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BULLETIN

JAPANESE CANADIAN AND NIKKEI COMMUNITY NEWS

May 2018 Issue

Avant-Garde Japanese Band Delivers Powerful Soundtrack For Canadian Choreographer



Photo: Yannick Grandmont

Group A (Tommi Tokyo and Sayaka Botanic) provided the soundtrack for Dana Gingras' multimedia video, sound and dance performance "anOther" at Agora de la danse in March 2018. The video portion of the set design (portions of which are shown above) was created by multimedia artist Sonya Stefan.

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The Montreal Bulletin is an independent publication established in 1946 to meet the needs of the time—the re-establishment of community life for Japanese Canadians after their World War II internment. Published in English, French and Japanese 10 times yearly by a volunteer staff, the Montreal Bulletin's goal is to serve all organizations and interested persons within the Greater Montreal area.

The English section of the Montreal Bulletin is directed by the following editorial collective:

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DISCLAIMER: Where opinions are expressed they do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Montreal Bulletin*.

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Berlin-based Japanese Band Brings Avant-Garde Sounds To Montreal

By Alan Itakura



Photo: Yannick Grandmont

Tommi Tokyo and Sayaka Botanic of Group A are shown providing the soundtrack for the show "anOther" at Agora de la danse in March 2018.

Group A is an avant-garde band that is usually slotted into the noise music category. It provided the heart-thumping musical score for Dana Gingras' performance of "anOther" at Agora de la Danse recently. I interviewed the two members of Group A, Tommi Tokyo and Sayaka Botanic, while they were in Montreal. Before they met each other, both Tommi and Sayaka spent a number of years in London, England so they both speak English quite fluently — and with a British accent to boot!

Tommi's focus was graphic design and when she decided to head to London at nineteen claimed she had no English speaking ability. As she put it, "we studied English for fifteen years in school but there was never anyone to practise with." Tommi's reasons for leaving Japan were quite clear-cut: "I just wanted to be anywhere but not Tokyo, not Japan. Since I was little, I hated to be in Japan. I probably hated to be Japanese as well. Somehow, since I was really little I figured out Japan wasn't my country and I wouldn't fit anywhere, I kind of wanted to just quit high school and go anywhere. I was into punk music and 60s mod culture like Carnaby Street as well as fashion, especially British fashion like Vivienne Westwood."

Sayaka's move was to study textile design at the University of the Arts in London for four years. She explained her motivation: "I was really into the arts and crafts movement from England. So I decided to study textile design in London. Weaving, and knitting as well. And then I worked for some of the fashion labels." When I suggested to her that Japan had a long tradition of textile

design and many non-Japanese would love to study in Japan, she gave me her reasons for not doing so: "When I was in high school I was going to study textiles in Kyoto because you can learn some really nice techniques of weaving. But when I was seventeen or eighteen, I said to myself, I don't want to be in Japan, I want to go somewhere where I don't understand the language. Once

when I was on a train, I was sitting and I started feeling so tired about the environment I lived in. You can understand what everyone is talking about on a train — the random conver-

sations they are having like I had such and such at lunch or something like that and I suddenly thought to myself, I don't want to know everything. So I started researching where I could study textiles or fashion design — like London or Milan. I found that you can't get a good scholarship or monetary support in Milan, but at the University of the Arts London, I got an offer of financial support as an international student. So that's what I proposed to my mom I and she said: yeah why not?"

By 2012, Tommi and Sayaka had both

...we got drunk and we said 'let's do it'

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Berlin-based Japanese Band Brings Avant-Garde Sounds To Montreal

continued from page 2

returned to Japan when they met at a mutual friend's musical gig and decided to form a band. Tommi said the decision was made the same night: "We just met and we got drunk and we said 'let's do it.' It was really quick. I think we were really bored — bored being back in Tokyo and we were looking for something fun." Tommi was twenty-six and Sayaka twenty-five.

Well as luck would have it, Group A got their first gig just two weeks after they had formed. Sayaka suggested something that would provide a template for their future performances. She had been playing and recording music on a cassette tape recorder and suggested to Tommi that they play a Steve Reich tape and then play sounds over it. While thinking about what to play, they also were trying to decide what to wear. Their answer was: don't wear anything, and so they decided to play topless and paint each other's bodies during the performance. According to Tommi, the audience loved it.

As they continued to perform in Japan, they realized that they could not make money in this genre of music. According to Tommi, one of the reasons for the large quantity of unusual and innovative noise music emanating from Japan is precisely due to this fact. Since there are no specific audiences to cater to, noise musicians in Japan remain in the underground scene and do not have to repeat what made them attract an audience in the first place.

Group A eventually moved to Berlin in 2016 because they could not make a living doing what they wanted to do in Japan. In Berlin, they have found an infrastructure and audience base that allows them to survive as artists. They are signed to Mannequin Records, one of the top labels supporting noise music and have recently released their first album.

For their performance in Montreal, Group A would be barely visible at the back of the stage partially hidden by a darkened screen. Unlike their own performances where they do a lot of random ad-libbing, this time they would be performing to a pre-determined score and have to be aware of certain emphasis points in the dance performance unfolding at the front of the stage. They admit that it was a challenge, but it worked out fine (see the choreographer's comments in the sidebar to the right). They also were fully clothed.

The following links provide additional information about Group A.

