

JETAA-INTERNATIONAL

BI-ANNUAL COMBINED COUNTRY

REPORT

(FEBRUARY 2005)

This is the first combined country report of 2005 submitted by Country Representatives of JETAA-I every six months as directed at the New York conference February 2004.

This report covers the period September 2004 - February 2005. The previous report covered December 2003- August 2004. These bi-annual reports are sent out via the aadelegates yahoogroup and are also made available online at www.jetalumni.org. The next report will be published at the end of August 2005.

This report has submissions from:

- Australia
- Brazil
- Canada
- France
- Germany
- Jamaica
- New Zealand
- Scotland
- United Kingdom
- United States

No submission from:

- Japan
- Russia
- South Korea
- Ireland

Compiled by Alison Bond
Executive Secretary JETAA-I

Australia

The Australian Chapters have been busy in the last 6 months with their end of year bonnenkai celebrations. Many of the Chapters are preparing for their AGM, usually held in April. Two Chapters have provided specific reports:

AU 5 Canberra:

JETAA Canberra has been very busy over the last six months. After farewelling the 2004 JETs in July, we had a small holiday through August. In September we sent two enthusiastic participants to the 2004 ANZ Regional conference in Wellington and helped out with volunteers over four nights for the uketsuke at the annual Embassy of Japan film festival.

October saw us again participate in the annual Australian Japan Society - Embassy of Japan Softball tournament (the AJS-JETAA-Embassy rope-ins team won another game this year).

Many members also volunteered to help out at the annual Canberra-Nara Sister City Candle ceremony where members helped to light around 2000 candles displayed at the Canberra-Nara Park and also worked at the many food stalls and helped organise the event. Around 2000 people attended a night of Japanese cultural activities and to experience the wonderful warm glow from the candles in the Japanese Garden. This was about four times the numbers attending from last year and some food stalls sold out before 7pm.

November saw us again participate in the AJS-Canberra Japan Club undoukai.

In December we held our bonnenkai in conjunction with the AJS, again at Canberra-Nara Park. In January 05, we held a shinnenkai at Wasabi restaurant in Dickson, attended by 16 members and friends.

2004 has seen continued cooperation and friendship between the three main Japanese community groups in Canberra, leading to a full social calendar. We look forward to this cooperation and relationship building to continue in 2005.

Roderick Siebel (President)

AU 6 Queensland:

The *Japan Exchange Teaching Alumni Association (QLD) Inc* is one of the largest Chapters in Australia, and as such is a busy chapter, and continues to hold a wide and varied range of events and activities throughout the year. This year, 2004/05 has been a particularly successful year, with the following achievements realised:

- Re-development of website and creation of an online newsletter

- Anniversary of our first year of incorporation - October 2004
- First ever combined Hanami - with other QLD-based Japan societies
- Japan Week: re-exhibition of the 2002 Photography Exhibition at a unique and popular café in the trendy “Valley” area in Brisbane
- Christmas Celebration: Belgian Beer Cafe & Karaoke

JETAA QLD is supported by the largest and strongest committee ever, where a Management Committee of ten members is actively involved.

The Chapter is also involved with the recruitment of new JETs through interview panels and Q&A desks and the support of returning JETs through welcome back functions and its returnees’ information booklet. In 2004, JETAA QLD also supported the Consulate General of Japan Brisbane in the promotion of the JET Programme at Griffith University Gold Coast. JETAA QLD plans for 2005 are very ambitious, and include a new community-based Photo Competition and Japanese-style Cooking Classes. *Subject to funding approval*, JETAA QLD may also be hosting the next Australia/New Zealand JETAA Regional Conference in October 2005.

Juleen Bronson (President)

Brazil

Dec - JET Programme explanation at Japanese Associations (Kenjinkais) Federation (Kenren)

Year-end meeting.

JETAA Brazil invited as member of Japanese Cultural Society in Brazil 50th Anniversary Celebration Commission

Jan - Selection process for Japanese teacher Course for JETAA in Japan

Pre-departure orientation booklet compiling

Jan/Feb - New CIR/JET(contract from April to April) participants recruitment, selection and interview with the Consulates.

Canada

JETAA Ottawa (CN 1)

Contact: Brian Rae (President) - jetaaottawa_president@yahoo.ca

General Activities:

JETAA Ottawa continued its practice of monthly executive meetings (first Sunday of each month), a monthly (electronic) newsletter and monthly events (third Friday of each month). This routine has proved useful for executive planning but also for members, as they were able to plan or anticipate upcoming events. These monthly events were supplemented with special activities as time and occasions permitted.

Monthly events included:

- A pot-luck picnic
- A movie night
- Pub Nights
- A very successful karaoke evening
- Dinner at a Japanese restaurant

Special Events included:

- Welcome Back Party for Returning JETs
Approximately 50 attendees (including returning JETs, key members of the Japanese community in Ottawa, alumni and embassy staff) gathered at the Japanese embassy for drinks and sushi
- Re-entry Seminar for Returning JETs
8 returning JETs and some alumni attended an all-day seminar at the Japanese embassy focussing on such topics as: work search strategies, resume building, coping with reverse culture shock, etc.
- Japan Day @ the Museum of Civilization
JETAA organized and ran a booth promoting Japanese Toys as part of the Japan Day festivities at the Museum of Civilization. A number of toys were demonstrated and information sheets handed out. Then visitors could try them for themselves. This was an extremely popular event, with many members of the Japanese and non-Japanese community dropping by to 'discover the child inside'. Toys demonstrated included, Kendama and Daruma Otoshi.
- JET Recruiting
A number of JETAA volunteers (7?) assisted the JET Desk of the embassy by attending university job fairs, a manga convention, and international work/study abroad fairs.
- Japanese Lessons
Our JETAA Japanese lessons were held again throughout November and December with roughly 10 participants each week. We are still trying to deal with the varied levels of ability but in general, the class pleased everyone.
- Annual General Meeting
Our AGM was held at a Japanese restaurant and a new 8-member (two returnees) executive was elected for the 2005 year.

JETAA Montreal (CN 3)

JETAA Montreal has been working hard to get alumni out to events. In October we had a very successful hiking trip followed by a trip to a local onsen. JETAA Montreal paid for the bus for the event which helped make it popular. We did a taiko workshop in November with the local taiko group. Karaoke was held in December with a reasonable turnout as well.

The newsletters were well received by members and we have had many compliments on our website. The 2004 executive has worked very hard to increase visibility to our alumni after a couple of "non-productive" years. Another goal of the 2004 executive was to get a membership database established with up-to-date information about our members. This has been accomplished and, with the help of the Consulate, we are maintaining these records with a view to keeping our members informed of news and events.

The Canadian National Conference will be held in Montreal in May. We are busy making plans for that event.

Our Shinnenkai and elections were held on Jan. 15th. We had a turnout of about 25 people. The executive positions are as follows:

President: Carl Delaney

Treasurer: Phoebe Duckworth

Secretary and Website: Jodi Pichovich

Social Coordinators: David Applebaum and Christian Assaf

Newsletter Editor: Bridgitte Couture

National Conference Coordinator: Sylvie Cornibert

We have several events planned in the coming months. In February we will hold a Hanasukai at a local watering hole. These events have been quite popular in the past, with a good mix of Japanese and local participants. We will also be doing a Tubing and Onsen day at the end of February. We are planning a sushi making course in March. We are also looking into Japanese lessons as we have had much interest from our members. Should be a busy year!

Northern Alberta JET Alumni Association Summary of Events

September

- NAJETAA monthly meeting
- Newsletter - sent out to alumni members
- NAJETAA hosted welcome back dinner for recent returnee's - open to all alumni

October

- NAJETAA monthly meeting
- JET information sessions in conjunction with the consulate/U of A
- NAJETAA curling (Sunday) - is an afternoon of curling - everyone from the inexperienced to the experienced is welcome to join us
- NAJETAA/SAJETAA Re-entry Conference - hosted this year by NAJETAA in cooperation with the Consulate. Guest speaker - Deb Caldron from Vancouver
 - Consulate returnee dinner was hosted the same day as the retreat.

November

- NAJETAA AGM / potluck / Japanese community information evening
 - AGM - new executive elected
 - President: Heather Huisman (president@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Vice President: Gretchen Phillips (vp@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Treasurers: Kathy McComick & Kirk Beasse (treasurer@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Webmaster & Database Coordinator: Bruce Clarke (webmaster@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Events Coordinator: Genevieve Carolan (rsvp@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Orientation Coordinator: Anne McCulloch (orientation@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Newsletter Editors: Meena Ramaswamy (Spring) & Matt & Erin Barker (Fall) (newsletter@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Community Group Liaison: Monica Johnson (community@najetaa.jetaa.ca)
 - Members of the Japanese community presented information to the alumni regarding events, programs, sports that are offered in and around Edmonton
 - Potluck dinner and socialization
- Monthly Sunday curling

December

- NAJETAA monthly meeting
- Annual Bon Enaki

January

- NAJETAA Monthly meeting
- NAJETAA 5th Annual Cooking Party

February

- NAJETAA Monthly Meeting
- Curling
- JET Interviews in cooperation with the consulate
- **MAN/SASK JETAA**

2004 included another successful Weekend Orientation for new JET Alumni, as well as another fun-filled Dragonboat event in August. We also made the transition of updating our website and have been trying to keep all members better informed of our on-goings. In December we had a great turn-out for our year-end gathering at a local Japanese restaurant where we introduced our idea for a members photo/art exhibit.

