she would always want to serve 'tea' to her visitors. And this fussing about serving 'tea' was a sign that she was going to be all right.

On leaving after each visit, she would rest somewhat easy when we would tell her that we will be back tomorrow, or we will have tea tomorrow, or maybe go home tomorrow, or something to the effect 'tomorrow'. Similarly, when she phoned, another thing she never forgot not to use, when 'tomorrow' was mentioned she would be satisfied.

She died on Thursday, July 30, 1998, two days before her youngest Grandson's wedding.

She will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by her daughters Vera Kinoshita, Edmonton, Susan Saito, Toronto, Lucy (John)

Takahashi, Edmonton, Grace (Roy) Yasui, Modesto, California, and Marie (Bill) King, Nanaimo, B.C.; 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents and brother in Japan, her husband Tokutaro "Harry", daughter Michiko, son Minoru, and grandson Dean.

Goodbye Mom, you are now home with your father. See you 'tomorrow' and have 'tea'.

(Excerpts from "From the Inland Sea to the Frozen Prairie", Roy Yasui).

John Takahashi
Edmonton, Alberta
August 16, 1998

NFB Film on Evacuation & Internment of Japanese Canadians

Date: Saturday September 26, 4:00 pm
Place: EJCA Cultural Centre, 6750 - 88 Street

Prior to the Nikkei Heritage Day/Annual General Meeting, we are going to show this old National Film Board film of the evacuation and internment of Japanese-Canadian, which Linda Ohama discovered from the National Film Board Archives. The film will be shown at the Japanese Cultural Centre and will be about one hour in length. Please come and watch this valuable film.

Nikkei Heritage Day

Several years ago, NAJC proclaimed September 22 Nikkei Heritage Day. This fall will mark the 10th anniversary of the Redress settlement and the 4th anniversary of the Japanese Cultural Centre (Edmonton). In order to commemorate these anniversaries, EJCA has decided to inaugurate our annual Nikkei Heritage Day event in conjunction with the EJCA AGM, to celebrate and strengthen the Nikkei heritage in Edmonton. For the first Nikkei Heritage Day, we have chosen the theme of the Redress settlement and have invited Ms. Linda Ohama. Please join us to celebrate our first Nikkei Heritage Day event.

EJCA Table Tennis Club is looking for more members

Contact Persons: Mr. Yokota 482-4945
Mr. Haraguchi 488-6291

Practise days and times:
2 Sundays/month, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Place: EJCA Centre, 6750 - 88 Street

Membership Fee:
Family, \$50/year
Single, \$30/year

Note: You must wear sports shoes



Announcements

News Release from the Consulate-General of Japan

Japanese Movies

The Consulate-General of Japan in Edmonton is pleased to present two Japanese movies entitled "Moonlight Serenade" and "Letter from Spain".

"Letter from Spain" is a story about a family consisting of only two brothers, age 9 and 24 years. The film is directed by Yoshitaka Asama. He hopes children will be filled with many hopes and dreams after viewing this film.

Moonlight Serenade is set in post World War II Japan. It depicts the journey of a family returning to their hometown to bury the cremated ashes of their eldest son Tadao, who was killed in battle. Seen through the eyes of Tadao's 10 year old brother, the family faces many challenges throughout the long journey in the danger of post-war turmoil. Directed by Masahiro Shinoda (1997).

We hope that you can take the time to enjoy this free movie presentation, and that it will introduce you to some aspects of Japanese culture. The date and place of the showings are as follows:

Date: Saturday October 10, 1998

Time: "Letter from Spain" 1:00 PM
(Spain Kara No Tegami)
1993 ~ Yoshitaka Asama, 109 minutes/colour

"Moonlight Serenade" 3:00 PM
(Setouchi Moonlight Serenade)
1997 ~ Masahiro Shinoda, 117 minutes/colour

Place: Garneau Theatre
109 Street and 87 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
(403) 433-0728



FREE ADMISSION

ORIGAMI FOLDING FESTIVAL

The Consulate-General of Japan in Edmonton is pleased to present the 9th Annual Origami Folding Festival in conjunction with the Stanley Milner Library and the Friends of Folding - Edmonton. The event will take place in Edmonton on Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18, 1998.

Apart from religious and ceremonial purposes, origami as a past time for women and children dates back to the Heian Period (794 - 1191 AD). In recent years, origami has become increasingly popular around the world. Origami is indeed becoming an international art.

