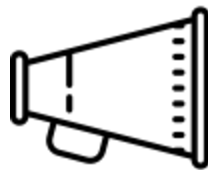


E-JAPAN JOURNAL

June 2023

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago



Announcements

Consular hours and office closures



Japan-Related Events

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

Month in Review

Take a look back at some of the monthly news!



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



Grants & Scholarships

A list of currently open Grants and Scholarships related to Japan

Featured Interview

Interview with Matt 'Sweets' Jorgenson,
founder of Sweets Kendamas



JET PROGRAM ALUMNI TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

JETAA Talks

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



This Month in Japan

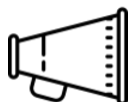
Learn about the month of June in Japan

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Office Closure

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago will be closed on **Monday, June 19** in observation of Juneteenth.



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.

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)

If the number of visitors exceeds 5 people per group, please contact the JIC in advance to schedule visit.

Thank you for understanding.

JAPAN-RELATED EVENTS



Crash Course for Travelers to Japan

The Japan Society will be having a crash course for travelers offers a quick introduction to the Japanese language as well as Japanese customs, which can be very helpful for first-time or even veteran travelers to Japan. Through their mini-workshop, participants will be introduced to basic Japanese phrases for greeting, ordering food, shopping and other aspects of daily life. Get more out of your Japanese adventure with this useful preparatory course!

VIRTUAL

Saturday, June 3 at 12:00 - 2:00pm (EST)

Members: \$35 | Nonmembers: \$40



Ikebana Day with Ikebana International Chicago Chapter 27

The Ikebana International Chicago Chapter 27 will be having their Ikebana Day 2023 Celebration at the Chicago Botanic Garden on June 10 and 11. Workshops will be held on the 10th and a demonstration will be held on the 11th.

IN-PERSON

Saturday, June 10 and Sunday, June 11

Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, IL 60022

Visit event page for more information.



Harukaze 2023 "The Boy Who Drew Cats"

by Asako Hirabayashi

The Japan America Society of Minnesota presents, world premiere of concert Opera The Boy Who Drew Cats by Award winning international composer Asako Hirabayashi, collaborating with award winning international visual artist, Mayumi Amada.

IN-PERSON

Sunday, June 11 at 3:00pm

Sundin Music Hall
Hamline University
1531 Hewitt Ave
St Paul, MN 55104

Members: \$10 | Nonmembers: \$15
Tickets is nonrefundable but transferable.

JAS Trivia Night 2023

Japan America Society Trivia Night 2023

Like Trivia? The Japan America Society of St. Louis will be having their 2023 Trivia Night. Visit event page to learn more and to register.

IN-PERSON

Saturday, June 17 at 6:00 - 10:00pm

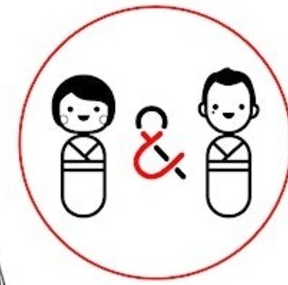
Community Christian Church
632 Meramec Station Road
Ballwin MO 63021

Visit event page for details.

ORIGAMI FOLD AND SIP

AT KONBINI & KANPAI

THURSDAY, JUNE 29
6 - 8PM



Origami Fold and Sip with the Japanese Culture Center

Come join the Japanese Culture Center for our popular Fold and Sip event! We will be learning the traditional art of Japanese paper folding with Yamamoto-sensei while also enjoying drinks from a wonderful neighborhood liquor store.

IN-PERSON

Thursday, June 29 at 6:00 - 8:00pm

Konbini & Kanpai
1433 W Belmont Ave
Chicago, IL 60657

Suggested donation of \$15 per person and one drink minimum



Akiko Ike: Boro Chiku-Chiku

The Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts (WMQFA) presents Akiko Ike: Boro Chiku-Chiku, the artist's first-ever solo museum exhibition in the United States. Ike is a renowned textile artist, teacher, and gallery owner from Niigata, Japan. Using remnants of indigo-dyed cloth and old work clothes, she transforms found cloth by stitching with a strong thread in a manner she calls "chiku-chiku." "Chiku-chiku" is the onomatopoeic word Ike has coined to describe the sound her broad needle makes as it runs into and out of the cloth.

