



## Midwest Japanese Language Students Speak Out

On March 23, a room full of spectators gathered to watch 41 contestants show off their Japanese language skills in the Japan Information Center's 16th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest.

The contest invites contestants in four categories to compete against each other, and against themselves, to see who has best mastered the difficult language. Category I contestants are elementary and junior-high school students. Category II is made up of high-school students who have studied Japanese for less

than three years. Category III includes high-school students with three or more years of

Japanese and college students and adults with less than one

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Participants and judges (front, L to R) Yoshinari Ishii, Keishi Uchiyama, Yasuko Watt (head judge), Nobuko Chikamatsu, Norihito Hashino, Jiro Maruhashi.

### *Sayonara...*

After three and a half years, Consul General Mitoji Yabunaka has returned to Japan. A farewell reception for the Consul General on April 9 proved the immense impact he has had on the people of the Midwest and their relationship with Japan.

As evidence of his dedication to education in the Midwest, principals from Langston Hughes Elementary and Murray Language Academy expressed gratitude for his service and sadness at his departure. Both schools offer Japanese language instruction as part of their regular curricula.

At Langston Hughes, Mr. Yabunaka started *Japan Day*, in which the entire school enjoys a day full of Japan-related activities and learning. This will mark the third year for the event.

When students at Murray Language Academy were disappointed that their trip to Japan had been cancelled due to the September 11 attacks, the Consul General arranged for a trip to the Japan Information Center. They enjoyed cultural demonstrations and a Japanese lunch.

During his tenure, Consul General Yabunaka also traveled to more than 20 universities in Illinois, Indi-

ana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, sharing his thoughts with students and educators on the ever-changing Japan-U.S. relationship.

Outside of education, Mr. Yabunaka was also instrumental in arranging for Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi to visit Chicago, and he received Prince and Princess Hitachi in Minnesota.

The Consul General's thoughts and reflections on his stay in Chicago are available in his farewell letter on the Consulate's website at [www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp](http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp).

## Indiana's Chesterton High School Wins National Japan Bowl in D.C.

On Saturday, March 30, 2002, the Chesterton High School Japan Bowl team from Chesterton, Indiana won the National Japan Bowl championship in Washington, D.C.

Japan Bowl is an academic competition for students of Japanese. Question topics include grammar, culture, kanji, proverbs, listen-

ing, and onomatopoeic expressions. The competition is sponsored by the Japan-America Society of Washington, DC.

Brett Norris, Ali Retson and Chesarae Wheeler represented Chesterton High School in the 2nd-year level competition. They defeated 29 teams in the preliminary rounds,

qualifying for the final round competition. Then, in a closely matched contest, CHS defeated Ocean Lakes High School of Virginia and Stuyvesant High School of New York City to win the national Japan Bowl championship.

The team received the first-place trophy from the Japanese ambassador to the United States, Mr. Ryozo Kato. After the awards ceremony, the team and their teachers, John Sparks and Kanako Goto, were invited to the Japanese embassy for a reception with the other teams. For winning the championship, the CHS team won an all-expenses-paid trip to Japan this summer.

Usually, only the 4th-year team wins a trip, but this year the 2nd- and 3rd-year teams won trips as well to honor the 10th anniversary of the competition. Other Midwest teams at the national competition were Franklin High School from Indiana; Apple Valley High School, Harding High School and Patrick Henry High School from Minnesota; and Madison West High School and Riverside High School from Wisconsin.



Row 1: CHS assistant Japanese teacher Kanako Goto, CHS Japanese teacher John Sparks, Chesarae Wheeler, Brett Norris and Ali Retson.  
Row 2: Third year winners: teacher and students from Punahou School Honolulu, Hawaii and Fourth Year winners: students and teacher from Lynbrook High School, San Jose, California

## Skokie Culture Fest Going on 12 Years

Organizers of the 12th Annual Skokie Festival of Cultures expect 27,000 people to attend the two-day celebration of cultural diversity.

