

Newsletter

Summer Issue 2026

aidagara

Story of Summer

Summer in Motion!



JAPANESE CANADIAN
CULTURAL CENTRE
カナダ日系文化会館

PUBLISHER

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The Story Behind the Cover

This summer issue of *aidagara* celebrates memory through the eyes of children. We invited young participants from *Ikebata Nursery School* to create drawings inspired by their own summer memories—moments of sunshine, festivals, nature, family, and small everyday joys. Many of the illustrations appearing in this issue were created by the children of Ikebata. Each illustration captures a personal glimpse of how summer feels: the warmth of long days, the colors of seasonal celebrations, and the quiet magic of time spent together. Through these drawings, the children remind us that summer is not only a season, but also a collection of memories that connect people, places, and generations.

aidagara 夏号は、子どもたちの視点から見た夏の思い出にフォーカスし、池端ナーサリースクールの子どもたちを招き、それぞれの夏の思い出から着想を得た絵を描いてもらいました。太陽の光、祭り、自然、家族との時間、そして日常の小さな喜びなど、さまざまな瞬間が表現されています。本号に掲載されている多くのイラストは、池端ナーサリースクールの子どもたちによる作品です。それぞれの作品には、夏がどのように感じられるかという個人的なまなざしが込められています。夏の強い日差しや季節の行事がもたらす色彩、そして誰かと過ごす、かけがえのない時間など、子どもたちが感じた夏のさまざまな表情が描かれています。これらの絵を通して、子どもたちは夏が単なる季節ではなく、人と人、場所、そして世代をつなぐ思い出の集まりであることを私たちに思い出させてくれます。



ABOUT THE JCCC

Friendship through Culture

In 1963, seventy-five Japanese Canadian families, who were rebuilding their lives after wartime internment, mortgaged their homes to build the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC), as a very special place to gather, celebrate culture, and re-establish a sense of community. The founding logo, which continues to this day, was "friendship through culture".

Across multiple generations, the JCCC has served as a welcoming place of belonging where culture is part of everyday life, supporting festivals, and diverse seasonal programming. Each year, approximately 250,000 in-person visitors, from all backgrounds and walks of life, take part in JCCC cultural events, heritage activities, martial arts, language education, food events, crafts, and film programs.

In a city defined by speed and constant change, the JCCC operates as a cultural and social hub that has remained not only resilient, but continually vibrant, through decades of social, economic, and environmental change. Our hope is that it will continue to succeed in its mission to share friendship through culture, with audiences that continue to grow, for many generations to come.

1963年、戦時中の強制収容から生活を再建していた75世帯の日系カナダ人家族が、自宅を担保に資金を集め、カナダ日系文化会館 (JCCC) を設立しました。それは、人々が集い、文化を祝い、コミュニティとしてのつながりを再び築くための特別な場所でした。創設時から現在まで受け継がれている理念は「文化がわかる。心がかよふ。」です。

カナダ日系文化会館は世代を超えて、文化が日常に息づく、誰もが歓迎される居場所として親しまれてきました。季節ごとの多彩なプログラムやフェスティバルを支え、毎年約25万人が訪れます。来館者は、カルチャーイベントや歴史・ヘリテージに関する活動、武道、日本語学習、食文化イベント、クラフト、映画上映など、さまざまなプログラムに参加しています。

スピードと変化の激しいこの都市において、カナダ日系文化会館は社会・経済・環境の変化の中でもしなやかに存続し、常に活気を保ち続けてきた文化・社会の拠点です。私たちは、カナダ日系文化会館がこれからも「文化がわかる。心がかよふ。」という理念のもと、その使命を果たし続け、より多くの人々とともに、次の世代、その先の世代へと受け継がれていくことを願っています。

JCCC Building

Building Hours: Daily, 9 AM – 11 PM

Reception Hours:

Monday–Friday: 9 AM – 8 PM

Saturday–Sunday: 9 AM – 4:30 PM

Holiday Closures:

July 1 — Canada Day

August 3 — Civic Day

JCCC Library

Lending: Tuesday 11 AM – 3 PM; Wednesday 1 – 5PM;
Thursday 11 AM – 3 PM; Saturday 1 – 5PM.

Computer Clinic: Thursday 1–3 PM

(except the 4th Thursday)

Closed: June 30; July 1, 2, 4; August 1

Special Open Day: July 11 — Natsu Matsuri

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

会長からのメッセージ

Chris Hope



Dear JCCC Members and Friends,

The past several weeks have reminded us, in the most powerful of ways, why the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre matters so deeply to our community.

Our 12th Sakura Gala was a tremendous success and a deeply moving celebration of “friendship through culture.” It was a privilege to highlight the incredible accomplishments of architect Bruce Kuwabara as we honoured him as our 2026 Sakura Award recipient and to also recognize the extraordinary role he played in translating the aspirations of our community into the world-class, second generation, cultural centre building we are proud to call home. The evening reflected the dedication of our volunteers, supporters, artists, donors and members, and created an incredible sense of community pride. I strongly recommend checking out the biographical video that was produced for the gala. It’s a wonderful tribute to Bruce and to the JCCC: <https://vimeo.com/1194779169>.

We were also honoured to host the JERF Supporter Appreciation Event, marking the incredible impact of the Japan Earthquake Relief Fund on the occasion of disbursing the final balance of the fund to support lasting scholarships for affected students in Japan. Established after the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, JERF helped support students in the Tohoku region as they continued their education in the medical arts and rebuilt their futures. Hearing directly from a number of scholarship recipients, and welcoming university representatives from Japan, was a deeply moving reminder of the generosity of Canadians and the enduring bonds between our communities.

And of course there was the bazaar. The most successful yet, with the Centre in full flight by 6am with teams of dynamic volunteers setting up and preparing hundreds of packages of delectable Japanese Canadian home cooking and thousands of treasure hunters welcomed through the doors all afternoon.

Just to name a few of the events since the last newsletter!

As we celebrate these successes, we are also looking ahead. The JCCC is seeking candidates for the position of Executive Director, a vital leadership role that will help guide the Centre’s next chapter. We encourage readers to share this opportunity with qualified candidates who are passionate about our mission, our heritage and our future. Full information is available on the JCCC webpage as soon as the posting is live.

With gratitude,

Chris Hope
President, JCCC

WHAT'S ON

JUNE - AUGUST 2026

イベント情報



06.06
SAT.

**Kathryn Okawara
Celebration of Life**

Community

A gathering to honour and celebrate the life and legacy of Kathryn Okawara.



06.11-26
THU - FRI.

**Toronto Japanese
Film Festival**

Film Event

Featuring a curated selection of contemporary Japanese cinema, the Toronto Japanese Film Festival celebrates the richness, creativity, and diversity of Japan's film culture.

*06.11 Opening Reception
*06.26 Closing Reception



**06.14,
06.20, 06.25**
SUN, SAT, THU.

**Soccer Public
Viewings at the JCCC
(with J Athletics Canada)**

Special Event

Gather at the JCCC to cheer for Team Samurai Blue at this exciting soccer World Cup public viewings event!



07.11
SAT.

**JCCC Natsu Matsuri
and Toronto Buddhist
Church Bon Odori**

Matsuri

A vibrant summer festival bringing the community together and celebrating Japanese culture through food, performances, and traditional dance.



07.16
THU.

**Cooking For Active
Seniors**

Workshop

The JCCC workshop series, Cooking for Active Seniors, is designed for seniors looking to prepare easy, flavourful, and nutritious meals.



07 (TBD)

Communing with Ancestors

Workshop

Communing with Ancestors is a workshop led by Erica H Isomura and Nico Koyanagi exploring ancestry, memory, and community care.



08.08
SAT.

Ohara Ikabana Workshop

Workshop

Explore the rich history and guiding principles of the Ohara School, experience live demonstrations, and create your own arrangement to take home.



08.08
08.09
SAT. & SUN.

August Festival Showcase

Film Event

The Toronto Japanese Film Festival August Festival Showcase will present *Samurai Vengeance* and *Nagasaki: In the Shadow of the Flash*, two powerful films exploring Japanese history, memory, and resilience.

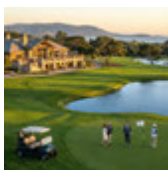


08.23
SUN.

Arigato Day

Community

The JCCC Board of Directors invites volunteers to Arigato Day, a special event celebrating the contributions of our volunteer community with dinner, activities, and award recognitions.



