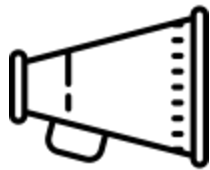


# E-JAPAN JOURNAL

*December 2021*

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago



## Announcements

Important information and updates



## Japan-Related Events

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



**JAPAN**FOUNDATION

## Grants & Scholarships



## Christmas in Japan

This month we are introducing Christmas traditions in Japan!



## This Month in Japan

Learn about the month of December in Japan



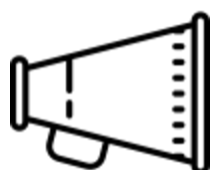
## Month in Review

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



## Featured Interview

Interview with Japan Outreach Initiative coordinators Aiko Hatano and Mariko Nagai.



## 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 9:15am 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.
- Please only come in to the Consulate for essential activities. If it can wait, please consider doing so.
- 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 JIC. If the number of visitors exceeds 5 people per group, please contact JIC in advance to schedule visit.

Thank you for understanding.



## Holidays

The Consulate-General of Japan will be closed on:

**December 24** in observance of the Christmas Holidays, as well

as **December 29, 30, and 31** and **January 3** in observance of New Year

Holidays.

---

**JAPAN-RELATED  
EVENTS**





## **Winter Lightscapes at the Anderson Japanese Gardens**

Experience Anderson Gardens in a new light! A large portion of the Garden is decorated with trees wrapped in white string lights and pine trees lit with soft-colored accents. This is the first time Anderson Gardens is open to the public during the winter.

Friday, December 3 – Thursday, December 23

Anderson Japanese Gardens  
318 Spring Creek Road, Rockford, IL 61107

Visit event page for more information.

---



## **Flash Forward: Debut Works and Recent Films by Notable Japanese Directors with the Japan Society**

Highlighting the early efforts of now-established contemporary filmmakers, the second ACA Cinema Project series Flash Forward: Debut Works and Recent Films by Notable Japanese Directors takes an intimate look at some of Japan's most well-known directors.

Offers Online Screenings

Friday, December 3 – Thursday, December 23

Visit event page for more information.

## 35TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER & BONENKAI

*Featured Performance: Duo YUMENO -  
Yoko Reikano Kimura, Koto & Shamisen and  
Hikaru Tamaki, Cello*

**Thursday, December 9, 2021  
5:20-6:20 pm (CST)**

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

Photo credit: Robert Essel



## 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Fundraiser and Bonenkai with the Japan- America Society of Chicago

Join the Japan-America Society of Chicago for their 35th Annual Holiday Fundraiser and Bonenkai on December 9, 2021 via Zoom. Attendees will have an opportunity to enjoy a virtual performance as well as a virtual silent auction that includes an array of certificates and items available for bidding. The proceeds from this event will benefit programming and educational endeavors. Auction donations are accepted from December 2 to December 8.

VIRTUAL

Thursday, December 9 at 5:20 – 6:20pm (CST)

Free (donations accepted)



## Japanese Cooking Class: Yakibuta Tamago Meshi with the Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C.

Join the JASWDC for a virtual Japanese cooking class and make Yakibuta Tamago Meshi (焼き豚卵飯), a unique dish that was created in Ehime Prefecture on Shikoku. A simple dish of chashu pork, fried egg, and rice, initially created as a quick and delicious meal for restaurant employees, it quickly became popular with restaurant patrons as well and eventually reached national fame by winning Japan's B-kyu Grand Prix in 2017.

VIRTUAL

Friday, December 10 at 6:00 – 8:00pm (EST)

Members: \$10 | Non-members: \$20

---



## **Tekkonkinkreet at Logan Theatre with the Japanese Arts Foundation and Culture Center**

Join the Japanese Arts Foundation and Culture Center for a screening of "Tekkonkinkreet" and the Tinsel in Takaramachi Party at Logan Theatre! Ticket proceeds will help the Japanese Culture Center and Japanese Arts Foundation continue to provide low-cost Japanese cultural programming for the Chicagoland community.

IN PERSON

Friday, December 10 at 7:00pm (CST)

The Logan Theatre  
2646 North Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647

Tekkonkinkreet Screening :\$15

Tekkonkinkreet Screening + Tinsel in Takaramachi Party: \$38

Visit event page for more information.