At our January meeting in 2005, we welcomed new executive members:

2005 Executive

Co-Presidents:	Stacey Wallace and Brad Snyder
Vice-president:	Erid Mendoza
Treasurer:	Ana Menjivar
Secretary:	Adam Russel
Orientation Coordinator:	Monica Lowe
Web Editor:	Erid Mendoza
Events Coordinators:	Dan Byrne
Membership Coordinator:	Tricia Leuschen

The next few months will involve the changeover of executive responsibilities, preparing for the 2005 Weekend Orientation and the member-based Natsumatsuri Photo/Art Exhibit.

CN7 SAJETAA Chapter Report

September 2004 marked our yearly AGM and also marked a complete turnover of the executive as the old guard retired and moved onto to child rearing, changing diapers, and buying Minivans.

Our new executive elected in September 2004 is:

Bruce Sinclair and Mary-Francis Laphorne.....Co-Chairs
 Rhonda OkuboLanguage Coordinator and Predeparture Orientation
 Coordinator
 Debbie Graham.....Social Coordinator
 Kristian Whillins.....Web Master

Brady Johnson.....Re-entry Coordinator

The fall brought the start of our regular Japanese classes which are always well attended and this fall was no different...the class was full and the results/feedback was excellent.

The SAJETAA Olympic Hockey Homestay and training program with approximately 40 female University hockey players from Japan was a huge success and plans are in the works to make it a regular event each August.

The annual SAJETAA Ski Trip was cancelled this year as there were many other things going on but we are hoping for a Spring Blowout Weekend in early April in Banff.....lotsa Beer...snow...sunshine ...and sake.....

A number of parties/social gatherings were held in the months of Oct/Nov/Dec/Jan and the turnout was reasonably good. We are planning a more active spring as the cold weather is slowly disappearing.

January marked a special time for SAJETAA as the Japanese Consulate relocated to Calgary from the small town of Edmonton in this month and all executives have been very busy helping the Consulate staff get settled and familiar with the new big city. In the coming months we are planning many cultural and social events in coordination with the Consulate and are quite excited about the future of SAJETAA and the Consulate here in Calgary.

JETAA-Toronto REPORT

Summer

Over the last year JETAA-Toronto has done a number of events.

In May JETAA-Toronto partnered with JAVA and the Japanese Student Association to do a boat cruise the cruise was very successful and JETAA - Toronto look forward to partnering with these two associations.

In June JETAA Toronto participated in the Rexdale Community Festival. We exposed over 100 children to some basic Japanese writings as well as handing out 25 information packages to potential JET candidates.

JETAA-weekend Pre-departure orientation was well attended by JETAA members who took part in the weekend event. The event shared information with JETs leaving for Japan. Prior to leaving for Japan new JETs were treated to a relaxed patio party for their parents and friends. This social event allowed parents and friends to ask questions about Japan and the lifestyle that the New JET might be exposed to.

July/August Toronto in partnership with CJST engaged in 2 baseball events to see the Mariners at Toronto.

October JETAA Toronto held its Re-entry /Career Seminar at the Japan Information Centre. The one day event was well attended. We had a number of speakers delivering interactive seminar/workshops. The seminars/workshops looked at interview skills, career planning as well as dealing with issues of reverse culture shock.

January JETAA-Toronto held a Shinenkai/AGM. This event was very well attended. The new offers of the Executives will be announced in mid-March. The JETAA-Toronto website is currently under-redevelopment the new site will be up and running by March 31, 2005. In early March the executive will also be heading to the Tri-city area to do a large event in hopes of developing a sub-chapter in this area.

France

Maintaining the Jet programme

- Sent a former Jet (a returnee from last year) to participate in the jury for the selection of the new Jets in February at the Japanese Embassy
- Sent another former Jet to participate in the Japanese course in Tokyo in February
- Organised together with the Japanese Embassy a presentation of the JET programme at Toulouse University where there are many students in the Japanese section
- Met the CLAIR Tokyo delegation in October together with the programme coordinator (who is FRENCH!!) : we expressed the anxiety of the French Jets currently in Japan regarding the future positions and contents of CIR jobs, gave a report of the first European regional conference held in September and detailed the French network activities at national, European and International levels.

Activating the Jetaa

- Conceived a new concept of conferences about Japan : interactive presentations in cooperation with the Japan House of the Paris University. They are aimed at Japanese people eager to re-discover their country, to curious French people and to people linked in a way or another with Japan. The first one will be held on March 24 and concerns the symbolic aspects of Japanese cakes (omogashi), done by a very dynamic lady who already works at Mitsukoshi Etoile. This presentation will end by a tasting of "real omogashi" from the famous Toraya cakeshop and an informal gathering. All free but do not tell anyone!!

- Planned a photo exhibition linked with the decisions taken at the European level (see European conference)
- Have eventually found a volunteer to update our website!!
- Wrote a whole page in both French and Japanese to be published in the only Japanese French Magazine that exists (www.lesvoix.com), which will be released for the Aichi Expo
- Organised a Shinenkai together with CLAIR Paris office with a delicious Japanese buffet

Creating wider links

- Sent a representative at the JETAAI meeting in Portland, Oregon
- Will send a representative at the annual meeting of all the French Japanese associations, held at the Japanese Ambassador's house by the Japanese Embassy (March 5)
- Transferred all details about our group to the person from the U.K (thanks again Carolyn!) who will attend the non-renewers' conference in order to be represented, or at least to have this information given

Hosted the first European regional conference in Paris : I will not list in details of what we have been through but from contacting the potential comers (from all European countries participating), establishing the budget, contacting Clair Paris office and the Japanese Embassy, planning the sessions, co-ordinating the logistic part to writing the report, it has been a lot of work but a very successful one.

Germany

General

Communication shall be primarily via the website and the JETAA mailing list.

The next returnee party will be in autumn, organized by the Embassy of Japan in Berlin.

For the German JETAA website we are still looking for a new webmaster.

Germany

Current membership: about 190 members

Contact: nationalrep@jetaagermany.de

Website: www.jetaagermany.de

Upcoming Projects

The communication between the embassy/consulate and JETAA Germany shall be intensified in future.

We are starting a "Networking-database". All JETAAs can join the database and introduce themselves with their own abilities.

*Report by Frank Bender
Country Rep Germany
25. February 2005*

Jamaica

The Association has been growing in number and has become more involved over the past three months. A summary of the activities we have been involved with are:

- ? Assist the embassy in celebrating 40 years of relations with Jamaica.
- ? Took part in the interview sessions to select new JETs
- ? Volunteer interpretation and translation service for visiting Karate Masters.
The Masters visited all Karate Schools in Jamaica.
- ? Primary School visit to share the Japanese culture and traditions
- ? For alliance with the Japanese Society in Jamaica
- ? Share in the annual calendar exhibition
- ? Volunteer at the University of Technology (Jamaica) International Day
- ? Two members did the Nikyuu Japanese Proficiency Test. One is currently in Tokyo on the special programme for those desirous of teaching Japanese and providing translation at the embassy.

There are lots of exciting plans ahead for the chapter and we happy to see the progress we are making. We have been working much closer to the embassy and this helps us to be more active.

Shawn Aarons
Country Representative

New Zealand

JETAA Auckland Region

JETAA Auckland Chapter report - October-December 2004

This has probably been the most significantly eventful quarter in JETAAA's history, with our hosting of the 2004 JETAA Australasian Regional Conference [ARC] mid September. Thanks to the excellent teamwork of all involved - both the Conference Committee and attending delegates - the ARC was, by all accounts a particular success. The main hallmarks of the ARC were the very high levels of cooperation, interaction and open communication among all delegates - ii NA! The minutes of proceedings are available on the YahooGroups 'JETAAANZ Filing Cabinet' [an ARC initiative which has proven to be very successful to date]. All those months of to-ing and fro-ing and [at last count, more than 500 eMails!] later were WELL worth it! So, a big o tsukare sama deshita to all concerned and, as always, the CGJ and CLAIR Sydney - without whose support such an event would not have been possible. *Ganbatte JETAA Queensland, for the next ARC!*

Either side of the ARC, our regular events proceeded well, including the annual JETAAA pre-NCEA examination workshop for Japanese language candidates, Hanami in Cornwall Park and our year-end bonenkai dinner.