<http://agoradanse.com/en/event/another/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groupAband/>

<http://www.mannequinrecords.com/groupapodcast/>

<https://groupa.bandcamp.com/>



Choreographer and performer, Dana Gingras, dances in front of some of the TV sets that provided a backdrop for her show "anOther" at Agora de la danse in March 2018.

Photo: Yannick Grandmont, Videos and Set Design: Sonya Stefan

Ground-breaking Canadian choreographer and filmmaker, Dana Gingras, answers questions on creating 'anOther' and working with Group A.

Montreal Bulletin: When you created the concept for *anOther* did you have a group such as Group A in mind?

Dana Gingras: I knew that I wanted to work with live music specifically female musicians. My good friend Oliver Baurhenn who is a programmer for the CTM Festival in Berlin suggested Group A. He is familiar with my previous work and thought Group A would be exciting artists to collaborate with. I am very happy that he introduced us as it has been so stimulating and inspiring to collaborate with Tommi and Sayaka on *anOther*.

MB: You chose to have musicians play live instead of using a recorded soundtrack. How did you arrive at that decision?

DG: I have a long history of working with live music. For the past few years I have been touring monumental a piece for nine dancers with *Godspeed You! Black Emperor* playing live. After this experience it seemed impossible to go back to pre recorded music even if *anOther* is a small scale piece for more intimate venues.

MB: Group A's music is very extemporaneous and unscripted. Was it challenging to synchronize Group A's sound, Sonya Stefan's video backdrop and your body movements to work together as one?

DG: Surprisingly not. Group A are actually quite consistent when we perform live together. In the creation of the piece all the different elements kept evolving and changing but somehow we managed to maintain a sense of cohesiveness as we worked through the flux of creation.

MB: Did you plan to have a roughly equal mix of video, audio and dance? Did you have any predetermined ideas of how much the video and audio components would contribute towards creating the feeling that you were striving for?

DG: Yes I conceived *anOther* as part installation, part performance and part concert.

MB: When were you satisfied that the show was ready for the launch? Of the seven performances at Agora, were there some that were more satisfying than others? Or, maybe, where you and Group A were more in sync?

DG: Agora de la Danse gave us a two week technical residency prior to the premiere to *anOther*. This final part of the creation process was very intense. It was a period of really stripping away anything that was extraneous from the piece. Somehow *anOther* is very simple but very complex at the same time so the fact that we had this technical residency really gave us the opportunity to be ready for the launch. With each show I feel that the piece really started to gather its own momentum and to become something that is bigger than all the individual parts.

For more information about Dana Gingras and Sonya Stefan, follow these links.

Dana Gingras Links:

<http://agoradanse.com/en/event/another/>

<http://animalsofdistinction.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/animalsofdistinction/>

Sonya Stefan Links:

<http://www.sonyastefan.com/>



cultural EVENTS

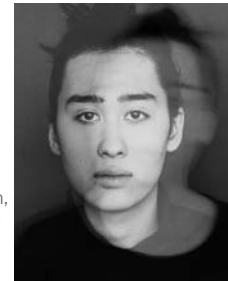


Photo: Jeremie Dionne

Japanese Canadian pop musician, Soran, performs with his band on Mon, May 7, 8pm at Verre Bouteille, 2112 Mont-Royal E

EXHIBITIONS

LES TEMPS MUTANTS: Solo exhibition of Ai Ikeda exploring the psychological and biological aspects of mutation. To May 24 at the **C. ai-ikeda.com**

QUEENS OF EGYPT: Over 350 prestigious objects of various women figures. To Nov 4 at **PAC**.

THE BARBIE EXPO: Exhibition shows more than 1000 dolls spanning over the eras. To Dec 31 at **LCMR**. www.quebecoriginal.com/en-ca/listing/events/major-exhibitions/barbie-expo-388059601

MONTREAL COMIC ARTS FESTIVAL EXHIBITS (at **ELF**)

- May 4-28: **MONTREAL IN A BALLOON:** Tour Montreal through comic artists' eyes.

- May 2-15: **LES MILLES PLANETES DE VALÉRIAN ET LAURELINE:**

- May 16-27: **LES MÉTIERS DE LA BANDE DESSINÉE:** Discover the artists and art of the comics.

CONCORDIA'S MFA DEPT OF STUDIO ARTS EXHIBITION, MAUREEN III: Group exhibition – Ai Ikeda participant. From May 9-12 at **TDF**.

FACE TO FACE: FROM YESTERDAY TO TODAY, NON WESTERN ART AND PICASSO: Compares Picasso with non-Western artists May 12-Sep 16 at **MMFA**.

HIROSHIMA, LA VIE EN HÉRITAGE: Exhibition on Hiroshima, sister city to Montreal. May 15–Oct 31, 10am-6pm at **JP**.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL MONTREAL CHAPTER: Annual exhibition of floral arrangements by their members. May 19-21, 10am-6pm at **JP**.

PAINTING LAB: Group exhibition – Ai Ikeda participant. May 26-July 7 at **GDP**, Space 414.

MONTREAL MUSEUMS DAY: Sun, May 27. Program available in May. museesmontreal.org/en/museums-day/programmation

UNE SYMPHONIE DE TALENTS: Group painting exhibition of different age groups. June 2-22 at **MCMH**.

OUT-OF-TOWN

YAYOI KUSAMA: INFINITY MIRRORS: See the evolution of her artwork: installations, paintings, and playful sculptures. To May 27 at **AGO** in **TORONTO**.

