

Chapter Beats July, 2020

JETAA Chapter Beat is a periodic mosaic of events taking place in the JETAA sphere. Compiled by [AJET](#)'s Director of Alumni Relations [Megan Buhagiar](#) (Ishikawa Prefecture, 2017- Present)

1) JETAA Ottawa

i. **JULY 26: VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB:
“KITCHEN” BY YOSHIMOTO BANANA**



ii. JETAA Ottawa is hosting its second Virtual Book Club via Zoom.

We will be reading and discussing **Yoshimoto Banana's highly
acclaimed novella “Kitchen”**. Friends and Family of JET Programme

Alumni are encouraged to join, regardless of location in the world!

Feel free to read the book in any language or format, but the discussions will be held in English.

**Should there be excessive interest groups will be capped and other date(s)/time(s) may be arranged.*

Date: Sunday, July 26, 2020

Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: Digitally on Zoom (link to be shared at a later date)

RSVP: Required. Register at the link below to attend.

Register for the Virtual Book Club here!

2) JETAA DC

i. Japanese Script Reading Club



Japanese Script Reading Club

Every Sunday from 2pm-3 pm

- ii. Join your fellow Japanese language learners and read through a Japanese short play script! The first read-through is for language study, the second read-through is for putting emotion into your Japanese. There will be three language levels available (easy, medium, hard), and a native-speaking Japanese Pronunciation Coach in every zoom breakout room.

Email jetambassador@jetaadc.org with any questions.

Time/Date: Every Sunday from 2:00PM to 3:00PM

Location: Zoom

Click here to sign up: <https://forms.gle/4bG2LS6KVgRRPRNX9>

- 3) JETAA UK
 - i. JETAA Photo Competition

JETAA Photo Competition

Open to all UK ex-JETs



JETAA North West Photo Charity Competition for Ashinaga

- i. JETAA North West are organising a photo competition open to all UK ex-JETS to raise funds for Ashinaga, a charity which supports the education and wellbeing of children who have lost guardians in Japan and internationally, in particular in sub-Saharan Africa. See their webpage for more in-depth information on what Ashinaga do: <https://en.ashinaga.org/what-we-do/europe/uk/>.

Now, when our movements are restricted, we may have found ourselves looking nostalgically through our old photos of our time on JET. So JETAA North West have decided to put some of these images to good use, to bring about some positive changes in this uncertain world. We are holding a charity photo competition with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. There will be a small, discretionary entry fee of £2 per image, 100 percent of which goes to support the important work of Ashinaga.

Japan Centre, the UK's premier Japanese foodhall, have generously

donated a £25 voucher as a first prize that can be used in their webshop and London stores when they reopen. The webshop has been a lifesaver during the lockdown as we can get Japanese items not available in supermarkets, and they deliver across most of the UK. Please see <https://www.japancentre.com/en>. We are also offering a book of poetry written by Ashinaga scholars (in English and Japanese) and the other prize will be announced soon.

Donations are to be made on this page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jetaaphotocomp>

We are looking for photographs that are specifically from your time on JET and are taken in Japan. There are no limits on shape or orientation, and the medium can be digital from a camera or phone. Alternatively, good quality scans of photo prints are also accepted. Please ensure that the image is of decent size and quality; JPG, JPEG and PNG are allowed. If possible, avoid filters.

Ideally, we are looking for snaps of everyday life on JET or your travels in Japan. We ask that you try to get permission from the people in your pictures and avoid pictures featuring school-age children. You must be the one who took the picture and be the copyright holder. You may submit up to four images to be considered for our prize.

As an optional extra, we are also asking for captions of a couple of lines telling us why this image is important to you or how it encapsulates your time on JET.

Please submit by email to nwvicechair@jetaa.org.uk by 15th July 2020.

We are also hoping to make a short montage video for our Facebook page and website, please indicate on your submission email if you do not want your image included in this. Winning images will also be featured on these platforms. We have confirmed Mike Rivera King Chair, Ashinaga UK; Rob Gorton, JETAA National Chair and a representative from JETAA North West to be on our judging panel.

We will announce the winners on 1st August 2020

4) JETAA Toronto Virtual Trivia Night

Join your fellow alumni for our first ever JETAA Toronto virtual trivia night!

Questions for this trivia challenge are coming to us all the way from Japan. Test your incredibly useful and important Japan-related general trivia knowledge (food, mascots, famous sites, bizarre factoids, and anything else we decide to throw in there) to see who is #1!

