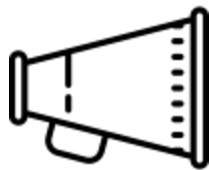


# E-JAPAN JOURNAL

*February 2023*

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## Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago



### Announcements

Consular hours, office closures, and speech contest information.



### Japan-Related Events

Japanese cultural events happening online  
& in-person in the Midwest

### Month in Review

Take a look back at some of the news from  
last month!



**J | A | S | M**  
JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY  
of MINNESOTA  
ミネソタ・日米協会



**JOI PROGRAM**  
JAPAN OUTREACH INITIATIVE

## Featured Interview

Interview with JOI Coordinators

## Grants & Scholarships

A list of currently open Grants and Scholarships related to Japan



JET PROGRAM ALUMNI TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN



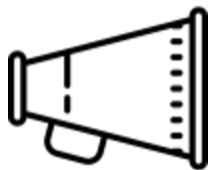
## This Month in Japan

Learn about the month of February in Japan

## JETAA Talks

Our JETAA Talks series features stories from JETAA (JET Program Alumni Association) members in our jurisdiction

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## Consular Office Hours

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago currently offers the following operating times for Consular Services:

- Consular Service windows will be open from Monday - Friday 10:00am to 12:15pm and 1:15 to 3:00pm.
- The Consular Section's phones will be available to call between 9:15 am and 12:15pm, and again from 1:15 to 5:00pm.

We do ask that all visitors cooperate with following necessary precautions:

- If you are feeling ill, please wait to come in until you are feeling completely well again.
- In accordance with CDC guidelines, a maximum of 10 people will be allowed in the waiting room. Be aware that you may need to wait outside the waiting room should more than 10 people be present.

# Japan Information Center Hours

The Japan Information Center on the 10th floor's current operating hours are as follows:

Monday – Friday (except Consulate holidays) 9:30am to 12:00pm and 1:30pm to 5:00pm (library procedures will end 15 minutes before closing time)

We ask all visitors please wear a mask and maintain social distance during their visit to the JIC. If the number of visitors exceeds 5 people per group, please contact the JIC in advance to schedule visit.

Thank you for understanding.



## Office Closure: Holidays

The Consulate-General of Japan will be closed on:

**February 20** for Washington's birthday and

**February 23** for The Emperor's birthday.



**In Person**

37th Annual  
**Japanese Language  
Speech Contest**  
March 25, 2023

Please follow the QR code for  
application and contest guidelines.

**Application Due: February 17, 2023 (Friday)**

## 37th Annual Japanese Language Contest Application is Open!

Are you a Japanese language student? Apply for the 37th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest to showcase your skills and for a chance to win prizes! Please submit



your application by 5pm on Friday, February 17 via e-mail or mail-in.

This contest is open to all students who are enrolled in elementary school, middle school, high school, or college in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

For application and contest guidelines, please follow the QR code or [visit our website](#).

**Application deadline is Friday, February 17, 2023.**

## JAPAN-RELATED EVENTS



## JFF+ Independent Cinema with the Japan Foundation, New York

*The Japan Foundation (JF) is excited to launch a new program, JFF+ INDEPENDENT CINEMA. This is a free online streaming program that features 12 Japanese independent films selected by managers from independent theaters, so-called “mini-theaters” throughout Japan. Mini-theaters have nurtured the diversity of the Japanese cinema culture and brought it up to the current state.*

VIRTUAL

Free

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**"EXPLORING THE WORLD OF JAPANESE CRAFT SAKÉ"**

Featured Speakers: Nancy Matsumoto, Award-winning writer & editor and Michael Tremblay, Beverage Director, Ki Modern Japanese + Bar (Toronto)

**Thursday, February 16, 2023**  
**6:00-7:00 pm (CST)**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
EVENT WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM  
[www.jaschicago.org](http://www.jaschicago.org)



## Exploring the World of Japanese Craft Sake with the JASC

*Join JASC and webinar presenters Ms. Matsumoto and Mr. Tremblay who will describe how “Exploring the World of Japanese Craft Sake” came to be published, offer an overview of the book’s contents, describe what craft sake is and how it is made, tell the story of the birth of ginjo sake, and discuss current trends in sake. All attendees will receive a recommended list of sake for a virtual tasting after the presentation.*

VIRTUAL

Thursday, February 16 at 6:00pm

Free

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**The Hunter College Japanese Program Presents**

# Networking Japan:

**Japan Society & Fostering Kizuna**

For over 100 years Japan Society has been the leader in connecting NYC audiences to world class Japanese arts, culture, business and society. Join us as we host representatives of Japan Society and learn the role they play in this incredible organization!

