



Victoria NIKKEI FORUM

Volume 23 Issue 1 January/February 2015

www.vnccs.ca



Sumi-e paintings by Michael Abe.

Look for many 2015 and sheep hidden throughout the paintings.

YEAR OF THE SHEEP (Hitsuji) for 2015

by Ann-Lee Switzer

If you were born in 1931, '43, '55, '67, '79, '91 or 2003, the Year of the Sheep has been ruling your life—even if you don't realize it. The Year 2015 is a special time for you. For the many babies to be born this year, a future has been mapped out in advance, according to the lore of fortune-tellers in Japan and elsewhere in Asia.

The Sheep, whether Ewe (female) or Ram (male) is the eighth of the twelve animal signs (eto) that rule in a cycle of twelve years. Originating in India and China, the tradition is said to have been adopted in Japan in 604 during the reign of Empress Suiko.

Wild sheep can be found in many parts of the world, from the craggy mountains of the Rockies to the steppes of Central Asian, and even in Africa. These ruminants were domesticated in ancient times, which must have been easy due to their sheepish nature. Horns are found on both ewes and rams, but not in all breeds; the rams' horns are more showy. Canny shepherds selected out for the features they liked: thick wool or fine; big meaty types or small and agile; and many colours of wool from white, to shades of brown and black, to the blue Himalayans. Domestic sheep can weigh in at under 100 lbs. (50 kg) to a massive 300 (150 kg). Humans have found uses for all parts of a sheep's body, besides the renewable resource of wool and its medicinal by-product lanolin: meat, pelts for clothing, milk (a great cheese source), and even musical instruments from rams' horns.

People born in Sheep years may seem to be better off than people under other signs. Not so. Shy, uncertain about what direction to take, they are easily embarrassed. Sheep people avoid the limelight and sometimes worry and become pessimistic. On the other hand, they are passionate about nature and generally enthusiastic in all their undertakings. Sheep people are caring and generous toward others. Often they give anonymously to shun attention. They are sensitive and artistic. Born in the Year of the Sheep means being wise and gentle; though you avoid fighting, you can be firm when needed. If in early life, Year of Sheep people experience problems in emotion or love, their luck will be sure to turn to good fortune later on. Often unforeseen events will make life easy for them, so perhaps this year greener pastures will open up.

As a general precaution for all the zodiac cycle, sages advise: check out a person's animal sign before falling in love. Good partners or spouses for Sheep are those born in the Year of the Rabbit or Boar or Horse. Avoid romance with Rat-year people, and run the other way if eyed by an Ox or Dog!

Among famous Sheep people we find artists, authors and musicians. Emily Carr, both author and artist, born in 1871, a sheep year. Michelangelo and Frida Kahlo also brushed in on a Sheep year. Jane Austen shunned attention while penning her tomes, but Samuel Clemens (as Mark Twain) was more the ram type. We also find Orville Wright and Mikhail Gorbachev among the illustrious herd.

For those of us non-Sheep—well, we're still part of the Human Flock and will not escape altogether the woolly influence of the year's ruling animal. Perhaps you, too, will be a little more consensus-minded and feel pressured to follow the herd. But beware of wolves in sheep's clothing—or polyester pants. Keep alert and don't let anyone pull the wool over your eyes! HAPPY YEAR OF THE SHEEP!

The Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society, the Japanese Friendship Society and the Victoria Japanese Heritage Language School are pleased to present the annual

**MOCHI-TSUKI SHINNEN KAI
POTLUCK DINNER**

Sunday, January 25, 2015

3:00 - 6:30 pm

Join us for our annual tradition of mochi-pounding and potluck dinner to celebrate the New Year.

Doors open at 2:30 pm on Sunday, January 25th at the Esquimalt Rec Centre. (site of the VNCS Cultural Fall Fair.)

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR MEMBERS OF THESE
ORGANIZATIONS.

BECAUSE OF AN ANTICIPATED LARGE
PARTICIPATION, **THIS EVENT IS OPEN ONLY TO ACTIVE MEMBERS.**

Please bring a main course sufficient to feed your family plus two others. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

Please label your dishes and serving utensils and if you can, please prepare a tent card describing your entrée. (and ingredients)

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT NO ONE WILL BE
ADMITTED WITHOUT FOOD*****

In addition to mochi pounding there will be plenty of activities to keep everyone entertained.