---

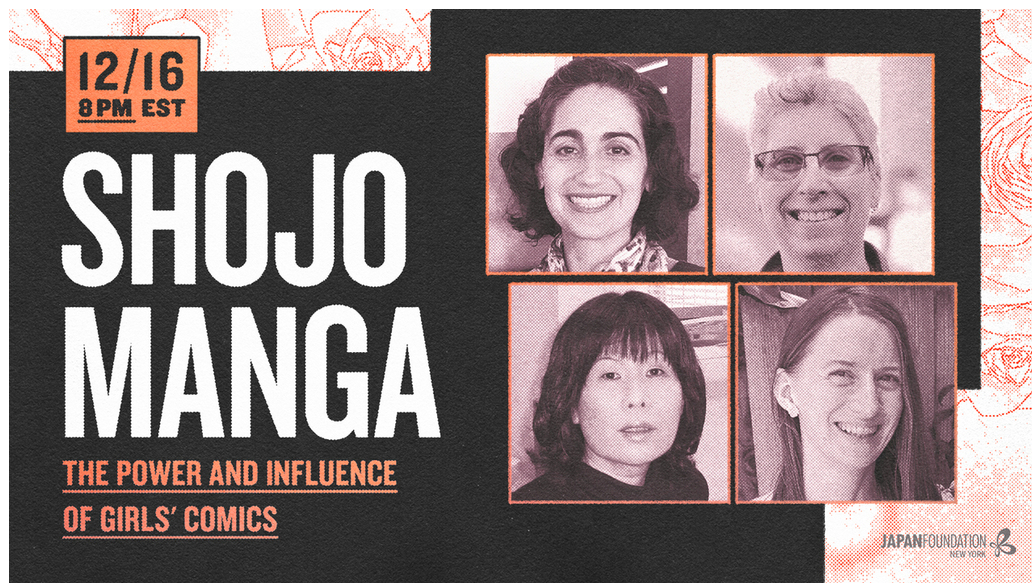
## **Similarities and Differences in Japan and U.S. Business Practices with the United States – Japan Bridging Foundation**

In this talk, Intercultural Communication Instructor, Brooke Brown, discusses the differences and similarities between Japan and U.S. business practices with a focus on communication strategies.

VIRTUAL

Wednesday, December 15 at 8:00 – 9:00pm (EST)

Free



## **Shojo Manga: The Power and Influence of Girls' Comics with the Japan Foundation New York**

Join the Japan Foundation New York and learn about the history of Shojo manga  
Take a closer look at the styles and themes that make the genre so unique while  
exploring the universal appeal and influence of Shojo manga.

VIRTUAL

Thursday, December 16 at 8:00 – 10:00pm (EST)

Free

---



JAPAN EXTERNAL TRADE ORGANIZATION

## **Hyogo Online Japanese Sake Seminar** **with the Japan External Trade** **Organization**

The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) and the Hyogo Business & Cultural Center will have their second installment in a four-part online sake seminar series. This seminar will feature Sarah Yokitis of Yaegaki Corporation of USA.

Differences between sake produced in the US and sake produced in Japan, such as the rice used, the rice malts used as starters, the manufacturing processes, and the taste characteristics. Also, ways to drink, as well as food pairings that go well with both US and Japan-made Sake.

VIRTUAL

Thursday, December 16 at 6:00 – 7:00pm (PST)

Free

---

VIRTUAL

# Chigiri-e Workshop

(Torn Paper Paintings)

Sunday, December 19  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm



## Chigiri-e Torn Paper Paintings Workshop with the Japanese Culture Center

Join the Japanese Culture Center and learn how to piece together paintings, cards, and giftwraps from paper scraps.

VIRTUAL

Sunday, December 19 at 10:30am – 12:30pm (CST)

\$30



## Taiko Legacy 18 presented by Asian Improv aRts Midwest

Join Tsukasa Taiko as they celebrate the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Taiko Legacy concert. This year's special program features the youth and adult community

members alongside National Gintenkai Project performers and Chicago's creative musicians – Hamid Drake, Michael Zerang, and more!

IN PERSON

Sunday, December 19 at 2:00pm (CST)

Edlis Neeson Theater  
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago  
220 E Chicago Ave., Chicago IL 60611

Visit event page for ticket information.

---



## **Nikkei South Side: Japanese and Japanese-Americans in Hyde Park and its Vicinity Exhibition at the University of Chicago**

Chicago's South Side has long-standing but little-known relationships with Japan. This exhibit highlights more than a century of connections between Japanese and Japanese Americans and the University and Hyde Park area.

