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**Another JET Class Departs**  
 2010 Pre-Departure Orientation

by Veronica White



Professor Kazuko Ikeda speaks to the 2010 incoming JET class.

photo: Kim Miyake

Portland's annual pre-departure orientation for new JETs was held on Saturday, June 19th at the World Trade Center. Hosted by the Consulate-General of Portland and JETAA, this event aims to prepare JET participants for their new lives and jobs in Japan. This year, forty-one new JET participants departed from Portland, joining a community of over 4,000 JETs in Japan.

Sessions at this year's orientation included presentations on ESL team teaching, Japanese workplace etiquette, what to bring to Japan, and breakout sessions for male and female JETs. Several presentations were given by JETAA members, such as the team teaching presentation by Will Porter and the Japanese etiquette session by Britt Sexton and Amy Spofford. During lunch, participants were divided into regional groups and given the opportunity to talk with alums from their region in Japan, as well as meet new JETs traveling to the same area.

A second pre-departure event was held on Friday, July 30th, at the Consul General's residence. Here, new JETs received their final pre-departure information and a final cultural presentation by Japanese professor Kazuko Ikeda. Afterwards, a banquet hosted by the Consul General of Japan was held. In addition to including JET alums and members of the Japanese community, this year the families of new JETs were also invited to participate in the event and spend one last day with their loved ones before they departed for Japan.

JETAA Portland would like to wish the new JETs *gambatte*, or good luck, on their new and exciting journey. We hope to see you again when you return!

Join us for the annual

**BOUNENKAI**

**Friday, December 10th**  
**6:00PM**

Bush Garden Restaurant  
 (please check the website for details)

Mark your calendar for one of the biggest JETAA events of the year.  
 Let's put 2010 behind us!

## From the Editor...

Steve Thenell

This is my inaugural issue as editor. (I'm still trying to figure out how I was tricked into doing it...)

Actually, I am happy to be on board. Hopefully, all of you will be able to find articles of interest in this quarter's publication. If not, please contact me and let me know the type of content you'd like to see.

I am a big fan of puzzles, so I plan to include a crossword puzzle in each issue. You can find the first one on page 7. Even if you are not a fan of crosswords, give it a try - you might like it. And let me know what you think of it, too.

One other new feature is "Fun with Kanji". In it, I'll show you some interesting tidbits about kanji that might make learning them a little easier.

Well, that's all for now. Happy reading!

- Steve

## JETAA Portland Alumnus Runs for Congress

JET alum Robert Cornilles won the 2010 Republican primary for Congress in Oregon's 1st District and will be running against incumbent Democrat David Wu this November.

Rob is the founder and CEO of Game Face, a sports marketing company.

Rob and his wife Allison were on the JET program from 1988-1989 and lived in Wadayama-cho, Hyogo-ken. Rob taught in local high schools while Allison taught in several middle schools.



Rob Cornilles

At this year's JET pre-departure orientation reception at the Consul General's house, Rob shared his memories and the impact that the JET program has had on his and his wife's lives. "Our time in Japan with the JET

Program was an experience we will always cherish. It brought a greater appreciation for Allison's Japanese heritage and culture, and a broader view of the world."

# Sayonara BBQ

by Stephanie Smith

## New JETs enjoy one last American-style cookout

Sunshine, sandals and "soda" for everyone was the scene on Saturday, July 17th. JETAA Portland hosts a family-focused "Sayonara BBQ" every July, shortly before the newest JETs board the plane to begin their journey on the JET Program. This event has

at their Tigard home. Scott commanded the burgers on the grill while JETAA members and new JET families alike brought potluck-style side dishes. Families of the new JETs went above and beyond the standard sides this year for a delicious feast for all.



Soon-to-be JETs and their families enjoy food, drink, and conversation.

While JETAA members fielded a variety of questions parents were dying to ask former participants, the new JETs relaxed on the deck with drink in hand, getting to know their new peers. Several of the new JETs already could boast of Japanese language skills, as well as travel and teaching experience pre JET-program. Well-prepared

historically been a chance to gather both veteran and new JETs together in a casual atmosphere to promote conversations that answer some of the new JET's and their families' burning questions.

