



# Victoria NIKKEI FORUM

Volume 22 Issue 4 Fall 2014

[www.vnccs.ca](http://www.vnccs.ca)

## The **Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society** presents the 15th annual **Japanese Cultural Fair**



Savour the wonderful tastes of Japan (including delicious sushi, bento boxes and sweet manju desserts).

Experience demonstrations of Ikebana, tea ceremony, bonsai, shodo, and various martial arts. Special demonstration by Silk Road Tea.

Enjoy performances by Uminari Taiko, the Furusato Dancers, Satomi Edwards (Koto), the VJHLSS Children's Dance Group and Choir and many more!

**10 am - 4 pm**

**Saturday, October 25th, 2014**

**Esquimalt Recreation Centre  
527 Fraser Street**

**A Free Family Friendly Event  
With Kids Activity Area**

**For more information visit  
[www.vnccs.ca](http://www.vnccs.ca) or [facebook.com/vnccs.ca](https://www.facebook.com/vnccs.ca)**

日本文化祭



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**M**

# Cultural Fair 2014

The Cultural Fair is just around the corner. It will take place on Saturday, October 25 at the Esquimalt Recreation Centre. This event is important for our Society not only because it is one of the major ways we fulfill our mandate of promoting our Japanese cultural roots but it is also the only fundraiser event for the VNCS.

Please consider supporting the Fair in the following ways.



## Donations

The success of the fair from a fundraising perspective relies heavily on donations. Here are areas where donations are required.

### Things Japanese Table

Trying to figure out what to do with that Japanese souvenir that was given to you? The Things Japanese Table is a perfect solution. At this table we sell a variety of items that are from Japan or are associated with Japan e.g. hashi (chopsticks), Japanese fans, pictures, lacquer ware, yukatas, Hello Kitty trinkets, etc. No item is too small or too large (well within reason).

If you have items to donate please contact Susan Kurushima at [suku-rushima@gmail.com](mailto:suku-rushima@gmail.com) or Joyce Pearlstone at [joyce.pearlstone@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.pearlstone@gmail.com). You can drop off your donation at the Kurushima residence or you can bring them on Fair day before 9:30 am so that they can be sorted and priced.

### Bake Table

As the name implies we need baked items - cookies, buns, tarts, etc. We could also use breads, cakes and pies. These larger items have been in short supply the past few years. To comply with the Vancouver Island Health Authority Food Safety Guidelines we cannot accept baked goods with whipped cream, cheese or synthetic cream filling. For example no pumpkin pie, cream puffs or any kind of custard fillings. Please indicate whether your baked item contains any nuts.

You can make these items before hand and freeze them until the day of the Fair. Please bring your donation to the Fair before 9:30 am so that they can be sorted and priced.

If you have any questions contact Happy Smith at [yetsuko@telus.net](mailto:yetsuko@telus.net).

### Silent Auction

The items that go into the Silent Auction can be almost anything. They do not have to be associated with Japan. In the past we had memberships, books, paintings, pottery, services and gift baskets to name a few. Sometimes we place the more expensive Things Japanese items in the Silent Auction. When you donate something it is helpful to give an estimated value. This helps the bidders and is also used to set a minimum bid if that is appropriate.

If you have items to donate or you have questions on what may be appropriate contact Cristina Shore at [cristinashore@shaw.ca](mailto:cristinashore@shaw.ca) or Patti Kagawa at [hellopatti@shaw.ca](mailto:hellopatti@shaw.ca).

### Raffle

The prizes in the Raffle have been primarily gift certificates from Japanese Restaurants. These have been all donated by local restaurants. These prizes appear to be very popular as ticket sales have been done well in the past. Last year we started introducing other prizes. If you know of other businesses that may be willing to donate products or services for us to use in the raffle please pass on the information to Craig Mercer ([craig@castanet.ca](mailto:craig@castanet.ca)) or Tsugio ([tsugukurushima@gmail.com](mailto:tsugukurushima@gmail.com)).

# Volunteering

Lots of volunteers are needed to make this event a success both prior to the Fair and on Fair Day.

## Sushi and Manju Making Work Parties

There are two works parties that are scheduled each year to prepare the food for the event. The sushi and manju that are made at these work parties contribute significantly to our sales revenue. By attending these work parties not only will you be helping to make the Fair a success but you will get to meet and connect with others members of VNCS.

