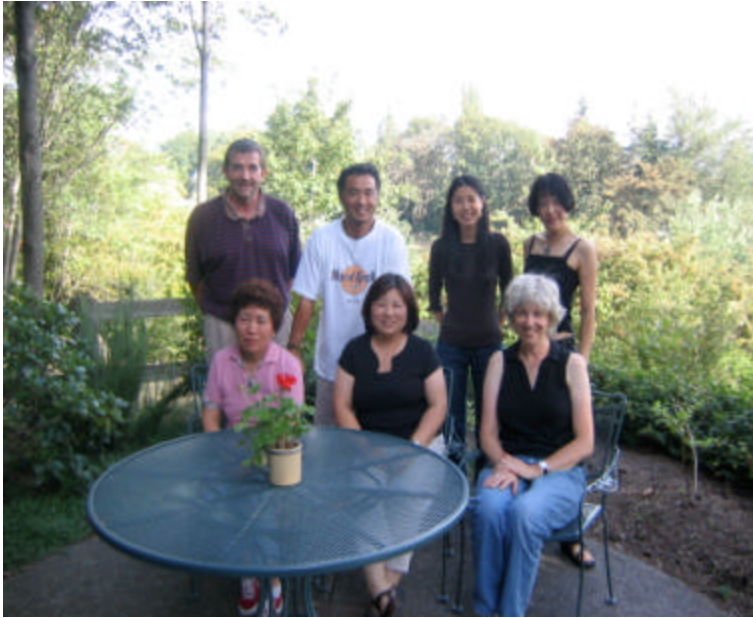


# Washington Association of Japanese Teachers

September 2004



## WATJ BOARD MEMBERS AT SUMMER RETREAT

### A Message from the President

Welcome back to another exciting year helping young in America grasp the basics of the Japanese language and culture! As a Caucasian American, I think it is a wonderful and needful work that we are all involved in. The three states on the west coast of the USA are strongly tied in to relationships with the countries of Asia.

Indeed, our own governor, Gary Locke, is currently in China. Yet, despite that, Japanese is just about the only Asian language that is taught in schools before college level in our state. It is in our classes that students have the opportunity to experience and struggle with the differences and similarities between America and Asia in any depth. It is a significant work you are engaged in. Don't let the many troubles and frustrations of teaching discourage you.

Retiring and current Board members met last August 20<sup>th</sup> to review last year's activities and to plan for this new academic year. I want to extend a hearty appreciation to Motoko Hayashi who completed three years as the WATJ Treasurer. The new Treasurer is Taeko Tashibu, who has been an active member of

### **WATJ GENERAL MEETING!**

*Our fall General Meeting was held today. At the end of August we have 88 members of whom 21 were able to come today.*

*Beginning last year each General Meeting will focus around a Professional Development workshop and arrangements are being made so that Clock Hours are available at no additional charge to our members.*

*Next meeting is Saturday, January 8, 2005  
10am-12:30pm*

**LOCATION: ROOSEVELT HIGH @ Lincoln  
Campus : 4400 INTERLAKE AVE N.  
Seattle, WA.**

WATJ and other professional associations for years. I have many thanks for Akiko Stevenson who retired as Vice-President and organizer the excellent conference last year. Yoshitaka Inoue is one of the pillars of our association and he moved from Secretary to the Vice-President position. The incoming secretary is Tomoko Yokokawa, who works in the Japanese Consulate. Laurie Pruden will continue as our Membership Chair.

The financial situation for our association improved over the past year. A full report will be shared at the General meeting this Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. We have funds available to grant for professional development opportunities you may plan to join this year. If so, please check out the information and application form on the WATJ website at [www.watj.org](http://www.watj.org).

WATJ membership grew last year to 88 members. It is the goal of the Board to make each meeting an opportunity for growth in our skills as educators so renew your membership in WATJ for another excellent year of helping each other become the best educators.

