



January

Friends of Japan (FOJ)

FOJ Newsletter

January Activities

☆Special Points of Interest ☆

- This Month's Upcoming Events
- Our Mission and History
- Our Past



1) Kakizome

Wed. Jan 23, 11AM ~ 3 PM
MBSC Fireplace (1F)

Our first big event for this year is *Kakizome*. *Kakizome* (書き初め) is a Japanese term for the first calligraphy written at the beginning of a year, traditionally on January 2.

Traditionally, *kakizome* was performed using ink rubbed with the first water drawn from the well on New Years Day. Seated facing a lucky direction, people would write Chinese poetry containing auspicious words and phrases such as “long life,” “spring,” or “perennial youth.”

These poems were then often burned. In modern times, people often write out auspicious kanji (Chinese/Japanese characters) rather than poems. Come on the 23rd and we can help you write your very own *Kakizome!!*

2) Bake Sale

Tues Jan 29, 11AM~3PM
MBSC Entrance (1F)

Bake sales are community social events and people enjoy getting together over a common goal. Whether it's the people behind or in front of the table, they just love to mix and mingle at a bake sale.

This time, we are going to sell baked items using Japanese ingredients such as **Green Tea**, **Sweet Beans**, and **Soybean Flour**.

Although this event is mainly for fundraising, it is a great opportunity for us to introduce you to Japanese sweets as well as our organization. These items can not easily be found around here, even in Japanese restaurants. It is worth it to stop by and try our hand-made Japanese sweets.

3) Public Meeting

Fri. Jan 18 3PM~4PM
MBSC Council Room (3F)

The Friends of Japan want your input! This meeting is open for all FOJ members (and anyone else who is interested) to meet people and have fun. Bring your friends!

We will talk about our coming events and activities. We appreciate your ideas and opinions. (Next month's public meeting will be held on Fri, Feb. 8 at 3PM in the Student Center Cafeteria.)

※If you would like to help out with any of these events, please e-mail us at:

FOJatUNO @
hotmail.com

We always appreciate your help.



Our mission is to provide opportunities to meet people who have common interests in Japan, both on campus and in the community, and assist Japanese students in forming social bonds to help them adjust to life in America. Our organization enhances awareness of cultural diversity issues and promotes the harmony of interaction between cultures.



Past Events—2007

• **Get Together Party** - October

We had a get-together party with a lot of Japanese food. For this party, many people cooked delicious Japanese dishes such as sushi, rice balls, curry soup, and so on. There were a lot of people— not only Japanese but also Americans and international students from other countries. We danced Eisa, a kind of Japanese traditional dance.

• **Cafe Internationale** – November

It is one of UNO's international events. Many international countries had booths inside the International Studies Office (in ASH) to present their cultures. FOJ members did calligraphy and origami at the Japanese booth. We showed visitors how to write Japanese and taught how to fold origami. Also, we served green tea and Japanese candies. In the US, green tea often contains sugar or other sweeteners, but original green tea is not sweet, only having the tea taste. This was a little surprising for people who stopped by our booth!

• **Dinner night** - November

FOJ is all about Japanese and non-Japanese learning about each

other's cultures. On this day, we played American games, then went to Sushi Japan, one of the best Japanese restaurants in Omaha.

• **Ethnic Festival** - November

One of Omaha's popular holiday events, the festival is held at the Durham Western Heritage Museum. There were many countries' booths, and FOJ had one for Japan, the only country representing Asia. In the food area, we served four kinds of Japanese food: two kinds of sushi, curry soup, and green tea cookies. Our home-made taste was instantly addicting! In the culture area, we did calligraphy and origami. We write down the names of people who stopped by our booth in Japanese. Most people had hardly seen Japanese characters before, let alone their own name in Japanese!

• **Christmas Carol**- December

For many people, Christmas is an important holiday tradition in America. Although Japan has Christmas customs, they are very different from the American ones. Christmas Carol is one America's traditions,

and two weeks before Christmas day, FOJ members listened to Christmas carols in down town Omaha. They also sung many of the Christmas songs. Despite the cold weather , many people stopped by.



Friends of Japan (FOJ) is the official student organization approved by the University of Nebraska at Omaha in fall, 1999. It is organized and run by active committee members. FOJ members include students, families, and people from the community.

If you have any questions about FOJ, please e-mail us: FOJatUNO@hotmail.com

For more information, go to:

<http://www.unomaha.edu/friends/>