

## JAST-WEST News Letter 14 (8/18/2014)



JAPAN-AMERICA  
SOCIETY OF  
TENNESSEE, INC.

### Thank you for your interest in Japan and Japanese culture!

**Welcome** to the August 2014 edition of the JAST-West newsletter. We are pleased to share with you some information about several Japanese cultural events taking place in Memphis and the Mid-South area.

#### ❖ Upcoming Programs

\* **Japanese Festival:** The Memphis Botanic Garden (MBG), the University of Memphis (U of M), and Japan-America Society of Tennessee West Center at the University of Memphis (JAST-West) will host a Japanese Festival on September 12 and 13 at the Memphis Botanic Garden.

← **MBG:** 750 Cherry Rd Memphis, TN 38117 (901) 576-4100  
<http://www.memphisbotanicgarden.com/>

**School Day:** 9/12/2014 (Fri), 10:00 am – 12:00 pm reserved for the Shelby County Schools K12 students, there will be hands-on activities and crafts and getting first hand experience of the similarities and differences between the Japanese and American cultures.

**Family Day:** 9/13/2014 (Sat), 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, Guests will enjoy stage performances by Kaminari Taiko, Japanese martial arts; Kendo and Aikido, Japanese Music performance, Kimono Show, Cosplay, Bon Dance by members and the Japanese Culture Club from the U of M. Booths will be set up to show the art of bonsai, origami, yukata dressing, and more. Crafts and activities designed to educate youth visitors will include traditional and contemporary Japanese experiences such as kamishibai (storytelling), origami, traditional Japanese toys, and a tea ceremony. Every activity and craft is professionally coordinated through Memphis Botanic Garden education staff, U of M students, JAST, and our many volunteers.



\* **Germantown International Festival:** 9/20 2014(Sat), 11:00 am – 5:00 pm at Germantown Baptist Church, thirty countries will be at the festival and there will be performances, food booths, crafts and so on. Come visit the Japanese booths, and you will find something good!

← **Germantown Baptist Church:** 9450 Polar Ave.  
(Corner of Poplar and Johnson Road), TN 38139

## ❖ Previous Events

JAST-West introduced Japanese culture in various places in Memphis!



\* Operetta Mikado: The tickets sold out, and everyone enjoyed Mikado and Japanese culture on Jan. 14, 17 & 18 at the Germantown Performing Arts Center.



\* Oishii Japan-Japanese Food Event: An annual JAST-West event was held on Feb. 8 at MBG. Thank you for joining us! We were very glad that everyone tasted the cuisine commonly eaten in Japanese homes. Also, we had great, new iron chefs this year.

\* Language Fair: U of M hosted this on Mar. 22 at U of M. We discovered high school students' language abilities!

\* Arts Eats Beats Festival, Celebrating the Diversity & Culture of Memphis: Introduced Japanese bon dance, martial arts, calligraphy, and origami, which were popular on Mar. 29 at Bert Ferguson Park in Cordova.



\* Tour of Asia Night: On Apr. 3 at U of M there were dancers wearing folk dresses, ethnic music, and food from Asian countries.



\* Speech Contest: On Apr. 5 at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in Nashville. This event helped improve the students' Japanese speaking skills. Four U of M students received certificates for placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, while another received a special award from the Consulate General of Japan in Nashville. We trust that they will act as a go-between for Japan and the US.



\* Consul-General Motohiko Kato's presentation, Japan's Domestic and Regional Economic Challenges: Apr. 24 at U of M, U of M students and professors, local companies, and locals attended. It was exciting!



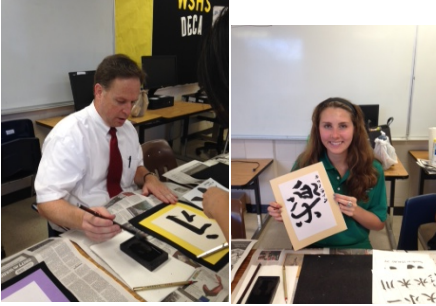
\* Cherry Trees Planting: In appreciation for the millions of dollars given in relief following the East Japan Earthquake, Motohiko Kato, Consul General of Japan in Nashville, along with a Japanese delegation, demonstrated their appreciation to Memphis by offering a gift of three cherry trees from Japan. They were planted as a symbol of friendship between Japan and Memphis, in a ceremony at Elvis Presley's Graceland on May 25. Everyone visit the cherry blossoms next spring! Thank you to Ms. Reiko Yukawa, who made a donation to the JAST-West on that day.



\* Stax Music Academy: Japanese calligraphy was explained to students at Stax Music Academy on Apr. 30. We enjoyed working in collaboration with jazz and Japanese culture.



