

Japan-America Society of Indiana

2005 Programs



The Japan-America Society of Indiana is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization of businesses, educational institutions, individuals, and students. Its mission is to serve as a bridge of friendship and cooperation between the people of Indiana and Japan. The Society is dedicated to strengthening public forum for cultural and educational exchange, strengthening ties, and fostering mutual understanding among Japanese and Hoosiers.



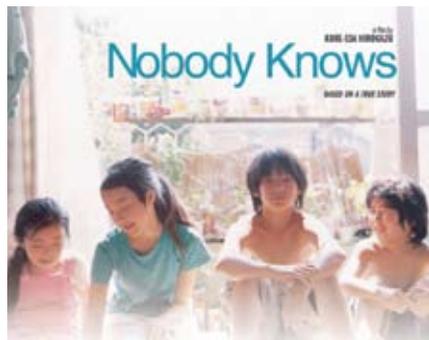
January 21

Indiana Japan Chamber Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Indiana Japan Chamber featured Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Hidetaro Suzuki and Zeyda Ruga Suzuki, pianist, arranged with support from the Japan-America Society of Indiana.

March 1

"Nobody Knows" Film Preview at the Castleton Arts Cinema



JASI presented a special members' screening of the Japanese film, "Nobody Knows," based on the true story of four siblings who were abandoned by their mother. Yuya Yagira won the Best Actor Award at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival for his portrayal of 12-year old Akira. The film was the official Japanese entry for the 2004 Academy Awards.

March 5

Tsunami Benefit Concert

JASI joined forces with a consortium of performing arts groups led by Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Hidetaro Suzuki in organizing the "Tsunami Benefit Concert" at the Hilbert Circle Theatre, Indianapolis. In the wake of the catastrophic tragedy resulting from the tsunami that flooded Southeast Asia, Hidetaro Suzuki called together arts and international organizations in the community to create the charity concert. The moving event featured performances by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Children's Choir, Dance Kaleidoscope and vocalists Brenda Williams and Shannon Forsell.

March 8

Hospitality Dinner with Representatives of the Japan-U.S. Midwest Association

Directors of the JASI Board joined with Indiana Secretary of Commerce Pat Miller and representatives of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation in hosting former Ambassador Yoshio Karita, Consul General of Japan Yutaka Yoshizawa, and representatives of Kikkoman Corporation, Japan, at the Columbia Club to initiate the planning for the 38th Annual Japan-US Midwest Conference to be hosted in Indiana in 2006.

March 9th

KODO at Clowes Memorial Hall, Butler University, Indianapolis



JASI members flocked to the exhilarating performance of KODO, the world-renowned taiko drum group. The JASI office arranged for a special discounted seating block for members.

March 23

JETRO/Deloitte and Touche Tax Seminar

The Japan-America Society of Indiana presented a seminar in Japanese on U.S. tax law in partnership with JETRO-Chicago and Deloitte and Touche. The seminar was held at the Hyatt Regency, in Indianapolis, with over 60 Japanese executives in attendance.

March 12th -May 8th

"Five Friends from Japan" Exhibit



The JASI staff provided cultural consultation and program development to the Children's Museum of Indianapolis for the touring exhibit of "Five Friends from Japan." The exhibit provided a view of contemporary Japanese life through the eyes of five children by exploring a Japanese elementary school classroom, a typical child's bedroom, living room, tatami room, tofu shop and farmyard. The exhibit helped communicate that the personalities of Japanese children are diverse and contemporary, and that they live in a country where traditional values coexist with an appreciation for modern international culture.

April 16th

Jennings County Foundation Annual Dinner "Hanami", North Vernon

JASI provided support to the Jennings County Foundation in the planning of its annual dinner featuring the country of Japan as its theme. Entertainment was provided by the Indianapolis Minyo Dancers, Inc., followed by a D.J. dance in which the Minyo dancers also displayed their versatility by dancing to old disco tunes.

