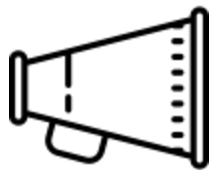


# E-JAPAN JOURNAL

*December 2022*

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Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago



## Announcements

Consular hours and office closures



## Month in Review

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



## Japan-Related Events

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



## Grants & Scholarships

A list of currently open Grants and Scholarships related to Japan

## Featured Interview

Interview with Conrad and Minami Klinkhammer, founders of Fargo Meets Japan

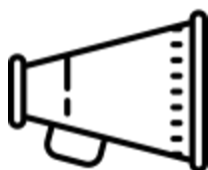


## JETAA Talks

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 December in Japan



## **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:

**December 26** in observance of

Christmas, **December 29, December 30, January**

**2** and **January 3** for the New Year holiday.

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## 7th Annual Heritage Japanese Language Contest Application is Open!

It's time to show off your language skills!

Applications for the 7th annual Heritage Japanese Language Speech Contest are open! Please submit your application by 2pm on Monday, January 16 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.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

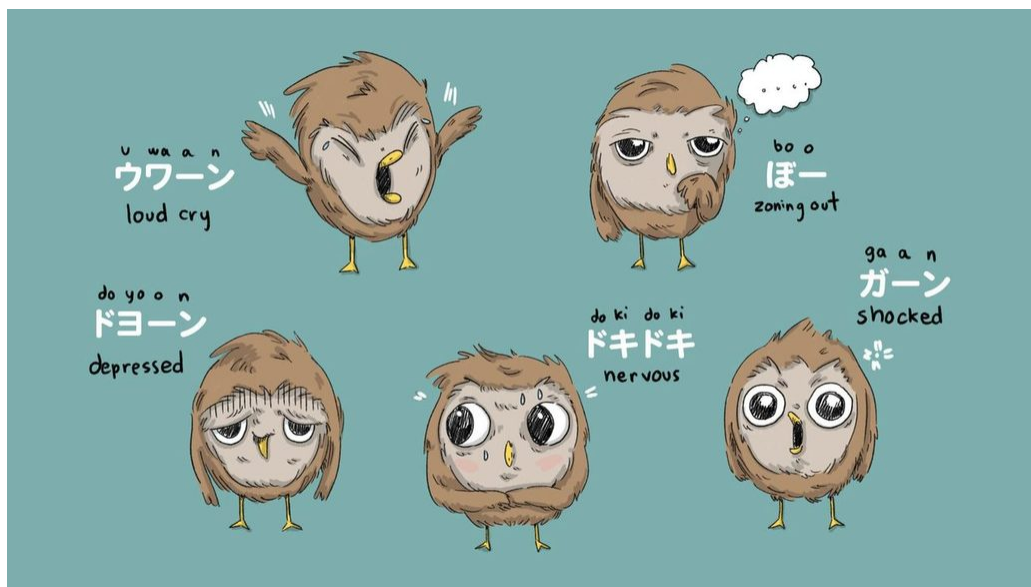
1. Are non-native speakers of Japanese and heritage Japanese learners.
2. Have not schooled in Japan for more than two years in total after the age of 6.

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

**Application deadline is Monday, January 16, 2023.**







## Japanese Onomatopoeia Workshop with the Japan Society

Did you know Japanese has more onomatopoeia than almost any other language in the world, next only to Korean? Virtually everything you experience—sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste—can all be vividly expressed with onomatopoeia. In this workshop for adult learners (age 16 and above), students learn different groups of onomatopoeia such as giongo and gitaigo, covering many topics including animal sounds, weather, health, action, and of course, food! Students will act out a scene from manga, explore fun sound effects, and feel the power of descriptive writing using onomatopoeia.

VIRTUAL

Friday, December 16 at 6:30 - 8:30pm (ET)

Japan Society members: \$30 | Nonmembers: \$37



# Japanese Movie Screening with the JICC and JCAW

Join the Embassy of Japan in Washington DC's Japan Information & Culture Center and the Japan Commerce Association of Washington, D.C. for a virtual screening of the Japanese film *What Happened to Our Nest Egg!?* (老後の資金がありません！) Tickets for the screening are limited and only available to viewers in the U.S.