We remain grateful for the ongoing support from CLAIR, the CGJ and fellow JETAA chapters - both within NEW Zealand and further afield; as I certainly had reinforced during my time on JET, the similarities between us far outweigh the differences, so here's to sharing all those insights, resources and associated good stuff; *issho no ganbarimashoo!*

Contact for JETAA Auckland: Peter de Valda, President [genkiwi@xtra.co.nz]

JETAA Christchurch Region

JETAA South Island Chapter report - October-December 2004

These past six months have been an eventful time for JetAA South Island. In September, Vicki our Secretary and myself attended the National Conference for New Zealand and Australia hosted by the Auckland chapter. An excellent conference, we were "workshopped" to within an inch of our lives - which can be directly attributed to Auckland President Peter de Valda's professional skills as a life coach and the workshopping experience he has in that area.

Throughout the year we have continued with our successful school visits, networking with local high schools to visit the final senior year students, to give them an overall view about the JET programme.

We held a highly successful Hanami with a haiku writing competition in English and Japanese for adults and children alike. This was organised by new committee member Grant McGirr, who has recently taken over as our newsletter editor from Blair McMillan.

JETAA was able to contribute in two ways to this year's Festival of Japan. Our treasurer Andrew Wells did a brilliant job as translator with the Kabuki

performance which was sponsored by the Consular Office to perform at the Festival, and also we were co-sponsors of the Kurosawa film festival. Both of the events were highly successful and a great promotion for JETAA.

Later on in the year another film festival was held and co-sponsored by JETAA in conjunction with the Consular office.

Our perennial photo exhibition had another showing, this time at the Canterbury of University, and our annual mid-winter get -together in the form of a trivia night was another success.

JETAA organised a Bonenkai for the end of the year at a local Japanese restaurant and was well attended by JETAA members and consular staff.

This year our AGM will be held Friday March 11th. There will be several positions available for re-electing including president, Vice President and Secretary.

This year has been my last year as JETAA South Island President, a role I've held for four years and a position I have thoroughly enjoyed. I would like to thank everyone I have had the pleasure of working with and wish them all well and also all JETAA chapters the very best for this coming year.

Contact for JETAA South Island: Shelley Keach, President [s.m.k@xtra.co.nz]

JETAA Wellington Region

Chapter report - October-December 2004

This quarter was mostly a social time for JETAA Wellington, as we undertook many of our promotional activities earlier on in the year. The only exception was the Japan Information and Cultural Centre's public information evening about the JET Programme. About ten members of the JETAA Wellington committee took part in the evening, and our involvement comprised brief outlines of our individual JET experiences, followed by a Q&A session.

On the social side, JETAA Wellington members were invited to monthly drinks as usual, and we also had a few key social events to round off the year.

In October, we had JETAA Wellington's first ever Halloween party which was a great success. Eighty-five people from our own organisation, as well as other Japan-related organisations and members of the local Japanese community, turned up in costume to dance the night away.

In November, we held a karaoke night and barbeque at a committee member's house, with a hired karaoke machine for the evening. As well as JETAA

Wellington members, we invited a group of Japanese Teachers of English who had been studying at the Wellington College of Education for several months.

Our annual December bonenkai dinner was well-attended, with approximately 45 JETAA Wellington members meeting for dinner, as well as some staff members from the Japan Information and Cultural Centre.

Contact for JETAA Wellington: Samantha Oakley, President
[jetaawgtn@hotmail.com]

Scotland

[General News](#)

In September JETAA Scotland had to say goodbye to Beth the Treasurer. Joanne O'Donnell stepped in as Treasurer from December. Links have been established between JETAA Scotland and the Japanese Society at Edinburgh University. It is hoped that there will be many collaborations on future events. It is hoped that JETAA Scotland will work more closely with the Japan Society, Scotland.

General Information-

Scotland (Sc1)

Quynh Luong (Chair)

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Committee:

Chair/Jetlag Liaison	Quynh Luong
Treasurer	Joanne O'Donnell
Communications Officer	Suzie Huggins
Events Co-ordinator (West)	Eilidh McLean
Events Co-ordinator (East)	Sarah Murray

Membership

Approx 500

Activities for the period August 2004-February 2005

Social

At the end of August a group of 10 went to see "The Tokyo Godfathers" during the Edinburgh International Film Festival.

In October JETAA Scotland hosted a joint event with the University of Edinburgh's Japanese Society. This was a sake-tasting competition and was well-attended. Many of the Japanese Society members are currently studying Japanese and were very interested in finding out more about Japan. There were plenty of opportunities during the course of the event for members of the Japanese Society to speak to members of JETAA about the JET Programme.

November 12th was the Returner's Reception hosted by the Japanese Consul General. The turnout from newly returned JETs was relatively low but there was a good turnout overall and plenty of enthusiasm.

November 26th - JETAA Scotland's annual ceilidh to coincide with St Andrew's Day was well-attended despite the change of venue. The event was subsidised and managed to attract a few new faces, including some Japanese people who had not experienced a ceilidh before.

February 12th - Sushi class in Glasgow. The class had a limit of 10 places and was subsidised by JETAA Scotland.

February 22nd - Nabe/sukiyaki party at Niji Restaurant. The event was attended by many JETAA members and some non-members who were interested in Japan and the JET Programme.

Future Events

March 19th - Karaoke and J-Pop Disco evening in conjunction with the Japanese Society at the University. There has been a lot of interest in this event so far.

April 1st-3rd - Getaway weekend and AGM in Pitlochry. The initial response to this event has been good.

Other

Japanese lessons - no lessons have been organised through JETAA Scotland this year, although attempts are being made to initiate some lessons in both Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Information

Details of all our events can be found on the JETAA website. Electronic mailshots are sent out to those who choose to receive them when they subscribe to jetaascotland.

JETAA-I related

JETAA Scotland is involved with coordinating the touring photo exhibition being organized for the EU-Japan 2005 Year of "People-to-people Cultural Exchange". The exhibition is a collaboration between several JETAA chapters across Europe and representatives from some countries that do not yet have an established chapter.

JETAA Scotland actively took part in the International Meeting in November 2004 in Portland and the UK Conference in Belfast in January 2005.

*Report by Quynh Luong
Country Rep Scotland
February 2005*

United Kingdom

UK currently has 3 established chapters London, Midlands and Northwest, as well as a fledgling Northern Ireland Chapter. Northern Ireland will be able to bid for grant-in aid as of FY 2005-2006 because of having 50 members and will therefore be recognised by CLAIR officially as of April 2005. We also work closely with Scotland, who shares the National Executive committee (please see below).

This report concerns the national executive, the 3 established chapters and Northern Ireland.

1-National Executive Committee

In May, UK1 finally organised a meeting of all national reps, to create a national executive, with a view to both alleviate some of the burden felt by London in running national projects, and to more equitably represent all chapters in those projects. The national chair acts as the UK Country Rep in international meetings.

National Chair: Liz Aveling

Chapter Reps: Alison Bond (Midlands), Paula Clossick (North West), Anthony Hall (London), Barbara Gill/Cathy Bateson (N.Ireland) Quynh Luong (Scotland),

Treasurer: Donna Tooth

Jetlag Editor: Alasdair Gillon

CID Coordinator: Carolyn Gater

Webteam: Nick Rooke and Clare Laity

-Events

Careers Information Day, attended by 250 or so returnees (follow up Jet Connect networking event held by London). This event is held to coincide with the annual returnee reception hosted by JLGC London, (CLAIR), to which JETAAUK sponsors, VIPs and representatives of other Anglo Japanese organisations are invited. The main organiser of the CID, Carolyn Gater, will be attending the non-renewers conference in Japan in Spring, which greatly helps recruit new members and highlight JETAAUK. This year, UK has teamed up with Germany and France so that Carolyn can represent Europe, and UK and France Country Reps have volunteered to be first point of contact for European returnees in countries where there is no chapter or contact person.

Annual Summer Ball, Treasure Hunt and quiz night, events jointly organised with the Japan Society.

Communications:

Maintaining website, database and national newsletter JETlag. The website and database, now managed entirely online through restricted access to the website, are still being overhauled. Use of the website and mailshot facilities are still not being used as much as they could be as each chapter as own mailshot list as well. Work on integrating all this data is ongoing. JETlag has been reduced from 4 issues to 3 a year, mainly to do with cost; the perennial debate between paper newsletters mailed versus electronic newsletters has not yet seen the demise of our flagship publication, which reaches many people the internet doesn't , and serves a different purpose from our mailshots; our new, energetic and pro-active editor Alasdair leads a small team to produce it.

Liaison:

First National Executive Meeting held in Belfast and hosted by Northern Irish Chapter in January 2005.

An extremely constructive meeting, where we reported on the 1st EU conference in Paris, prepared for the next one in London, as well as the next JETAAI conference (it helped having the Executive Secretary among us!) and future events; 2005 is the year for EU-Japan people to people exchange and Germany, France, Italy and Portugal, as well as various chapters in the UK including Scotland are hosting a travelling photo exhibition.

The National Executive and London committee were also invited to the Japanese Ambassador's private residence for a dinner and discussion on how to work closer together and in particular on how to involve the Japanese business community in our activities.

