

JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF INDIANA

2007 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 providing a forum for cultural and educational exchange, strengthening ties, and fostering mutual understanding among Japanese and Hoosiers.

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January 11

Franklin Sister City Student Visit

This was the first visit to the U.S. for twelve junior high and high school students from Kuji City, Japan, to its sister city -- Franklin, Indiana. JASI supported the visit by organizing travel, receptions, and interpreting services.

January 19

Antique Japanese Flower Baskets from the Collection of James and Noriko Keating



The exhibit at The Art Museum of Greater Lafayette showcased over 60 beautiful, handcrafted antique Japanese baskets collected by JASI members James and Noriko Keating.

January 21

Indiana Japan Chamber Nenjisoukai

Annual Meeting of the IJC with musical entertainment from the Ball State University Jazz Band coordinated by the Japan-America Society of Indiana.

January 26

JASI New Year's Mochitsuki Shinnenkai



The beautiful Artsgarden in downtown Indianapolis provided the perfect setting for this New Year's party, which featured *mochi*-pounding and karaoke singing, homemade rice cakes (*mochi*), *sake* tasting, traditional tea ceremonies, and kids' games.



January 30-31

Tochigi "Brex" Basketball Team



"Brex" is the name of Tochigi Prefecture's first professional basketball team. Inspired by Indiana's professional team, The Pacers, the sports management team from Japan visited Indianapolis to learn more about the Pacers and to develop a cooperative relationship. JASI hosted the Brex managers and facilitated meetings with the Pacers' management.

February 20

"Inside-Outside Japan"



JASI lecture co-hosted by the World Trade Club of Indiana, featuring noted Japan expert and author Tim Clark, and Takashi Tsuchiya, Chief Executive Director of JETRO Chicago. The program explored Japan's economy, its relationship with the Midwest, and how innovative American business models are meeting the needs of Japanese consumers.

March 7

"Leadership Seminar for Japanese Executives"

Nagamori Tsutsumi, Business Consultants Network in New York, presented the seminar to help Japanese executives assess their personal leadership styles. The program included a special talk by Seizo Okamoto, former chairman of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, on his extensive management experience in the U.S.

March 7

"Farewell and Yoroshiku Dinner" for Seizo Okamoto



JASI hosted the special dinner to say thank you to Seizo Okamoto, Fmr. Chairman of Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana and long time friend and supporter of JASI. The dinner, held at The Westin Indianapolis, included a performance by Dance Kaleidoscope.

March 20

"Foreign Currency Exchange Seminar"

An informative seminar conducted in Japanese by Toru Sasaki, Executive Director, Chief Strategist, JPMorgan Chase Bank, Tokyo, with support from JASI.

March

Southern District Rotary Exchange

Group team members from the Tochigi Rotary Club visited several destinations in Southern Indiana for four weeks in the spring. The visit of Japanese Rotarians was followed by a one-month visit of five representatives from Southern Indiana District Rotary to Tochigi Prefecture. JASI supported the two exchanges by arranging for company visits and hospitality meals, and by providing translations and travel and logistical consultation.

March / April

Learning to Give Philanthropy Exchange

JASI assisted IUPUI's Center on Philanthropy in organizing this unique exchange that included home-stays, philanthropy projects, and school partnerships with Cathedral High School and University High School. The goal of the exchange was to involve Japanese and American students working together to better understand philanthropy and to develop projects to benefit the Indianapolis community.

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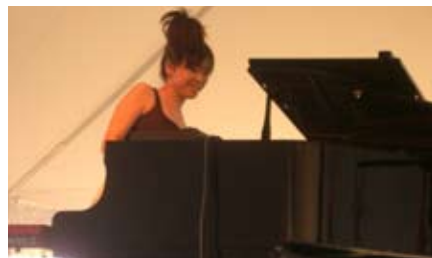
Spring

Japanese Language Program

JASI's Japanese classes, taught by Fumiko Sato, are designed to meet community interest and focus on speaking, listening and Japanese culture.

June 15

Indy Jazz Fest with Japanese Jazz Musician "Hiromi"



The 2007 Indy Jazz Fest showcased 'Women of Jazz' which featured internationally renowned jazz pianist Hiromi. JASI supported The American Pianists Association in promoting the event to the Japanese community state wide.

