



Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute

日本文化センターニュース

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Japanese Cultural Center Newsletter

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Tea Ceremony

With much thanks to Denise Fujikawa, a qualified Urasenke School teacher, we were able to having tea ceremony at *Horaitei*, the tea ceremony room at MFWI on November 15 and 16, 2008.

It has been said that tea ceremony is no longer popular among young women these days. To our surprise, many of our students showed an interest. The number of participants was expected to be 15 due to a limited space of *Horaitei* but we ended up adding five more students. Some of the students were kind enough to come to help us to prepare.

Fujikawa-sensei taught us first basic manners to attend the tea ceremony in Assembly Hall and tea was served in *tatami* mat room, *Horaitei*.



Denise Fujikawa (front center) with MFWI students and volunteers.

Another tea ceremony was held for the general public, mainly for those who teach something about Japan at school. Four local volunteers and two student volunteers came to help us. Even with an expert teacher, this was a team effort and could not have been possible with the dedication and hard work of many students and local volunteers. It was quite an enjoyable and educational experience for us all. Fujikawa-sensei was extremely patient with us all and succeeded well in conveying the spirit of tea ceremony to us.

Some of the participants commented, “I have never thought of appreciating one of the traditional forms, tea ceremony in the US.” “I feel proud of having this unique and creative beauty of traditional culture. I want to attend tea ceremony

when I return to Japan.” “All and all really enjoyed myself and would love to do it again should the opportunity arise. Many thanks for including us.”

Nagomi

Earlier this year, Fumihiko Mori wanted to rename the large room at the JCC with our library, the large fireplace, the grand piano, and many couches. So during the spring semester he had a naming contest among our students.

The name, “*Nagomi*,” stood out among them. Then during the summer, Akemi Nishiyama, an MWU professor, sent JCC a wooden plaque with the new name.

On Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 12:30pm, there was a dedication ceremony for renaming room at the Japanese Cultural Center.



MFWI students and staff that attended Nagomi Dedication



Above: Abacus activity table

Bunka no Hi Celebration

The Japanese Cultural Center celebrated Bunka no Hi, Japan's Cultural Day, on November 4, 2008. We invited Spokane Junior Academy, Moran Prairie Elementary, and Grant Elementary school students. This year the format was changed to make it engaging for the age group that was invited.

With the assistance of the MFWI faculty and

students, we transformed the Commons into a festive atmosphere complete with many activity tables. All in all we had 18 stations where the MFWI students demonstrated crafts and assisted our guests in trying to learn the activities.

On top of all the activities we had a special opening performance that combined the efforts of Spokane Taiko and the MFWI Education students.



Above: "Sorani Bushi" demonstrated by Education students and Spokane Taiko
Below: Students using skills in chopstick activities

In addition, for this national holiday, JCC had some MFWI student volunteers showcase their *shodo*, calligraphy, and *ikebana*, flower arranging, at the downtown Bank of America.

Fall Folk Festival

JCC was able to have the MFWI student volunteers learn traditional Japanese dances for the Fall Folk Festival at Spokane Community College on November 8th. For some of the students it was more of a Japanese cultural experience as well! A



Two very helpful Resident Advisors, Laurel Gilmore (left) and Erin Frazier (right) helped teach dance.

couple of the students have not worn a *yukata* (summer cotton kimono) before so this was a great opportunity to learn something new.



Student's dance performance

With almost two hundred people in attendance the students made their performance debut. Once again we were fortunate to team up with Spokane Taiko who was able to intertwine their songs with our dance.



MUKOGAWA FORT WRIGHT INST.
JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER
4000 WEST RANDOLPH ROAD
SPOKANE, WA 99224-5279

Non-profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 777
Spokane, WA

M-F 10-5pm &
2nd/4th Saturdays 10-noon & by appt
Fumihiko Mori, Director
E-mail: jcc@mfwi.org

PH (509) 328-2971 ext 223
FAX (509) 325-6540
Candie Coker, Admin Assistant
web-<http://www.mfwi.org/jcc>