We would like to cordially invite you to attend this year's Origami Folding Festival. The time and place are as follows:

Date: Saturday October 17, 1998 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Sunday October 18, 1998 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Place: Stanley Milner Library (Edmonton Public Library, Downtown Branch)
7 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta

FREE ADMISSION

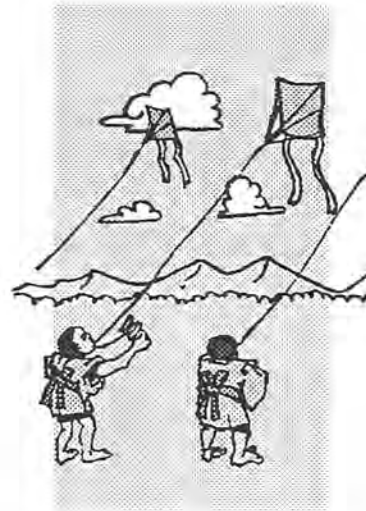
For further information, please call the Culture and Information Section at the Consulate-General of Japan
(403) 422-3752/423-4750

President's Corner...Continued from Page 3

Pavilion open. This year, except for a strong hail storm that collapsed several tents Friday afternoon, the weather improved as the Heritage Festival went on and we could carry out all planned activities both inside and outside the Japanese Pavilion, including a food concession, arts and crafts sales, chigiri-e demonstration and sales, bonsai exhibition, calligraphy demonstration and sales, and shiatsu demonstration, and Japanese dance, karate, taiko, and kenjutsu performances. Once the Heritage Festival started, we were overwhelmed with the number of people visiting the Japanese Pavilion and coming to watch the performances. This was the moment when we felt good about participating in the Heritage Festival.

Besides making money to assist the Japanese Community School and the EJCA, the Heritage Day gives us a special opportunity for all groups belonging to the EJCA, the Japanese Community

School, and other groups interested in Japanese culture to work together and enjoy the event. Let us keep participating in the Heritage Day and flare up our "matsuri" festival spirit again next year.



Linda Ohama and 'Wataridori: A Bird of Passage'

Linda Ohama, a third generation Canadian of Japanese ancestry who grew up in a small southern Alberta farming community, has worked as an exhibiting visual artist and more recently as a documentary filmmaker. In 1991, Linda made her first independent film production, *The Last Harvest*, a one-hour documentary relating to both her Japanese Canadian heritage and her life growing up on a prairie family potato farm. The film received several international awards. In 1997, she completed her second independent documentary, *Neighbors: Wild Horses and Cowboys*, which is currently screening at international film festivals and has been already awarded several prizes.

Wataridori: A Bird of Passage is her third documentary that was completed in 1997. The film is also currently showing at international festivals and has won the Gold Medal at the Houston Worldfest as the best TV documentary series in 1998.

Wataridori is a poignant testimony to the strength of character of two very different Canadian women, Irene Tsuyuki and Winifred Awmack. When Japan entered World War II, Irene Tsuyuki was incarcerated with her parents in the government's intern-

ment camp in the B.C. interior. After the war she was repatriated to Japan, leaving her own country behind. The film documents the remarkable story of how Irene Tsuyuki lost her citizenship and reclaimed it, and the invaluable contributions she made to Canada ever since.

This documentary also traces the role of Winifred Awmack, an extraordinary woman who taught Tsuyuki and many other Japanese students in Tashme over 50 years ago. It was Awmack who gave the Japanese students happy memories, sustaining their spirits both during the war and long afterwards when some of them left for Japan.



Ken Higa off to Japan

Ken has been an EJCA board member for the last 6 years, serving in various positions, but mainly concerned with youth activities. After being selected to participate in the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) program sponsored by the Japanese Government Education Department, Ken departed for Japan in late July along with about 70 other JET participants from western Canada.

Ken will be teaching English at junior & senior high schools in Asaka City, which is a suburban city just outside Tokyo in Saitama-ken. He will be there for at least one year.

Good luck Ken. We know you will have an enjoyable stay in Japan

EJCA Membership Application/Renewal Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Please check as applicable:

- Family: \$30.00
- Single: \$15.00
- Out-of-town Subscriber: \$15.00
- Seniors (over 70): free

Signature: _____

Please send completed form to:

