

Moshi Moshi

Edmonton Japanese Community Association

Vol. 28, No. 1, September - October 2002

Nikkei Heritage Day Celebration and Dinner *Pioneering Spirit! (Being & Becoming Japanese Canadian!)* EJCA Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday September 28, 2002
Place: Japanese Cultural Centre (Edmonton), 6750 - 88 Street
Time: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Dinner: Bento Dinner (no charge for EJCA members: \$7 for non-members)
Please confirm your attendance by September 25 (466-8166 - Centre)

Program:

5:00 - 5:30 pm	Refreshments (wine, coffee, tea)/Social Time
5:30 - 6:00	EJCA Annual General Meeting
6:00 - 7:00	Introduction & Bento Dinner
7:00 - 7:15	Award Presentations
7:15 - 8:45	Pioneering Spirit

Pioneering Spirit!

It was 125 years ago that Manzo Nagano, the first known immigrant from Japan, stepped onto Canadian soil. To commemorate this event, our Nikkei Heritage Day celebration will focus on the 'Pioneering Spirit' of the Issei and Ijusha who came to an unknown land to begin new lives. Mrs. Chizuko Kimura, a longtime resident of Redwater, will talk to us about the early settlement of Nikkei families just north of Edmonton; she will talk about life at that time illustrated with old photographs from those days. Then, we will hear from Ijusha, the post-war immigrants to Canada from Japan, about their reasons for coming to Canada, the early struggles they went through, some of their ambivalent feelings toward their homeland, Japan, and to Canada, their adopted country. We will hear from Ijusha who have been in Canada for more than three decades and some who are quite new here. This is a bilingual panel discussion so participation by Japanese speakers is very welcome.

(See page 4 for further details about the 'Pioneering Spirit' panel discussion)

EJCA Bazaar and Bake Sale - Saturday October 5, 2002!!

(See page 6 for details)

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Editorial Address:

6750 - 88 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5H6
Tel: (780) 466-8166
Fax: (780) 465-0376

English section editor:

Jim Hoyano

Japanese section editor:

Yumiko Hoyano

Support Staff:

Soly Sawada
Daiyo Sawada
Tom Nakashima
Sandy Nakashima

"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. 28, No. 2) is November 10, 2002**

Submission Deadlines for other upcoming issues:

- Volume 28, No. 3 - January 10, 2003
- Volume 28, No. 4 - March 10, 2003
- Volume 28, No. 5 - May 10, 2003
- Volume 28, No. 6 - July 10, 2003
- Volume 29, No. 1 - September 10, 2003



President's Corner

Yumiko Hoyano

It is only early September and already some tree leaves are turning colors. We had strange weather during the summer, extreme heat, rain, and cold temperatures. One of the Heritage Festival days was almost like a winter day. People wore winter jackets and scarves to keep warm inside the tent.

Talk about the Heritage Festival this year! We had a rather interesting Festival. After we finished setting up our pavilion in the rain, there was a water main break not far from our tent, and our tent being on the lowest spot in the park, the water gushed toward our tent and made a lake in front. The city crew must have worked all night to fix it as there was no more flooding the next morning. However, on Saturday night another water main broke, this time behind our tent, and water again gushed through our tent. On Sunday morning the Festival crew members brought plywood boards to put onto the soggy ground so that people did not get mud on their shoes.

Our performers (Dance group, Taiko, Karate, Kenjutsu) had to move to dry land, far away from the Pavilion. Electrical cords was not long enough so that the dance group performed using a cassette recorder for their music which was hardly audible.

In spite of cold temperature and two floods, we had a lot of visitors to our Pavilion. Everyday, it was packed with people, admiring our colorful display of items, enjoying the origami demo and getting bookmarks with their own name on it in Hiragana. The bonsai display was popular as usual. The food section did well too by selling out before the end of the Festival. Total sales of food and crafts items was enough so that we made a small profit after paying all the expenses of participating in the Festival.

Although the food section experienced a shortage of volunteers, the crafts section had many students from Japan manning the tables. It provided an opportunity for them to rediscover their own culture; for example, they were surprised to find that origami is very popular here in Canada. They thought Bonsai was just an old man's hobby, but saw many younger Canadians have taken up bonsai. They re-discovered Shuji, brush calligraphy, to be unique to Japanese culture. I am glad that

this year's Heritage Festival provided some with the opportunity to look at their own culture with a renewed awareness.

The National Nikkei Museum in Burnaby, BC is holding the Henry Shimizu painting exhibition right now. It is a beginning of our traveling exhibition. Mike Murakami and a few others spent a lot of time and effort to make this happen and I am grateful for their hard work. After the Vancouver exhibition, it will go to Kamloops where NAJC AGM will be held this year on Thanksgiving weekend and the delegates from across the country have a chance to view the paintings, then to Calgary. We are planning to send it to Winnipeg, then to Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal.

