



## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Extended through Nov. 28:  
[Yasue Sakaoka: Old & New](#)  
@ McConnell Arts Center,  
Worthington, OH

Sun., November 1  
[Japanese Poetic Traditions Webinar](#) @ online platform

Sun. & Sat., Nov. 1 & 7  
[Ann Arbor Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ online platform

Wed., November 4  
[The Four Immigrants Manga Webinar](#) @ online platform  
[Cleveland Virtual Japanese Meetup](#) @ online platform  
[Novi Library Japanese Virtual Conversation Group](#) @ online platform

Sat.-Fri., November 7-13  
[Grab-and-Go Crafternoon in Japan](#) @ Novi Public Library

Sun., November 8  
[Japan Fall Festival](#) @ Centerville, OH & online

Sun., November 15  
[Ann Arbor Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ online platform

Thurs., November 12  
[JASGC Virtual Gala](#) @ online platform

Sat., November 14  
[EASC/OATJ Fall Conference](#) @ online platform

Tues., November 17  
[JASCO Geostrategy in the Grassroots Webinar](#) @ online platform

Wed., November 18  
[Kitchen Cars in Postwar Japan](#) @ online platform

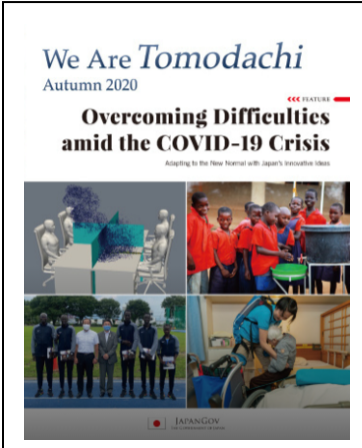
Thurs., November 19  
[Japan's Political Stability in Turbulent Times](#) @ online platform

Tuesday, Nov. 24  
[Bluffton Public Library Origami Live workshop](#) @ online platform

Tues., December 1  
[J-Chat Japanese Conversation Group](#) @ 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 Autumn 2020 edition is available in PDF & e-book formats. You can find them here: [Magazine homepage](#)

## Quick Links

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

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)



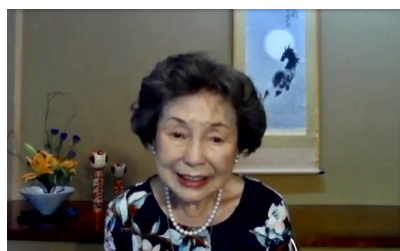
## Saginaw Japan Week Offers

### Cultural Exploration Virtually

During the last week of October, the Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House, & Gardens of Saginaw hosted "Saginaw Japan Week," an online celebration of Japanese culture. The week-long extravaganza included two live webinars on cultural topics, as well as video recordings of greetings, presentations, demonstrations, and performances by contributors in Michigan and Japan, as summarized below. All the videos will remain accessible to the public [here](#) until December 31, and may also be viewed on the [Center's YouTube channel](#).

#### Greetings

The Saginaw Japan Week videos include virtual greetings from Consul General Tsutomu Nakagawa, Saginaw Mayor Floyd Kloc, Tokushima Mayor Sawako Naito, and Tokushima International Association President Hiromu Morizumi, with an appearance by Tokushima's mascot, "Tokcy" (pronounced *toke-shee*).