*Kurt Thompson, President*

**2004/2005 WATJ Membership Application  
New/ Renewal**

**WATJ Member Benefits:**

Newsletters

2. NCJLT(National Council of Japanese Language Teachers)Membership

3. WATJ Annual conference at Member Rate

4. Mini Grants

5. Workshops

6. Networking Opportunities

7. Job Openings (if you are looking for a job, let board members know)

8. Great Discounts, including Kinokuniya Bookstore

**Membership Form**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Email** \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form with check made out to **WATJ** to:

Taeko Tashibu  
6556 16<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Seattle, WA 98119 H 206 525-375

**2004/05 School Year Dues: Regular \$35\_\_\_ Student/ Retired \$25\_\_\_**

**WATJ will not give your address or email address sold or given to any commercial entity**

**Taeko Tashibu**

UCLA's Summer Institute in Urawa

In January after semester grades were turned in, I breathed a sign of relief. "The year is half over, and soon it will be summer vacation. What will I do?" Then I saw the East Asia Resource Center Newsletter advertising the opportunity to study Technology, Language and Culture in *Japan* through the Japan Foundation and the Alliance of Associations of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ). Little did I know that I was about to overload my mind with new computer concepts for my Japanese classroom.

I received the syllabus from UCLA's Yasu-hikoTohsaku Sensei in May which said we would learn to edit authentic video in the computer. I had never used a video camera or even a digital camera. This was a chance to learn. The day before I flew to LA I bought the digital movie camera and borrowed the other.

The initial LA section of classes was spent on how to take a good video with an awareness of the lighting, editing the clip in the computer and maintaining a standards-based curriculum. After a few classes, the importance of "Authentic Material" for our classrooms was ingrained in our heads. I became a Paparazzi in Japan by taking 400 digital pictures and 6 hours of video.

The 13 U.S. teachers then traveled to the Urawa Language Institute to study Japanese in the morning and continue the technology classes in the afternoon. We evaluated websites, as teacher or student study resources. We spent a day with Word and some of the layouts for creating work sheets. Every day there was a new topic using computers a different way. Initially, these ideas take effort to implement, but the results and effect are worth the time invested.

This five week class came at the perfect time. During summer vacation Renton School District changed all the teacher computers from Mac's to high speed PCs. After using the PCs at Urawa Institute in Japan and the Japan Foundation's LA office, I am using the same software versions of Video Maker, PowerPoint and Word to create my 2004 teaching materials. Now I can enjoy my computer for more than district e-mail and attendance!

P.S.: The unexpected component of my 2004 curriculum development was my fellow participants and facilitator of this summer institute. We developed a camaraderie and teacher network across the continent. We are now sharing with our local communities. Look for our presentation in Portland.

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### September General Meeting Report

This year's calendar of Important Events is listed below. Membership in WATJ/NCJLT runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> each year, so it is time to renew your membership in WATJ. Forms can be downloaded from the website and are in this newsletter.

Presentations were given from the Japan-America Society regarding their Traveling Suitcase program. [www.us-japan.org/jazzw](http://www.us-japan.org/jazzw)

Ms. Yokokawa of the Consulate passed out information regarding the JET program and the upcoming Test of Japanese Proficiency which will be at the U.W. campus <http://www.seattle.us.emb-japan.go.jp>

After discussion is was approved by members present to add WATJ to the list of supporters for Initiative 884 which will create a fund for Education in Washington State by raising the sales tax 1%. Each member is encouraged to review this and all other issues on the ballot in November and cast your own vote. This endorsement doesn't imply how you will vote in November! Just that we endorse more spending on education in the state.

Ideas for the February WATJ conference are needed. Please tell us what you would like to learn about, or would like to share in a workshop. The planning committee for the high school Immersion Camp is forming and members are needed.

Professor Kato's workshop on "Drills to Communication" was canceled at the last minute due to a car accident in the hours before the meeting. The workshop will occur at the January 8, 2005 meeting. It is the Board's plan to have these kind of workshops as the central focus of each meeting during the year.

The WAFLT Conference in Portland Oregon on October 8-9 will be one of the two best opportunities for World Language teachers to learn about our profession and to improve our skills as Educators. There will be 4 wonderful workshops presented on Friday (8<sup>th</sup>) by teachers in Oregon. There will be a full day workshop on Saturday given by Professor Kataoka and Professor Tousaku. There will be no better PD opportunity than this!! See <http://wafit.net/conferences.html> for details. Join us there!!!!

## The First Symposium on Japanese Language Education in the U.S. “No Teacher Left Behind”

*by Yoshitaka Inoue, Washington Association of Teachers of Japanese*

This summer I had the opportunity to participate in the very first symposium of Japanese Language Educators, which was sponsored by the Japan Foundation in Los Angeles. The theme of this symposium was “No Teacher Left Behind”. The symposium focused on the “No Child Left Behind” Act, Japanese AP testing, and National Board Certification. Almost all the states and regional associations of Japanese language educators were represented.