April 17th

"Celebrating Japanese Culture" Festival

JASI co-presented with the Children's Museum of Indianapolis a one-day festival featuring the arts, music and culture of Japan. Hands-on activities included kite-making, kimono-try-on, ikebana, calligraphy, sumo cut-out photos and an anime and manga corner. The festival featured performances by the Koto and Shakuhachi Ensemble comprised of the families of Taisuke Toyono and Masafumi Minami, as well as solo koto performances by Chiharu Yarling. Adding to the entertainment were the folk dances of the Indianapolis Minyo Dancers and kendo demonstrations by Shunsuke Akagi. A special highlight of the event was the artistry and humor of strolling performer Masaji Terasawa, the Candyman from Epcot Center.

Volunteers included: Ryan Bell, Kyoko Phillips, Kyoko Fujioka, Hisako Ishii, David Leszczynski, Greg Moore, Masafumi Minami, Kinya Nagano, Ritsuko Nagano, Tsuyako Noah, Yoshiko Osanai, Taeko Peace, Shoko Schutte, Michiko Sese, Keiko Sese, Keiko Shima, Mayumi Takizawa, Chiharu Yarling, Tim Yarling.

May 11

Buffalo Trace Council Boy Scouts of America, Evansville

JASI provided support to the 2005 Distinguished Citizen Award Banquet honoring Seizo Okamoto, President, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana.

May 7

The Heart of Gold Ball and the American Heart Association

The JASI Staff provided cultural consultation and promotional support to the American Heart Association's annual fundraiser which featured the theme of "Japan."

June 14th

"Annual Gala" of the Japan-America Society of Indiana



JASI's 2005 "Annual Gala" featured the Governor of the State of Indiana, Mitch Daniels, Jr., Indianapolis Colts President Bill Polian, Consul General of Japan Yutaka Yoshizawa, and the Davis Taiko Ensemble from Dublin, Ohio. The presenting sponsor of the gala was Eli Lilly and Company and it was attended by over 400 members and guests. A special video tribute was presented in honor of Mitchell E. Daniels, Sr., the Governor's father, who was the founding executive director of the Japan-America





Society of Indiana. The theme of the gala was "Samidare" recalling the rainy season in Japan in June, with Japanese traditional red umbrellas hanging throughout the ballroom. The gala is the largest and most prestigious event in Indiana for Japanese and American community and business leaders.



July-August

State of Indiana Mission to Japan



From July 30 to August 7, Governor Daniels led the largest overseas trade and investment mission in Indiana history. The Governor was joined by 77 delegates from around the state, with 6 representatives from the state Legislature, 3 university leaders, 7 mayors, 23 business leaders and 25 community leaders. The goals for the mission were to strengthen the state's relationship with Japanese partners, express appreciation



for their investment in Indiana, and create new opportunities for Hoosier workers. The "Friends of Indiana" reception in Tokyo was one of the largest attended, with many Japanese companies representatives who had lived in Indiana as well as representatives of potential investor companies. The Governor also established new business, educational and cultural ties with Indiana's sister-state, Tochigi Prefecture. The timing of the visit coincided with the pre-season exhibition game of the Indianapolis Colts at Tokyo Dome which the Indiana delegates enjoyed.



JASI Executive Director Theresa Kulczak played a key role in advising the Indiana Economic Development Corporation in the planning of the mission and in providing protocol orientations to the Governor and mission delegates. The JASI office also assisted in the planning of the Tokyo seminar, which many of the delegates said was the finest presentation ever conducted on the benefits of investing in Indiana. The seminar featured Seizo Okamoto (Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana), Mitsufumi Matsumoto (Mitsui & Co.), Yasuhiro Kumaki (Nachi Fujikoshu Corp.), and Hideyuki Kawashima (MJ Insurance), who spoke about their experiences in Indiana and why Indiana was a good place to do business. The JASI office also served



as a liaison in the planning of "Indiana Day" at the Aichi World Expo, with support from Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana.

Prior to the state itinerary, Theresa Kulczak joined the Honorable Nancy Michael, Mayor of Greencastle, along with representatives of Greencastle/Putnam County Development Center, Lafayette-West Lafayette Economic Development Corporation, and Cinery/PSI in visiting Ota City, Gunma Prefecture and the headquarters of Fuji Heavy Industries, Heartland Automotive, and Chiyoda Manufacturing.