### Saturday, October 18 at St. Aidan's United Church

This work party is for the making of the manju both the yaki manju (baked) and the mochi manji (soft). We make over 1,000 pieces of manju. The works party goes from 10:00 to 4:00 pm.

### Friday, October 24 at Esquimalt United Church (500 Admirals Road)

This work party is for making age sushi, packaging of the manju and for preparation of the ingredients for the Bento Box. This work party also runs from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. (Note that the location is **NOT** at the Esquimalt Rec Centre.)

At both work parties we need around 15 volunteers. If you can only come for part of the day that still helps. Snacks and beverages are provided. If you can help contact either Amy Kawano at [amy.kawano6@gmail.com](mailto:amy.kawano6@gmail.com) or Maureen Bird at [mobird@shaw.ca](mailto:mobird@shaw.ca)

## Decorating Jubilee Hall, Esquimalt Rec Centre

This work party takes place on **Friday, October 24 from 8 to 10 pm** the evening before the Fair. It involves decorating the main hall at the Rec Centre, the Jubilee Hall. About 8 people are needed to put up the nobori bata (banners), lanterns, posters etc. and to cover the tables.

## Volunteers on Fair Day

On the day of the Fair we need over 70 volunteers to run the Fair effectively. This includes people to man the various tables, sell raffle tickets, be greeters, distribute food, work in the kitchen, direct parking, help in the setup and take down, monitor rooms, etc. There are four volunteers shifts, - 7am-10am (setup), 10m-1pm (morning), 1pm - 4pm (afternoon) and 4pm-6pm (takedown). If you have volunteered in the past Maureen Bird the new volunteer coordinator will be contacting you. If you have not volunteered in the past (or past while) and would like to help contact Maureen at [mobird@shaw.ca](mailto:mobird@shaw.ca).

In summary here are the volunteering opportunities:

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sat, Oct 18	10 am to 4 pm	Manju making	St. Aidan's United Church
Fri, Oct 24	10 am to 4 pm	Age sushi making, manju packaging and bento preparation	Esquimalt United Church 500 Admirals Rd
Fri, Oct 24	8 am to 10 pm	Decorating Hall	Esquimalt Rec Centre
<b>Fair Day</b>	Sat, Oct 25 7 am to 10 am	Setup	Esquimalt Rec Centre
	10 am to 1 pm	Morning shift	
	1 pm to 4 pm	Afternoon shift	
	4 pm to 6 pm	Take down	

Thanks  
Tsugio Kurushima

## At the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

Images: Art Gallery of Greater Victoria

### Flute Performance | Takahiro Fujita

#### Kimono

Takahiro Fujita is a well known Noh flute musician from a long line of distinguished players. Trained by his father and grandfather, Fujita is part of the 12th generation of musicians. Takahiro's grandfather Daigoro Fujita was one of the most famous flute players in Japan, and the family are former members of the Kaga-Maeda Feudal Clan from Kanazawa, who performed as celebrated "reigning shogun" court-musicians during the Edo period.

Noh theater is an exceptional form of classical Japanese musical drama that has been performed since the 13th century. Utilizing song and dance to illustrate the legends, events and literature of Japan, Noh is one of the oldest theatrical forms in the world.

Included with admission or membership

**Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2014**

**2-2:30PM** : a mini-concert of Japanese flute by Takahiro Fujita

**2:30-3:30PM**: Guided tour of **Kimono** and **From Geisha to Diva** with Curators Hitomi Harama and Barry Till.

**3:30-4:30PM**: Reception with Consul General Seiji Okada and his wife.

All are welcome to the concert and guided tour. Admission rates apply.

**There is limited space at the reception. To attend the reception, please RSVP to [mkabe2011@gmail.com](mailto:mkabe2011@gmail.com) by Sept. 22 and you will be notified if there is space.**

See more at: <http://aggv.ca/events/flute-performance-takahiro-fujita#sthash.ljy6Mko6.dpuf>



#### KIMONO

Japanese Culture in its Art Form

**Until October 19, 2014**

**Guest Curated by Hitomi Harama** | Founders Gallery

This exhibition introduces the essence of traditional Japanese Kimono culture. The intent of this exhibition is to showcase the codes and the culture behind Kimono, its artistic form and complexity, along with the etiquette of Kimono attire for different seasons and occasions. Kimono is not simply an article of clothing; it embodies centuries of cultural development and history of Japan.