No teams, just you and your wits against your fellow alumni.

We are limiting the number of competitors, so only the first 20 RSVPs for the Trivia Contestant ticket will be able to officially compete.

Sign-up too late, or just not so interested in the competitive angle? We would still love to have you join the chat! Pick the Spectator option when RSVPing; our video and text chat will be open for alumni to come in and hang out on Friday night.

Introductions will start promptly at 7:00pm with an aim for the trivia to start at 7:20pm. If you are not on the call by 7:20pm, we may give your spot to another alumni. There are three rounds which will last around 15 minutes a piece, so budget between an hour and an hour and a half to play!

Competitors will find it easier if they have 2 devices prepped: one for answering the questions and the other for watching the zoom feed.

For more information and to sign-up, click through to our Guestlist page!

*This event is for JET alumni-only. If an alumni is social distancing with a Friend/Family of JET (FOJ), they are welcome to join on their screen with them.

*For safety and security purposes please DO NOT share the direct video/zoom conference event link, numbers or passwords publicly.

Questions? Contact us at chair at jetaatoronto.ca.

- i. **Date:** July, 3rd
- ii. **Time:** 19:00 – 21:00
- iii. **Cost:** Free
- iv. **Venue:** Zoom
- v.

5) JETAA BC

- i. On-Nomi (Online Nomikai)

A) DATE: July 16th

B) TIME: 19:00 – 20:30

C) VENUE: Zoom

D) TICKETS: <https://questli.st/655401>

Our first On-Nomi (online nomikai) was such a success, we'd like to invite you to our second event!

The On-Nomi, or "online nomikai" phenomenon has recently popped up in

Japan due to the self-isolation and quarantine restrictions there. Join us for

this free, online event and come to get to know your fellow JETs, play some

icebreaker games, and socialize, all in the safety of your home! And don't

forget to bring your favourite drink 🍷🍹🍺

Date: Thursday, June 4th, 2020

Time: 6:00pm ~ 7:30pm

Location: Online! RSVP here: <https://guestli.st/652656>

We require that you RSVP - <https://guestli.st/652656> - with your name and

email for this event and we will send you a private Zoom link to the online

meeting. Your name must be on the RSVP in order to join the chat. Feel

free to drop in at anytime, we hope to see you there!

6) JETAA NY

i. JETAA NY Café

A) DATE: Monday, July 6th

B) TIME: 11:30 – 13:00

C) VENUE: Zoom

JETAANY Cafe!

Date: Every Monday in June and July

Time: 11:30am-1pm (come and go as necessary!)

Details: Want some company during your weekday lunch while stuck at

home? Join us for lunch with JETAANY Cafe! This event is super informal.

Come and go as your schedule allows!

Register here for the invite to the

series: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvd02hqj8jEtRgoX50T](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvd02hqj8jEtRgoX50TYvtVLV6aLbAobkI)

[YvtVLV6aLbAobkI](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvd02hqj8jEtRgoX50TYvtVLV6aLbAobkI)

Questions: contact Mike Buonadonna at treasurer@jetaany.org

~~Conduct & Security~~

To ensure the safety and security of all attendees please DO NOT share the direct video/zoom conference event link, numbers, or passwords publicly.

Also, to create a supportive space, please refer to the guidelines below:

- Be kind, supportive, and inclusive

- Stay engaged

- Be conscious of your actions

- Be conscious of others

7) JETAA Southeast (Atlanta)

i. Nihongo Dake

A) DATE: Thursday, July 16th

B) TIME: 19:00

C) VENUE: Zoom

Our first virtual Nihongo Dake with Katie will be Thursday July 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm.
Come join us to practice your Japanese!

Register here: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuf-yhrJltGtbivxEguknfivP1RnWfR4kq>

8) JETAA Western Australia

i. Kazan Chat: Volcanoes Fun Facts

A) DATE: Wednesday, July 15th

B) TIME: 19:00 – 20:00

C) VENUE: Online

Join us for our first JETA AWA free online event ever!! The theme and topic for this event is Volcanos with our main speaker (and fellow JET alumni) Cecily Arkell.

During her time on JET Cecily was placed in Kagoshima; which most will know is the location of one of Japan's most active volcanoes Sakurajima. She is also our resident science enthusiast.

So join us for this fascinating info session, that will include a chance to chat and ask questions anything volcano or even Japan related.