Participants will begin their exploration of other cultures when they receive their "Passports to the World." This official guide to all the attractions includes performance schedules, recipes for various cultural cuisines, and a festival map. At the end of the festival, the passports will be stamped, providing a keepsake of the event.

Attractions will include two World Stages to showcase traditional ethnic performers, hands-on exhibits for children (such as origami, stories, games, and costumes),

cultural demonstrations including a Japanese tea ceremony, and a wide variety of food.

Get out to Skokie and support diversity!

**Date & Time** May 18, 11 am to 9 pm  
May 19, 11 am to 7 pm

**Place** Skokie Park District  
Oakton Park  
4701 Oakton  
Skokie IL 60076

**Cost** Free admission  
Free parking

**Info** 847-674-1500 x2171

## Program Invites Artists to Japan

The Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences (IAMAS) in Japan conducts an invitational program to support new and creative activities in which scientific knowledge and artistic sensibility are aesthetically combined.

One or two artists will be invited to spend six months in Japan from October 2002 to create and exhibit one work, to work with IAMAS students and faculty, and to participate in workshops for local residents and students.

The applications are due by the end of June. More information can be found on the IAMAS website at [www.iamas.ac.jp](http://www.iamas.ac.jp).

## Speech Contest

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year of Japanese. College students and adults studying Japanese for a year or more make up Category IV.

The Grand Prize this year went to Jun-kyo Seo from the University of Wisconsin-Madison for his speech, *Smell of Grandfather*. Mr. Seo received a round-trip ticket to Japan donated by Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. and a Japan Rail Pass donated by the Japan National Tourist Organization (JNTO).

The second big winner was Rita Chan from the University of Chicago. Her speech, *Geiko and Maiko*, earned her the Osaka Chicago Association Award, which consists of a round-trip ticket to Japan and a one-week homestay in Osaka donated by the Osaka Chicago Association.

First Place winners in each cate-

gory received a compact camera donated by Canon U.S.A., Inc. and a six-month subscription to *Japan Close-up* magazine donated by PHP.

**I:** Phillip Rosanova, InterCultura Montessori School, *My Stuffed Animal, Kuma-chan's Trip*; **II:** Kenton Knop, Arrowhead High School, *The Dream Mr. Miyazaki Gave Me*; **III:** Erin Popelka, UW-Madison, *Dangerous Beans*; **IV:** Joanne Lim, UW-Madison, *Japan and Environmental Protection*.

Second Place winners in each category received a CD player donated by Matsushita Electric Industrial Corporation, Ltd. and a six-month subscription to *Japan Close-up* magazine donated by PHP. **I:** Adeline Robinson, InterCultura Montessori School, *Horses*; **II:** Adam Otlewski, Indiana Academy, *My Cat*; **III:** Adam Laatz, UW-

Madison, *My Favorite Singer*; **IV:** Dorothy Taveras, North Central College, *Communication Style Difference*.

Third Place winners in each category received a \$100 Gift Certificate donated by Nissei Sangyo America, Ltd. and a six-month subscription to *Japan Close-up* magazine donated by PHP. **I:** Whitney Mayfield, Burriss Laboratory School, *My Japanese Trip*; **II:** Valerie Ross, University Laboratory High School, *Japanese Cooking*; **III:** Michelle Fan, Whitney Young High School, *Baby*; **IV:** Sin-Hwa Yoon, Indiana University Bloomington, *2002 Soccer World Cup*.

Japan Airlines Award winners received a clock donated by Japan Airlines Co., Ltd. **I:** Yuzuko Nakamura, University Laboratory High

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## JETRO Business Japanese Proficiency Test Measures Practical Usage

The Japan America Society of Chicago (JASC) will serve as the Secretariat for the Japan External Trade Organization's (JETRO) upcoming Business Japanese Proficiency test to be held on **Saturday, September 28, 2002** at the JETRO Chicago Office. The application deadline is **Wednesday, July 10, 2002**.