The Nikkei Heritage Day Celebration & Dinner is on Saturday September 28. Please see page 1 and page 4 for the details. Hope to see you all there.

EJCA AGM is also held on the same day to set the tone for the upcoming year. We will be electing six new board members and get ready for next year. To those stepping down from the board this year, I would like to say THANK YOU for your dedication for the past two years. And to those coming onto the board, I would like to say WELCOME and am looking forward to working with you. The new Centre Manager will be introduced to you at the event.

We are having a Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale on October 5. Tables will be available where you can sell your own items (10% of sales will be donated to EJCA). A bake sale will be on the same time so please donate baked items, and home-made Japanese condiments. Lunch on Bazaar Day? Of course. Sushi? Yes, Inari-zushi will be on sale. Famous Tako-yaki also. This lunch is the EJCA Seniors fund-raising so please support their effort by coming for lunch.

An invitation letter and a registration form for the three "Envisioning for Future" workshops are included in a separate envelope with this issue of Moshi Moshi. Please read carefully the reasoning behind these workshops and return the form. The participants will be deeply involved with charting the future course of EJCA. The most important thing is how can we make EJCA relevant to a wider range of people? How can we make EJCA and the Centre become our second home?

Nikkei Heritage Day Celebration & Dinner
Pioneering Spirit! (Being and Becoming Japanese Canadian!)
EJCA Annual General Meeting

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Place: Japanese Cultural Centre (Edmonton), 6750 - 88 Street
Time: 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Dinner: Bento Dinner (no charge for EJCA members; \$7 for non-members)
Please confirm your attendance by September 25 (Centre - 466-8166)

Pioneering Spirit! Program(7:15 - 8:45 pm):

1. Early history of Japanese Canadians living in the Edmonton area - Chizuko Kimura
 2. Panel discussion on Ijusha experiences in Canada
Moderator - Hideji Ono
Panelists - Yasuko Kaede, Junichi Hashimoto, Takashi Ohki, Yumiko Hoyano
-

New EJCA Mission & Vision Statements

Since EJCA at present does not have Mission and Vision Statements, the EJCA Wellness-in-Living Committee have proposed the the following mission & vision statements to be adopted at the September 28 AGM. If you have any comments or questions, please contact any committee member before the AGM.

Mission Statement:

- To facilitate the development of an inclusive and vibrant Japanese Canadian Community within a multi-cultural Edmonton.
- To support the objectives of the National Association of Japanese Canadians by promoting respect and harmony among people of various cultures in the Edmonton area.

Vision Statement:

- A dynamic and evolving community that sustains a sense of well-being built upon awareness of Japanese heritage in Canada.
-

Donations

EJCA and Moshi Moshi gratefully acknowledges generous donations from the following:

Mrs. Toshiko Takeda, Lethbridge

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 28, 2002	Nikkei Heritage Day Celebration/EJCA AGM, at the Centre 5:00 pm
October 5, 2002	EJCA Bazaar & Bake Sale, at the Centre 11 am - 2 pm
October 9, 2002	EJCA Board Meeting, at the Centre beginning at 7:30 pm
October 19, 2002	'Envisioning the Future of EJCA' Workshop #1, at the Centre beginning at 9 am
November 2, 2002	'Envisioning the Future of EJCA' Workshop #2, at the Centre beginning at 9 am
November 16, 2002	'Envisioning the Future of EJCA' Workshop #3, at the Centre beginning at 9 am
November 16-22, 2002	'Unearthed from the Silence' exhibit, at the Centre for one week
December 14, 2002	EJCA Christmas Party, at the Centre beginning at 2:30 pm

NAJC President's Report

September 2002

Keiko Miki

National Association of Japanese Canadians Annual General Meeting

The 2002 NAJC AGM and Council meeting will be held in Kamloops on October 12 & 13. The renowned Kamloops Chapter hospitality machinery has begun the task of arranging every detail of the weekend for your comfort, including a turkey dinner and entertainment on Saturday night. They will also have the multi-media exhibit "Images of Internment" which includes paintings of New Denver by Dr. Henry Shimizu at the Centre to mark the 60th anniversary of internment and forced relocation.

As part of a year-long process that was set up at the 2001 AGM in Toronto, a Council teleconference was held August 29 to finalize the revised constitution and by-laws. Once approved, the NAJC can move forward to implement the new structure, and to focus more energy on initiating priority projects to strengthen our community and social justice undertakings with other organizations. If you wish to attend or want more information, contact your local chapter or Erid at the NAJC office toll free 1-866-665-0333.

