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JET STREAMS

The JET Programme Alumni Association Newsletter

2009/2010 Edition

Volume 19

FROM THE CLAIR JET PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the 2009/2010 edition of the JET Streams newsletter. This newsletter is issued to former participants of the JET Programme as a way to share stories and memories of their time in Japan, and stay connected with the development of the JET Programme and JETAA chapters around the world. This edition has been sent via the JETAA chapters, but from the next edition we will return to sending it directly to readers who have requested it, so please go to the JET Programme website (link below) to update your contact details if they have changed and you would like to receive the 2011 edition. We would like to thank all contributors to this issue of JET Streams and hope you enjoy reading it!

JETAA NEWS

JETAA Member Count

The JET Alumni Association (JETAA) currently has 52 chapters in 17 of the 54 countries that have participated on the JET Programme (Australia, Brazil, Canada, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa, and the U.S.A.). There have been three new chapters started since the last issue of JET Streams: Music City (New Orleans, USA) in late 2008, Singapore in 2009, and Tokyo in April 2010. As of June 2010, there are over 53,000 JET alumni spread across the world, of which approximately 23,000 are JETAA members.

Update your Contact Information

Please take a moment to update your contact details with CLAIR, to ensure you continue to receive the JET Streams newsletter via email, along with any other CLAIR announcements. You can see details on how to update your details on the JET Programme website (<http://jetprogramme.org/e/former/address.html>).

Pension Refund Information

Japanese Pension Insurance was deducted from your monthly salary while you were a JET participant. If you are eligible and have not yet applied for the Lump-Sum Withdrawal Payment (*dattai ichijikin*) and the refund on the 20% flat tax that is levied on it, please visit the "Former JETs" section of the JET Programme website (www.jetprogramme.org) for details on how to apply. There is also a detailed section on the pension refund in the 2010 edition of the General Information Handbook, downloadable from the JET Programme website. Please note that you must apply for the pension refund within two years after leaving Japan, and the tax refund within five years. We encourage you to apply for your refunds early, in order to avoid the possibility of being denied funds you are entitled to.

JETAA Alumni Activities Book

In March 2009, CLAIR published the JETAA Alumni Activities book. This book was produced to share examples of the activities of JETAA chapters and alumni around the world, and the continued interaction that many alumni have with their contracting

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organisations and areas that they lived in while on the JET Programme. It is hoped that this book will be helpful in promoting JET alumni and the JET Programme overall to contracting organisations. A PDF version of this publication can be downloaded from the JET Programme website: http://jetprogramme.org/documents/pubs/JETAA_activities.pdf

Countries and Participant Numbers

In the 2009-2010 JET Programme year, there are 4436 participants from 36 different countries (4,063 ALTs, 366 CIRs, and 7 SEAs). In 2010-2011, the JET Programme will welcome approximately 1,500 new JETs, bringing the total number of participants to approximately 4,330.

New Business Hours for the CLAIR Tokyo Office

From 1 April, 2010, in accordance with national government policy, the CLAIR Tokyo Office has changed its closing time to 17:45 (previously 18:00).

※New business hours: 9:00-17:45

The JET Programme Website

The JET Programme website (www.jetprogramme.org) contains lots of useful information for aspiring, current and former JETs.

In the “Former JETs” section, you can:

- ◆ Get information on updating your contact details

- ◆ Download past editions of *JET Streams*
- ◆ Find information about the Pension Refund

We also have the majority of our publications available for download on the website.

JET Programme Forums

There are also forums on the JET Programme website to provide a discussion place for anyone involved with or interested in the JET Programme. The forums have just been updated to new software recently that we hope will make the forums even easier to navigate and use. There is a separate “After JET / JET Alumni Association” section for former JETs, but we also invite you to have a look and share your experiences with both current and aspiring JETs. The forums can be accessed at: www.jetprogramme.org/forums/



WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE JET ALUMNI ASSOCIATION?

The JET Alumni Association (JETAA) was created in 1989 to strengthen and maintain the bonds of friendship developed between JET Programme participants, and to promote a broader and deeper understanding of Japan and the countries participating on the JET Programme.

Returning JET participants can join by indicating the chapter they would like to join on the “Online JET Alumni Association (JETAA) Membership and Contact Information Form” that will be sent out soon. Other JET Alumni should contact their nearest chapter directly.