To help defray costs of this free event there will be a 50/50 draw, Dutch raffle and mochi sales so please help support your event.

As always, there is plenty of work to be done on the part of preparation and organization. If you can assist please contact Michael Abe at mkabe2011@gmail.com.

Kitchen set up starts from 1:00 pm and the hall is available for set up from 2:00 pm. Help make this event a success by lending a hand: We need volunteers for set-up, kitchen crew, reception desk, mochi seller, and clean-up crew, etc. We are also seeking donations, big or small to add to our Dutch raffle prize packages.

See you there!

Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 1, 2015

10 am - 1 pm

Esquimalt Recreation Centre Senior's Room

427 Fraser St.

Support your society and attend the VNCS AGM on Sunday, February 1, 2015 at the Esquimalt Rec Centre. Proceedings begin at 10 am with various reports recapping the past year.

This will be followed by nominations and election of the new board. Please consider sitting on the board, it's a great way to get to know more about the Japanese community here in Victoria.

After the AGM portion, we are pleased to have filmmaker France Benoit join us to present the BC premiere of France Benoit's heart wrenching short film, *Kiri's Piano* ([trailer available online](#)). This will be followed by an opportunity to ask questions and have a discussion about the film and its topic. The VNCS will provide refreshments and appetizers during the AGM and the film, so come, relax and enjoy a wonderful movie.

THE FILM



Inspired by Canadian folk singer James Keelaghan's 1988 song of the same name, the film chronicles one woman's sacrifice in the face of rampant prejudice tearing her Japanese-Canadian family apart. Kiri's once joyful piano music turns bitter when forced relocation and internment take away her husband, her home, and her family's simple fishing life along the BC coast.

Excerpt from the JCCA Bulletin September 2014 issue, *Kiri's Piano*, Looking for Kiri

<http://jccabulletin-geppo.ca/kiris-piano-looking-for-kiri/>

Director France Benoit will talk about what motivated her to transform this haunting song into film and to find the family that inspired the song.

Yellowknife Premiere preview

<https://edgeyk.com/article/ykiff-opening-night-preview-france-benoits-kiris-piano/>

James Keelaghan Kiri's Piano

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6Lx7mjwNr0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ux5o8pzvWYU>

There will also be another screening with France Benoit on Monday, February 2, 2015 at Uvic that is free and open to the public. 12:30 pm Harry Hickman Bldg. Room 116

<http://www.uvic.ca/research/centres/capi/events/calendar/2015/02/lunch--learn-kiris-piano-japanese-canadian-film-presentation-with-filmmaker-france-benoit.php?>

VICTORIA NIKKEI CULTURAL SOCIETY

NOMINATION FORM for

The Election of Officers at The Annual General Meeting

Sunday, February 1, 2015
 10 am –1 pm
 Esquimalt Recreation Centre
 Senior's Room
 For VNCS members

POSITION	NOMINEE	NOMINEE'S SIGNATURE
PRESIDENT		
VICE-PRESIDENT		
TREASURER		
SECRETARY		
DIRECTORS		
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

****NOTE:** Please have each nominee sign beside their names to show their acceptance of the nomination.

****NOTE:** Nomination forms may be mailed or delivered to the Nominating Committee
 c/o Cristina Shore 1226 Rudlin St. Victoria BC V8V 3R7 or
 turned in at the Annual General Meeting registration desk by
 10:30 am, Sunday, February 1, 2015.

Japanese Cultural Fair

Tsugio Kurushima

Our 15th annual Japanese Cultural Fair was by all measures the most successful event to date. We had record high turn-out and met our two main objectives of:

- sharing our Japanese Culture with the wider community; and
- raising funds to support our cultural programs and the VNCS grant program.

