



KOKUBAN

Volume 5, Issue 4

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The JCCC Heritage Department is pleased to bring you Kokuban - our monthly e-bulletin that covers topics from heritage treasures to stories about this unique community.

Sedai Features: David Azuma – Kika-Nisei returning to post-war Toronto



This month, Sedai features David Azuma, who discusses being sent to Japan for his education as a child. Unable to return during the war, David returned to Toronto in 1949 and started a club for fellow Japanese Canadian 'returnees'.

[Click here to listen to the interview](#)

A Community Sports Hub: Japanese Canadian Curling in the 1960s

by Hajjar Radayedeh

As part of my Anthropology program at York University, I have been completing an internship at the JCCC Heritage Department. During my time, I have worked with several interviews from the Sedai collection as well as photographic and textual records in the archives. This archival work has allowed me to see details of the lives of Japanese Canadian individuals and families affected by the events of World War II and its aftereffects, and witness their strength from an outsider perspective. Not being Japanese and coming from a different understanding of culture and all that a person is within a culture, it has been particularly beautiful seeing Japanese Canadians' ways of living and forming a sense of community, especially through sport.

During my internship at the JCCC, I worked on the Mary Obana collection (JCCC 2023.07), which consists of a scrapbook album containing photos and newspaper clippings related to the JCCA Mixed Curling League during the mid-1960s. Mary Obana, who donated the album, was an active member of the League. Curling, as shown through this album, created a close-knit community rooted in weekly and annual sports events, banquets, award shows, and more.



Group photograph of the JCCA Mixed Curling League Members, ca. 1965. JCCC Mary Obana Collection, 2023.07.013.01

While the album never clearly states what JCCA stands for, we can assume that it refers to the Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association, which was formed in 1947 to advocate for Japanese Canadian rights, and to help create a sense of belonging in the new communities being formed in Eastern Canada. Given that the JCCA "organized, promoted, and sponsored projects and activities among Japanese Canadians to enable them to contribute to Canadian unity"¹, we speculate that the JCCA sponsored a curling league as well as other sports teams. The JCCA became the National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) in 1980².

The JCCA Mixed Curling League had numerous curling team sections and types, including mixed sections and a women's team, uniting Japanese Canadians in Toronto over the sport. The weekly programs helped create a sense of routine and community for the players, the audience, and even the readers just checking in through the updates in newspaper articles!



Curling League banquet held on April 24th, 1965. JCCC Mary Obana Collection 2023.07.018.01

Catching up on JCCA Curling Activities

TORONTO. — Sam Murakami came from behind trailing by a 2 point deficit to tie the game up at 7-7 in the last end against G. Takahashi. Vice Skip — Betty Shimozawa, Ray Matsunaga and June Akase curled very well against George's Rink. Gene Ohashi, Lily Kai (Spare) and Rae Miyata came close to upsetting the leading team.

Vic Suzuki won 9-3 against the team of Herb Sugie, Tom Maikawa and Kay Takasaki. Vic had Jim Roberts (Formerly of Winnipeg) Bev Honkawa and Michiko Nakashopi (?) on the winning team.

Gord Kai received excellent support from Nancy Nakanishi, Donna Kondo and Claire Iwase to win 6-5 against Min Sakon by stealing a single in the last end. Vice Skip — Carol Haraga, who was at her best, never failed to make her draw shots. Kaz OIye a new member on the team, made some fine shots along with Lead Marge Ura.

Min Sakon failed to capitalize in the 6th end for a 7 ender by missing his take out thus counting two points for a 3 pt. lead, which was later equaled by the opposition in the 7th end.

Once again Ron led his team of Goro Hirasawa, Judy Miyauchi and a spare to a 11-9 victory against Archie Kamiya's Rink. New comer, Joan Oda of Avonlea

Curling Club Vice Skipped for Archie with Chiyeko Suga and Margitta Anderson assisting.

Tosh Nagano, who have yet to curl with his full team, fought his way out of last place by defeating Bob Kimura 11-5. Tosh Nagano would like his lead, Tom Tamagi to turn up for the next game and would also like to thank him for calling recently to say he couldn't make it. (The call was from Los Angeles.) Vice Skip — Nancy Terauchi and Sumi Yoshida throwing 3 rocks each curled very well for Tosh throughout the game.