For further information about JETAA, visit the JETAA International website at:

www.jetalumni.org/

2009 JETAA INTERNATIONAL MEETING IN JAMAICA

The Annual JETAA International Meeting was held from 2-4 October, 2009 in Kingston, hosted by the Jamaica JETAA Chapter. The purpose of the meeting is to bring together a representative from each country with a JETAA chapter to share ideas for activities and initiatives, brainstorm how we move to the future as an alumni organisation, and leverage being the largest global exchange alumni association to our best advantage. This meeting was particularly successful for achieving the goals. The Country Representatives brought the experiences from their own chapters and others in their countries to showcase. In particular, we heard about the New York Chapter's Author Showcase, where three authors living in the NYC area with varying backgrounds and connections with Japan came to speak to JET Alumni members, Auckland's (New Zealand) workshops that are run by the Alumni to help students sitting their Japanese high school examinations, an Art Exhibition in Toronto where JETAA members displayed their work in a popular gallery, and Steven Horowitz's great website full of resources, discussions and articles for JET Alumni: www.jetwit.com

We also spent time discussing the brand of JETAA and how we can help raise awareness of the JET Programme

and the calibre of JET participants returning to their home countries and looking for work. This year we'll be continuing this discussion to focus on how we position our unique organisation to benefit our membership, and how we can raise our presence via online sites such as our own website, www.jetalumni.org, as well as social networking sites (JETAA has presence on Twitter (jetaai) and LinkedIn ([\(Official Japan Exchange and Teaching \(JET\) Programme and Alumni Association \(JETAA\)\)](http://Official Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme and Alumni Association (JETAA)))).

We were also treated to some cultural experiences of Jamaica by JJETAA with a trip to Bob Marley's house – now a fascinating museum, a talk on the Rastafarian movement by historian and researcher, Louis Moyston, great Jamaica cuisine at the official receptions and lunches, and a fun night out to Mas Camp, an outdoor Jamaican dance party.

Thank you and otsukaresama deshita to MOFA, CLAIR, the Japanese Embassy of Jamaica and JJETAA who made this meeting possible.

Michelle Fox
Chair, JETAA International



A WORD FROM THE AJET CHAIR



Greetings everyone!

My name is Caroline Ideus and I am a third-year ALT in Shimane Prefecture. I have just recently started as the Chair of National AJET for 2010-2011. National AJET represents all current JET Programme participants and provides them with personal and professional support. As JET alumni, you are in a unique position to lend your own knowledge and experience to current JETs in ways that AJET may not be able to. Through continued cooperation, AJET and JETAA can mutually benefit and assist each other in meeting our goals.

Please do not hesitate to use myself or any other member of the National Council as points of contact for tapping into the present JET world.

For more information, please refer to the National AJET website, www.ajet.net. I look forward to working with you this year.



Caroline Ideus
2010-2011 National AJET
Chair
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JETWIT.COM: TAKING THE JET ALUMNI COMMUNITY TO ANOTHER LEVEL

<This article was printed in the Winter 2009 issue of the JETAA New York Quarterly newsletter (JQ)>

After spending the last several years growing the JETAA NY Quarterly (JQ) newsletter into a full-fledged alumni magazine, **Steven Horowitz** (Aichi, 1992-1994) began focusing his efforts on **JetWit.com** in late 2008. **JQ** caught up with Steven to learn more and see how he's doing.

Hey, what is a JetWit, anyway?

It's just "JET" plus the acronym for "Writers, Interpreters and Translators." I started the **WIT** e-mail group in May 2008 to find more writers for the JET alum publications and also to help freelance translators find more work opportunities. I wanted to create a sort of public face for the WIT group to be able to do these things on a more consistent basis. I also wanted to create an online archive of newsletter articles that editors from other JETAA chapters could easily access and copy and paste for their own chapter newsletters.

Then why does JetWit look like an elephant?

[Laughs] I knew I wanted a Japanese-style mascot, so I went to graphic designer and Web developer **Zi Mei** (Saitama, 2002-2005) because I'd seen some of the excellent characters he created on his site (sugarcloud.com). I told him I wanted a cute animal, and somehow he came back with an elephant that he named A.J., which I love anyway.

How's it going so far?

Pretty good. The site is getting between 50 and 200 hits per day right now. But more importantly, it's helped some JET alums find work, like **Julie Matysik** (Yamanashi, 2006-2007) who had just moved to New York and was looking for work in publishing. I asked her to start

writing about her job search process for the benefit of other alums. Within two posts, another JET alum at a publishing house saw her posts, got in touch and ended up offering her an internship. Meanwhile, **Jonathan Trace** (Fukuoka, 2005-2008) was also looking for work in publishing and writing, and had just started doing the **JETAA Chapter Beat** feature for JetWit when Julie told me to let Jonathan know that her company had another internship opening, which Jonathan subsequently got. This is the JET alum network at work and it makes me really happy.