\* Asian Pacific American Heritage Month: Performed Japanese songs by the Maguire Family band, on May 23 at the VA Medical Center in Downtown Memphis.



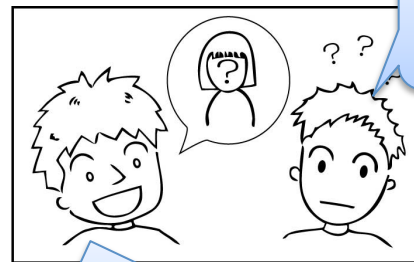
\* Shelby County Schools Content Day: The event was held on Jul. 31 at White Station High School. The purpose was to enrich teachers with the knowledge of resources available to them to improve their personal scholarship, teaching abilities, and growth of the students. We hope Japanese calligraphy will help them!

### ❖ Join Us and Gain Experience!

\***JAST-West** is organizing two Japanese cultural courses at the MBG and the U of M. Please remember, if you join the JAST/a JAST-West discount pass-holder (\$50), you will save \$50 on these classes right away (plus any other future courses in the same year), also you will get great discounts for all events! We would like to invite everyone to enjoy the JAST membership.

#### Japanese Class

**Date:** TBA  
**Time:** 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm  
**Place:** U of M [<http://map.memphis.edu/>]  
**Fee:** \$25x6 [JAST/MBG members & Students], \$35x6 [Non-members]  
Handouts will be provided for each class.  
**Contact:** Akemi Sommer at [asommer@memphis.edu](mailto:asommer@memphis.edu)



わかりません  
(Wakarimasen)  
I have no idea.

だれですか。  
(Dare desuka?)  
Who is she?



Written by Ms. Kamimura

#### Japanese Calligraphy is instructed by Ms. Chikako Kamimura

**Date:** TBA  
**Time:** 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm  
**Place:** MBG, Orientation Room/Water Garden Room  
**Fee:** \$10 x times [JAST/MBG members & Students], \$15 x times [Non-members] (Includes Japanese rice paper and ink. You can also use all Japanese calligraphy equipment.)  
**Contact:** Akemi Sommer at [asommer@memphis.edu](mailto:asommer@memphis.edu)



## Other Japan related events and classes in Memphis



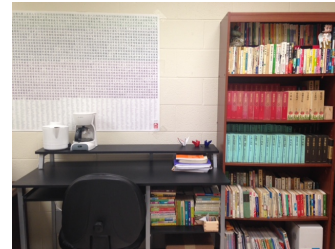
**Japanese Tea Ceremony:** The class is held by The Way of Tea in Tennessee, once a month each Saturday.  
Contact: Kentaro Ohkuni at [kentaro.ohkuni@gmail.com](mailto:kentaro.ohkuni@gmail.com)

**Ikebana:** The class is held on the third Friday of each month at 1:00 and 2:30. Each class costs \$15, which includes flowers. Contact Jo Ann Boone for reservations at 854-6323 or [JATBoone@yahoo.com](mailto:JATBoone@yahoo.com)

### ❖ Information

\* **Your contribution will help us continue to offer Japanese culture events and classes to our community in Memphis and the Mid-South!** Please support us by becoming a member of JAST or a JAST-West Discount Pass-holder! We invite current members to update their membership and please give anyone interested a referral. You will receive great discounts for all JAST events and classes!

**Thank you** to Mr. and Mrs. Yufu (NKC of America), who donated this bookcase and desk to JAST-West at U of M office. After the Germantown International Festival last year, the Japanese booth made a donation to JAST-West for establishing the library. This donation is the first step in compiling a library of Japanese books.



\* If you would like to donate your/your children's yukata, obi, geta, and so on, please contact Ms. Akemi Sommer at [asommer@memphis.edu](mailto:asommer@memphis.edu) . We will use them in our events.

\* **Leslie Mathis** will provide English tutoring, editing, and proofreading services, which includes helping clients with personal, business, and graduate-level academic writing (Master's degree thesis, for example.) She can work by email or online, also.

Ph: 901-871-7596

Email: [leslieamathis@yahoo.com](mailto:leslieamathis@yahoo.com)

\* **Please share your information** with JAST members. If you have an event or gathering planned, please let us know.

### ❖ Website

- JAST-West <http://www.memphis.edu/fl/japanese/jastw.htm>
- JAST <http://www.jastn.com>
- The University of Memphis - Japanese Program: <http://www.memphis.edu/fl/japanese/>
- Memphis Botanic Garden: <http://www.memphisbotanicgarden.com/>
- The University of Memphis <http://www.memphis.edu/>

If you have any questions about the newsletter, please feel free to contact me.  
Akemi Sommer at [asommer@memphis.edu](mailto:asommer@memphis.edu)