



## CALENDAR Exhibits & Events

Sat., August 3  
[Now & Then:  
Japanese Kimono Show](#) @  
Cincinnati Art Museum

Fri.-Sat., August 9-10  
[Centerfold Origami Convention](#)  
@ Columbus Marriott  
Northwest, Dublin, OH

Wed., Aug. 14 - Sat., Aug. 24  
[Michigan Goodwill Mission  
Visit to Shiga Prefecture](#)

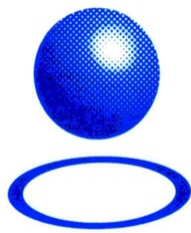
Sat., Aug. 17  
[International Summerfest](#) @  
Kellogg Community College,  
Battle Creek, MI

Sun., Aug. 18  
[Copies & Creativity in East  
Asian Art](#) @ University of  
Michigan Museum of Art, Ann  
Arbor, MI

Aug. 22 - Oct. 20  
[Yani Sheng: Netsuke Dreams](#)  
@ McConnell Arts Center,  
Worthington, OH

Sat., Aug. 24  
[Dublin Taiko with Tenjin Kaze  
no Kai - 15th Anniversary  
Concert](#) @ Jerome Middle  
School, Dublin, OH

Sat., Aug. 31  
[World of Bonsai presentation](#)  
@ Japanese Cultural Center,  
Saginaw, MI



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*We Are Tomodachi*

We Are *Tomodachi*  
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formats. Find them here: [Magazine  
homepage](#)

## Quick Links

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

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
Japan](#)

[Japan National Tourism  
Organization](#)



## JET Program Participants Depart for Japan



Earlier this month, 58 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program participants departed from Detroit Metropolitan Airport to assume their new posts at schools and government offices throughout Japan.

The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit hosted a pre-departure reception for the group on Friday, August 2. At the reception, the new JETs received advice, encouragement, and best wishes from the Great Lakes JET Alumni Association (JETAA) members, educators, and other guests.

Since its founding in 1987, the JET Program has brought over 66,000 college graduates from more than 50 different countries to work in Japanese schools, boards of education, and government offices to promote language and cultural exchange at a grassroots level. Depending on their qualifications and interests, JETs work as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) or Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs).

To learn more about the JET Program, please visit the [JET USA website](#).

## Dayton and Oiso Celebrate 50-Year Relationship



On Friday, August 2, a celebration dinner was held in Dayton, Ohio, marking the 50th anniversary of its sister-city relationship with Oiso, Japan, the oldest such relationship between Japan and Ohio.

Consul General Tsutomu Nakagawa congratulated the attendees, including members of the Dayton-Oiso Sister City Committee and the Oiso International Friendship Association, on their longtime relationship, involving exchanges of hundreds of citizens and dozens of students over the years.

On Saturday, August 3, Levitt Pavilion in Dayton (pictured) was open to the public for a day of musical performances, demonstrations, and various arts and crafts, to commemorate the 50-year relationship.

## "Japanese Brand" Products on Display at Consul General's Residence



Japan's advanced technology and refined production culture can be found in its "Japan Brand" products. One example is a Toyota Boshoku America vehicle seat, manufactured using Toyota's sophisticated foam-in-place method, which is now on display at the Consul General's official residence.

The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit values the Japan Brand and will continue to develop partnerships with Japanese companies to promote their products.

## Bon Dances Held on Both Sides of the Pacific



Summer in Japan brings *Obon*, a holiday with Buddhist roots, devoted to honoring the spirits of one's ancestors. Celebrated in July in some regions and August in others, *Obon* is one of the biggest traditional events of the year, when many Japanese return to their hometowns and enjoy local traditions and festivals with family and friends.

One highlight of the celebration is the *bon-odori*, an outdoor group dance by community members dressed in traditional garb, such as *yukata*, lightweight cotton kimono. Earlier this summer, approximately 80 people participated in a *bon-odori* in Ann Arbor, Michigan, sponsored by the Grassroots Exchange Network - Japan (GEN-J), during Ann Arbor Japan Week.

*ConsuLink is the official newsletter of  
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