We estimate that close to 1,000 people attended our free event. The attendees were not only residents of the greater Victoria area but also came from other parts of Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. They were treated to a wide range of Japanese and Japanese-Canadian cultural performances, demonstrations and presentations. For the past several years we have been increasing and diversifying the cultural experience for our patrons. This year we added 4 new cultural experiences – a presentation by Daniela Cubelic owner of Silk Road Tea on the Artistry of Japanese Tea, a maccha tea tasting table, a J-Pop performance and a Cosplay fashion show. The latter two were our first foray into contemporary Japanese Culture.

The money raised from the Cultural Fair will be used to run our Society; to support our cultural groups/activities - Umi-nari Taiko, Furusato Dancers and Ikebana classes; to support the running of VNCS events such as Obon, Mochi Tsuki Kai and our social gatherings; and to support our grant program. The VNCS provides grants of up to \$350 to individuals and other organizations to showcase Japanese culture. In 2014 we have awarded 7 grants.

The Japanese Cultural Fair is a huge undertaking for our Society. It is run totally by volunteers. There are no paid staff. It is also dependent on the generous donations of many individuals and businesses and the contribution by a large contingent of cultural performers.

First I would like to thank the members of the Fair planning committee who took on responsibility for coordinating various aspects of the Fair. Some of these individuals started planning and preparation in July.

Amy Kawano & Debbie Ibaraki	Sushi, manju and bento box
Craig Mercer	Facilities & Operations
Happy Smith	Bake Sale
Maureen Bird & Val Watanabe	Children's area
Matt Mathiason	Promotions
James Harada-Down & Amanda Gaunt	Decorations
Joyce Pearlstone	Fujinkai & Things Japanese
James Harada-Down	Signage, Poster & Program
Maureen Bird	Volunteer Coordinator
Cristina Shore & Patti Kagawa	Silent Auction
Ken Watai & Greg Demmon	Finances & Cash
Patti Kagawa, Lily Yee, Patti Ayukawa,	Donation solicitation
Robyn Barton, Rieko Gurney & Craig Mercer	Donation solicitation
Patti Ayukawa	Student volunteers

These coordinators were supported by a large group of volunteers who helped at two food making work parties, who made items for the bake sale, who worked on crafts throughout the year and/or who came out on Fair day. In total there were approximately 100 volunteers. These volunteers, too numerous to mention, were essential to the success of the Fair.

A major goal of our Fair is to share our Japanese culture. This year we had 20 different individuals or groups put on cultural performances and/or demonstrations. All the performances were well attended and several had overflow audiences.

Satomi Edwards	Koto
Uminari Taiko	Taiko
Furusato Dancers	Bon Odori
Hitomi Harama & Tomoko Okada	Kimono dressing
Mrs. Mito & Nagomi Tea Circle members	Tea ceremony
Michiko Seguev & her students	Ikebana
Vancouver Island Bonsai Club	Bonsai
Mike Abe & Natsuki Abe	Rakugo (Japanese Story Telling)
Mike Abe	Sumie
Keiko Alkire	Shodo
Victoria Kendo Club	Kendo
SanShukan Aikikai	Aikido
Victoria Japanese Heritage Language School	Youth Choir & Soran Bushi
Harumi Ota	Pottery
Brian Angene	Kyudo
Ann-Lee & Gordon Switzer	Presentation on Early Japanese Settlement
Daniela Cubelic	Artistry of Japanese Tea Presentation
Vic48 Dance Group	J-Pop performance
PLOM Cosplay Group	Cosplay Fashion Show
Jaga Silk	Maccha Tea Tasting

The financial success of our Fair is dependent on the donations we get from individuals and businesses. This year we received donations from over 80 individuals and businesses ranging from products, services, gifts, crafts, baked goods and in some cases cash. Without these donations we could not have our Raffle, Silent Auction, Things Japanese table, Fujinkai craft table or the Bake table. The donors are listed in this Newsletter and will also be displayed on the VNCS Web site. It was gratifying to see the increase in the number of Platinum Level sponsors. These are donors who made a donation of \$1,000 or more. The platinum level sponsors include CTV Vancouver Island (new), Township of Esquimalt (new), Fujiya Japanese Foods, Jack FM 103.1, Monday Magazine, Koji and Masami Hayashi, Ocean 98.5 and Victoria News. A big thank you to **all** of our donors – both big and small. Please make an effort to support ALL the businesses that supported us.