JETRO is a Japanese quasi-governmental organization that promotes trade and investment opportunities between Japan and other nations. Reflecting the international importance of the Japanese economy, interest in the Japanese language remains strong and international exchanges have assumed even greater importance. The number of those studying Japanese for business communications continues to increase. In response to the demand for the study of everyday business Japanese, JETRO established the first government authorized business Japanese proficiency test in 1996.

The test targets primarily business people whose first language is not Japanese. It has been designed to

objectively measure and evaluate the level of Business Japanese proficiency of non-Japanese nationals in a variety of circumstances. The proficiency examination places a greater emphasis on an ability to understand and utilize Japanese in practical business situations rather than on the traditional methods which focus on a knowledge of Japanese vocabulary and grammar.

The overall examination consists of two stages. The first (September 28) is based on listening and reading comprehension. Three levels of the test may be taken and applicants may sit for more than one level to ensure that their appropriate knowledge of Japanese is measured. Only those passing Level I are eligible to advance to the oral communications segment.

Those who pass both levels of the examination are expected to enhance their employment opportunities with Japanese corporations and/or American companies doing business with Japanese firms at home or abroad.

JETRO will directly inform the successful candidates of the details

for the second half of the test, the JETRO Oral Communication Test (JOCT). The JOCT will be administered by JETRO in Japan. It is generally offered a few months after the reading/listening test. The exact date is to be announced.

<b>Date</b>	July 10 ( registration) September 28 (test)
<b>Place</b>	JETRO Chicago Office 401 N. Michigan Ave. Suite 660 Chicago IL 60611
<b>Cost</b>	Level I \$50 Level II \$35 Level III \$35 Level I & II \$70 Level II & III \$60
<b>Info</b>	Contact the Japan America Society of Chicago 312-263-3049 jasc@us-japan.org

## Friday Noon Films Forty Minutes Late, But Free!

The Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago is hosting a "Friday Noon Film Series" showing Japanese movies.

The films actually start at 12:40 pm, but what do you expect for a free movie? Anyone is welcome to attend, and to bring a lunch to enjoy during the show.

The theme of the series is "Science Fiction in Japanese Film: Monsters, Mutants, and Machines." The remainder of the series includes:

- May 17: *Parasite Eve*
- May 24: *Perfect Blue*

**Date**      Fridays through May 24

**Time**        12:40 pm

**Place**        University of Chicago  
Judd Hall 302  
(59th and Kimbark)  
Chicago IL 60637

**Cost**         Free

**Info**         xaky@hotmail.com



## Japanese Gardener Comes to Anderson

Japanese garden buffs from throughout the Midwest will have a rare opportunity on May 18 & 19 at Anderson Gardens in Rockford IL to meet Douglas Roth, who publishes the Journal of Japanese Gardening.

On Saturday, May 18, Mr. Roth will talk about *The Nature-Inspired Gardens of Japan*, focusing on Japanese gardening techniques for evoking natural patterns in small spaces. He will contrast the American tendency to go out to visit nature with the Japanese tradition of incorporating the beauty of nature into their everyday lives by distilling it into small gardens beside their homes. He will also touch on related topics such as residential architecture, house-garden integration, ergonomics, and human sense perception.

Then, on Sunday, May 19, he will present a *Japanese Garden Stone-Setting Workshop*. While stone is an important element in Japanese gardening, it is so heavy that few gardeners have a chance to practice the art of stone-setting. So, for centuries, master gardeners have learned and honed their skills by using table-sized "tray landscapes" to create streams, waterfalls, stairways, paths, retaining walls, and other features. Each tray landscape is different, and each person will be

able to create several landscapes. Attendance for this workshop is limited to 10 people.

Anderson Japanese Gardens began in 1978 as the passionate hobby of industrialist John Anderson and his wife, Linda. It was designed by Hoichi Kurisu, who also designed the Japanese garden in Portland, Oregon. The Andersons gave the garden to the public in 1998 and it currently hosts 25,000 visitors each year.

Anderson Gardens is open May through October. Contact them for days and hours of operation.

