



日本語センター

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J L C 通信

Japanese Language Center (つうしん)
Newsletter September 2004

*文化 (ぶんか) * Culture Corner

お月見 (おつきみ) Otsukimi

Otsukimi is a full moon viewing party. **Jugoya**, known as the full moon of autumn, was traditionally celebrated on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the old lunar calendar. It originated from farmers' religious observances ensuring a good harvest. Children believe an old tale that a rabbit is making **Mochi** on the moon. Since its beginning in the Edo Period, on this evening people decorate the areas of the veranda where one can view the full moon with offerings from the bounty of autumn, including **Susuki** (Japanese pampas grass), **Hagi** (bush clovers), and specially made **Tukimi-Dango**.



*食べ物 (たべもの) * Food Corner

団子 (だんご) Dango

Dango is a round rice dumpling. Bite sized balls of rice flour are boiled or steamed, and often served on bamboo skewers. They are flavored in various ways. The most common are the dumplings dipped into sweetened soy sauce and grilled with charcoal, and those covered with sweetened red beans paste or soybean flour. **Dango** is popular all

year round. Especially on the night of **Otsukimi**, it is prepared as an offering to the moon. It is also enjoyed at **Ohanami** (cherry blossom viewing).

*レストラン * Restaurant

Tuna House

My family and I accidentally stumbled into this restaurant one day in search of a good Japanese restaurant, and I've got to say, we were fairly



successful. The restaurant has a peaceful, clean, and cozy atmosphere, with Japanese waitresses and chefs, who are very friendly. There are some unique entrees available, including "Volcano" or "Tornado", which I strongly recommend (They're both rolls, and very tasty). If you don't want to try new things, the "well-known" entrees, such as **Udon** and **Bento**, are also delicious. Overall, the food is great - but the price is high. But hey, they give you a lot of food, so it all works out. (Sarah).



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Our comment: We have received a lot of information about the good restaurants. Sure they serve delicious food (and expensive food). I am looking for Japanese restaurants that serve delicious and inexpensive Sushi. My definition of "inexpensive" is \$12 Sushi lunch.

*ことわざ * Proverb Corner

「七転び八起き」(ななころびやおき) Nana korobi ya oki

Life is not always peaceful and has a lot of ups and downs. You have to be positive and energetic. Never give up! Even if you fall down seven times, try getting up eight times. Japanese language is one of most difficult language to master. If you try again and again, you will get it and improve. We are happy to help you.

📁 自己紹介 (じこしょうかい) 📁 Student of JLC

Hello, my name is Seinna. My boyfriend, Scott and I are planning to visit Japan for our vacation. It is not a package tour and I have to make all arrangements by myself. Both of us have no idea how to speak any conversational Japanese (even how to say "hello"). Therefore Japanese language is required and we decided to take semi-private lessons twice a week.

When I went France, fortunately my French teacher was with us. However, the trip to Mexico was a nightmare because I became sick there and didn't know any Spanish. I need to learn how to say, "I can't use a feather pillow because I have a very serious allergy" or "Please give me antibiotics" in Japanese.

We are looking for very practical words and phrases to help us get around. We would like to understand how to purchase and find things, and how to make certain we understand what accommodations we are getting, and communicate if medical aid is needed. It is highly doubtful we will be meeting up with people in order to strike *friendly conversations*, and have little time as it is to learn the basics. We focus on survival Japanese conversation skills. We are very excited.



🌸 Japanese Language Proficiency Test 2004 🌸

- ◇ Test Date: December 5 (Sunday), 2004
- ◇ Test sites: University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- ◇ Application Fee: Level 1-2 \$50 Level 3-4 \$40
- ◇ Application term: August 1 – October 12, 2004 (Online)

The Proficiency Test courses are available at Japanese Language Center.



📧 おたより 📧 From Guest book



I am crazy for J-Pop, Anime, and Manga. However if you want to read a new episode of Manga, the English version is not available so soon and you have to wait for long time, sometimes years until the English version Manga is published in USA. I can't wait and would like to read new Manga in Japanese. I took a Japanese course for a semester at school but it didn't help me to read Manga. What do you recommend? Do you provide Manga courses? I am not interested in business Japanese at all. I am not interested in learning Japanese for Manga with little kids either. I am 23 years old and "Tokyo MueMue" is one of my favorite Manga

series.

Our response: The majority of the students who take Japanese language courses used to be people whose major were International business or who were planning to go to Japan on business/exchange program.

Recently more people who are interested in Japanese pop culture come to JLC. Their goal is to enjoy Japanese pop songs, video games, Anime (animation), and Manga (comics). They usually take Private lessons and bring their own text (Manga, Anime, game, and etc.) For these people, we don't focus on the polite Japanese expression but still teach the standard semi-polite Japanese. You will also learn Hiragana/Katakana and grammar as a minimum requirement to read.

For the big demand of Manga/Anime, we have set up Group Manga Japanese course. It is open to Teens and adults. Please check the website <http://www.japanese-language.net> for more information and also the following Press Release. You may be concerned about being in a class with young people, however teens are not little kids and actually they do great with adults even in the business Japanese course.

📄 **プレスリリース** 📄 **Press Release**

Japanese Language Manga Course

Japanese Language Center (JLC) provides Manga Course.

JLC will be providing a new and unique Group Japanese Language course in September 2004. You had better check out the new "Manga Course" consisting of 8 weeks of Japanese language lessons, 2-hours each lesson. You will learn Japanese language through very popular Manga. The textbook is "Japanese for Busy People" and one of the popular Manga such as "Full moon wo sagashite" or "Naruto."



