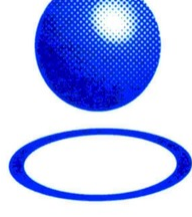


CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

- Tues., May 5 & June 2
[J-Chat Japanese Conversation Group](#) @ online platform
- Wed., May 6, 13, 20, & 27, and June 3 & 13
[Cleveland Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ online platform
- Thurs., May 7 & 14
[Metro Detroit Japanese Conversation Meetup](#) @ online platform
- May 9 - 10
[Michigan All-State Bonsai Show](#) @ online platform
- Thurs., May 14 & 21
[Children's Day Exercise & Craft](#) @ online platform
- Sat., May 23
[Momo's Japanese Songs & Stories](#) @ online platform
- Thurs., June 4
[Conversation with Japanese Paleontologist](#) @ online platform
- Sat., June 6
[Virtual "Rajio Taiko" Exercise Class](#) @ online platform
- Thurs., June 11
[JASGC Virtual Concert](#) @ online platform
- Fri., June 12
[JASCO Cooking Class](#) @ online platform
- June 12, 13, 17, & 18
[GEN-J Bon Odori events](#) @ online platform
- June 14 - 20
[6th Annual Ann Arbor Japan Week](#) @ online platform

Free online concerts using Japanese instruments by:
[Columbus Koto Ensemble](#)
[Dublin Taiko Group](#)
[Great Lakes Taiko Center Sakura Performance Group](#)



The official magazine of the
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN:
We Are Tomodachi



We Are Tomodachi is a digital publication that highlights Japan's attractions and initiatives by the Japanese Government.

The Early Summer 2020 edition is available in PDF & E-book formats. You can find them here:
[Magazine homepage](#)

Quick Links

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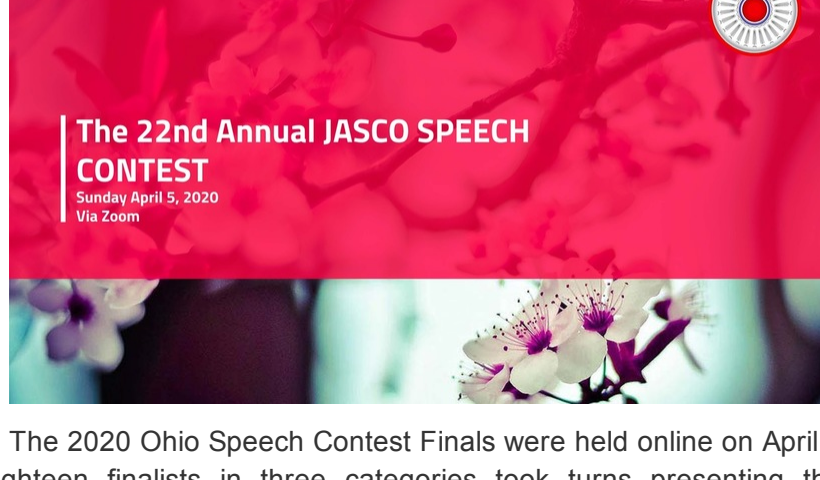


Digital Tools Support Safety and Learning

As public-health precautions continue, the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit posts updates on its [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) in order to promote safety and keep you informed. Please check out the [Event Calendar](#) on our website and the newsletter's "Calendar" section (at left) for opportunities to stay in touch with Japanese language and culture, such as:

- Japan-related concerts and other, often free, events held online;
- Japanese conversation practice groups that meet virtually;
- webinars and language-learning tools, such as those posted in the Japan Foundation's ["Nihongo-e-na" Portal for Learning Japanese](#).

Ohio Speech Contest Finals Held Online



The 2020 Ohio Speech Contest Finals were held online on April 5. Eighteen finalists in three categories took turns presenting their speeches in Japanese via video livestream. They answered questions from the judges, Ms. Noriko Mills, Ms. Laura Renz, and Mr. Hiroshi Fukuda, while JASCO Executive Director, Dr. Ben Pachter, served as moderator.