VIRTUAL

Screening links will be sent on Friday, December 16 at 7:00pm (ET)

Free



## サンタも参加の楽しい親子会

- **12/17(Sat) 10:30 AM to Noon**
- **Mount Prospect Public Library** (10 South Emerson Street, Mount Prospect, IL 60056) のユースプレイルーム
- 内容: 紙芝居・クラフト・ゲーム
- 対象: 小学生の子どもさんを含む親子
- 参加費用: 各自でDonationをお願いします
- 参加申し込み: <https://forms.gle/rrAY1Qy9TkVrqoXA7>  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj2RhUizdOo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj2RhUizdOo)

参加申込み  
QR Code



## 親子会 with the Chicago Japanese Club

Join the Chicago Japanese Club for morning of crafts and games for a family and children holiday get together!

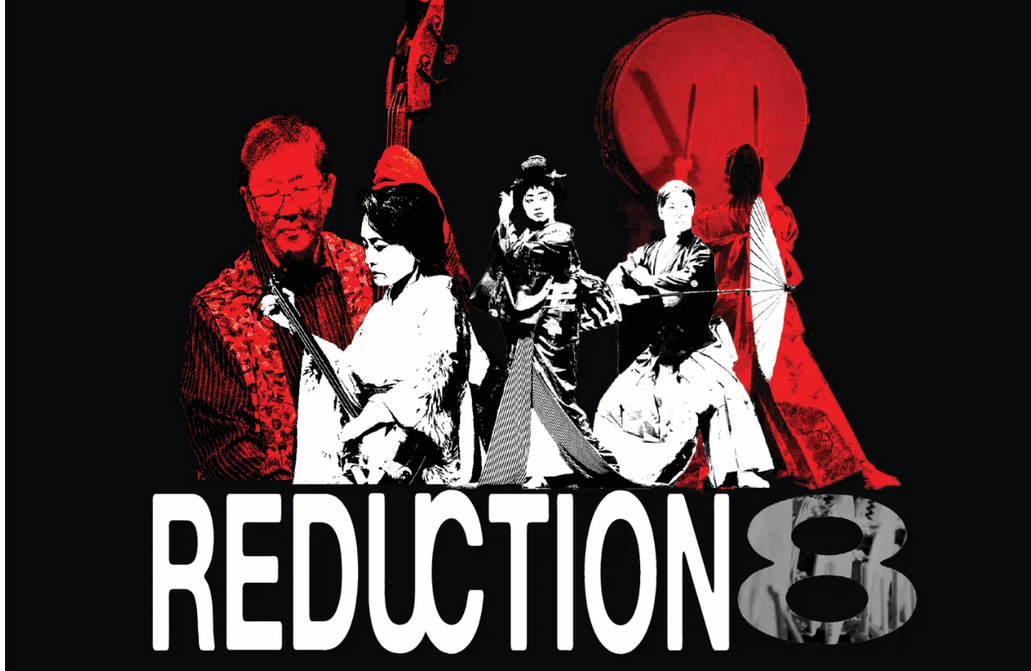
IN-PERSON

Saturday, December 17 at 10:30am

Mount Prospect Public Library  
10 S Emerson St  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056  
Chicago, IL 60611

Free. Donations kindly accepted.





## Reduction 8 with Tsukasa Taiko

Reduction is a theatrical response that brings back the foundational aesthetics of Japanese music with a pared down concert of music and dance. It is a performative statement that articulates the stoicism of musical and theatrical elements that are lost in the non-traditional rhythmic and sonic embellishments that appear in mainstream renditions of Japanese drumming. Minimal arrangements of original compositions and improvisation merge contemporary and classical philosophies of a fluid and complex musicality.

IN-PERSON

Saturday, December 17 at 7:00pm

Edlis Neesom Theater

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA Chicago)

220 E Chicago Ave

Chicago, IL 60611

\$20

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## Taiko Legacy 19 with Tsukasa Taiko

Taiko Legacy is a concert series that recontextualizes the cultural traditions of shamisen, dance, and taiko as contemporary interpretation of music and performance. As one of the largest taiko concerts in the Midwest, Taiko Legacy is anchored by seasoned group Tsukasa Taiko and celebrates the 19th iteration this year. The perennial presentation features arrangements of original compositions which emphasize the melodic capacity of the taiko.

IN-PERSON

Sunday, December 18 at 2:00pm

Edlis Neesom Theater

Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA Chicago)

220 E Chicago Ave

Chicago, IL 60611

\$20



**Illuminated 2022 at Anderson Japanese**



# Gardens

Illuminated is Anderson Gardens' wintertime lights experience, featuring dramatic up-lighting and thousands of white string lights woven throughout the landscape and canopy of the Garden.