FRIENDSHIP: Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibition on Sat-Sun, May 26-27, 12pm-6/5pm at **HCL** in **HALIFAX**.

UTAMARO: Kitagawa Utamaro, Online virtual tour of Japanese artist of *ukiyo-e* genre of woodblock prints. artsandculture.google.com/entity/m0497z?categoryid=artist

MUSIC/PERFORMANCE

MSO: Kent Nagano, conductor; www.osm.ca, 514-842-9951, at **MSM**. \$45-200.

- **FATE OF A TITAN: BEETHOVEN'S FIFTH SYMPHONY:** 4th and 5th Symphonies on Sun, May 27, 2:30pm. Pre-concert talk at 1:30pm.

- **NATURE AWAKENS: BEETHOVEN'S 'PASTORAL':** 2nd and 6th Symphonies on Tues, May 29, 8pm.

- **BEETHOVEN'S SEVENTH SYMPHONY:** 8th and 7th Symphonies on Wed, May 30, 7pm.

- **HOPE FOR A BETTER WORLD: BEETHOVEN'S 'EROICA':** 1st and 3rd Symphonies on Thurs, May 31, 8pm.

FESTIVAL ACCÈS ASIE (May 1–27): accesasie.com. Exhibitions, workshops, dance, music by Asians.

- Fri, May 11, 8pm at **LG. EAU DOUCE - EAU TROUBLE:** Emerging artists, **Kimihiro Yasaka** (piano), **Louis-Philippe Bonin** (saxophone) and **David Thérien-Brongo** (percussion). \$12-20.

SALON TOKYO II: Contemporary Japanese music performed by **Bozzini Quartet** (**Clemens Merkel**, **Alissa Cheung**, **Stéphanie Bozzini**, **Isabelle Bozzini**) with **Ko Ishikawa** (shō), **Satoko Inoue** (piano), **Yuki Isami** (flute) & **Kimihiro Yasaka** (piano) on Thurs, May 3, 8pm at **SRC**. \$16-22. [790-1245. quatuoibozzini.ca](http://790-1245.quatuoibozzini.ca)

SUTRA: Contemporary dance by **Sadler's Wells**. 19 Buddhist monks perform on Thurs-Wed, May 3-9, 8pm at **TM**. \$45-75. sadlerswells.com/touring/sutra

SORAN: Japanese Canadian pop musician, **Soran**, performs with his band on Mon, May 7, 8pm at **VB**. \$12. www.audiogram.com/fr/artiste/soran

MASTER'S RECITAL: Kazumasa Takasugi, jazz trumpet, on Thurs, May 10, 5pm at **TSH**. Free.

NEXT MUSIC FROM TOKYO VOL. 12: Five Japanese underground music groups perform on Mon, May 21, 9pm at **LSR**. \$14-20.

YUJA WANG: Piano recital of Ligeti, Scriabin, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev on Tues, May 25, 8pm at **MSM**. \$45-100.

CONCOURS MUSICAL INTERNATIONAL DE MONTREAL 2018 (May 29-June 7): **VOICE**. 38 vocalists compete, 7 Asians. concoursmontreal.ca

WESTMOUNT CHAMBER MUSIC WORKSHOP (June 29-July 8): Led by 6 musicians, including violinist **Mana Shiraishi**, ends with concert by teachers & participants. Application deadline: May 20: 514-621-6885, wchambermusicw.wordpress.com

FESTIVAL TRANSAMÉRIQUES (May 23-June): Avant-garde music, dance, theatre. fta.ca

- **6 & 9:** Minimalist artistic director, **Tao Ye**, choreographs the Tao Dance Theatre in fluid, entrancing, hypnotic rituals on May 23-25, 8pm at **TJD**.

OUT OF TOWN

SALON TOKYO A QUEBEC: Contemporary Japanese music by **Bozzini Quartet** with **Ko Ishikawa** (shō),

Satoko Inoue (piano), **Yuki Isami** (flute) & **Kimihiro Yasaka** (piano) on Wed, May 2, 8pm at **CST** in **Quebec City**. Donation. quatuoibozzini.ca

NAGATA SHACHU: in **TORONTO**

- Sat-Sun, May 25-26, **AnimeNorth**. Animenorth.com

- June 2 with **Masahiro Nitta** (shamisen) at **HFCT** at 8pm. \$20-37. Harbourfrontcentre.com.

SPECIAL EVENTS

MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN (MBG) (regular entrance fees apply).

- **GUIDED TOURS** of exhibition greenhouses to May 26. Tues-Sun, 10:30am & 1:30pm.

- **HIROSHIMA'S LEGACY OF LIFE:** May 15-Oct 31 at **JP**. Exhibition on the people of Hiroshima.

- **LIFE IN BLOOM: Ikebana International Montreal Chapter Annual Exhibition** on Sat-Mon, May 19-21, 10-6pm at **JP**.

- **O-HANAMI: Picnic under the Flowering Crabapple Trees.** Sun, May 20, 11:30am at **JP**. Reserve your bento (\$22-26) before May 14 at 514-872-0607. Arashi Daiko, Kendo & Chado demonstrations.

- **TRADITIONAL SAGABONE FESTIVAL:** Thank Mother Earth with Indigenous dancers, singers and drummers on Sat, May 19, 10am-3 pm at **FNG**.