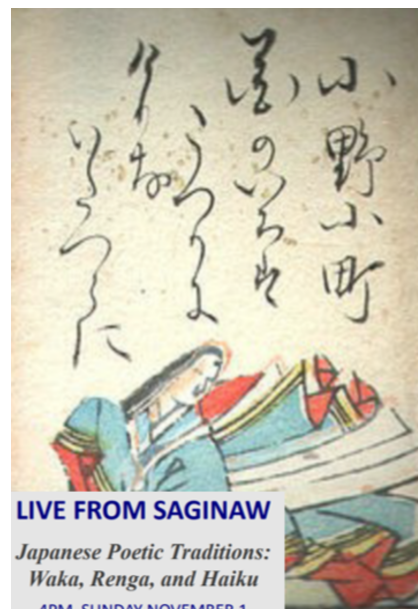
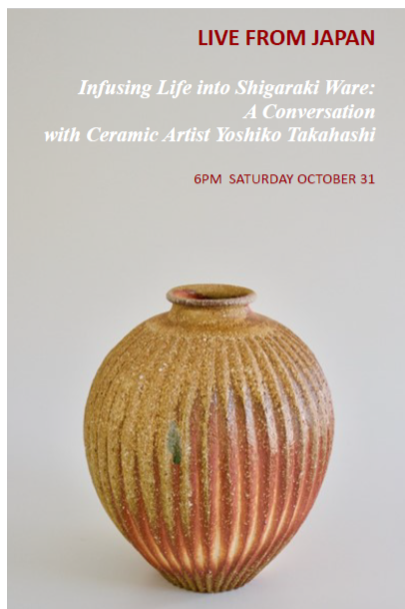
Ms. Yoko Mossner (left) and front view of Awa Saginaw An tea house (right)

#### Welcome to Saginaw Japanese Cultural Center

The development and construction of the Awa Saginaw An tea house by Japanese and American collaborators 35 years ago is discussed in an interview with the first director of the Japanese Cultural Center, Ms. Yoko Mossner (pictured above left). It is explored in more detail in a virtual tour of the tea house and gardens, which begins with narration by Japanese Cultural Center Board President, Michael Todd Hall (pictured with the tea house, above right).

#### Saginaw's Sister-City of Tokushima

Saginaw's 59-year-old sister-city relationship with Tokushima is one of the longest-standing in Michigan. The people, places, and traditions of Tokushima are spotlighted in videos about the city's natural and cultural features, its famous Awa Odori dance festival, and some of its exchange students to Saginaw.



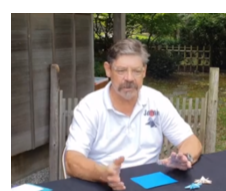
#### Webinar Videos

Saginaw Japan Week concluded with two live webinars. "Infusing Life into Shigaraki Ware: A Conversation with Ceramic Artist Yoshiko Takasaki" features Dr. Natsu Oyobe of the University of Michigan Museum of Art interviewing the artist in her studio in Japan. In "Japanese Poetic Traditions: Waka, Renga, and Haiku," Dr. Monika Dix of Saginaw Valley State University explores the relationships and contrasts among poetry styles developed in medieval Japan. The facilitator for both Zoom webinars is Ms. Masumi Azu Boles, Director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Saginaw.



#### Performances and Demonstrations

Virtual performances include video montages of *taiko* drumming by the Great Lakes Taiko Center & Raion Taiko Ensemble at the Saginaw Japan Festival, and of dancing by the Tokuno Ren Awa Odori dance troupe (pictured above center) and others at festivals in Saginaw and Tokushima. Also captured on video are a tea ceremony being performed at Awa Saginaw An by the Urasenke Tankokai Michigan Association (pictured above left), and demonstrations of other Japanese cultural traditions, such as ikebana, bonsai, and origami, by Saginaw-area volunteers (including, pictured below, left to right: Ms. Judy Takako Thomas, Mr. Jack Sustic, and Mr. Mark DeWolf-Ott).



## Shichi-Go-San Festival Celebrates Children

In mid-November, a children's festival called Shichi Go San is celebrated throughout Japan. "Shichi-go-san" literally means "7-5-3" in Japanese. This refers to traditional milestones in children's development at ages 3, 5, and 7. On or around November 15th, parents take their 3- and 5-year-old sons and 3- and 5-year-old daughters to the local shrine, to give thanks and pray for their children's continued health. The children are typically dressed in formal kimono outfits, for portrait-type keepsake photos, and they enjoy treats such as "*chitose ame*" (or "thousand-year candies") that symbolize long life.



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