**Date & Time**    May 18 (lecture)  
2 to 4 pm

May 19 (workshop)  
9 am to 5 pm

**Place**        Anderson Gardens  
318 Spring Creek Rd.  
Rockford IL 61107

**Cost**         Lecture: \$24  
Workshop: \$129 (limited  
to 10 participants)

**Info**         815-229-9390  
info@andersongardens.org  
www.andersongardens.org



This website allows you search for books in print using *romaji* (English alphabetic characters). The results are then displayed as image files. So, you don't have to have any special fonts or software to search or view results.



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[www.kokken.go.jp/public/jibooks.html](http://www.kokken.go.jp/public/jibooks.html)

## Grant Applications Now Available from JCCC

The JCCC Foundation of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago is currently distributing guidelines for the Foundation's 2002 Student Development and Achievement Grants. The JCCC Foundation rewards approximately \$100,000 each year through these education-focused grants, and recipient organizations may receive up to \$5,000.

Schools and non-profit organizations located in the Illinois counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake,

McHenry and Will are eligible to apply. The deadline for proposals is **Friday, July 12, 2002**, and grants will be awarded in late October. Proposed projects need not be Japan-related; any initiative that promises to have a direct impact on students will be considered.

For guidelines or more information, please contact Robin Stahl, Public Relations Coordinator, by phone at **312-332-6199 x26** or by e-mail at **robin@jccc-chi.org**.

## Indy Museum Offers Art History Lectures

The Indianapolis Museum of Art is offering a course entitled *Scholars and Samurai: The Arts of China and Japan* to provide an introduction to mainland Chinese and Japanese art history.

During lectures and gallery visits, Elizabeth Kuebler-Wolf, doctoral candidate at Indiana University Bloomington, will discuss paintings, woodblock prints, bronzes, ceramics, and folding screens. She will focus on how such works were created and used in their culture of origin.

Registration is required by Thursday, **May 30**.

**Date** Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27  
Registration by May 30

**Time** 5:30 to 7:30 pm

**Place** DeBoest Lecture Hall  
Indianapolis Museum of Art  
1200 W. 38th St.  
Indianapolis IN 46208

**Cost** \$56 members  
\$72 non-members  
\$64 students & seniors

**Info** 317-923-1331

## Calligraphy Competition Invites Scribes

# 全米日本書道公募展

The Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC) in Los Angeles is announcing the "Seventh Japanese Calligraphy Competition in America." Due to the continued warm response the competition received last year, the organizers are again seeking submissions from practitioners of calligraphy. Winning entries will be exhibited at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles.

The deadline for entries is **June 20, 2002**. For more information or to request an application form, contact the JACCC by phone at **213-628-2725** or by writing to...

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center  
244 S. San Pedro St., Suite 505  
Los Angeles CA 90012

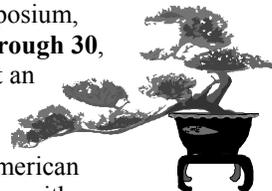
## Milwaukee Bonsai Society Hosts 2002 National Symposium

The *bonsai* exhibit at the American Bonsai Society 2002 National Symposium,

**June 27 through 30**,

will present an exhibit of

Outstanding American Bonsai along with many specialty vendors offering bonsai materials, pots, tools, and other supplies suitable for experts or beginners. Whether you are an avid bonsai enthusiast or just curious about the art, the Symposium is a great place to learn more, or to get started on the hobby yourself.



Although the art of bonsai originated in the Far East, the artists of North America have applied their creativity and ingenuity with such enthusiasm that they have been recognized as outstanding artists in this internationally recognized art form. Work by these inventive artists will be on display at this symposium.

The main exhibit and vendor areas are free to the public. To attend demonstrations, workshops, and other "extras," however, registration is required. For more information or a registration form, contact the Milwaukee Bonsai Society at **414-299-9229** or visit the Symposium website at

[www.absbonsai.org](http://www.absbonsai.org).