**Friday  
February  
17, 2023  
6:30 pm  
(EST)  
On ZOOM**

**To register  
scan the QR code  
by February 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Speakers:**

- Anna Cabasso  
Event Manager  
Media & Marketing
- Timothy Nassau  
Education Officer  
Education Program
- Amanda Waddell  
Senior Program Officer  
Performing Arts
- Stefani Oh  
Curatorial Assistant  
Gallery

This program is  
generously supported by  
Japan Foundation

JAPAN FOUNDATION

## Networking Japan: Japan Society & Fostering Kizuna with the Japan Foundation, New York

*The Hunter College Japanese Program Presents Networking Japan: Japan Society & Fostering Kizuna. This is part of the Networking Japan: Career Development Series. For over 100 years Japan Society has been the leader in connecting NYC audiences to world class Japanese arts, culture, business and society. Join Hunter College and representatives of Japan Society to learn the role they play in this incredible organization: Anna Cabasso, Event Manager of Media & Marketing, Timothy Nassau, Education Officer of Education Program, Amanda Waddell, Senior Program Officer of Performing Arts and Stefani Oh, Curatorial Assistant at the Gallery.*

VIRTUAL

Friday, February 17 at 6:30pm (EST)

Free





The Japan  
America  
Society  
of Chicago
1930-2022  
92<sup>nd</sup>

## JOURNEY TO KYUSHU: KAGOSHIMA

Featured Speakers: Wong Yimin, Coordinator of International Relations, Kagoshima Prefectural Government; Joseph Snowden, British Coordinator for International Relations, Kagoshima Prefectural Government & Naoki Taruno, Tourism Division, Kagoshima Prefectural Government

**Thursday, February 23, 2023  
6:00-7:00 pm (CST)**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
EVENT WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM  
[www.jaschicago.org](http://www.jaschicago.org)

## Journey to Kyushu: Kagoshima with the JASC

*With its active volcanoes, natural hot springs, oceans and islands, Kagoshima Prefecture is the place to feel the power of the earth. Kagoshima is located in the southernmost part of the four main Japanese islands and is a warm place blessed with awesome foods, nature, diverse cultures, and history. In this talk session, 3 presenters living in Kagoshima will talk about the unique lifestyles of people in Kagoshima and the surprising cultures and nature of Kagoshima's islands*

VIRTUAL

Thursday, February 23 at 6:00pm

Free



**WORKSHOP from Tokyo**

**VOICE ACTING for JAPANESE ANIME**

Bill Reilly

Natsu Shinomiya

## Voice Acting for Japanese Anime with the



# Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

*Come and join us in voicing your favorite anime -- in Japanese! Natsu Shinomiya, a professional voice actor from Japan, will be challenging us to voice popular Japanese anime such as "Demon Slayer". We'll learn how professional voice actors in Japan train and learn about the process of becoming one with stories from Natsu's personal journey. She'll also introduce her common vocal warmups, as well as tips and tricks used in the industry before we tackle the ultimate challenge: voicing short scenes together!*

VIRTUAL

Thursday, February 23 at 7:00pm (PST)

Free

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## 2023 Japanese Olympiad of Indiana

*The Japanese Olympiad of Indiana (JOI), sponsored by the Association of Indiana Teachers of Japanese (AITJ), is a one-day academic competition for Indiana high school students of Japanese. Teams compete against other teams in a quiz bowl style competition. Students are asked to answer questions from categories including translations, situational communication, culture, history, kanji, katakana, proverbs and onomatopoeic expressions. At the competition, students will have the opportunity to participate in modern and traditional cultural activities.*

IN-PERSON

Saturday, February 25 at 6:00 - 8:30pm

Indiana University (Bloomington)  
107 S. Indiana Avenue  
Bloomington, IN 47405

Visit the website for more information.