#### FROM GEISHA TO DIVA

The Kimono of Ichimaru

**Until October 19, 2014**

**Curated by Barry Till** | Pollard Gallery

The fascinating life of Ichimaru (1906-1997), one of the most famous geishas of the 20th century, is told through this collection of her magnificent kimonos and personal effects. In the 1930s, Ichimaru left geishahood to pursue an illustrious career as a recording artist, but even as a diva, she continued to perform in full geisha regalia. Combining her experience as a geisha with an extraordinary talent as a vocalist and musician, she would become a unique figure in the social history of modern Japan.



Save the Date!

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 19, 2014

## TEXTILE LECTURE- MASTER TETSUO KOYAMA

The Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society is pleased to host a lecture by textile master, Tetsuo Koyama about his woodblocks and yuzen dye technique used to create kimonos.

Master Koyama will be visiting Canada for the first time and will be based in Duncan where he will have a small exhibit of kimono and he will be presenting an interactive woodblock and dyeing workshop over 5 days which will take place from November 22-26, 2014. And we are delighted to welcome Master Koyama for a lecture here, in Victoria for interested members of the Nikkei community. There will be a slide presentation with a discussion period afterwards and there has been an invitation for attendees to bring their kimono (especially older ones) for technique identification depending on time available.

Date: Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Presentation Starts At: 7:00 P.M.

Location: The University of Victoria, Clearihue Building Room C108

Please note that due to the nature of the lecture there will be LIMITED SEATING available and pre-registration is required – please send an email to [info@vnscs.ca](mailto:info@vnscs.ca) with the following information included:

Name of EACH person attending

Email address associated with EACH person attending

Telephone number that a message can be left on

We are excited about this event and look forward to welcoming Master Koyama and yourselves. For updates please check our website at [www.vnscs.ca](http://www.vnscs.ca) and of course if you have any questions, please contact us by email at [info@vnscs.ca](mailto:info@vnscs.ca). Presented in association with the Centre of Asia-Pacific Studies at the University of Victoria.

For more information about Master Koyama, woodblock prints, yuzen dyeing and the upcoming workshop in Duncan, please go to the following links:

Master Koyama and his father

<http://sewyuzen.com/woodblock-dyeing-masters-tetsuo-yasuie-koyama/>

Master Koyama's woodblock dyeing technique

<http://sewyuzen.com/tetsuo-koyamas-woodblock-print-dyeing-technique/>

History of Japanese woodblock print technique

<http://sewyuzen.com/early-history-of-woodblock-dyeing-mokuhanga-in-japan/>



## Obon Ceremony and Obon Matsuri

The weather was spectacular and the turn out was tremendous again this year for the traditional Obon ceremony at the Ross Bay Cemetery and the 4th annual Obon Matsuri at nearby Ross Bay Villa. It was encouraging again to see many families representing several generations attending the ceremony and Matsuri.

Special thanks to the organizing committee from the VNCS and Japanese Friendship Society and the many volunteers who worked hard to ensure this event maintained the momentum and energy from previous years. Thank you also to the Old Cemeteries Society, Ross Bay Society, Uminari Taiko, Furusato Dancers and Rina and Naomi El-Nahas.



We are grateful for the attendance and service by Reverend Grant Ikuta and his mother, Mrs. Ikuta and his daughter, Erin. I was very fortunate for the opportunity to travel up island to join them along with Naomi Shikaze and Lucy Yoshioka from the mainland. We visited several gravesites and paid our respects with a service at cemeteries in Port Alberni, Cumberland, Duncan, Chemainus and Nanaimo.

I found it very moving and can now understand the dedication of Reverend Ikuta to travel many kilometres to perform these services, all with no one in attendance other than ourselves with the exception of a small dedicated group from Cumberland. We appreciated the warm welcome and participation by Mayor Leslie Baird and councillor Roger Kishi.

While on the tour, I discovered gravestones of relatives in the cemetery in Duncan and Chemainus. Many of the cemeteries had gravestones of Japanese Canadians assembled in a common area because the tombstones and markers were vandalized and desecrated during the war and the exact location of them couldn't be determined. The exception was in Duncan where the gravestones were relatively intact and were spread beneath the canopy of a large tree. Reverend Ikuta pointed out the remains of what looked like a brick chimney nearby and explained that there once stood an Anglican church on the cemetery grounds quite close to the JC section and its proximity limited the damages inflicted on the gravestones.