09.13
SUN.

The 28th Annual Family & Friends Golf Tournament

Community

The 28th Annual Family & Friends Golf Tournament invites players of all skill levels to enjoy a fun day of golf, prizes, and friendly competition, followed by dinner and prize presentations at the JCCC.

Summer Events Lineup

今後のイベント一覧

June - August



Toronto Japanese Film Festival

トロント日本映画祭

June 11 - June 26

The Toronto Japanese Film Festival, presented annually by the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, is Canada's largest celebration of Japanese cinema and has become an important bridge between Japanese filmmakers and North American audiences. Now in its fifteenth year, the festival brings together a carefully curated selection of films recognized by Japanese critics, audiences, and international festivals, offering a wide-ranging program that spans historical dramas, contemporary stories, comedies, anime, and art-house works.

Audiences can expect over 20 films over two weeks featuring premieres, guest appearances by directors and actors, and opportunities for dialogue between creators and audiences, highlighting the diversity and vitality of contemporary Japanese film. Through this ongoing exchange, the Toronto Japanese Film Festival serves as both a window into Japan's evolving film landscape and a meeting point where stories, perspectives, and communities come together.

トロント日本映画祭は、カナダ日系文化会館が主催するカナダ最大級の日本映画の祭典で、日本映画と北米の観客をつなぐ重要な架け橋となっています。今年で15回目を迎え、侍映画や時代劇、文学作品の映像化、コメディ、アートハウス作品、アニメーションなど、クラシックから現代作品まで幅広い日本映画を紹介しています。

2週間で20本以上の上映に加え、プレミア上映や監督とのトークイベントなども予定されており、現代日本映画の多様な魅力に触れることができます。このような交流を通して、トロント日本映画祭は進化し続ける日本映画を紹介する場であり、人と人が出会う場でもあります。



Scan for Film Schedule
映画スケジュールはこちら
<https://jccc.on.ca/tjff/schedule>



Soccer Public Viewings at the JCCC

(with J Athletics Canada)

JCCC サッカー・パブリックビューイング (ジェイアスレチックカナダ 協力)

June 14, 20, 25

Our *Go Team Japan! Soccer Public Viewings at the JCCC* programming sits at the heart of World Cup 2026, transforming the JCCC into a space where culture, sport, and hospitality meet. Inspired by the global spirit of the FIFA World Cup and Toronto's identity as "The World in a City," the program brings together performances, workshops, youth activities, and a vibrant local vendor market. Through taiko, dance, storytelling, craft, and sport, the festival invites participation across generations and communities, creating opportunities for connection and cultural exchange.

Sport also provides a shared language of celebration. Public screenings of key matches will take place as part of the broader Natsu program, including all three Japan national team games: June 14 at 4 pm, June 20 at midnight, and June 25 at 7 pm. Alongside youth soccer clinics, these events create a welcoming, family-friendly environment where newcomers and longtime residents can connect through culture and sport, to create shared memories that last a lifetime.

ワールドカップ2026にあわせて「Go Team Japan!」を実施し、サッカーパブリックビューイングを中心としたJCCCのプログラムでは、カナダ日系文化会館がカルチャー・スポーツ・おもてなしが交わる場となります。「世界が集う街」トロントの多様性を背景に、本プログラムではパフォーマンスやワークショップ、キッズ向けアクティビティ、ローカル出店者によるマーケットなどを行います。太鼓、ダンス、ストーリーテリング、クラフト、スポーツを通じて、世代やコミュニティを越えた体験をお届けします。

また、スポーツは言葉の壁を越えて人々をつなぐ共通の言語です。「Go Team Japan!」では、サッカー日本代表の全3試合(6月14日午後4時、6月20日深夜、6月25日午後7時)をパブリックビューイングで生中継します。会場が一体となる熱気あふれる時間をお楽しみいただけます。初めて来館される方も、いつもご利用いただいている方も、誰もが一緒に楽しめるイベントとして、多世代が交流する温かなコミュニティの場となります。出会いが重なり、人と人がつながっていく、そんな機会にぜひご参加ください。



Scan to RSVP
RSVPはこちら



JCCC Natsu Matsuri and Toronto Buddhist Church Bon Odori

JCCC夏祭り&トロント仏教会盆踊り

July 11, 4 PM (Bon Odori starts at 7 PM)

The JCCC's Natsu Matsuri and Bon Odori, presented in collaboration with the Toronto Buddhist Church, is a much-loved summer tradition that brings the community together through food, performance, and shared celebration. Rooted in the spirit of Obon, a Japanese observance that honours ancestors, the festival blends cultural and spiritual elements in an open, welcoming atmosphere, with games, music, dance, and vibrant performances filling the grounds.

At the heart of the festival is Bon Odori, a communal dance where participants gather in a circle and move together to traditional rhythms, creating a space to call forth ancestors and connect with community. The dance invites everyone, regardless of experience, to join in.



カナダ日系文化会館とトロント仏教会、そして地域コミュニティが一丸となってお届けする、毎年恒例のイベントです。日本の伝統行事「お盆」の精神を大切にしたい、誰もが楽しめるお祭りで、美味しい屋台やゲーム、そしてパフォーマンスとともに、賑やかな夏祭りの雰囲気をお楽しみいただけます。イベントの中心となるのは、参加者が円になって踊る「盆踊り」です。祖先に想いを馳せながら、皆で同じリズムを刻むことで、人と人とのつながりを感じられる時間となります。初めての方も、老若男女問わずどなたでも気軽にご参加いただけます。踊りの輪の中で生まれる一体感を、ぜひお楽しみください。



Cooking For Active Seniors Okonomiyaki...As you like it pancake!

シニア料理教室: お好み焼き

July 16, 11 AM - 3 PM

Okonomiyaki, often described as a Japanese omelet, frittata, or even a "Japanese pizza," is a quick and delicious meal. In this class, participants will learn to make traditional Osaka-style okonomiyaki with battered cabbage and added flavours, along with cucumber pickles (*tsukemono*).

Class size is limited to 18 participants. Please bring your own apron and head covering, and a takeout container if you wish to bring leftovers home. Registration opens five weeks before the class date and closes the Thursday prior; registration is available online or in person at Reception. The fee is \$25 + HST for JCCC members and \$30 + HST for non-members.



お好み焼きは、日本のオムレツやフリッタータ、あるいは「日本のピザ」とも表現される、手軽でおいしい料理です。本クラスでは、キャベツをたっぷり使った大阪風お好み焼きの作り方と、きゅうりの漬物を作ります。

各クラスの定員は18名です。エプロンと三角巾などの頭を覆うものを必ずご持参ください。また、料理が残った際のお持ち帰り用として、タッパーなどの保存容器を持参されることをお勧めします。

お申し込みは開催日の5週間前に始まり、前の週の木曜日に締め切られます。オンラインまたは受付で申し込みいただけます。

参加費は会員25ドル+税、非会員30ドル+税です。

Arigato Day

ありがとうデー

August 23, 3 PM- 7 PM

The JCCC Board of Directors warmly invites all volunteers to join us for Arigato Day, a special afternoon dedicated to celebrating the time, care, and energy you bring to our community. This gathering is an opportunity to reconnect and express our collective gratitude for the many ways volunteers help shape the life of the JCCC. Enjoy mingling, dinner, and lighthearted activities, including bingo and a JCCC trivia contest. We will also take time to recognize and celebrate this year's Nisei Veterans Award recipients and OVSA honourees (2025).



JCCC理事会が、ボランティアの皆さまへの感謝を込めて開催する特別な交流イベントです。お食事やビンゴ、クイズなどのレクリエーションを楽しみながら、コミュニティを支える皆さまと親睦を深めます。あわせて、本年度の「Nisei Veterans Award recipients」および「OVSA 2025」の表彰式も行われます。

Communing with Ancestors

祖先と交わる

July (Stay tuned for the official date)

Erica H Isomura and Nico Koyanagi

Communing with Ancestors is a community dialogue and art workshop led by artist Erica H Isomura and peer support worker Nico Koyanagi.

The workshop invites community members to reflect on the stories and culture we carry forward from our ancestors. This workshop will ask how we can remember, return to, and reshape these ways of being in our daily lives. This event will provide an opportunity to honour participants' diverse cultural inheritances while simultaneously making room for expansion as part of a living, ever-evolving community.