2-London Chapter

Committee members for 2004/2005:

Chair: Anthony Hall

Vice Chair: Jackaline Wilks

Treasurer: Quyen Phan

Events Coordinator/ Communications: Clare Barclay

Membership:

London currently has 2500 members, due to the fact that it serves any member not registered in one of the other chapters. This is likely to change very soon with the geographical division of the country into horizontal bands, which would distribute the membership more fairly. London has continued to operate local activities, whilst all national activities and responsibilities have been implemented by the national executive (see below). As well as its central committee, London has a number of subcommittees which look after specific events (annual ball etc).

Local Activities

As well as our national events, London organises a year long programme of monthly outings: monthly pub nights, monthly Japanese restaurant evenings and monthly countryside walks. Our events team also held a welcome back barbecue

for returnees in September, and attend other Anglo Japanese community events. Future efforts will focus on involving the wider Japanese community on London. .

3 Midlands (UK2)

Ali Bond (Chairperson and JETAAI Secretary)

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Mob: 07870 969961
Email: abond@jetaamidlands.fsnet.co.uk

Committee

Chairperson:	Ali Bond
Vicechair:	Clare Anderson
Treasurer:	Jon Inegbedion
Secretary:	Clare Anderson
Database Coordinator:	Lynne Donaldson
Social events coordinators:	Catherine Ross
Newsletter Editor	Phillipa Kilty

Membership

We currently have about 300 members in the Midlands area.

Midlands (UK2)

Social

Ali has been really busy with her JETAAI duties as Secretary, but her team have been very supportive and pro-active. A pre-departure party for new JETS from the Midlands took place in a Birmingham restaurant in July 2004, attended by 15 local new Jets. This gave them the chance to ask ex JETS questions about what life would be like in Japan and also to meet other new JETS from their region. A meal was also held at a Japanese restaurant run by an ex JET and her husband in October 2004 and Midlands hopes to use it regularly to hold events. Other social events include a Christmas Party.

Educational

In March 2004 Midlands JETAA hosted its first Japanese cookery day in Warwick University. We were lucky to have Kumiko Kani, a postgraduate student at Warwick University, as our cookery teacher for the day.

Other plans included Karate and Ikebana workshops but generated no interest; however, we held a very successful taiko workshop with the UK 's top Japanese taiko performer, Joji Hirota, in January.

There will also be Kitsuke session in the Spring.

Japanese lessons - our members attend lessons at the University of Warwick and privately in Leicester.

We have a formal Partnership between the Midlands JETAA and the Leicester Japan Society.

Information

Many of our members are connected to our email distribution list. The Midlands has a double page input into every edition of the national JETAA newsletter, Jetlag. Invitations are sent to all members about special events and activities.

4-North West (UK3)

Paula Clossick (chairperson)

Address: 5, St Malo Road
Wigan
Greater Manchester
WN1 2PN
Tel: 01942 706129
Mob: 07906 744104
Email: pclossick@hotmail.com

Committee

Chairperson: Paula Clossick
Vice chair: Fiona Welch
Treasurer: Fiona Welch
Secretary: Eve Harrison

Membership

We have approximately 300 members in the North West area.

Events

Social/Cultural

We hold a monthly pub/Japanese restaurant night, preceded by a committee meeting on the last Thursday of the month. We also held a very successful pre-departure party in July which was attended by over 20 new Jets and a regular outing to Tatton Park, which houses one the UK's most beautiful Japanese gardens.

Educational

In July we held a Japanese conversation evening in the Northwest Japan Centre, with food, drink and the chance to practise Japanese on willing volunteers from the local Japanese community. The evening also included a presentation on festivals, given in Japanese. This has become a regular event. Future plans include an orientation evening for outgoing Jets at a Japanese restaurant, to familiarise themselves with the food, chopsticks and general etiquette. This is being advertised to outgoing Jets via a flyer included in the information pack given out by the Embassy to the new Jets.

Information

The North West chapter has a full page in every edition of the national JETAA newsletter, Jetlag. Invitations are sent to all members about special events and activities.

5-Northern Ireland

Barbara Gill

Cathy Bateson

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Crossgar
Co.Down
Northern Ireland
BT30 9HS
Tel: 02844831689
Mobile: 07793158790
Email: babsygill@yahoo.co.uk

Commitee

Chairperson: Cathy Bateson & Barbara Gill (joint chair)
Treasurer: Elaine Mulholland
Secretary: Suzanne McMillan

Information

Northern Ireland now boasts the minimum required 50 members, so will be eligible for grant-in aid for future activities. We have benefited form great support for fellow chapters, London with a little financial help and Midlands and North West through mentoring and helping us through the teething process of setting up a chapter. We have been grateful for their help, support and advice throughout this process.

Local Activities

Northern Ireland's first event was a pre-departure party attended by 8 out-going Jets in August 2004, giving us the opportunity to talk to new JETs about life in Japan. We spent the rest of the year contacting active members living in Northern Ireland and planning meetings to organise our new committee. Flyers were sent to all members with information about the new chapter and contact details. We also spent time researching local organisations and events to build - up a Japan-related network within the area. The response from current members was very successful and since December 2004 we have held several events in Japanese restaurants and pubs, using these evenings to encourage new members to come along and to build up networks with other Japan-related organisations and universities in the region. We hosted the first national executive meeting in Belfast in January 2005.

United States

US 8 Heartland

Regular monthly meetings at Heartland Chapter HQ including Bonenkai and Shinnenkai.

Shinenkai at Lawrence KS Sub-Chapter, others still pending

Lawrence Sub-chapter organized fund raising for Tsunami Relief

Founding member of the Greater Kansas City Japan Council, organized to fill the void left by the departure of the Consulate, consists of representatives from all Japan-related organizations in the 100 miles or so around Kansas City.

Published 4th quarter newsletter

Assisted with the closure of the Kansas City consulate

Contributed to the Mid-America Japanese Language Contest both with volunteers and funding

Northern California

www.jetaanc.org

We held our annual **welcome back bar-b-que** for returning JETs in early September in Berkeley. Over 50 JETs came out to enjoy the sun and show their support to returning JETs to the Bay Area.

This event is being followed by our annual **Career Forum** in October, which will include keynotes, panel discussions and workshops from various governmental, educational, non-profit and commercial organizations including: the Peace Corps, the State Department, Monterey Institute, Berkeley's Asia Studies Department, JUCEE, various recruitment agencies, the Asia Foundation, JETRO, Pacific Rim Human Resources, the Asia Society, ESL Language Schools, GHA Travel etc...

Our **Japanese cooking class** featured a 5 course meal for participants. JETs in Chapter 13 also volunteered their time to help in the annual San Francisco Marathon. This is the second year that JETs have helped out with this event.

Following the successful introduction of our **annual scholarship program** for high school students going on to university last year, we extended the PR/marketing for the program and greatly increased the number of applications we received. Working closely with the Japanese teacher community in our region, as well as cultural organizations, we managed to get the word out a lot further this year. This year will mark the third year of the JETAANC Annual Scholarship Fund. For more details see the press release at www.jetaanc.org.

Another continued success is our monthly **networking nights** held the first Thursday of each month throughout the San Francisco area. These nights typically have drawn crowds of between 20-35 people and area a great way for our members to connect.

Planned events for the upcoming year include: Sumo in Vegas, the Japan Bowl and more...

- 3/3 First Thursday Nomikai
- 3/4 2005 Scholarship Awardee Announced
- 3/5 Japan Bowl
- 3/30 "Way of Tea" Program
- 4/7 First Thursday Nomikai
- 4/16-17, 4/23-24 Northern California Cheery Blossom Festival
- 5/5 First Thursday Nomikai (Kodomo no hi)
- 6/2-5 JETAA National Conference in San Francisco
- 6/2 First Thursday Nomikai- welcome National Conference guests
- 6/3 Salsa/Club night organized in conjunction with National Conference
- 6/4 Great Race with National Conference attendees
- 6/26 JETAANC Alumni-Led Orientation (tentative)

Cerell Rivera
Timothy Morey
Courtney Burry
Patrick Kogoma

US 12 Portland

Portland JETAA has had an incredibly busy fall and winter with the highlight being the International Meeting. We had a great time meeting all of the delegates, CLAIR and MOFA attendees and being a part of furthering JETAA International. Throughout the fall and winter our chapter members have been actively volunteering, sponsoring, and hosting a variety of activities to promote JETAA and the JET Program. Pictures of our events can be seen on our new website at www.jetaaportland.com

PORTLAND HOSTS JETAA ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS - Saturday, August 28th

Kintetsu International flew 15 JET alumni to Portland in late August for an awards ceremony and send-off at the Westin Hotel downtown. JETAA Portland and the Portland Consulate co-hosted the event, which included dinner and a *niji-kai* at Saucebox.

