

## Urasenke Philadelphia Annual Meeting

January 31, 2016

Attending: Drew, Brandon, Frank, Me, Mariko L., Taeko S., Mary Lynn, Dave, Ken Cohen and Doug, Terry Sherwin

Called to order 11:10

### **Old Business**

Morgan distributed activity report, summarized membership and finance.

Welcomed Mary Lynn back from Midorikai.

Drew emphasized that tea culture study group has been attracting a lot of interest from outside the group. Outreach providing for the community. Can distribute information through Shofuso and get it out to a wider group.

Upcoming events: chaji class, okashi making, chabana, possibly sashimi demonstration, Sachiko Knappman may come again (unsure of schedule), shimeshibai demonstration. Let Keijiroh if know of anyone who can teach specific skills.

Planning a Freer visit again in January or February next year.

Drew reported on Penn State tea group, now have 14 people coming for lessons, divided into three groups. One of a very few universities in the country that has a program like that.

Activity report accepted by group.

Drew distributed financial summary. Much more cash on hand (calculate increase)

Jane Elkinton donated large collection of dogu to the association. Former student of Brother Joseph Keenan, also studied with Taeko and Mariko sensei.

Have a collection of dogu owned by association available to loan out for special events (not long-term loans). Intern?

Hengaku from La Salle – Mariko loaned to Shofuso for display, so they have and will return to us.

No scholarship students, but past scholarship students (one still studying at Penn State, one now living in Japan).

Financial report accepted.

### **New Business**

Drew suggest membership acknowledgement letter with membership cards.

Rikumo – new store in Philadelphia that sells high-end Japanese goods, including matcha. May be interested in having demonstrations there.

Official announcement – Shofuso is in negotiation with Japan-America Society to merge. Both associations have mission of spreading Japanese culture, despite slightly different focus. Kazumi Teune is retiring, in need of leadership. Shofuso will become the brand of the new association. Both boards have approved intent to merge but isn't official yet. Official public announcement at Cherry Blossom Festival, merger ceremony in June.

Study trips and lectures

Sakura hanami, Otsukimi.

Promoting classes and study group via Facebook post boosting.

Frank going to be out of town for o-henro for four months starting in a couple of days and coming back in May.

Morgan and Drew got jun-kyoju licenses.

Adjourned 12:17.