I would encourage you to visit these cemeteries and learn about the JC history in these cities and towns.





In this continuing series, we present the recipients of our special recognition at the 20th Anniversary Gala Dinner.

## **Aiko Sutherland**

Presented by Kathy Harris

Good evening and thank you for the opportunity to introduce Aiko Sutherland.

Aiko was born in Vancouver and lived there until her family was relocated to Lemon Creek Internment Camp when she was 9 years old. After 6 years in the camp, the Hori family moved to Kamloops where Aiko completed high school and then went onto the University of British Columbia to receive her Bachelors degree in Microbiology. Aiko had the opportunity to work in Japan and while she was working she kept herself busy taking up flower arranging, doll making, dancing and the Japanese Tea Ceremony which was to come in handy when she moved to Victoria.

After working in the North for 35 years, Aiko and her husband David retired to Victoria in 1998 when she joined the VNCS. She volunteers whenever and wherever it is needed such as the fall bazaar making sushi and manju or sewing wonderful articles to sell as part of Fujinkai ladies group. She continues with her flower arranging as part of VNCS ikebana group and has a display every year at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and at the Cultural Fair in October.

In 2002 when the Nagomi Tea Circle started, Aiko was one of the first students to join furthering her knowledge of Chado. Aiko was recognized in 2012 for her 10 years of dedication and help to Nagomi. Aiko did demonstrations of Chado whenever Nagomi was asked to do a presentation including the VNCS Cultural Fair or for school programs. Aiko also translates for her fellow classmates who want to study chado but may not fully understand the Japanese terms.

Aiko, TODAY you are being honoured with a small token from the VNCS for your years of service and contributions over the many years you have taken part and represented the Japanese community through your kindness and generosity but please know, that you are always in our hearts with love and affection.



## **Midge Ayukawa**

Presented by Susan Kurushima

Midge Ayukawa, dear friend and long-time VNCS member, passed away on October 24, just 2 days before the 2013 Cultural Fair. Most people know Midge's story so this will be brief. She was born in Vancouver and was interned at Lemon Creek before her family moved to Ontario. Midge was an accomplished academic with Master's degrees in both Chemistry and History, a PhD in History and numerous publications and academic awards.

I knew her in different ways: as a dedicated volunteer and caring instructor at the Tai Chi Centre, as a creative and resourceful crafter, as a proud mom of five and grandmother of 10. To me she was a cross between a kindred spirit and a bossy big sister! We served for a time together on the VNCS board and after she retired from that she continued to be keenly interested and have opinions on all board matters. She always attended the AGM and was particularly concerned that our hard-earned fundraising dollars should be well spent. She was a fixture at Fujinkai dinners where she entertained us with her wicked sense of humor and her habit of speaking her mind. She was able to laugh at herself as well. At the last dinner she had a fall in the parking lot and bumped her head but she would not let me take her to emergency so she sat in the restaurant with a bag of ice on her head and continued to regale us with her funny stories and caustic comments. That was the last time that some of her friends saw her.

This was the first cultural fair in many years where Midge was not working making manju, preparing crafts and working in the kitchen. This year her family were all gathered for her last day and after her death they all showed up to work at the fair.

I am proud to be able to present this special recognition award to Midge's family in her memory. She will be fondly remembered and sadly missed!



# 海鳴り太鼓

## Uminari Taiko

Jacob Derksen

After our performance at St Aidan's United Church last June 8 we had a relatively tame summer until early August and then we had what I believe was our most intense week ever. Well, it was actually nine days but it was jam-packed. On August 8 we played IndiaFest and Gayle and I returned there the following morning to participate in an interactive drum jam led by Jordan Hanson. August 10, of course, was the VNCS/ Japanese Friendship Society joint O-Bon celebration and on August 12 we had morning and evening performances for the Union of National Employees Convention, first at the Convention Centre and in the evening at Fort Rodd Hill. To top it off on August 15, 16 and 17 we performed at the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Victoria Dragon Boat Races. We had time to catch our breath before our most recent performance at MoonFest on September 6 at the Gordon Head Rec Centre. As members of a community group we do all this while juggling work, family and other commitments and I think I should also add that half of Uminari Taiko – Teruyo Sano, and Susan and Tsugio Kurushima – are often also performing as part of the Furusato Dancers as they did at IndiaFest, O-Bon and Dragon Boat. And MoonFest.