As convenor of our Cultural Fair, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers, performers and donors who contributed their time, talents and generous gifts to make the 2014 Cultural Fair another resounding success.

Domo Arigato
Tsugio Kurushima



Thank-You to our 2014 Japanese Cultural Fair Sponsors



PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS

CTV Vancouver Island Koji Hayashi
Township of Esquimalt Monday Magazine
Fujiya Japanese Foods Ocean 98.5
JACK FM 103.1 Victoria News

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS

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Campus Honda Joyce's Kimono Closet

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS

Aiko Sutherland	Obara & Company Chartered Accountants
Amy Kawano	Patti Ayukawa
Barry Obara	Patti Kagawa
Deb Shepherd	Rose Oishi
Diane McNally	Saunders Subaru
Jack & Elizabeth Watanabe	Silk Road Aromatherapy & Tea Company
Jaga Silk	Susan Kurushima
Jean Murata	Vancouver Island Bonsai Club
Jeanette Aubin	Yoshi Sushi
Ken & Haruko Kadonaga	Zen Floral Studio
Metro Lexus Toyota	

BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS

Alison Brown	Jasmine Restaurant
Anny Schaefer	Joyce Pearlstone
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria	Kissako Green Tea Café
Barbara Martin	Koto Japanese Restaurant
Bento Sushi	Miho Lindley
Bon Sushi (Royal Oak)	Milestones Grill & Bar
Brentwood Bay Nurseries Ltd.	Munro's Books
Butchart Gardens	Nana Spence
Cannor Nursery	Noodle Box
Chikara Sushi Restaurant	Rebecca Kool
Dave Hansen	Richard Mosdell
Geoffrey Lucas	Rocky Mountain Soap Co.
Golden City Restaurant	Russell Nursery
Grace Kamitakahara	Shiki Sushi
Gardens at HCP	Shirley & Bruce Gorle
Henry Shimizu	Shirley Embra
I-Kyu Noodles	Shizen Sushi Japanese Restaurant
InterCultural Association of Greater Victoria	Sushi Plus Restaurant
J&J Wonton Noodle House	Swallow Jewellery
Jacob Derksen	Uchida Eatery/Shokudo
Japanese Village Restaurant	Umi Nami Farms
	Yaeko Yamada

*An event like the Japanese Cultural Fair is only possible when many people work together. The VNCS would like to express a big **THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS** for the Fair*



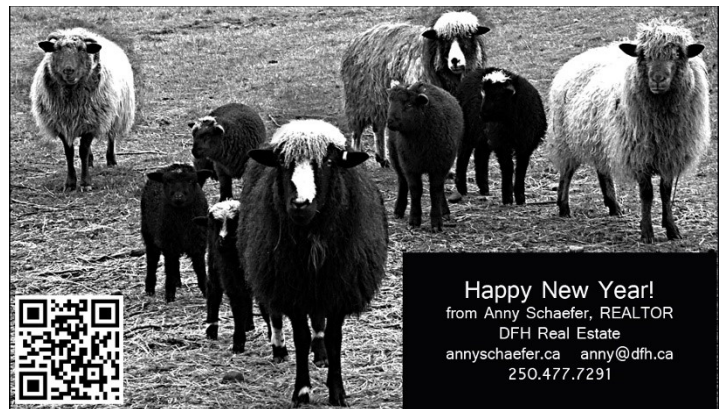
留学サポート/ホームステイ
ESL Support/Homestay
通訳/翻訳
Interpretation/Translation

Happy New Year

新年おめでとうございます。

Yukari Peerless

yukari@lucidcommunication.ca



Happy New Year!

from Anny Schaefer, REALTOR
DFH Real Estate
annyschaefer.ca anny@dfh.ca
250.477.7291

May you and your flock

enjoy a cozy 2015!

HAPPY YEAR OF THE SHEEP
Ann-Lee & Gordon Switzer

故郷

Furusato Dancers - 2014 Review

Tsugio Kurushima

2014 was another busy year for the Furusato Dancers. We participated in 14 events and had 18 dance performances. This surpassed the record high level of activity we experienced the previous year.