National Conference for Japanese Canadians and Japanese Immigrants

The National Association of Japanese Canadians is presenting the national conference, 'Meeting Point' to encourage Japanese-Canadians and Japanese immigrants to: 1.) reduce misunderstanding and increase awareness of the similarities and differences between Japanese immigrants and Japanese Canadians, and 2.) develop better working relationships in national and local communities.

The long term viability of the Japanese Canadian community is now a real concern for local organizations. Different strategies for sustainability and enrichment need to be explored including ways to better integrate Japanese Canadian and Japanese immigrant groups. This year marks the 125th anniversary since the first Japanese immigrant settled in Canada in 1877. We see this very special year as a turning point of our community in the new century.

The conference will be held at the Toronto Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre on November

29 to December 1, 2002. There will be subsidy available to a limited number of JC and Japanese Immigrant representatives from out of town. For more information contact the NAJC national office or obtain the registration form off the website: www.najc.ca.

Pan-American Nikkei Association/ Asociacion Panamericana Nikkei

A delegate meeting was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia on August 17, 2002. Representatives from Paraguay, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, United States, Mexico, Argentina, Canada, Peru, and of course Bolivia met to plan for Copani XII conference to be held in Bolivia July 2003. Business included the approval of the revised statutes, a new logo, a report on the XI Copani conference held in New York in 2001, an invitation to youth to participate in a Nikkei Sports event in Peru, February 6 to 9, 2003, the development of a PANA website by Chile and the expansion of the 'Supporting Commissions' such as the Youth, Business, Medical, Attorney Groups'. A power point presentation of plans for the 2003 conference was given by Guillermo Nemo, President of the National Federation of Japanese Bolivian Association, or Feneboja. I was grateful for the hospitality of Sergio a university student who provided ongoing translation from Spanish to English throughout the proceedings and a tour of the city.

One of the most interesting features about the history of Japanese Bolivians is that Japanese from Okinawa, Japan were sent after the war by the United States to settle on land that formed four colonies called Okinawa 1,2,3 and San Juan. Each has a small hospital, a community Centre and other facilities. The Japanese Government helps the community by providing resources, and building roads.

Copani XII is a unique opportunity to visit Bolivia and other nearby countries in South America, while at the same time becoming acquainted with other Nikkei in friendship. Further information and registration forms will be available soon.

A Reminder

September 30, 2002 is the deadline for the next allocation period of the NAJC Endowment Funds. Applications are available on the NAJC website.

From the Seniors Club to EJCA & Karaoke Club

Dear EJCA & Karaoke Club

We, the Seniors Club and I wish to express our sincere and deepest appreciation for the wonderful, wonderful holiday weekend trip to Lethbridge you had arranged for us. We enjoyed every minute of it.

Thank you greatly for your thoughtfulness in arranging a side trip to the Lethbridge Cemetery where those who have friends or relatives were able to pay their respects.

The Japanese Garden was as tranquil and serene as I had remembered. I'm sure our first time visitors were quite impressed.

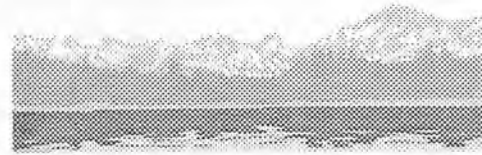
Although the trip to Waterton was marred by cold, gusty wind, we enjoyed the scenery, lunch and ice cream, never the less.

We were entertained royally by both the Edmonton and Lethbridge Karaoke groups on both Saturday and Sunday evening. It was such fun.

Thank you so much for the most marvelous and fun trip we have ever had.

Most sincerely yours,

Tami Tsujikawa
Seniors Club Secretary



EJCA Bazaar and Bake Sale

Date: Saturday October 5, 2002

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

Time: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Takoyakii, Curried Beef, and Inarizushi Lunches!
(Fund Raising by the Seniors Club)

Bake Sale!

Please Bring a Donation of Your Special Goodies for the Bake Sale!

For the Bazaar, tables will be set up where you can also sell your own small items
(A Donation of 10% of Sales to EJCA would be appreciated)

Everyone Welcome! Tell all your Friends!

If you can help in the kitchen at the Bazaar, please phone Noriko (475-7339) or the
Centre (466-8166)

Lethbridge Bus Trip

Osamu Sasano

On the Labour Day weekend (August 31 to September 2), the EJCA Senior's Club and the Karaoke Club joined forces for a bus trip to Lethbridge and Waterton National Park.