- **HERBAL TEA TASTING:** "We belong to the land." Hot or iced, chat with Indigenous educators. Weekends, May 19-Oct 28, 3:30-5pm at **FNG**.

- **GREAT GARDENING WEEKEND:** Fri-Sun, May 25-27. Gardening brings people together - perfect for sharing knowledge and experience with loved ones.

- **GUIDED TOURS OF TEA GARDEN:** June 23-Sept 3 at **JP**. Discover the true nature of this small, Japanese garden filled with symbolic items.

MINYO-KAI: Terry Yasunaka 514-351-9554. **JCCCM**.

ORIGAMI MONTREAL: origami@sympatico.ca.

50-PLUS: May 14 is the Udon Supper! RSVP to Donnie 514-697-2092 or Jackie 514-334-0537. Come join us!

JCCCM ACTIVITIES: (jcccm_yh@bellnet.ca or 514-728-1996). See **JCCCM NEWS**

- **SPRING BAZAAR:** Our biggest fundraising event of the year – your support is more important than ever! Sun, May 6, 11:30am–4pm. If you can volunteer your time, donate baked goods, etc, we need you! 50-50 draw tickets on sale in the office now!

- **FINANCIAL WORKSHOP** (given in Japanese): Thurs, May 10, 1-2pm. Call for details.

- **"KAIWA" LANGUAGE EXCHANGE:** Sun, May 13 & 27th, 2 pm (\$1 for members, \$2 for non-members)

- **BALLET CLASS FOR ADULT BEGINNERS** (in Japan-

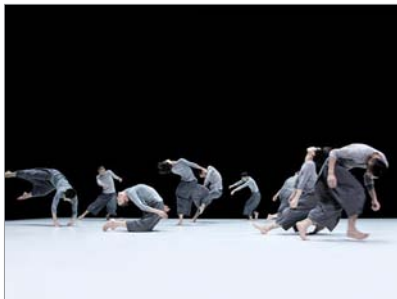


Photo: Fan Xi

Minimalist artistic director, Tao Ye, choreographs the Tao Dance Theatre in fluid, entrancing, hypnotic rituals on May 23-25, 8pm at Théâtre Jean-Duceppe, PDA

To inform Montreal Bulletin readers of an event, please send your information by the deadline date (in the coming events) to montrealbulletin@bellnet.ca

ese, English on request): Spring session: Fridays, May 11-June 29, 4-5:15 pm. Contact Ok-Sim Lee oksimfitness@gmail.com

- **HOCHO (JAPANESE STYLE COOKING KNIFE) SHARPENING SERVICE:** Date TBA. First come, first served. Certain knives may be impossible to sharpen. Donations appreciated.

- **KODOMO CLUB KIDS CLOTHING & TOY SALE:** Fri, June 1, 11:30-2pm. Bring donations on June 1 from 9:30-11:30. Contact kodomoclub.montreal@gmail.com for details.

- **JCCCM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** Sat, June 2, 3pm. Familiarize yourself with the current situation. Get involved.

CANADA JAPAN SOCIETY: Dinner at Sakura Garden Restaurant on Sat, May 5, 6pm. \$40-45, includes tax & service. Reserve quickly by calling Masako Takahatake, 514-849-7111 or Suzel Beliveau 514-733-3238.

TEA FOR HARMONY: Sotatsu Cooper's Chanoyu class tea ceremony on Sun, May 6, 12, 1 and 2pm at PR. \$8.

JAPANESE BOOK CLUB: "The Housekeeper and the Professor" by Yoko Ogawa. Knowledge of Japanese language not required. On Thurs, May 10, 7pm at AB. Free.

IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL MONTREAL CHAPTER: Kazuko Tanaka, kazuko.dorangeville@gmail.com.

- **ANNUAL EXHIBITION:** Sat-Mon, May 19-21, 10-6pm at JP.

90th ANNIVERSARY OF JAPAN-CANADA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS: For events, www.montreal.ca.emb-japan.go.jp

12TH INTERNATIONAL MANGA AWARD: Submission deadline is June 15. www.montreal.ca.emb-japan.go.jp

OUT OF TOWN

ESPACE JAPON (EJUL) in QUEBEC CITY. www.bibl.ulaval.ca/web/programmation-culturelle#espace-japon

- **LANGUAGE EXCHANGE IN FRENCH AND JAPANESE:** Mondays, May 14: French 7-7:45pm, Japanese 7:45-8:30pm.

- **ORIGAMI AND WARIBASHI (BAMBOO CHOPSTICKS) WORKSHOP:** On Sun, May 6, 1pm & 2pm.

ANIME NORTH (May 25-27): Convention on anime, manga, music, games and Japanese culture. At TCC in TORONTO. www.animenorth.com

- May 26, 7pm: **BACK-ON:** Japanese hybrid rock band.

- **YASUNO KIYONO** (Japanese voice actor), **SAYUMI HIRATA** (Kimono Bijun founder), **YOSHIIHIDE HIRAYAMA** (Modern Antenna founder), **MINORI** (Shironuri artist)

COURSES

AU PAPIER JAPONAIS at APJ.

- Sat, May 5: Black Ink, Monocolour Drawing on Washi, Lorraine Pritchard

- Thurs, May 10: The Folded World, Origami Experience, Indra Singh

- Sat, May 12: The Altered Book, Renée Lévesque

- Thurs, May 17: Free Lecture, Of Acropodiums, Abutments and Aaron's Rods: The Inner Life of the City, John MacLeod

- Sat, May 19: The Light Motif, Washi Wireform Lamp-shades, Stan Phillips.

