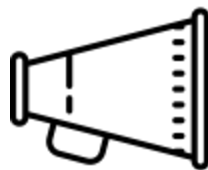


E-JAPAN JOURNAL

July 2023

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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 professional ballet dancer
Yoshihisa Arai



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

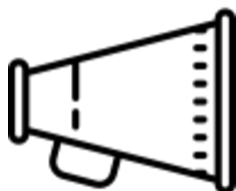
Learn about the month of July in Japan

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Office Closure

The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago will be closed on **Monday, September 4** for Labor Day.



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**





Build Your Global Competence

Find out about opportunities to study in **JAPAN.**

EduOsaka2023 is a virtual joint school information session that is beneficial to all those who are considering studying in Japan. More than 15 schools from Osaka are participating in the program, including universities, colleges, and Japanese language schools. You will surely find the one that fits your career path the best.



Everything you need to know about studying in **Japan.**

Japanese higher education, IT Tech, Culinary arts, Architecture, Medicine, Anime, Manga, Japanese language.



Register today at
www.eduosaka2023.com



EduOsaka Information Session

*Do you have an interest in Japanese culture? Looking to study in Japan?
EduOsaka will be having an online information session for those wanting to learn more about studying in Japan – no prior Japanese language skills necessary.*

VIRTUAL

Wednesday, July 12 at 12:00 - 5:00pm (JST)

Free



Fri, Jul 14 | AIRMW Cultural Hub

Beginner Taiko Workshop

One-day taiko workshop open to all ages and experience levels with Tsukasa Taiko

Beginner Taiko Workshop with Tsukasa Taiko

Tsukasa Taiko will be holding a beginner Taiko workshop at the Asian Improv aRts Midwest Cultural Hub. The workshop is open to all ages and experience levels.

IN-PERSON

Friday, July 14 at 5:30 - 7:00pm

Asian Improv aRts Midwest
4875 N Elston Ave
Chicago, IL 60630

\$45 per person



Advanced Origami Workshop with the Japanese Culture Center

If you've been looking to up your origami game, come join this advanced origami workshop! This session is open to anyone who wants to learn something beyond simple patterns and isn't afraid of a challenge and already has a base knowledge of the art form. The fold we create together will depend on the skill level of those who attend.

This event is sponsored by the Young Professionals Committee of the Japan America Society of Chicago.

IN-PERSON

Tuesday, July 18 at 6:00 - 7:30pm

Konbini & Kanpai
1433 W Belmont
Chicago, IL 60657

\$30



Kizuna & Kanpai with the Japanese Arts Foundation

The Japanese Arts Foundation is sharing a sneak peek into the theme of this year's annual gala Kizuna / 絆, or bonds between people- close relationships created through mutual trust and support! We invite you to build your bonds and create new friendships and community with us over a series of events leading up to our fall gala!

IN-PERSON

Tuesday, July 18 at 6:00 - 9:00pm

Konbini & Kanpai

1433 W Belmont
Chicago, IL 60657

\$25





KOFUN MANIA

Featured Speaker: Dr. Laura Miller, Ei'ichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Endowed Professor of Japanese Studies & Professor of History, University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Thursday, July 27, 2023
6:00-7:00 pm (CST)**

FREE ADMISSION
EVENT WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM
www.jaschicago.org

Kofun Mania with the Japan America Society of Chicago

Some history buffs in Japan are obsessed with ancient tombs called kofun, built from the third to the fifth centuries. This talk will briefly introduce their history before turning to the ways that fans devote time and economic resources to travel, tours, festivals, and media devoted to kofun. Some cute and novel kofun-themed goods and food items will also be discussed.

VIRTUAL

Thursday, July 27 at 6:00 - 7:00pm

Free



 **The Chicago International Film Festival**

FREE MOVIES

summer screenings

May 24-September 20, 2023

Summer Screenings with Cinema/Chicago

Cinema/Chicago will be showing the Japanese film Asako I & II through the Summer Screenings event.

Living in Osaka, Asako falls madly in love. The object of her affections, Baku, is passionate, restless, and hard to pin-down. One day, he wanders right out of her life. Years later, living in Tokyo, Asako encounters Ryohei—a kind, respectable businessman and, mysteriously, Baku’s spitting image. What follows is an intoxicating tale told between two cities (Osaka and Tokyo) and a mesmerizing puzzle of mistaken identities, lingering loves, and passions at cross purposes.