This year Scott and Stephanie Smith ("the JETAA couple") hosted the event

by the JETAA pre-departure orientation, they looked forward to "just getting there," and starting their new JET life in Japan.

Join us next year for our family-friendly annual Sayonara BBQ and help us send off the 2011 Portland JET participants!

## JETAA Portland Contacts

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The JETAA Portland Newsletter is published by the Portland Chapter of the JET Alumni Association. Information presented and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the JET Program, the government of Japan, or any of its entities. For comments and questions please contact the JETAA Portland President. Please direct newsletter comments and submissions to the JETAA Portland Newsletter Editor. Keep up on all current JETAA Portland activities and events by visiting the official website at [www.jetaaportland.com](http://www.jetaaportland.com).

# JETAA National Conference 2010

New Yorkers are excellent hosts this year

by Veronica White

This year's JETAA USA National Conference was held at the New York Helmsley Hotel from August 12-15, 2010. JETAA Portland sent Veronica White (vice president) and Beth (treasurer) and Bob (webmaster) Schnyder as official chapter representatives. Over 40 delegates from 18 of the 19 JETAA USA chapters attended the conference.



The 2010 JETAA National Conference attendees

The conference began with a welcome reception on Thursday night at Bao Noodles, a restaurant owned by JET Alumni and *sake* sommelier Chris Johnson. Participants dined on a course of Vietnamese cuisine ranging from curry to durian ice cream and sampled five varieties of *sake*, including Momokawa Organic Ginjo from Oregon's own SakeOne brewery. The night was a wonderful opportunity to relax in the Big Apple and mingle with JETAA members from all over the U.S.

On Friday morning we were greeted by JETAA New York President Megan Miller-Yoo, Ambassador and Consul General to New York Shinichi Nishimiya, and Executive Director of CLAIR New York Masaaki Akagi. Most of the morning was devoted to discussing the Future of JETAA, while afternoon sessions included the Country Representative's Report and workshops for both developing and developed JETAA USA chapters, such as Alumni Relations and Event Planning.

Friday evening, we attended a reception at the residence of Ambassador and Consul General Shinichi Nishimiya. All in attendance marveled at Mr. Nishimiya's grand, old-fashioned home, which contained several winding staircases, stained glass ceiling windows, and even an antique elevator. Following the reception, a special play reading of *Sake with the Haiku Geisha*, written by JET Alumni Randall David Cook, was held. The play, which follows the lives of several characters living in Japan, including three JET Program ALTs, a JTE, and a Japanese woman who falls in love with a foreigner, had previously been performed Off Broadway.

Saturday began with a technology session, presented in part by JETAA Portland member Bob Schnyder, including an overview of the Regional Tech Conference held in Portland last January, and a presentation on MOFA and CLAIR Grant in Aid funding. Other sessions included Regional and Cross Chapter Initiatives, Addressing Tech Needs, and Career Development Services for Members.

The day ended with a dinner boat cruise in the New York Harbor, hosted by CLAIR. In addition to CLAIR, we were joined by U.S. Ambassadors Shinichi Nishimiya and Ichiro Fujisaki. The highlight for everyone on the cruise was the chance to see the famous Statue of Liberty, as well as the beautiful New York City skyline at sunset.

On Sunday, the last day of the conference, Ambassador Fujisaki joined us for a discussion on the future of JETAA and ideas for how to improve the JET Program.

We had a wonderful time in New York and enjoyed meeting other chapter members and discussing ways to improve not only the JET Program, but JETAA USA as well. To JETAA New York, CLAIR, and Ambassadors Fujisaki and Nishimiya, we would like to say "thank you" and *otsukaresamadeshita* for making the 2010 JETAA USA National Conference a great success!



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# Masters Golf Tournament 2010

Winning team actually manages to break par this year

by Bob Schnyder

Sunday, August 22nd proved to be the perfect day as the JETAA Portland duffers (and wannabe duffers) headed out for the 5th Annual JETAA Masters Golf Event at McMenamins Edgefield Pub Course.

