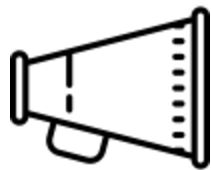


E-JAPAN JOURNAL

May 2022

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Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago



Announcements

Consular hours and office closures



Japan-Related Events

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



Month in Review

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



Grants & Scholarships

A list of currently open Grants and Scholarships related to Japan

Featured Interview

Interview with Erina Ueda, professional company dancer currently performing with Giordano Dance Chicago



JETAA Talks

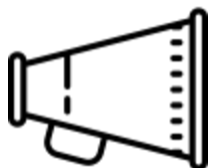
Our JETAA Talks series features stories from JETAA (JET Program Alumni Association) members in our jurisdiction



This Month in Japan

Learn about the month of April in Japan

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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 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.



文部科学省

MEXT | Scholarships

MEXT Scholarships

Applications for the **Research, Specialized Training,** and **Undergraduate** scholarships are now available. Applications are due Thursday, June 16, 2022. [Click here for more information.](#)



Office Closure: Holidays

The Consulate-General of Japan will be closed on:

May 30 for Memorial Day.

**JAPAN-RELATED
EVENTS**





こどもの日
Kodomo no Hi
at Japan House
SATURDAY, MAY 7

Kodomo no Hi at Japan House

Children ages 6-12 are invited to join Japan House for fun-filled activities such as origami, ikebana, kakudako decorating, and more!

IN-PERSON

Saturday, May 7 at 10:00am - 12:00pm

Japan House
2000 South Lincoln Ave
Urbana, IL 61802

\$20 per child



Kintsugi Memory

Collage Workshop

Thursday, May 12
6:00 - 8:00 PM

Collage Workshop: Kintsugi Memory
with the Japanese Arts Foundation and

the International Museum of Surgical Science

The Japanese Arts Foundation in partnership with the International Museum of Surgical Science will be hosting a series of “Kintsugi Memory” workshops throughout the city led by JAF resident artist Mami Takahashi. Participants will use tangible memories of someone or something lost. Throughout the workshop, participants will mend their objects with other textiles and gold to create their own “Kintsugi Memory”.

IN-PERSON

Thursday, May 12 at 6:00 – 8:00pm

Japanese Culture Center
1016 West Belmont Ave
Chicago, IL 60657

\$15



The poster features a red background with two images: a landscape of autumn mountains on the left and a traditional Japanese shrine with cherry blossoms on the right. At the top center is a logo for the Japan America Society of Chicago, celebrating its 92nd anniversary (1930-2022). The main title is 'JOURNEY TO TOHOKU: MIYAGI'. Below it, the featured speaker is Nagi Cao, Coordinator for International Relations, Miyagi Prefectural Government. The event is on Thursday, May 12, 2022, from 7:00-8:00 pm (CST). It is free admission and will be held via Zoom at www.jaschicago.org.

日 The Japan
米 America
シカゴ Society
会 of Chicago 92nd
1930-2022

**JOURNEY TO TOHOKU:
MIYAGI**

*Featured Speaker: Nagi Cao, Coordinator for
International Relations, Miyagi Prefectural
Government*

**Thursday, May 12, 2022
7:00-8:00 pm (CST)**

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

Journey to Tohoku: Miyagi with the Japan America Society of Chicago

Learn about the beauty of Miyagi in all four seasons as well as its potentials as a travel destination using a combination of beautifully taken photos and videos.

VIRTUAL

Thursday, May 12 at 7:00 – 8:00pm (CST)

Free



Fort Wayne Cherry Blossom Festival

2022

The 15th annual Fort Wayne Cherry Blossom Festival will be held Sunday, May 15. Come and enjoy drumming, cosplay, Japanese food, haiku poetry, origami crafts, anime art contest, shopping, and more!

IN-PERSON

Sunday, May 15 at 12:00pm

Allen County Public Library
900 Library Plaza
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Free



Japanese American Service Committee 75th Anniversary Celebration: Cranes and Cocktails

Join the JASC for their 75th Anniversary Celebration: Cranes & Cocktails to celebrate the history of JASC. All funds raised from ticket sales, sponsorships, and activities at the reception will support JASC's mission of serving the needs of the community through social service programs, Legacy Center endeavors, and cultural classes.

IN-PERSON

Thursday, May 19 at 6:00pm

Artifact Events

4325 N. Ravenswood Ave

Chicago, IL 60613

Visit the event page for ticket pricing.





**JOURNEY TO TOHOKU:
YAMAGATA**

*Featured Speaker: Atsumi Ogata, Tourism
Division, Yamagata Prefectural Government*

**Thursday, May 19, 2022
7:00-8:00 pm (CST)**

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

Journey to Tohoku: Yamagata with the Japan America Society of Chicago

Learn about Yamagata Prefecture and all of its attractive sightseeing destinations.