On September 7 we had our most recent introductory workshop which was attended by members of a local marimba group. This is, I believe, an exciting development as I have long wanted to see Uminari Taiko branch out and develop stronger connections with other arts groups in the city. We have also just started our first ever series of drop-in taiko classes which are geared specifically for people who already have acquired the basics of taiko and want to keep busy in between classes. Our next introductory workshop will take place on November 2 and it will be followed by a series of classes. More information, including registration information, is available on our website [www.uminaritaiko.com](http://www.uminaritaiko.com).

Looking across the water, we have a number of exciting events coming up. One of the brightest luminaries in the taiko world, Yuu Imafuku, will be in Seattle in mid-October for a concert and series of workshops and in January 2015 KODO will be returning to Vancouver to play the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Sandwiched in between those events, in early December Katari Taiko, Canada's first taiko group, will be celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a performance at the Vancouver Playhouse. Katari Taiko has the distinction of inspiring many, possibly most, of Canada's taiko groups including Uminari Taiko. When I first saw them perform in 1989 I was immediately inspired to play taiko and my life has changed dramatically since attending their

workshop at the 2001 VNCS Fall Fair. It is just one of the reasons why the Fall Fair is such a touchstone for Uminari Taiko and why I – and we – really look forward to our upcoming performance at the VNCS Fall Fair on October 25, 2014. (For more information about Imafuku, KODO or Katari Taiko's concerts, please email me directly at [jacob@uminaritaiko.com](mailto:jacob@uminaritaiko.com).)

### Dark Side of Paradise

Tosh and Keiko Mary Kitagawa recently attended a UBC film making course by Alejandro Yoshizawa and produced this interesting short film that documents the gravesites of Japanese Canadians on Salt Spring Island including the fate of Kazue Okano, the baby daughter of Mary's grandparents.

Please click on this link to view the video.

[http://youtu.be/GS5Bi\\_sBe6U](http://youtu.be/GS5Bi_sBe6U)





## Chrystanemum and Maple Leaves

Presented by Open Space Gallery and the Vancouver Inter-Cultural Orchestra.

**Artists:** Miyama McQueen-Tokita, Naomi Sato, Bruce Huebner, Farshid Samandar, Emily Carr String Quartet (Müge Büyükçelen, Cory Balzer, Mieka Michaux, Alasdair Money)

**Festival:** Chrysanthemums and Maple Leaves

**Event #1:** Instrument Demonstration and Recital

**Date:** Friday, October 24, 2014, at 3:30 p.m.

**Venue:** Greater Victoria Public Library, Central Branch, 735 Broughton St. Victoria BC  
Everyone welcome, no registration required.

**Event #2:** Composer Reading Session

**Date:** Saturday October 25, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.

**Venue:** University of Victoria, MacLaurin Building, A-Wing, Room: TBC

<http://openspace.ca/ChryMapleReading>

**Event #3:** Concert

**Date:** Sunday October 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**Venue:** Open Space, 510 Fort St, second floor, Victoria, BC

**Concert Admission:**

- Advance: \$16 general, \$11 students/seniors/members
- Door: \$20 general, \$15 students/seniors/members

**Tickets:** Advance tickets available at <http://chrymapleos.bpt.me>

For more information about these events and the artists, please visit these links.



## Sakura Fujinkai

Susan Kurushima

Another season begins!

Hopefully everyone had a restful summer and we are now ready to get busy preparing for the fall fair once again. Joyce Pearlstone will be co-ordinating the Fujinkai Crafts and *Things Japanese*.

I have some fabric that belongs to the group for sewing projects and some origami paper. If anyone would like to come over and see what is on hand, please call to make arrangements. I email some craft ideas from time to time. If you want to receive these emails just email me to get on that list. If you are cleaning out your cupboards and have crafts or *Things Japanese* to donate, I can receive them at 1200 Tolmie Ave, because Joyce lives in North Saanich.

Our dinner meetings will resume on the last Tuesday, at Bon Sushi in September and Azuma in October. If you would like to be included in our group for these dinner meetings, please contact me to be added to the email list for detailed information.