Norman Nasu's Rink curled their way to a 8-5 win against Len Matsukubo Rink. The combined efforts of Marge Kamiya, Ed Tanaka and Marge Iwata helped Norm very much. Bob Takashiba, Nancy Suga and a spare worked hard for Len in the closely matched game.

League Standing	Pts.
S. Murakami	11
V. Suzuki	9
G. Kai	9
G. Takahashi	8
M. Sakon	8
B. Kimura	8
L. Matsukubo	9
N. Nasu	6
T. Nagano	5
R. Tajiri	3
A. Kamiya	3
G.S.K.	

Newspaper clipping about the League's activities and standings, ca. 1966. JCCC Mary Obana Collection,

2023.07.026.03



(from L-R) Sue Nishiyama, Yo Kawaguchi, Ed Ruyjin, and Barney Ozawa curling, ca. 1965. JCCC Mary Obana

Collection, 2023.07.012.01

Many of the photos in the album were taken at The Terrace, which was located at

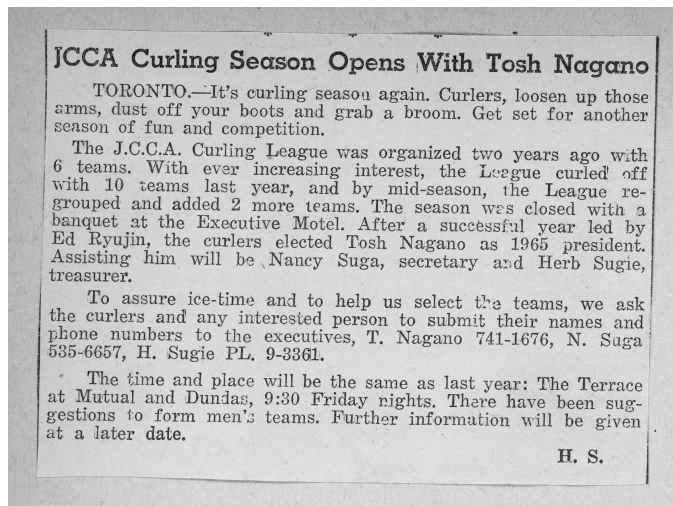
Mutual Street and Dundas Street (near Maple Leaf Gardens). It operated as a curling club and roller skating rink from 1962 until the building's demolition in 1989.³ It appears that regular games and practices for the JCCA Mixed Curling League took place at this site.



Yas Shinde, Rosina Eto, Ruth Yano, Nancy Terauchi, and Joan Suga curling at The Terrace. JCCC Mary Obana Collection, 2023.07.015.02

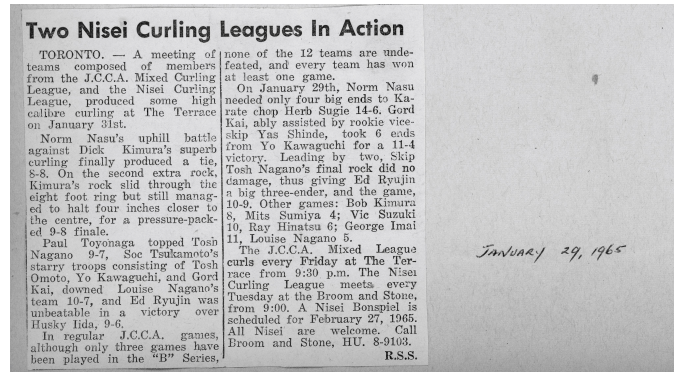


Exterior shot of The Terrace, date unknown. Source: The Terrace Rollerskating Rink on [Mutual Street Facebook Group](#).



A newspaper clipping about the JCCA Mixed Curling League mentioning regular meetings at The Terrace, ca.

It is difficult to determine when the JCCA Mixed Curling League ceased to exist. There were other Japanese Canadian curling leagues in Toronto during the 1960s, particularly the Nisei Curling Club; however, the Nisei Curling Club is the only Japanese Canadian curling club still active in the Toronto area.



A newspaper clipping discussing both the JCCA Mixed Curling League and the Nisei Curling League, ca. 1965.

JCCC Mary Obana Collection, 2023.07.006.03

In the postwar era, Japanese Canadians wanted to congregate, and this was done through food, art, and sport—the JCCA Mixed Curling League is just one example. Having had the chance to interact with Japanese Canadian stories in the archives, it is incredible to witness the shift from the displacement during WWII to the building of community spaces through the photos and article clippings from the era. What better than sport to bring people together?