VIRTUAL

Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 – 8:00pm (CST)

Free



Anime Central 2022

Anime Central (ACen) is the largest anime, manga and Japanese popular culture convention in Chicago and the Midwest. As part of its mission, ACen brings fans together with guests from the Japanese and US sectors of the anime and manga industry, as well as gaming, cinema, and Asian culture personalities. The event includes a huge exhibit hall, a massive video game room, concerts, dances, educational panels and workshops, premiere screenings, autograph sessions, 24-hour video rooms, tabletop gaming and more!

IN-PERSON

Friday, May 20 to Sunday, May 22

Donald E. Stephens Convention Center
5555 N River Rd
Rosemont, IL 60018

Visit the event page for ticket information.



Public Lecture and Workshop Series with Kiyomoto Ogasawara

Minnesota Kyudo Renmei is hosting three public events with Kiyomoto Ogasawara is the 32nd Generation Heir to the Ogasawara-ryū School of Etiquette, Archery and Mounted Archery. The Ogasawara family served as instructors to generations of Shoguns in these disciplines. Ogasawara-ryū etiquette was taught to warriors across Japan as appropriate behavior for samurai, and became the foundation for martial arts etiquette. Join the lecture and workshop series to learn more about these traditions and how they remain relevant today.

VIRTUAL and IN-PERSON

The Art of Ogasawara-ryū Knot Tying

Monday, May 23 at 7:00pm (CST)

Virtual

Modern Applications of Ogasawara-ryu traditions

Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00pm

Minneapolis Institute of Art

2400 3rd Ave S

Minneapolis, MN 55404

Introduction to Ogasawara-ryū Reihō

Thursday, May 26 at 7:00pm (CST)

Virtual



Journey to Tohoku: Akita with the Japan America Society of Chicago

Learn about the history, bountiful nature, and abundant traditional culture of Akita such as festivals, foods, traditional crafts, and more.

VIRTUAL

Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 – 8:00pm (CST)

Free



Japanese Cooking Class – Daikon Oroshi Hamburger Steak with Mochi Ice Cream with the Japan America Society of Washington DC

Join the Japan-America Society of Washington DC for a virtual daikon oroshi hamburger steak and mochi ice cream cooking class! Hamburger steaks are an immensely popular dish to make at home in Japan. Sometimes served with a tomato sauce or a teriyaki sauce, participants be making “wafu” or Japanese-style

hamburger steaks, which merge Japanese and western flavors by adding grated daikon and ponzu sauce.

VIRTUAL

Friday, May 27 at 6:00 – 8:00pm (EST)

\$20



SAKE THROUGH THE AGES

Featured Speaker: Mark Zheng-Garratt, Export Area Manager, Gekkeikan Sake Company

**Friday, May 27, 2022
7:00-8:00 pm (CST)**

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

Sake Through the Ages with the Japan America Society of Chicago

Learn about how sake evolved in Japan over the centuries, touching on its uses, applications, and types of sake at the time. The seminar will explore the state of the sake industry today and discuss the future of sake.

VIRTUAL

Friday, May 27 at 7:00 – 8:00pm (CST)

Free



CelebrAsian 2022 with the Iowa Asian

Alliance

Experience over a dozen Asian Villages where you can delight all five of your senses from the authentic Asian food, educational activities, to live cultural entertainment! The Japan America Society of Iowa will to introduce a number of Japanese traditional instruments at the Japan Village. Manabiya Iowa and Soten Taiko will work together to introduce Taiko, Shamisen, Shinobue, Atarigane, and other instruments at the Japan Village Tent. Anyone is welcome to stop by, learn and/or play the instruments!

The Japan Village will perform on the main stage at 11:45am on Saturday, May 28. The main stage performance will start with a performance from the Manabiya Iowa students and Soten Taiko will perform afterwards.

IN-PERSON

Friday, May 27 to Saturday, May 28 at 11:00am to 10:00pm

Western Gateway Park
1330 Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50309



The 16th Japan International MANGA Award

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs founded the International MANGA Award in 2007 for the purpose of expanding international exchange and mutual understanding through the MANGA culture which is widely accepted around the world.

This award honors MANGA artists who contribute to the development of MANGA culture in the world.

Application Period: April 15– July 8, 2022 (entries must arrive by this date)

Visit the website for award details and eligibility requirements.

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: March 30 - May 1



Consul-General Presents Foreign Minister's Commendation to Wisconsin-Chiba Inc.

On March 30th, Consul-General Tajima awarded Wisconsin-Chiba Inc. the Foreign Minister's Commendation for continuously promoting mutual understanding and friendly relations between Japan and the U.S.



