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The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles Newsletter

December, 2017: Breeze Issue #122

<https://www.jflalc.org/pub-breeze122>



Greeting From The Director



Greetings!

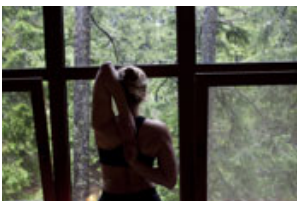
It is always nice to get out of the office and meet with new people. Every year JFLA attends the [annual conferences of ACTFL](#) (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) and this year it was held in Nashville, Tennessee. We had a booth in the exhibit hall and greeted so many Japanese language teachers who are nurturing the next generation of internationally-minded young adults all across the country. The majority of them are feeling the impact of funding cuts on foreign language education both at federal and state levels. Granted that it is important to teach kids how to program robots with the latest AI technology, we will still need to make sure those robots can adapt to societies across the globe with the understanding of their respective people and culture. A lot of people misconstrue foreign language as a tool soon to be replaced by machine translation. Like replacing your screwdriver with a power drill does not make you a carpenter, perfect machine translation alone will not make you or your kids a cosmopolitan. Exposing students to different cultures is no longer a luxury; it is an obligation of our society. With that in mind, I want to wish those who are striving to become proficient in Japanese the best of luck this weekend when they take the JLPT. 頑張ってください!

Thank you very much for all the support and encouragement we received this year. JFLA has gone through a lot in 2017 including the renovation of our office during the summer. I can promise you that we will continue to inspire your creative minds in the coming year of the Dog.

Sincerely,

Hideki Hara, Director

Events



Bilingual Yoga at Lunchtime
Wednesday, December 6, 2017
12:30pm/1:00pm (2 sessions, 20min/ session)
Just Show Up!

Wellness Wednesdays: We offer Wellness programs every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at lunchtime! October 18 is Yoga day! In this program, no need to change clothes or use a yoga mat; you will be seated in a chair receiving relaxing instruction from a bilingual (English and Japanese) instructor. Learn simple Japanese phrases during the instruction and stretch your mind as well as your body. There will be two free sessions beginning at 12:30pm and 1:00pm. No reservation necessary, all are welcome.

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Japanese Conversation Cafe: Tea Time
Thursday, December 7, 2017 (7-9PM)
Free admission, register now!

Our popular event, the conversation café Tea Time is coming back! You will enjoy Japanese snacks and tea while you chat with native Japanese speakers. All levels welcome! Japanese language experience is not necessary-this event is open to everyone, ages 18 and up!

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Beautiful Romance with Multilayered Sense of Cynical Amusement
A Bride for Rip Van Winkle (179mins, 2016)
Wednesday, December 13 @7PM
Free Admission, NO RSVP REQUIRED

Nanami(Hana Kuroki) is an apathetic, part-time junior high school teacher, whose only solace comes from connecting with others on "Planet," a new social network service. One day, a young man named Tetsuya messages her and asks to meet in person. The two begin dating and quickly become engaged. When Tetsuya begs Nanami to increase her guest list for the wedding, Nanami reaches out to online-friend, Amuro(Go Ayano), a self-proclaimed jack-of-all-trades, who hires actors to play Nanami's guests on her big day. A few weeks following the ceremony, Tetsuya's mother confronts Nanami with allegations of lying and cheating.

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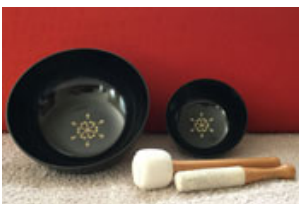


Lecture Series: Deities in Japanese Art 4
In Collaboration with LACMA
Tuesday, December 19 @7PM (JFLA Auditorium)
Free Admission, RSVP From Our Website

What do you know about the Wisdom Kings (Myo-o in Japanese) in Buddhism? They are third-ranked deities after Buddhas and Bodhisattavas who, with their wrathful visages and weapons, protect the Buddhas and intimidate wayward Buddhist practitioners back into devotion. In this lecture, we will be introduced to the many kinds of Wisdom Kings and their various roles, as well as how they are portrayed artistically.

This will be the fourth lecture in this series and will begin with a quick review of what was covered in previous lectures to give first-time attendees context as to where Wisdom Kings fit into the hierarchy of deities in Buddhism. No prior knowledge is necessary to enjoy this fun and fascinating talk!

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Meditation With Japanese Singing Lin Bowl
Relax With Sound During Lunch
Wednesday, December 20, 2017
12:30/1:00PM (2 Sessions, 20 Min/ Session)
Just Show Up!

Mid-week fatigue is a familiar foe to many of us. Why not maximize your relaxation and join us for a Sound Bath at Lunch Time!

The Singing-Lin Bowl harmoniously combines the healing qualities of the Tibetan singing bowl and its Japanese counterpart, the Lin bowl. Relax and feel your stress dissipate into thin air as the sounds of the singing-Lin bowl lead you into a meditative state.

There will be two 20-minute sessions from 12:30pm and 1:00pm. There is no charge and no reservation required. All are welcome to come, sit, listen, and refresh.

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Applications

2018 JF Nihongo Classes - Winter Term
January 20 - March 24
Register Now!



Start your new year with Japanese! The registration period for our JF Nihongo Winter term will start soon!

People interested in learning Japanese at JFLA will have three beginner-level Japanese-language courses. In each class, students will learn concepts and communication skills which are essential to having a well-rounded understanding of everyday Japanese! Register by January 5 and get a 10% early bird discount!

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2018-2020 J-LEAP: Accepting Applications

Deadline: January 10, 2018

Are you interested in inviting a Japanese Assistant Teacher (AT) to your K-12 classroom for up to two consecutive school years? Do you want to give your students an opportunity to learn and hear Japanese from a native speaker or an additional native speakers for some variation? If so, make sure you apply for J-LEAP, which was started in 2011 with the help of the Laurasian Institute (TLI).

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News



Japanese Language Education Update #49: 2017 ACTFL Convention at Nashville, Tennessee

From November 17 - 19, The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles participated in the 2017 ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Convention, held in Nashville, Tennessee. We teamed up with the Japanese Consulate General in Nashville to put up a booth together and introduce educators and school administrators to useful information and resources for learning and teaching Japanese.

At our booth, we had about 200 teachers and administrators visit us; we were able to meet many Japanese teachers from all around the U.S., as well as other language educators such as Chinese and Spanish teachers who stopped by and were interested in either bringing some of our goodies to their Japanese colleagues at their schools, or strengthening their Japanese programs, or simply learning Japanese themselves. We presented all our visitors with "goody bags" that included many resources for teaching and learning Japanese that they could use in the classroom: vocab booklets, info on useful web apps, websites, and grants, cute badges and stickers, and much, much more.

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2017-2018 J-LEAP Reports

For the 2017-2018 school year, we invited eight native assistant teachers (AT) to various schools around the country as part of the Japanese Language Education Assistant Program (J-LEAP). This is the seventh year of this program where schools around the country are given the opportunity to host an AT for up to two years with the goal of strengthening their Japanese language program. This month, we will feature the reports from the following ATs detailing their experiences at American schools.

- [Masaki Minobe, Kearny High School \(Kearny, NJ\)](#)
- [Yoshiyasu Horino, P.S. 147 Isaac Remsen Elementary School \(Brooklyn, NY\)](#)



Salary Assistance Grant to Northern Kentucky University

It's wonderful that Northern Kentucky University is now developing a Japanese major, and the Japan Foundation is supporting it! Thank you to the Consul General of Japan in Nashville for presenting our grant check to the NKU representatives. The students in this photo look so great in Yukata (summer kimono)!!