In May, when Wakaba-kai held a Japanese dance recital, the Lethbridge Karaoke club members came to Edmonton with the dance group and held a joint Karaoke concert with the Edmonton Karaoke club members. They invited the Edmonton group for a joint singing session in Lethbridge at that time.

George Tsuruda coordinated with the Lethbridge group and Rick Hirata made the bus and hotel arrangements. The original purpose of this trip was a joint Karaoke concert. The EJCA Senior's group were invited to join, and so they made it their annual trip.

The Senior's group, Karaoke group and other EJCA members joined the tour to make up a total of 31 people. We chartered a large comfortable bus and left from the EJCA Centre on the morning of August 31. On the road, people were busy talking to each other, watching videos provided by the Consulate General's office, and dozing. We arrived at the Lethbridge Lodge Hotel on time. After a short rest, we boarded the bus again and went to the Honpa Buddhist Church where the Lethbridge Karaoke club members, who most of us knew, welcomed us.

We enjoyed a pot-luck dinner prepared by the Karaoke club members and talked and laughed until we were ready for the start of the singing session. Ten singers from Edmonton and double that number from Lethbridge sang one after another.

On the second day, we had breakfast set up in a meeting room, then boarded the bus to go to Waterton National Park. The trip took an hour and a half; the scenery on the way was beautiful. Once inside the park, we went straight to Cameron Lake. The bus drove up a winding, narrow road. At the lake that was surrounded by mountains, we were busy taking photographs and walking around but we had only about 30 minutes there. Once back at the Waterton town site, we had lunch and walked around the beautiful lakeside. The wind was quite strong there. After one and

half hours, we boarded the bus again and went to look at the Prince of Wales Hotel which stood on top of a very windy hill. We hurried back to Lethbridge, quickly changed for the night's party, and went to the Regent, a Chinese restaurant, where the Lethbridge Karaoke club members were waiting for us.

The evening was to honor the Super Seniors of the Lethbridge Karaoke Club. The Super Seniors are those 80 years and older! After the dinner and gift exchange, the Super Seniors began the concert, five of them. They are very healthy and energetic! I was impressed by how well they can sing, especially 89-year-old Mrs. Shizue Kawade who sang "Hakone Hachiri no Hanjiro". They were followed by junior-seniors who sang enthusiastically and the concert became quite 'hot'.

The special guests of the concert were three beautiful, glamorous ladies called the "Androu Sisters". The whole house burst out laughing. These three beautiful ladies were actually men dressed up like ladies and then lip syched along with Andrew Sister's songs with nice choreography.

Hisako Takahashi who organized the whole thing and also was the MC for the evening gave a beautiful rendition of "Kawa no Nagare no Yo Ni" (as the river flows). Yuko Nakano and Yukio Uchimura of Coaldale sang together which was a big hit of the evening. They sang together so well they had a few encores. Yuko later said since the duet "Mugi Batake (wheat fields) went so nicely, she was so excited and had difficulty sleeping at night.

The third day was again a nice day. After breakfast, we visited the Nikkei section of the cemetery in Lethbridge where some of us have relatives and friends resting there. Then we went to the Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden. We saw a stone garden, a tearoom, doll displays and walked along the nicely looked after path around ponds and water falls. It was a beautiful garden made even better by having Henderson Lake in the background.

Our Bento was delivered to the bus in a timely manner, and we bid farewell to Lethbridge, and were seen off by Hisako and Aya, and their husbands. On the way home, we stopped at a park in Airdrie for lunch. How delicious our Bento lunch

Continued on Page 9...

Let Me Tell You About My Mother.....

Yumiko Hoyano

Let me tell you about my mother. She turned 90 years old this summer. She lives in a condo unit right next to my sister's family in Tokyo, Japan. She has had minor strokes in the last few years and each time she recovered fully. My sister keeps her eye on my mother's health to catch any signs of another stroke.

My mother visited me in Edmonton when she was 85 years old. I had to find something for her to do while I was at work during the daytime. She went around the neighborhood and picked up fallen leaves, pressed them and made nice arrangements on paper. She clearly had an eye for structure and color arrangement. Every one of these art pieces she made was excellent for its mix of colors, structure, and use of space on the paper.

To give her some variety I was looking for something else for her to do. I did not know if she would like it or not but Sumi-e (Japanese ink and brush painting) was the one technique I thought she might be able to handle. It is a simple art, needs no major equipment and she could do it alone. She is a good calligrapher. I had a few books on Sumi-e so I asked her to find paintings she liked in the book and copy them. She was not sure if she could do it at the beginning, but she tried. She was eager to show her work when I came home in the late afternoon. I was surprised as she was able to copy them very well. She told me it was interesting to do this. I gave her more art books to copy, not only of Sumi-e but other art books. She went over page after page and picked the ones she liked to copy. She wanted to mix some color into the black ink paintings. I encourage her to experiment with water color paints. She began using light blue for sky and some earthy colors for ground. A little touch of color made a huge difference in her paintings. They looked very good. She wanted to use larger sized paper and she became a little bolder with brush and colors each day. Her progress was visible.