IN-PERSON

Open until December 30. Closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Anderson Japanese Gardens  
318 Spring Creek Road  
Rockford, IL 61107

Nonmember: Adult: \$11 | Senior: \$10 | Student: \$9 | Five & Under: Free

Basic Member: \$8 | Premium Member: Free

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## Fundamentals of Kanji Workshops with the Japan Society

Join the Japan Society for two fun, hands-on workshops for adult learners (ages 16 and up) and get a jumpstart toward reading and writing Japanese with more confidence!

VIRTUAL

Part 1: Friday, January 6 at 6:30 - 8:30pm (ET)

Part 2: Friday, January 13 at 6:30 - 8:30pm (ET)

Japan Society members: \$30 | Nonmembers: \$37

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## 2023 JCCC New Year's Party

Special Guest:  
Kaori Kishitani

January 15 (Sun)

12pm-4pm

@Renaissance Schaumburg  
Convention Center Hotel



## 2023 New Years Party with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago

The JCCC will host the first in-person new year's party in three years. Special guest is singer-songwriter Kaori Kishitani. The event will include popular games, raffle and more. Get your tickets early!

**Registration ends on December 22.**

IN-PERSON

Sunday, January 15 at 12:00 - 4:00pm

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel  
1551 Thoreau Dr N  
Schaumburg, IL 60173

Member - adult: \$120 | child (4-11): \$80  
Nonmember - adult: \$155 | child (4-11): \$105

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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**



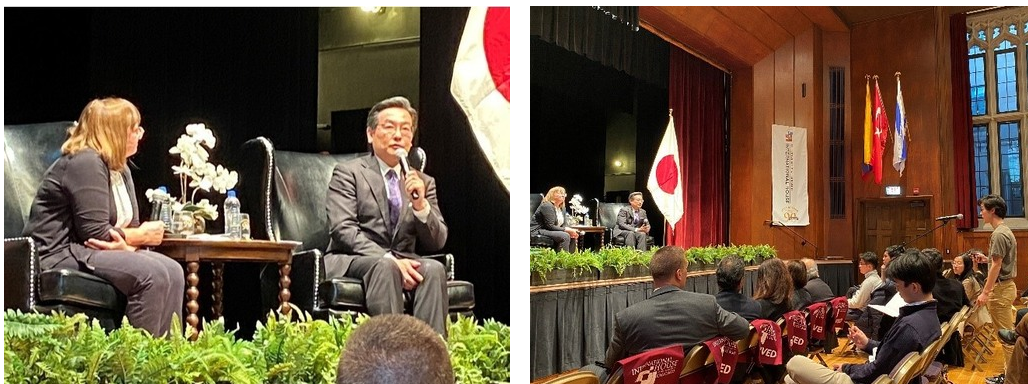
Last Month in Review date range: October 30 - November 30





## Consul-General Visits University of Notre Dame for Japan Day

On October 30, Consul-General Tajima and Consulate staff visited University of Notre Dame for Japan Day. Consul-General Tajima gave a presentation on the U.S. and Japan relationship, the official Chef to the Consul-General gave a Washoku (Japanese food) demonstration, and attendees received information about the JET program. Volunteers joined in with the Chef and followed along, making their own Washoku.



## Consul-General Participates in "Diplomatic Encounter" Event

On November 1, Consul-General Tajima participated in a "Diplomatic Encounter" organized by the International House at the University of Chicago and the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago. Consul-General Tajima talked about a variety of issues, including Japanese national security issues, Japan's efforts to address a low birthrate, and Japan's COVID-19 measures.





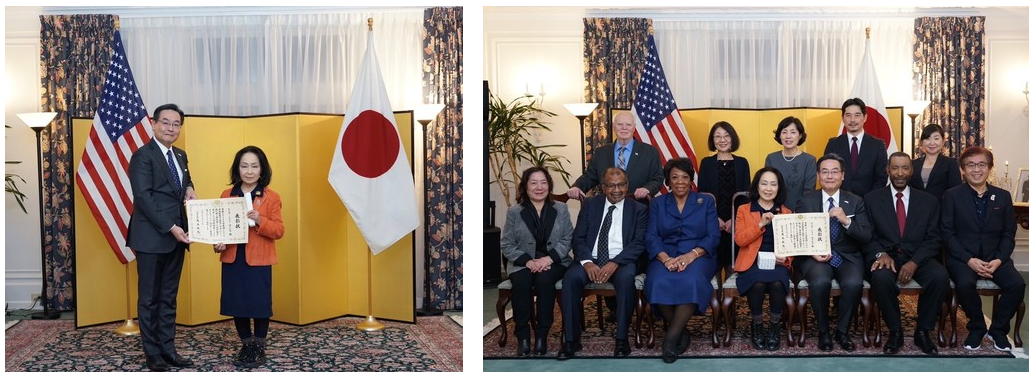
## Consul-General Attends Sake and Friendship Event