EJCA
c/o Tak Nagata, Treasurer
#205, 10811 - 115 Street
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- ・家族全員集合！日本の家族も会員になれる
- ・2倍・3倍、家族のマイルをあわせて使える
- ・ちびっこマイルも、大人と同じにもらえる(※2)
- ・アメリカン航空のマイルもためられる
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(※1) 年会費は一次限り3,300円です。ご家族の代表者1名が年会費。その他のご家族の方は家族会員としてご入会いただけます。年会費はアメリカ・カナダへはマイルに別荘を1つにのみ適用の上にお届けします。(※2) 子供マイル数：小学生/小学生以下は基本マイル数の10%・100%・125%・150%。小学生未満は、小学生未満に上るまで適用の範囲(※3) アメリカ・カナダ・日本発のJAL便にご搭乗の条件。基本マイル数の20%をボーナスマイルとして差し引きます。お申し込み開始は98年3月31日のご搭乗までです。●JALファミリークラブおよびJALマイレージバンク・アメリカスの特典・規約は予告なく変更される場合がございます。



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日系ヘリテージ・デー祝典ー補償問題解決10周年記念式 EJCA年次総会

日系ヘリテージ・デーは正式には9月22日、日系補償問題解決が得られた日です。今年はその10周年記念日となります。しかし日系ヘリテージ・デーは日系社会へ、またカナダ社会へ貢献している多くの日系人達の努力を労い、感謝の意を表する日でもあります。バンクーバーからリンダ・オハマさんをご招待し自作のフィルムを上映していただくことになりました。この催しにぜひ参加されますようおさそいいたします。

日時：9月26日（土曜日） 6:00 - 9:00 pm
場所：EJCA文化センター 6750 - 88 Street
会費：一人\$10ドル

プログラム

4:00 pm	開場 NFBフィルム上映*
5:30 - 6:00	カクテル
6:00 - 7:00	ディナーとテーブル・スピーチ
7:00 - 7:30	EJCA年次総会 年次報告 役員選挙 EJCAコミュニティー貢献賞 EJCA奨学金受賞式 ミセス清水記念文化賞の設立
7:30 - 8:00	特別来賓 リンダ・オハマの紹介とドキュメンタリー・フィルム「渡り鳥」 (詳細は今号英語部をご覧ください)
8:00 - 8:15	若葉会舞踊
8:15 - 9:00	社交の時間

参加される方は9月26日までに下記へご連絡ください。
ケン・タナカ(センター) (466-8166), 大木崇 (459-3862),
ジム・ホヤノ(437-7730)

*ナショナル・フィルム・ボードの書庫にあった古い日系人強制引き上げとインターメント・キャンプのフィルムを上映します。約一時間の予定。

EJCA会長の言葉

大木 崇

8月3日夜の8時、ホーリロック公園で日本館の最後の荷物をトレーラーに入れて鍵を掛けました。これで今年のヘリテージ・フェスティバルも終わりです。毎年のヘリテージ・フェスティバルでこれが私の一番好きな時です。まだ明るさの残る公園に立ちながら、今年も皆で良くやったと感慨にふけります。20年以上もヘリテージ・フェスティバルの日本館を手伝っていますが、今でも良くこれだけ多くの人達と一緒に日本館を毎年開いてきたか考えると驚きを新たにします。

日本館の準備は今年の春、エドモントン地区ジャパニーズ・コミュニティー・スクールとエドモントン日系人会の代表が会って共同してヘリテージ・フェスティバルに参加することを決めた時から始まりました。もう20年以上もこのグループで参加していますが、毎年エドモントン・ヘリテージ・フェスティバル協会に参加の願書を出さなければなりません。ホーリロック公園に建てるテントの数が限られていて参加希望の団体がテントの数より多いので、一度参加を見合わせると参加の権利が他の団体に回ってしまい、長いウエティング・リストに載せられて次の機会を待たなくてはなりません。

6月3日にコミュニティー・スクールの宿田さんと重満さん日系人会のホヤノさんと私が出て日本館の計画をたてました。コミュニティー・スクールでは既に担当の模擬店のメニューを確定していて、今年はヤキトリ3、900本、フトマキ250本、イナリズシ160個、ドラヤキ200個、マンジュウ200個、それにムギチャとアイスコーヒーを用意します。ヤキトリは7月18日に日系文化会館に50人ほど集まり、鶏肉を切り、タマネギと一緒に串に刺し、バーベキューで焼いてから箱に詰めて冷凍庫に保管する作業をしました。

宿田さんが毎年の経験を積み重ねて考えたこのヤキトリ工場の作業工程は大変効率よく3、900本のヤキトリを6時間以内で処理してしまいました。当日は残念ながら作ったヤキトリの味見は出来ませんでした。ヤキトリの料理法及びタレは長年のヘリテージ・フェスティバル参加の経験から完成したものでその味とにおいによる集客力は抜群です。今ではコミュニティー・スクールの企業秘密になっています。