So what's the plan going forward?

I'd love to get more JET alums writing about their expertise, like triple-threat interpreter/translator/writer Stacy Smith (Kumamoto, 2000-2003) who does the **WITLife** posts after watching Japanese news each day, which she does anyway to keep her interpreting skills sharp. I'd also love to keep pulling veteran JET alums out of the woodwork. Like authors **Roland Kelts** (Osaka, 1998-99) (*Japanamerica*), **James Kennedy** (Nara, 2004-2006) (*The Order of Odd-Fish*) and **Rob Weston** (Nara, 2002-2004) (*Zorgamazoo*), who I never would have learned about if I hadn't started JetWit. I also wouldn't mind attracting some paying advertisers.

At the risk of offending, you're a bit of a veteran JET alum yourself. Any parting words of wisdom for the younger JET set?

So I'm at that age where I can start indiscriminately doling out gratuitous advice? OK, might as well get on my soapbox while the memory is still relatively sharp. I guess I'd say that the JET alumni community is a terrific resource, and it's still largely untapped in many ways. Given that the economy doesn't seem inclined to do anyone any favors these days—well, except for those of us who work in the bankruptcy field—now is a great time to take advantage of the JET Alumni Association and our



network, including JetWit.com. You can meet a lot of people, but more significantly you can use the organization to create opportunities for yourself to get experience in whatever field you want.

Thanks, Steven. And good luck with everything. We'll keep an eye on JetWit.com in the meanwhile.



JET ALUMNI VOICES

“An Unfortunate Incident”

By David Spears (Gifu, 2008-2009)

Journal entry from August 5th 2008:

Following a half hour bus journey in 30 degree heat and 95% humidity, I finally arrived in Kokofu Junior High School in unfortunately a rather sweaty state for my first day at work. Already fairly anxious, because at this point I speak one, maybe two, words of Japanese, and am conscious that I will have to imminently introduce myself to the Principal and rest of the faculty, I decided to pay a quick trip to the bathroom to freshen up.

After splashing my face and fanning myself down with my new school file, I looked around for some paper towels to wipe my brow with. No such object appeared to exist - but there was however a selection of small flannels hanging on a clothes horse close to the sink. After selecting a fairly clean towel from the rack and wiping my face and neck, I then inspected myself in the mirror – exceedingly pleased to see a somewhat less dishevelled chap looking back at me! Highly relieved that the self introductions that followed in the staff room were not as disastrous as the mental versions that had kept me awake the night before, I began to relax in my new environment.

A tour of the school followed, courtesy of one of the younger English teachers, beginning in the facilities that I had just made use of. I nodded politely when instructed that upon entry to the lavatory, one must change their shoes to the 'toilet slippers' provided - a fact that I had drummed into me at both the London and Tokyo orientations. I was, however, horrified to learn that the flannels I had just dabbed my cheeks and forehead with,

were unfortunately not intended for that purpose - they were in fact used to wipe the inside of urinals and the toilet floor at 'cleaning time' at the end of the school day. As I'm sure you can imagine, the rest of the tour continued with yours truly attempting to wipe from his face the multiple diseases that I am now certain I have contracted!

“Lessons from Sensei”

By Trelawney Goodell (Wakayama,
1995-1997)

I chose calligraphy as a fun creative outlet that combined writing and painting. A friend at the Board of Education who had been studying for years encouraged me to join the class at the Hirogawa Community Center.

On my first day, Oka-sensei greeted me warmly. Instead of using my last name, he gave me a new name: Shungetsu, explaining that Spring Moon was an appropriate name for a young woman. Oka-sensei had furrowed wrinkles in his



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sun-worn face and bright, shining eyes that lit up when he smiled, which was often. He patiently showed me how to work the sumi into a pool of ink, and then how to hold the brush. Next, he demonstrated some basic strokes. I filled pages with attempts at the bone-like ichi character, and then I moved on to the vertical line.

After what seemed to my impatient mind like endless practice of the core strokes, it was time to see the characters I would work on. Oka-sensei explained that since my time in Japan was limited, I could skip past the years of strict adherence to form and try a fun style. He drew a master copy with three characters: yuki, tsuki, hana. I knew them all!