Co-facilitators Erica and Nico are multi-racial, yonsei millennials whose families were affected by the forced uprooting of their ancestors from the west coast. Through their facilitation work, they connect personal meditations to wider questions of how themes of "rupture" and "return" shape relationships to Japanese Canadian/Nikkei identity and culture. Workshop participants will be invited to consider how we want to remember and honour our ancestors, as well as how we ourselves want to be remembered and honoured in the future.

Building on the theme of care explored in Erica and Nico's first workshop, "Portraits of Community Care" (hosted at the JCCC in May 2026), this workshop will expand on how communities hold commitments to care and responsibility over time. Whereas the first workshop focused on gendered labour and care, "Communing with Ancestors" will ground participants in remembrance and intention with an eye towards collectively shaping the future of our communities.



「Communing with Ancestors」は、アーティストのエリカ・H・イソムラとピアサポートワーカーのニコ・コヤナギによる、コミュニティ向けの対話型アートワークショップです。本ワークショップでは、私たちが祖先から受け継いできた物語や文化について他の参加者と共に考えます。日々の生活の中で、それらのあり方をどのように思い出し、立ち返り、そして新たに形づくることができるのかを問いかけます。また、参加者が持つ多様な文化的背景や経験を尊重し、互いに交流しながら学ぶことで、個々のルーツやコミュニティのつながりを改めて実感できる場となります。共同ファシリテーターであるエリカとニコは、多民族的背景を持つ日系四世のミレニアル世代であり、家族は西海岸から祖先が強制的に移住させられた歴史の影響を受けています。彼らはファシリテーションを通じて、個人的な思索を、日系カナダ人/日系のアイデンティティや文化において「断絶」と「回帰」というテーマが、人々の関係性やつながりにどのように影響してきたのかという広い問いへと結びつけています。本ワークショップでは、参加者が先祖をどのように記憶し、敬意を表していくのか、また将来的に自分自身がどのように敬われたいのかについても考えていきます。このワークショップは、2026年5月にJCCCで開催されたエリカとニコによる初回ワークショップ「Portraits of Community Care」で探究された「ケア」というテーマを発展させたものです。前回のワークショップがジェンダー化された労働とケアに焦点を当てていたのに対し、「Communing with Ancestors」では、記憶と意図を出発点として、コミュニティが時間を越えてケアと責任の関係性をどのように育んでいくのかを見つめながら、私たちのコミュニティの未来を共に形づくることを目指します。

The Story Behind Natsu Matsuri and Obon

by Theresa Takasaki
Archives, Collections & Programming Manager

Bon Odori is a Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the spirits of one's ancestors that has been practiced for over 500 years. It brings together dance and music, with food and community, and is celebrated during the height of summer. It was brought to Canada by the *issei* in the early 1900s and was celebrated in Japanese Canadian communities throughout British Columbia. During internment, it was celebrated in the camps, bringing both joy and cultural tradition to an otherwise harsh life.

In Toronto, the Toronto Buddhist Church has been hosting summer Obon Odori since the early 1950s. The festival started small but gradually moved to larger locations. Over the years, it has been held at Ontario Place by the Japanese Canadian Centennial Bell, Toronto City Hall's Nathan Phillips Square, Mel Lastman Square, and Albert Campbell Square.

"Imagine a warm and sunny summer's day, outdoors on the grounds of 6 Garamond Court, the smells, sights and sounds of a Japanese summer festival."

— from the June/July 2003 JCCC Newsletter, Volume 29, Issue 6.

In 2003, in the large parking lot at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre's new location, the Toronto Buddhist Church, the JCCC, the New Japanese Canadian Association and other community organizations partnered to launch the Natsu Matsuri and Bon Odori Festival. Several hundred yukata clad dancers came together at the close of the festival to dance Obon Odori, celebrating our ancestors.

This tradition has continued every year since, even pivoting to several virtual festivals during the pandemic years. The festival has changed and evolved as the community has. New and different vendors, food, and even dances and callers. Regardless of the location or this evolution, Obon allows us to come together and honour our ancestors along with the community and traditions they shared for generations to come.

夏祭りとお盆踊りの物語

by Theresa Takasaki
Archives, Collections & Programming Manager

盆踊りは、祖先の霊を敬い供養するための日本の仏教行事であり、500年以上にわたって受け継がれてきました。踊りや音楽、食べ物、そして地域の人々のつながりがひとつとなるもので、真夏の盛りに行われます。1900年代初頭に、一世の方々によってカナダに伝えられ、ブリティッシュ・コロンビア州各地の日系カナダ人コミュニティで親しまれてきました。日系人収容の時代にも収容所で行われ、厳しい生活の中に喜びと文化的な伝統をもたらしていました。

トロントでは、トロント仏教会が1950年代初頭から夏の盆踊りを開催してきました。祭りは当初は小規模なものでしたが、次第により大きな会場へと移っていきました。トロントでは、トロント仏教会が1950年代初頭から夏のお盆踊りを開催してきました。祭りは当初は小規模なものでしたが、次第により大きな会場へと移っていきました。これまでに、オンタリオ・プレイスの日系カナダ人百周年記念の鐘のそばや、トロント市庁舎のネイサン・フィリップス・スクエア、メル・ラストマン・スクエア、アルバート・キャンベル・スクエアなどで開催されてきました。

「暖かく晴れた夏の日、6 Garamond Court の敷地で、屋外に広がる日本の夏祭りの香り、景色、そして音を思い浮かべてみてください。」

— 2003年6月/7月号 JCCC Newsletter, volume 29, Issue 6 より

2003年、カナダ日系文化会館の新しい拠点にある広い駐車場で、トロント仏教会、JCCC、新日系カナダ人協会、そして他のコミュニティ団体が協力し、夏祭り・盆踊りを立ち上げました。祭りの締めくくりには、浴衣姿の数百人の踊り手が集い、先祖を敬いながら盆踊りを踊りました。

この伝統はその後毎年受け継がれ、パンデミックの時期にはオンライン形式の祭りへと形を変えながらも続いてきました。祭りは、コミュニティの変化とともに姿を変え、発展してきました。出店者や食べ物、さらには踊りや音頭を取る人々も新しくなり、多様になっています。しかし、開催場所やその変化にかかわらず、お盆は私たちが地域の人々とともに集い、祖先を敬い、そして何世代にもわたって受け継がれてきた共同体と伝統をともにたたえる大切な機会であり続けています。

Next Page Photos: JCCC Archive Photo Series, circa 1944 2001-9-37-002, 1944 2001-9-37-006, 1974 - 2022-19-03-05-011, Norie Yazu Collection, In 2008 - 2008 Bon Odori in Kobayashi Hall, photo by Stan Behal_A3T5535, in 2019 - 2019-07-13 NM (13) photo by Leon Balaban, In 2019 - 2019-07-13 NM (191) photo by Yosh Inouye, June July 2003 newsletter flyer003, Obon 2009, photographer unknown 065, Summer 2023, photographer John Fuentes dsc_4171_53033768711_o, Summer 2024, drone photo by Constantin Dutescu DJI_0056



1944



1944

1974



1989



2003



2008

2009



2019



2023



2024



MEET REV. KENSHO HASHIMOTO

The Resident Minister of The Toronto Buddhist Church

Dancing Across Generations: The Story Behind Bon Odori in Toronto

トロントで踊る、世代をつなぐ盆踊り

Each summer, Bon Odori at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre brings the community together in a circle of music and dance. While many visitors know it as part of JCCC's Natsu Matsuri, the tradition actually began with the Toronto Buddhist Church. Recently, JCCC visited the Toronto Buddhist Church and spoke with Resident Minister Rev. Hashimoto, who shared the history and meaning behind this beloved tradition.

Every year at the JCCC Natsu Matsuri, Bon Odori is held in collaboration with the Toronto Buddhist Church. Can you tell us about its history?

Bon Odori in Toronto is very closely connected to the history of the Japanese Canadian community. After the Second World War, many Japanese Canadians were forced to relocate from the West Coast to Eastern Canada. In August 1945, members of the community gathered here in Toronto to hold an Obon memorial service.

Later, when the Toronto Buddhist Church was established in the 1950s, Bon Odori naturally became part of the temple's Obon activities. Over the years, the event moved to various locations across the city, including Christie Pits Park, Nathan Phillips Square, Mel Lastman Square, and others.