IN-PERSON

On display until Sunday, August 27, 2023

The Wisconsin Museum of Quilts & Fiber Arts
N50 W5050, Portland Rd
Cedarburg, WI 53012

Visit the website for more information.

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

LAST MONTH IN REVIEW



Last Month in Review date range: March 25 - May 30



37th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest

On March 25, the JIC held its 37th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest. This year's contest was held in-person and had 28 participants who showcased their amazing language skills. This year's grand prize winner was Connor Dewey with his speech "Scar Tissue / 傷跡". Contestants and attendees also got to enjoy a kendama demonstration by President and Director of Sweets Kendama Foundation Josh Grove. Congratulations to all the contestants and their wonderful speeches and a big thank you to everyone who made this event possible!



Consul-General Participates in Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai Spring Party

On April 1, Consul-General Tajima participated in the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai Spring Party. He enjoyed the performances of the Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai performers and many homemade Okinawan dishes like Goya Champuru (stir-fry dish with bitter melon), jimami tofu (peanuts tofu), and so on. This year, the special guest performer from Okinawa Yasuhide Uezu performed with the Okinawa Kenjinkai performance team and the ChimDonDon Eisa team. Consul-General thanked Goodwill Ambassador Ms. Ikuko Nichols who retired from the post after twelve years of dedication to the community.



JET Early Departure Orientation

On April 7, the JIC hosted an orientation for the early departure JETs who would soon begin their new lives teaching and promoting cultural exchange in their local Japanese communities. The JIC staff provided essential information that will help get these JETs off to the right start. They also had a chance for a Q&A with a couple

of JET alums to whom they could pose their burning questions about life in Japan. Congratulations and good luck to them on their new journey in Japan!



Consul-General attends Cherry Blossom Matsuri at Jackson Park

On April 22, Consul-General Tajima and Consulate staff attended the Hanami: Cherry Blossom Matsuri event in the Garden of the Phoenix at Jackson Park. Event attendees enjoyed traditional Japanese music and dance performances as well as haiku and origami demonstrations. Consul-General Tajima gave his remarks and expressed his appreciation to the event organizers, performers, and volunteers for their hard work in spreading Japanese culture through this event. In addition, General Superintendent & CEO of the Chicago Park District Rosa Escareño and Director of the Japanese Culture Center Saira Chambers gave speeches to commemorate the second annual matsuri held at the historic park. Thank you to those who braved the weather on Saturday to join us!



Consul-General attends 20th Anniversary Celebration for Chado Uransenke Champaign Association

On April 23, Consul-General Tajima attended the commemorative 20th anniversary celebration for the Chado Uransenke Tankokai Urbana Champaign Association. He was joined by Uransenke Gyotei sensei Sokei Suzuki, Professor Emeritus Shozo Sato, President of the Urbana-Champaign Association Kimiko Gunji, and guests. Consul-General Tajima expressed his sincere respect for the Association since its

establishment in 2002 to introduce Japanese culture through Chado to people in the Midwest. He hopes that the art and spirit of Chado will continue to spread throughout the world. Congratulations and best wishes for the Association's continuous efforts.



Consul-General hosts U.S.-Japan Council reception at Official Residence

On April 26, Consul-General Tajima hosted a reception at his official residence to mark the start of Kanpai! Chicago. Kanpai! Chicago is a weekend-long event hosted by the U.S.-Japan Council for its members to become acquainted with and learn about Chicago's role in Japan-US relations and Japanese-American history.

CG Tajima opened the reception with welcome remarks. US-Japan Council President and CEO Suzanne Basalla followed with her own opening remarks to start off the evening. Guests to the reception enjoyed music curated by city pop DJ Van Paugam throughout the evening.