Ikebana classes started up again on September 11 and will continue until the end of November. We have six members but we can still include new people on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the evening.

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

## 故郷

### Furusato Dancers

Tsugio Kurushima

After a quiet July the Furusato dancers were extra busy in August with a number of performances. We started the month doing a short performance at the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Remembrance event at the Esquimalt Gorge Park. On the weekend of Aug 9 and 10 we participate at the India Mele (Fest) and the Victoria Obon Festival. The following weekend the group performed all 3 days at the Dragon Boat Festival. These were extra long shows of 45 minutes. So needless to say the dancers were exhausted at the end of that weekend. Our most recent performance was at the Moon Festival held at the Gordon Head Recreation Centre. After all this hard work the group is planning to have a uchi-age, a Japanese tradition of having a party after a completion of a project. We will finish the year with a performance at the VNCS Cultural Fair and hopefully a dance workshop with our Sensei.

Interested in joining our group? If so contact Tsugio Kurushima at [tsugukurushima@gmail.com](mailto:tsugukurushima@gmail.com) or Tomoko Okada at [tokada3@hotmail.com](mailto:tokada3@hotmail.com).

### Thank you for your Donations to the VNCS

Michiko Seguev  
Mrs. Arakawa  
Megumi Saunders

## Sus Tabata

Presented by Ann-Lee Switzer

I would like to introduce our Nori Mentor, Dr. Susumu Tabata, whom most of you know well!

Sus Tabata was born and raised in Steveston where his father worked as an engineer on a fish packing boat. So from the beginning, Sus could see that the ocean was not just a large hunk of salty water but an ever-changing complex of tides, temperatures and creatures. The sea would become his life's passion.

After Canada declared war on Japan, the Tabata family was sent to Kaslo —Sus recalls the first winter being so cold that his shoes would be frozen when he tried to put them on in the morning. Nonetheless he finished high school there, and in 1947 went to study at UBC where he eventually obtained a masters degree in Oceanography. In 1959 he and Barbara married. In the 1960s Sus took his family to Japan, where he completed his PhD at Tokyo University. Back in Canada, he resumed his work with the **Pacific Oceanographic Group** in Nanaimo. Later he moved down Island to work at the **Institute of Ocean Sciences** in Sidney. His insight into data of all kinds resulted in many ground-breaking studies of temperature, currents and the constantly changing ocean, before most of the public ever heard of "global warming"

Sus Tabata has been active in the VNCS from its beginning, a regular along with Barbara at the Fall Fairs in October and other events. It was at the AGM of February 2002, that Dr. Tabata stood and offered to lead any interested members in a seaweed-gathering expedition on Gabriola Island, and invited us to meet afterwards at his summer cabin near the rocky beach. So began a dozen years of delightful "nori tori" for a group which ran over the years from a handful to around 30 participants. The fame of Nori Tori spread, spawning a video by a Vancouver team, an article in *Nikkei Voice* and even a book! But let me tell you, that first year, was the literal watershed, with driving cold rain testing our mettle. How grateful we all were for the roaring fire in Sus' cozy cabin, with its thick wood beams and spectacular view of the ocean and the circling eagles. And of course, the abundant pot-luck food and cups of ocha. Every year Sus is out there clambering nimbly over the slippery rocks, advising us, "pick the smaller ones, they are more tender!" as well as about the technical aspect of the seaweed itself, the red algae called *Porphyra torta*. We are extremely grateful for the experience and the guidance of our Nori Mentor, for your hospitality and good humour always.



### Landscapes of Injustice Call for Nominations for Community Council

The University of Victoria History department in partnership with 13 institutions and over 20 co-investigators and collaborators has embarked on a seven year research project called Landscapes of Injustice. This project will further investigate the dispossession and forced sale of property owned by Japanese Canadians during World War II and will develop a travelling museum exhibit, websites and curricula for the elementary and secondary school system.

To ensure that the project remains accountable to the concerns and interests of the wider Japanese Canadian community the Landscapes of Injustice team is seeking nominations from the JC community to be involved in the formation of a Community Council.