This course is open to teens and adults. It is designed for those who love Manga and have a beginner's level of Japanese skill. This course is perfect for those who wish to learn casual Japanese language. You will learn standard Japanese conversation including grammar for one hour using the regular textbook and for another hour using Manga as alternate text for each lesson. This course is designed to cover reading (Hiragana/Katakana and 100 Kanji), writing, listening, and speaking the Japanese language. If you can read Manga in Japanese, it would be more fun and you don't have to wait until English translated Manga is published and available in America.

-----**Japanese Manga Course**-----

Lesson schedule: Saturday 11AM-1PM (The very first course starts on 18 September 2004)
Lesson Fees: \$200
Class size: 4-6 people

The registration has already started. Registrations are due 72 hours before the first lesson of the course.

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JLC provides regular and Teen courses also. Group lessons are offered at \$200 per 8-week session while private lessons start at \$60/2hours. In addition to offering Japanese Language and Culture classes at the Bellevue location, JLC also provides Japanese language instructors on-site to Japanese companies to assist in the education of their American workers in business level Japanese language and corporate culture.

JLC has excellent instructors. All of them are Master's Degree/MBA/PhD holders with several years experience as University faculty, or the equivalent. Their teaching method is unique and you will learn not only Japanese language, but also Japanese culture/history. The Master Instructor, Junko is a former professor of Japanese language at Morehouse College, Atlanta for several years. In addition, she was an instructor on the nationally televised Japanese Language Program produced by Georgia Public Television for five years. She has been a guest speaker for "Japanese Language Education" at the Asian Network International Conference.

📄 **クラススケジュール** 📄 **Class Schedule**

Saturday courses start on 4 Sept.

Evening courses start on

Lesson Fees: \$200

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ● Japanese 101 Thu 26 Aug. | ● Japanese 200 Tue 31 Aug |
| ● Japanese 102 Fri 27 Aug. | ● Japanese 300 Mon 4 Oct. |
| ● Japanese 103 Wed 15 Sept. | ● More Advanced Fri 3 Sept. |
| ● Japanese 104 Wed 15 Sept. | ● Teens Japanese Wed 1 Sept. |
| ● Japanese Manga Sat 18 Sept. | |

Class Schedule may be changed without notice.



Please visit our website, <http://www.japanese-language.net> for an up-to-date schedule. Registration/Lesson fees are due 72 hours before the first lesson of the course. We don't accept payment for enrollment on the first day of the course. Also we will close enrollment when a course gets 6 registrants. Please sign up early before the class becomes full.

❀ 新聞記事 (しんぶんきじ) ❀ Newspaper Article

Former US soldier arrives in Japan

By Adam Haig 2 August 2004

On July 18, Charles Jenkins, 64, the former US Army sergeant alleged to have defected to North Korea in 1965, arrived in Tokyo.

Jenkins is the husband of one of some 13 Japanese citizens abducted by North Korean agents in the 1970s and 80s to instruct operatives in Japanese language and customs. Jenkins is also a deserter according to the US Army and faces the possibility of extradition, court martial, and incarceration.

In 1965, Jenkins headed a patrol unit near the De-Militarized Zone situated on the 38th parallel and crossed over to avoid action in the Vietnam War. Becoming a resident of North Korea, then presided over by Soviet-installed strongman Kim Il Sung, Jenkins worked as an English teacher, and later encountered Hitomi Soga, 45, whom he married in Pyongyang in 1980.

In 2002, following Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's unprecedented meeting with Kim Jong Il, Soga and four other surviving abductees were repatriated for a visitation period in Japan, and then arrangements were made for all family members to leave for Japan. Jenkins was successfully given permission to reunite with his wife after 21 months of saber rattling and deliberations between the Japanese and North Korean governments.

The US Army has, nonetheless, charged Jenkins with desertion. He faces the possibility of two counts of solicitation or encouraging other soldiers to desert, one count of aiding the enemy, and four counts of bringing discredit upon the US Armed Forces. While the UCMJ stipulates a death sentence for wartime desertion, a court martial may direct other forms of punishment, which can include imprisonment.

The Koizumi administration is pressing for a pardon or some form of "special consideration" with respect to Jenkins' deserter status. However, the motives for this apparent exercise in humanitarianism are underscored by the cynical and desperate workings of the ruling Japanese Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).



Precisely what North Korea has to gain from the Jenkins affair and related machinations flows directly from the deep economic problems that have beset the regime for the past decade. Throughout the decade, particularly with the advent of the Bush administration, it has confronted an aggressive campaign aimed at ensuring its complete compliance with US demands, backed by the implied threat of precipitating its collapse. Kim Jong Il is desperate for economic assistance and to exploit any opportunity to open up a split between Washington and its main East Asian allies-Japan and South Korea.

Some US officials hope that Jenkins may possess information concerning the alleged nuclear weapons program in North Korea. But it is clear that he is something of a diplomatic thorn for the US administration, coinciding as his case does with the campaign for the November presidential election. In addition, Japan has committed its Self Defense Forces to the occupation of Iraq. Therefore, the US government is treading cautiously on the Jenkins affair, lest it upset relations with Japan, precipitate possible troop pullout, and complicate the neo-colonial aspirations of American imperialism.

❀ おしらせ ❀ Remarks

Please bring your friend to JLC. Any referrals signing up for a class results in a 20% discount of your next block of lesson.

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*Japanese Language Center provides
Japanese Language Instruction
and Translation Services*