



KJICA



NEWSLETTER

Published monthly by the Kamloops Japanese Canadian Association to give you news and happenings of interest to the Japanese Canadian Community

September 2025

**Volume 49
Number 7**

Upcoming Events for September & October 2025

Tuesday, September 2.

The centre will re-open.

Tuesday, September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

Museum / 10:00AM-2:00PM

Monday, September 8, 15, 22, 29.

Raiden Taiko / 6:30PM-8:00PM

Friday, September 5, 12, 19, 26.

Raiden Taiko / 6:30PM-8:00PM

Tuesday, September 16, 23, 30.

Japanese Class (Beginner & Advance)
6:30PM-8:00PM

Wednesday, September 17, 24.

Japanese Class (Intermediate 1&2)
6:30PM-8:00PM

Sunday, September 21.

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ / 5:30PM

Friday, September 26.

Udon Lunch / 11:30AM & 12:15PM

Wednesday, October 1, 8, 22, 29.

Japanese Class (Intermediate 1&2)
6:30PM-8:00PM

Friday, October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

Raiden Taiko / 6:30PM-8:00PM

Monday, October 6, 20, 27.

Raiden Taiko / 6:30PM-8:00PM

Tuesday, October 7, 14, 21, 28.

Museum / 10:00AM-2:00PM

Tuesday, October 7, 21, 28.

Japanese Class (Beginner & Advance)
6:30PM-8:00PM

Saturday, October 18.

Keirokai

Friday, October 24.

Udon Lunch / 11:30AM & 12:15PM

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KJCA President's Report

I hope all our members had a great summer and looking forward to our center reopening for the fall.

We had a lot going on behind the scenes during the KJCA summer break. Here's what happened at the center over the summer: One major project was installing a new security system with 10 cameras and a perimeter light, sound sensors and NVR recorder. We also serviced the AC and kitchen dishwasher, and replaced and repaired some exterior light fixtures, thanks to Richard. We renovated the outside shed in the back parking lot and replaced the shattered back window, as well as all the office windows. We also got a lot of clutter gone. We'll soon upgrade our office computer to a media center to better serve us moving forward.

In July, we hosted a dinner & breakfast for the Nikkei Bus tour. We had about 65 guests that came to the center and socialize after their trip to the internment sites in the Kootenay area.

We've had to deal with a lot of issues related to homelessness, and unfortunately, this problem is only getting worse. If you experience any issues at the centre, please let us know ASAP. Do not engage in any vocal or physical manner. We do not want to upset them or they might do further damage, graffiti, etc. to our property.

KJCA Website

I have been working on this website project for the last 6 months. I'm in the final stages of working with our web designer, Tiago from Brazil, to revamp our website. Check out kjca.ca, where you'll find an announcement about our upcoming community website. I'm actively and urgently seeking testimonials from our members to feature on the new site, as your voices are important to us. This updated platform will not only help us manage memberships, events, and donations more efficiently but will also connect us with Japanese centers across Canada, setting a precedent for future initiatives. Our website will be the template for the other Japanese centers websites as well. I'm hoping to launch it after the KJCA Members' social Sunday, Sept. 21st. I'd love to give you a tour of the site at the center that evening. Your feedback is crucial for the growth and betterment of our community, so please don't hesitate to reach out to me at kjca@telus.net, encomemusic@telus.net or ☎ 250-319-7779 with any suggestions.

Center Renovation Update

I'm thrilled to announce that our long-awaited renovation is complete! We are currently restoring the KJCA museum to showcase our displays and raise public awareness about its significance. The tentative opening date is November 2025, if we can be ready in time.

Broken Promises

The travelling exhibit *Broken Promises* will take place after July 20th and continue through the end of August 2026. Opening date TBA. I am asking all KJCA members if they would like to be involved in the display for 2-3 months in the summer. Learn more at <https://centre.nikkeiplace.org/exhibits/broken-promises/>

Nisei Curling League

The Kamloops Nisei curling league is starting up this fall for the 2025-26 season at the Kamloops Curling Club. We are looking forward to hosting the 57th Spiel from March 27th to 30th in 2026 in Kamloops. My goal is to organize a KJCA curling social to attract more interest from our KJCA membership and bring in new Japanese curlers of all ages, as we currently have only 14 active participants.

Looking for New Treasurer

It is with sadness that I announce Donna Tabata's retirement from her position. Her dedication to the KJCA has been invaluable, and she will be missed. We're seeking members interested in stepping into her role; please contact me at kjca@telus.net.

With several core board members stepping down, this is a pivotal moment for our youth and other members to take on greater responsibilities in shaping the future of our center. Starting in 2026, we'll be losing 5-6 key contributors to the KJCA board for years. I would love to be proactive and see if any members would like to be a board member and take us into the future. We always welcome new ideas and fundraising ideas.

Cycling to the Centre

We strongly encourage all KJCA members to take advantage of cycling to the center whenever possible, but please remember to use good locks to secure your bikes (including at the center's new bike rack!). Sustainability is a key focus for us, and we're optimistic about the City of Kamloops' plans to expand bike paths on both the north and south shores, promoting an environmentally friendly mode of transportation.

