



Victoria NIKKEI FORUM

Volume 22 Issue 2 Spring 2014

www.vncs.ca

Movie and Udon Spring Social

- ENJOY HOT JAPANESE UDON MADE FRESH AND SERVED BY YOUR BOARD MEMBERS!!
- WE WILL ALSO BE SHOWING A DOCUMENTARY 'A SORRY STATE'

SAT. APRIL 12th
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
FREE FOR MEMBERS
\$5 NON-MEMBERS

First Metropolitan Church
932 Balmoral Road
RSVP
Mkabe2011@gmail.com

Blossom walk to follow...

A SORRY STATE
Here: the most apologized-to family in the country.
Maybe the world.

By Japanese Canadian Director Mitch Miyagawa

Enjoy hot Japanese Udon noodles made fresh and served by your board members and socialize with other VNCS members.

We will also be showing a documentary, *A Sorry State*, by Japanese Canadian director Mitch Miyagawa.

Weather and blossom permitting, a blossom walk to follow.

Synopsis With three Canadian government apologies to his parents and stepparents for past racist actions, filmmaker Mitch Miyagawa has the most apologized-to family in the country—maybe even the world.

But what do they mean, to his parents, his young children and to his country? *A Sorry State* chronicles his life-changing journey of discovery.

This 47-minute documentary, *A Sorry State* was produced by Up and Away Productions and Panacea Entertainment, and commissioned by TVO.

Written/Directed by Mitch Miyagawa **Produced by** Mitch Miyagawa, Josh Miller, Lisa Byrne

Awards/Press

- Canadian Screenwriting Award for Documentary, Writers Guild of Canada, 2013
- 4 AMPA Rosie Nominations: winner, Best Overall Sound, 2013
- NFB Development Prize & Audience Choice Award at the 2008 Whistler International Film Festival, Pitch Fest West World Premiere at Edmonton International Film Festival 2012

VNCS 20th Anniversary Banquet

This year the VNCS turns 20 and to celebrate this milestone we are planning an Anniversary Banquet and Gala. It will be held on Saturday, June 21 at the Ambrosia Convention & Event Centre, 638 Fisgard Street. In addition to a delicious 3 entree buffet dinner there will be entertainment, interactive games, dancing and karaoke. We also will be honouring individuals who have made life long contributions to the VNCS and to the local Nikkei community.

The cost for this special evening is only \$35 per person. (Children 6-12 will be \$15 and under 6 are free.) The VNCS is subsidizing the cost of this evening to make it affordable and accessible to all our members.

The dress code for this special event is semi-formal. Yukatas and kimonos are most welcome.

One of the displays we will have at the banquet is a slide show of pictures of our members and events. If you have some VNCS photos from the period 1994 to 2000 please let me (Tsugio) know. We will digitize them and add to our slide show.

To order tickets contact Tsugio Kurushima at tsugukurushima@gmail.com or call at 250-384-2654 or contact Cristina Shore at 250-388-4728 ext 104. You can also reserve seating for groups greater than 3 if you order your tickets by June 6. Get your tickets early as there is limited seating.

Tickets will be available at the Spring Social this Saturday as well.



The poster features a circular logo on the left with a red maple leaf and a white cherry blossom, with the text "VICTORIA NIKKEI CULTURAL SOCIETY" around it. To the right is a photograph of colorful fireworks exploding over a body of water with a torii gate in the background. The text on the poster includes:

Honorary awards
3 Entrée Buffet
Dancing & Karaoke
Entertainment, Prizes

20th Anniversary Banquet

June 21 2014 at 6pm

\$35 adults, \$15 kids (6 to 12yrs), 5 & under free
Dress: Semi-formal (Yukatas & Kimonos welcome)

Ambrosia Centre 638 Fisgard

Ticket Sales (ends June 14) limited seating
Cristina Shore (250) 388-4728 ext.104
Tsugio Kurushima (250) 384-2654 tsugukurushima@gmail.com



Mochi Tsuki Kai 1998



Elk Lake 1999

故郷

Furusato Dancers

Tsugio Kurushima

2014 is shaping up to be another busy year for the Furusato Dancers. We have already had 3 performances this year. In January we performed at the annual Mochi Tsuki Shinnen Kai. That was followed by two performances in February – one at the Carlton House Seniors Residence where we provided entertainment for their Japanese themed dinner and the other at Christ Church Cathedral where we participated in a concert that was put on by a delegation from Morioka to thank Victoria for our support after the earthquake and tsunami disaster of 2011. At the Christ Church Cathedral concert one of the dances we performed was the Morioka Sansa Odori. We were a bit concerned that we might embarrass ourselves by not performing the Sansa Odori properly but we received lots of positive comments.