The event is a team format, where each player hits their tee shot, and the team must choose which of those shots to hit from next. The groups played the short course of 12 holes. As the pub course is a “pitch-and-putt” course, no holes were longer than 86 yards, making every hole a chance for par, eagle or even an ace. Even rookies and first-timers contributed to the team scramble.



Kazuho Nakai demonstrates his perfect form.



The winning team of (l-r) Rick Case, Bob Schnyder, Sam Brier, and Kim Miyake proudly display their coveted Green Jackets. photos: Bob Schnyder

In the end, “Shankapotamus” Britt Sexton and his team of Tim Kerr, John Thomas and Kazuho Nakai could not overcome the difficulties of the blackberry rough, posting a final score of 5 over par. Analysts decided that their beer consumption lagged in the later part of the course, contributing to nervous putting down the stretch.

Coming through with the long-distance putts was Sam Brier, a former Osaka JET. Along with consistent teamwork from Bob Schnyder, Kim Miyake and Rick Case, the team posted a score of 2 under par and took home the prestigious Green Jacket, featuring the classic JETAA shield appliqué. The Jacket was presented at the awards ceremony followed by the official “*Kampai*” and feast.

## Fun with Kanji

by Steve Thenell

It's common knowledge that many kanji were originally constructed with recognizable objects in them. But the standard way of writing so many characters has changed so much over the millennia, that many of these objects are no longer recognizable. Let's look at an example:

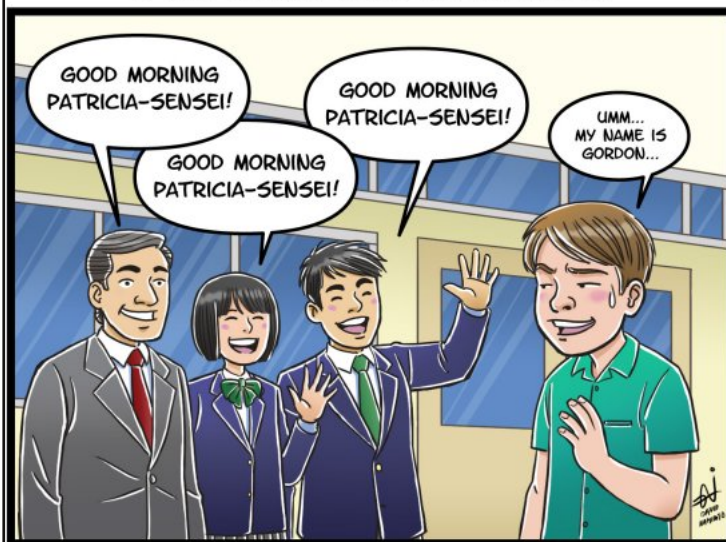


The rightmost version of this character above is the one we use today. You may be familiar with it: it means 'milk', or 'breast'. But do you know why? When you look back to the earliest discovered form of this character (called 'oracle bone script') on the left above, it's easy to see: this character originally depicted a mother holding and nursing her child. You can even make out her breast or nipple in that early character.

Over time, though, most of the mother's body was removed or simplified. In the middle version above (called 'seal script'), you can make out the mother's hand above the child, but the rest of her body is just a wavy line. This is essentially how the character looks today.

## Life After the B.O.E.

BY DAVID NAMISATO (AOMORI-KEN, CIR, 2002-04)



**Don't worry.  
They'll stop calling you by your  
predecessor's name in a month or two.**

You can find more of David's comics at [www.lifeaftertheboe.com](http://www.lifeaftertheboe.com).

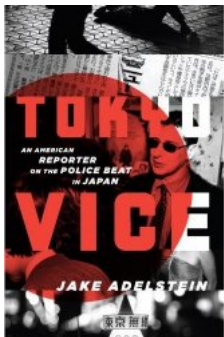
# Book Club Book Review: *Tokyo Vice*

Jake Adelstein's daring tale of the Japanese underworld

by Martin Beyl

Almost everyone has heard something about the *yakuza*, the infamous crime syndicates that make up the Japanese underworld. It is a rare person, however, that dares tell a non-fictional story, exposing the structure and activities of the *yakuza* - giving enough sensitive information to get a powerful gang boss expelled from his own gang - and miraculously surviving long enough to write about it.