Consul-General Presents Commendation to Mr. Koji Morimoto, Japanese Garden Designer

On April 1st, Consul-General Tajima presented Mr. Koji Morimoto, Japanese garden designer in the Midwest, the Consul-General's Commendation. The award ceremony

took place in the Kay McFarland Japanese Garden at the Topeka Zoo in Kansas. Mr. Koji Morimoto has been involved in numerous Japanese garden projects during his 21 years in Kansas and has designed many beautiful gardens.



JIC Presents JET Information Session at Loyola University

On April 6th, Japan Information Center staff visited Loyola University for a JET Information Session. Students stopped by to learn more about the program and its benefits.



JIC Visits Sandburg Elementary School

On April 12th, Japan Information Center staff visited Sandburg Elementary School for their Multicultural Night. Students got a chance to practice using chopsticks, making origami, and experienced the koto.



Streamwood High School Visits JIC

On April 20th, students from Streamwood High School came to the JIC and experienced Japanese culture through watching a traditional tea ceremony, origami, practicing chopsticks, calligraphy, wearing yukata and happi coats, and trying kendama.



Consul-General Visits Art Institute of Chicago

On April 25th, Consul-General Tajima visited the Art Institute of Chicago. He enjoyed viewing the beautiful pieces, including many Japanese arts.



Consul-General Gives Remarks at Hanami: Cherry Blossom Matsuri Event

On May 1st, Consul-General Tajima attended and gave his remarks at the Hanami: Cherry Blossom Matsuri event in the Garden of the Phoenix at Jackson Park. He thanked the event organizers, performers, and volunteers for their hard work in spreading Japanese culture through this event.



Japan Foundation

Grants



JAPAN FOUNDATION

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

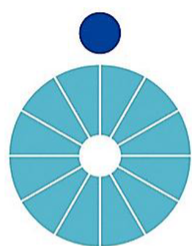


Citizens League

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.

St. Louis Chapter Scholarship (**Deadline:** May 15, 2022)



文部科学省

MEXT | Scholarships

MEXT Scholarships

Applications for the **Research, Specialized Training, and Undergraduate** scholarships are now available.

Monbukagakusho (MEXT), the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology offers four different scholarships for non-Japanese nationals wishing to study in Japan. Only U.S. citizens living within the following states can apply for a MEXT Scholarship at this Consulate: IL, IN, IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD, WI.

Deadline for all applications: Thursday, June 16, 2022

QUAD FELLOWSHIP

by SCHMIDT FUTURES

Quad Fellowship

The Quad Fellowship by Schmidt Futures offers a unique combination of financial benefits, cross-cultural exchange, networking, and content programming to applicants in Japan, the U.S., Australia and India. Each Quad Fellow will receive an award which can be used for related academic expenses.

Application deadline: Thursday, June 30, 2022

Featured Interview



Featured Interview with Erina Ueda

This month we interviewed Erina Ueda, professional company dancer currently performing with Giordano Dance Chicago.

JETAA TALKS



JET PROGRAM ALUMNI TALK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN JAPAN

JETAA Talks: Courtney Van Hoosen

Makhmudzoda

Our JETAA Talks series features stories from JETAA (JET Program Alumni Association) members in our jurisdiction. This month we connected with Courtney Van Hoosen Makhmudzoda who was an Assistant Language Teacher in Shizuoka city. Thank you for sharing your story with us, Courtney!

Are you a JET alum 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

早月

satsuki

早月 (Satsuki). May. Named after the rice planting season, 早苗 (Sanae). Therefore, it's sometimes called 早月 (Satsuki). This might remind you of the famous Ghibli film "My Neighbor Totoro" where the main characters' names are "Satsuki" and "Mei", both which come from this month.



Satsuki, is the traditional name for May. It is named after the rice planting season, *sanae*.

Three years ago, His Majesty the Emperor Naruhito ascended to the throne on May 1st, ushering in a new Era. The Era is known as 令和 (Reiwa), meaning "Beautiful Harmony." The name was taken from wording in the Manyoshu, Japan's oldest poetry anthology, completed more than 1,200 years ago.

Every year during the end of April and beginning of May, many people have lots of time off because of consecutive national holidays: Showa Day (4/29), Constitution Memorial Day (5/3), Greenery Day (5/4) and Children's Day (5/5). This time is known as Golden Week and is considered one of the busiest times for travel in Japan.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Subscribers,

April showers brings May flowers! We hope you are enjoying the continuous blooming nature all around. There are many exciting in-person and virtual events happening throughout the Midwest that are perfect ways to go out and enjoy!

Many people travel in Japan during late April and early May because of Golden Week. The consecutive national holidays allow people to plan for longer trips with family and friends. While we only have one national holiday this month, let's try to spend as much time enjoying the sunshine in between the rainy skies!

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
737 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60611

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

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