MIYAMOTO at MF. Please call the store for details.

- Sun: Sushi workshop with **Mikio Owaki.**

- Wed: Japanese cuisine.

JAPANESE DANCE CLASS: Saturdays, 2-4:30pm at JCCCM. Kayo 514-886-8129, komachi21@gmail.com

SHAMISEN WORKSHOPS: Mondays, 7pm at JCCCM. **Jacinthe Maril jazz_16@hotmail.com**

CHADO URASENKE:

- **Urasenke Kagemori Chanoyu Kyoshitsu:** All levels, chamei, certificates, in St Laurent, Sat, Sun & Tue. Soyo Kagemori 514-338-3835

- **Mamiko Konishi (Soshin) chado.** All levels, licences, on West Island, Sat, Sun & Wed. 514-630-0260. mamikoni54@hotmail.com

- **Urasenke Chanoyu Kyoshitsu:** All levels, day & eve. Tat-suko (Sotatsu) Cooper 514-934-0410.

- **O'HANAMI:** Sun, May 20, 1pm-3pm at JP. \$5.

SHODO-JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY (JCCCM): Contact Tosen (Mikiko) Simard (tosen.shodo@gmail.com 514-298-4966). - Tues or Fri from 10 am-12pm and Sat, 10am-12pm.

SEIBI WATANABE: Sogetsu monthly workshops for Seibi-Kai members; contact Shirley Leblanc, 514-697-7809.

HEATHER MIDORI YAMADA: 2018 CREATIVITY RETREAT IN NATURE: 5 days of guided meditation, art and Hatha yoga. hmidoriy@gmail.com, www.Artyamada.com.

July 15-20 in **Ham-sud, QC** and Oct 22-27 in **Eymet, France.**

CINEMA (See www.cinemamontreal.com for times)

ISLE OF DOGS (2018, USA/Germany, 101min, dir. Wes Anderson, Jpz/Eng) Animation. Set in Japan, 12-year-old Atari sets off alone to find his bodyguard-dog, Spots.

OUT OF TOWN: TORONTO

ALWAYS, Sunset on Third Street: Film trilogy screenings at JFT. Free. Comedies depict life in neighbourhood life of Tokyo as social and cultural changes occur. In conjunction with Tokyo Before/After photography exhibition. Directed by Takashi Yamazaki (Part 1: 2005, Part 2: 2007, Part 3: 2012).

- Part 1, 1958 (133 min.): Thurs, May 3 & Tues, May 22.

- Part 2, 1959 (145 min.): Mon, May 7 & Thurs, May 31.

- Part 3, 1964 (142 min.): Wed, May 16 & Mon, June 4.

DEAR ETRANGER (2017, Japan, 127 min., dir. Yukiko Mishima) A humane and nuanced drama about family and relationships. On Thurs, May 17, 7pm at JCCC. \$10-12.

ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Argo Bookshop, 1915 Ste Catherine W, 514-931-3442, argobookshop.ca
AGO	Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas St W, Toronto, 1-877-225-4246 or 416-979-6648, www.ago.net
APJ	Au Papier Japonais, 24 Fairmount W, 514-276-6863, aupapierjaponais.ca
C	Calaboose, 3625 Saint Émilie Street
CST	Cathédrale de la Sainte-Trinité , 31 Des Jardins, Québec City
EJUL	Espace Japon, Université Laval, Pavillon Jean-Charles-Bonenfant, 2345 allée des Bibliothèques, Quebec City
ELF	Espace la Fontaine, 3933 ave Parc-La Fontaine, 514-280-2525
FNG GDP	First Nations Garden at MBG Galerie Deux Poissons. The Belgo Building, 372 St Catherine W
HCL	Halifax Central Library, 5440 Spring Garden Rd, Halifax, NS , 902-407-0487
HFCT	Harbourfront Centre Theatre, 231 Queens Quay W, Toronto , 416-973-4000, press 1
JCCC	Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court, Toronto , 416-441-2345, www.jccc.on.ca
JCCCM	8155 Rousselot St, 514-728-1996.
JFT	Japan Foundation Toronto, 2 Bloor St E suite 300, Toronto , 416-966-1600, www.jftor.org
JP	Japanese Pavilion, MBG
LCMR	Les Cours Mont-Royal, 1455 rue Peel
LSR	La Sala Rossa, 4848 St-Laurent Blvd
LG	Le Gesù, 1200 rue Bleury, 514-861-4036
MBG	Montreal Botanical Garden, 4101 Sherbrooke E, 514-872-1400.
MCMH	Maison de la Culture Mercier, 8105 Hochelaga, 514-872-8755
MF	Miyamoto Foods, 382 Victoria, 514-481-1952.
MMFA	Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, 1380 Sherbrooke St W, 514-285-2000.
MSM	Maison symphonique de Montréal at PDA , 1600 St Urbain, 514-842-9951, pda.qc.ca .
PAC	Pointe-à-Callière, 350 Place Royale, 514 872-9150, pacmusee.qc.ca
PR	Party Room, 1070 Saint-Mathieu St, entrance in rear of building on rue Joseph-Manseau
SRC	Salle de récital, Conservatoire , 4750 Henri-Julien , 514-873-4031 poste 313
TCC	Toronto Congress Centre, 650 Dixon Road, Toronto
TDF	The Darling Foundry 745 Ottawa St,
TJD	Théâtre Jean-Duceppe, PDA
TM	Théâtre Maisonneuve, PDA
TSH	Tanna Schulich Hall, McGill University, Schulich School of Music, 555 Sherbrooke W, 514-398-4547
VB	Verre Bouteille, 2112 Mont-Royal E, 514-521-9409



japanese
canadian
CULTURAL CENTRE
OF MONTREAL

President's Report

by Jason Tsunokawa

Dear Bulletin Readers,

Just when we think spring is finally here, winter finds a way to remind us it's not over yet. I don't remember getting snow this late in April. Could this be a sign of Global Warming? I just hope it's not a sign of a cold summer. There's too many fun activities going on this summer for us to have bad weather.