Kintetsu's first annual JETAA USA essay contest solicited over 160 entries from JET alumni across the country. The topic focused on projects that could be done or have already been done to encourage international exchange on a grassroots level between Japan and the United States. A panel of judges selected 15 winners, all of whom received roundtrip airfare to Tokyo and a one week Japan Rail Pass.

The winners attended a welcome ceremony hosted by CLAIR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo before departing to their former host prefectures. Many winners have reported back to JETAA that the trip was a great success and full of *natsukashii* moments.

1st Annual JETAA Masters Tour Golf Tournament - Saturday, September 11th

The sun was trying to break through the clouds and hopes were high as our foursome approached the first tee. It was the first annual JETAA Masters Tour at McMenemy's Edgefield.

Teams were composed of three or four players and the ball was played from the best shot. This allowed people like me to leech off of the nice shots made by the rest of my team. Our team was bringing up the rear, but we were lead fearlessly by Justin "Tiger Woods" Kulpa. The rest of our team consisted of me, Bob, and Beth. We knew that with four of us we had the best chance of winning, but could we deliver? The front nine went by with unprecedented speed.

We lost Beth to an injury (dry throat), but continued on undaunted in our quest for the cup. On the back nine we were feeling and looking good...until the 7th hole. Without going into details, we finished two over par. Returning to the club house for drinks, we felt a little nervous.

Had the other teams bested us? Being that the McMenemy's fairways are at most 80 yards long, we figured that someone must have hit a hole-in-one and bogeyed several times. Over lunch and drinks we found that Britt Sexton and his ringer teammates-Kip and Robert-had defeated us by one stroke. We sat and chatted over burgers and beer for several hours before returning to our homes. All in all, a great afternoon.

Festival Japan & Karaoke - Saturday, September 19th

Uwajimaya was the site for the annual Japan Festival held on September 18th and 19th. Those of us who braved the wet and windy weather soon found the free sample booths. Included were a variety of sakes, beers and snacks from Japan. "The Sapporo Reserve was excellent!", exclaimed a very happy Bob Schnyder. The party then moved to the main stage where our friend Kuma played drums for a J-POP cover band. After a few drinks at the beer garden, we couldn't take the cold any longer and headed for Sambi.

A few drinks later (are you seeing a trend here) and it was time for the nijikai. This was held at the Family Karaoke Studio. For those who have never been, it is a very natsukashi karaoke box. Although it is mainly a Korean hangout, there are plenty of English and Japanese songs to embarrass one self with.

Kuma's vocal styling was very impressive on "Elri, My Love" and even encouraged Beth Schnyder to sing along, who told us weeks later, "I haven't been able to get it out of my head since."

Bob and Kim Bartsch collaborated on an impressive rendition of Bad Medicine, while Demaree Raveaux and Britt Sexton lent their voices to numerous songs.

A good night all in all, but unfortunately (or should I say fortunately?) no pictures are available, only great memories.

JETAA Monthly Movie Night - Saturday, October 16th

A great time was had by all at the first ever JETAA Monthly Movie Night!

The movie we watched this month was the original "Shall We Dance", a cute, insightful, and entertaining film chronicling a Japanese salaryman's discovery of ballroom dancing (and a beautiful dance instructor). Through the intimacy of dance, the protagonist finds himself challenging the rigid rules of interpersonal relationships he had always taken for granted, and developing a deeper understanding of the people and culture around him. Avoid this year's craptastic remake and see the real thing!

After the movie we had a casual game night with plenty of refreshments and popcorn. It was a great kickoff to our monthly event!

JETAA Halloween Party - Saturday, October 30th

Our 2nd Annual Halloween party provided JETAA members with a frightening night of fun! The spooky lair of Bob & Beth's Schnyder's house provided the atmosphere for this year's Halloween party. Black lights combined with lighted pumpkins and heads of Frankenstein set the mood for a frightening evening.

JETAA members and friends dressed up in a variety of costumes; a mix of Japanese-related as well as random, yet hilarious outfits. Vice-Consulate Mr. Watanabe served as this year's judge. This year's Japanese costume winner was a Japanese "Salaryman" won by JETAA friend Tomoko. JETAA Treasurer, Kim Bartsch, won for the second year in a row by dressing up as Martha Stewart in jail, complete with black and white striped prison uniform with makeup and pearls.

A special thanks goes out to Bob Schnyder, Cindy Bingham and Kim Bartsch for setting up all the spooky decorations.

JETAA International Meeting - November 2004

The November 2004 JETAA International Meeting in Portland brought nearly 30 delegates and officials from around the world to Portland for a three day conference to discuss the future of JETAA. Delegates stayed at the conference site, the Mark Spencer Hotel.

The most significant topic of discussion involved implementation of a JETAAi web site, database and server. Paul Reid of Western Australia and Scott Norman of the Great Lakes chapter are the leaders of this project. They have been

working with CLAIR for several months and the meeting gave them a chance to present their ideas to the JETAAi executive committee in person. The project is moving forward with CLAIR's and JETAAi's support. Long-term benefits for chapters include a better means of interconnectedness, more cohesion and ability to share ideas and enhance JETAA's image.

Fundraising was another major topic. The consensus appeared to lean toward individual chapters incorporating as non-profit entities to allow them to raise funds tax free to the chapter and tax deductible to donors. Further study will be done prior to the International Conference scheduled for June of 2005 in Kobe and Aichi.

A small committee also exists to study and make recommendations for JETAA's long-term missions and goals. These ideas will be presented at the next conference.

The overall goal of the meeting was to find ways to propel JETAA into a more professional organization so that it can offer more benefits to its members, the JET Programme and the communities in which chapters operate.

Though change is slow, the wheels are turning and there is a lot of momentum, so there is good reason to be optimistic.

A special thanks goes out to all the volunteers from JETAA Portland. Without their assistance, this meeting could not have happened. As a result of their efforts, the meeting ran very smoothly with few complications. Cindy Bingham, the volunteer coordinator, deserves extra recognition for the incredible organization with which she created our volunteer corps.

JETAA Portland also wishes to express its thanks to the Portland Consulate, a co-host of the meeting, especially Mr. Watanabe and Ms. Alipio for the hours of work they put in on our behalf.

JETAA Monthly Movie Night - Saturday, November 20th

A great time was had by all at the first ever JETAA Monthly Movie Night!

The movie this month was 'Welcome Back, Mr. McDonald', a hilarious and entertaining film about a radio station that makes up their LIVE drama show on the air! The actors kept changing the plot as the story progressed which made for a hilarious situation of events "behind the scenes" at the radio station! It was a really funny movie.

We had a double feature movie night with "Top Secret", the hilarious spy spoof which is where Val Kilmer got his big break! An oldie but a goodie!!!

After the movie we had a casual game night -- bring along your favorite party game to add to the mix! Bring any desired refreshments -- popcorn provided.

Consulate Origami Workshop - Sunday, December 5th

The 16th Annual Origami Workshop, sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan at Portland, was held on Sunday, December 5th at the World Trade Center Portland.

About 500 participants of all ages enjoyed learning the Japanese art of paper folding. Twenty-four volunteers (including JETAA Portland's Stephanie Mack) took part in the Origami Workshop as instructors. They demonstrated 15 different figures such as airplane, bookmaker, candle, crane, etc. While instruction was held, the Moshi Moshi Project entertained participants with educational games and songs.

JETAA Portland's Stephanie Mack was our representative. She taught all those eager to learn the art of making origami poinsettias. The consulate really appreciated our help as we strive to help out in the Japanese community.

JETAA BONENKAI at Bush Gardens - Saturday, December 11th

Over 40 people came out to celebrate at Bush Gardens on December 11, 2004. It was a great crowd as we said "sayonara" to 2004. We started the Bonenkai with a Sukiyaki Dinner that provided plenty of food for everyone. Ahh...the "natsukashi" of the traditional tatami rooms with the familiar smells of the sukiyaki dishes brought back memories of times back in Japan. Great conversation and "catching up" were enjoyed by all.

After Dinner, the always entertaining "white elephant" gift exchange provide many surprised and tons of entertainment. Gifts of left-over "omiyage" and crazy Japanese trinkets stirred the crowd into hilarious frenzy. The most sought after gifts included a dancing Pocari Sweat can and an "Ichiban" headband.

After the gift exchange, we fought the crowd and poured into the karaoke lounge to engage in the traditional art of drunken crooning. You can tell from the pictures that it was a really great time!

JETAA SHINNENKAI - Saturday, January 22nd

Nearly 100 JETAA members, J-Kaiwa friends & family members joined in the biggest JETAA event of the year, the Shinnenkai. Held this year at the New Seoul Garden (<http://www.newseoulyakiniku.com>) on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, it was the perfect setting for the best Shinnenkai party yet!

The restaurant had a bar located next door to the restaurant that served as a lounge or meeting/gathering place for everyone to mix & mingle until the buffet dinner was ready. A few announcements were made by JETAA President Beth Schnyder along with a traditional 'COMPAI' from Vice-Consul Mr. Watanabe. Everyone moved into the banquet area to enjoy a delicious buffet meal that made sure no one went hungry! During dinner, pictures of 2004 JETAA events were on display for all to see. Compiled by JETAA Webmaster, Bob Schnyder, they provided a chance to look back and reflect on all the great activities of the past year.