Thank you for your continued support!

~ Lance Yamada
KJCA President

KJCA PRESENTS

APPRECIATION

The appreciation BBQ is for all the volunteers and families who have volunteered at KJCA events.

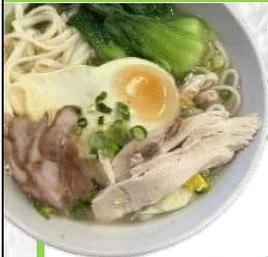


**SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2025.**

5:30PM

Please RSVP by September 12th.

TEL. 250-376-9629
kjca@telus.net



Udon Lunch

Friday, September 26th, 2025.



We require that you phone **250-376-9629**
or email **kjca@telus.net** your udon and sushi order
and any reservation.

Please note: Cutoff for orders is **September 25th at 2:00pm.**

We will have 2 sittings, 11:30 am and 12:15 pm. Or Takeout.

Eat in Udon \$15.00 and Sushi \$13.00
Take out Udon \$13.00 and Sushi \$13.00

*If you have mobility issues, please let us know
when placing your order or reservation — we will be happy
to open the back gate for easier access.

Thank You

for Your Generous Donations

We gratefully acknowledge the following people
for their donations for May 25 to August 24, 2025.

General

Jo-Anne Kobayashi
Shelbi Polvado
Debbie Shuttleworth
Bonnie Yoshida

In Memory of Joe Butler

Tosh & Donna Tabata
Bonnie Yoshida

In Memory of Tak Kitamura

Marilyn Aura
Tony & Kaz Dufficy
Stan & Kaz Kato
Edna Miyahara
Kathy Yamada
Bonnie Yoshida



In Memory of Tom Iio

Kathy Yamada

In Memory of Judy Nukina

Jo-Anne Kobayashi

あじふの
感謝

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to
the Mochizuki families
on the passing of Emiko Mochizuki
on July 31, 2025.

Our sincere condolences to
June Butler and family
on the passing of Joe Butler
on June 27, 2025.

日本語

Japanese Language Classes

Date **Beginner** 初級
Advance 上級 (Grammar, Composition, Kanji, Advanced Conversation)

Tuesdays
September 16 - November 18, 2025.

*No class on October 14, November 11. (8 sessions)

Intermediate 1 中級 I
Intermediate 2 中級 2 (Open conversation style)

Wednesdays
September 17 - November 12, 2025.

*No class on October 15. (8 sessions)

Time **6:30PM - 8:00PM**

Place **Kamloops Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre**
(160 Vernon Avenue)

Age **Adults** (High school ages and above)

Fee **KJCA member : \$40 / Non-member : \$80**

For registration and availability, please call **Kamloops Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre** at 250-376-9629, or email kjca@telus.net

Thank You

When you visit the Center, you will notice some beautiful updates to the front entrance. The Japanese Maple tree has been replaced, and new plants have been added to the front planter.

A heartfelt **thank you** to the following Kobayashi families for their generous donations that made these improvements possible.

Special thanks to:

- Ines Thornton & family
- Eileen Gill & family
- Muts Barclay & family
- Yoko McMillan & family
- Kaz Kobayashi
- Irene Maeda & family
- Jo-Anne Kobayashi & Don Shaw
- The children and their families of the late Shig Kobayashi

The new Japanese Maple tree was donated in loving memory of their father, **Ishisaburo Kobayashi** (June 28, 1900 – June 8, 1975).

~ Tim Araki

Keirokai

SAVE THE DATE

For all KJCA members **70 years of age and older**:

Keirokai (dinner) will be on **October 18, 2025**.
Watch for the invitations in the mail.

敬老会

Volunteers Wanted

We'd love some extra hands (age 15 and up) to help with serving, setting up the venue, and clean-up. If you're interested, please contact the centre by phone (250-376-9629) or email (kjca@telus.net) with your phone number and/or email address **by the end of this month**. Sayaka will get in touch with you.

National Association of Japanese Canadians

I hope everyone had a good summer. I have a few items to share:

1. **NAJC's Capacity Building Initiatives Grant:**

With a deadline of September 30th, 2025 to apply, this one time grant opportunity is available to organizations such as the KJCA (up to \$20,000) to invest in our organization's future so that we can continue to grow, thrive, and create lasting changes. I am pleased to report that Phase 1 of the grant application has been approved to support the following: technology upgrades for easier onboarding of new staff and volunteers, as well as efficient work. KJCA member Les Tabata will be attending the Exadon workshop in September to support programming for KJCA seniors: [The Exadon Initiative: Taiko Drumming for Health Promotion + Preventive Healthcare \(Short Intro\)](#) . To enhance marketing and communications, we will have new KJCA banners and event tent with branded canopy. *Phase 2 of the grant application is currently being worked on and I will report out on this, hopefully in the next newsletter.*

2. **NAJC Endowment Fund Grant - Update:**

Raiden Taiko applied for this grant (and were approved) to purchase performance drums. On behalf of Raiden Taiko, I am excited to share the news that the drums are ready and will have been delivered to Kamloops from Moku Studio, Toronto by the time you read this newsletter! For more information about the NAJC Endowment Fund, please click on link: [NAJC Endowment Fund - NAJC](#). *This grant opportunity is offered annually.*

3. **The National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) welcomes the new commemorative stamp by Canada Post, which brings long-overdue attention to the history of civilian internment in Canada during the First and Second World Wars: [NAJC Welcomes Canada Post Stamp Shedding Light on Canada's Internment History - NAJC](#)**

Thank you,

~ Lana Tomiye, NAJC Liaison



KJC Museum & Archives

The KJCA Museum still require volunteers.