The “No Child Left Behind (NCLB)” Legislation states, “By the 2005-2006 school year, students must achieve a high level of scholastic proficiency through their teacher’s guidance.” A pledge to reform the quality of educators was presumed a necessity to accomplish the goal of NCLB. As a result the review of teachers’ academic qualifications is becoming a big issue in each state’s curriculum.

In most of the states world languages, including Japanese, are not core subjects. Therefore, at this point there aren’t so many significant impacts on foreign language instruction as a result of NCLB. It is very important that we be strong advocates of Japanese language education and actively promote our programs with legislatures and superintendents of public instruction. We must also be proactive in developing criteria for teacher training, hence the theme of “No Teacher Left Behind.”

The NCLB Act could be a pitfall if it is all about testing. Also, requiring highly qualified teachers might result in losing many prospective teachers if there is not enough funding support for training, competitive salaries and other incentives. There were two keynote speakers at the Conference who focused on AP courses and testing. The first speaker was Thomas Matts from The College Board. Mr. Matts is currently overseeing the development of the new Language and Culture courses and exams in AP Japanese, Italian, Chinese and Russian. He also led the development of the National Board Certification assessments. Mr. Matts shared the timeline of Japanese AP course and testing development which starts in spring 2006. He clearly stated that the AP Japanese course and test would be national standards based. He told all the teachers association representatives that he is forming an AP Japanese Task Force and asked for recommendations. If you are interested in serving on the task force please contact WATJ officers. Mr. Matts also mentioned that the Japanese National Board Certification is still looking for candidates this year and strongly encouraged all Japanese teachers to apply. This will be the last year if there are not enough applicants. The web site for more information is <http://www.nbpts.org/standards/nbcert.cfm> The second Keynote Speaker was Dr. Carl Falsgraf. Dr. Falsgraf discussed the future of the AP Japanese Course using an online Japanese assessment program, which he developed. Overall, my impression is that AP Japanese will be the biggest issue in the next couple years. We should be very much involved in how the course and tests will be developed. This will affect our instruction significantly.

There were many other wonderful presenters and I brought back a lot of information that I am eager to share. Please feel free to contact me for more detail about the conference.

### ***COME AND LEARN AT THIS YEAR’S FALL WAFLT CONFERENCE OCT 8-9!***

This year’s fall WAFLT-COFLT conference will take place from Oct. 8th to the 9th in Portland (Holiday Inn Portland Airport). This year’s theme is “Second Languages for All Ages and All Stages”. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to learn about language teaching through presentations and workshops, share teaching ideas, get to know each other and receive clock hours. The WATJ Board members hope that every member will consider attending this conference and spend meaningful time with fellow teachers. Every year, the WAFLT conference has great presentations from the members of Spanish, French or German organizations. This year we will have the opportunity to join workshops organized by members of the Oregon Japanese teachers association (ATJO)!! This only occurs once every other year!

Professors Kataoka and Tousaku will present an excellent workshop on Saturday. You must register for the conference and pay the additional \$20 fee for this special workshop. However, a similar workshop by these two professors in the past cost \$80 to attend in Seattle, plus \$20 for clock hours/\$60 for credit and took place over 4 days. You can gain the same benefit for a similar cost and not tie up 4 days of your time. This is a wonderful opportunity. Don’t pass it up!

Please talk to your colleagues and fellow teachers about attending and arrange a carpool! You can find members’ phone numbers and e-mail addresses in this year’s WATJ conference packet (I hope everyone still has it....)

For more information about the conference, please refer to this link: <http://www.waflt.net/conferences.html>  
You can also download the proposal form from this site.

## ***Hyogo Business and Cultural Center's Japanese Pedagogy Workshop 2004***

*By Peggy Hardt, University of Washington*

This August I had the opportunity to join twenty or so Japanese language teachers from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho for a four-day class, "Using PowerPoint for Developing and Presenting Japanese Language Materials," taught by Hiroko Kataoka of California State University, Long Beach, and Yasu-Hiko Tohsaku of University of California, San Diego. The class was a whirlwind of information, practice, and application. The vast majority of the participants were novices at using PowerPoint in the beginning of the class, but by the end we had all reached at least an elementary level of understanding and skill.

As the culmination of the class, we worked in groups to make and present PowerPoint lessons or self-study materials. It was really amazing to see what the groups accomplished in just a few hours of class time. The instructors were very patient with our technology insecurities and questions. They helped us feel comfortable using technology and gave us many helpful hints, including an extensive list of Internet links. We had ample hands-on practice throughout in the class. As we worked on our group projects, the instructors helped us hone our ideas and create our presentations.