As dinner started to wind down, JETAA Social Chairman, Will Porter, along with Gloria Jung and Beth Schnyder began the prize drawings for the evening. After dinner, everyone moved back into the lounge area for the nijikai which consisted

of karaoke, plenty of great atmosphere and a great time. It was a great time had by all, and we hope to continue this great JETAA spirit throughout all of 2005.

Mochitsuki 2005 - Sunday, January 30th

The JETAA Portland booth at the 2005 Mochitsuki was a great success. The Mochitsuki is a Japanese culture festival and New Year's celebration put on by the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in conjunction with Japan-related community partners (like JETAA). Held at PCC Sylvania, the event drew everyone from Japanese immersion students and their families to former JETs, consular officials and those wanting to learn more about making mochi. JETAA's second annual "Fishing Game" was certainly popular among the 3-12 crowd as kids lined up to whip a mock bamboo fishing rod with clothespin hook over our blue painted "pond" façade. When fishers reeled in their line, they had "caught" Hello Kitty pens, Doraimon gum, lychee candy and/or senbei. The number of head injuries from flying clothespins was down from last year, but if we do this again, we should be sure to bring helmets. Perhaps the greatest success of the fishing game was getting rid of the rancid ginger-flavored Chinese candies! Every last one of them got passed out to unsuspecting fishers!

As in years past, it was good to see former and prospective JETs stop by our table and get connected to the JETAA network. Although due to the attraction of the photo board and fishing game, most of our crowd wasn't yet old enough to vote, let alone have a bachelor's degree, we did some key recruiting among parents for them to keep in mind when the kids do reach JET age.

JETAA volunteers got a chance to attend one of two Mochi Madness performances where the best of the Northwest put on exhibitions in Taiko, Japanese dance, and storytelling. Thanks again to everyone who volunteered.
DC

Chapter Representative: Susan Gundersen

A list of the major events held since August 2004 follows. JET alumni in the Washington D.C. area are also fortunate enough to be able to participate in Japan-related workshops and events held by the Japan America Society of Washington D.C., the Embassy of Japan, the Japan Information and Culture Center, and other organizations in the area.

Activities

Executive Officers: Susan Gundersen, President
Angineeki Jones, Vice President
Dawn Kawasaki, Treasurer
Hayden Brown, Secretary

Activities:

Monthly Book Club - Members of the JETAA book club meet monthly to discuss a new book related to Japan.

Screen on the Green - Monday, August 9, 2004

JET alumni gathered on the National Mall to watch "The Thin Man," shown as part of the annual "Screen on the Green" movie festival held each summer.

Bowling Taikai - Tuesday, August 17, 2004

We went bowling at "Strike Bethesda," an over-21 funky bowling alley with glow-in-the-dark bowling and fun music. We had a buffet of appetizers and bowled for 2 hours.

General Meeting - Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Reception for CLAIR Staff - Wednesday, October 6, 2004

The Embassy was kind enough to hold a reception on behalf of staff members from CLAIR who were in the D.C. area as part of their overseas study trip. The Embassy and JETAA co-sponsored and planned this event.

Dinner with CLAIR staff - Monday, October 25, 2004

The Executive Committee was invited to dinner by CLAIR staff who were in town as part of their overseas business trip to promote the JET Program. JET office staff from the Embassy were also in attendance.

Welcome-Back Reception - Friday, November 19, 2004

The annual Welcome Back Reception was hosted at the Ambassador's Old Residence at the Embassy. Many newly returned JETs were in attendance as well as many active members.

Executive Officer's Meeting - Monday, November 29, 2004

Bonenkai! - Friday, December 3, 2004

For the Bonenkai this year, we had a wonderful 4 course meal at Murasaki, a local Japanese restaurant. Over 45 JET alumni attended. Donations were collected for Toys for Tots.

Happy Hour - Wednesday, January 19, 2005

We held a Happy Hour and enjoyed \$1 sushi at a local Japanese restaurant to kick off 2005 and the Year of the Rooster!

JETAA Committee Meeting - Tuesday, January 25, 2005

We periodically hold meetings with the Executive Officers and Committee Chairs to discuss plans for upcoming events, ideas for improvement of JETAA D.C., etc.

Discussion on "U.S.-Japan Security Relations" - Wednesday, February 9, 2004

We co-sponsored this event with Women in International Security (WIIS). Our speakers included a professor from the University of Maryland, the former editor

of the Japan Digest, and a fellow from the Brookings Institution. The event was held at the Brookings Institution and over 20 JET alumni attended.

Mid-South JETAA (US 5)

(1) Officers

President:	Dr. Denis Soignier (rdsphd@yahoo.com)
Vice President	Nancy Canada
Secretary:	Deanie Soignier (deansoig@yahoo.com)
Treasurer:	Flora Williams (jet@cgjneworleans.org)
Webmaster:	Scott Norman

(2) Activities

The Mid-South JETAA Chapter organizes activities based upon our three main objectives:

- 1) Providing social, educational, and professional networking opportunities for former JET participants in our region;
- 2) Assisting the Consulate General of Japan in New Orleans with recruitment, selection, and preparation of new JET participants;
- 3) Organizing social and/or educational events that promote a greater appreciation and understanding of the Japanese culture and that provide opportunities for friendship and exchange between Japanese and Americans.

Mid-South JETAA is the alumni organization for former JETs living in LA, MS, KY, TN, and AR. Most of our activities are held in the New Orleans area, but we are hoping to establish viable sub-chapters in other states. Following is a listing of activities held between August 2004 and February 2005:

September

▪ JETAA BABY!

Denis and Deanie Soignier had a son, Mark Soignier. This has put some activities on hold.

October

▪ Ohr - O'Keefe Fall Festival of the Arts

JETAA members assisted the Consulate General of Japan at an Origami Table at the George E. Ohr Fall Festival of the Arts in Biloxi, MS.

▪ Kimono Show at the New Orleans Museum of Art

The Cultural Foundation for Promoting the National Costume of Japan hosted a Kimono Show at the New Orleans Museum of Art. JETAA members volunteered to be kimono models and to assist with clean-up.

October - November

▪ JET 2005 Recruiting

JETAA members throughout our five-state region (LA, MS, TN, AR, KY) helped to recruit applicants for the JET 2005 Program by holding JET Info Sessions at various universities.

January

▪ New Year Party

JETAA held its annual potluck shinnenkai at the Soignier's home. Everyone enjoyed the homemade yakisoba, nikujaga and more. Being Carnival season, we also had King Cake (a traditional pastry eaten in New Orleans around Mardi Gras).

February

▪ JET 2005 Interviews

JETAA members will assist in interviewing candidates for the 2005 program.

▪ Japanese Classes for JETAA

The second session of Japanese for JETAA will start at the end of February. The class is open to all JETAA members and takes place weekly at Loyola University in New Orleans.

(3) JOIN MID-SOUTH JETAA!

We'd love to have you. Please contact one of the officers listed above to join Mid-South JETAA or for more details on upcoming activities.

US 7: CHICAGO

Chapter Buddies: Great Lakes (Detroit) and Minnesota (Minneapolis)

Chapter Representative: Leeanne Oue

Phone ·312-735-7651

Email ·chi-prez@jet.org, yoshino74@yahoo.com

Activities:

JETAA Chicago

The past six months have kept JETAA Chicago Chapter officers and members alike busy with a variety of events. In September, our chapter hosted its annual Welcome Back BBQ for recent JET Program returnees. Held at Chicago's newly opened Millennium Park, the BBQ was well-attended and allowed recent returnees

to meet chapter officers and alumni, and to talk with other JETs about their recent Japan experiences.

In October, chapter members gathered on the city's north side to attend our annual Yakiniku/Karaoke party. Conversation was as free flowing as the *biiru*, and everyone enjoyed the tabletop cooking on the chilly October evening. After dinner, with the savory, smoky essence of yakiniku clinging to our clothes, we all slid two doors down to the nearby Karaoke Box to belt out the J-pop and - for the more traditionally-inclined amongst us - our favorite *enka* tunes.

In addition to social activities, Chicago Chapter has also kept busy collaborating with the Japan Information Center (JIC) to promote the JET Program. In November, our chapter hosted an information seminar for prospective applicants to this year's JET Program, with alumni giving presentations on topics such as "Housing & Health Insurance", "Top 10 List of Good and Bad Things About the JET Program", and "How to be a Successful Applicant." Also, throughout the fall, JETAA Chicago members accompanied JIC staff to local colleges and universities to promote the JET Program. With the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago having a newly expanded jurisdiction that now includes ten Midwestern states, our members will continue to work to support their efforts to promote the JET Program throughout the Midwest.