Jake Adelstein is the exception. As an American living in Japan, Adelstein writes from an outsider's perspective, sometimes witty and insightful, sometimes throwing rules, caution and good taste to the wind. It is precisely this disregard for the way things are done that entwines Adelstein in the complex story that endangers his life and the lives of his family and friends. *Tokyo*



*Vice* is Adelstein's autobiographical account of the life of a Tokyo police beat reporter slowly spiraling out of control. This was not the life he had intended.

Jake Adelstein came to Japan in the 1990's with vague ideas of becoming a Buddhist priest. Instead he wound up being the first American to work as a police beat reporter for the Japanese language newspaper *The Yomiuri Shimbun*. The book starts out with the rather mundane realities of overwork and adjusting to a new job, but changes pace rapidly as Adelstein is transferred to covering the vice squad of the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department and becomes immersed in the unscrubbed underbelly of the seediest side of Japan. At this time Adelstein cultivates a ground-level network of police and *yakuza* sources, which lead him to the story of a *yakuza* boss being allowed to enter the US for a liver

transplant at the UCLA hospital.

As Adelstein investigates this story, the at first playful book grows darker and darker. Adelstein gets more deeply involved and begins to make questionable moral compromises. Characters die - real people. It seems there can be no way out of suddenly serious trouble, and even in the end not everything will turn out all right.

The content gets heavy, but Adelstein maintains his clear, fast-paced narrative, and even in the darkest moments finds occasion to laugh. Although in his own story Adelstein is no saint, his account will keep you turning the pages.

*Tokyo Vice* is a compelling, informative story that offers detailed narratives of two worlds rarely seen by outsiders: journalism from the inside and the *yakuza*. Those of us who have been to Japan know its beauty and wonder, but this book treats us to the rarer dark side, a fascinating story of that which is seldom told.

*The JET experience is often life changing.  
What direction do you choose next?*

## A Master's Degree in Intercultural Relations

*"The MAIR program helped me to make sense of my myriad experiences in Japan: it gave me a new language for describing the culture that I'd encountered in Japan, my reactions to this culture, and how I'd changed in the process. I wouldn't be where I am today, professionally or intellectually, without the MAIR Program."*

Adam Komisarof, Ph.D.,  
JET Alumni, Saitama, 1990-1992  
MAIR Alumni, 1990

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# Tabemashou!

Restaurant review group hits up *Kalé* and *Osaka-Ya*

by Steve Thenell  
and Veronica White

A small but hungry crowd has continued to attend the monthly Tabemashou! gatherings. Here are our reviews of two recent restaurants:

## Kalé

Kalé (pronounced "kah-leh") takes its name from its main dish: Japanese-style curry. The restaurant opened this year, and is "on a mission to spread the ultimate Japanese comfort food".

Although the menu offerings are quite limited (only three main dishes to choose from), the food is prepared with care. The three main dishes are the original vegetarian curry, beef curry, and curry doria, all priced between six and eight dollars. The dishes are definitely spicy, so keep that in mind if you are sensitive to spicy foods.

Toppings are one dollar each and include cheese, spinach, a hard-boiled egg, or extra *daikon fukujin-zuke* (the original and beef dishes come standard with only a small amount). Our group would like to see more toppings added in the future.



At Kalé, you know the meal is hot when your server brings it out wearing oven mitts.

The owner, Makoto, is quite friendly and made a point to come to our table to speak with us. Makoto is Japanese, but studied business in the United States, and is now a U.S. citizen. The seating area is small but nicely decorated. There is also patio seating available. Orders are placed at the counter.