My mother discovered that she likes painting. She said she had never known she might like painting. She had never done it before. Every day while she was in Edmonton, she painted and painted, experimenting with all sorts of paintings. She was not sure if she could paint without a model painting in front of her. She said she was not ready to do it on her own. There was enough material for her to

copy and I thought as long as she was creating her own paintings and hanging them on the wall to admire, it was quite fine. The time would come when she wanted to do her own original paintings.

After two months, we took her home to Tokyo. She asked me to go and get all the materials she needed for painting. She was certainly going to continue. My sister took her to the nearby library to find art books. She painted every day for a few hours. She took some of her works to the Day Center where seniors from the neighborhood gather. A staff person there exhibited her paintings for everyone to see. She did more and more painting. Some people in the condo complex came to see her paintings and gave her some suggestions for her to try. Some people came asking her to paint something for them. Mother was happy to do that. She said she could not believe that some people liked her paintings.

After I came back home to Canada, my mother kept painting. She filled two large filling books with her paintings. I got an e-mail from my sister telling me that one of the staff members at the Day Center entered Mother's painting, one of her originals, for a competition for the cover of a quarterly seniors magazine. Hers was chosen. Mother was so happy to be recognized. The Governor of the Prefecture gave her honorarium. She donated that money to the Day Center as it was the staff who gave her such an opportunity.

When I went to Tokyo a year later, I was taken aback to see the walls in my mother's condo completely covered with her paintings. It was quite a sight. And a more surprising thing was her improvement. Her brush stroke was surer, her colors brighter and bolder. She painted flowers to scenery to animals- whatever she thought was interesting. She had to display them so she covered the walls. It seemed she was thinking of painting all day long. What she was going to paint next, how she could touch up the painting she had done yesterday. Through the Day Center, a reporter for another magazine came to visit her with a cameraman. They wanted to write about her and put in a photo of some of her paintings with her sitting by. It must be rare for a 90 year old woman to be so absorbed in her art work and that must have make a good story.

Continued on Page 9...

Lethbridge Bus Trip...Continued from Page 7

was there.

On this trip I was impressed by the following things: the warm welcome and the hospitality by the Lethbridge people, the high level of Lethbridge Karaoke singers, the strong ties between the Lethbridge and Edmonton Nikkei groups, and the

caring nature of everyone in the Edmonton group to each other.

I did not do anything for this trip. I merely went along as a wet fallen leaf, so there might be some errors in this writing, so please forgive me.



Lunch in Airdrie, September 2, 2002

My Mother...Continued from Page 8

On the New Year's Day, I called her to say Happy New Year. She said she was so busy with painting that she was not quite ready to leave this world. She had to experiment with different techniques and materials that she could not waste her time. You'd better get busy with your work too, she said. Don't be idle. Time passes at the same speed if you are busy or not. Yes, Mother....

One well known artist came to visit my mother one day as he had heard about her painting from my sister, who is an avid fan of his paintings. He was impressed with her paintings and gave her some suggestions for her to try. He gave her some homework to do before he visits again. He forgot her age. He was treating her the same way he treats his art students. Mother was nervous at the beginning but she was eager to get his opinions on her painting. He suggested that once she

began her own painting, not copying someone else's paintings, she should have her one-man show. He said she should jump right into doing her own painting as she had done enough copying so far and has the technique of brush use and colors. In a year, she should be ready for her own show in Ginza, the most fashionable district in Tokyo.

I hope that my mother is going to do it. I hope that her health will keep up with the stress she will suffer. A simple beginning in Edmonton is blossoming in Tokyo five years later and giving one older woman such satisfaction. Her life is enriched tremendously by her painting. I am proud that she is flourishing and taking on her second career at that ripe age! I hope I will be like her when I am 90 years old.

