



日本語センター

住所: 6011 152nd Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006
電話: 425-891-2129 ファックス: 425-644-7728
ウェブサイト <http://www.japanese-language.net>
メール: info@japanese-language.net

J L C 通信

Japanese Language Center (つうしん)

Newsletter November 2004

* 文化 (ぶんか) * Culture Corner 七五三 (しちごさん) Shichi-go-san

The 15th of November is the **Shichi-go-san** festival day in Japan. **Shichi-go-san** literally means seven-five-three respectively. It is the festival for the seven-year old girls, the five-year old boys, and the three-year old boys/girls. These three ages are important in the growing stages of Japanese children. The children of these ages wear traditional Kimono (shown in the photo to the left) and go to a **Shinto** shrine, **Jinja** with their parents/grandparents. They give thanks to their ancestors and god for their health and pray for future blessings at the shrine.



It's fun but tiring day for the children because they are not accustomed to wearing a Kimono and are unable to walk well with those uncomfortable dress and shoes, **Zori**. Children receive a bag of candy called **Chitose-ame** (it means one thousand years candy) and the parents proudly take pictures of their children. Their parents are more excited than the children. This festival is said to have its origin in various custom of initiation observed in many parts of the country at certain prescribed points during the lives of children.

* 食べ物 (たべもの) * Food Corner 柿 (かき) Kaki



Kaki is a kind of Asian fruit, known in America as a persimmon. The fruit, capped by the persistent calyx, may be round, conical, oblate, or nearly square, has a thin, smooth, glossy, yellow, orange, red or brownish-red skin, orange, or dark-brown, juicy, gelatinous flesh, seedless or containing 4 to 8 flat, oblong, and brown seeds 1.5cm long.

Generally, the flesh is bitter and astringent until fully ripe, when it becomes soft, sweet and pleasant; dark-fleshed types may be non-astringent, crisp, sweet, and edible even before it's fully ripe. I really miss Japanese fruits, such as apples, pears, grapes, and specially persimmons. It's difficult to find good persimmons in America. Kaki has a different meaning as well. It also means oyster. In Seattle, I can only find Kaki (oysters), but not delicious Kaki (fruit). In the other hand, the oysters here are quite good!

Kaki seeds first reached the United States in 1856 when Commodore Perry sent them from Japan. Grafted trees were imported in 1870 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and were distributed to California and other southern states. Private interests made other importations until 1919. Seeds, cuttings, bud wood, and live trees of numerous types were brought into the United States at various times from 1911 to 1923 by government plant explorers. The tree has been found best adapted to central and southern California, Arizona, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, southeastern Virginia, and northern Florida.

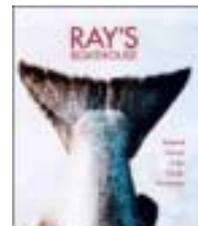
* ことわざ * Proverb Corner

「猿も木から落ちる」(さるもきからおちる) Sarumo ki kara ochiru. Even the monkey, who is very good at climbing trees, sometimes falls from the tree. English version is: "A horse may stumble though he has four legs", "Even Homer sometimes nods". Please understand that any Japanese teacher may sometimes make mistakes of Kanji.



❀ レストラン ❀ Restaurant RAY'S

A Seattle tradition since the early 1950s, Ray's serves impeccably fresh Northwest seafood with wonderful views of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. Ray's offers two ways to dine: the casual Cafe with its outdoor deck (about \$20 for dinner), or the exquisite and refined Boathouse (about \$40 dinner from 5:00pm). Ray's also offers full-service catering either on our premises in the Northwest Room or wherever you'd like to be! Reservations are a good idea.



For a place that's burned itself to cinders twice in fifty years, Ray's is still an iconic place for seafood. All our finfish are caught locally (i.e. Washington, Oregon and Alaska), and it's never, ever farm-raised! I would suggest trying out the kasuzuke sablefish, a cod-like fish marinated in sake lees, grilled and served with rice, pickled ginger, grilled baby bok choy and a wakame seaweed/cucumber salad. If you happen to stop by the Cafe for dinner, there's a good chance I'll be there, so say hi!

6049 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107 <http://www.rays.com> (Trace)
Boathouse: 206-789-3770 Cafe: 206-782-0094 (11:30am-) Catering: 206-789-6309



✉ おたより ✉ From Guest book

I took Japanese class for a year in high school and my dad is Japanese. Can I take the SAT II?

Our answer: Two to four years of Japanese language study in high school, or the equivalent gradual development of competence in Japanese over a period of years are recommended for the preparation. You should have at least two years of strong preparation in the language (reading, writing, and listening) regardless how you acquired your knowledge of Japanese. Your score will count the same as that of someone who learned Japanese only in the classroom.

📄 自己紹介 (じこしょうかい) 📄 Student of JLC

Konnichiwa, my name is Ken, a native Japanese and junior at high school. I was born and grew up in Japan. I recently moved to the US. I speak better Japanese than the Japanese teacher at my high school. My goal is to pass the entrance examination (including Japanese essay) of a university in Japan. So I have to keep my Japanese ability, and hopefully improve my Japanese writing skill. In fact I'm learning even more Japanese now. My teacher is very enthusiastic and very serious. JLC is a great place.

❀ 新聞記事 ❀ Newspaper article Suicide Club in Japan

TOKYO, Oct. 12 - Nine people were found dead in two rented cars with the windows sealed and Internet suicide sites facilitated charcoal burners at their feet in pacts.

The police said that in the first car that had been rented for the day, they found seven bodies, include teenagers and a 33-year-old woman who had left a note for her children. "Mother is going to die, but I was happy that I could give birth to you," said a note found.