Any of their contributions in Setting up Displays, Computer Skills, Handyman, Organizing the Resource Library, Photography, etc., would be greatly appreciated. Also, any information on the past family histories would be of great interest.

We would like to welcome new volunteers Kiko Takahashi, Chizu Kan, Deanna Yamamoto, Rod Mochizuki, Brian Hayashi & Frank Turley.

The Museum Group have been busy in Setting up the Museum for the Opening this Fall.

We meet on Tuesdays 10AM-2PM. Many of the tasks are on-call basis if you work or busy.

If interested, drop in on Tuesdays or let Sharon know at the KJCA Office.

Thank you.

~ Sharon Mori, Nancy Keller

2025 Wayne Yoshida Memorial Fishing Derby

This year's fishing derby was a great success! The weather was slightly better than previous years. We had 55 participants including 12 children. I believe this is the best turnout we have had in recent years! Congratulations to this year's derby winners, Emily Mann (Adult Division) and Mimi Kobayashi (Youth Division).

A sincere thank-you to the following volunteers who made this annual event successful: George Uyeda, Shelley Ueda, Tanya Uyeda, Yasuko Todd, Yuko Suzuki, Tim Araki and Denji Kobayashi.

We would like to extend our appreciation to these KJCA members and local businesses for their generous donations: Yoshida Family, Peachy & Robin Teshima, Kamloops Judo Club, Jim Motokado, Brent Yamada, Brenda Sawada, Kizuna, Raiden Taiko, Fraser View RV, South Thompson RV, Jubalee RV, LoBoy, Mino's Restaurant, Red Tomato Pizza, Brock Liquor Store, Save On- Brock, Rona, Kamloops Home Hardware, Delta irrigation, B and L small motors, Ebata Eye Care, North Shore A&W, Canadian Tire, Art Knapps, Purity Feed, Canadian Energy, D'CRUZ FILIPINO Mart, Kamloops Ford, and Yoko Suzuki.

If we missed anyone, our sincere apologies and please reach out to us.



Thank you all for your continue support. We hope to see you at the next derby. Tight lines!

~ Mayumi Paravantes



Raiden Taiko News



Hello and welcome back everyone!

September is a time for things to start again - school is back in session, sports seasons begin, the centre opens up and Raiden Taiko resumes... wait, hold on - We never stopped! Between learning new songs, honing our skills and preparing for shows, we decided to keep practicing right through the summer.

Both Raiden Taiko and Raiden Kids put on amazing performances on Canada Day; thankfully, it was not quite as hot as last year. For our newest member, Sheena, it was her first show and she nailed it!



In July, for the first time ever, Raiden performed at the Kamloops International Buskers Festival. We were honoured to be the opening act for Day 2. However, even more honoured that an acrobatic duo from Japan made a point to come to watch us! HEROMACRO was one of the mainstage performers for the festival and were excited to find out that Kamloops had a taiko group. I hope our show impressed them because we were blown away by theirs!

A few of our drum skins have been wearing and had to be replaced this summer. We are so lucky to have Henry Uyeda! He did an amazing job and the drums sound great again. Lance even went down to learn a few things about skinning drums. Endless thanks, Henry!!



However, Raiden is not just about drumming; it is also a social group. Now that The Ice Cream Social has moved, they are just a two-minute from the centre. What better way to cool down after practice than going for ice cream as a group? In August, we got together for our yearly summer gathering. It was a lively night of dinner, laughs and karaoke.

With the biggest group we have ever had, Raiden is able to take on more events and performances. We have a full calendar coming up this year, but I think we are up for the challenge!

~ Heather Gooch



Kamloops Judo Club

New Members Welcome – Come Try Judo!

The Kamloops Judo Club is welcoming new members this fall.

Location: Beside NorKam Secondary – 480 B Kenora Ave.

First Day for new members: Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Junior Class (ages 8+): 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Senior Class (ages 14+): 7:15 – 8:45 PM

We have a trial membership \$25 for 4 classes.

For more information, please email us at kamloopsjudoclub@gmail.com



KJCA Members Survey



Please take this opportunity to complete our anonymous survey. We would like to give everyone the chance to have their voice heard.

Scan the QR code with your camera on either your smart phone or tablet. Tap the pop-up link, which will direct you to a Google Form. For more help, please contact the office.

Paper copies of surveys are available at the centre.

Please support our sponsors.



KAMLOOPS JUDO CLUB

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Unit 101 - 1550 Island Parkway
Kamloops BC V2B 0H7

Phone: 250-554-1742

kamloopsjudoclub@gmail.com
 www.kamloopsjudo.ca

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