

# Nichibei News

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Heart of America Japan-America Society

2013

November-  
December  
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## President's Corner

It's hard to believe this is the last Nichibei News of 2013. JAS members have done so much to make our mission of furthering understanding between the peoples of Japan and the Greater Kansas City area by promoting social, cultural and educational exchanges a reality. Our all-volunteer organization has shown tremendous commitment to this mission in a number of ways through our festivals, programs, outreach activities and student exchanges. And that's just some of what we've done! Throughout all of it, we've supported each other, enjoyed each other's company, and made new friends along the way.

More recently, we were fortunate to have yet another successful Japan Festival. Thanks to Fran Lemery, Executive Director of the Greater KC Japan Festival, and his creative and hard-working committee. Thanks, too, to the many, many volunteers who put on the festival. We're excited that some of our newer members have been so engaged in several of our committees. It's always great to have fresh ideas and new talents.

Talk about talent! JAS members were treated to two thoughtful presentations by area high school students: our student ambassadors who visited Kurashiki, and Olathe high school students who visited the Sendai region of Japan as part of the Kizuna project. These students clearly had developed "kizuna" (or bonds) with everyone they met and with each other. Most inspiring!

JAS members will have an opportunity to be together a couple more times this year. I hope you'll join us for the annual meeting/potluck dinner/2014 board elections November 12 at Loose Park and the holiday open house December 8. More information about these events is included in this issue of the Nichibei News. Please note that we'll also review changes to the JAS bylaws and vote on them during our annual meeting (see article).

As Thanksgiving approaches, please know how thankful I am for all of you and all you do.

—Patty Woods, President

## JAS Member Annual Meeting November 12

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the Loose Park Garden Center. Members will vote for the 2014 board of directors and vote on changes to our bylaws.

As in years past, we ask that all members planning to attend bring something for everyone to enjoy. The main meat dish and beverages will be provided, but we would like to ask members to bring side dishes based on their last names. Japanese food is always appreciated!

**A-E:** Breads **F-M:** Potato/rice/pasta/casserole, etc.  
**N-S:** Salad/Vegetables **T-Z:** Desserts

You'll also have the chance to do some early holiday shopping at our "mini bazaar." You may pay with check, credit card or cash (exact change).

**Family and friends are always welcome!**

## JAS Holiday Open House Scheduled for Sunday, December 8

Thank you to Sachie Stroder for continuing her much appreciated tradition of hosting our yearly holiday open house. Please join us at Sachie's home from 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 8. Feel free to bring wine and appetizers. If you need directions, please call 816-803-1621 or write [hoa.japanamericasociety@gmail.com](mailto:hoa.japanamericasociety@gmail.com).

## Nichibei News editor needed for 2014!

JAS is looking for someone to create our member newsletter. This important role involves writing some articles, but primarily includes pulling together information from various sources to share with JAS members. Training and resources provided. Please contact Patty Woods, JAS President and Nichibei News editor, for more information or to volunteer. Email and phone info: [pttywoods@gmail.com](mailto:pttywoods@gmail.com) or 816-803-1621.

**Heart of America  
Japan-America  
Society**  
P.O. Box 22487  
KCMO, 64113

## Board of Directors

### President

*Patty Woods*

### 1st Vice President

*Ryan Grass*

### 2nd Vice President

*Natsuko Nishimune*

### Secretary

*Tracey Whitman*

### Treasurer

*Mickey Coalwell*

### Directors

*Kyle Rogler*

*John Schollenberger*

*Jun Shrout*

*Steve Woodsmall*

**The mission of the Heart of America Japan-America Society is to further understanding between the peoples of Japan and the Greater Kansas City area by promoting social, cultural and educational exchanges.**

The Heart of America Japan-America Society is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

## Nichibei Notes

**Our hearts go out** to JAS Vice President Ryan Grass and his family. Ryan's grandfather passed away recently.

**JAS needs 5 yen coins** for the necklaces we sell. If you are planning to go to Japan in the near future, please contact Pat Knott at [patricia8540@att.net](mailto:patricia8540@att.net).



