

Minna,

I know you're so excited for this, the club's first newsletter! Meetings are going to be hard, like usual, so I decided to add something to the club. If you come across any interesting links or tidbits about Japanese or anime, please forward them on to me so I can put them in the next newsletter. Also, since I don't know everything, if I make a mistake or just don't know, I'd love answers to my questions and corrections to my Japanese/information.

After this newsletter, I'm going to try and get a newsletter out every Sunday... or every other Sunday, I don't want to send one out just so I can say I did. I'm not going to do a fancy newsletter with headings or anything, because sending code can be weird (and it's work :p). If I get brave, I'll try some formatting.

In this week's letter (1/29/08), "The Intro"

Greeting (^)

Upcoming meeting notice

-Potential meeting times

Club summary

-Club members/officers

-Club name

Japanese tidbit

Anime spotlight

Japanese music recommendation

Links of interest

Ads. ...

Farewell

About the Author

UPCOMING MEETING NOTICE

The next meeting will be a week from today. Tuesday, February 5th, 4-5 pm, in the student break-out room at the back (East) in Gore (past the CFA lab). I will be scouting meeting places (like classrooms -- more roomy and projector), but for now that's the default place. For this meeting we can play cards (hanafuda), talk about anime, and show people how to play Mahjong. I also might bring some other fun things (and try to bring food) -- please come!

Potential Meeting Times:

4-5:30 and 7:30-9 pm M-Th, almost every day anyway. Some T&TH I'll be leaving campus at 7:30, other times I have to stick around. Wednesdays I'll usually be going to Ballroom Dancing in the Health and Wellness building from 8-9 pm -- it's fun, come around if you have the chance!

Saturdays and Sundays are also fine for me most of the time.

Please let me know if these times work at all for you. If none work, give me some times that are good for you. We can't have much fun with this club if no one shows up for the meetings!

CLUB SUMMARY

This is the Japanese and Anime club, devoted to practicing Japanese, studying Japan's culture, listening to Japanese music, learning Japanese games, and watching and 'discussing' anime. Basically, I love all this and just want to have fun, it's more fun with other people, I want you to have fun, and I want to spread the love of Japanese and anime! (So tell your friends :)

Any ideas you might have for club activities -- like looking at poetry, drawing, learning Asian history, or role-playing -- please discuss with me through e-mail.

Club Name:

Officially we are called the Japanese and Anime club. But this is long, and not very original. At the beginning I called us the Futsu na Nihongo to Anime bu -- the Ordinary Japanese and Anime club (I think). I can think up a few more things, but I'd like to give everyone a chance to send in their NOMINATIONS for a name. Creative is fun, simple is good, relevant is required, inappropriate not accepted :)

JAPANESE TIDBIT

I don't know how many in this club know any Japanese, so I'll try to accommodate. Aside from the kanji (Chinese picture characters), Japanese is really easy (compared to other languages). The Japanese alphabet is made up of characters (Hiragana) that stand for a syllable; ha, hi, fu, he, ho, ma, mi, mu, me mo, etc.

Pronunciation is easy -- just what it looks like, and 'i' is pronounced 'ee'.

Sentence order is simple, just different from ours. Basically it goes like this:
time, place, thing, verb.

I.e. Getsuyobi ni wa, watashi no uchi de, bangohan o tabemasu.

Getsuyobi = Monday

ni = time/directional partical

watashi = I

no = possessive particle

uchi = house

de = with/at partical

bangohan = dinner

tabemasu = to eat (I eat).

So: on Monday I will eat dinner at my house.

Idiom: Iwanu ga hana: not saying is the flower. Basically, silence is golden!
(Iwanu comes from iu, to say -- hana is flower.)

Phrase: Oaidekite ureshii desu. (formal "I'm pleased to meet you.")

(I'm gessing 'oai' comes from 'au' to meet, I don't know about the rest, ureshii is happy, desu the basic verb ending.)