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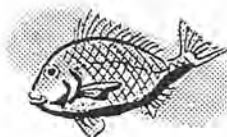


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日系ヘリテージ・デー祭典

パイオニアの精神 (Being & Becoming Japanese Canadian!)
エドモントン日系人会年次総会

日時：2002年9月28日

場所：エドモントン日系文化センター、6750-88 Street,

時間：午後5時から9時まで

晚餐：お弁当風夕食（会員は無料）、（非会員\$7、会場で会員受け付け）

9月25日までに参加の有無をケン・タナカまでお知らせください（466-8166）。

プログラム：

5時-5時30分	カクテル/社交の時間
5時30分-6時	EJCA年次総会
6時-7時	開会の辞と晚餐
7時-7時15分	各賞贈呈
7時15分-8時45分	パイオニアの精神

パイオニアの精神

今から125年前、長野万蔵と言う人が日本人として始めてカナダに来ました。それを記念するために日系ヘリテージ・デー祭典は未知の土地で新しい生活を築いた一世や移住者のパイオニアの精神に焦点を当てます。レッドウォーターに長年住んでいた木村ちず子氏はエドモントン北部に住んでいた日系家族の話をし、その当時の写真を見せてくれます。引き続き、移住者、つまり戦後カナダ移民、の人達の話があります。なぜカナダへ来たのか、始めのころの直面した困難、祖国日本と新祖国となるカナダへの揺れ動く気持ち、自分が育ったとは違う環境での子育ての難しさ。カナダに30年以上住んでいる移住者と最近カナダへ来た移住者が参加します。日本語と英語でのパネル討論ですから日本語を話す方々の出席を歓迎いたします。

EJCAバザーとベーク・セール

日時：10月5日 午前11時から午後2時

場所：EJCAセンター 6750-88 Street

EJCAシニア・クラブ資金作りのランチ！

カレーライス、いなり寿司、たこ焼などのランチ・メニューとベーク品

バザー用テーブルを用意しますので、家庭で不要となった小物などを売る事ができます。売り上げの10%はEJCAへの寄付となります。

ベークセールへの皆様からの寄付をお願いします。またランチ作りのお手伝いの方をお願いします。どうぞ藤野ノリコ（475-7339）又はセンター（466-8166）へご連絡ください。

EJCA会長の言葉

ユミコ・ホヤノ

もう8月も終になりました。木の葉の色も変わり始めています。今年は異常な夏でした。非常に暑い日が何日も続いたり、雨の多い寒い日が続いたり。ヘリテージ・デーの一日がそんな寒い日でした。テントの中で冬のジャケットを着たり、スカーフを首に巻いて寒さをしのぎました。

今年のヘリテージ・デーにはいろいろな出来事がありました。金曜日(8月2日)の夜、雨の中をパピリオンを建て終り、ほとんどの人達が帰った後、テントの近くの地下水道のパイプが壊れて水が噴き出し、一番低い場所に建っていた日本館の方へどんどん流れてきて、館の前に大きな池ができました。市の係の人達は夜中に働いて修理したのでしょうか、翌日(土曜日)の朝には水はなくなりましたが、地面はグジュグジュ。それにもかかわらず、大勢の人達が日本館を訪れてくれました。

翌日曜日(8月4日)朝早く、ミッチー・デュセットはボランティアの仕事の始めるために館に着くと、館内が水びたしになっているのを見出ししました。方々に連絡して人を集め、どうやら水を掃きだしましたが、今度の洪水の原因は夜中に日本館の後ろを通っていた水道のホースが破れて、館内へ水がドンドン流こんでいたのです。フェスティバルの係の人達が何枚かの板を敷いてくれて、どうにかお客さんの靴がドロコにならないようにしましたが、二回も洪水にあってさんざんでした。館の前が使い物にならないので、踊や空手、剣術、太鼓、合気道などのパフォーマンスは館から遠い、乾いた草の上で行いましたが、電気のコードが届かなくて踊る人達はカセットでほとんど聞こえないような音楽で踊りました。

寒さや洪水にもかかわらず、日本館を大勢の人達が訪れて、館内はいつも一杯の人で

した。色も鮮やかなクラフト品や盆栽を見て感嘆し、オリガミのデモに参加し、しおりに自分の名前を書いてもらい、焼き鳥や蛸焼を味わいと、することがたくさんさんの日本館でした。フード部も用意した物を売つくし良い成績でした。フードとクラフト部の売り上げでフェスティバル参加費、テント・レンタルをカバーできました。オリガミ・デモ用の折り紙は総領事館からの寄付で行いました。有難うございました。

フード部はボランティアが足りなくて働いていた人達は大変な思いをしましたが、クラフト部は日本からの学生が大勢手伝いに来てくれました。学生たちは日本文化を再発見した良い経験になったようでした。

BC州、バーナビー市にある全国日系博物館では現在「ヘンリー・シミズ絵画展」を開催中です。巡回展示会の始まりです。マイク・ムラカミとほか数人がこの展示会のために大変な努力をしてくれました。バンクーバー/バーナビー展示会の後はカムループスへ行き、10月の収穫祭週末、そこでのNAJC年次総会に全国から集まってくる人達に鑑賞してもらいます。そこから東の方へ各市を廻って行くよう計画中です。