- January - Mochi Tsuki Shinnen Kai
 - February
 - Carlton House Seniors Residence*
 - Morioka Thank You Concert*
 - April - Ethnic Dance Festival including a performance at the Honours Concert
 - May - Asian Heritage Month Celebration
 - June
 - Heritage Dance Festival*
 - VNCS 20th Anniversary Banquet
 - August
 - Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance gathering
 - India Fest
 - Obon Festival
 - Dragon Boat Festival (performances on 3 days)
 - September - ICA Moon Festival
 - October - VNCS Cultural Fair (2 performances)
- (* - New events)

In addition to our performances, we also had a dance workshop with Hirano Sensei in March at which she taught us two dances - Zenkoku Gochongai Ondo and Arigato Ondo.

The size of the group is currently 11 full time members. We also have 3 new persons in try out mode. So hopefully I can soon report an increase in our group size. Interested in joining our group? If so contact Tsugio Kurushima at tsugukurushima@gmail.com or Tomoko Okada at tokada32003@gmail.com We are still practising the first and third Thursday each month at St. Aidan's United Church.

海鳴り太鼓

Uminari Taiko

Jacob Derksen

明けましておめでとうございます！ All the best of the New Year!

A new year always brings with it promise and possibility and the hope that one can achieve more, learn more, do better or be better than one was in the previous year. As Uminari Taiko heads into its 13th year it is my hope that not only will this be our luckiest year but that we will achieve more in our taiko playing, both collectively and individually, than we did last year. One first step is our upcoming Open House on Jan 11 which, of course, all Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society members are invited to. Having the opportunity to share taiko with friends and family is always a privilege and I believe I can speak for all of us when I say that's always something that we really look forward to. If it offers the chance of sharing taiko with someone whose life will be profoundly moved by it – as ours have been – so much the better.

On the subject of sharing taiko, we already have a number of performances lined up this year including an upcoming performance in Campbell River on Jan 24. We follow that with an introductory workshop on Jan 25 and a demonstration at Mochi Tsuki Kai the same day. As is our custom, we will be following up our intro workshop with a series of classes from Feb 1 to Mar 8, 2015.

Something else to look forward to in the very near future is the upcoming Kodo performance in Vancouver. On January 29 Kodo will take to the stage at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. After trying his hand in 2003 noted kabuki actor, Tamasaburo Bando, has been the artistic director for Kodo since early 2012 and his influence will undoubtedly be seen in this iteration of their One Earth Tour. Expect a superlative performance by the group that has continuously pushed beyond the bounds of taiko.

We will, of course, keep Nikkei Forum readers apprised of our successes and achievements as the year progresses and we'd love to hear your feedback, too. Please join us January 11 at 4:00pm, Bert Richman Building, Gordon Head Rec Centre, 4100 Lambrick Way and give us the opportunity to start the year off right by sharing our love of taiko with you. If that doesn't bring us luck, I don't know what will!

桜婦人会 Sakura Fujinkai

Happy New Year everyone!

It seems a long time has passed since we were all busy with the annual Cultural Fair. A big thank you to Joyce Pearlstone who co-ordinated the Fujinkai Crafts and *Things Japanese*. Thanks also to Rieko Gurney, Aiko Sutherland, Rose Oishi, Grace Kamitakahara and Haruko Kadonaga who spent a day pricing and cataloguing items for sale.

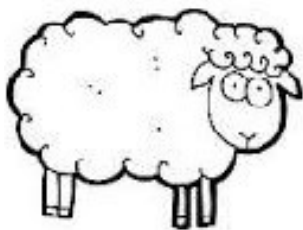
Our dinner meetings resumed on the last Tuesday, at Bon Sushi in October and Shizen in November. In January we will meet at Golden City Chinese Restaurant. If you would like to be included in our group for these dinner meetings, please contact me to be added to the email list for detailed information.

Our Ikebana students displayed their work at the Cultural Fair and Sensei gave two wonderful demonstrations that were well attended. Although we had a lot of people sign up to receive information about our ikebana classes, none of them has registered for the Spring term. Ikebana classes will continue from January to May. We have six members but we can still include new people on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the evening.