**Changes to the JAS website** ([kcjas.org](http://kcjas.org)) are in the works. Watch for an email with information on how to log on. Watch for new functionality such as an e-newsletter and event registration. Our new database and website are made possible with a generous grant from the Japan-US Friendship Commission with support from NAJAS, the National Association of Japan-America Societies.

**Time to renew your membership!** 2014 is fast approaching, and with it an exciting new year. For the first time in HAJAS history we will now support online renewals at [www.kcjas.org](http://www.kcjas.org)! Want to get a head start? For assistance with logging on and renewing online, please contact us at [hoa.japanamericasociety@gmail.com](mailto:hoa.japanamericasociety@gmail.com).

**Congratulations to JAS member Susan Peoples!** Susan joined the International Visitor Council of Greater Kansas City (KCIVC) as a Program Associate this past June. Susan graduated from William Jewell with a degree in Organizational Communication and minor in Japanese Area Studies last spring. Susan has studied abroad in Japan and France.

## Student Ambassador Presentation Delights and Educates

One of the most influential and exciting things JAS members do is provide Japanese and American students the opportunity to visit another country.

JAS members were delighted to hear from the 2013 Student Ambassadors who visited Kurashiki this past summer. Our 2013 Student Ambassadors were Katie Conard, Tiffany Rutschman, Jensyn Ford, and Bianca Pacis. We heard stories of their adventures at the JAS meeting September 24. As in past years, their presentation included amazing photos, funny stories, and discussions of the fast and deep connections they made with their host families.

Watch the JAS website ([kcjas.org](http://kcjas.org)) for the Student Ambassadors' essays and the presentation slides. We'll be posting them on our site by December 1.



*2013 Student Ambassadors present on their trip to Kurashiki*

## Chouteau Elementary Students Learn about Japan

Thanks to Lydia Kanki, Pat Knott and Sachie Stroder for spending time with local students at Chouteau Elementary recently, sharing information about Japan's geography and customs. These JAS members are some of our most active outreach volunteers.



Pat Knott at Chouteau Elementary

Pat Knott, Sachie Stroder, Lydia Kanki at Chouteau Elementary

### Travel Abroad Opportunities (Sister Cities)

Did you know that JAS participates in Kansas City's Sister Cities organization? We've learned of some U.S. Department of State Study Abroad opportunities recently. Students and teachers can apply for study abroad experiences. See program names and links below for more information.

**The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad Program** [www.yes-abroad.org](http://www.yes-abroad.org)

**The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX)** [www.usagermanyscholarship.org](http://www.usagermanyscholarship.org)

**The American Youth Leadership Program** [www.exchanges.state.gov/us/program/youth-leadership-programs](http://www.exchanges.state.gov/us/program/youth-leadership-programs)

For more information on exchanges sponsored by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please visit [www.exchanges.state.gov](http://www.exchanges.state.gov).

## 2013 Japan Festival a Big Success!

The October 5 Greater Kansas City Japan Festival offered a number of different opportunities to promote and educate festival attendees about Japan and its culture. Total attendance for the festival was approximately 4,400, an increase from 2012. On the day of the festival, we had over 200 volunteers who performed many critical functions and assisted our attendees.

The Japan Festival is organized and implemented by a special committee of the Heart of America Japan-America Society. What many people don't realize is how many additional organizations come together to make the festival happen each year. Over 37 collaborating organizations and individuals contributed significantly to the planning, implementation and success of the festival.

A big "Domo arigato!" to all the volunteers who worked so hard and to the festival committee members for this year's successful event!

**Executive Director:** Francis Lemery

**JCCC Representative:** Tom Patterson

**Director of Performing Arts:** Dianne Daugherty

**Fundraising Chairperson:** Jim Kanki

**Treasurer:** Joyce Williams

**Committee Members:** Hiroko Bray, John Drakey, Dustin Dye, Kaori Dye, Mika Harmon, Christina Hoffman, Carolyn Kadel, Denny Kurogi, Koji Morimoto, Natsuko Nishimune, Carole Owsley, Sheilah Philip, Janet Redding, Patrick Redding, Hideko Schackmann, Alan Swarts, Yasuyoshi Ueki, Mayumi Wagner, Patty Woods, Tami Woodsmall, Yoshiko Yamanaka and Oki Yoshida.