Further details about the Community Council are contained in the attachment and information about the project can be found on the website [www.landscapesofinjustice.com](http://www.landscapesofinjustice.com). They would like you to encourage you to nominate yourself or a member of your Japanese Canadian community who you think would be an excellent candidate for this role.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Jordan Stanger-Ross, Project Director at [jstross@uvic.ca](mailto:jstross@uvic.ca) or Jeffrey Masuda at [jeff.masuda@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.masuda@gmail.com). Nominations are to be submitted to [NominationsLandscapes@gmail.com](mailto:NominationsLandscapes@gmail.com) on or before October 2, 2014 .



## Scenes of Japan

### Photography Exhibit by Toshiyasu Sajita

Deirdre Kelly

The photography exhibition called "Scenes of Japan" on August 6th - 12th was a delightful display of photographs by photographer Toshiyasu Sajita at the Community Arts Council Cafe Gallery. The Japanese artist was in attendance two of the nights to explain details and stories about the meaning behind the 25 images decorating the room.

This event, supported by the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society, was first arranged when the artists' visit from Tokyo to Victoria was confirmed for a week in August 2014. This was his third visit to Vancouver Island where he hiked and enjoyed taking pictures of natural beauty.

As a trained practising artist and photographer, I became familiar with Toshiyasu's work and found him to have a developed a keen 'eye,' and saw that he had the discipline and perseverance needed to attain unusual shots with varied lighting and subject matter. His exhibition and presentation proved him to be a culturally aware person who probes into nature's gifts, Japanese culture and spiritual and philosophical concepts.

Self-taught he has combined his mountaineering enjoyment with photography thereby to take pictures on the top of tops of 3,000 meter mountains. The stunning landscapes enjoyed at these elevations - including Mt. Fuji majestically rising through the clouds - gives us all the advantage of his climbing to the heights!

He first started photography in Junior High School with a cheap film camera. In University Days, with a better camera, he travelled to 15 countries in Europe, "to practice my photographic activities", Toshiyasu stated in an interview.

Other photographs in the exhibition featured cherry blossoms, festivals, shrines, and more. In his work he states, "When I chose my photographs, I wanted symbols of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter to symbolize the importance the Japanese feel towards seasons. To feel the seasons, to feel nature, must be a common sense around the world, and can be a good bridge to understand Japanese culture."

I wish to thank the Nikkei Cultural Society and the Community Arts Council for their support of the photography exhibition, "Scenes of Japan" on behalf of Toshiyasu Sajita and Deirdre Kelly. Without your help, this exhibition would not have been possible!





## Canadian Blood Services OneMatch Program

OneMatch Stem Cell and Marrow Network is responsible for finding and matching volunteer donors to patients who require stem cell transplants. Fewer than 30 per cent of patients who need stem cell transplants find a compatible donor within their own family. The rest rely on those who have volunteered to donate stem cells to anyone in need. Because Canadian Blood Services' OneMatch is a member of an international network of registries, we can also search more than 11 million donors on over 50 registries in other countries. By agreeing to make their donor data available worldwide, international registries have significantly increased the odds of being able to find a matching donor for any patient, anywhere in the world.

There will be two events this week in the Victoria area for those wishing to join the OneMatch registry.

Date: September 25, 2014

Time: 11am – 12:30pm

Location: Camosun College, Landsdowne Campus, Fisher Foyer

Event Lead: Michelle Stratford (Phone: 250-405-4307 / Cell: 250-661-8216 / email: [michelle.stratford@blood.ca](mailto:michelle.stratford@blood.ca))