IN-PERSON

Wednesday, August 2

Chicago Cultural Center
Claudia Cassidy Theater
78 E Washington St, 2nd Floor
Chicago, IL 60602

Tickets will be available starting Monday, July 17.

Japanese Community Picnic

Saturday, August 5, 2023 – 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
LaBagh Woods Grove #1, Chicago (see map on back)

The entire **Chicago Japanese community** and **Friends** are invited to share in a day of games, food, sports, sunshine, good times and more food!

Bring a dish that's big enough for your family (plus a little more) and share with everyone at our community food table buffet.

We'll supply roast pig, hotdogs, hamburgers and other great eats. Grills, charcoal and limited beverages will be provided. **BYOB** allowed (beer, wine, etc.) – but no glass containers.



The non-stop fun begins at 11 a.m. and includes:

- games for kids and adults
- Karaoke (11 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
- horseback riding
- volleyball, softball and tug-of-war

This event is FREE!
Please join us and share in the fun!



Photos from 2022 picnic courtesy of Felix Lanier, Tohkon Judo Academy.

Organized by the member organizations of the Chicago Japanese American Council, Tohkon Judo Academy and community friends.

Japanese Community Picnic

The entire Japanese community and friends are invited to share in a day of games, food, sports, sunshine, good times and more food!

IN-PERSON

Saturday, August 5 from 11:00am - 6:00pm

LaBagh Woods, Grove #1
Entrance at N Cicero Ave, north of W Foster Ave
Chicago, IL 60630

Free. No RSVP required.



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.

30 UBE BIENNALE
The 30th UBE Biennale
International Sculpture Competition
Call for Entries
1 June – 10 September 2023
Preliminary Screening 23 September 2023

The 30th Biennale International Sculpture Competition

UBE Biennale (International Sculpture Competition) is the Japan's first, large-scale outdoorsculpture exhibition launched in 1961 at the initiative of citizens in search for an improved post-war cityscape and richness of mind. Since its inception, the project played a significant role as the frontier of "urban revitalization through art." For the 30th exhibition, 15 full-scale works and 30 models of the winning works will be on display, followed by the permanent installation of winning works of Grand Prize and UBE Corporation Prize in public spaces across the city. Overseas applications are accepted.

Applications are due by 5pm on Sunday, September 10, 2023

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: June 1 - June 30



JIC Participates in Ogden International School International Night

On June 2nd, the JIC participated in Ogden International School's International Night. Students were able to enjoy traditional Japanese crafts such as origami and learned more about Japanese culture.



JET Participants Attend Virtual Q&A Session

On June 9th and 10th, outgoing JET participants departing for Japan in July attended virtual Q&A sessions hosted by JET coordinators. Thank you to our JETAA volunteers who gave excellent presentations. We can't wait to send our new JETs to Japan at the end of July!



Consul-General attends Ikebana International Chicago Chapter's Annual Ikebana Day Event

On June 11th, Consul-General Tajima joined the Ikebana Day celebration by the Ikebana International Chicago Chapter 27 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy a demonstration by 1st Term Master of the Ohara School Jose Salcedo. Inspired by the event, Consul-General Tajima created his own arrangement from the bouquet he received.

(group photo credit: Jeng Fonseca)



Consul-General Welcomes Cubs Player Seiya Suzuki at Official Residence

Consul-General Tajima Consul-General Tajima welcomed Chicago Cubs player Mr. Seiya Suzuki, Mrs. Airi Suzuki and friends at his Official Residence.



Consulate Hosts Annual Midwest Forum

On June 26th and 27th, the Midwest Forum was held at the JIC. Consul-General Tajima, Honorary Consuls, and representatives from Japan-related organizations in the Midwest joined the forum to give reports and discuss ideas on how to continue improving Japan-U.S. relations.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS





J | A | S | M

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY
of MINNESOTA

ミネソタ・日米協会

Mondale Scholarship

The Japan 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 
国際交流基金

The Japan Foundation Indo-Pacific Partnership (JFIPP) Network Fellowship

This program is designed to promote international research and collaborative activities on common policy issues that require cooperation and engagement within and beyond the Indo-Pacific region, with the purpose of contributing to the maintenance and strengthening of a free and open international order in the Indo-Pacific region, bringing about peace and prosperity to the entire region.