毎年夏になると、カナダ日系文化会館(JCCC)で行われる盆踊りは、音楽と踊りを通してコミュニティがひとつになります。多くの来場者にとってはJCCCの夏祭りの一部として親しまれていますが、この伝統はもともとトロント仏教会から始まりました。JCCCは今回、トロント仏教会を訪れ、僧侶・橋本 顕正先生にお話を伺い、この愛され続けている伝統の歴史と意味についてご紹介いただきました。

毎年JCCCの夏祭りでは、トロント仏教会と一緒に盆踊りが行われています。この盆踊りの歴史について教えていただけますか。

1950年代にトロント仏教会が設立されると、盆踊りは自然とお寺のお盆行事の一部となりました。年月を経るうちに、この行事は市内のさまざまな場所に場所を移して開催されるようになり、クリスティピッツ公園、ネイサン・フィリップス・スクエア、メル・ラストマン・スクエアなどで行われました。

トロントの盆踊りは、日系カナダ人コミュニティの歴史と深く結びついています。第二次世界大戦後、多くの日系カナダ人が西海岸からカナダ東部へ移住を余儀なくされました。1945年8月、コミュニティの人々はトロントに集まり、お盆の法要を行いました。



Photos: Provided by Toronto Buddhist Church

Then in 2002, when we needed a new venue, the Bon Odori was held at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre for the first time. A lot of people came that year, and because of that, JCCC decided to start its own Natsu Matsuri the following year.

So in a way, Bon Odori actually came first, and the summer festival really grew out of that tradition.

Which region of Japan did the Bon Odori style and dances originate from?

盆踊りのスタイルや踊りは日本のどの地域の伝統に基づいていますか？

There isn't a single regional style that defines the Bon Odori in Toronto. The dances reflect the diverse origins of the Japanese Canadian community. Many early immigrants to the Toronto area came from regions such as Shiga, Hiroshima, and Wakayama, so songs from those areas became part of the repertoire.

Today, the program includes a wide range of traditional Bon Odori songs from across Japan. Some classics like Tankō Bushi remain favorites, while newer additions such as Dancing Hero have become popular finale dances in recent years.

Who were the original participants, and who participates now?

当初の参加者はどのような人々だったのでしょうか？そして現在は？

In the beginning, most of the participants were Japanese Canadians connected to the temple community.

Many were second- or third-generation Japanese Canadians who had grown up with the Bon Odori tradition.

Today the event is much more diverse. Third- and fourth-generation Japanese Canadians are still very active, but now people from many different backgrounds also join the dance.

Groups from the Toronto Buddhist Church, Ayame Kai, Sakura Kai, Hamilton's Japanese Cultural Centre, and other organizations participate. And during the festival many visitors join the dancing as well. That's one of the beautiful things about Bon Odori—anyone can step into the circle.

そして2002年、新しい会場が必要になった際に、盆踊りは初めてJCCCで開催されました。多くの人が集まったことをきっかけに、翌年からJCCCの夏祭りも同じ日に開催されるようになりました。

あまり知られていませんが、トロント仏教会の盆踊りの方が先にあって、そこからJCCCの夏祭りが生まれたという形なのです。

トロントの盆踊りには、特定の一つの地域様式はありません。踊りは日系カナダ人コミュニティの多様なルーツを反映しています。初期にトロントへ移住した人々の多くは、滋賀県、広島県、和歌山県などの出身であったため、それらの地域の楽曲がレパートリーに取り入れられてきました。現在では、日本各地のさまざまな伝統的な盆踊り曲がプログラムに含まれています。炭坑節のような定番曲は今も人気があり、近年ではダンシング・ヒーローのような新しい楽曲がフィナーレとして親しまれています。



最初の頃は、主に寺院のコミュニティに関わる日系カナダ人の方々が中心でした。二世や三世の方々が多く、子どもの頃から盆踊りに親しんで育った人たちが多かったと思います。

現在では、参加者は非常に多様です。三世や四世の日系カナダ人も活発に参加していますが、それに加えて、さまざまな背景を持つ人々も参加しています。

トロント仏教会、あやめ会、さくら会、ハミルトン日系文化会館などの団体が盆踊りに参加しており、当日は盆踊りが初めての来場者も輪に加わって踊ることも多いです。

それが盆踊りの魅力のひとつで、誰でも気軽に輪に入って踊ることができます。



How would you like to share Buddhism and Bon Odori with younger people and new participants? What message would you like to give them?

若い世代や新しい参加者に、仏教や盆踊りをどのように伝えていきたいと考えていますか？

First and foremost, I hope people simply enjoy the experience. Bon Odori is meant to be joyful and welcoming. But behind the dancing there is also an important history.

The Bon Odori in Toronto reflects the experiences of Japanese Canadians who preserved their cultural traditions while living far from their homeland. If participants begin by enjoying the festival and then gradually become curious about why we dance, why it takes place at a Buddhist temple, or how it connects to the Obon tradition, that curiosity can lead them to discover a deeper story about community, history, and remembrance.

何よりもまず、参加者には純粹にその体験を楽しんでほしいと思います。盆踊りは誰でも参加できる楽しい行事です。それと同時に、踊りの背後には知っておいてほしい大切な歴史もあります。

トロントの盆踊りは、遠く離れた故郷で文化を守り続けた日系カナダ人の経験を伝えています。最初は祭りを楽しむだけでも構いませんが、その後「なぜこの踊りを踊るのか」「なぜ仏教寺院で行われるのか」「お盆の伝統とどうつながっているのか」といった疑問を持つことで、地域社会や歴史、先祖への思いといった深い物語に触れることができます。



Can you tell us about your journey from Japan to the Toronto Buddhist Church? What brought you here?

日本からトロント仏教会に来られたきっかけを教えてください。

My family runs a temple in Japan, but as the second son I was not originally expected to inherit it. In 2019, I attended a conference in San Francisco where Buddhists from North and South America gathered. At the time I was still considering my future path.

私は日本の寺院の家に生まれましたが、次男だったため必ずしも寺を継ぐ予定ではありませんでした。2019年にサンフランシスコで開かれた海外の寺院の会議に参加したことが、大きな転機になりました。そのとき、まだ自分の将来について考えている途中だったのですが、世界各地の僧侶や寺院の活動に触れることで、自分の道について深く考えるきっかけになりました。

During the conference, I saw people from many different countries chanting sutras together. Even though we spoke different languages, we could share the same recitation of Namo Amida Butsu. That moment moved me deeply and inspired me to pursue the path of becoming a Buddhist minister.

その場で、世界各地から集まった僧侶たちが一緒にお経を唱える姿を見て、とても感動しました。言葉は違っても、「南無阿彌陀仏」を共に唱えることで心を通わせることができる。その経験がきっかけで、僧侶として海外で活動したいと思うようになりました。

After studying at Ryukoku University in Kyoto, I also spent time studying English in Kamloops, British Columbia. My experiences with the Japanese Canadian community there eventually led me to serve here in Toronto.

その後、京都の龍谷大学で学び、カナダのBC州カムループスにも留学し、日系コミュニティとの交流を通して、カナダでの活動につながりました。



What is your favorite childhood summer memory, and are there any sounds, smells, or foods that remind you of summer? 子どものころ、夏といえばどんな思い出がありますか？また、夏の思い出させる音や匂い、食べ物がありますか？

When I think of summer as a child, I remember playing baseball, swimming, and spending carefree days outdoors with friends. Shaved ice always reminds me of that time. My family temple had a shaved ice machine, and after playing or baseball practice, my parents would make shaved ice for us.

子どもの頃の夏といえば、毎日のように友達と野球をしたり、泳いだりして過ごしたことを思い出します。夏休みはほとんど外で遊んでいて、朝から夕方まで友達と走り回り、生活はとても自由で気楽な日々でした。そして、夏といえばまずかき氷を思い出します。私の家の寺院にはかき氷機があり、外で遊んだり、野球をしたあと、友達と一緒に寺院に行って両親が作ってくれたかき氷を食べるのが楽しみでした。

SEDAI YOUTH CREATOR LAB

世代ユース・クリエイター・ラボ

The Next Generation of Storykeepers



With funding support from the Japanese Canadian Legacy Society, the JCCC Heritage department has been working to preserve, activate and expand the Sedai Oral History Collection. The Sedai Youth Creator Lab is the capstone of this 2-year project.

Participants will be trained to conduct oral history interviews and work in pairs to record the stories of Japanese Canadians over the summer. Using the collected interviews as inspiration, they will create short documentaries, with guidance from mentors, professional filmmakers, and JCCC staff. A public screening of their work will be held on December 16 at the JCCC. Stay tuned for details.

We're excited to introduce the six-youth chosen for the Sedai Youth Creator Lab.