**Honorary/Advisory Member:** Shunichi Fujishima, Japan

**Festival Art Designer:** Tadashi Isozaki

Mr. Isozaki created the beautiful Festival poster design, the front cover of the festival program and our postcard fliers. He also designed our festival T-shirt.

**Hold the date!** The 2014 Greater Kansas City Japan Festival will be held on Saturday, October 4, at the Johnson County Community College.



*Sumo fun at the festival*



*Attendees enjoying a good game*



*Mother and Daughter Cosplay Contest Winners*



*Yoko Hiraoka & Dianne Daugherty performing the Hawk's Song on the koto*

## JAS Members around Town

JAS members were recently spotted cleaning up our beautiful Japanese garden at Loose Park (thanks to everyone for your dedication!) and at Kato Sushi & Japanese Cuisine on NW Barry Road at the November dine-around.



*Lydia Kanki - garden clean-up*



*Fran Lemery and garden clean-up crew*



*Warren McAllen and Terry Kipper at Dine-around*



*Russ Amos and Jane Drury at Dine-around*

## October's JAS Meeting Focused on Kizuna Project Visit

JAS members were treated to an informative and moving presentation by Dianne Daugherty and students from Olathe high schools about their trip to Japan and the Sendai region with the Kizuna project. Students learned about the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear plant disaster and how survivors are rebuilding after these tragedies. The Kizuna project participants shared what they learned with JAS members and described their group and individual projects and how they were influenced by the wonderful people they met.

The project is an initiative sponsored by The Laurasian Institution in partnership with The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. Interested in reading more about the students' travels? Visit their blog at <http://olathekizuna.blogspot.com>.



*Dianne Daugherty and Olathe high school students present on their kizuna visit to Japan*

### Workshop Announced: "Working Effectively with Japanese Colleagues"

Sarah Apton from Japan Intercultural Consulting, will be offering a seminar November 19 at the Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard Overland Park KS 66211. It will be held from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Americans who work with Japanese usually have many questions, but no good place to get the answers. This seminar is a golden opportunity to get your questions answered by Dr. Apton, an expert who is highly skilled in explaining the intricacies of Japanese business and society.

The seminar will also feature explanations of proper Japanese etiquette for meals and social activities.

Here is a link to details and registration page for the course: <http://www.japanintercultural.com/en/events/default.aspx?eventid=187>

Read more about Dr. Apton at [http://www.japanintercultural.com/en/about/LA\\_SarahApton.aspx](http://www.japanintercultural.com/en/about/LA_SarahApton.aspx)

### 2014 JAS Board Nominations Made

The HAJAS nominating committee, led by Jim Kanki, has submitted this year's slate of Officers and Directors for the Heart of America Japan-America's 2014 Board. JAS members will vote on this slate during the November 12 meeting.

The 2014 slate of Officers and Directors is as follows:

President	Ms. Patty Woods
Vice President	Mr. Ryan Grass
Vice President	Ms. Natsuko Nishimune
Secretary	Ms. Tracey Whitman
Treasurer	Mr. Mickey Coalwell
Director	Mr. Kyle Rogler
Director	Mr. Stephen Woodsmall
Director	Mr. Patrick Redding
Director	TBD

In accordance with the HAJAS bylaws, the final Director position is appointed by the Board of Directors. This appointment cannot be made until after the 2014 Officers and Directors have been voted in at the November Annual Meeting.

Thanks go out to the Nominating Committee and to those JAS members who are serving on the 2013 board and who are willing to serve in 2014.

## Recipe

### Japanese pancake (Okonomiyaki)

Ingredients:	Batter:
7 oz thinly sliced pork (you can also use bacon) or shrimp	5 oz wheat flour
7 oz cabbage	3/5 cup water
Beni shouga to taste (red ginger—you can buy it at Oriental Supermarket)	1 cup milk
	4 eggs
	1/2 tsp salt
Vegetable oil, Chuno sauce, and Mayonnaise to taste	

### Directions

- 1) Cut the pork into 2" lengths, chop the cabbage.
- 2) Beat the eggs in a bowl, mix with flour, water, milk and salt to form a batter.
- 3) Blend the pork and cabbage into the batter. Add beni shouga and mix well.
- 4) Heat frying pan or hot plate with vegetable oil. Pour in the combined ingredients/batter, using a circular motion. Cook at medium heat for about 3 minutes.
- 5) When the bottom of the pancake is light brown, turn it over and cook for about 3 minutes. Then reduce heat to low, cook both sides for about another 3 minutes each.
- 6) Spread with chuno sauce and mayonnaise. Oishii!