Hajar Radaydeh is a third-year Anthropology student at York University. As part of her placement requirement, she interned at the JCCC, working with the Heritage Department. Her work and research interests are in decolonial cultural preservation and heritage research, especially through visual anthropology.

¹ https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_mikan_100580

² <https://najc.ca/japanese-canadian-history/>

³ <https://rink-history.weebly.com/the-terrace8203---toronto-on.html>

Sansei and Yonsei/Gosei Focus Groups on Japanese Canadian Third Places in Toronto

Are you a Japanese Canadian who identifies as a sansei, yonsei or gosei? The JCCC Heritage Department is doing research on Japanese Canadian third places, or sites of gathering, in Toronto to understand how Japanese Canadians have made place for themselves in the city from after WWII to the present-day. The research will culminate in an exhibition at the JCCC.

We are interested in questions such as the following: *What are the places that allowed Japanese Canadians to create a sense of belonging? To make sense of an unfamiliar city? What memories do people have of these places? What is the role of Japanese Canadian places in a changing Toronto?*

To answer these questions, we want to hear from you! A sansei focus group will take place on May 8th from 6:30 – 8PM and a yonsei/gosei focus group will take place on May 30th from 6:30 – 8 PM. Both sessions will take place at the JCCC and will be recorded. Light refreshments will be served.

If you are interested in participating or want more information on the project, please

email Vidhya Elango at vidhya@jccc.on.ca. If you are interested in participating but cannot make the focus group sessions, please get in touch as there may be alternate ways to participate.

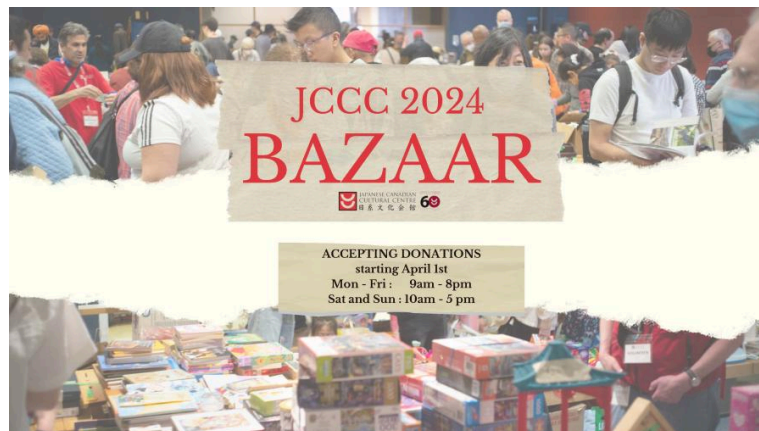
UPCOMING EVENT



The poster features the book cover on the left, which has a dark blue background with a white circular emblem containing a stylized tree. The text on the cover reads 'GAMAN PERSEVERANCE Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice Art Miki'. To the right, the event title 'Art Miki's Book Launch' is displayed in a large, bold font. Below it, the book title 'Gaman - Perseverance: Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice' is written. A circular portrait of Art Miki is shown in the upper right corner. The event details are listed as 'May 1, 2024 @ 7-9pm', 'Free', and 'No Reservation'. At the bottom, it states 'Presented by Talonbooks' and 'Supported by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation'.

ART MIKI'S BOOK LAUNCH

Save the date for the launch of "Gaman – Perseverance: Japanese Canadians' Journey to Justice" by Art Miki at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre's Heritage Lounge! This compelling memoir delves into the intense negotiations of the 1980s between the Government of Canada and the NAJC.



The image shows a busy bazaar scene with people browsing through various items on tables. A large sign in the center reads 'JCCC 2024 BAZAAR' with the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre logo and '60' below it. A smaller sign in the foreground provides donation information: 'ACCEPTING DONATIONS starting April 1st Mon - Fri: 9am - 8pm Sat and Sun: 10am - 5pm'.

JCCC BAZAAR 2024

We are accepting donations for our annual fundraising Bazaar! You can donate new or gently used items, and Japanese treasures, including kimono, geta, and other Japanese clothing. Japanese foods, baked goods, pies, and cakes will only be accepted on May 3 & 4. The drop off will be 9 am-8 pm Monday to Friday and 10 am-5 pm Saturday and Sunday.



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