Japanese Canadian Legacy Societyの助成を受け、JCCCヘリテージ部門は「Sedai Oral History Collection」の保存、活用、拡充に取り組んできました。「Sedai Youth Creator Lab」は、この2年間にわたるプロジェクトの集大成となるものです。

参加者はオーラル・ヒストリー・インタビューの実施方法について研修を受け、夏の間、ペアで日系カナダ人の方々のお話を記録します。収集したインタビューをもとに、メンター、プロの映像作家、JCCCスタッフの指導を受けながら、短編ドキュメンタリーを制作します。完成作品の一般上映会は、12月16日にJCCCで開催される予定です。詳細は後日お知らせします。

Sedai Youth Creator Labに選ばれた6名のユースをご紹介します。ことを嬉しく思います。



For more information, please visit the Sedai Youth Creator Lab page.

詳細は、Sedai Youth Creator Labのウェブサイトページをご覧ください。





Camille Kiku Belair

Camille Kiku Belair is gosei with French Canadian and German ancestry. They are a composer, classical guitarist and interdisciplinary artist. Camille is a graduate of OCAD University's Interdisciplinary Art, Media and Design MFA program and University of Toronto Faculty of Music's BMus, specializing in composition. Camille explores connections between listening and imagination through creative visual representations of sound, grid-based patterns generated from melodies, field recordings, text scores, and instrumental compositions. Their compositions have been performed in Toronto and Tokyo, and they have exhibited artwork in the OCAD U Graduate Gallery, Ignite Gallery West, Open Space Gallery, and Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.



Claire Davie

Claire is currently a third-year Film Production student at Concordia in Montreal. She previously attended Toronto Metropolitan University, where she studied Media Production. Her favourite areas of filmmaking are writing, directing, and editing, but she enjoys exploring and learning about all aspects of the magic of movie making. This summer, she'll be a counsellor at a film production camp, educating kids on how to use video equipment, film and edit their own movies. Claire is so excited to be working with the JCCC and getting more involved in the Japanese Canadian community!



Elliot Kim

Elliot Kim is a multidisciplinary artist and Fashion Communication student at Toronto Metropolitan University, with a minor in Marketing. As a Japanese Korean Canadian raised between Japan and Canada, with experience growing up in multi-cultural spaces, Elliot has interests in diaspora communities, and cultural identity. Through many of his projects, which involve visual storytelling and creative media, he is interested in sharing personal and community stories in engaging and accessible ways. Elliot hopes to contribute to the JCCC's oral history collection as a way of learning from and giving back to the Japanese Canadian community.



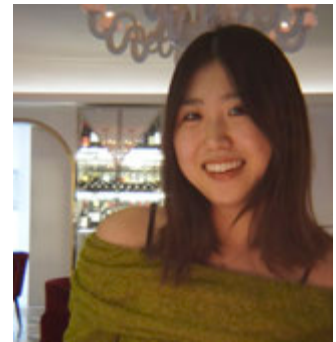
Grace Miyoko Challenger

Grace Miyoko Challenger (She/Her) is a graduate from UofT, where she studied History and East Asian and Caribbean Studies. She recently completed a postgraduate program in Project Management at George Brown Polytechnic and will be starting a Master's in Information and in Museum Studies at UofT this fall. As a yonsei/gosei, she is passionate about exploring the community's history and connecting with other Japanese Canadians. Grace looks forward to continuing her research of Japanese Canadian heritage, collecting oral histories and sharing them in a creative medium that may make a lasting impact on those who encounter them.



Isabelle Yumi Yamamoto

As a yonsei born in Nova Scotia, Isabelle has always been grateful to be a part of the JC community. Her studies at the University of Ottawa culminated in a BA Honours in Psychology with a minor in Linguistics. Though she grew up in a bilingual environment, surrounded by Japanese and British grandparents, it wasn't until her work at Momiji Health Care Society that she found her passion for working to support an older generation. Getting to hear the life stories of the JC community opened the door to more curiosity and the push to capture and honour this important history.



Mako Kobayashi

Mako is an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto majoring in Cinema Studies and Economics. Born in Japan and raised in New York, Mako came to Toronto three years ago. Having grown up in diverse settings, she values opportunities to connect with others through culture, language, and the arts. She's very excited to be a part of this program, and hopes to use her academic interests and artistic background to contribute to the Sedai Youth Creator Lab. In addition to her studies, Mako is also passionate about music. She currently plays violin in an orchestra and sings in an cappella group.

JCCC GIFT SHOP SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

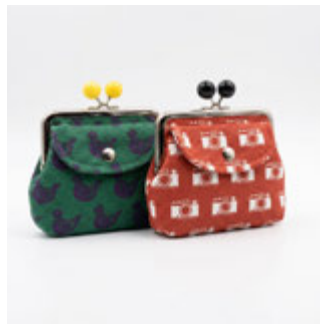
JCCCギフトショップ: 季節のおすすめ

This season, the JCCC Gift Shop presents a thoughtful curation inspired by the quiet beauty of Japanese everyday life. From charming coin purses crafted with vibrant fabrics to delicate accessories and miniature sewing kits, each piece reflects the warmth of handmade craftsmanship and an appreciation for fine details —perfect as meaningful gifts and small treasures to brighten each day.

今シーズンのJCCCギフトショップでは、日本の暮らしに息づく美しさや、受け継がれてきた伝統の魅力を感じられるアイテムを取り揃えています。鮮やかな布で仕立てたがま口財布や、日本酒を楽しむのにぴったりなグラスなど、どのアイテムにも手仕事ならではの温もりと細やかなこだわりが込められています。大切な方への贈り物としてはもちろん、日々の暮らしにそっと彩りを添えるアイテムとしてもおすすめです。



Double-Legged Kanzashi
\$ 27 CAD



Retro Pattern Twin Purse
\$ 50 CAD



Omamori
\$ 12 CAD



Gaman - Perseverance:
Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice
\$ 29.95 CAD



Sake Carafe
\$ 24 CAD



Japanese Ceramic Bowl
\$ 27 CAD



Furoshiki
(Traditional Japanese Wrapping Cloth)
\$ 15 CAD



Momo Tea
Sencha \$ 14 CAD; Hojicha \$12 CAD;
Genmaicha \$12 CAD



Ninja T-Shirt
\$ 35 CAD

AUGUST FESTIVAL SHOWCASE

8月映画祭ショーケース



TORONTO
JAPANESE
FILM
FESTIVAL

SAMURAI VENGEANCE

木挽町のあだ討ち

Sat. August 8 2:00 PM

Samurai Vengeance is an atmospheric Edo-era mystery adapted from Sayako Nagai's award-winning novel. After a young kabuki actor's celebrated revenge becomes legend, a provincial samurai arrives at the Moritaza theatre to uncover the truth. As testimonies unfold, the heroic tale begins to reveal hidden motives, deception, and long-buried secrets.

Starring Tasuku Emoto, Ken Watanabe, Kento Nagao, Kazuki Kitamura, Yasushi Seto, and Kenichi Takito.

120min/2026

Director: Takashi Minamoto
CANADIAN PREMIERE

直木賞と山本周五郎賞を受賞した永井紗耶子の同名小説を映画化したミステリー時代劇。江戸時代、若き歌舞伎役者・菊之助による見事な仇討ちは美談として語り継がれていた。1年半後、その真相を知るため侍・総一郎が森田座を訪れ、関係者の証言を聞くうちに、仇討ちの裏に隠された秘密が明らかになっていく。

監督:源孝志

出演:柄本佑、長尾謙杜、瀬戸康史、滝藤賢一、
沢口靖子、北村一輝、渡辺謙



NAGASAKI: IN THE SHADOW OF THE FLASH

長崎 閃光の影で

Sun. August 9 2:00 PM

Set in Nagasaki immediately after the atomic bombing, this moving drama follows three young nursing students as they care for the wounded amid the city's devastation. Based on memoirs by Japanese Red Cross nurses, the film offers a deeply human portrait of ordinary girls facing fear, loss, and duty in the aftermath of atomic horror.

Directed by Junpei Matsumoto.
Starring Hinako Kikuchi, Karin Ono,
and Asuka Kawatoko.

