

JAST-WEST News Letter 15 (12/25/2014)



JAPAN-AMERICA
SOCIETY OF
TENNESSEE, INC.

Thank you for your interest in Japan and the Japanese culture! Welcome to the December 2014 edition of the JAST-West newsletter.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to you all for your continued support this year. Support came from all directions, including: Japanese Traders and Manufacturers Association of Memphis (JTMA), Sharp, Brother, NKC and Japanese Language School in Memphis, among many others. We would like to thank to Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville, Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership (CGP), the University of Memphis (U of M), Japan-America Society of Tennessee (JAST) in Nashville and our many volunteers. We are truly grateful to the Japanese community, students and Japanese teachers of the U of M for always helping out at our events.

We hope you will continue to support us and participate in all the activities.

We wish you and your family peaceful holidays!

JAST West Center at the University of Memphis
Chairman, Kanzi Takayama
Regional Director, Yuki Matsuda
Program Manager, Akemi Sommer

❖ Upcoming JAST Events

*** The annual Oishii (Delicious) Japan! Japanese food and Iron Chef Quiz Battle:** We will have the Japanese food-tasting event, offer some Japanese traditional cooking on Saturday, February 7th at the MBG. This year, instead of having the Iron Chef Contest, we will have a quiz competition: "The Iron Chef of Japanese Food." The person who will demonstrate the knowledge of Washoku, or Japanese traditional food will receive a nice award. We will put some hints on our website <http://www.memphis.edu/fl/japanese/jastw.htm> later on, so please check it at your convenience! In addition, we will invite some Japanese restaurants in Memphis to demonstrate their delicacies. You will also see what you can cook with the super steam oven from Sharp. There will be great door prizes!

Date: 2/7/2015 (Sat)

Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Place: Hardin Hall, MBG

Admission: Free for MBG/JAST Members & students with ID/\$5 for non-members

Food tickets are additional: \$5.00 (just curious)/\$10.00 (hungry)/\$20.00 (super hungry)

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

*** Kodo One Earth Tour: Mystery, Japanese Taiko Drumming Performance:** Kodo is a professional Japanese taiko drumming troupe. Kodo's performance will be presented by Germantown Performing Arts Center (GPAC) on February 26th, 2015 at GPAC. Kodo, the taiko drumming pioneers from Japan, have powerful mastery over their instruments. Before the performance, there will be Japanese cultural introduction of: calligraphy, origami, and hand-made crafts sale (cash only) in the lobby.

Date: 2/26/2015 (Thu)

Time: 7:30 pm -

Place: GPAC

Admission: JAST Members & UM students with ID: Group ticket 20% off \$28.00 (need to make a reservation)

A level is \$48.50, B level is \$38.50, C level is \$35.00

GPAC: 1801 Exeter Road Germantown, TN 38138
(901) 751-7500 <http://gpacweb.com/>

* **Walk in US, Talk on Japan:** The Prime Minister's Office of Japan launched a program called "Walk in US, Talk on Japan" this year and has dispatched five delegations to the US so far. Each group is led by a prominent figure and consists of 4-5 members selected from a variety of backgrounds. The purpose of this program is to promote further mutual understanding between Japan and the US through honest and active discussions and dialogues.

Date: 3/2/2015 (Mon)
Time: 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Place: TBA
Admission: Free

❖ Previous Event

In the latter half of the year, we had a Japanese Festival at the Memphis Botanic Garden (MBG) on September 13th and 14th. In the following weeks, Germantown International Festival was held at Germantown Baptist Church on September 20th. In autumn was packed with more opportunities to share Japanese culture, we had the Japanese Movie Night at the University of Memphis (U of M) on October 24th, November 7th, and 14th. We visited Elementary Schools in Memphis; there were the Japanese culture workshop hosted by Shady Grove Elementary School, Japan Night, on October 30th and International Carnival at the Peabody Elementary School on November 21st.



Japanese Festival



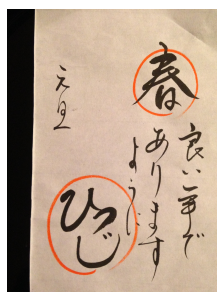
Japan Night



International Carnival

❖ Join Us and Have Experience!

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



*Written by
Ms. Kamimura*

The Japanese Calligraphy

Instructed by Ms. Chikako Kamimura

Date: 1/22, 2/5, 2/12 & 2/19

Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Place: MBG, Orientation Room/Water Garden Room

Fee: \$10 per lesson [JAST/MBG members & Students], \$15 per lesson [Non-members]

All supplies provided

Contact: Akemi Sommer at asommer@memphis.edu

The Japanese Class

Date: 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17 & 2/24

Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Place: the U of M/MBG

Fee: \$25x6 [JAST/MBG members & Students], \$35x6 [Non-members]

Handouts will be provided for each class.

Contact: Akemi Sommer at asommer@memphis.edu

Kawaii ne!
(He is cute!)

Yukidaruma san!
(Hey,
snowman!)



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 on Saturday. The 2015 New Year's Tea Ceremony has been scheduled for 12:00 pm at MBG, January 17th. Contact: kentaro.ohkuni@gmail.com



• **Ikebana:** The class is held on the third Friday of each month, 1:00 and 2:30. Each class costs \$15, which includes the cost of the flowers. Contact Jo Ann Boone for reservations at 901-854-6323 or JATBoone@yahoo.com

❖ Information

Your contributions help us continue to offer Japanese culture introduction 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 would like all current members to update their membership and please give anyone interested a referral. Receive great discounts for all JAST events and classes. The membership length is from April 1 through March 31st. If you sign up at an up-coming event, your membership will last until March 2016.

* **Japanese restaurant SEKISUI** is currently hiring! They are looking for a person who wants to be a chef in Japanese cuisine. You will be able to learn these skills as you work in the field.

Phone: 901-747-0001

Email: jimmy@sekiseiuiusa.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