ヘリテージ・フェスティバルも近づいた7月22日に日系文化会館に日本館に参加する団体の代表が集まって打ち合わせをしました。ジャパニーズ・コミュニティー・スクール、若葉会日本舞踊グループ、北のタイコ、剣術会、ちぎり絵グループ、アーツ・アンド・クラフツ・グループ、エドモントン盆栽クラブ、ブリーガーツ氏の空手クラブ、日本語教師研修会の人達が集まりました。大部分の団体は日系文化会館を活動に使っていて日系人会のメンバーになっていますが、まだメンバーになっていないクラブもあります。このようないろいろな団体が協力して日本館に参加していることが長年私たちのグループがヘリテージ・フェスティバルに参加出来て日本館の特徴のある催し物を可能にしてきた要因です。

7月31日金曜日の夜に日本館の用意をしました。テントを中心にして木造の日本館を建て、模擬店の用意をし、テントの中に日系文化会館からテーブルと椅子を運んで来ます。日本館の木造構造は20年以上前にエドモントンの橋本さん等の建築家がデザインしたものです。今でもユニークなデザインですが長年の間にいろいろと付け足してきたので、たくさんの材木の部分を組み立てるが大変です。大きなジグソー・パズルですが毎年何とか同じような形に建ててしまうのが不思議です。

ヘリテージ・フェスティバルは戸外の催し物なので楽しさも苦労も天候に左右されます。今まで晴れても雨でも日本館は開催してきました。今年は金曜日の午後に強い雹を伴った雷雨が公園を襲いテントを幾つかつぶしてしまいましたが、それからは天気は回復し日本館の催し物は全部予定どりに実行できました。日本館の中で模擬店、アーツ・アンド・クラフツの展示即売、ちぎり絵のデモンストレーションと即売、盆栽の展示、習字、指圧のデモンストレーション、そして日本館の前の広場で日本舞踊、タイコ、剣術、空手の演技をしました。フェスティバルが始まると日本館の中も外も大勢の人達で埋まり対応に忙しくて他のパビリオンを見に行く時間もありません。しかしこんな時が今年も参加して良かったと思う時でもあります。

ヘリテージ・フェスティバルへの参加はコミュニティー・スクールと日系人会の活動の資金を集めるために大切ですが、それと同時にジャパニーズ・コミュニティー・スクール、日系人会のメンバー及び日本文化に関心のあるグループが一緒になって活動し祭りを楽しむ大切な機会になっています。また来年も私たちのグループの祭りの意気を燃え上がらせて一緒に参加しましょう。



ヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルを終えて

マーティン・宿田

日本語学校ヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバル実行委員会代表

日本語学校のヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバル委員会は5月に発足し、8月のフェスティバルに向けて、仕事を分担し、準備を進めて行きます。3日間のフェスティバルが終わると、一休みして、12日までには来年度のメニューを検討して決めます。それが終わって、その年の委員会は解散となります。今年も私達の計画の一部に皆様のご協力をいただきました。

焼き鳥作りは、皆さんの手で、EJCA会館で始めて、今年で3年になりますが、毎年その手際の良さに感心していましたが、今年は当日ドアが開くと同時に、誰れがどうせと言うことなしに、皆さんが進んで仕事を進めてくださいました。46名の手で、驚くことに4000本近くの焼き鳥を午

後2時半頃には全部終わらせることができました。確かに、私達は要領を覚えて仕事が速くなった事がありますが、それを見ていて感じたことは、ヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルは私達の気持ちの一つになることが大切であるということ。手不足でお互いの理解、協力、努力が必要になる以上に、まず、精神的の一つになって日本館でのフェスティバルを成功させようとする気持ちを持つことは素晴らしい事だと思いました。

今年も、私自身、大勢の方々から労いの言葉をいただきました。日本語学校のヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバル委員会を代表し、EJCAの役員の皆様と会員の皆様の暖かなご理解と、ご協力に心から感謝し、お礼申し上げます。

ある方が私に、「宿田さん、毎年大変ですね」、と言ってくださったのを、傍に居た私のウィフが聞いて、「大変なのは主人ではなくて、主人に言われて仕事をやる人達なのですよ。何たって、主人は人使いが荒いですからね」。人使いの荒いのを知っていただけたと思いますので、それでも、又来年一緒にヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルしていただけますよね。