109min/2025

Director: Junpei Matsumoto
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

1945年夏、原爆投下直後の長崎を舞台に、被爆者救護に奔走した若き看護学生たちの姿を描くドラマ。日本赤十字社の看護師たちによる手記をもとに、未熟ながらも使命を果たそうとする少女たちの恐れ、喪失、そして葛藤を描き出す。

監督:松本准平

出演:菊池日菜子、小野花梨、川床明日香。



COMMUNITY CORNER

コミュニティ・コーナー



The 28th Annual Family & Friends Golf Tournament

第28回 ファミリー
& フレンズ・ゴルフトーナメント

Sunday, September 13

The 28th Annual Family & Friends Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday September 13, 2026, on the Classic Course at Rolling Hills Golf Club in Stouffville. This day is also National Grandparents' Day, so we will have special prizes for the Grandparent/Grandchild Champions!

This is a chance for families and friends to share a fun day of golf – all skill levels are welcome and there are lots of prizes to be won! After a great day of golfing, there will be games, a raffle, prize presentations and dinner back at the JCCC. We encourage everyone to join with their grandparents, grandchildren, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, or just a group of friends. As in the past, it will be an early Shotgun format (8:30 AM start for everyone) and the format is a Texas Scramble (where everyone hits a tee shot, then the foursome picks the best lie, and everyone else plays their ball from that spot, and so on).

REGISTRATION - NEW THIS YEAR: Registration will ONLY be on-line through the JCCC Website (jccc.on.ca) and there will be a link to register by teams only (4 players). The registration link will open on Monday July 13, 2026 at 10 AM.

We encourage and welcome hole sponsors, corporate or family. We will also be offering "In Memoriam" sponsored holes to recognize loved ones. Donation of prizes are also gratefully accepted. Please note that Green Fees, Cart Rental fees and food prices have all gone up substantially over the past year, so we have no choice but to increase entry fees. However, we have eliminated the 2-price system so now all golfers pay the one price.

We are so appreciative to have Marty Kobayashi of iA Private Wealth confirmed again this year as our Platinum Sponsor. So please come on out for a fun day!! The tournament is limited to the first 144 golfers. We had an overwhelming response last year so make sure to get your registration submitted before it fills up!

For more information, please contact co-chairs Sharon Marubashi at sharon.marubashi@jccc.on.ca, (cell 647-291-4751) or Dawna Kobayashi at dawna.kobayashi@sympatico.ca (cell 417-407-8102)



第28回 Annual Family & Friends Golf Tournament は、2026年9月13日(日)に、StouffvilleのRolling Hills Golf Club (Classic Course)にて開催されます。この日はNational Grandparents' Dayでもあるため、Grandparent/Grandchild Championsには特別賞をご用意しています。

ご家族やご友人と一緒に、ゴルフを楽しむ一日としてどなたでもご参加いただけます。初心者から経験者まであらゆるレベルの方を歓迎しており、賞品も多数をご用意しています。プレー後はJCCCに戻り、ゲーム、ラッフル、表彰式、そしてディナーをお楽しみいただけます。祖父母やお孫さん、ご両親、ご兄弟姉妹、おじ・おば、いとこ、ご友人同士など、さまざまな形でのご参加を歓迎します。当日は例年通り、全員同時スタートのShotgun形式(午前8時30分スタート)で行われ、競技形式はTexas Scrambleです。これは、全員がティーショットを打ち、その後フォーサムで最も良いボール位置を選び、他のメンバーはその地点から次のショットを打つ、という形で進めていく方式です。

登録について【今年からの変更点】

登録はJCCCウェブサイト(jccc.on.ca)からのオンライン登録のみとなります。チーム単位(4名)でのお申し込みとなり、登録開始は2026年7月13日(月)午前10時です。

ホールスポンサーも募集しております。企業スポンサー、ご家族によるスポンサーのいずれも歓迎いたします。また、大切な方を偲ぶための "In Memoriam" スポンサーホールもご用意します。賞品のご寄付も大変ありがたく受け付けております。なお、過去1年間でグリーンフィー、カートレンタル料、食事代が大幅に上昇したため、参加費を値上げせざるを得ない状況となりました。ただし、これまでの2段階料金制度は廃止し、今年からはすべてのゴルファーに同一料金を適用いたします。

今年もiA Private WealthのMarty Kobayashi氏にPlatinum Sponsorとしてご協賛いただけることに、心より感謝申し上げます。定員は先着144名です。昨年は大変多くのお申し込みをいただきましたので、お早めのご登録をおすすめします。

詳細は共同委員長の Sharon Marubashi (sharon.marubashi@jccc.on.ca, 携帯:647-291-4751) または Dawna Kobayashi (dawna.kobayashi@sympatico.ca, 携帯:417-407-8102) までお問い合わせください。

JC3-PITCH CONCLUDES ITS 39TH SEASON

The Japanese Canadian 3-Pitch League concluded their 39th season banquet with presentation of the Team Spirit awards and door prizes. The Team Spirit award is presented to a player on each team who throughout the season, demonstrates good sportsmanship, regular attendance and a willingness to help out his/her team when needed. This year's recipients are: Brad Noble from Thornhill Toyota, Ken Marumoto from the Pirates of the Markham Region, Oscar Wu from the Markham Sluggers and Dan Reid from iA Private Wealth. The top door prize of the night was an Amazon Watch, supplied by Thornhill Toyota and was won by Nick Chung.

The league would like to thank each of their sponsors and the many prize donors for their generous support, including: Back2feet, iA Private Wealth, Larry Kimura and Thornhill Toyota. For information about the league's 40th Anniversary season, please send an email to: JC3Pitch@gmail.com.

2025 Team Spirit Award Recipients:

Ken Marumoto and Dan Reid

Absent: Brad Noble and Oscar Wu

Grand Prize Winner:

Nick Chung



Japanese Canadian 3-Pitch League は、第39シーズンのバンケットを開催し、Team Spirit Award の表彰とドアプライズ抽選をもってシーズンを締めくくりました。

Team Spirit Award は、シーズンを通して優れたスポーツマンシップを発揮し、継続的にリーグへ参加するとともに、必要ときにはチームのために力を尽くした選手に贈られる賞です。今年の受賞者は、Thornhill Toyota の Brad Noble さん、Pirates of the Markham Region の Ken Marumoto さん、Markham Sluggers の Oscar Wu さん、そして iA Private Wealth の Dan Reid さんでした。

また、当日の最上位ドアプライズである Apple Watch (Thornhill Toyota 提供) は、Nick Chung さんが獲得しました。

リーグは、Back2feet、iA Private Wealth、Larry Kimura、Thornhill Toyota をはじめ、各スポンサーおよび多くの賞品提供者の皆さまからの温かいご支援に心より感謝申し上げます。

2026年のリーグ40周年記念シーズンに、プレーまたはスポンサーとしての参加にご興味のある方は、以下のメールアドレスまでご連絡ください: JC3Pitch@gmail.com

2025 Team Spirit Award 受賞者:

Ken Marumoto さん、Dan Reid さん

欠席: Brad Noble さん、Oscar Wu さん

Grand Prize 受賞者:

Nick Chung さん



Japanese Canadian Legacies Society Update



Japanese Canadian Monument Fall 2026

This October, a new Monument in Victoria will honour nearly 22,000 Japanese Canadians uprooted from the west coast during the 1940s, along with over 3,000 children born during that time. The centrepiece will be a 300-foot Wall of Names, reconnecting families to the communities they were forced to leave in 1942.

Livestream — Saturday, October 3, 2026

The opening ceremony will be livestreamed nationwide so people can take part from anywhere. The site opens to the public following the ceremony, with guided tours running October 4–7. A link to the livestream will be shared in September on the JC Legacies website and newsletter along with a reservation system for tours of the Monument.

Kansha 感謝 (gratitude)

Deep gratitude to all who have contributed to making this permanent site of pilgrimage a reality – a place to remember the cost of injustice and celebrate the enduring power of resilience.

Contact us

opening@jclegacies.com

News

Sign up to our newsletter at jclegacies.com/contact for regular news and updates.

For the full article, please visit <https://jclegacies.com/japanese-canadian-monument-fall-2026>



Installation of first granite panel. Members of Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society, Ministry of Attorney General MARB, Ministry of Infrastructure Real Property Division, Chandos Construction.

Save the Dates

The Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS) works to preserve and share the history of Japanese Canadians in British Columbia — honouring the pre-war communities that thrived here, and bearing witness to the injustices they endured during and after the war.

The BC Heritage Sites program funds interpretive projects, restorations, and signage at historically significant locations across the province — from coastal fishing and farming communities to interior internment sites.

Legacy Community Projects create tangible, lasting, meaningful works that tell the full story of the pre-war, wartime, and postwar Japanese Canadian experience, leaving a permanent record for generations to come.