I studied his model and tried to focus my mind. I breathed in slowly through my nose and then exhaled. I wiggled my shoulders to release the tension. Then, I dipped the brush into the shiny ink pool and drew the first stroke of yuki. The placement was fine, and I forged ahead. I copied sensei's bold and flowing style as best I could. Sensei came over and looked at my work. "Not bad," he said, smiling. "Your first could end up being your best." I looked at him skeptically. "But you should do fifty or so more." He smiled and moved to another student.

He spared my first attempt. When he corrected my next attempts, his orange line extended further or turned more sharply or followed a different route. A set of characters that I thought I might share with my parents became an interim learning point.

In summer 2008, I returned to Wakayama for the first time in 10 years, and I met Oka-sensei again. A wonderful English teacher, Mrs. Hirahata, had started studying with him. When I discussed visiting, she said that Oka-sensei had invited us over for tea and to see his collection.

We sat in his study, sharing pleasantries. He poured the tea out, raising and lowering the tea pot to get the exact amount of air to mix with the stream. We complimented the beautiful teacups, and noticed his collection against the wall. Oka-sensei explained that when he saw everyone scrambling to have the next new thing, he started looking back. "The things from antiquity that have value will continue to have value," he said.

After tea, we toured his museum. As we stepped across the threshold, the cool air provided welcome relief from the oppressive August heat. Beautiful calligraphy hung along the walls. Some were more like paintings than words. I slowly walked around the room, attempting to soak it all in and read the characters. Oka-sensei pointed out a couple of pieces that were created by his sensei. The rest were his own. Before I was ready to leave, Oka-sensei led us upstairs to a room with rows of display cases. The older sumi blocks had rough edges and looked like charcoal. The newer ones were ornately decorated with dragons and phoenixes. Some were painted or gilded. I couldn't imagine destroying a masterpiece of art to be able to write! The importance of writing in China and Japan suddenly dawned on me.



Oka-sensei led us outside to his studio. Brushes of all sizes hung against the walls, and there were wooden cubby holes full of writing paper. Oka-sensei sat on a cushion on a low tatami platform. He gave me some tips on meditation: "Breathe slowly in and out. Focus. Let go." I had tried meditation a few times without results. Mostly, I found myself thinking about not thinking. Oka-sensei asked me about walking meditation. He placed his arms across his chest and then explained that it was important to walk briskly with intention. "Pah-pah-pah," he said. He got up to show me.

He and I stood with our backs to the door. First, he demonstrated. He moved smoothly and quickly, like a much younger man. He gestured that it was my turn, and I went for it. I was amazed how quickly I crossed the small

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room. My mind was focused only on two things: the movement and the destination. I didn't even notice Mrs. Hirahata taking pictures.

Photos courtesy of Kimiko Hirahata

“The Gift That Keeps on Giving”

By Aaron Woolfolk (Kochi , 1992-1993)

I often speak to JET alumni who tell me that, while they had a wonderful JET experience that changed their lives, they have not kept in touch with their friends and colleagues from Japan. For some with fond memories of their time there, years have passed since they have had contact with anyone from their city or prefecture.

I certainly do not criticize anyone who does not keep up with Japan. Post-JET lives tend to be busy with school, work and the pursuit of career goals, and/or family. Schedules become tight, and return trips to Japan can be impractical and expensive. As time passes, we tend to write or call acquaintances across the globe less and less. Life goes on, and Japan becomes another in the long list of life experiences that we are grateful for but do not dwell on.

But I would encourage current JETs to look at their current tenure as an opportunity that can continue to bear fruit long after they leave. I'd also like to urge alumni who have let their contact with Japan fade to consider re-establishing those ties. For me, the greatest benefits I received from Japan came *after* I left the JET Programme and returned to the United States. Indeed, the relationships I made as a JET 17 years ago not only became an enduring part of my life, they have had a huge impact on my dreams and chosen career - for I write this shortly before the nationwide release in Japan of my feature film debut as a director and writer, "The Harimaya Bridge."

In the fall of 1991 I was a senior at the University of California at Berkeley, looking forward to graduation and filling out applications for graduate film programs. One day I ran into two friends on campus that said they were

on their way to get information about something called The JET Programme. Having some free time on my hands, I decided to tag along. I ended up applying to JET, but I had no intention of ever going. My mind was set on starting my film studies, and I looked at the JET Programme solely as a back-up plan that I figured I would not need. Sure, it was really competitive getting into film schools those days, and I had only applied to a few programs. But I was so determined (read: naïvely confident) that I figured nothing would get in the way of my goal...