日系ヘリテージ・デーとディナーは9月28日(土曜)センターで行われます。カナダへの日本人移民第一号とされている長野萬蔵が来てから125年になります。それを記念する意味で今年は移民/移住に焦点を当てた企画をしました。

「パイオニアー・スピリット」と題する移住者によるパネル討論は、まずチズコ・キムラさんがエドモントン初期の日系人の様子を話して下さり、続いてパネルに入ります。移住者の直面した困難や希望、今までの経験などを日本語と英語で話してもらいます。日本語を話す人達の参加を歓迎いたします。

当日はまたEJCAの年次総会を行います。新しい役員の選出、会計報告、その他の事務的な事項を会員の皆様に報告する一年に一度の機会です。また新しいセンター・マネージャーの紹介も行います。

10月5日(土曜)は「秋のバザーとベーク・セール」を行います。テーブルを借りて不要になった物を売る良い機会です。売り上げの10%はEJCAへの寄付となります。またEJCAシニアークラブは資金作りの「ランチ/昼食」のセールをしますのでご協力ください。稲荷寿司、たこ焼、カレーライスがメニューです。

「将来への見通し(Envisioning the Future)」ワークショップへの招待状と登録用紙がこの「もしもし」に同封されています。このワーク・ショップを行う理由を読んでからお返事ください。参加人数が限られていますので締切を守ってください。参加する30名はEJCAの将来について各方面から検討し、より多くの人達の会となるよう検討します。EJCA/センターが私たちの第二の家となるように。



レスブリッジ・バス旅行

笹野修

レイバー・デー・ウイークエンド（8月31日・9月2日）にEJCAのシニア・クラブとカラオケ・クラブが合同でレスブリッジ/ウォータートン国立公園へバス旅行に行ってきました。

この旅行のきっかけは、5月に行われた若葉会日本舞踊公演に出演したレスブリッジの踊りの会の方達と一緒に来ていたレスブリッジ・カラオケ・クラブが、そのときEJCAカラオケ・クラブと合同で交歓カラオケの会を催したのですが、今回はレスブリッジの方へ招待されたのです。

ジョージ鶴田さんがレスブリッジ側と連絡をとって事が運び、リック平田さんがバスやホテルの予約を取り仕切ってくれました。もちろんこの旅行の主な目的はカラオケの会でしたが、EJCAシニア・クラブの参加で、シニア・クラブの恒例の旅行ともなったわけです。

さて、シニア・クラブ、カラオケ・クラブ、そしてクラブ外の数名とEJCA代表の穂谷野夫妻を加えて、総勢31名は素晴らしい大型チャーター・バスにゆつたりと乗り込み、8月31日の朝、EJCAセンターを出発しました。道中、賑やかにおしゃべりしたり、日本総領事館提供のビデオを見たり、居眠りをしたりしながら、予定どおりレスブリッジ・ロッジ・ホテルに到着。各自の部屋で休憩後、再びバルに乗り込み、本派ブティスト・チャーチに到着。レスブリッジ・カラオケ・クラブの顔なじみの面々の大歓迎を受けました。さっそく用意されたポット・ラック・サパーのご馳走を食べながら、談笑し交流を楽しみました。続いてカラオケ・コンサートに入り、われわれエドモントンの10名の歌手達とその倍の数のレスブリッジの歌手達が素晴らしい喉を披露してくれました。

二日目はホテルのホールを借り切ってピュ

フェ・スタイルの朝食を済ませ、バスでウォータートンへ…その1時間半はすばらしい景色を楽しみました。ウォータートン国立公園では、まず、キャメロン・レイクに直行し、雄大な山々に囲まれた美しい湖を背景に皆、記念撮影に余念がありませんでした。その後、ウォータートン・レイクのほとりにあるタウン・サイトに出て、昼食、自由行動。バスでホテルに戻る途中、湖に面した丘の上にあるプリンス・オブ・ウェルス・ホテル立ち寄りました。このホテルは歴史の古さで有名ですが、建物が湖から吹き上げてくる強い風のあたる丘の上にあるのが、またそれで有名なようです。一行のうち、ある人達は絶壁の上に立ち、この風を体一杯に受けて、子供のように戯れていました。風にさよならをして帰途につきました。