Looking ahead to the next 3 months we are already scheduled for several performances. In April we will again participate in the Ethnic Dance Festival which is put on by the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival. This is a great multicultural event which I would encourage you to attend. It takes place at the Spectrum Community School Theatre on Burnside Road. The Furusato Dancers are performing the evening of April 23 between 6:30 to 8:00 pm. In addition to the Furusato Dancers there will be dance groups representing Polynesia, Scotland, Norway, Spain, Mexico and many other ethnic cultures. The cost to attend a session is only \$5 (\$3 for seniors). On May 25 we will be performing at an Asian Heritage Month Celebration which will be held at Uvic. This year the event will be in conjunction with the World Partnership Walk organized by the Aga Khan Foundation. On June 14 we will participate in the Heritage DanceFest which will be held at the Cameron Bandshell in Beacon Hill Park. This is the first time we will be participating in this multicultural event. Both the latter two performances are open to the public and are free. And if that wasn't enough to keep us busy we just heard that the Furusato Dancers will be asked to perform at the VNCS 20th Anniversary Celebration on June 21.

In between all of these performances we have been able to fit in a Dance Workshop with Hirano Sensei. She came over on March 23 and taught two simple minyo dances – Zenkoku Gochongai Ondo and Arigato Ondo. We asked our Sensei to teach us some new dances that we could share with our audiences. So the next time you attend one of our performances you may get a chance to learn these new dances.

Interested in joining our group? If so, contact Tsugio Kurushima at tsugukurushima@gmail.com or Tomoko Okada at tokada3@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your Donations to the VNCS

Judith Patt
James Greenwood
Reiko Gurney
Jack and Elizabeth Watanabe
Michiko Seguev and Brian Frankson
Aiko Sutherland
Elaine Matsushita
Rudolf and Tracel Carolsfeld
Madoka Yasumura
Dick Nakamura
Sus and Barbara Tabata
Noreen Scarth
Roy and Marianne Natsuhara
Mike and Izumi Abe and family

Welcome to VNCS New Members

Chizuko Takahashi, Gary Wagner &
Sasha Wagner/Takahashi
Thomas Ahn
William J. Code
Tak Tonogai
Josefina Jacobsen

海鳴り太鼓

Uminari Taiko

Jacob Derksen

It's always nice to see the cherry blossoms in full bloom and know that we're on our way to summer even if the weather isn't always as cooperative as we might wish. On the other hand, as the Victoria-era art critic and philanthropist John Ruskin noted, "...there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather." In general, that sums up my feelings about taiko, too. Not all groups are going to be as skilled as Ondekoza or KODO, their shows will not be as slick as Wadaiko TAO or other professional groups, but when they play from the heart it's always good.

A recent trip to Courtenay afforded us the opportunity to play from the heart. The Immigrant Welcome Centre of Courtenay held their inaugural Global Fusion Fest on March 8, 2014 and based on the number of people in attendance I strongly suspect this will become an annual event. We have another performance on May 3 at the UVic Interfaith Chapel where we'll be celebrating Buddha's Birthday. Between now and then Ken Murata and I will perform a piece at LitARTcity, a fundraiser for the Victoria READ Society celebrating National Poetry Month. This event will feature Standing Nation Drummers, poets, dancers and more and will be held at Open Space Gallery on April 11. Uminari Taiko will also be back at this year's Victoria TC 10K on April 27 providing inspiration for the participants. I always look forward to seeing the photos in the following edition of the Times-Colonist and, of course, I look for pictures of Uminari Taiko first!

On the subject of heart, we've recently collaborated with Standing Nation and Antidote: Multiracial and Indigenous Girls and Women's Network, two groups that have a lot of heart. It's been an honour to work with both groups over the past few months. Gayle Nye was the primary mover and shaker behind those collaborations on our end and Ken Murata did an incredible job of reverse engineering shime-daiko and okedo drums that allowed us to have a very successful drum-making workshop with members of Antidote on March 21. In addition to working with Standing Nation and Antidote, members of Uminari Taiko were out to Sooke to facilitate a workshop with a children's dance group at the Move This! Dance Studios. From very early on it had been my hope that Uminari Taiko would develop connections with other community-based groups and collaborate on various projects so it's nice to see us moving more in that direction.

