



Greetings,

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Japan Earthquake/Tsunami Relief

The JASP extends its heartfelt sympathy and deepest condolences to the people of Japan who lost loved ones in Friday's earthquake and tsunami. We strive to do what we can as a Society and a community interested in Japan to come along side of our friend and ally as they push toward recovery.

Following the 9.0 magnitude earthquake off the east coast of Japan that generated tsunami destruction on the island of Japan, the Japan-American Society of Pennsylvania (JASP) in cooperation with Brothers Brother Foundation, will respond to requested needs of the residents of Japan.

[Click here for more information about the efforts and to donate.](#)

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Paul J Wilhelm Memorial Golf Outing May 9, 2011

The Paul J. Wilhelm Memorial Golf Outing will be held Monday, May 9, 2011 at Valley Brook Country Club in McMurray, PA. Watch for your invitation in the mail next week. Golfers compete for winning team trophies, individual skill prizes and hole-in-one prizes. Highlights of the event include the Grand Prize Raffle, exciting opportunities for theater tickets, dinners, golf items and more. The golf outing offers many opportunities to support the JASP. All supporters are publicly acknowledged. More details to follow in your invitation! We hope you will join us for this fun and popular



event..

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The JASP's Pittsburgh Sushi Experience

Experience Pittsburgh sushi with the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania! Our second experience will be at Chaya, a cozy Squirrel Hill restaurant supplying Pittsburgh with authentic Japanese cuisine since 2001. Owner and Head Chef Yasuzawa's creations were voted Best Sushi by Pittsburgh magazine in 2008.

April 21, 2011 at 7 p.m., Chaya Japanese Cuisine, 2032 Murray Avenue in Squirrel Hill

The cost is \$25 (including tax, tip, and green tea). The evening will include a sampler plate handpicked from the restaurant's menu and green tea. It's a great opportunity to try a new sushi place and network with other JASP members. Don't forget to bring your business cards, because we will hold a drawing for a gift card to each restaurant! [Space is limited so register now by clicking here.](#)

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The JASP Welcomes New Members

- American Eagle Outfitters
- Kimberley Ferrero
- The DePaul Family

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Member Spotlight – The Maridon Museum

The Maridon Museum, a member of the JASP, is the only museum in the Western Pennsylvania Region with a specific focus on Chinese and Japanese art and culture. The latest acquisition at the Maridon Museum in Butler, PA., isn't another priceless artifact or beautiful work of art from Japan or China. This "acquisition", however, brings a wealth of energy and expertise to the museum, the only of its kind in Western Pennsylvania.



Roxann Booser recently joined the Maridon as the Administrator and Finance Director. She comes at a pivotal time when the Maridon—like other museums worldwide—need to secure creative and viable funding solutions to sustain them as tremendous assets to the community. Booser joins a dedicated group of trustees, volunteers and other staff members. She is also excited to continue building partnerships with businesses, schools and other organizations across Western Pennsylvania and beyond.

Booser holds a masters of science degree in financial management from Johns Hopkins, as well as a bachelor of science degree in administrative studies from Gannon University.

Learn more about the Maridon Museum, including a Haiku writing contest open to those 12 and under, at www.maridon.org.

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Volunteer Spotlight – Megumi Shimizu



Ms. Megumi Shimizu came to Pittsburgh on January 9, 1989. A native of Japan, she was born in Kumamoto but grew up in Sapporo city in Hokkaido, the second largest island of Japan to the north.

Megumi has been a faithful volunteer at the Japanese Speech Contest for High School students. Kazuko Macher, former Volunteer of the Year Award winner, recruited her to volunteer.

She volunteered at the very first Speech Contest, then the Japanese Language Contest. Since then, she has had a constant presence at the contest.

Her sons were born here, and one of her best memories is volunteering at the Speech Contests with her sons.

She says Pittsburgh is a very livable city even though it snows more than Sapporo in winter. The JASP is very appreciative of the hard work and dedication that Megumi has given to the Society over the years.