...until not getting accepted into any film schools got in the way of my goal.

I ended up a JET in Kochi Prefecture, and I loved it. In fact, I soon started thanking my lucky stars that film schools *had* rejected me. I was glad to be where I was, living how I was living...a fun job, lots of friends, a great girlfriend, and the feeling that every day was an adventure. I planned to remain a JET for what was then the three-year limit. As an afterthought though, I again sent off applications to film schools just so I could say I did. I did not put nearly as much time and effort into the applications as I did the previous year, as the plan was to get rejected and carry on with my merry life in rural Japan.

And then I got accepted. To a top school. That would not let me defer. So, with a lot of soul-searching and faced with an opportunity that might not come again, I reluctantly decided to leave Japan at the end of that first year and enroll in graduate school in New York City.

But I had been mentally and emotionally set on staying in Japan for three years, yet I left after just one. The result is that I felt my JET experience was woefully incomplete. For a year, even though I was living in the heart of the most exciting city in the world, all I could think of was getting back to my little town in Japan. And that's what I did. I found a Japanese travel agency with inexpensive plane tickets and started making return trips to Kochi. I'd see my friends and colleagues and former students there on an annual basis. Indeed, since ending my life as a JET in 1993, I have been back to Kochi nearly every year since.

Eventually I started to think ahead to the future career I hoped to have as a filmmaker, and how I could get

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there. I decided to put Japan into the mix, and for my graduate thesis project I made two short films in Kochi: "Eki," a comedy about a JET two weeks into his new life in Japan; and "Kuroi Hitsuji," a drama about that same JET six months later. That started me on the path to where I am now: having completed the feature film "The Harimaya Bridge".

It was on these endeavors that I really benefited from having actively kept in touch with the people from my JET days. For in doing that, I had kept them engaged in my life, providing them with a front-row seat to my pursuit of my dream career. They wanted me to succeed, and when they learned I wanted the path to my future to go through Kochi, they stopped at nothing to help me.

The fingerprints of my JET experience are all over "The Harimaya Bridge," not only in terms of the story, but, most significantly, in the making of the movie itself. One of the schools we filmed in and whose students we used as extras? The principal had worked with me in the county education office during my JET year. The use of the main commercial strip in one of Kochi's key towns? Arranged by members of the Susaki Broken English Club, a local conversation group I participated in as a JET. Indeed, the very foundations of the project - getting Kochi Prefecture onboard to support it; meeting two successive governors and receiving their blessing; getting access to several pivotal locations, including historic Kochi Castle; and so many more examples - were put in place by friends I had met and worked with as a JET. And I can't even begin to describe the wonderful, comforting feeling of old friends - my former JET supervisor, former education office colleagues, former neighbors, former students - coming by the film set to say hello.

So here was a film production with a budget of millions of dollars, supported by one of Japan's biggest film companies, with Hollywood and Japanese movie stars, with hundreds of crew and staff members in four countries on two continents, and with plans for a big nationwide and international release...and yet none of it could have happened without the colleagues and friends I had met in my capacity as a JET 17 years earlier.

My relationship with Japan has not only benefited my life long after I left the JET Programme; it has also provided a boon to my career. Wanting to come to Japan to make the films, there was no clear path to doing so. There was even doubt in some quarters that they could be done. But starting with my extended Kochi family, and then working with people in the film industry, I have come to this point.

I think JETs and JET alumni who want to remain engaged with Japan in the future can do so, and that such a situation does not have to be relegated to the arts or teaching. It also does not necessarily have to involve staying or spending an extended period of time in Japan (which many people simply cannot do). Of course, there have been large numbers of JETs who went on to become teachers that either stayed in Japan or returned to their home countries and set up opportunities for cultural exchange. But I think there can be innovative ways to do so in several fields.

If you are a current JET and you have an idea of what career you will pursue in your home country, I encourage you to get to know people and institutions related to that career in your town/city/prefecture. Above all - and this applies to both current JETs and alumni - it is good to stay in touch with those people that are/were regular parts of your life in Japan: co-workers, friends, neighbors, club members, etc. If you ever want to initiate something in Japan that relates to your current work and/or interests, it is those people who will be the most enthusiastic about helping you to succeed.

Coming to the conclusion of your life as a JET does not mean having to say goodbye to Japan. Yes, some folks *want* to leave Japan behind. But for those of you who want it to remain a part of your life, there are a lot of ways to do that, from simply maintaining friendships, to finding ways for Japan to enhance your career. For me, my JET experience was the gift that keeps on giving, and my life is so much better because of it.