June 19

JASI Annual Gala



The 2007 event celebrated the 20th Anniversary of Subaru of Indiana Automotive and featured over 450 guests, with support from Presenting Sponsor Duke Energy Indiana. The keynote speaker was the Hon. John M. Mutz, Chairman, Lumina Foundation for Education, Fmr. Lieutenant Governor of Indiana and Fmr. Vice Chairman of Cinergy/PSI, now Duke Energy. Additional speakers included the Hon. Hachiro Ishida, Deputy Consul General of Japan, and Tom Easterday,



Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel, Subaru of Indiana Automotive, Inc., as well as a welcome toast by the Hon. Becky Skillman, Lieutenant Governor of The State of Indiana. "Bridge of Friendship Awards" were presented to Former Lt. Governor John Mutz, Mr. Hiromi Hemuki, Director, State of Indiana - Japan Office., and Michiko Selby, an original JASI volunteer.

June 22-28

"Sporting Words" Poet Visit

JASI supported this annual meeting of American Poets' Laureate by arranging the visit of the Japanese poet Kae Morii from Japan to Indianapolis. "Sporting Words, a Gathering of Poets Laureate Sporting Words" was sponsored by the Indiana Arts Commission.

August 5

Bon-Odori Japanese Dance Festival

JASI annually supports the Bon-Odori Festival sponsored by Ocean World Restaurant in Indianapolis. The festival, held for many years, provides a great occasion for Japanese and Americans to celebrate the summer spirit of Japan.

September 29-30

Sendai Kite Club Program



Eight kite-makers from Sendai, Japan, traveled to Indiana to give kite-making workshops at The Children's Museum of Indianapolis and at Kidscommons children's museum in Columbus, Indiana. They were hosted by local artist and JASI member Shoko Schutte. The Sendai Kite Club brought with them traditional Japanese kite-making materials for hundreds of children and gave a kite-flying demo in Columbus.

September 30

17th Annual Golf Classic



Presented by JASI and the Indiana Japan Chamber at the Brickyard Crossing at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. The scramble tournament was sponsored by Fifth Third Bank, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, and Northwest Airlines. Glorious weather and the challenge of playing on a premiere private course made this event was one of the best in the history of the tournament!

October 19

Japan Caravan Speaker Series: "Japan-China-U.S. Looking Ahead: East Asia's Political and Economic Future"



The Society served as the anchor organization for the three-state tour of the Japan Caravan featuring speakers from the Embassy of Japan, Keidanren, and NTT Corporation. JASI brought the program to two locations in central Indiana, co-hosted in Indianapolis by the law firm of Ice Miller, and in Muncie by Energize ECI and Ball State University.

November 8

Antique Japanese Bamboo Baskets

Hosted by the Asian Art Society of the Indianapolis Museum of Art with support from JASI. Mr. James Keating gave a slide presentation of antique handmade bamboo baskets from his collection.

November 8

Movie Screening of "Midnight Sun" (Taiyo no Uta)

Together with the Japan Information Center at the Japanese Consulate in Chicago, JASI hosted a showing of this popular contemporary film at the Historic Artcraft Theater in Franklin, Indiana.

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November 13

JASI Corporate Know-How Series: Michigan State Tax Seminar

Presented by Pricewaterhouse Coopers, the seminar explained the new Michigan State tax laws and how they will affect Indiana businesses.

November 15-18

International Festival of Indiana



The Japan-America Society of Indiana was pleased to host an interactive Japan culture booth once again at this year's annual festival. Japanese volunteers created handmade origami greetings cards and Christmas tree ornaments covered with Japanese rice paper.



November 16

Prime Minister's "Round Table"



Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda held a "Roundtable on Japan-U.S. Exchange" in Washington D.C., which was the first time that a Japanese Prime Minister had convened a meeting for the purpose of discussing Japan-U.S. exchanges. Theresa Kulczak, JASI's Executive Director, was invited as the Midwest's representative. She also had the honor of making an opening statement on cultural and grassroots exchange. The U.S. invitees represented leading think tanks, academic and cultural institutions which have a focus on the Japan-U.S. relationship.

November 17

Fifth Third Bank Personal Banking Seminar

JASI was pleased to support this special seminar, conducted in Japanese, to impart basic information and knowledge of the U.S. banking system to members of the local Japanese community.

November 28

Southeast Indiana Automotive Expo



The first annual expo was organized by the Greensburg Chamber of Commerce, Greensburg Decatur County Economic Development Corporation and JASI. It featured industry booths and was attended by over 600 business and community representatives. JASI hosted the seminar, "The Nuts and Bolts of Japanese Supplier Relationships" given by Dr. Rena Pomaville, President of Tsunagari Services, Inc. The keynote luncheon speaker was Dr. Kim Hill of the Center for Automotive Research, who spoke about current trends and predictions for the auto industry.



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.

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.

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.

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.

Japan-America Society of Indiana

39 West Jackson Place, Suite 50, Indianapolis, Indiana 46225
Phone: (317) 635-0123 • Fax: (317) 635-1452 • www.japanindiana.org