Congratulations to the top three winners in each category:

HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY:

- 1st place: Joshua Gauche (Finneytown Secondary Campus)
2nd place: Aidan Johantges (Marysville Early College High School)
3rd place: Michael Hughes (Marysville Early College High School)

COLLEGE CATEGORY:

- 1st place: Mark Hornyak (Case Western Reserve University)
2nd place: Hannah Lee (The Ohio State University)
3rd place: Alexandre Gunnerson (The Ohio State University)

ADVANCED CATEGORY:

- 1st place: Isaac Bennett (The Ohio State University)
2nd place: Sarah Hipple (University of Findlay)
3rd place: Chuling Peng (The Ohio State University)

The nearly 5-hour-long contest is available for public viewing on [JASCO's YouTube website](#). Kudos and thanks to the participants, judges, and sponsors who made the contest possible!

Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl & Cultural Expo

Boosts Learning for Students and Families

On March 8, thirty teams of middle- and high-school students of Japanese from 10 schools competed in five divisions at the 27th annual Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl ([MJQB](#)) at the University of Michigan.

In the morning, there were preliminary competition rounds and a Cultural Expo open to the public, featuring demonstrations and displays of Japanese traditional arts—such as tea ceremony, kendo, calligraphy, and origami—in addition to the Hinoki Cup bilingual quiz game for 3rd- to 8th-graders, an anime screening, and a Japanese conversation room.

The afternoon program included remarks from Consul General Nakagawa and from Mr. Ueda of the Japan Business Society of Detroit, plus recognition of the winners of this year's Nengajo Contest, before the final MJQB championship round. Congratulations to the following teams, who took home first-place trophies in each division:

- DIVISION I: Ohara Language School (Ann Arbor, MI)
DIVISIONS II, III, & IV: Troy High School (Troy, MI)
DIVISION V: Garden City High School (Garden City, MI)

Other participating teams represented Birmingham Groves High School, the Center for Advanced Studies and the Arts in Oak Park, Garden City Middle School, Lansing Everett High School, Monroe County Intermediate School District, South Lyon East High School, and Troy Athens High School.

The MJQB is sponsored each year by the [Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan](#), in collaboration with the Japanese Business Society of Detroit and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. Thank you to all the participants, coaches, judges, spectators, and volunteers who took part this year!

Detroit Hina Matsuri Event Fun for All Ages



This year's Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival) celebration on March 1 at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) featured a variety of Japanese traditional arts and activities for all ages. Attendees heard remarks by Consul General Nakagawa as well as [Japan Business Society of Detroit](#), [Japan Cultural Development](#), and [DIA](#) representatives.

In addition to the the traditional *hina* doll display, the event featured live musical performances of the traditional *koto*, *sanshin*, and *shamisen*, as well as demonstrations involving tea ceremony, *wagashi* traditional sweets, calligraphic art, flower arranging, and *shosa* (proper movement in *kimono*).

Festivalgoers were able to sample Omi tea from Michigan's sister-state of Shiga, try their hand at origami, enjoy an animated film, and listen to traditional folk tales, told in Japanese and English.

This annual event is sponsored by the DIA in collaboration with the Japan Business Society of Detroit, Japan Society of Detroit Women's Club, Japan Cultural Development, and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit.



Congratulations to 2020 Graduates!



Spring means graduation ceremonies in both Japan and the U.S., but with some differences. In Japan, the academic year for schools and universities begins in April and ends in March. Graduation ceremonies are usually held in March, at elementary, junior high, high school, and university level, followed by school entrance ceremonies in April.

In the U.S., the academic year begins in August or September for most schools and universities, and may end in April, May, or June. Graduation ceremonies at the high school and college level receive the most attention. In the U.S., graduates don caps and gowns modeled on medieval European scholars' garb, while Japanese students usually wear school uniforms, or in some cases *kimono*, for graduation. Congratulations to the class of 2020 on both sides of the Pacific!

Welcome to New Consulate Staffer, Mr. Saito!



The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit is pleased to welcome Mr. Hiroaki Saito to our staff. Mr. Saito succeeds Mr. Odai as Consul.

Before his posting in Detroit, Mr. Saito served as First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Angola. He says what he enjoys most about his career is communicating in different languages. Mr. Saito's hobby is music appreciation, and his favorite foods include Italian cuisine and red wine. Welcome to the Consulate staff, Mr. Saito!

*ConsuLink is the official newsletter of
the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit*

400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1600 | Detroit, MI 48243 US

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