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“1989-1990 Fukushima JET Reunion”

By Steve Gordon (Fukushima, 1989-1990)

After almost two decades, a group of ex-JETs from Fukushima prefecture gathered together in a cottage in the Gatineau Hills of Quebec to reminisce about our experiences in Japan and the changes in our lives. This was our second reunion: in 2000, we gathered on Savary Island off the coast of British Columbia. We’ve managed to stay in touch over all these years and when we get together again, it seems as if no time at all has passed.

With cries of “Kampai” ringing in my ears, I think back upon the experience of living in a small town in northern Japan and reflect on what a life-altering experience the JET programme was for all of us. Now older, somewhat wiser (?), and with families in tow, we share stories, meet each other’s spouses and children, laugh and play as if we were 20 years younger. The Sapporo flows like it did those many years ago and the banter hasn’t slowed a bit! It seemed like old times with all of us camped together in close-quarters for a week, though having a whole troop of kids along

certainly changed the group dynamic – it was even more fun! The lakeside sumo match on the last day was a trip highlight!

Participants included: Bret Aker of Virginia, former Nishigo-mura AET, Pippa Lockhart (nee Edge) of Australia, former Izumizaki-mura AET (now living in Scotland), John Mixer of Ohio, former Tateiwa-mura AET, Linda Turley (nee Zaleski) of Ohio, former Funehiki-machi AET, Mark Watson of Ottawa, former Nihon-Matsu AET and Steve Gordon of British Columbia, former Bandai-machi AET.

Though we don’t get together often, our friendships remain strong and have been re-kindled by these reunions. We have agreed to hold them more frequently and if all goes well, we’re planning on our next get-together for 2014 in Scotland (though an all-inclusive resort at some tropical locale was also discussed!).

It is a testament to the value of the JET Programme that the friendships forged on JET can last a lifetime and we felt this story was worthy to share with the readers of JET Streams.

O genki de! Ganbatte!



Left to right: Steve Gordon, Linda Turley (nee Zaleski), John Mixer, Pippa Lockhart (nee Edge), Mark Watson, Bret Aker

SETTING UP A JETAA CHAPTER



Would you like to join the JET Alumni Association but live in a country or area which does not have a JET Alumni Association Chapter?

We can help you to get started setting up a chapter local to you.

Here's how...

1. You will need to find some local members

This can be accomplished via word of mouth, and also with the help of your local Japanese consulate. From there you can start to build your membership numbers slowly.

2. You'll need to set up a working group

This will include you and anyone else keen on helping you get things set up. This need not be a formal committee at this stage, although later on, when you get bigger, you will want to appoint a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

3. You need to think about the kind of activities you would like to do

Depending on where you are and how many people are around, you can hold various events:

- Japanese cultural events - hanami, cookery, ikebana, taiko
- Social events
- Pre-departure events (for people about to go on JET)
- Careers/networking events
- Welcome back night (for returnees)
- Japanese language lessons
- Newsletters and email forums

4. You can apply to become a member of JETAA International

This is the umbrella organisation for JETAA chapters and we will be happy to welcome you into the group. Membership of JETAA-I means that you can participate in regional meetings with other chapters, use the JETAA logo, access resources and advice and network with other chapters and members.

5. You can apply for funding for activities

Funding for activities may be obtained from CLAIR, as they provide funds to chapters with over 50 members. If you have fewer than 50 members, there may be other ways you can get help. Japanese consulates may also provide funds for various cultural events - you will need to liaise with your local consulate.

6. You can look at what other chapters are doing

The JETAA website is a great place to start (www.jetalumni.org). We are currently working hard on getting lots of new resources on to this site, including advice on accessing funding, chapter newsletters, templates for planning events, event brochures and pre-departure guides. From this site, you can also visit other JETAA chapter websites around the world.

7. You will need to set up a database of members

A simple spreadsheet can be used. For chapters that require funding from CLAIR, keeping a detailed and up-to-date list is essential.

8. You could set up a website

The www.jetalumni.org site can host your website but you will need someone to create a website for you so it can be uploaded.

Sounds like a lot to do? Don't be concerned as we can help you with everything! JETAA International has a group of people dedicated to helping ex-JETs set up new chapters anywhere in the world. If you are interested, why not get in touch?

Contact Michelle Fox, JETAA International Chair, at chair@jetalumni.org.

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