Our recent series of kids' classes is drawing to a close and, once again, we've had some very talented young people take part and blossom under the tutelage of Susan and Tsugio Kurushima. Our next workshop will be held on May 4, 2014 and will be followed up with a series of classes taught by Teruyo Sano.

We will have other performances and collaborations taking place throughout the summer so please check our website for up-to-date information.

www.uminaritaiko.com

Yuzen Japanese Fabric Dyeing Workshop

Yuko Yamamoto

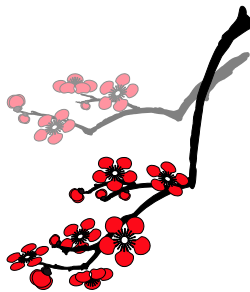
The Cowichan Valley Art Council will invite a Japanese woodblock print dyeing master, Tetsuo Koyama, in November 2014 and will organize his workshop. I would like to inform this wonderful opportunity to the members of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society.

In this five-day workshop (November 22nd-26th, 2014), Master Koyama will teach traditional Japanese fabric dyeing techniques and carefully help each participant (limited to 15 people) to create a dyeing piece made from his/her own design. This workshop welcomes anyone, both practitioners and beginners, who is interested in learning Japanese dyeing art from the Master who has been practicing for more than 60 years. Please see detailed information in this site (http://www.cowichanvalleyartscouncil.ca/Tetsuo_Koyama.php). Please feel free to ask any questions to Yuko Yamamoto, the project coordinator, or to Cowichan Valley Art Council. yuko@sewyuzen.com Yuko Yamamoto
cvaartscouncil@shaw.ca Cowichan Valley Art Council

Editor's note: Please also note that the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society is working with this group to organize a lecture/presentation in Victoria on Wednesday, November 19, 2014. Stay tuned for more information.

桜婦人会

Sakura Fujinkai



Finally Spring!

We just met for a dinner at Chikara Sushi and now we will meet at Yoshi Sushi in April, Shizen Sushi in May and Shiki Sushi in June. I will email closer to the dates to find out who will attend. If you would like to be included in our group for these dinner meetings, please contact me to be added to the email list.

Ikebana classes started up again on January 23 and will continue until the end of May. Sensei Michiko Seguev, Aiko Sutherland, Shizue Simmons and I have prepared arrangements for the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. Debbie Ibaraki and Sue Rubin will be doing theirs in the coming weeks. Classes will wrap up at the end of May for the summer break. Anyone interested in joining us for the series beginning in September should contact me to be added to the class list.

For more information about any of our activities please contact Susan by phone (250) 384-2654 or email sukurushima@gmail.com.

Here is the Ikebana student display schedule, for the upcoming [Alternative Visions](#), Renditions of Myth, Legend and Folk Tales from China and Japan Exhibition, at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

March 23 to April 5 Susan Kurushima

April 6 to April 19 Shizue Kamikihara

April 20 to May 3 Sue Rubin

May 4 to May 17 Debbie Ibaraki

May 18 to May 31 Michiko Seguev

June 1 to June 15 Lois Narine



Statue of Qilin unicorn | Chinese | Bronze | Qing dynasty |
Gift of Irving Zucker

Mar 7, 2014 to Jun 15, 2014

Alternative Visions

Renditions of Myth, Legend and Folk Tales from China
and Japan

Curated by Barry Till | Pollard Gallery

China and Japan are two countries rich in myths, legends and folk tales. Many themes of historical and mythical characters are shared by both nations.

This exhibition will attempt to show how artists and craftsmen portrayed or rendered these subjects in their own way in various media from two dimensional paintings, prints and textiles to three dimensional sculptures in the round made of pottery, bronze, wood, jade, amber, ivory, etc.

The exhibition will be composed of art from both the extensive Asian art collection of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and some private collections. The works of art featured will be both ancient and more modern.

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
1040 Moss Street
Victoria, British Columbia