Hopefully the weather will arrive in time for the upcoming Isshin Dragonboat practices. It's never fun to be on the water paddling when the weather is cold and wet. The Isshin spirit is still burning strong and we hope to improve on last year's performance.

Taiko practices are in full swing to get ready for a couple of performances starting with the O-Hanami show at the Japanese Pavilion at the Botanical Gardens on May 20th. It's a fun afternoon with Taiko presentations, martial

arts demonstrations, tea ceremony and more.

Our Spring Bazaar will be held on Sunday May 6th from 11:30-16:00. We encourage everyone to come and see our Japanese boutique, Tea Room, Japanese food, books, 50-50 draw and more. Please visit our Facebook page or contact the Center for information. This activity like all the others we have at the Centre rely on the hard work and dedication of our volunteers.

The annual JCCCM general meeting will be held on June 2nd at 15:00. We would like to encourage all our members to attend. With the changes in our financial situation, we would like to start a constructive discussion on our upcoming fundraising campaign

and of the future of the JCCCM. Without a sustainable source of income, the future of the JCCCM is in doubt. The JCCCM provides a valuable resource for activities and the promotion of Japanese culture for the Montreal community. We rely on the Centre as a valuable place to practice Taiko, Odori, hosting Matsuri and various Japanese courses. It would be a great loss if we would have to close and lose this link for the Japanese community.

Remember to reserve August 11th for the annual Matsuri festival. More details to come but for sure there will be great Japanese food and spectacular entertainment.



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BAZAR du PRINTEMPS

SPRING BAZAAR / 春のバザー

Dimanche 6 mai / Sunday, May 6 11:30 ~ 16:00

La nourriture japonaise, les pâtisseries maison,
la boutique japonaise, les livres, Salon de thé et
Tirage moitié-moitié

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Cultural Centre Activities

Program Director: Susan Shoji Levesque

Visit our website at www.jcccm-ccccjm.ca

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Spring Bazaar: Our biggest fundraising event of the year

– your support is more important than ever! Sunday, May 6 from 11:30am – 4pm. If you can volunteer your time, donate baked goods, etc, we need you!

Tickets for the 50-50 draw are on sale in the office now!

Financial Workshop (given in Japanese) – Thursday, May 10, 1-2pm.

Contact 514-728-1996 for more info.

“Kaiwa” Language exchange: Sunday, May 13 & 27, at 2 pm

(\$1 for members, \$2 for non-members)

Ballet class for adult beginners

(given in Japanese, English upon request): spring session starts on Friday, May 11 till June 29, 4pm-5:15 pm, Contact Ok-Sim Lee <oksifitfitness@gmail.com>

Hochō (Japanese style cooking knife) sharpening service: Date TBA

Reservations not required. First come, first served. It may not be possible to sharpen heavily rusted or chipped knives and knives of certain materials. Your donation is appreciated for the service.

Kodomo Club Kids clothing & Toy sale : Friday, June 1, 11:30 – 2pm

Donations can be dropped off on the sale day between 9:30 to 11:30. For more info, contact kodomoclub.montreal@gmail.com

JCCCM Annual General Meeting – Saturday, June 2 at 3pm.

It's the time to familiarize yourself with the current situation of the JCCCM and get involved.

A heartfelt thank you for all the donations received this past month. Without your monetary support, the JCCCM would not be able to sustain itself and its activities. Many thanks to all our volunteers – those who cook, clean, and fix things around the Centre; your efforts are very necessary and appreciated.

Donations were received with appreciation from: Japanese Cultural Committee, Mr. & Mrs. S.Kido, M. Kitakubo, H. Matasuura, Mr. & Mrs. R. Morin, Y. Sayeki, Shikatani family in memory of Bob Kadowaki, S. Tobisawa, D.Tsunokawa. We are also thankful for the following donations in memory of Joan Ono: A. Kadowaki, L. Konishi, L. Lee, J. Ross, Shikatani family, J. Stevens.

The Writer's Corner

My Love of Team Sports

By Laura Kobayashi

There are occasionally times when I think to myself: that was very satisfying. This could happen after finishing an enjoyable book or a delicious meal at a favourite restaurant. But for me the number one reason for feeling a sense of accomplishment and even a little pride is participating in sports. I am not talking about highly competitive or top level sports. I mean playing once or twice a week in a fun league. I played women's hockey for several years. We never finished in first place but even winning a few games a sea-

son was memorable. I like winter sports, like most Canadians, and this was followed by curling. I had watched the Canadian women's and men's teams compete in the Winter Olympics and I was hooked. The next summer I took up lawn bowling.