Senior members will be displaying arrangements at the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria during the Marimekko exhibit. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Feb. 7 to Feb. 21	Susan Kurushima
Feb. 22 to Mar. 7	Sue Rubin
Mar. 8 to Mar. 21	Debbie Ibaraki
Mar. 22 to Apr. 4	Susan Kurushima or Michiko Seguev
Apr. 5 to Apr. 18	Lois Narine
Apr. 19 to May 3	Michiko Seguev

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



**HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL
from
SUSAN & TSUGIO KURUSHIMA**

Nori Tori 2014 Sunday, February 8, 2015

The tradition continues, thank you Sus Tabata.

Once again he has kindly offered to host a potluck and Nori Tori at his cottage this year. It is a tradition that many have enjoyed over the years.

If you require maps and schedules, you can contact Mike Abe at mkabe2011@gmail.com and details will be e-mailed.

Thank you Sus for your hospitality.

Thank you for your donations to the VNCS

Ken and Kaori Ujimoto
Gil and Rose Oishi
Dillan Takata and Lisa Hansen
Maldwyn Thomas

Welcome to new VNCS members

Dillan Takata and Lisa Hansen
Suchada Prayoonvech
David Hansen and Norm Normandin
Gary Withers

明けましておめでとうございます。
今年もどうぞよろしくお願い致します。

Abe family
Michael, Izumi, Kento and Natsuki



Photo: Christina Harris

Storytelling as a Bridge to the Past: Terry Watada Presents First Ayukawa Lecture by Ann-Lee Switzer

Terry Watada, Toronto poet, musician and teacher, came to the University of Victoria last December 3rd to give the Inaugural Michiko 'Midge' Ayukawa Commemorative Lecture. The lecture, held in Room C103 of the David Strong Building, was supported by the Ayukawa Commemorative Fund, established last year to honour the life and work of Dr. Michiko 'Midge' Ayukawa (1930-2013). The fund is intended to promote the study of Japanese Canadian history and gender studies. The event was co-sponsored by The University of Victoria Department of History, the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives and the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society.

Dr. Ayukawa dedicated her later years to the study and telling of Japanese Canadian and women's history. Her Ph.D. dissertation (History, UVIC) was published as *Hiroshima Immigrants in Canada, 1891-1941* (UBC Press, 2008). Midge was a mentor, friend, and inspiration to many in Canada for her groundbreaking studies and research.

Terry Watada is well-known in both Canada and the U.S.A. as broadcaster, poet, novelist, musician and teacher; his work has been published in books, musical recordings, and presented as plays. He was a columnist for the newspaper *Nikkei Voice* for 25 years and now writes for *The Bulletin*. Last year he received the Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi Humanitarian Award, given every two years by the National Association of Japanese Canadians, for his activism on behalf of Japanese Canadians.

Terry counted Dr. Ayukawa among his influences, and as a friend. Speaking in a relaxed and humorous manner, only occasionally consulting his notes, he showed how he uses the medium of storytelling to reveal a past that some Japanese Canadians, particularly the issei generation, have been reluctant to talk about. He interspersed his talk with excerpts from his novels and poems. He indicated how he uses fiction to break open the taboos that have blocked the dialogue among generations of Japanese Canadians. Growing up in the 1950s in what he termed a very Japanese household, he had no idea of what his parents had experienced as new, struggling immigrants and later during the displacement of the internment. Only slowly was he able to prise the stories out of them, and from there, it was a series of revelations. First through music, then poetry, then stories in prose, Watada did not shy away from controversy. The characters in his works, such as *Kuroshio: the Blood of Foxes*, are not necessarily the "nice" and "model minority" people some would like to project, but drawn from the range of human experience. And ghosts too! How did these persona arise? Terry had met some of the first generation men drinking whisky and sharing stories around his parents' kitchen table, but he also went out and did research about the gangs of pre-World War II Powell Street in Vancouver. This point of view not only makes these characters lively and appealing, but particularly for young sansei and yonsei, may lead to a curiosity about their roots. It was apparent that Mr. Watada has enjoyed creating a bit of a buzz to get people thinking. Laughter and poetry add to the mix. He ended his talk with a poem dedicated to Midge Ayukawa, inspired by a visit he had made to her home in Sooke about twenty years ago. After the talk, Terry answered questions and spoke to many people in the hallway. Copies of his latest collection of poetry, *The Game of 100 Ghosts*, were on sale as well.