## Bylaws Changes to Be Voted on in November 12 Meeting

The Heart of America Japan-America Society Board of Directors helps run our organization's current activities, but we also look to the future. Because bylaws are essentially the rules for how to govern the society, the Board of Directors has recently discussed changes needed to refine several bylaws to help the board operate more effectively.

The Board of Directors of the Heart of America Japan-America Society is recommending the following amendments to the Bylaws of the Society, for approval by the members of the Society at the general meeting on November 12, 2013.

1. Amending Article VII, Section 1, to provide that if the Board position of immediate past President of the Society cannot be filled because the immediate past President has been immediate past President for a year or longer, or the immediate past President

refuses or is otherwise unable to serve, then the Board may either (i) appoint another person to serve as the ninth member of the Board, or (ii) decide to leave that Board position unfilled, in which case the Board will consist of only eight members.

Section 1, with the recommended new language underlined, is as follows:

The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Society. It shall consist of the President, 1st Vice-president, 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society, as elected by the members of the Society, three (3) additional directors elected by the members of the Society, and the immediate past President of the Society; provided, the immediate past President shall serve on the Board of Directors, as immediate past President, only during the one (1) year immediately following that person's term as President of the Society; further provided, if the position of immediate past president on the Board of Directors cannot be filled because there is no eligible candidate, refusal of an eligible candidate to serve, or any other similar reason, then the newly elected Board may designate another person to serve as the 9th Director or may decide to leave that directorship unfilled. No person shall simultaneously hold more than one (1) position on the Board of Directors. No person shall serve on the Board of Directors for longer than six consecutive years; provided, this limitation shall not apply to a person serving on the Board of Directors as immediate past President of the Society. Any interim vacancy on the Board shall be filled by the Board itself.

2. Amending Article VII, Section 2, to provide that any decision of the Board must be by a majority of all Directors then in office (rather than by merely a majority of the Directors present at meeting of the Directors at which a quorum is present).

Section 2, with the recommended new language underlined, is as follows:

The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors. Any decision of the Board must be by majority vote of all Directors.

3. Adding a new Section 3 to Article VII to provide that the Board may hold meetings by telephone or other electronic means of communication.

Recommended new Section 3 is as follows:

One or more Directors may participate in a regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors by, or conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all Directors participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A Director participating in a meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting.

4. Renumbering (old) Section 3 of Article VII as (new) Section 4.

Interested in seeing the current by-laws? See page 7 of [http://kcjas.org/resources/Documents/NN\\_Sep-Oct\\_2012.pdf](http://kcjas.org/resources/Documents/NN_Sep-Oct_2012.pdf)

Please take the time to review the above amendments and let Patty Woods know if you have questions ([hoa.japanamericasociety@gmail.com](mailto:hoa.japanamericasociety@gmail.com) or 816-803-1621).

Heart of America  
**JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY**  
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Kansas City, MO 64113

**LABEL HERE**



## Events: November 2013 – February 2014

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If you have ideas or would like to write an article for the *Nichibei News*, email us at [hoa.japanamericasociety@gmail.com](mailto:hoa.japanamericasociety@gmail.com).

#### Websites:

[kcjas.org](http://kcjas.org)  
[kcjas.org/kcjapanfestival](http://kcjas.org/kcjapanfestival)  
[japancouncil.org](http://japancouncil.org)

**Find us on Facebook to get updates and see more photos!**

### **General Meeting: Elections and Pot Luck**

Tuesday, November 12, 7:00 p.m. Loose Park Garden Center

### **Holiday Open House**

Sunday, December 8, 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m., Home of Sachie Stroder

### **SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, February 2, 2014**

Japanese Film Festival, Alamo Draft House, KCMO