For me team sports is the key. In individual sports it all depends on one person. If you are having a good day it is great. If not, you have no one to blame but yourself. In team sports everyone contributes. Winning or losing does not depend on one person. Last fall I joined a duck-pin bowling league. What I like is when one person is having



Library News

Coordinator: Kumiko Hagiwara

Due to Spring Bazaar, the Library will be closed on Sunday, May 6, and also on Sunday, May 20 for Victoria Day.

Donations received with appreciation from: Ms.Ayukawa, Mr.Miron, Ms.Kamata, Ms.Mallette, Ms.Ishihara, Ms.Inoue, Ms.Hashiguchi, Mr. & Mrs. Rosenberg

Thanks to our Volunteers: Mr.Tsuji, Mr.K.Ikeda, Mr.Endo, Ms.Masaki, Mr.Setsu, Mr.Tsujimoto, Ms.M.Ikeda, Ms.Miura



Seniors Drop-In

Coordinator:Yoko Horimitsu

Animator: Chikako Lindberg

Time: Thursdays, 10 am-2:30 pm

May 3 – Closed for Bazaar preparation

May 10- Bingo

May 17 - Closed for Victoria Day

May 24 – Taiko performance & workshop with Yukai & Sanae

May 31 – Singing

Many thanks to the kitchen volunteers for their delicious, homemade, Japanese food each week. Special thanks to D. Shimotakahara for her famous carrot cake for Drop-In.



50 Plus

Submitted by Jackie Stevens

Mark May 14, 6pm on your calendar for the event you all have been awaiting – the 50Plus Udon Supper! Be sure to reserve your seat by calling Donnie at 514 697-2092 or Jackie at 514 334-0537. We look forward to seeing you.



Support Services for Seniors

Happy Birthday wishes to those who celebrated their birthday in April, especially our Library coordinator, K. Hagiwara.

Call for Submissions

The Montreal Bulletin has launched a new column for writers young and old to submit original stories or poems in English or French for publication in “The Writer's Corner.” Our goal is to encourage a forum for the community. Poetry or prose of life events is encouraged. Please submit your poems or personal essays, memories or reflections of up to 150 words to: BulletinWritersCorner@gmail.com.

church NEWS



MONTREAL BUDDHIST CHURCH

5250 St. Urbain, H2T 2W9
514-273-7921
MontrealBuddhistChurch@gmail.com

CHURCH PROGRAM FOR MAY 2018
May 27 Combined May & June Shotsuki and Gotane Service will be held at 10:30 a.m.

Observing May Shotsuki are the families of:

Mrs. Chiyoko Takano Mr. Jiroemon Hasegawa Mrs. Yukiko Yamamoto Mr. Larry Nakatsuka Mrs. Mitsue Nakatsuka Mrs. Mary Shinya Mr. Hideo Yamada Mrs. Nobu Kawai Mrs.

Toshie Makihashi

Observing June Shotsuki are the families of:

Mr. Utaro Ikegami Mrs. Kikuno Ishihara Mr. Hiroshi Haruta Mrs. Shizue Haruta Mr. Hisajiro Shikatani Mrs. Harue Tsunokawa Mr. Torayo Kadohama Mrs. Masa Kojima Mrs. Harumi Yamamoto Mrs. Ruth Horibe Mr. Ken Tatebe

Dozo minasan omairi kudasai.

The Church building was flooded due to a burst water pipe on the second floor. It has been dried professionally and repairs to the plumbing along with the Hondo walls and ceiling have begun. It will be a little unsightly but we will be able to hold Services again. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you at the upcoming services.

MONTREAL JAPANESE UNITED CHURCH

8122 Champagneur, H3N 2K6
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Reverend Young-Ho Jang

CHURCH PROGRAM

Sunday Service: 11:50 am
Coffee hour after the service

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Regular classes: 11:50 am. All children are welcome.

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Father Pierangelo Paternieri, c.s.
Co-representatives :Kazuo Saito, Kazuo Wada. Tel/Fax: 450-676-9016,
n.yamaguchi@videotron.ca

CHURCH PROGRAM

May 13th (2nd Sunday): Regular

Monthly Mass in Japanese

May 13th (2nd Sunday): Fr. Jean Guy Dupont, p.m.é, will celebrate regular Sunday mass in Japanese at 10:30 a.m. as usual.

After mass we will have a small meeting. Mr. Andre Archambault will explain about church finances. Please come to discuss with us.

Medical Views

I have a doctor's appointment and ...

Dr. David O'Hashi

This encounter should be made comfortable and free of anxiety if one prepares for the meeting. We, as doctors, approach each patient with a sequence of steps, which, assist in resolving the issue at hand.

They are, first, listening to the patient's history. The information obtained from the patient is the most important contribution towards establishing a diagnosis, therefore a prepared written history of the complaints is helpful. Use clear language and be specific. Also try to limit your concerns to the most important issues, as overwhelming the doctor with a multitude of complaints can actually impede making a diagnosis. If there is a language barrier, have someone accompany you, who can clearly express your concern and translate

questions from the doctor. Fear, urgency, or sickness are factors that can impede a patient's rational expression of symptoms.

The next step is the physical examination, with particular reference to the area of complaint. Do not hesitate to direct the exam to a specific region, for example, "I have pain in this spot."