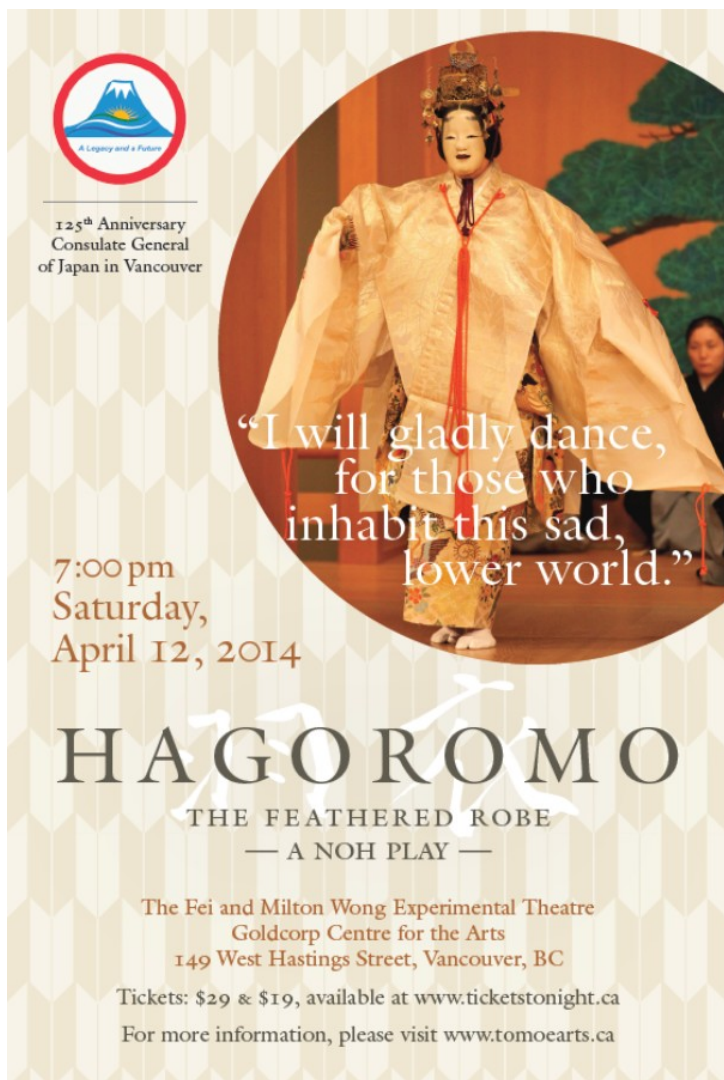
Obon Festival

Save the date.

Sunday, August 10, 2014

Ross Bay Cemetery and Ross Bay Villa.

More details to follow in summer newsletter.



HAGOROMO

the Feathered Robe
a noh play

Presented by the Consulate General of Japan and TomoeArts
Saturday, April 12, 7 pm

Fei and Milton Wong Experimental Theatre at the Goldcorp
Centre for the Arts

149 West Hastings, Vancouver

Information and tickets: <http://www.ticketstonight.ca>



125th Anniversary
Consulate General of Japan
Vancouver

There was an opening reception for the showing of Henry's "Images of Internment" at the Vancouver Japan Consulate on Feb. 18th.

The paintings will be on display at the consulate in the visa waiting room until end of this year. Consul General Okada is taking interest in the history of Nikkei in Canada and this is one of his ideas to inform Japanese people visiting the consulate. At the Mochi Tsuki Shin-nen Kai, he talked about his New Year's resolution which is *on-ko-chi-shin* (discover the new by learning from the past).

Images of Internment are a series of oil paintings by Dr. Henry Shimizu, which recall the activities of and lifestyle of the internees in the New Denver Japanese Internment Camp, during World War II.

Dr. Shimizu is a Member of the Order of Canada, served as Chair of the Japanese Canadian Redress Foundation and was instrumental in creating the Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre in New Denver. His family was removed from the B.C. Coast to the New Denver Japanese Internment Camp in 1942, when he was a 13 year old teenager.





NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPANESE CANADIANS DR. GORDON HIRABAYASHI HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

DR. GORDON KIYOSHI HIRABAYASHI was born in 1918 in Auburn, Washington. He was known for his courage and leadership in Canada and the U.S. in upholding human rights principles.

In May 1942, Gordon Hirabayashi, a college student, a Quaker and pacifist deliberately violated the curfew imposed upon Japanese Americans and officially challenged the government order on the grounds that it violated his constitutional rights. He lost his appeal to the Supreme Court, serving 90 days in prison. In 1987 the courts reversed his conviction on the grounds that the curfew, internment and uprooting policies were based on political expediency, and not on any risk to national security. After the war, he completed his education, receiving B.A., M.A. and Ph.D degrees in sociology from the University of Washington. Dr. Hirabayashi, a Canadian citizen, resided in Edmonton and was Chair of the Sociology department at the University of Alberta from 1963-70 and retired in 1983.

He was actively involved in the Edmonton Japanese Community Association and founded their newsletter, *Moshi Moshi*, to keep the community informed during the redress movement. He was a well-known and active member on the NAJC Council during the '80s. His historical perspective and strong belief in individual rights helped shape the NAJC redress principles and laid the ground work for future redress settlements such as the Chinese Head Tax, and the First Nation and Inuit residential school settlements.

