



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 2021

CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

Fri., January 1

[JASCO New Year's Festival](#) @ online platform

Sat., January 2, 16, & 30
and Sun., January 10 & 24

[Ann Arbor Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ online platform

Wed., January 6, 13, & 20

[Cleveland Virtual Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ online platform

Fri., January 15

[JASCO Virtual Shinnenkai](#) @ online platform

Tues., January 19

[USJC Glen Fukushima Interview](#) @ online platform

Thurs., January 21

[UM-CJS Lecture on Japonisme & Theater](#) @ online platform

Thurs., January 28

[UM-CJS Lecture on Japanese Undergraduate Study Abroad](#) @ online platform

Fri., January 29

[JASCO/OSU Online Rakugo Performance](#) @ online platform

Sat., January 30

[Great Lakes JETAA Job Fair](#) @ online platform



The official magazine of the
Government of Japan:

Kizuna



Kizuna is a new digital publication of the Government of Japan. It features reports on a wide variety of Japan-related topics, to provide opportunities to strengthen links between Japan and the world.

The inaugural issue is available in online & PDF formats.

You can find it here:
[Magazine homepage](#)

Quick Links

[Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit](#)

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)



Japanese Speech Contest Deadlines Near

The application deadlines to participate in this year's Michigan and Ohio Japanese Speech Contests are approaching. Both will be held online. These contests are designed to motivate non-native learners of Japanese language to enjoy and continue their study of Japanese. Eligible students must apply by the deadlines below in order to be considered for participation in their respective states. Best of luck to all applicants!

2021 Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest Application Deadline: 5:00pm on Monday, February 1

This contest includes high school and college/university categories. Finalists will present their speeches before a panel of judges online on Saturday, February 20. The guidelines and application form for the Michigan speech contest may be found [here](#).

2021 Ohio Japanese Speech Contest Application Deadline: 5:00pm on Friday, February 5

This contest includes high school, college/university, and post-college categories. Finalists will present their speeches online before a panel of judges on Saturday, March 13. The guidelines and application form for the Ohio speech contest may be found [here](#).



Great Lakes JET Alumni Association

Hosts Job Fair

The Great Lakes Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (GL-JETAA) will be hosting its 5th annual job fair, in an online format, from 1:00-5:00pm on Saturday, January 30. The event is designed to connect individuals seeking Japan-related jobs with prospective employers.

This job fair is free of charge and open to anyone with an interest in Japan-related jobs in the Great Lakes region (Michigan and Ohio). JETAA membership is not required to participate. More details and registration links are posted on the GL-JETAA website [here](#).



Coming-of-Age Day Marks Official Adulthood

In Japan, the second Monday of January is *Seijin no Hi*, or Coming of Age Day, a national holiday celebrating the transition to adulthood of all those turning 20, the legal age of adulthood, between April 2 of the previous year and April 1 of the current year.

The young men usually wear suits, and the young women formal *furisode* kimonos, to attend *seijinshiki*, or coming-of-age ceremonies, hosted by their local governmental bodies. For more details, please see the [video](#) about this topic on our YouTube channel.



Welcome to New Deputy Consul General,

Ms. Otsuki!

The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit is pleased to welcome Ms. Hiromi Otsuki to her new post at our office. Ms. Otsuki succeeds Ms. Sakai as Deputy Consul General.

Before her posting in Detroit, Ms. Otsuki served as First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, working primarily on World Trade Organization (WTO) issues. She says what she enjoys most about her diplomatic career is traveling to many places, and getting to know many people from various backgrounds, all around the world.

Ms. Otsuki's hobbies include golf and hiking, both of which she looks forward to trying out in Michigan and Ohio. She also enjoys trying international foods, and her favorites are Mexican, Italian, and American BBQ! Welcome to the Great Lakes region and to our Consulate, Deputy Consul General Otsuki!



*ConsuLink is the official newsletter of
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