**Date & Time** June 27, Noon to 5 pm  
June 28, 9 am to 5 pm  
June 29, 9 am to 5 pm

**Place** Four Points Sheraton  
Hotel—Airport  
4747 S. Howell Ave.  
Milwaukee WI

**Cost** Exhibit and vendor areas  
are FREE to the public

**Info** 414-299-9229

## Japan Journal Now Online at New Website

The Japan Information Center website has an all-new look, organization, and even location. The *Japan Journal* is now available on the website, as are certain forms and a list of free materials available to the public.

The flier insert in this issue of the *Japan Journal* hints at the new design, but take a look online and let us know what you think. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

[www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic.html](http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic.html)

### Speech Contest (Continued from page 3)

School, *Inutaro*; **II**: Mary Kathryn Barnes, Indiana Academy, *Enjoy life!*; **IV**: John Park, U. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, *Let's Make Rice in a Pot*.

Extra Effort Award winners received Japanese books donated by the Japan Forum. **I**: Sarah Christofersen, Murray Language Academy, *Being an Older Sister*; **II**: Naomi Schrock, Northside College Preparatory School, *Culture Shock*; **III**: Julia Yoon Jung, Eastview High School, *Terrorism*; **IV**: Rob Newcomb, U. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, *The Controversy over Princess Aiko*.

Bonjinsha Award winners received a Japanese Dictionary donated by Bonjinsha. **I**: Rebecca Ray, Murray Language Academy, *Imitation*; **II**: Gerry Shih, University Laboratory High School, *Karate*; **III**: Zach Simon, Franklin Community High School, *Japan and Forgetting Things*; **IV**: Joel Dumes, Miami University, *In the Future...*

City of Osaka Award winners received a T-shirt from Osaka. **I**: Emma Kumagai, BTC Japanese School, *Suikawari*; **II**: Alisa Modica, University Laboratory High School, *What is the Meaning of a Nightmare?*; **III**: Jessica Drobka, Wauwatosha East High School, *My Little Brother*; **IV**: Otilia Wingert, DePaul University, *Image of Women*.

Chicago Shimpō Award winners received a one-year subscription to the Chicago Shimpō Newspaper donated by the Chicago Shimpō. **II**: Emily Climer, University Laboratory High School, *I Run*; **IV**: Thomas Williams, Southern Illinois Univ. at Carbondale, *Why Am I Studying Japanese?*

The Japan Forum Award winner received an illustrated Encyclopedia donated by Japan Forum. **IV**: Douglas Richard, U. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, *College Tuition*.

Congratulations to all the participants in this year's contest, and thank you to all the judges and donors without whom the speech contest would not be possible.

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS...

- Chicago Botanic Gardens will once again host the *Japan Festival* this year. The event is scheduled for **Saturday, June 8** and **Sunday, June 9**. Stay posted for more information.
- The deadline to register for the 11th Japan-America Grassroots Summit in Hiroshima, Japan is **July 15, 2002**. For more information, email Paul Maruyama at [pmaruyama@earthlink.net](mailto:pmaruyama@earthlink.net) or call **719-266-5625**.

# JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER

[www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic.html](http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic.html)

The Japan Information Center (JIC) is the educational and cultural branch of the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago. Established in 1978, the JIC aims to promote knowledge of Japan in our four-state jurisdiction of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

### SERVICES

The JIC distributes Japan-related materials; maintains a lending library of books, videos, films, and slides; answers inquiries; and sponsors lectures, concerts, art exhibits and other cultural events related to Japan.

### BUSINESS HOURS

9:15 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday

*We are open until 7 pm every Thursday.*

The office is closed on most American holidays and between December 29 and January 3 (Japanese year-end and New Year holidays).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### JAPAN JOURNAL

*If you would like to subscribe or submit an article or event for a future issue, please contact editor Chip Meyer at (312) 280-0431 or [jicchip@aol.com](mailto:jicchip@aol.com). We review all submissions.*

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