Survivors, Descendants, and their families are warmly welcomed at all events, as is anyone with an interest in this important chapter of BC's history.

All event opening dates are published at <https://jclegacies.com/save-the-dates/>, and will continue to be updated as official dates are finalized.



Why Teaching Japanese Canadian History Matters Today

Japanese Canadian Legacies is built on five funded pillars: Community & Culture, Seniors Health & Wellness, Monument, Education, and Heritage Preservation, with a focus on honouring our elders, past and present. While many initiatives provide direct support and recognition to Survivors, Education serves as an important connection between community and the broader public, who generally know little if anything of this history and the lessons it holds.

A new website, JapaneseCanadianHistory.com, is not confined to the classroom but invites everyone to engage with this history, including the uprooting, , incarceration, and permanent dispossession of 22,000 Japanese Canadians in the 1940s.

The site holds valuable lessons, particularly regarding what can happen when fear and ignorance are allowed to dictate government policy and public opinion.

Pre-made lesson packages within JapaneseCanadianHistory.com allow educators to show students how there is a linkage between “othering” a community, and the eventual total loss of that community’s homes and rights.

Patterns of Injustice, a new lesson plan built for high school teachers and students by Andrea Phillpott, looks at the common patterns of injustice observed within Japanese Canadian history, how these patterns can be observed in today’s world, and what we can do to confront injustice in the present and future. In a world where young people often feel powerless, this history provides a roadmap for how to stand up against systemic injustice.



Visit <https://jclegacies.com/why-teaching-japanese-canadian-history-matters-today/> for the full story or email education@jclegacies.com to book a workshop or for more information.

Image from Andrea Phillpott's *Patterns of Injustice*

Closing Out the Survivors Fund with Gratitude

With deep gratitude and respect, we mark the closing of the Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund.

More than 5,000 Survivors were supported through this initiative. It honours a generation whose strength and resilience continue to shape our community.

This milestone is not just an ending, but a legacy of care, dignity, and remembrance.

Read the full story and acknowledgements here: <https://jclegacies.com/closing-out-the-survivors-fund-with-gratitude>.

We extend our deepest gratitude and *kansha* (感謝) to all who made this possible.



Japanese Canadian Survivors Health and Wellness Fund Society Board of Directors.

Clockwise, from upper left to bottom left: Cathy Makihara, David Iwaasa, Kelvin Higo, Ruth Coles, Shelley-Ann Yamashita, Ann Ashley, Marlene Mori, Susan Matsumoto

Close of Community Fund 1 and Looking Ahead A legacy realized: Community Fund 1 wrap-up

“We are honored to share that Community Fund 1 has completed 1,130 grants, reaching individuals, groups and organizations nationwide in a tribute to the resilience of the Survivors and elders who built the foundation of our community. Guided by the principle of community care, we turned a vision into an investment in community healing. We thank all who have contributed to this project and walk this path with us.”

– JCLS CEO Susanne Tabata

JCLS was entrusted with a mandate to honour the past through the creation of forward-looking legacy initiatives, both tangible and intangible, across five pillars: Senior Health & Wellness, Education, Community & Culture, Heritage Preservation, and Monument.

The six streams of Community Fund 1—Scholarships, Intergenerational Wellness, Infrastructure, Community Projects, Sports, and Arts—supported everything from education and family reconnection to cultural projects and community spaces.

As Community Fund 1 wraps up, the work continues through Community Fund 2, enshrining the work in Legacy Community Projects, BC Heritage Sites, sub-agreements, Education, and the Japanese Canadian Monument in Victoria.

Please read the full article here: <https://jclegacies.com/close-of-community-fund-1-and-looking-ahead>.

As JC Legacies prepares to wrap up operations in 2028, our focus is on making sure these community-led projects stand the test of time. It remains a profound honour to serve the Japanese Canadian community through this vital work. We are deeply grateful to everyone across the country who continue to support this important undertaking. It is truly a collective effort.



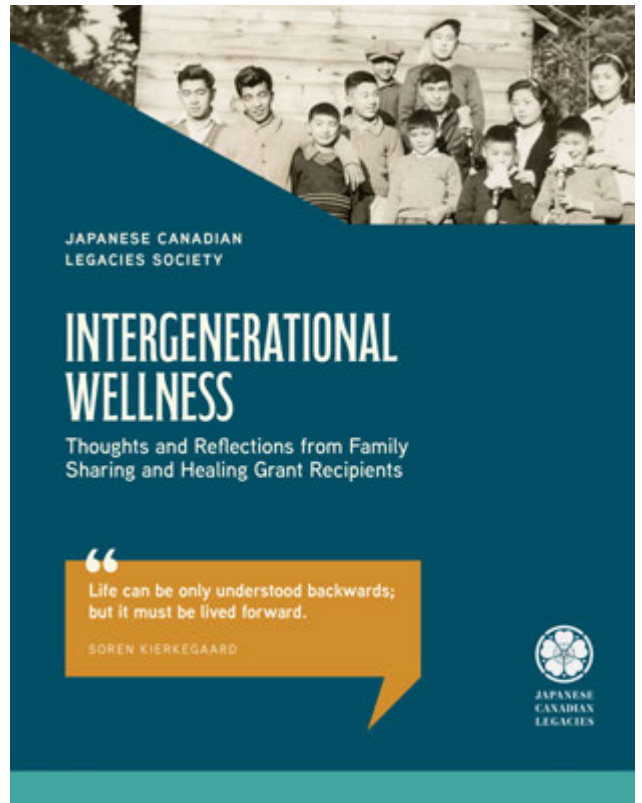
Image: The faces of JC Legacies

Intergenerational Wellness: Thoughts and Reflections from Family Sharing and Healing Grant Recipients

The Intergenerational Wellness initiative, developed by the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society and inspired by Dr. Karen Kobayashi, was created to address intergenerational trauma resulting from historical injustices against Japanese Canadians. It provides funding for family-based projects focused on storytelling, cultural preservation, and healing. Through 241 funded initiatives, many families explored their histories and created opportunities to share experiences across generations. A 2026 study led by Lucy Komori found that these efforts strengthened family connections, preserved important histories, and supported meaningful emotional healing across generations.

The full report is available at <https://jclegacies.com/intergenerational-wellness-report>.

*Please note that the report is only available in English

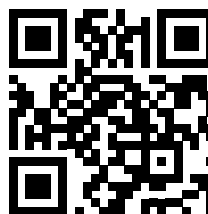


About Japanese Canadian Legacies Society

The Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS) was incorporated on June 29, 2022. The JCLS is accountable to both the BC Government and the community in its oversight of the implementation of the BC Redress framework developed 2020 – 2022.

Board members are Paul Kariya, President; Larry Okada, Treasurer; Brian Tsuji, Secretary; Karen Nishi; Fred Yada; and Les Kojima, the NAJC representative on the Board. Founder and former BC Redress Project Director Susanne Tabata is Chief Executive Officer.

The Japanese Canadian Legacies Society will plan to begin winding down in 2028.



Visit the Japanese Canadian Legacies website (<https://jclegacies.com>) to explore more.

JCCC SUMMER PICKS

夏のおすすめセレクション

Summer is a season made for slowing down with a favourite manga in hand. The titles featured here are all available to borrow from the JCCC Library. On a warm summer day, step inside the JCCC, enjoy the cool comfort of the library, and spend a quiet moment immersed in manga.

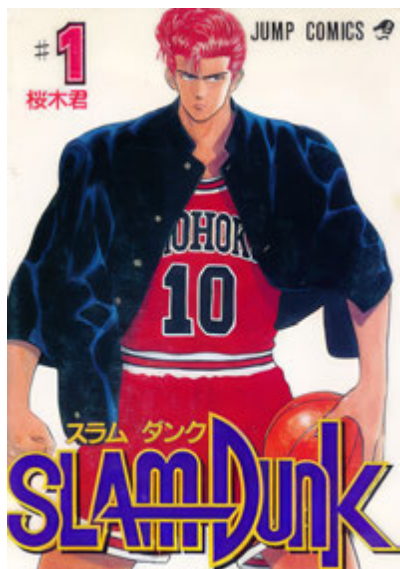
夏は、お気に入りのマンガを読みながら、ゆったりと過ごしたくなる季節です。ここでご紹介しているマンガは、JCCCの図書館で借りることができます。暑い夏の日には、ぜひJCCCに足を運び、涼しい館内でゆっくりマンガを楽しんでみませんか？



JCCC LIBRARY COLLECTION

01 SLAM DUNK

TAKEHIKO INOUE 井上雄彦



SLAM DUNK is a classic basketball manga created by Takehiko Inoue and one of the most iconic sports manga of all time. Centered on the Shohoku High School basketball team, the story follows Hanamichi Sakuragi as he grows from a rebellious beginner into a passionate basketball player. Through youth, rivalry, teamwork, and personal growth, the series captures the spirit of determination and the excitement of the game. The manga was adapted into a beloved 1990s TV anime, and in recent years, *THE FIRST SLAM DUNK*, an animated film written and directed by the original creator himself, introduced the legendary story to a new generation with a fresh perspective.

