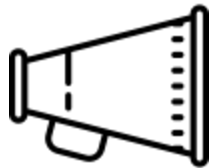


# E-JAPAN JOURNAL

*February 2022*

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

## Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago



### Announcements

Consular hours, office closures, and  
Speech Contest information



### Month in Review

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



### Japan-Related Events

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



## Grants & Scholarships

A list of currently open Grants and Scholarships related to Japan

## Featured Interview

Interview with Wesley Bishop,  
Localization Director at Capcom and  
former JET participant from Indiana



## Japan Experience:

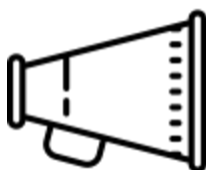
### Ōkunoshima

This month we are introducing  
Ōkunoshima, also known as Rabbit  
Island!

## This Month in

### Japan

Learn about the month of  
February 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.

- 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.



## Office Closure: Holidays

The Consulate-General of Japan will be closed on:

**February 21** for Washington's birthday

and **February 23** for The Emperor's birthday.

---

## 36th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest



The 36th Annual Japanese Language Speech Contest will be held virtually March 26, 2022 and is open to all elementary, middle school, high school, and college students enrolled in schools which are located in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska,

North and South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

**Applications are due February 17th.**

[Click here](#) for further details about the contest.

---

## JAPAN-RELATED EVENTS

---



## 2022 JETAA Chicago Virtual Shinnenkai

Join JETAA Chicago for their 18th Annual JETAA Chicago Shinnenkai. Each day will have a different Japan-related activities. All the proceeds raised will go to benefit the Japan America Society of Chicago and the Japanese Culture Center.

VIRTUAL

Friday, February 4 and Saturday, February 5

General Admission: Free

General Admission + Trivia Participant: \$10

Donations Accepted





## **Anime Milwaukee 2022**

Anime Milwaukee (AMKE) is a three-day anime convention that celebrates and educates fans about anime, manga, Asian culture, music and gaming.

### **IN-PERSON**

Friday, February 11 to Sunday, February 13

Wisconsin Center

400 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 52303

Visit the event page for more information.



## **Virtual J-Quiz 2022 with the Japan America Society of Minnesota**

High school students from across Minnesota and Wisconsin will compete in the annual J-Quiz, a competition where students test their knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

VIRTUAL

Saturday, February 12 at 7:30am – 1:00pm (CST)

Visit the event page for more information.

---



## **Japanese Film Festival Online 2022 with** **the Japan Foundation**

Join the Japan Foundation for their second annual online Japanese film festival. Experience the latest in Japanese film from the comfort of your own home!

VIRTUAL

Monday, February 14 to Sunday, February 27

Free

---



## **Japanese Pop Culture: Connecting the World through Manga and Anime with the Japan Society**

Japanese pop culture, symbolized by manga and anime, has become an increasingly significant part of the cultural conversation across the globe. Join the Japan Society in learning about the historical development of manga and anime, the global influence of otaku culture, and what the future may bring inside and outside of Japan.

VIRTUAL

Tuesday, February 15 at 7:00 – 8:00pm (EST)

Free



## **Virtual Workshop from Osaka: Let's Speak Kansai Dialect! with the Japan Foundation of Los Angeles**

Join the Japan Foundation of Los Angeles for an online workshop on the Kansai dialect. Learn characteristics of Kansai dialect, useful expressions, intonation, and grammatical rules from three native Kansai dialect instructors from the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute.

VIRTUAL

Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 – 8:30pm (PST)

Free

---



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section has a red background with white text. It features the Japan America Society of Chicago logo (a red flower) and the text 'The Japan America Society of Chicago' and '1930-2022 92nd'. Below this is the title 'CREATING A JAPANESE E-COMMERCE BUSINESS WHILE BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY' in bold white capital letters. Under the title, it says 'Featured Speaker: Lillian Hanako Rowlett, Co-Founder, Kokoro Care Packages'. The date and time 'Thursday, February 24, 2022 6:00-7:00 pm (CST)' are listed, followed by 'FREE ADMISSION' and 'EVENT WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM' with the website 'www.jaschicago.org'. The right section is a photograph of Lillian Hanako Rowlett, a woman with dark hair wearing a maroon dress, sitting on a white sofa and holding a cardboard box filled with various Japanese products, including bags of snacks and boxes of instant noodles.

**CREATING A JAPANESE  
E-COMMERCE BUSINESS WHILE  
BUILDING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY**

*Featured Speaker: Lillian Hanako Rowlett,  
Co-Founder, Kokoro Care Packages*

**Thursday, February 24, 2022  
6:00-7:00 pm (CST)**

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

## **Creating a Japanese E-Commerce Business While Building a Global Community with the Japan America Society of Chicago**

Join the Japan America Society of Chicago for a round table discussion about the tools and techniques in creating a successful Japan related e-commerce business. Featured speaker will be Lillian Hanako Rowlett, Co-Founder of Kokoro Care Packages.

VIRTUAL

Thursday, February 24 at 6:00 – 7:00pm (CST)

Free

---





## World Children's Haiku Contest by the JAL Foundation

The JAL Foundation biennially organizes the World Children's Haiku Contest. Through the contest, children are given the opportunity to compose a haiku (Japanese short form poem) based on the given theme. All grand-prize haiku will be collected and published next year as an anthology piece titled 'Haiku By World Children'.