Consul-General attends Kakehashi Project Returnee Presentation at Northwestern

On April 28, Consul-General Tajima attended the Kakehashi Project Returnee Presentation at Northwestern University. He enjoyed meeting with students who had participated in the project and learning about their experiences.



JIC Participates in Anime Central 2023

From May 19th to the 21st, the JIC participated in the 2023 Anime Central (ACen) convention held at the Donald A. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL. Attendees stopped by JIC's booth to learn more about Japanese culture, the JET Program, have their names written in kanji, and more.



JIC Participates in 2023 Skokie Festival of Cultures

On May 20th and 21st, JIC participated in the 2023 Skokie Festival of Cultures. Visitors to the Japan booth got the chance to learn more about Japanese culture through brochures and games.



Fort Wayne Cherry Blossom Festival

On May 21, the Fort Wayne Cherry Blossom Festival was held at Purdue University. Attendees got the chance to enjoy Japanese art and culture through games, live music and performances, and a variety of vendors. Thank you to those who organized the wonderful event!



Consul-General meets ATO Basketball Team

On May 23rd, Consul-General Tajima welcomed the ATO International Sports Management basketball team at his official residence. ATO is partnering with Global Women Basketball Association (GWBA) in hopes to deepen exchanges globally, hold more events that will lead to new ways to transcend the basketball world across borders, and provide more opportunities for female athletes. Two games were held on May 26 at Wintrust Arena and May 28 at Oshkosh Arena.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



J | A | S | M
JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

ミネソタ・日米協会

Mondale Scholarship

The Japanese America Society of Minnesota (JASM) Mondale Scholarship is open! JAS will award the Mondale Scholarship to undergraduate students enrolled in Minnesota colleges and North Dakota State University who want to broaden their knowledge of Japan through a combination of study and travel. Former Ambassador Mondale has continually promoted a deeper understanding of Japanese business, government, culture, and language among corporate leaders and employees in America. JASM is proud to have this opportunity to assist Minnesota/North Dakota students in their quest for a study experience in Japan since 1998.

Deadline: July 20, 2023

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 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)



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

Featured Interview



Featured Interview: Matt 'Sweets' Jorgenson

This month we interviewed Matt 'Sweets' Jorgenson, founder of Sweets Kendamas.



JET PROGRAM ALUMNI TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

JETAA Talks

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

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!

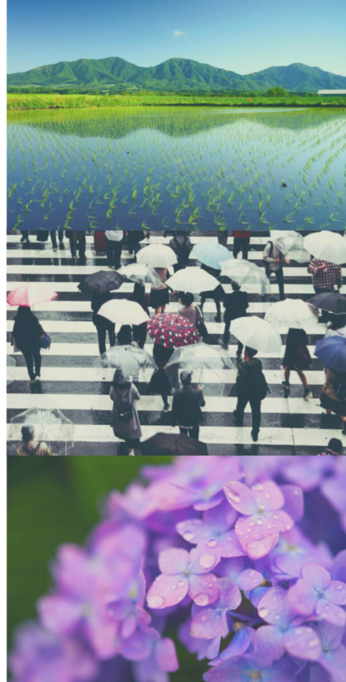
THIS MONTH IN JAPAN

水無月

minazuki

水無月 (Minazuki). June. Named after the season of pouring water into the rice fields. “水の月 (Minotsuki)” literary means the month of water.

In Japan, June is also rainy season in most areas so Minazuki might be a perfect name for the month, despite its original reason.



Minazuki, the old name for June, means "water month." Tsuyu, or heavy rainfall season takes place during the months of June and July throughout most of Japan and lasts about 6 weeks. There are no official Japanese holidays in June.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Subscribers,

We hope you are enjoying and staying cool in the increasing temperature these days. There are many exciting in-person and virtual events happening throughout the Midwest that are perfect ways to go out and enjoy. While we only have one national holiday this month, let's try to spend as much time enjoying the sunshine!

Itsumo arigatou gozaimasu,

Japan Information Center



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.

Copyright © 2022 (Vol. 19 No. 6)

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

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

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

737 N. Michigan Avenue Suite 1000
Chicago, IL | 60611 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.