On November 11, Consul-General Tajima attended Japan America Society of Iowa's Sake and Friendship event. The event celebrated the sister-state relationship between Iowa and Yamanashi Prefecture. Consul-General Tajima enjoyed talking to attendees about the sister-state relationship and Japanese culture.



## Consul-General Visits Japan House at U of I

On November 18, Consul-General Tajima visited the Japan House at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He enjoyed touring the gardens and participating in a tea ceremony.



## Consul-General Presents 2022 Foreign Minister's Commendation to Ms. Monica Misuko Rokuhira



On November 22, Consul-General Tajima presented Ms. Rokuhira with the 2022 Foreign Minister's Commendation. Ms. Rokuhira is a former Japanese language teacher at Langston Hughes Elementary School in Chicago. Langston Hughes Elementary School is one of the few elementary schools in Chicago that provides elementary school students with the opportunity to learn Japanese. She has been recognized for having continuously provided children at the school with opportunities to experience Japanese language and culture for many years, contributing to the promotion of Japanese language and the better understanding of Japan in the local community.

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## Consul-General Presents Dr. Ohnuki-Tierney with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon

On November 28, Consul-General Tajima presented Dr. Ohnuki-Tierney with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon conferred by His Majesty the Emperor. She has contributed to the spread of Japanese culture and the views of Japanese people through lectures at universities and research institutes around the world. Her dissertations and writings on Japanese studies have been introduced around the world and have been translated into 10 different languages, greatly contributing to the promotion of the understanding of Japan.

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# Consul-General Presents 2022 Foreign Minister's Commendation to Mr. Manabu Yoshiike

On November 30, Consul-General Tajima presented Mr. Manabu Yoshiike with the 2022 Foreign Minister's Commendation, who has been recognized for his outstanding contributions in promoting Japanese culture in the U.S. and promoting friendly relations and mutual understandings between the U.S. and Japan. As a First-generation Japanese American, Mr. Yoshiike has worked to strengthen and foster close ties between many different Japanese and Japanese American communities.

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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 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)

#### Salary Assistance Grant for U.S.-Japan Community Grassroots Exchange Program

(Deadline: January 11, 2023)

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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



## **2023 JACL Chicago Scholarship Program**

The Chicago Chapter of JACL offers scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000+ to undergraduate and graduate students who have demonstrated a

commitment to JACL's mission. Scholarships are awarded based on an applicant's understanding of and alignment with JACL's mission, as well as academic performance and extracurricular involvement. Scholarships are open to all, regardless of race or ethnicity.

**Application deadline:** March 1, 2023

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## Featured Interview

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### Featured Interview: Fargo Meets Japan

This issue we interviewed Minami and Conrad Klinkhammer, founders of Fargo Meets Japan.

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## JETAA TALKS

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JET PROGRAM ALUMNI TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

## JETAA Talks: December

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

*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

## 師走

shiwasu

師走 (Shiwasu). December. The origin of the name is still unknown. A popular theory is that it is named after Buddhist monks (師 means "teacher of people") who were busy moving from the East to the West during this month. “師走” literary means teachers running. Today in Japan, people may be busy running around to finish their job for Christmas and to welcome a happy New Year!

12月 *juuni-gatsu*  
December



**Shiwasu**, the ancient name for December, means "teachers or priests



rushing around". The name's origin is still unknown, but one theory is that it derives from teachers and priests who were busy moving from the East to the West during this month.

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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Subscribers,

It's amazing how this year has flown by! December is finally here and the holiday season draws near. Thank you to all of our readers for continuing to celebrate Japan and Japanese culture with us.

We would like to wish you all a safe, healthy, and happy holidays and we will see you in 2023!

*Yoi otoshi wo,*

Japan Information Center

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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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Japan Information Center  
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**\*\*for consular services and other general inquiries\*\***

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