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## 2023 ILLINOIS JAPAN BOWL

Sunday, February 26, 2023  
10:00-2:30 pm

North Central College (Wentz Science Center)  
131 S. Loomis, 2nd Floor  
Naperville, IL

FREE ADMISSION  
[www.jaschicago.org](http://www.jaschicago.org)



## 2023 Illinois Japan Bowl

*The 2023 Illinois Japan Bowl, sponsored by the Japan America Society of Chicago, will be held on Sunday, February 26, 2023 at North Central College from 10:00 – 2:30 pm. The Illinois Japan Bowl is an academic competition which covers a wide range of topics that tests high school students who are studying the Japanese language across the state of Illinois. The competition tests not only their knowledge of the language, but also their understanding of traditional and modern Japan.*

IN-PERSON

Sunday, February 26 at 6:00 - 8:30pm

North Central College (Wentz Science Center)  
131 S. Loomis, 2nd Floor  
Naperville, IL 60540

Visit the website for more information.



## 25th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest with HAJAS

*Join the Heart of America Japan America Society (HAJAS) for their annual Japanese Language Contest. This is an opportunity for friendly competition and networking so that students can showcase their Japanese language skills and enjoy meeting other students across the region. Registration and submission*

*deadline is February 16.*

IN-PERSON

Saturday, March 4 at 10:00am – 4:00pm

Johnson County Community College  
11190 Quivera Rd  
Overland Park, KS 66210

\$15 for all events

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**Hinamatsuri**  
**(Doll's Festival)**  
by Japan America Society of Iowa



**Saturday  
March 4th**

**START 2 PM**  
**ADMISSION**

- JASI member : Free
- Non member : \$10

※ Matcha and Japanese sweets serving

**PLACE**  
Franklin Junior High School room 1240  
4801 Franklin Avenue Des Moines

 **JAPAN AMERICA  
SOCIETY OF IOWA**

 **JOI PROGRAM**  
JAPAN OUTREACH INITIATIVE

For more information, please contact Takeshi Hayasaka  
Email: [takeshih@japaniowa.org](mailto:takeshih@japaniowa.org)

## **Hinamatsuri with the Japan America Society of Iowa**

*Hinamatsuri, also known as Doll's Day or Girls' Day, is a seasonal holiday in Japan to celebrate the health and happiness of girls. At this event, you will have a*

*chance to see a display set of ornamental dolls, called Hina-Ningyō, that represent the Emperor, Empress, attendants, and musicians in traditional court dress of the Heian period. You will also have a chance to taste some Japanese sweets and Matcha!*

#### IN-PERSON

Saturday, March 4 at 2:00pm

Franklin Junior High School, room 1240  
4801 Franklin Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50310

JASI member: Free | Nonmember: \$10

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*Does your organization have an upcoming Japan-related event that you would like shared? Feel free to reach out [here](#).*

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## LAST MONTH IN REVIEW



Last Month in Review date range: January 1 - January 31

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## Intercultural Montessori School Visits JIC

On January 9, students from the Intercultural Montessori School visited the Japan Information Center to learn about Japanese culture. They learned about tea ceremony with hands-on practice and tried making origami.

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## 7th Annual Heritage Japanese Language Speech Contest

On January 29, the Japan Information Center held its 7th Annual Heritage Japanese Language Speech Contest. This year's contest had 20 participants and was the first in-person contest since the pandemic. This year's grand prize winner was Yodai Kawasaki with his speech "Imaginary World / 空想の世界". Congratulations to all the contestants and their wonderful speeches and a big thank you to everyone who made this event possible!

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### SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



## Japan Foundation Grants and Programs

Grants to teachers, institutions, and students engaged in Japanese language, as well as arts and cultural programs. Below are some of the currently available grants. For a more completed list, visit the links above.