He received the NAJC National Award in 2003. Dr. Hirabayashi died on January 2, 2012.

Description of the Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Human Rights Award:

The award may be presented every two years annually at the NAJC AGM, starting in 2012, in recognition of an individual or organization in Canada contributing to the development or promotion of human rights and equality in Canada. Mr. Tatsuo Kage of Vancouver was the first recipient in 2012.

Eligibility:

- The individual or group must be committed to the ideal, as stated in the mission statement of the NAJC, "to strive for equal rights and liberties for all people, particularly racial and ethnic minorities".
- Individuals or groups must live/operate in Canada
- The award will not be given posthumously nor to an organization that is no longer active.
- The person may or may not be of Japanese ancestry or a member of NAJC, but supportive of its mandate.

Selection process:

Nominations will be accepted by email, mail or fax together with the following documents in a single submission:

- A letter from the nominator (including address, phone number and email) describing the nominee, their volunteer or paid work and accomplishments, as well as why the nominee merits the award.
- A curriculum vitae or detailed biography or a profile of the nominee.
- Any additional supporting documentation such as articles written by or about the nominee, print materials, internet links or other information.
- At least two references (including addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses), who have in-depth knowledge of the nominee's work and activities, and who may be contacted by jury members to obtain more detailed information.
- A jury of 3 people composed of the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, plus two others selected by the NEB, will review all nominations and make the selection.
- **Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2014** and providing there is a suitable candidate, the award will be presented at the AGM.

Nominations are to be sent to the attention of the Chair, NAJC Human Rights Committee by email to nation-al@najc.ca or by regular mail to 3rd floor, 207 Donald Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 1M5 or fax 888-515-3192.

Ootsuchi Junior High School Kataribe Project in Victoria

Japanese singer Misaki Usuzawa visited Victoria on February 22, 2014 to express her appreciation of support of their area after the earthquake and tsunami.

The winner of Japan's equivalent of the Grammy for new artist, this diminutive young talent is a third year junior high school student in the town of Ootsuchi which was devastated by the tsunami, with 10% of their population and 66% of their homes lost.

She's been touring the affected areas using her music to help keep people's spirits high.

Her school is a temporary building while their school is being rebuilt, scheduled to be finished in two years.

She gave a wonderful presentation of her school and town life post-disaster and sang several beautiful songs this afternoon to an appreciative audience of well over 100 people.

Special thanks to the City of Victoria, Christ Church Cathedral and VNCS volunteers and Furusato Dancers for hosting this wonderful event.



Asahi Blades

By Richard Taki

1. Japan-Canada International Hockey Program (JCIH)

I would like to inform everyone of an important change that has occurred to the Nikkei Hockey program over the past year. Hitomi Nakajima, David Kumamoto, Larry Hayes, and myself (members of previous Nikkei Hockey organizing committees) have established a new program called Japan-Canada International Hockey (JCIH). The JCIH program will essentially be the same program but with greater involvement/support from the City of Kushiro, the Japanese Government, and an established volunteer group in Kushiro. The program website is now located at www.jcih.ca (currently being upgraded). The hockey team will officially be called the "Asahi Blades" in recognition of the "Asahi Tigers" a well known Japanese Canadian baseball team (Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame) that played until 1941 in the North West Pacific Baseball League. The Nikkei group will not be operating a hockey program anytime in the near future. At this time we thank the Nikkei Board for initiating this program and allowing us the opportunity to develop it into a nationally recognized program.

2. 2014 Trip

Try outs for the Asahi Blades 2014 team will take place on April 26th at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre located at the University of British Columbia. Session #1 will take place at 8:45 am-10:15 am and session #2 from 2:15 pm-3:45 pm with lunch provided. There is a \$100 try out fee and applications will shortly be available online at www.jcih.ca. The team is tentatively scheduled to depart from Vancouver on July 19th following two pre-trip practice session and returning July 31th. We are looking at a six (6) game schedule with games in Tokyo and Kushiro. In addition to local events, this year we are trying to arrange visits at three different schools and include a home stay to allow the players the experience of living with a Japanese family. As in the previous years there will also be a parent/family track that may include the possibility of a home stay as well.

We are looking forward to having some returning players and if you know of any players that may be eligible for the trip please pass along this message. This year we will be focusing on players born in 1996, 1997, and 1998.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions at: takman@telus.net

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