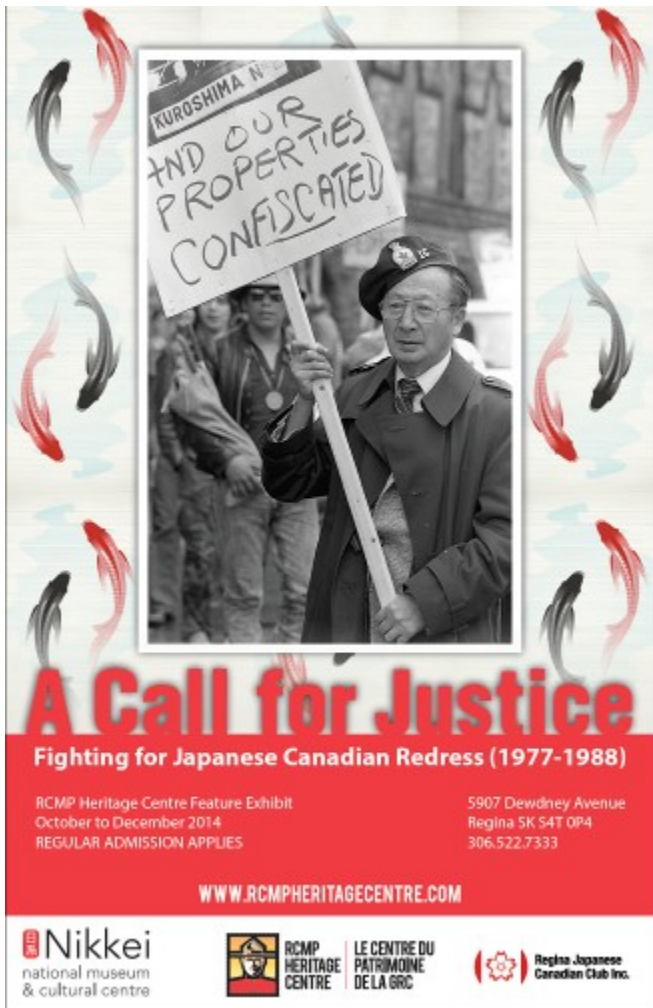
Date: September 25, 2014

Time: 2.30 – 4PM

Location: PANORAMA REC CENTRE (OFFICE NEXT IN HALL), 1885 Forest Park Drive, **North Saanich**, BC V8L 4A3 Tel: 250.656.7271

Event Lead: Ann Chabert (Phone Number: 250.686.3315 / email: [ann.chabert@blood.ca](mailto:ann.chabert@blood.ca) )





## A Call for Justice: Fighting for Japanese Canadian Redress Exhibit

The Regina Japanese Canadian Club Inc. in Regina, Saskatchewan has been working to bring the "A Call for Justice: Fighting for Japanese Canadian Redress (1977-1988)" exhibit to Saskatchewan. The exhibit was developed by the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre in British Columbia; and Regina will be the first community to host it as it travels across Canada.

They have partnered with the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina, Saskatchewan to fill an opening in their feature exhibit gallery from October to December, 2014. They are a small non-profit organization and are actively searching for additional funding to help cover a portion of the administrative, transport, and promotional costs associated with hosting the exhibit and have begun a crowd funding campaign to collect donations for this event. They would appreciate any contribution amount and also helping get the word out by sharing this campaign amongst your own circle of friends:

Information about the exhibit and donating can be found on this link. <http://redress.causevox.com>

"The historical wrongs committed against Japanese Canadians & Americans during WWII affected many peoples' lives across North America. We invite you to join us in honoring the determination of Japanese Canadians who, despite great stress and hardship, retained their commitment and loyalty to Canada. It is our hope that this story will remain for future generations, a prime example of one community's struggle to overcome the devastating effects of racism, to affirm the rights of all individuals in a democracy, and to actually strengthen the democratic system."

Sincerely,  
Regina Japanese Canadian Club Inc.  
[www.rjcc.ca](http://www.rjcc.ca)

Editor's note.

From an email exchange with RJCC President Andre Boutin-Maloney, here is some interesting background about their club.

"We are a pretty small community here in Regina (about 50 families) and this is the first time we've ever done anything like this in our club. Our community has grown a lot with the addition of new first generation mixed families. It seemed that most of the time we are attempting to replicate or share Japanese culture as it would have been experienced in Japan. When this opportunity presented itself, we saw it as a chance to share the story of our 2nd and 3rd generation Japanese Canadian families with our recent immigrants.

It has been an interesting and telling learning experience with the mix of responses we have received from our own membership. I definitely came to understand "Shigata ga nai" (it can't be helped) in the stories that internees shared (or were reluctant to share), the differences in the stories of those interned as children and later realization as an adult of what happened, the feeling of Japanese Canadians living outside the exclusion zone here in Saskatchewan at the time who are reluctant to talk about this because "That wasn't us... We didn't get our property taken or get interned, we just had to deal with racism.," just how far reaching the effect of internment was, and how people I have known for years are sharing their connection to internment.

Our club has existed in a Church basement since the 1920s. The last couple years we have started getting involved and forming connections with the NAJC, and other Japanese community associations across Canada.



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