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Upcoming Kenny Endo Taiko Performances

JASP friends are welcome to enjoy Taiko Master Kenny Endo in area performances that are free to the public. [Click here for dates and times.](#)

March 29 - 6:30- 7:30 pm- Auditorium at Advanced Tech/ Science Hall (ATB Bldg)- Slippery Rock University

March 30 - 8-9 pm- Student Center at the Brigadoon- Geneva College

March 31 - 12-12:45 pm- Reed Student Center- Penn St Behrend

March 31 - 7:30- 8:15 pm- Montgomery Auditorium- Allegheny College

April 1 - 12 noon- 12:20 exhibition and 7- 7:45 pm- (student center amphitheater)- Westmoreland Community College



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Silk Screen Festival May 4-15, 2011



The Silk Screen Gala is May 5, 2011 and the JASP along with the Origami Club of Pittsburgh will be there to celebrate! Be sure to stop by, see us and try your hand at origami. Don't worry, origami instructors will be there to show you how.

Gala only tickets purchased until April 20 are \$85, from April 21- May 1 tickets are \$100, at the door tickets are \$125. For further details about the opening night film and Gala tickets [click here](#).

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Cherry Blossoms 3rd Annual Tree Planting

Join JASP friends at the Pittsburgh Sakura Project tree planting on Saturday April 9 at 11:00 am near the boathouse at North Park to plant cherry trees. Enjoy planting young cherry trees, listening to a taiko drum performance, koto performance, Pittsburgh Ensemble Nippon, experience an introduction of Japanese culture, and have your photo taken from the air! For more details and to register visit www.pghsakuraproject.org.



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EITC at the JASP

If given a choice of either sending a check to Harrisburg to pay for taxes on your business earnings OR making a donation to the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania to support students receiving Japan-centered educational programs in area schools, which would you choose?

You have such a choice through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC)!

Talk to your employer about receiving state tax credits for contributions to the JASP supporting our Japan in the Schools program. It's quite simple:

- Submit the one page application to the PA Department of Community & Economic Development.
- Applications can be found at www.newpa.org/eitc. Click on the link under guidelines.
- Upon approval, make the company's donation to the JASP.
- Receive a credit to offset business tax liability equal to 75% of the contribution for one year, or a credit equal to 90% of the contribution if company commits for two years (annual maximum of \$300,000).
- Entire contribution may be deducted 100% against federal net income, allowing the donation to cost the business nothing.

The EITC program is a great way to ensure that your tax dollars support the things you care about! Please consider donating to the JASP today.

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Japanese Speech Contest Winners Announced

The 2011 High School Japanese Speech Contest was a success! Held in conjunction with the Asian Studies Center at the University, seventy-three students from nine area high schools and some privately taught students participated in the contest. Sponsors of the event included Westinghouse, Sumitomo Corporation of America, Mitsubishi Electric Energy Products, Elliott Company, Japan Iron and Steel Federation and Mitsubishi Endowment at the University of Pittsburgh, Office of the Provost at the University of Pittsburgh, the Consulate-General of Japan in New York and the Japan Foundation in Los Angeles.



- Advanced Plus: John Damits (Butler High School) Teacher, Masami Schaper
- Advanced: Carly O'conner (Shaler High School) Teacher: Hilary Domencic
- Intermediate: Yingping Hu (Allerdice High School) Teacher: Isabel Espino de Valdivia
- Beginner: (tie) Zach Rush (Norwin High School) Teacher: Hiroko Maekawa
- Benjamin Laun(Private Student): Teacher: Junko Kapples
- Poster Contest: Anna Lawrey(Allegheny Clarion Valley High School): Teacher: Dixie Lipnichan

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Watch the JASP Board Members on KDKA this Sunday Morning



Watch the Sunday, March 20, 2011 edition of KDKA TV's The Sunday Business Page. The JASP Chairman Steve Ceurvorst, Elliot Group CEO and JASP board member Yasuyuki Uruma and Brothers Brother Foundation President, Luke Higson speak on the combined efforts of the organizations to aid of Japan. The show will air at 8:30 am.



We would like to thank our 25th Anniversary Platinum Sponsors:

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The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (JASP), established in 1986, is an association of individuals and corporations actively engaged in bringing the peoples of Japan and America together in understanding, appreciation and cooperation in order to promote a better relationship between the countries.

Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania

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