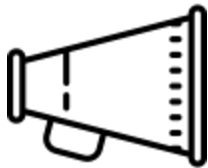


# E-JAPAN JOURNAL

*March 2023*

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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!



## Featured Interview

Interview with Chef Satoshi Ito, Official Residence Chef to the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago

## 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



## JETAA Talks

Our JETAA Talks series features stories from JETAA (JET Program

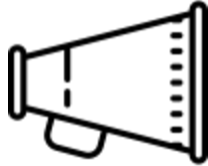


## This Month in Japan

Learn about the month of March in Japan

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### 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.

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**SEASON 16 JAPAN CINEMA SHOWCASE**

Tickets are \$8-10 and free for students. Scan the QR code for more info.  
 Tickets are on sale at <https://buytickets.at/apuc>





**OPENING FILM**

STARRING  
SATOSHI TSUMABUKI  
SAKURA ANDO  
MASATAKA KUBOTA

**A MAN ある男**  
 March 18, Saturday, 2:30 PM  
 @ AMC Evanston 12



全4話 / 豪華座

ひとりぼっちじゃない  
一人になってしまっても

**SHE IS ME, I AM HER ワタシの中の彼女**  
 March 18, Saturday, 5:30 PM @ AMC Evanston 12  
 Lead Actress, Nahana, will receive the Career Achievement Award in person with an intro and post-film Q&A.



**CONVENIENCE STORY**  
 コンビニエンス ストーリー  
 March 19, Sunday, 5:30 PM  
 @ AMC Evanston 12



**UMAMI**  
 A TASTE OF HAPPINESS  
 March 22, Wednesday, 6:30 PM  
 @ Alliance Française de Chicago  
 Admission free, RSVP required

## Asian Pop-Up Cinema Season 16 Japan Showcase

*Asian Pop-Up Cinema returns with season 16! Kicking off the season is the Japan showcase which features several Japanese films.*

IN-PERSON

Season 16 begins Saturday, March 18. Visit the official website for more information.



## MATERIAL CULTURE OF ROYAL CHILDBIRTH IN MEDIEVAL JAPAN

Featured Speaker: Naoko Gunji, Assistant Professor  
of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of  
Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

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

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



## Material Culture of Royal Childbirth in Medieval Japan with the JASC

*Royal childbirths were events of critical importance for Japan's imperial house and court. They required numerous rituals and objects to ensure the safety of the mother, the newborn, and those involved in the pregnancy, labor, and postpartum care. Join the Japan America Society of Chicago for this webinar that will examine the material culture associated with an imperial birth.*

VIRTUAL

Thursday, March 23 at 6:00pm (CST)

Free



## Rikyuki Memorial Tea Ceremony at the Anderson Japanese Gardens

*Anderson Japanese Gardens Tea Study group will host a special tea gathering to honor the life of Sen Rikyū (1522 – 1591), the founder of the Sen family and one of the most influential and innovative tea masters in the history of Chado, the Japanese way of Tea.*

IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL

Saturday, March 25 at 1:00pm



318 Spring Creek Road  
Rockford, Illinois 61107

\$30.00 for Garden members | \$35.00 for non-members | \$10.00 Virtual online viewing only

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## **Artist Talk: Flora Inspired Ceramics of Hitomi Hosono with the JASM**

*Join the Japan America Society of Minnesota for the webinar Artist Talk: Flora Inspired Ceramics of Hitomi Hosono. Participants will learn about the processes and inspiration behind the works in her exhibition currently on display at the Minnesota Marine Art Museum.*

VIRTUAL

Thursday, March 30 at 6:00pm (CST)

JASM member: Free | Nonmembers: \$8

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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: February 1 - February 28

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## Consul-General attends 2023 Japan Festival at UNK

On February 11, Consul-General Tajima attended the 2023 Japan Festival at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. This year's festival theme was "Traditional Summer Festival". Consul-General Tajima along with local officials enjoyed partaking in several cultural activities and watching the various performances.

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## Consul-General Hosts Emperor's Birthday Reception

On February 17th, Consul General Tajima hosted a reception at the JIC Hall to celebrate His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday. He reaffirmed the importance of Japan's ties with the Midwest and the United States in general during his opening remarks. After which, guests enjoyed a toast made with Urakasumi Hirano sake from Miyagi Prefecture's own Urakasumi Sake Brewery. Among the many exquisite dishes prepared by Chef Ito, guests were able to sample delicious A5 certified Japanese wagyu beef sourced from Kagoshima Prefecture.

The JIC Hall was provided with many beautifully arranged ikebana flower centerpieces by the Sogetsu Illinois Study Group. During the reception, the Urasenke Chicago Association provided a chance for guests to experience a Japanese tea ceremony firsthand. Guests also had the opportunity to try their hand at kendama, a traditional Japanese toy, under the watchful eye of experts from Sweets Kendamas.

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## Consul-General Presents Japan Bowl Prize

After a two-year hiatus, the Illinois Japan Bowl was held once again on Sunday, February 26. Congratulations to all of the 154 high school students from around the state who came together at Northcentral College to showcase their knowledge on all facets of Japanese society from history to language to culture.

Consul-General Tajima presented the University of Illinois Laboratory High School team with their first place level four prize. They will get tickets to compete at the National Japan Bowl competition in DC, good luck and congratulations to them!

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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)

#### Japanese-Language Learners Event Grant

(Deadline September 1, 2023)





## **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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**Featured Interview**

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## Featured Interview: Chef Satoshi Ito

This month we interviewed Chef Satoshi Ito, Official Residence Chef to the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago.



### Cooking with Chef Ito - Chirashizushi

Want to learn how to make Chirashizushi, a colorful dish full of delicious ingredients? Click [here](#) to learn from Chef Ito!

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**JETAA TALKS**

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JET PROGRAM ALUMNI TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

## JETAA Talks: March

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

*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

# 弥生

yayoi

弥生(Yayoi). March. Named after the spring season where plants start to bloom.

The name has gone through several abbreviations before becoming Yayoi:

木草弥生い茂る月 (Kikusa-Iyaoisigeru-tsuki)

弥生い茂る (Iyaoisigeru)

弥生い (Iyaoi)

弥生 (Yayoi)

Japanese people preferred shorter words even back then!

3月

san-gatsu  
March



The only national holiday this month is **Shunbun no hi**, or Vernal Equinox



Day, on March 20th. This is the official mark of the spring season as well as the unofficial start of the **sakura** (cherry blossom) season in much of Japan.

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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

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Dear Subscribers,

Spring is just around the corner! In Japan, March means the start of the cherry blossom season, and a special time of year to spend outside with friends and family. We hope this month brings you warmer weather and lots of opportunities to spend some time with those close to you. Whether you prefer being out in nature or viewing the sites from your windows, we hope that you can indulge in the changing of the seasons!

*Itsumo arigatou gozaimasu,*

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

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