「SLAM DUNK」は、井上雄彦によって描かれたバスケットボール漫画の名作であり、スポーツ漫画の代表作のひとつです。湘北高校バスケットボール部を舞台に、不良少年だった主人公・桜木花道がバスケットボール初心者から、情熱を持って競技に打ち込む選手へと成長していく姿を描いています。青春、ライバルとの競争、チームワーク、そして個人の成長を通して、本作は努力し続ける精神とバスケットボールの魅力を力強く伝えています。

本作は1990年代にテレビアニメ化され、多くの人々に愛されました。さらに近年では、原作者自らが脚本・監督を務めたアニメーション映画「THE FIRST SLAM DUNK」が公開され、新たな視点からこの伝説的な物語を次世代の観客に届けました。





02 NEIGHBORHOOD STORY ご近所物語

AI YAZAWA 矢沢あい

Neighborhood Story (Gokinjo Monogatari) by Ai Yazawa is a beloved manga that follows Mikako, a young fashion design student determined to create her own clothing brand. Set in a vibrant artistic community, the story explores friendship, creativity, and the dreams of young people pursuing fashion and art. Known for its stylish illustrations and strong connection to street culture, the series has also influenced fashion aesthetics and inspired designers and brands drawn to its playful, youthful style.

矢沢あいによる代表作漫画「ご近所物語」は、若きファッションデザイン学生・実果子が、自らのブランドを立ち上げる夢に挑む姿を描いた作品です。活気あふれるアーティスティックな街を舞台に、友情や創造性、若者たちの夢を追いかける姿が描かれています。スタイリッシュな作画とストリートカルチャーとの強い結びつきにより、多くのファッションデザイナーやブランドにも影響を与えました。遊び心あふれる若々しいスタイルも、本作の大きな魅力です。

You can also find Ai Yazawa's classic *NANA* at the JCCC Library.



03 ŌOKU: THE INNER CHAMBERS 大奥

FUMI YOSHINAGA よしなが ふみ

JCCC LIBRARY COLLECTION

Ōoku: The Inner Chambers is a classic alternate-history manga by Fumi Yoshinaga. Set in Edo Castle's inner chambers, it imagines a world where a mysterious disease reduces the male population, shifting power to women and turning the Ōoku into a male harem serving the female shogun. The manga explores gender, power, class, love, and social systems, and has won major awards. It has also been adapted into live-action films, TV dramas, and a recent Netflix anime series.

『大奥』は、よしながふみによる歴史改変漫画の名作です。江戸城の大奥を舞台に、謎の疫病によって男性人口が減少し、女性が権力を担い、大奥が女性将軍に仕える男性たちの後宮となる世界を描いています。本作は、ジェンダー、権力、階級、愛、社会制度をテーマにしており、数々の主要な賞を受賞しました。また、実写映画、テレビドラマ、近年のNetflixアニメシリーズにも展開されています。





BE PART OF THE JCCC STORY

伝統、創造性、そして人との
つながりが集まる文化コミュニティの一員になりませんか。

Become part of a vibrant cultural community where tradition, creativity, and connection come together.

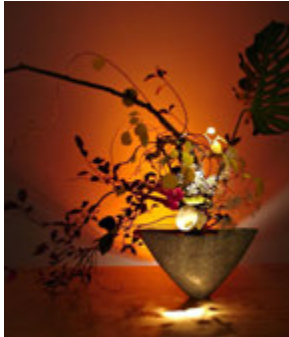
As a JCCC member, you have access to our newsletter exploring Japanese Canadian life, cultural memory, community stories, and contemporary perspectives. More than a membership, this is an invitation to belong — to take part in meaningful programs, celebrate seasonal traditions, and support a space where culture continues to grow across generations.

カナダ日系文化会館の会員になると、日本とカナダの暮らしや文化、コミュニティのストーリーや新しい視点をお届けするニュースレターをお受け取りいただけます。これは単なるメンバーシップではなく、「JCCCの一員になる」というご招待です。さまざまなプログラムや季節の行事への参加を通して、世代を超えて文化が受け継がれ、育まれていく場をともに支えていただけます。皆さまのご参加をお待ちしています。



Scan to apply

YOUR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS 会員特典



Exclusive Access to Cultural Classes

文化クラスへの特別アクセス

Explore chado, ikebana, kyudo, Japanese language, and many other programs rooted in Japanese tradition and contemporary practice.

茶道、いけばな、弓道、日本語学習など、日本の伝統と現代に根ざした多彩なプログラムをご用意しています。



Community of Clubs and Activities

クラブ・アクティビティのコミュニティ

Join groups such as Wynford Seniors, karaoke, Ping Pong, Sakura Kai dance group, and more.

ウィンフォードシニア、カラオケ、卓球、桜会ダンスグループなど、さまざまなクラブや活動にご参加いただけます。

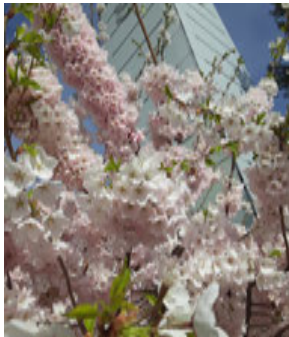


JCCC Gift Shop Discounts

JCCCギフトショップ割引

Enjoy 10% off when you purchase items at the JCCC gift shop.

JCCCギフトショップでのお買い物が10%割引でご利用いただけます。



Exclusive Member Experiences

会員限定の特典

Includes prime hanami seating and special opportunities throughout the year.

お花見の特別席をはじめ、年間を通じてさまざまな特別な機会をお楽しみいただけます。



Discounted Tickets for Festivals, Films, and Workshops

フェスティバル・映画・ワークショップの割引

Experience more of the JCCC's year-round offerings at member rates.

さまざまなJCCCの年間プログラムを会員料金でお楽しみいただけます。



Your Membership Makes a Difference

あなたの会員登録がコミュニティの力になります。

Above all, your membership helps sustain the JCCC's mission: building spaces of belonging, cultural continuity, and community in Toronto and beyond.

皆さまの会員登録は、JCCCが大切にしている「居場所づくり、文化の継承、そしてコミュニティづくり」を支えています

Thank you

TO OUR DONORS FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION!

Donations Made in Memoriam

In memory of Akiye "May" Takahashi
Ms. Susan Takahashi

In memory of Barbara & Michael Hagino
Mr. David Niiya

In memory of Bert Nasu
Ms. Leslie Brindley

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Mr. Ken Miyasaki

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In memory of Kazuyo Sato
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Kelly (Jim), Akemi and Kerwin Nakamura

In memory of Koji Kari
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In memory of Linda Nakao
Mr. James Maguire
Mr. Richard Maguire

In memory of Lydia Yaiko Yatabe
Ms. Kelly Nakamura & Mr. Jim Moir

In memory of Manabu Doi
Ms. Lauren Doi

In memory of Norah (Ella) Irving
Ms. Kay Nagao

In memory of San Murata
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Mr. Tamotsu Tamagi
Mr. Rick & Mrs. Kathy Tazumi

In memory of Tosh Sakura
Ms. JoAnne Sakura

In memory of Yukie Asa
Ms. Magdalena Tamura-Reid

The JCCC would also like to give special thanks to contributors who have donated more than \$500 in the past quarter:

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Mrs. Donna Yoshimatsu

We are grateful for all donations that the JCCC receives. Any amount makes a difference! The full list of donors for this quarter can be viewed on our website at:

https://jccc.on.ca/join-support/donate/Donor_Acknowledgement



This information is current as of May 15, 2026. Donations made after this date will be updated with the next issue. The deadline to have your donation recognized in our next issue will be August 15, 2026.



夏河を
越す水

手に草履

与謝蕪村

A summer river being
crossed
how pleasing
with sandals in my hands

Yosa Buson