ANIME SPOTLIGHT

Kare Kano / His and Her Circumstances

I tried reading the manga, got through 8 volumes before I gave up. It's a romance comedy that was fun, but got old. The anime, however, is much more fun. They go chibi a lot. The beginning and ending credits are both good, the voice cast (Japanese) is

great (she talks really, really fast!). It's cute, and hilarious. The cast includes Enomoto Atsuko (Triela in Gunslinger Girl), Suzuki Chihiro (Kouta in Elfen Lied), Noda Junko (Reki in Haibane Renmei), and the all-famous Ishida Akira (Gaara in Naruto).

Of Interest:

The big anime studio Geneon went out of business not long ago (around Nov.). They licensed shows like 3 x 3 eyes, Fushigi Yuugi, Gatekeepers, Hellsing, X / 1999 , and Love Hina. Their previews were almost always horrible, but I will mourn them. Is this a bad sign for the world of Anime in America?

JAPANESE MUSIC RECOMMENDATION

You can get Japanese music on the iTunes store! It's a limited selection, but check out the album Zikuu by Rin', who brought us the Samurai 7 beginning credit song Unlimited! Her style is something like half pop, half traditional/world. Aside from the credit song, which I love, I also really like her songs Doushin and Sakitama.

LINKS of interest:

How to type in Japanese:

<<http://www.coscom.co.jp/help3/inputjp/installime.html>>

(For the Mac, go to International in System Preferences, check the Japanese Kana Palette and items in the Kotoeri list.)

Online kanji dictionary:

<http://www.saiga-jp.com/kanji_dictionary.html>

Anime database:

<<http://anidb.net/perl-bin/animedb.pl?show=main>>

Anime music videos:

<<http://www.animemusicvideos.org/home/home.php>>

(You can find all sorts of fun anime videos here. Since you can download the videos, I also use it as a place to get footage for my own creations.)

Thanks to Shogun Robert for the links for this week!

ADS (feedback / fun criticism wanted :)

Punch Happy: Ever find yourself yearning to make scrapbooks or do other creative projects? Punch Happy is just the book for you, offering detailed instructions and pictures on how to do your own punch art. Find Punch Happy on Amazon.com today!

Do you just fall for silver-haired half-demons with big swords? Don't you find them so lovable you just want to hug them? Get your 16" InuYasha plush doll today from RavenRing to be your faithful companion forever!

Jaa, that's all for this week. I hope you read it all, I know it's long but I hope it's at least somewhat interesting.

I'm looking forward to another semester with the club, one hopefully more eventful!

Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!

~Myra

マイラ

莓蘭

About the Author:

Myra Schjelderup has never written a newsletter before this one, and is excited about her debut. She enjoys sharing information with others, and finds learning so much fun. Never meant to be a comedian, Myra still tries to make jokes. If it drives you crazy, she apologizes.

Myra was born and grew up in Salt Lake City, and is currently an Economics major at Westminster College. She IS GOING TO go to Japan next year to study in Osaka for a month, as things didn't work out this year. This May term she is going with her sister to Spain and France.

With a love to write fantasy, Myra is looking to improve her writing and detail skills every day. If she could draw, she'd have several volumes of manga in process. As it is, she sticks to the written storytelling. (She appreciates comments on the newsletter.)

Myra works part time for the Library Automation Software development company COMPanion Corporation, which recently automated every library in the tiny (tiny, tiny) country of Trinidad and Tobago (ok, ok, only 155 libraries.). She also tutors her little sisters in Japanese, and one in Science (though she doesn't know any herself).

After just celebrating her 18th birthday, she feels the world should be a little different. It's not. What did she expect? (dunno...)

It's been suggested she become a walking motivational poster, so --

Don't give up! Life is only what you make of it. Get the most that you can out of every day. "Live like you are going to die tomorrow, learn as if you will live forever." Stress isn't worth the stress -- do what you can, but don't push yourself. Always do cost-benefit analyses.

Ganbatte in this new semester, minna-san!