It was truly a pleasure to have Terry Watada share his experiences with us. We can be sure that many Victorians will be finding "100 Ghosts" under their trees; hopefully they will be prepared with a piece of mochi in their mouths, to keep them safe.

Master Koyama Yuzen Woodblock Dyeing

In November 2014, a Japanese woodblock print dyeing master Tetsuo Koyama met the people of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society. It was a wonderful meeting. This meeting happened with the effort by Mr. Abe and Ms. Ibaraki, and it was supported by Ms. Peerless' meticulous translation.

In this meeting Tetsuo talked about his father, who was also a dyeing master, about his own art, and about some history of Japanese dyeing art. Tetsuo was born in 1933 in Tokyo, where his father had his kimono dyeing business. During the World War II, Tetsuo evacuated to Nagano Prefecture, where he came to see lots of wild nature. Nature became an important element of his art. After gaining a degree at Tama Art University, he took over his father's woodblock dyeing art and since then he has been creating woodblock print dyeing kimonos for more than 60 years.

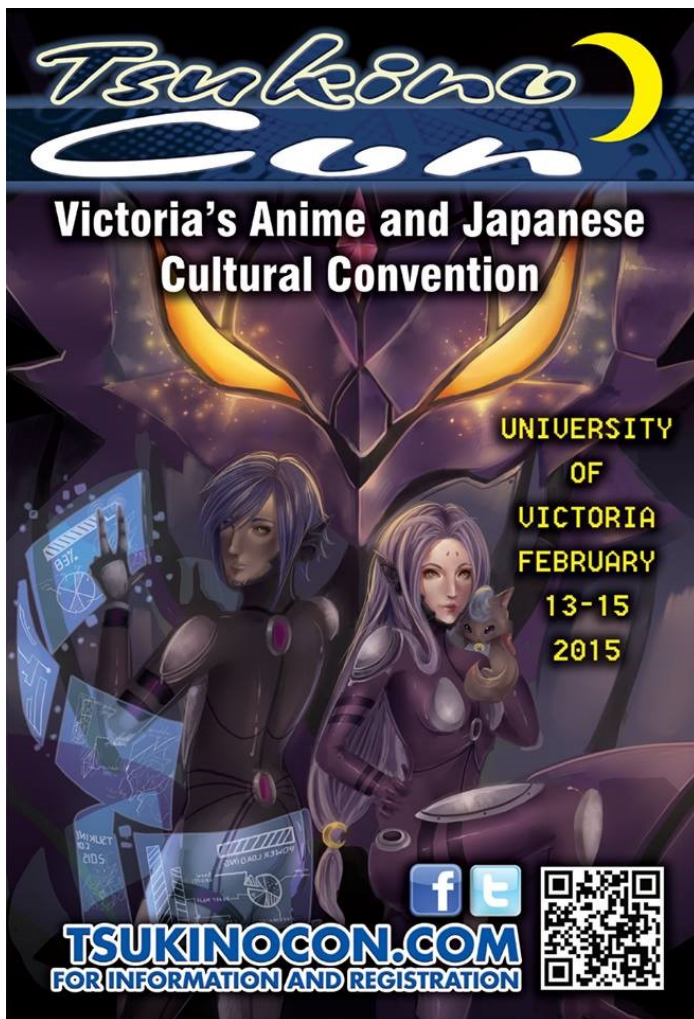
At 81 years old, Tetsuo left Japan for the first time and visited Vancouver Island, exhibited his three kimonos, and taught a workshop in Cowichan Valley. The reason why Tetsuo came to Canada was that he wanted to introduce Japanese dyeing art and kimono culture to Canada and throughout his stay he worked hard for this goal. The meeting with the people from your society, however, was a little bit different from his other activities in Canada. In the meeting it was Tetsuo that was introduced to the beautiful Japanese heritage. In the latter part of the meeting, some of your members showed him their kimonos. Those kimonos had been given from their mothers or other important people. They were very beautiful and some of them were made more than 100 years ago. In Japan it is becoming increasingly difficult to see well preserved vintage kimonos like the ones we saw in the meeting. Tetsuo and I were moved by finding that such a precious heritage was kept in Canada by Nikkei people. We really appreciated it. On the way home after the meeting, Tetsuo told me that this meeting was a special gift.