September 11 -13

37th Annual Joint Meeting of the Midwest-U.S. Japan Association and the Japan Midwest Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Directors of the JASI Board and Executive Director Theresa Kulczak joined Hoosier business and government leaders, including Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and Secretary of State Pat Miller, at the annual conference attended which was attended by 350 business and government leaders from Japan and the Midwest.

September 25

16th Annual Golf Classic presented by JASI and the IJC at the Harrison Lake Country Club, Columbus.



The title sponsors were Fifth Third Bank, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, and Northwest Airlines, and over 150 golfers competed in the scramble tournament. With a heavy downfall of rain the entire day, only two golfers were absent and the players demonstrated their endurance and enthusiasm by completing an entire day of play in what most would have considered a rainout.

October 15

HealthNet "Grand Bazaar"

The Westin Hotel, Indianapolis, was transformed into a Japanese celebration for the 14th annual Grand Bazaar fund-raiser. The event was produced to benefit HealthNet Community Health Centers, Clarion Health Partners. HealthNet provides affordable health care for 35,000 Indianapolis residents each year who have little or no health insurance and limited means to pay for health care. Deputy Consul General Hachiro Ishida and Mrs. Ishida of the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago were honored guests. Entertainment was provided by the St. Louis Osuwa Taiko Drummers. JASI dedicated over a year of staff and volunteer time to support the charity event.



October 20

"The Japan-U.S. Partnership: Its Significance in the Global Context"



A lecture by the Honorable Yutaka Yoshizawa, Consul General of Japan at Chicago, was presented as part of the annual series of the Franciscan Center for Global Studies at Marian College. The lecture program and wine reception were cosponsored by the Japan-America Society of Indiana and the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research.

October 28

"Our House: Japan" at Kidscommons, Columbus



The Japan-America Society of Indiana served as a bridge and facilitator between the staff of new Kidscommons children's museum and the Japanese corporate community in Columbus to build "Our House: Japan", an exhibit in the newly-opened museum in Columbus. "Our House" is a featured exhibit area showcasing the home environment and the culture of another country. Through the



guidance of JASI, the Columbus Japanese Business Association organized a fundraising campaign as well as a building committee to help build and furnish a "Japanese home" inside of the museum. Following the grand opening of the museum, the

Japanese companies then organized a year-long series of cultural programs created by families of Japanese companies in the area. Originally, the Kidscommons staff planned that the theme country would change on a yearly basis, but the Japan house and its programming proved so successful that it was planned for "Our House" to feature Japan for a second year.

December 19th

"Memoirs of a Geisha" Film Preview at the Keystone Arts Cinema



The Japan-America Society of Indiana presented the exclusive Indiana premiere of the Academy Award winning film, "Memoirs of a Geisha" at the newly-opened Keystone Arts Cinema on December. Over 200 members and guests attended the premiere which opened with a Holiday Reception catered by Ocean World Restaurant.

Information Services

The Society's office serves as an information clearinghouse for Japan-related resources in Indiana. The office fields questions regarding Japan and Japanese culture from Americans and provides resources for additional inquiry. JASI's bilingual staff provides personal support to Japanese individuals, family members, and executives, and responds in Japanese to requests for assistance, practical living information, and educational information.

Member consultation

The JASI staff and directors of the Board provide customized briefings and group presentations on Japanese protocol, etiquette, travel to Japan and guidance for doing business with the Japanese.

Bureau of Motor Vehicles interpreter recruitment and Japanese policy bulletins

JASI monitors changes in BMV policies that may affect the Japanese community in Indiana and issues Bulletins to its members informing them of the latest developments. JASI also maintains a database of authorized BMV interpreters who are qualified to assist individuals in taking the written test for an Indiana Driver's license.

Japanese Language Program

For the past fifteen years JASI has offered one of the largest programs of Japanese language classes for the central Indiana area. The classes are designed to meet community interest and focus on the students' speaking, listening, reading and writing abilities. Various aspects of contemporary Japanese culture supplement the courses taught by Mrs. Fumiko Sato.

Employment Referrals, translation and interpreting referrals.

Corporate benefits include the availability of in-house translation and interpretation services, and referral to independent vendors. The JASI office accepts calls from the public and from member companies for translators and interpreters on a per-project basis.

The Japan-America Society of Indiana is not an employment agency; however, through our network of members, JASI occasionally facilitates employment connections..

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