IN PERSON

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 9:30am - 4:30pm

Wednesdays: 10:30am - 4:30pm

Closed: December 24, 2021 to January 2, 2022; and January 17, 2022

The Joseph Regenstein Library  
1100 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60637

Exhibition ends on Friday, January 28, 2022. Visit event page for more information.

---



## **Donguri Kai 2022 Winter Session with the Japanese-American Service Committee**

Registration for JASC's Donguri Kai 2022 Winter Session is now open! The Donguri Kai program provides continuing Japanese education to support bilingual and multilingual children from kindergarten to elementary school. Session starts from the week of January 17, 2022.

VIRTUAL

Registration closes on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Visit the Donguri Kai site 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: October 16 - November 30

---



## Consul-General ventures out to Japanese companies in the Midwest

On the weekend of October 16th, Consul-General Tajima and the Grassroot Caravan visited Japanese companies in the Midwest. M&C Tech in Indiana hosted a factory tour and shared stories about their contribution to the local economy.



## Consul-General awards Dr. Alice K. Murata with Foreign Minister's Commendation

On November 2nd, Consul-General Tajima awarded Dr. Alice K. Murata with the Foreign Minister's Commendation. He honored her contribution to the US-Japan relationship and her royal efforts on Heiwa Terrace.



# Consul-General meets with Japan Outreach Initiative Coordinators Mariko Nagai and Aiko Hatano

Consul-General Tajima met with Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) coordinators Mariko Nagai on November 8th and Aiko Hatano on November 22nd. They discussed ideas and plans the coordinators have for their contributions to their host sites of Nebraska (Ms. Nagai) and North Dakota (Ms. Hatano).

---



# Consul-General awards Iowa Sister States Yamanashi Committee with Foreign Minister's Commendation

On November 12th, Consul-General Tajima awarded the Iowa Sister States Yamanashi Committee with the Foreign Minister's Commendation award. They celebrated 60 years of continuous relationship between the sister cities.

---



## Consul-General enjoys Iowa State Capitol

During the weekend of November 12th, Consul-General Tajima visited Iowa. In between business conferences, The Consul-General enjoyed the famous ceiling at the Iowa State Capitol building.

---



## Consul-General hosted at Nebraska State Capitol

Lt. Governor Mike Foley, Nebraska Department of Economic Development Director Goins, and Nebraska Department of Agriculture Director Wellman hosted Consul-General Tajima at the Nebraska State Capitol. They discussed growing trade and business relations between Japan and Nebraska.



## Consul-General meets with Tom Ricketts

On November 30th, Consul-General Tajima met with Chicago Cubs Chairman Tom Ricketts. They discussed the role baseball plays in bridging cultures and its contributions to the Japan-U.S. friendship.

---

### SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS



## Japan Foundation Grants

Grants to teachers, institutions, and students engaged in Japanese language, as well as arts and cultural programs.

[Japanese Language Education Project](#)

[Grant](#)



## **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

---



## **Rotary Yoneyama Scholarship for Overseas Candidate**

The Rotary Yoneyama Foundation supports international students in achieving academic success. The purpose of the foundation is to deepen mutual international understanding and develop bonds between the student's home country and Japan.

The Rotary Yoneyama Scholarship for Overseas Candidate is a special program to support overseas students in the first years of their enrollment in Japanese universities and graduate schools. This scholarship provides both financial and personal support to the awardees upon their arrival in Japan.

**2021 applications are due on December 15, 2021 JST.** (for both Spring and Fall 2022 enrollment)

---

## Featured Interview

---



## Interview with Japan Outreach Initiative coordinators Aiko Hatano and Mariko Nagai

This month we interviewed two Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) coordinators, Aiko Hatano and Mariko Nagai.

---

## JIC MONTHLY REVIEW

---



## Christmas in Japan

We are introducing Christmas traditions in Japan! Learn more about how the Christmas holiday is celebrated, from customs to food.

---

### THIS MONTH IN JAPAN

---

***Shiwasu***, the ancient name for December, means "teachers or priests rushing around hastily". The name originates from teachers and priests at temples and shrines busily preparing for New Year celebrations by cleaning.

The end of year holidays on December 30 and 31 that continue into the beginning of January (1-3) are also official national holidays to celebrate the end of the year!

---

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

---

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.

There is an air of excitement for holiday celebrations this year. New traditions have been forming over the past two years that are making this season even more special. Why not get together with family and friends to create new, wonderful memories?

We would like to wish you all a safe, healthy, and happy holidays and we will see you in 2022!

Yoi otoshi wo,  
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.

Copyright © 2021 (Vol. 17 No. 12)

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.