



## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Wed., September 30

[Why We Study Anime & Manga Roundtable](#) @ online platform

Fri., October 2

[MSU Interlingual Interpreting Workshop](#) @ online platform

Sat. & Sun., October 3 & 4

[Fall Bonsai Show](#) @ Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, MI

Sun. & Sat., Oct. 4 & 10, and Oct. 18 & 24

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

Tues., October 6

[J-Chat Japanese Conversation Group](#) @ online platform

Wed., October 7

[Novi Library Japanese Virtual Conversation Group](#) @ online platform  
[Cleveland Virtual Japanese Meetup](#) @ online platform

Thurs., October 8

[JASMSO Shinola Takumi Effect Series](#) @ online platform

Sat., October 10

[JOI Virtual Tour of Japan](#) @ online platform

Fri., October 23

[Columbus Koto Ensemble Autumn Concert](#) @ online platform

Mon., October 26 - Sun., November 1

[Saginaw-Japan Week](#) @ online platform



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 Summer 2020 edition is available in PDF & E-book formats.

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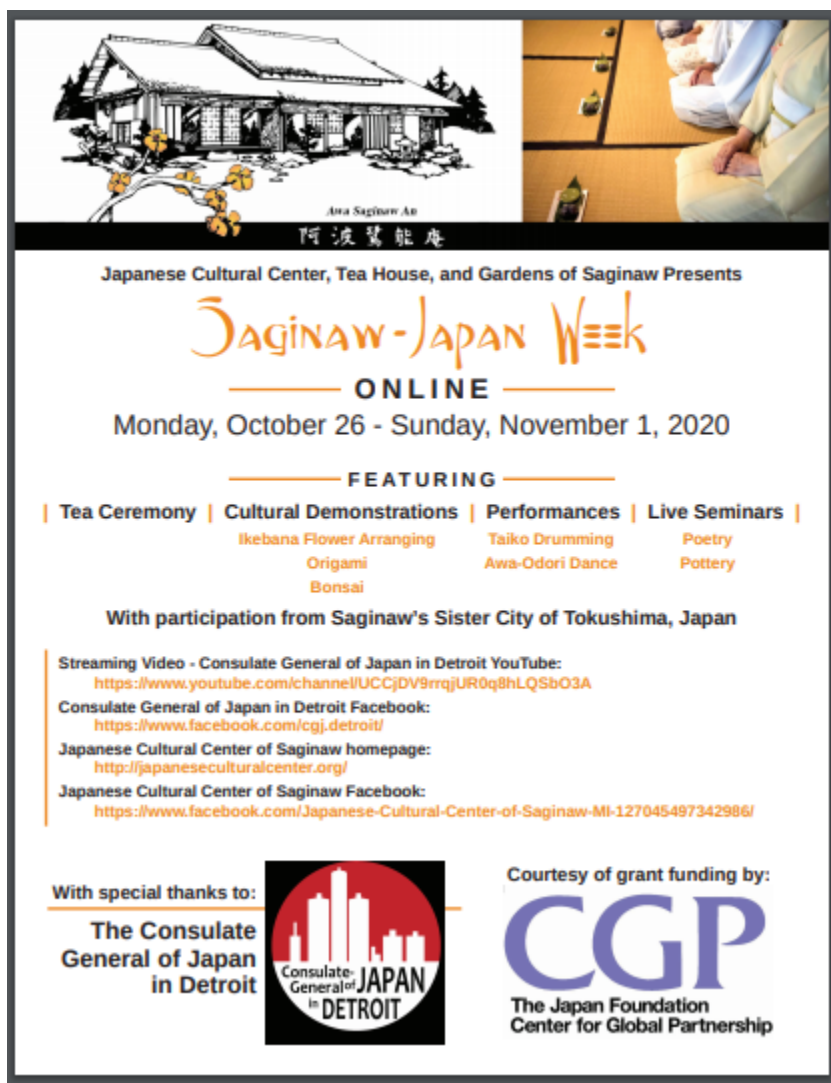
## Quick Links

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

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

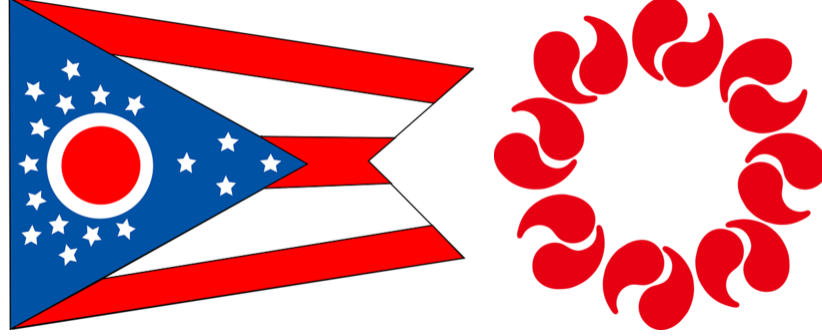


## Saginaw Japan Week Offers Cultural Exploration Virtually



From Monday, October 26 to Sunday, November 1, the [Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House, & Gardens of Saginaw](#) is hosting "Saginaw Japan Week," an online celebration of Japanese culture. It will include demonstrations of tea ceremony, bonsai, and origami, as well as seminars on Japanese poetry and pottery, and performances of *taiko* drumming and the Awa-Odori dance from Saginaw's sister-city of Tokushima. All activities are free and open to the public via the internet, with video livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and posted on the Consulate's [YouTube channel](#). Please join in the fun!

## Saitama and Ohio Celebrate 30 Years of Sister-State Relations



October 22, 2020, marks the 30th anniversary of the official sister-state relationship between the U.S. state of Ohio and the Japanese prefecture of Saitama, just north of Tokyo. This relationship originated when Saitama Governor Yawara Hata and a group of Saitama businessmen toured Honda of America's Ohio locations in September 1985.

After several exchange and goodwill visits, Saitama Gov. Hata and Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste signed an agreement making an official sister-state relationship between Ohio and Saitama on October 22, 1990. The official flags of each state are pictured above (left: Ohio; right: Saitama). Congratulations and thank you to all who have made this ongoing relationship strong!

## Consulate YouTube Channel Explores Japanese Sister-City Relations in MI & OH

The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit is pleased to announce a new series of videos about Japanese sister-city relationships in Michigan and Ohio, to be featured on our YouTube Channel starting in October. These will include interviews with local supporters of sister-city exchange activities, and offer opportunities to learn about local culture in the participating cities on both sides of the Pacific. We invite everyone to check them out, and subscribe to our YouTube channel [here](#).

## Japanese Farmers Transform Rice Fields into Works of Art

October is a time of harvest, particularly in northern Japan, where the phenomenon of "*tambo* art" or "rice-paddy art" originated in recent years. In the spring, groups of farmers select designs and plant different varieties of rice to create colorful patterns and scenes, such as the one pictured above, as the rice matures. It has brought some towns and villages an increase in tourism, as travelers visit to see the *tambo* art for themselves.



*ConsuLink is the official newsletter of  
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