Thank you very much for giving Tetsuo and me such a wonderful opportunity. We wholeheartedly wish for your happiness.

Story and Photo by Yuko Yamamoto

Master Tetsuo Koyama invitation project coordinator





The Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives and the
Department of Pacific and Asian Studies present...



Urbanization & Migration in China

A screening of the documentary
"The Land of Many Palaces"

Monday, January 19, 2015 @ 4pm | UVic, Elliot Building, Room 162

Join us for a screening of this incredible new documentary
followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Adam Smith.

In Ordos, China, thousands of farmers are being relocated into a new city under a government plan to modernize the region. "The Land of Many Palaces" follows a government official whose job is to convince these farmers that their lives will be better off in the city, and to help them adapt to urban life, and a farmer in one of the last remaining villages in the region who is pressured to move. The film explores a process that will take shape on an enormous scale across China, since the central government announced plans to relocate 250,000,000 farmers to cities across the nation, over the next 20 years.

Trailer available at www.thelandofmanypalaces.com

Free and open to the public. For more information please call 250-721-7020 or see uvic.ca/capi

The Tale of the Princess Kaguya

Uvic Cinecenta

Isao Takahata Japan 2013, 137 mins. Rated G - violence

Jan. 23 3:30 and 7:00 pm

Jan. 24 1:00, 3:30 and 7:00 pm

Jan. 25 1:00 pm

Please note: matinees will be the dubbed version;
7pm showings will be in Japanese with English subtitles.



The first film in fourteen years from Studio Ghibli's Isao Takahata is a ravishingly beautiful adaptation of a tenth-century Japanese folktale. One day in the forest, the simple bamboo cutter Okina finds a baby in the folds of a bamboo shoot, and brings the infant home to his wife Ona. Naming the child Kaguya and raising her as their own, the couple soon discovers that their daughter is truly not of this world: she grows at an unnaturally quick rate, and has soon matured into a beautiful young woman. Discovering a cache of gold and lavish silks in the forest that he takes as a sign of Kaguya's royal heritage, Okina moves her to a lavish home in the capital city, where she is besieged by suitors — but Kaguya soon proves to have a higher destiny. —*Toronto International Film Festival*

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Thank you for being a member of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society. We encourage you to renew your membership for 2015 and remain informed about our upcoming events.
If you have already sent in your renewal, please consider passing this summary onto someone you know who might be interested in joining.

Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (VNCS)

The VNCS was formed in 1993 specifically to establish a sense of community for those of Japanese heritage and/or those interested in Japanese culture.

As stated in our constitution the purpose of our society is to:

- a) Promote the awareness of Japanese culture for the benefit of its members and the greater community;
- b) Represent the Japanese community to the greater community;
- c) Support related Japanese organizations; and
- d) Identify and serve the needs of the Nikkei community.

Throughout the year the VNCS organizes social events for its members, often with a theme related to a Japanese holiday or special occasion. Our promotion of Japanese culture is not only for our members but is also open to the greater community. Our annual Fall Bazaar and Mochi parties are examples of our outreach efforts. Where appropriate the VNCS will act as a spokes-organization for the Nikkei community. We work with other similar cultural/ethnic-minded organizations such as the Victoria Japanese Friendship Society to promote Japanese culture.

The VNCS is registered under the BC Society Act and has charitable status. We are a member organization of the Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria and the National Association of Japanese Canadians.

VNCS MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss - First Name - Last name

Address: Apt. #, Street # & Street Name

City & Postal Code

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____

Membership for 2015:

Individual \$10 ____ **Family of** ____ **people \$15** ____ **Donation: \$** _____

Family member names _____

Please make cheque payable to:

VICTORIA NIKKEI CULTURAL SOCIETY (OR VNCS)

Mail to:

Tony Ibaraki

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