Japanese Language Learners Event Grant

(Deadline: March 1)

Japanese Teaching Material Purchase Grant

(Deadline: March 15)

Salary Assistance Grant for Japanese Language Courses

(Deadline: April 10)

Japanese Language Education Project Grant

(Deadline: 2 months prior to project start date)

JFNY Grant for Online Japanese Studies

(Deadline: Rolling)

JFNY Grant for Arts & Culture

(Deadline: Rolling)

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## **CGP Education Grant**

The Education Grant program supports nonprofit organizations to assist K-12 students, teachers, and the community to deepen their understanding about Japan, promote cross-cultural exchange, and nurture global perspectives. Project examples include but are not limited to: community outreach, teacher workshops, cultural events.

**Proposal deadline:** Rolling

## **CGP Education Grant Grassroots**

## **Exchange Discretionary Grant**

The Grassroots Exchange Discretionary Grant program aims to support nonprofit organizations to create and develop networks between the US and Japan focused on common social issues. Examples of relevant social issues

include but are not limited to: aging society, disaster prevention and recovery, and social entrepreneurship.

**Proposal deadline:** Rolling

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## **Japanese-American Citizens League Scholarships**

The JACL has been helping students achieve their educational dreams with the National Scholarship Awards Program since 1946. The program currently offers

over 30 awards, with an annual total of \$70,000 in scholarships to qualified students nationwide. Local JACL chapters also offer scholarships for applicants in their area.

[National Scholarships](#)

[Chicago Chapter Scholarships](#)

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## **Japanese American Service Committee 2023 Scholarship**

As a part of its efforts to preserve and promote our Japanese heritage and to advance the commitment to community service, the JASC administers an annual scholarship program to support members of the Japanese American community to pursue education beyond high school. These JASC scholarships are intended to provide financial assistance to promising students who have demonstrated both academic excellence and service to the Japanese American community.

**Application deadline:** April 27, 2023

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# JOI PROGRAM

## JAPAN OUTREACH INITIATIVE

### Featured Interview: Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) Coordinators

This month we interviewed Shunsuke Aoki, Takeshi Hayasaka, and Yoshie Hisatomi, JOI Coordinators in North Dakota, Iowa, and Kansas.

### JETAA TALKS



JET PROGRAM ALUMNI TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

### JETAA Talks: February

Our JETAA Talks series features stories from JETAA (JET Program Alumni Association) members in our jurisdiction. This month we connected with Kanazawa JET alum Magda Fuller. Thank you for sharing your story with us, Magda!

*Are you a JET alumni from or living in our ten-state jurisdiction who would like to share their Japan experience? Please contact us [here](#) with your name, location (in relation to our jurisdiction), JET placement, year(s) you participated on the program, and a small blurb about your time there. We are excited to hear your stories!*

## THIS MONTH IN JAPAN

### 如月 kisaragi

如月 (Kisaragi). February. Named after the winter cold and people wearing extra clothes. It was also called 衣更着 (Kisaragi), literally meaning “wear more clothes!”

There is a lot of snow in the northern part of Japan so I suggest you wear enough warm clothing if you are going there in Kisaragi.



There are a few significant days in February for Japan. February 3 is Setsubun, the last day of winter according to the Japanese lunar calendar. Popular amongst children, Sestubun is usually celebrated with children throwing roasted soybeans at a family member dressed as an Oni (demon) while chanting "Oni wa soto; fuku wa uchi." (Demons get out; good luck come in.)

National Foundation Day is February 11. This is the date that Jimmu, the first emperor of Japan, was enthroned as documented in the Nihon Shoki (Chronicles of Japan). February 23 is His Majesty the Emperor's birthday, a national holiday in Japan.

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Subscribers,

February is an eventful month for many. With Valentine's Day events flooding our newsfeeds, it can be difficult to choose a plan for the special day. If you're looking

for event ideas to share with your valentine, be sure to check out this month's list of Japan-related events. Perfect way to spend time with loved ones, friends, or solo.

See you in March!

*Itsumo arigatou gozaimasu,*

Japan Information Center



The e-Japan Journal is the monthly newsletter of the Japan Information Center (JIC) at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago. We hope it proves to be an informative window for you into Japan-related activities happening in our 10 Midwest states.

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Consulate-General of Japan  
Japan Information Center  
737 North Michigan Avenue  
Suite 1000  
Chicago, IL 60611

**\*\*for consular services and other general inquiries\*\***

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