



Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute

日本文化センターニュース

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Hiroko Nagayama Hill

2008 年度 新年度SPEECH

Fumihiko Mori, JCC Director, excerpts from Oshogatsu speech

This year, I have enjoyed the New Year celebration three times already. The first time was at my mother's home in Japan with my brothers and sisters and their children on January 1st. The second time was at Mukogawa Women's University in Nishinomiya with faculty members on January 9. We broke a keg of *Sake* to celebrate. And the third time was at the Japanese Consulate in Seattle with the newly appointed Consul general of Japan, Mr. Mitsunori Nanba. So this is my 4th time to celebrate the New Year. How lucky I am!

How was the year 2007 for you? I hope everything worked out all right. For me, although it was my year last year—I am a boar—it didn't work out as well as I had expected. So I was more careful about celebrating the arrival of 2008. When I went back to Japan last month, I refreshed myself and made *Hatsumode*, which is the first visit paid to a shrine or temple on the New Year holidays. I went to a small local shrine with my family to pray for happiness and a long life and good luck.

JCC is one of the great potential power sources for promoting cultural diversity in Spokane. We have great plans for activities at JCC this year 2008 (I can hardly wait for them). But first I would like to share with you the following old saying. My mentor used to say, "*Shoshin wasuru bekarazu*" That means, "Remember your original intension " or "Be always as naïve as you were when you were a novice." So, I want to remember the JCC mission at the beginning of the year.

The JCC could facilitate the intercultural communication between Americans and Japanese. The JCC aims at appreciating the importance of culture from the standpoint that each one of us is a major player in culture. At the JCC, you as Americans who are interested can participate in activities about Japan and our students will join you to share their understanding and skills.

For the coming year we having some exciting activities that will happen. We have invited a Japanese paper doll making group from Nishinomiya to be here for part of Japan Week. I would like to thank the Spokane-Nishinomiya Society for helping us to bring the Japanese doll making group here to Spokane.



Fuji Musume from the Oyama Ningyo collection from Japan Foundation



Kaminingyo Paper Doll Display

We will become a recipient of a display from the Japan Foundation this spring. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 as a special organization under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote international cultural exchange. Their traveling doll exhibit is comprised of 70 dolls that are both traditional and contemporary.

I am sure the dolls in this exhibition will show people in Spokane many aspects of Japanese culture. It would be very unfair of me not to mention the previous JCC director, Michiko Takao. Without her passionate devotion to the Mukogawa Friendship Doll Program, this kind of (story continued on next page)



Katsura Kaishi

(Mori's speech continued)
exhibition would never materialized. We will be very happy to bring Katsura Kaishi-san to the JCC in April. Kaishi-san is now one of the most popular storytellers called Rakugoka in Japan.

Rakugo is a funny story usually told by a professional storyteller at a variety hall or on TV. He has been devoting himself to sharing Japanese humor through his Rakugo.

I am also planning to hold a language camp this summer for school children. As you can see, JCC is trying to do its best to promote not only cultural diversity in Spokane but greater intercultural understanding and growth. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Interests

Hina Masturi Monday, March 3, 2008

Traveling Doll Exhibit from the Japan Foundation Opens 4/10/2008

Japan Week Events April 19-26, 2008

Opening Celebration at Riverpark Square. Saturday, April 19, 2008—many activities to choose from!

Some activities involving JCC during Japan Week are:

- Family Festival Wednesday, April 23, in MFWI Commons from 3-5pm
- Sushi Class by Atsumi McCauley April 24 and May 1 at 6pm at JCC \$20/person.
- Kaminingyo Display and Workshops
- Katsura Kaishi, Rakugo
- Professor Jeff Hanes, University of Oregon, Lecture on modern Japan 4/22 7-9pm

For further details please check out our website at www.mfwi.org/jcc!

Arrival of Students

All 239 students have arrived at MFWI with classes that started on Monday, February 11, 2008. We have had all of our JCC orientations with the students and below is the first student group picture! If you are interested in becoming a



host family please contact MFWI at 509-328-2971!

Just In!

New books and magazines will arrive soon. JCC purchased over 30 books and magazines. Some examples are:

- “English of Japanese People” by Mark Peterson
- “Homeless High School Student” by Yu Tamura
- “Mariner’s Ichiro’s Messages” by Piar Publishing Company
- “Books about TOEIC” by Naoki Koike
- “Funeral History of Japan” by Seishun Shuppan Publishing Company

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