Family physicians know their patients, so they may simply need to reassess the situation in a few weeks without doing extensive testing. With specialists, however, the referral is usually to refine a more specific area of concern. Further investigations may require x-rays, ultrasound, CT scan, or specialized invasive examinations.

Finally, when the diagnosis has been estab-

lished, what can you expect? What is the time factor? What is the role of medications? Are there side effects? Will another specialist take over further care? Take time to ask questions to clarify the management decision. This is the most important part of your time spent in his office — use it! Make sure your voice is heard!

With this type of experience in the visit, hopefully you felt able to communicate your problem, and leave satisfied that your concerns were understood, and that you carried adequate knowledge in the management program as explained by the doctor. Empathy is the keyword in medicine.



**To keep us informed
of important milestones
and events, great
or small, in the lives
of members and
former members
of the Quebec Japanese
community, our readers
are invited to send in
any news or anecdotes.**

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438-797-2426**

Legendary urologist Yosh Taguchi retires

By Mike Cohen

(Originally published in The Suburban, May 17, 2017. Reprinted with permission.)



Dr. Yosh Taguchi.

At 83 years young, prominent urologist Dr. Yosh Taguchi has decided to retire, following a remarkable career that spanned more than 50 years. But worry not says Dr. Andrew Steinberg, co-founder and president of Elna Urology at Décarie Square, “because we will take care of all of his patients.”

When I met Dr. Taguchi last week, Elna Urology’s director of operations Shirley Zimmerman and her team were interacting with him as if he was still on staff. “I’m retired, but I really love this place,” he told me. “I might not be able to write prescriptions, but I still intend on being around to give advice.”

Dr. Taguchi is a true success story. Born in Japan, he and his family came to Canada in 1937. From 1942 to 1946 they were forced into an internment camp in Hope, BC. They would end up in Montreal, where mom and dad found work. Yosh attended the

High School of Montreal, studied Psychology at McGill and then successfully applied for Medical School. Urology came calling almost immediately. “I knew that I was smarter with my hands than my head,” he said.

In 2013 prominent businessman and philanthropist Lucien Rémillard officially announced the creation of the \$1 million Yosh Taguchi Chair in Urology at McGill’s Faculty of Medicine to focus on cancer-related research in urology. Remillard was among the many patients Dr. Taguchi saw over the course of decades at the Royal Victoria Hospital of the MUHC.

“Dr. Taguchi was such a major influence on my career,” said Dr. Steinberg. “He taught so many of us to be great doctors, but just as important, to be human and compassionate. He is kind and caring to all of his patients. They love him. He never lost his temper or lost his cool. Zen, through and through.”

Outside of McGill, Dr. Taguchi is best known for his best-selling books *Private Parts: An Owner’s Guide to the Male Anatomy* and *The Prostate: Everything you Need to Know about the Man Gland*. Now that he is officially retired he is considering a third book and spending more time with his wife Joan, four children and six grandchildren.

Editor’s note: Dr. Taguchi is now a volunteer for the Bulletin and contributes to the Medical Views column with Dr. David O’Hashi. He’s now 84 years young.

Link to original article:
<https://tinyurl.com/y9ax5h4m>

Congratulations

To the **winners** of the 29th Canada National Japanese Speech Contest held on March 24th at the University of Alberta. Montreal-based winners were **Vivian Wang**, third in the intermediate category; **Hansol Park**, second in the advanced category and **Seila Shimamoto-Caron**, second in the open category. All three are McGill students and had previously won first prize at the 29th Japanese Speech Contest of Quebec.

Condolences



To the family of **Claude Francoeur** who passed away on March 20, 2018 at the age of 77. He was retired from Bombardier and Marine Industries

and was a former president of the board of the Québec Japan Business Forum from 2012-2016. He is survived by his wife, Ms. Tsuji Toshimi, and his children Edith (Daniel Lussier), Patrick (Isabelle Perron), the son of his wife: Motohiko Tsuji (Kumiko) and his little son Iko as well as his brothers and sister: Aurelius, Jacques (Marcelline Rivard) and Huguette (Réal Chaput), his brother-Toshiko Tsuji (Emiko), the mother of his children Cécile Lemire and many parents and friend(s).

Condolences

To the family of **Mme Lucille Décarie Côté** who passed away April 7. Mme Côté was a devoted Ikebana student of Mrs. Mieko Watanabe, long time Sogetsu School professor and she was twice the President of Ikebana International Montreal Chapter.

Congratulations

To **Mrs. Mariko Kitakubo** from Japan who gave a performance of Tanka reciting with various percussion instruments on April 5th at the Drop-In session of the JCCCM. She is a distinguished Tanka poet and has often performed in Japan and overseas. It was an impressive event for members of the Drop-In group as well as for those from two Japanese Tanka groups who attended. See photos on page 12.



SUBSCRIPTIONS

Donald Watanabe

The following subscriptions were received during the past month:

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Babies 2017

These young ones joined our ranks in 2017. Welcome aboard!



Photo courtesy Alice Fujioka Chaurest

Eden Cecelia Axford

Born June 06, 2017

Parents: Brian and Lauren Chiyoko Axford
Great Uncle and Great Aunt: Michel and Alice
Fujioka Chaurest



Photo courtesy Yuka Konishi

Sayuki Simard

Born Nov 08, 2017

Parents: Yuka Konishi & Jocelyn Simard

Distinguished Tanka Poet Mariko Kitakubo at JCCCM Drop-In Session



All photos: Yoko Sayeki