The link to join this event will be posted on THE 15TH JULY. So just click attending/interested so that you can be updated with the event info.

We're super excited to see all your beautiful faces and for a chance to say hi again 😊

9) JETAA NSW

i. HUMPDAY with JETAA Online!

A) DATE: Wednesday, 8th July

B) TIME: 18:30

C) VENUE: Zoom

Hi All,

We will be continuing our weekly online Humpday with JETAA each Wednesday from 6:30 ~ 7:30pm AEST.

Please join us! All are welcome regardless of geography or phase of JETlife.

The below link will work every week 😊

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/2700904417>

10) JETAA Portland

i. Kyaraben Contest

A) DATE: Sunday, July 26th

B) TIME: from 11:30 AM

C) VENUE: Zoom

We are very excited to introduce our first ever JETAA Kyara-ben contest, a collaboration between JETAA Portland, JETAA BC and Pacific Northwest JET Alumni Association (PNWJETAA)! Join us on July 26th at 11:30 AM via Zoom for a fun afternoon of friendly competition and getting to know people from all over the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

With quarantine keeping us from tasting each other's food, we figured this would be a great opportunity to enjoy the artistic and visually appealing food art form that is Kyara-ben.

For those who don't know, Kyara-ben is short for Character Bento, the art of making cute, detailed box lunches that look like popular characters. Extremely popular in Japan, it is not uncommon for Japanese moms to create cute and intricate designs for their children's lunches, even every day. However, Kyara-ben is not just enjoyed by children, but has been popularized for people of all ages in Japan and around the world through social media and magazines.

We challenge you all to exercise your creativity and cooking skills to create some amazing bentos and eat them together with fun, like-minded people. JET Alums, JETAA friends and family, everyone is welcome– the more, the merrier! All are welcome to compete or just watch and admire and the amazing bentos that everyone has created.

Sign up in the ticket link!

How to compete:

1. Register for the contest at the ticketing link.
(people in the same household who are all competing should register separately)
2. Design and create your bento
3. Upload a photo of your bento to the folder link provided in your confirmation email, with your name on it before the contest starts at 11:30am
4. Prepare a short speech introducing yourself and describing your bento (see below for speech guidelines)
5. Log onto Zoom the day of the contest, present your bento and speech, and stick around to eat your amazing bento with everyone after the contest

Guidelines for Making Your Bento

Your bento should:

1. Include a character, whether it be a well-known character, person, animal, emoji or a character of your own.
2. Incorporate the theme Summer
3. Be presented in a bento box, shallow tupperware, or a dish that is similar in shape

This year's theme is Summer, and the second most important criteria for your bento (after your character of course) is to create your design around the theme. You can interpret the theme however you want, whether that be creating a summer-y scene, using dishes or foods that you love to eat in summer, or making summer-inspired shapes. But make sure that others can clearly tell that it's summer-y, and be prepared to describe how your interpretation relates to the theme in your speech during bento presentations.

Because of quarantine, we know that traditional Japanese ingredients may be hard to find right now and you may not have any on hand. For that reason, we want you to be as creative as you can, using whatever you have on hand to create cute, colourful, and beautiful bentos. Also, don't have a

bento box? You can use a shallow tupperware or a dish with a similar shape (having a 1 to 2 inch high lip).

Presentation Speech Guidelines

Introduce yourself:

If you're a JET alum:

--Your name, JETAA chapter, placement and years on JET, where you currently live

If you're a JETAA friend:

--Your name and where you currently live

Describe your bento:

--The inspiration or story behind your design, and how your design fits the theme

--The character you chose

--The ingredients and techniques you used for different components (think of how chefs describe their dishes on FoodNetwork)

Really sell it; try convince everyone of how delicious your bento is!

Judging

Bentos will be judged on the basis of:

1. Design (10 points)
2. Creativity/use of materials (10 points)
3. Presentation speech (5 points)
4. Relevance to theme (5 points)

1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be determined by judges representing all three chapters and professional bento makers. Winners will receive great bento-related prizes and have their bentos featured on the JETAA websites.

In addition to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place there will be five crowd-favourite categories decided by all attendees. They are:

1. Cutest
2. Most oishisou
3. Most creative
4. Most likely to appear in a Japanese magazine
5. Best Japanese fusion

Crowd-favourite winners will be recognized in a news special featured on the JETAA websites.

We hope to see you there for an afternoon of friendly competition and fun!