## Kalé Rating

### Menu Selection:



### Food Quality:



### Service:



### Ambience:



### Value:



### Tabemashou! Overall Rating:



on the web: [www.kalepdx.com](http://www.kalepdx.com)

Standout dishes included the rainbow roll and Oregon roll. The salmon *nigiri* was fresh and the caterpillar roll was made with such attention to detail, it was almost too cute to eat! The spicy *hamachi* was enjoyed by some, but fell flat with others. The *tori karaage* was good, while the *edamame* was described as "okay".

While there seemed to be very few wait staff, dishes were served in a timely manner and drink glasses refilled. Service was friendly, yet unobtrusive.

Overall, good food at prices that won't break the bank make Osaka-Ya a solid choice for Japanese cuisine.



A sushi platter at Osaka-Ya.

## Osaka-Ya Rating

### Menu Selection:



### Food Quality:



### Service:



### Ambience:



### Value:



### Tabemashou! Overall Rating:



7007 SW Macadam, Portland

# Bilingual Crossword Puzzle

by Steve Thenell

Although the clues are in English, all answers to this puzzle are in Japanese. Enter the answers into the grid using katakana. (In Japanese puzzles, large and small katakana characters, such as ヤ and ヤ, are treated as the same.) In three puzzle blanks you must enter a kanji character instead (all kanji characters are elementary school grade 4 or lower). These three grid squares are all crossed (i.e., used in both an across and a down answer.) You must figure out where they are. When the three kanji characters are placed in the proper order, they provide the answer to the following question: When is it hard to find a god in Japan?

**Contest!** Send in your solution for a chance to win a \$20 gift certificate to Uwajimaya. See below for details.

## ACROSS

1. Where to catch a jet
4. Just a little
7. A companion of *Momotaro*
9. Meaning
10. One of the four cardinal directions
12. A popular Japanese import found in bookstores
14. The first day of the workweek
16. Onomatopoeic way to say 'table tennis'
18. Smile!
19. The star pitcher
21. Your own home
22. Ear, nose, and \_\_\_\_\_
24. Every journey begins with this
26. Selfishness
28. Eight-legged sea creature
30. A movable shrine
32. Divine wind
34. Not inside
35. Male sibling younger than you
37. Something that people have trouble keeping
39. Without incident; uneventful
41. Striped denizen of the Serengeti
43. Someone's automobile. It might not be mine, but it sounds like it is
44. Medical school
46. A coveted shoot
47. Counter for wheels (and flowers, too)

## DOWN

1. A short test
2. From \_\_\_\_\_ to shining \_\_\_\_\_
3. The 'floating world' popularized in art
5. One single frame of 12 Across
6. Mystery
8. An old Chinese ship
11. Rice planting
13. The first day of the year
14. Admiring the earth's biggest satellite
15. When you've lost these, you've lost your mind
17. Onomatopoeic word you might use to describe a leaky faucet
18. Tokyo, formerly
20. Sour in taste
22. A slang word for brains – NOT a morning soup!
23. Add insult to \_\_\_\_\_
25. When my prince will come
26. The U.S. national bird is one of these
27. Every year
29. Many Japanese can be found under these in the winter
31. '*Itta* \_\_\_\_\_': I have never been there
32. The original religion of Japan
33. By all means
36. Horsehair
38. Seeing someone off
40. I'll do it when I have the \_\_\_\_\_
42. Apprentice *geisha*

**Contest details:** send your solution (the three-kanji word) along with your name to newsletter@jetaaportland.com. Put "Crossword Contest" in the subject line. One winner will be chosen at random from the correct entries and receive a \$20 gift certificate to Uwajimaya. Entries must be received by October 31, 2010. The solution to the puzzle will be posted on the JETAA Portland website in early November.

1	2		3		4	5	6		7	8
9			10	11		12		13		
		14			15		16		17	
	18			19		20		21		
22			23		24		25			
		26		27					28	29
30	31					32		33		
34			35		36			37	38	
	39	40		41			42			
43							44			45
				46					47	

## DOWN (continued)

43. Rolls of *sushi*
45. Sentence (in writing)

## In Memoriam: Walt Barker (1952-2010)

The JETAA Portland community is saddened by the recent loss of one of its longtime members. Walt Barker, photographer, writer, natural philosopher, teacher, and gifted conversationalist, died unexpectedly at his home on July 12th of this year.