At almost the same time, in Yokusuka, the police found a rented car containing the bodies of two women, ages 21 and 27. The two lived about 25 miles apart and had also apparently met through the Internet. "This is not murder, we planned this " read a message found in the car.



Japan has a suicide rate about twice the rate of the United States, and there are Web sites where people discuss suicide and suicide techniques. Some Web sites even sell kits offering "painless" suicide. Last year, Japan reported a record 34,427 cases of suicide. From January 2003 to June 2004, 45 people committed suicide in groups after meeting through the Internet. The police have

asked Internet service providers to report information about chat group participants who post suicide plans on the Web, but the directive is seems to be largely ignored.

 **プレスリリース**  **Press Release**

Japanese Language Sunday Courses

Japanese Language Center (JLC) provides Sunday group Japanese language courses in addition to weekday and Saturday courses. Instruction is available 8:10am–9:00pm on Monday-Friday, 7:10AM-5:00PM on Saturday, and also 10:10AM-2:00PM on Sunday

The following schedule provides a wide range of classes and dates for interested Japanese Language students in the Seattle, Bellevue, Renton, Redmond, and Issaquah areas. 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!

Courses consist of 8 weeks of Japanese language lessons, 110 minutes during each lesson. 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 4 registrants. Please sign up early before the class becomes full. Schedule may change without notice. Please visit our website, <http://www.japanese-language.net/schedule.htm> for an updated schedule.

Group Courses

Lesson Fees: \$200 / course (8 sessions)

Evening courses (7:10-9:00PM) start on

- Japanese 101 Thu 18 Nov.
- Japanese 102 Thu 11 Nov.
- Japanese 103 Fri 19 Nov.
- Japanese 104 Fri 10 Nov.
- Japanese 201-204 Tue 16 Nov.
- Japanese 301-304 Mon 15 Nov.
- More Advanced Fri 12 Nov.



Saturday courses (9:10, 11:10, 1:10, 3:10)

Other courses Start on

- Teens Japanese Sun 10:10AM
- Teens Japanese Fri 4:40PM
- Japanese Manga Sat 11:10AM



Intensive Course for JLPF Level 3, 2 & 1

Lesson Fees: \$200 (One-week session)

Please contact JLC for detail schedule

- Private 5 days of 110 min
- Semi-private 6 days of 110 min
- Group 6 days of 165 min



Address: 6011 152nd Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006

Phone: 425-891-2129 Email: <mailto:info@japanese-language.net>



Beginner level Japanese classes through advanced levels (PhD and post-graduate) are offered in-group and private/semi-private settings. JLC also offers On-site lessons.

Japanese Language Center (JLC), is based in Bellevue, Washington, serving the greater Seattle, Bellevue, Kirkland, Renton, Redmond, Issaquah and Tacoma area, provides Japanese Language instruction, tutoring, courses, seminars, translator and translation services to individuals, groups, and businesses. Serving all levels of Japanese language learning, from middle school, high school, and university students including postgraduate. Professional Japanese Interpreters and Translators.

❀ 映画鑑賞会 (えいがかんしょうかい) ❀ Movie Night

“Shall we dance?”

Have you watched this Hollywood movie? An overworked Chicago accountant tired of the boring routine that his life has become, sees a beautiful dance teacher through a window and decides to start taking lessons from her in order to get to know her better, and as the joy of dancing enters his life, he discovers that it might just be the secret to saving his troubled marriage. As the accountant's skill as a dancer improves, he eventually signs up for a dance competition. Will he win?



We are planning to have a Movie Night 7:00-10:00PM on Friday 5th November 2004. Our movie is the original Japanese version (119 min). Movie will start at 7:10PM. Coffee/Soda/Popcorn are served. If you like to attend, please RSVP by 2 Nov. (space is limited).



Comment about the Hollywood version:

A precious few will recognize the plot points from the 1996 Japanese film that inspired this Hollywood version starring Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez. In this version, Gere plays the role of wearied, repressed protagonist John Clark, a lawyer and family man whose daily routine has drained him of joie de vivre. While Gere brings a sophisticated, salt-and-pepper-haired sexiness to his Mr. Nice Guy role, Lopez doesn't really register.



The high points of "Dance" actually come from the cast's supporting players. Stanley Tucci brings his usual energy to his part as a balding fellow lawyer and gifted dancer who dons a Fabio-esque wig whenever he hits the floor.



Ultimately what's most disappointing about "Shall We Dance?" isn't the clichéd dialogue or the fact that it repeats almost every step of the Japanese version. It's the lack of an electrifying, knock-them-dead, killer dance sequence, a violation of Rule No. 1 in the Dance Movie Handbook. A hot choreographed routine during a dance movie's climactic scene is what makes all those cheesy plot developments almost bearable. Even the kids in "Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo" knew that.

Though there are some lovely waltzes, no scene truly razzle-dazzles. And for a film that stars "Chicago's" Billy Flynn and a former "In Living Color" Fly Girl dancer, that's more than a violation. That's a sin. GO! (Jen Chaney)

❀ 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 lessons.

あいうえおかきくけこさしすせそたちつてとにぬねのほひふへほまみめもやゆよりるれろわんあいうえおかきくけこさしすせそたちつてとにぬねのほひふへほまみめもやゆよりるれろわんへ



Japanese Language Center
6011 152nd Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98006
Phone: 425-891-2129 Fax: 425-644-7728
<http://www.japanese-language.net>
<mailto:info@apanese-language.net>

Japanese Language Center provides
Japanese Language Instruction
and Translation Services