今年のヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバル アートとクラフト・グループ

朝夕の気温にもう秋を感じるようになってきました。一月前のヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルはもう遠い昔の行事だったように感じます。毎年8月初旬のヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルは当市の日系人会にとっては大きな行事です。大勢のボランティアが協力して3日間。無事にお祭りが終わったときには安堵のため息がでてしまいます。今年は日本語学校の7月の焼き鳥作りの手伝いから始まりました。日本館内があまりみずばらしものにならないよう、毎年「アートとクラフト」ボランティア・グループはがんばって春の早くから準備にとりかかるのですが、今年はその準備が出来ずに心配していたところ、ある方面から大量の日本民芸品を安く購入することができ、それを売ったおかげで例年をうわまわる4000ドルの売り上げがありました。ジョージ・ツルダの手配で早くから用意してあった「うちわ」の売れ行きも最高で、1000本以上の売り上げがありました。天気が良く気温も高かったおかげです。今年は早くに「もしもし」でボランティアをしてほしい旨知らせは出したのですがあまり人が集まらず（連絡がなく）、少人数で店番などを長い時間したために一人一人の負担がかなり大きくなりました。日本からの学生にも飛び入りで手伝ってもらいました。3日間働いてくださった皆様ありがとうございました。連絡網を作りなおして、来年からはもっと多くの人達に参加していただいて、少人数で「燃え尽き症」にならないようにしなくてはならないと考えています。皆様のご協力をどうかよろしくお願いいたします。

日本館内には「ちぎり絵」、「若葉会」のテーブル、書道のテーブル、盆栽グループ、剣術会、指圧のテーブルが並び、大勢のお客様に日本文化の一端を紹介できたかと思えます。

一週間後の8月16日にはヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルにボランティアで参加してくださった皆様のための慰労「焼き鳥」ディナーがセンターで行われ、40名くらいの参加がありました。この時もヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルの係の人達がボランティアでディナーの準備をしたのですから仕事は尽きないわけです。

皆様本当にご苦労さまでした。また来年まで体力を蓄えてください。

日本映画のご案内

エドモントン日本総領事館提供の下記の日本映画を二本上映いたしますのでご案内いたします。
映画は「瀬戸内ムーンライト・セレナーデ」と「スペインからの手紙」の二本です。

「瀬戸内ムーンライト・セレナーデ」(1997年)は戦争直後の日本を舞台に、戦死した長男・忠夫の遺骨を故郷の九州に埋めるために旅行する恩田家族の物語。

倒壊した阪神高速、焼け野原になった商店街、大混乱する非難所。テレビの画面に写し出される阪神・淡路大震災の被災地を見つめている恩田幸太(60才)。彼はそこに、50年前の夜、淡路島の海岸から見つめていた空襲に燃え上がる神戸の街を投影していた。...

「スペインからの手紙」(1993年)、スペインの北西部、風光明媚なガリシア地方のオレンセと言う田舎町。一人の神父が建国した「ベンポスタ子供共和国」。この映画はそんな子供の理想郷・ベンポスタを舞台に、日本とスペイン、遠く離れて暮らすことになった兄弟のヒューマン・ドラマ。家庭をなくし、失いかけていた生きる望みを取り戻すために、今は亡き母の思いを胸にベンポスタ行きを決心したひとりの少年。その幼い弟を自分の手で養いきれずに、遠い異国へと送り出さなければならない兄弟をともなってスペインへ来た二人をやさしく迎えてくれるシルバ神父とベンポスタの子供たち。そして二人の懸け橋となってくれる日本人通訳の女性との暖かいふれあい。...

日時：10月10日(土曜日)

「スペインからの手紙」(朝間義隆監督) 1:00 pm

「瀬戸内ムーンライト・セレナーデ」(篠田正浩監督) 3:00 pm

場所：ガーニュー・シアター(Gameau Theater)

109 Street and 87 Avenue, Edmonton

(403) 433-0728

折り紙フェスティバル

日時：10月17日(土曜日) 午前10時 - 午後5時

10月18日(日曜日) 午後1時 - 午後4時

会場：エドモントン市立図書館(スタンリー・ミルナー・ダウンタウン・ライブラリー)

エドモントン・ルーム(地下一階大会議室)

#7 Sir Winston Churchill Square

電話：496-7000

共催：エドモントン市立図書館及びエドモントン折り紙クラブ

西本ちよこさんのご冥福を祈ります。

7月30日、西本さんは96才で他界されました。当市の最後のパイオニア一世でした。長年シニアクラブのメンバーの一人として種々な会に出てこられ、顔馴染みの一人でした。後年はジュビディー老人ホームに住んでおりましたが、それでも時々には日系人会の催しには顔を出されていました。西本さんが亡くなられて、本当に世代の交代が終わった感じです。

お葬式は8月7日、ハインストック葬儀社で行われました。ご遺族の皆様にご心よりお悔やみを申し上げます。