While much of our November activity focused on those contemplating "Life on JET," we also had something for those contemplating "Life After JET": the 2004 JETAA Chicago Career Fair. This year's fair brought together job-seeking alumni and local recruiters, and featured a guest speaker who discussed the various career choices available to JET Alumni. Also on hand was a "resume doctor," who advised alumni on how to make their JET Program experience translate into a dynamic resume.

In December, JETAA Chicago closed out the year's activities with the New JET Returnees Reception at the Consul General's residence. The Honorable Yutaka Yoshizawa warmly welcomed this year's returnees into his home for a wonderful afternoon that included a buffet of Japanese cuisine and a program that saw each returnee introduce themselves and share amusing and touching anecdotes about their time on the JET Program.

In January, members and friends of JETAA Chicago rang in the New Year with our annual Shinnenkai. Although the event was held on an evening that saw a winter storm system dump loads of snow onto the city, we nonetheless had a wonderful turnout. Guest at the Shinnenkai enjoyed sushi, appetizers, and traditional Japanese New Year's activities. Guests also had the opportunity to win great prizes during the raffle that took place at the end of the evening. Prizes were generously provided by many area Japanese restaurants and stores. All proceeds from this event are being donated to the American Red Cross International Response Fund to benefit victims of the South Asian Tsunami.

JETAASC (Chapter 14)

New officers as of September:

Co-Presidents

Jerome Lichtenheld - jerome@jetaasc.org

MyLoc Dinh - myloc@jetaasc.org

Secretary

Elpidio Ebuena - elpidio@jetaasc.org

Treasurer

Saya Yamaguchi - saya@jetaasc.org

September 2004

2nd Weekend Social - 2004 JETAASC Fall Golf Classic: September 11

It was that time again for our annual golf tournament. We had about 20 alumni and friends playing a round of 9 holes at Monterey Park Golf Course. We had several teams consisting of 4-5 players each, playing as a team in scramble "best ball" rules. A prize was given to the first place and second-to-the-last place team. Another prize was given for the closest pin shot on the 3rd hole.

Installation Dinner/ General Meeting: September 11

After the warm day of golfing, we held our annual installation dinner at Yatsuhashi Restaurant in Little Tokyo. We had about 25 people show up to see the changing of the guard, where the old officers stepped down and the new officers were introduced. The new officers also presented gifts to the outgoing sempai as an offer of thanks for doing a great job during the past year. The dinner was also an opportunity for alumni to give ideas to the new officers for the upcoming year.

October 2004

2nd Weekend Social - Little Tokyo Mural Painting: October 9

A group of us alumni gathered around on the corner of Central Avenue and First Street in Little Tokyo to help paint a 16 x 40 ft mural designed to go up on the Japanese Village Plaza parking wall. This was a project spearheaded by Nancy

Kikuchi. Afterwards, we went to Suehiro Café for some dinner. About 10 of us dined together.

Welcome Back Reception: October 22

While this reception has traditionally been held in the spring, this year it was changed to the fall, in order to greet the JETs as they come home "fresh off the plane." Consulate staff, members of the community, and about 40 alumni were on hand to welcome back the 2004 returnees. After the reception, much fun was had at both nijikai parties, and it was nice that so many returnees came out and partied with us old alumni.

Little Tokyo Sparkle Clean-up (Pika Pika): October 23

Early on this Saturday morning, 7 alumni helped make the streets of Little Tokyo "pika pika". The Little Tokyo Sparkle Event was sponsored by the Little Tokyo Public Safety Association and Nikkei Bridge, and many organizations came to help out. It was a great way to contribute to the community. Some passersby expressed their appreciation and thanks while we swept sidewalks and picked up trash. It was two hours of cleaning, and afterwards we all met at the Koban for a hot dog lunch. A job well done to everyone who volunteered to clean!

Nihongo Dake Dinner - Halloween Party: October 30

About 20 alumni and friends dressed up in costumes and attempted to speak Japanese to each other. The party was held at an alumnus' house, and everybody brought their own dish in potluck fashion. An amusing costume contest was also held during the party.

Japanese Restaurant Association Food Festival: October 31

On Halloween of this year, the JRA hosted its annual Food Festival, and a bunch of the alumni helped out for the 5th year. We were all over the place, from working the ticket area, to the sushi booth in the main room, to the okonomiyaki booth upstairs in the Garden level of the New Otani Hotel. A good amount of people showed up to enjoy the great food, taste the variety of sakes, and check out some of the food demonstrations. Some of us even got to sample some of that Japanese goodness. It was a good day.

November 2004

Annual Member Retreat - Oceanside: November 13-14

This year's JET Retreat was held in northern San Diego, and the general meeting yielded many great brainstorming ideas as well as alumni stepping up to the plate by taking active roles in the various committees. There was a ton of food, drinks, board games, massages that weekend, and a beach football game to boot. It was a nice weekend where the ~30 alumni were able to spend time getting to know each other.

Little Tokyo Koban Fundraiser - Casino Night: November 21

JETAASC alumni were able to take a stab at dealing, VEGAS style. We volunteered dealing Blackjack, Texas Hold'em (a new addition this year), Bingo and other fun sinful gaming. We all enjoyed a delicious buffet. Some of us later tried our own luck at the gaming tables. One of our alumni won the grand prize for the Texas Hold'em tournament. His prize...an entry to a Las Vegas Texas Hold'em tournament. During the raffle, we crowded in one corner and waited patiently for the emcees to call our winning numbers. A few of us were lucky, the rest of us weren't. Much fun was had by all!

December 2004

Quarterly Board Meeting: December 3

The officers and some of the board members (7 total people) got together to discuss a variety of topics. A few in particular: the future of the Photo Exhibit, recap report about the retreat, and a brief discussion on changing to non-profit status.

2nd Weekend Social - Bonnenkai: December 11

About 45 alumni and FOJs came out to Fountain Valley to a Marie Calendars to have our traditional (and yet another annual event) holiday dinner together. Nothing too fancy, but the group got their choice of dinner from a limited menu (teriyaki top sirloin, lemon-pepper salmon, or an artichoke mushroom chicken). Everybody also got a slice of pie for dessert. During dessert, we did our event of the night, the infamous gift exchange. Whoever brought a wrapped \$10 gift, was able to participate. The premise, each person would get to choose a gift from the table or steal a gift already opened. A gift could not be stolen more than twice. We also tried something new this year where people were able to bring a non-wrapped toy for a toy drive. The donations went to the Asian Pacific Women's Center, the Center for the Pacific Asian Family and Para Los Ninos. After the event officially ended, some of us went across the street to do a Japanese style nijikai, karaoke.

January 2005

Shinnenkai: January 15

Once again our members came out in full force with their friends and family to bring in the New Year. A total of 70 folks, all dressed up and ready to party, met at Samba Churrasco / Brazilian Steakhouse in Redondo Beach to enjoy the good music, great food, and even better company.

In attendance were active alumni, new returnees, veteran board members, friends / spouses of JETs, and one member from the consulate. Once desert was served and all official announcements were made, the dancing commenced. Everybody had a good time.

February 2005

2nd Weekend Social - JETAASC Tsunami Relief Fundraiser/ Free Bowling: February 12

For something different, we decided to do a fundraiser for the victims of the tsunami disaster as our month activity. We will be offering free bowling at the Palos Verdes Bowl in Torrance to all who wants to come, and all we ask is for a small donation. All alumni and friends of alumni are welcome, but we also invited the members of the consulate and other organizations, like the JAS (Japanese American Society), and Nikkei Bridge. All donations will go to Project Concern International (<http://www.projectconcern.org/>). We are hoping that this will be one of our bigger events of the year.

Quarterly Board Meeting: February 18

At this board meeting, we will be discussing many topics as usual. Topics will include the closure of the photo exhibit, recapping the past events, and beginning talks of the pre-departure.

JET Interviews, Los Angeles: February 15 - 18, 23, 24

JET Interviews, Phoenix: February 19

Miscellaneous

JETAASC web site (<http://www.jetaasc.org/>) updated with new look.