Entries due Monday, February 28, 2022.

Visit the contest page for more information.



24<sup>th</sup> Annual Japanese Language Contest  
with the Heart of America Japan America  
Society

Join HAJAS for their annual Japanese Language Contest. This is an opportunity for friendly competition and networking so that students can showcase their Japanese language skills and enjoy meeting other students across the region. Registration and submission deadline is February 18.

IN-PERSON and VIRTUAL

Saturday, March 12 at 10:00am – 4:00pm

Johnson County Community College

Capital Federal Conference Center in the Regnier Center

11190 Quivera Rd

Overland Park, KS 66210

\$15 for all events

---

*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: December 29 - January 30

---





## Consul-General welcomes Ambassador Rahm Emanuel to Official Residence

On January 11th, Consul-General Tajima welcomed Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel to the Consulate's Official Residence. The two discussed about furthering the efforts to strengthen U.S.-Japan relationships as Ambassador Emanuel assumes office in Japan.

---



## Consul-General meets with North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum

On January 13th, Consul-General Tajima met with North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum. The two discussed the partnership between North Dakota and Japan, the trade mission, and the potential collaboration through agriculture, technology and energy industries.



## Consul-General and Consulate staff learn from presentation by Jean Mishima and Marylnne Nishimura

On January 21st, Consul-General Tajima and some staff members from the Consulate listened to a presentation at the Official Residence about the history of Japanese-Americans by Ms. Jean Mishima and Ms. Marylnne Nishimura.



Nishimura. It was an fantastic event to deepen understanding about the Japanese-American experience in Chicago and to rethink what history tells us.

---



## Contestants Participate in 6th Annual Heritage Japanese Language Speech Contest

On January 30th , the 6th Annual Heritage Japanese Language speech contest was held virtually. This year, 20 contestants from Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin participated. We give a big "thank you" to the contestants for sharing their wonderful speeches and to everyone for supporting the event!

---

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**



## **MEXT Japanese Studies Scholarship**

Applications for the MEXT Scholarship for Japanese Studies is now open. The scholarship offers undergraduate students majoring in Japanese language, Japanese affairs, or Japanese culture the opportunity to deepen their understandings through academic study at one of several universities in Japan.



## **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](#)

[JFNY Grant for Online Japanese Studies](#)



## **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

---

**Japanese-American  
Citizens League  
Scholarships**



The JACL has been helping students achieve their educational dreams with the National Scholarship Awards Program since 1946. The program currently offers over 30 awards, with an annual total of \$70,000 in scholarships to qualified students nationwide. Local JACL chapters

also offer scholarships for applicants in their area.

[National Scholarships](#)

[Chicago Chapter Scholarships](#)

[Indiana Chapter Scholarships](#)

[Omaha Chapter Scholarships](#)

[Twin Cities Chapter Scholarships](#)



## **Japanese American Service Committee Scholarship**

As a part of its efforts to preserve and promote our Japanese heritage and to advance the commitment to community service, the JASC administers an annual scholarship program to support members of the Japanese American community to pursue education beyond high school. These JASC scholarships are intended to provide financial assistance to promising students who have demonstrated both academic excellence and service to the Japanese American community.

**Application deadline:** April 28, 2022

---

**Featured Interview**

---





## Interview with Localization Director at Capcom Wesley Bishop

This month we interviewed Wesley Bishop, a localization director at Capcom and former JET participant from Indiana.

---

### **JAPAN EXPERIENCE**

---





# Japan Experience: Okunoshima

In this first installment of Japan Experience, we are introducing Ōkunoshima, affectionately known as Rabbit Island! Learn more about our JIC staff member's visit to the famous island.

---

## THIS MONTH IN JAPAN

---

***Kisaragi***, is the old Japanese name for February, meaning “wear still more clothes” to protect against cold February winters in Japan.

There are a few significant days in February for Japan. February 3 is Setsubun, the last day of winter according to the Japanese lunar calendar. Popular amongst children, Sestubun is usually celebrated with children throwing roasted soybeans at a family member dressed as an *Oni* (demon) while chanting "*Oni wa soto; fuku wa uchi.*" (Demons get out; good luck come in.)

National Foundation Day is February 11. This is the date that Jimmu, the first emperor of Japan, was enthroned as documented in the Nihon Shoki (Chronicles of Japan).

February 23 is His Majesty the Emperor's birthday, a national holiday in Japan.

---

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

---

Dear Subscribers,

We're currently in the midst of winter and it's definitely proving to be a cold one! Whether you prefer to brave the frigid temperatures or to stay in and stay warm, we have events taking place in the Midwest and beyond that is perfect for whichever environment you prefer!

February is an eventful month for many. With Valentine's Day events flooding our newsfeeds, it can be difficult to choose a plan for the special day. If you're looking for event ideas to share with your valentine, be sure to check out this month's list of Japan-related events. Perfect way to spend time with loved ones, friends, or solo!

See you in March!

*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.

Copyright © 2022 (Vol. 18 No. 2)

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.