ホテルに着くと、皆、すばやく着替えして、二日目のディナーとカラオケの夜のために、レスブリッジ・カラオケ・クラブの人達が待ち受けているリージェント・チャイニーズ・レストランへ急ぎました。この夜のカラオケはレスブリッジの5人のスーパー・シニア・カラオケ・シンガー達を贅えるために催されたものです。“スーパー・シニア”とは80歳以上の方々です。ディナーそしてギフト交換の後、いよいよカラオケ・コンサートの始まり。まずはスーパー・シニアから。この5人の“スーパー・シニア”の元気の良いこと。そしてしっかりした歌いぶりに感銘を受けました。特に89歳のカワデ・シズヨさんの「箱根八里の半次郎」は大喝采を受け、続いてジュニア・シニアの熱唱でコンサートは盛り上っていきます。

プログラムの特別ゲストは三人の美女“アンドリュー・シスターズ”の珍妙な演技で会場は笑いの渦。実はこの三人は立派な男性ですが見事にグラマーな美女に変身し、アンドリュー・シスターズの

歌に合わせて振りつけよろしく歌うふりをするのですが傑作でした。

最後にこのコンサートの総司会やすべてをオーガナイズしてくれた高橋ヒサ子さんが「川の流れるように」を見事に歌い上げ、そして中野悠子さんとコールデルの内村ユキオさんのデュエットのメドレーで会場が沸きに沸いて幕となりました。中野さんはあまりにも息の合った「麦畑」のデュエットの熱唱で興奮のあまり、その夜は眠れなかったそうです。

三日目の朝も素晴らしい天気恵まれ、まずホテルの近くにある日本人墓地を訪れました。メンバーの人達にもゆかりのある人達が眠っている場所です。お墓参りの後は日加友好ガーデンに行き、石庭のある茶室や手入れの行き届いた日本庭園を散歩。そしてタイミング良く、頼んであったお弁当がバスへ届けられました。このお弁当はレスブリッジの踊りの会のリーダー広中あやさんのグループが作ってくださったのです。今度の旅行のホステス役の高橋ヒサ子さんと広中さんに見送られてレスブリッジを離れました。帰途の途中、エアドリーの公園で広中さん達の手作りお弁当を頂きましたがその美味しかったこと。今回の旅行で印象に残ったことはレスブリッジの人達の暖かいもてなし、レスブリッジ・カラオケのレベルの高さ、レスブリッジとエドモントン日系社会の深い結び付き、そしてエドモントン一行のお互いの思いやりなどです。

筆者はこの旅行には何の約役もせず、ただ濡れ落ち葉のようにみんなにくっついて行っただけなので報告の中で間違いがあるかもしれませんがお許しいただきます。

旅行の写真はページJ-3をご覧ください（大木さん提供）

今年のヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルの報告

エドモントン市恒例のヘリテージ・デー・フェスティバルが8月3日から5日までの2日半にわたって行われました。今年の日本館はホールラック公園内でも一番低い場所で、雨の中、パビリオンの建設が終わった金曜日の夜に近くの地下水道のパイプが壊れて水が噴き出し、日本館の方へ水が流れてきて館の前に大きな池ができ、土曜日の朝係の人達が水掻きをして午後の開館にどうにか間に合いました。土曜日は気温も低く地面も濡れていたのですが、大勢の人達が日本館を訪れました。

日曜日の朝、早々とパビリオンへ着いたミツツイー・ディユセットが館内が水浸しになっているのを見つけました。土曜日の夜、今度は日本館の後ろの水パイプが裂けて、水が館内へ流れ込んでいたのです。

水をかき出して、土の上に数枚の板を敷いて、お客さんの靴がどろんこにならないようにしました。日曜日寒い日で冬のジャケットやスカーフを着けて寒さをしのぎました。その寒さにもかかわらず、日曜日館内はいつも大勢の人でにぎわいました。クラフトや盆栽、習字グループに絶えずお客さんがいました。今年は領事館の支援で折り紙デモンストレーションのテーブルを設けました。ここも人気が高く、子供だけでなく、大人も座って折り紙を習っている光景が見られました。

月曜日は午後から初めて陽が射して、人出も多くなり、最後まで賑わいが続きました。フード部も月曜日の午後には用意した食べ物を売尽くす良い成績でした。

フード部はボランティアが少なく、働いていた人達はたいへんでした。

今年は日本から来ている学生が大勢ボランティアとして働いてくれました。3日間続けて来てくれた人達も何人かいて、とても楽しいと喜んでいただきました。良い経験になってくれると良いのですが。学生とコミュニティーからの人達、全部で28名のボランティアの方々のご協力を得ることで、今年も無事にフェスティバルを終えることができました。心よりお礼を申し上げます。フード部、クラフト、習字グループともほぼ昨年と同じくらいの収益で、フェスティバル参加費、テント代その他の費用をカバーできました。