US 10: Rocky Mountain (Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, & Wyoming)

Chapter Liaisons: Southern Colorado & New Mexico

Chapter Buddy: Southern California (Los Angeles)

Chapter representative: Lindsay Borgman

Phone/fax: 303-665-9075

Email: rmjetaa@hotmail.com/ info@rmjetalumni.org

(if problem with these, contact lindsayborgman@mac.com)

Website: www.rmjetalumni.org

Upcoming Plans

- RMJETAA Elections February- March 13th

- Japan America Society of Colorado Japan Bowl Cultural Booth- RMJETAA will have a booth with alumni to discuss our Japan experiences Feb. 27th (may display some of our photos to advertise May photo exhibit)
- Asia Day at CU, March 12, booth to talk about JET, Japan experience, Japanese schools and to advertise our Photo Exhibit
- May Photo Exhibit Reception and month long photo exhibit!!!
- Annual Karaoke night, "Sing Into Spring"
- Q and A new JET orientation in June

Recent activities at RMJETAA include:

- Photo Exhibit Submissions were a success- we received many amazing pictures, they have been judged and selected for our first Photo Exhibit taking place at a gallery in Denver for the month of May. Presently working on enlarging photos and buying mounting supplies.
- New Mexico JETs had their first official gathering in November
- Welcome Back Picnic/ Sushi Making Demonstration in September
- Dinner with Ionis International (5 business visitors from Japan)
- JET Alumni volunteers helped Clair at October info session at CU, then had dinner with CLAIR officials
- JET Alumni volunteers helped Consulate booth at Career fairs to talk about JET in October and November
- JET President visited Japanese language classrooms at CU to show home video and talk about JET program
- Many alumni attended Consul-General's reception for Returned JETs and JETAA sponsored Nijikai (we bought the food) at local bar and grill
- Movie Night at the Botanic Gardens, "Shall We Dance" shown to audience of JET AA members and community.
- Career Forum discussion with about 10 JET alumni (1 hour before Shinnenkai). This worked really well, and I recommend it. Instead of hiring a career counselor, we asked several JET alumni who have Japan related careers to attend, and everyone present told their stories of job search successes and frustrations (and expectations before and after JET).
- Shinnenkai with taiko performance on January 22nd at the University of Denver International House- over 50 people attended including the Denver Consul-General and the Deputy Consul-General. This was our most attended event (ever I think). In our region, members are very spread out but people came to our Shinnenkai from Ft. Collins, Colorado Springs, and Boulder.
- We have monthly meetings at a local coffee shop. This year we always meet at 2:00 on the 2nd Sunday of every month. The consistent time works well for planning and scheduling.
- We now have a yahoo groups listserv with 96 active members
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockyMtnJETAA/>

RMJETAA Officers:

President- Lindsay Borgman
Vice President- Rachelle Bergen
Secretary- Karra Shikimachi
Treasurer- Helena Shirai
Web Coordinator - Joel Borgman
Member-at-large - Susan Weller
Member-at-large - Desiree Thorpe
Member-at-large - Chris McMorran
Member-at-large - Aaron Ragon
Member-at-large - Lisa Ragon

New England JET Alumni Association
c/o Japanese Consulate
Federal Plaza, 14th Floor,
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210
Telephone: 617.973.9772
Fax: 617.542.1329
Website: www.nejetaa.org
E-mail Address: president@nejetaa.org

Activities & Events from August 2004 - January 2005:

- Social:
 - Dinners (Shinnenkai in January '05)
 - Happy Hours,
 - Language Exchange at Japanese School
- Career/Re-Entry:
 - Dinner at Consul General's house for newly returned JETs in January '05
 - BBQ for returning JETs in fall of '04
- Educational:
 - Negotiating access to Japanese book library at Japanese school
- Cultural:
 - Japan in a Suitcase to local elementary schools,
 - Designed and sent nengajyo to members & related organizations (1/05)
- JET Promotion:
 - Board members participating in interviews of new JET candidates
- JETAA Promotion:
 - Phone-a-thon to locate and recruit newly returned JETs (1/05)
- Updated web site:

- Training board members in administering web site
- “Evite”-like function being used to promote events and track RSVP’s
- Migrated to new content management system to improve security
- Other:
 - Elections in November ‘04

US 2: NEW YORK (www.jetaany.org)

Chapter Buddies: Washington, DC and New England (Boston)
Chapter Representative: Shannan Spisak
 (president@jetaany.org)

Executive Officers

President: Shannan Spisak, president@jetaany.org
 Vice President: Rosie de Frémery, vicepres@jetaany.org
 Treasurer: Jo Sonido, treasurer@jetaany.org
 Secretary: Ryan Chan, secretary@jetaany.org
 Philadelphia Sub-Chapter Rep: Therese Stephen, phillyrep@jetaany.org

Key Coordinators

Webmaster: Scott Norman, webmaster@jetaany.org
 Newsletter: Steven Horowitz, newsletter@jetaany.org
 Database: Marc Carroll, database@jetaany.org

Continuing Periodic Activities

- ? Happy Hour (monthly)
- ? Newsletter mailings (quarterly)
- ? Nihongo Dake Events (bimonthly, usually dinners)
- ? Pot Luck Dinner (bimonthly)

Special Events, Continuing Periodic Activities

September 2004

- ? Q3 Focus Group Meeting - Quarterly Development meeting open to all members
- ? Visit to NYC from PeaceBoat Program
- ? Happy Hour

October 2004

- Newsletter
- Assist Consulate with JET recruiting sessions Q&A
- Officer meeting (open to officers and CGJ / CLAIR)
- ? Welcome Back Reception & Career Forum
- ? Happy Hour

November 2004

- Pot Luck Dinner (Theme: 7-11 Conbini goodies)
- Nihongo Dake Dinner
- Happy Hour

December 2004

- Q4 Development Meeting - open to all members
- Sub-Chapter (Philadelphia) Bonenkai
- Pot Luck Dinner (Theme: Nengajo)
- Newsletter

January 2005

- Shinnenkai at Naniwa restaurant in coordination with NYde Volunteer (local Japanese Community organization)
- Officer meeting and discussion with NPO lawyer re: 501c3 status. Moving ahead with filing requirements
- Sub-Chapter Ski Trip

February 2005

- Business meeting: JETAA NY Introduction of new officer candidates (open to all members)
- Online voting for new officers
- JET interviews
- Happy Hour
- Asia Society Asia Circle Event

Recent Projects

- ? Xdrive - we established an online archive of all JETAANY files at www.xdrive.com, eliminating the problem of having some files on our office computers and some files on our personal computers. We have 5 gigabytes of storage space (not counting an extra gigabyte we just won for completing an online survey), more than we seem to need at the moment, and are currently adding documents both recent and historical to the archive. Some documents such as old bylaws are being scanned from their printed form (since that's all we have) into Word format using OCR text recognition.

Current Projects

- ? 501c3 Certification - have found a lawyer willing to take on our case pro bono; we've submitted initial documentation and will be pushing the process within the following months

US 15 (Hawaii)

ADDRESS & CONTACT INFO:

C/o Japanese Consulate
1742 Nuuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 543-3126
(808) 543-3170

WEBSITE & e-mail:

www.jetaahawaii.com
jetaahawaii@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP FACTS:

- ~250 members
- \$5.00 Dues for lifetime membership (effective 9/30/04)
- 7 Officers (4 Vacant)
 - President - Brad Araki
 - VP - Eric Lum
 - Treasurer - (vacant)
 - Secretary - (vacant)
 - Social Events Coordinators - Jamie Okimoto & Jenny Seki
 - Webmaster
 - Office Terms - 2 years elected via e-mail

EVENTS:

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Boy's Day Festival	JCCH	May 2004
Izakaya Night	Tokkuri-tei	June 2004
Pre-Departure Q & A	JCCH	July 2004
Culture Workshop	Toma's	July 2004
Farewell BBQ	Magic Island	July 2004
Daigaku Visits 2004	UH, HPU, BYU	Aug/Sep
Welcome Back Picnic	Magic Island	Oct 2004
Boat Trip	Kaneohe Bay Sandbar	Oct 2004
Welcome Back Reception	Japanese Consulate	Nov 2004
Nabe Party	Brad's Apartment	Dec 2004
New Year's Celebration	JCCH	Jan 2004
Shinenkai	Gyotaku	Jan 2005
JET Interviewing	Japanese Consulate	Feb 2005
Japan Bowl	Waikiki Sheraton	Feb 2005
Kujira Watching Hike	Makapuu	March 2005
Yukata Party	Seki Residence	March 2005
Karaoke Night	Karaoke Room 2	April 2005

Pacific Northwest JET Alumni Association (PNW JETAA)
US Chapter 11
President: Shannon R. Quinn
Treasurer: Claire Rambo
E-mail: pnwofficers@jet.org

PNW JETAA Activities: September 2004-February 2005

September 2004:

Newsletter published
Volunteer at Aki Matsuri (9/11/04-9/12/04)
Kintetsu sponsored JETAA Essay Contest Winners' Trip to Japan (PNW Members Shannon Quinn and Phillip Giarratano selected)

October 2004:

Happy Hour/Monthly Meeting (10/1)

November 2004:

Steering Council Meeting (11/3)
PNW JETAA Welcome Back Reception at Consul's Official Residence (11/5)
Annual Career Day coordinated by Jeff Huffman (11/13)
Japan America Society Dinner and Auction-- President Shannon Quinn invited to join Consulate's table (11/30)

December 2004:

Steering Council Meeting at Masalisa Japanese Tea House (12/1)
Newsletter published

January 2005:

Shinnenkai Happy Hour (1/21)
JETAA Japanese Class (1/12, 1/19, 1/26)
PNW JETAA Photo Contest Deadline (1/31)

February 2005:

Steering Council Meeting
JETAA Japanese Class (2/2, 2/9, 2/16, 2/23)
Assistance with JET Program Interviews (2/14-2/18)
Preparation of PNW JETAA Photo Contest Display

****Report Prepared on 1/21/05 by Shannon R. Quinn***