Walt spent his youth in Portland where he attended David Douglas High School and was active in the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry outdoor science programs. As a youth, he developed a love of the outdoors that stayed with him his entire life. Walt attended Reed College, Portland State University, and the University of Arizona, earning Bachelor's and Master of Science degrees in geology. Walt's college years included extended periods of travel in the southwestern United States.

After college, he spent more than a decade teaching in Japan where he developed an appreciation of Japanese culture and met his wife Hideno "Non" Sugai. After returning from Japan with Non, Walt studied nursing at the University of Portland where he developed many close friendships. Most recently, Walt lived in Scappoose, Oregon, where he spent time on home renovation projects, designed and planted an extensive Japanese-style garden, and worked editing scientific manuscripts for Japanese researchers. He had a deep love of photography and had images published and exhibited in galleries. Walt was exceptionally energetic, bright, and gregarious, and could carry on in-depth conversations on a broad range of topics with just about anyone. He will be sorely missed.

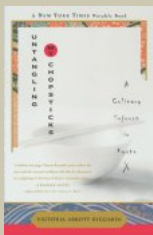




**JETAA Portland**  
**P.O. Box 8772**  
**Portland, OR 97207**

**Like books? Like tea?**  
Us too. Even more so together.

## JETAA Book Club



Next meeting:  
**Sun 10/17, 1:00 PM**  
@ Jade Teahouse  
Our next book: *Untangling My Chopsticks: A Culinary Sojourn in Kyoto*  
by Victoria Abbott Riccardi  
(see website for more details)

えと。。。あの。。。ええ。。。

Japanese getting rusty?

Join us at the next **J-Kaiwa**

**Fri 10/1 @ Lucky Lab Brew Pub (on Hawthorne)**  
**7:00PM - 9:30 PM**

Would you like to contribute  
to the next newsletter?  
All contributions are welcome:  
articles, essays, art, comics,...

write to us at  
[newsletter@jetaaportland.com](mailto:newsletter@jetaaportland.com)



## Upcoming Events

(visit [www.jetaaportland.com](http://www.jetaaportland.com) for more details)

- 9/22-9/24 O-Tsukimi Moonviewing @ Japanese Garden, 6:00 PM  
9/25-9/26 Festival Japan @ Uwajimaya, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
**Sat 9/25 New Alumni Welcome Party @ Festival Japan**  
**Uwajimaya Plaza, 4:00 PM (5:30 dinner, RSVP required)**  
Sun 9/26 Japanese Garden - Volunteer Orientation, 10:00 AM  
**Fri 10/1 J-Kaiwa @ Lucky Lab (on Hawthorne), 7:00 PM**  
10/2-10/3 Ryusei-ha Ikebana Exhibition, Japanese Garden  
10/2-10/3 Portland Taiko: Taiko Unleashed, Newmark Theatre  
10/9-10/17 Chrysanthemum Viewing Festival, Japanese Garden  
**Tue 10/12 Tabemashou! @ Yuzu in Beaverton, 6:00 PM**  
Wed 10/13 Sake Fest PDX @ The Governor Hotel, 6:00 - 8:30 PM  
Sat 10/16 Chado: The Way of Tea @ Japanese Garden, 1 & 2 PM  
**Sun 10/17 JETAA Book Club @ Jade Teahouse, 1:00 PM**  
Thu 10/28 PSU Lecture: "The American Dreamer" by Junki Yoshida  
11/6-11/7 Special Ikebana Exhibition @ Henjoji Temple, Noon  
Thu 11/11 Free Admission Day, Japanese Garden  
**Sun 11/14 JETAA Book Club @ Jade Teahouse, 1:00 PM**  
**Fri 12/10 Bounenkai @ Bush Garden, 6:00 PM (RSVP required)**  
Sat 1/9 O-Shogatsu New Year's Festival @ Japanese Garden, Noon  
mid-Jan **Shinnenkai, date and venue TBD**