The program provides research and networking opportunities for next generation leaders of the region who either will or already engage with policy and policymaking. Throughout the program, main objective is building long-lasting relationships and new platforms for intellectual cooperation that will help resolve regional concerns.

Deadline: July 30, 2023

Japan Foundation New York 2023- 2024 Grants

For further information, please check out the [JFNY website](#) and if you have any questions, please contact NY_info@jpf.go.jp.

Education Grant

The Education Grant program supports projects from nonprofit organizations that will assist K-12 students, teachers, and the community deepen their understanding about Japan, promote cross-cultural exchange, and nurture global perspectives. Successful projects are awarded up to \$5,000.

Global Partnerships Small Grant

This grant aims to support to create and develop networks between Japan and the U.S. on grassroots level, and to support Japan-U.S. collaborative efforts to help resolve issues of common concern. Successful projects are awarded up to \$10,000.

JFNY Grant for Arts & Culture

This program provides support to non-profit organizations in the U.S. that organize projects that will further the understanding of Japanese arts and culture within the 37 states east of the Rocky Mountains, plus Washington D.C. Average funding with this grant is \$2,000 per proposal.

JFNY Grant for Japanese Studies

This grant aims to support projects that will enhance further understanding of Japan through academic exploration. Such projects generally take the form of conferences, colloquia, symposia, presentations, and lectures within the United States as well as in virtual format. Successful projects are awarded up to \$5,000.

Japan Foundation Los Angeles 2023- 2024 Grants

For further information, please check out the [JFLA website](#) and if you have any questions, please contact jflainfo@jpf.go.jp.

Grant for Nationwide/Statewide/Region-wide Events for Learners

The JFLA provides financial support (up to \$1,000) for Japanese-language related events on the national/statewide/region-wide levels (speech contests, quiz contests, or presentational events, etc.) that are intended to motivate a large number of Japanese-language learners in multiple schools featuring different educational levels (primary, secondary, collegiate levels, and adults) and promote Japanese-language education in the area. Closed events for a single school are not eligible.

Examples: Speech Contest, Quiz Contest, Japan-themed Festival for Learners, etc.

Deadline: September 1, 2023

Grant for Nationwide/Statewide/Region-wide Projects for Teachers

The JFLA provides financial assistance for projects which promote Japanese language education in a wide area (nationwide/statewide/region-wide), not exceeding \$5,000. The project should benefit multiple Japanese language programs and as many teachers as possible.

Examples: Conferences/Seminars/Workshops for Teachers, Teaching Material Development, Research Projects, etc.

Deadline: 2 months before the project start date

Grants for Individual Japanese Language Programs

This program is intended to assist educational institutions in the U.S. to purchase teaching materials (textbooks, audio-visual materials, cultural decor, dictionaries, digital learning software, teachers' reference books, etc.) for their Japanese-language courses by providing financial support not exceeding \$1,000.

Deadline: September 15, 2023

Advocacy Support Letter

If your Japanese language program is in danger of being cut due to COVID-19, the JFLA will send a support letter to stakeholders (Superintendent, Principal, Dean, etc.).

[Please contact JFLA for details.](#)

Featured Interview



Featured Interview: Yoshihisa Arai

This month we interviewed professional ballet dancer Yoshihisa Arai.

JETAA TALKS



JET PROGRAM ALUMNI TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

JETAA Talks: July

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 Yoshimi Nakamura. Thank you for sharing your story with us, Yoshimi!

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

文月

fumizuki

文月(Fumizuki), July. Named after the season where rice grows and matures. Its original form was 穂含月 (Hofumizuki), meaning "rice collecting month". Usually, in the current calendar, people collect rice during mid-August to early October so you probably won't see rice farmers collecting rice during this month. It is rather green and beautiful reflecting the bright sunshine.



July 7 is **Tanabata** or the Star Festival to celebrate the meeting of the deities named Orihime and Hikoboshi. The third Monday of the month is **Umi no Hi** (Marine Day), commemorating the return of Emperor Meiji to Yokohama port from a boat trip to Hokkaido in 1876.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Subscribers,

Summer is in full effect with the beaming sun, vibrant energy, and fun events taking place throughout the Midwest! We hope that you are taking advantage of this beautiful weather while also staying hydrated and cool.

To all the new participants in the JET Program will be departing for Japan at the end of this month, we wish you all the best of luck and hope that you enjoy your time there!

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
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Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60611

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