



January 2020

CALENDAR Exhibits & Events

Through January 5:
[Copies & Invention in East Asia](#) @ UM Museum of Art, Ann Arbor, MI

Thurs., January 2
[JASCO New Year's Event](#) @ Dublin, OH

Sat., January 11
[Japanese Storytime](#) @ Malletts Creek Library, Ann Arbor, MI

Mon., January 13
[National Security Lecture](#) @ Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Tues., January 14
[Book Club Discussion of Yayoi Kusama's Autobiography](#) @ Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH

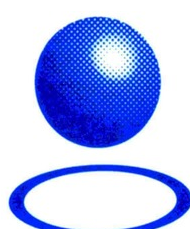
Jan. 14 - June 14:
[Ukiyo-e Prints from the Mary Ainsworth Collection](#) @ Allen Memorial Art Museum, Oberlin, OH

Sun., January 19
[Be Happy & Smile New Year's Event](#) @ Novi Public Library, Novi, MI

Sat., January 25
[Great Lakes JETAA Job Fair](#) @ Novi, MI

Thurs., January 30
[Japan's Indo-Pacific Strategy lecture](#) @ UM Center for Japanese Studies, Ann Arbor, MI

Through Feb. 9:
[Scholar's Garden Exhibit](#) @ MSU Art Museum, East Lansing, MI



The official magazine of the
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN:
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New Year's Greetings from Consul General Nakagawa



Happy New Year, everyone! At the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, we wish each of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous new year. To read Consul General Nakagawa's new year's greeting, please click [here](#).

Robotics CEO Speaks on Michigan Campuses

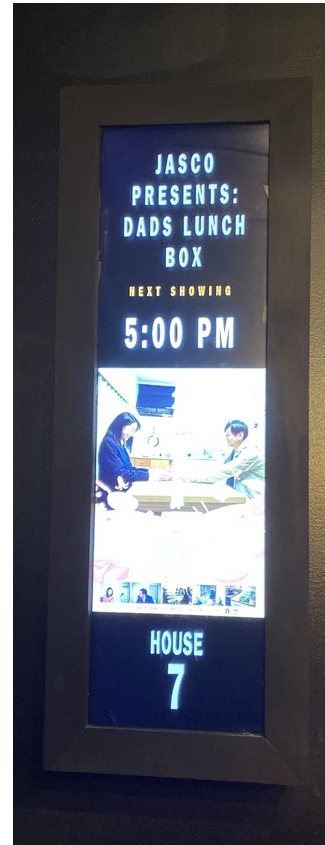


In December, the growing presence and usefulness of robots in daily life was explored in lectures given at Michigan State University and Western Michigan University by Dr. Reo Matsumura, CEO of Karakuri Products, Inc.

At each lecture, students, faculty, and community members from a wide range of fields gathered to learn about the use of anime-character robots to increase productivity in a retail environment. Dr. Matsumura also made visits to robotics labs on both campuses, where students briefed him on their research. In addition, he toured a STEM-focused magnet middle school in Kalamazoo.

The Consulate appreciates everyone who took the time to participate, and all those who collaborated to make these visits successful.

Japanese Movies on the Big Screen in Ohio



On the second Sunday in December, a special double-feature came from Japan to the big screen in Columbus, OH. An audience ranging from teenagers to senior citizens enjoyed a free public screening of the recent films *Pop in Q* (animation) and *Dad's Lunch Box* (live action), in Japanese with English subtitles.

The Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) organized the screening with support from the Japan Foundation, and presented it in partnership with the Gateway Film Center and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit.

Japan's Security the Focus of January Lectures



Mr. Yoichi Kato



Dr. Yuichi Hosoya

In collaboration with The Ohio State University and the University of Michigan, the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit is pleased to welcome two experts on Japan's national security for a series of lectures this month.

Mr. Yoichi Kato is a Senior Researcher at the Asia Pacific Initiative, and Dr. Yuichi Hosoya is a Professor of International Politics at Keio University.

Mr. Kato will examine "The Role of Japan-U.S. Alliance in the Face of U.S.-China Strategic Rivalry" on Monday, January 13, at 3:30pm in Room 175 Mendenhall Lab in Columbus, OH.

Dr. Hosoya will present "Japan's Indo-Pacific Strategy in the US-China Rivalry" on Thursday, January 30, at 12:00 noon in Room 110 Weiser Hall, Ann Arbor, MI.

Admission to these lectures is free and open to the public. Please join us!

Oshōgatsu: Japan's Biggest Holiday



Celebrating the new year (*oshōgatsu*) in Japan involves numerous popular traditions carried out over many days. January 1 is a national holiday, and many businesses are closed for at least the first three days of January. Students usually have about two weeks of winter vacation from school at this time. Families gather and enjoy special "luck-bringing" meals, called *osechi ryōri*, which are prepared well in advance, to minimize the need to cook during the holidays.

On New Year's Eve, many families gather around the TV to watch special programs and eat *toshi-koshi* buckwheat noodles, symbolizing long life. From well before dawn on New Year's Day, people flock to shrines and temples to ring out the old year, and pray for a healthy, happy new year. Traditionally, children were given toys, rice cakes, or other small gifts called *o-toshidama*, but today, this term refers to small envelopes of cash that children receive from their parents and other relatives.

*ConsuLink is the official newsletter of
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