The instructors repeatedly urged us to be deliberate and selective in the use of PowerPoint in our classrooms. They reminded us that there are times that not using PowerPoint is more effective and efficient. We also had a review of standards-based language instruction and discussed how it applies to using PowerPoint. We were encouraged to include plenty of practice in our lessons and incorporate activities that progress step-by-step from mechanical activities to meaningful and communicative activities.

Overall, the workshop was a valuable experience for me to learn more about today's technology and resources, explore pedagogically appropriate uses of PowerPoint, reflect more deeply about my teaching, and interact with other Japanese teaching professionals. I look forward to using my new skills to enhance my teaching in the coming years. I would like to thank the instructors, Hyogo Business and Cultural Center, and WATJ for bringing this workshop to us.

### **Important Events for the 2004-2005 WATJ year**

**Be sure to mark your calendars and participate. It will be worth the effort!**

<b>September 18, 2004</b>	<b>Board and General Meetings</b>	9-12:30	Roosevelt High School, Seattle
<b>October 8-9, 2004</b>	<b>WAFLLT Conference</b>	two days	Portland, Oregon
	Board meeting at conference		
November 2, 2004	Board Meeting	4-6pm	Roosevelt High School, Seattle
December 12, 2004	Board Meeting	4-6pm	Roosevelt High School, Seattle
<b>January 8, 2005</b>	<b>Board and General Meeting</b>	9-12:30	Roosevelt High School, Seattle
February 2, 2005	Board Meeting	4-6pm	Roosevelt High School, Seattle
<b>March 5, 2005</b>	<b>WATJ Conference</b>	8:30-2pm	University Prep (Tentative)
<b>March 25-26, 2005</b>	<b>Immersion Camp</b>	two days	Camp Bosco near Carnation
May 4, 2005	Board Meeting	4-6pm	Roosevelt High School, Seattle
May (to be determined)	<b>HBCC Speech &amp; Skit Contest</b>	all day	To be Determined
<b>June 4, 2005</b>	<b>Board and General Meeting</b>	9-12:30	Roosevelt High School, Seattle
August 19, 2005	Retreat of outgoing/incoming Board	noon-5pm	To be Determined
<b>September 17, 2005</b>	Board and General Meeting	9-12:30	To be Determined

## “ Japanese Language and Culture Visits for High School Classes”

First of all, we would like to thank many of the teachers who invited us to your class rooms this past year. Back with popular demand, the Japan-America Society is bringing the language and culture of Japan to local schools again this year with its “Japanese Language and Culture Visits” program.

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The Japanese Language and Culture Visits (JLCV) program is a volunteer-based school outreach project to provide a total immersion language experience for high school students learning Japanese.

A team of Japanese-speaking volunteers will visit your classroom to lead the total immersion activities.

JLCV provides students with the opportunity to use their Japanese in realistic situation and with unfamiliar speakers of Japanese. Aside from a brief English introduction, the entire lesson will be conducted in Japanese.

JLCV offers two lesson plans depending on the level of your students. You may also choose to request both lesson plans.

### Customs

The customs unit teaches students some basic phrases and customs they would actually need on a visit to Japan. The emphasis is on basic terminology and etiquette and **should be manageable for students with less than one year of Japanese.**

To fully and successfully participate in this lesson, students need **only a very basic knowledge of Japanese, familiarity with pronunciation, forming tenses and negatives, and familiarity with hiragana.**

*Though this object is for basic class, we can expand this program to upper class.*

### Shopping

The shopping unit provides students with the opportunity to use skills they already have in simulated but realistic situations and with unfamiliar speakers of Japanese.

To fully and successfully participate in this lesson, students need to be **familiar with numbers and counters, grammatical patterns used in comparing prices and reading hiragana.**

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If you are interested in this program, please list School name, address, phone number and fax number, teacher’s name and E-mail address, and submit the information to:

### Kae Iwabuchi, Japan in the Schools Coordinator

Tel: 206-374-0180 Fax: 206-374-0175 E-mail: [jis-intern@us-japan.org](mailto:jis-intern@us-japan.org)

For more information about the program, please also refer to our website, <http://www.us-japan.org/jassw/programs/jis.htm>

Japan-America Society of the State of Washington is an independent non-profit 501 (c) (3) member-supported organization established in 1923 to promote mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of Japan and Washington State.