



CALENDAR Exhibits & Events

Wed., December 4
[Can an Animation Character Robot Increase Our Productivity?](#) presentation @ Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Thurs., December 5
[Can an Animation Character Robot Increase Our Productivity?](#) presentation @ Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Sat., December 7
[JACL Mochitsuki Party](#) @ Lookout Lodge, Waterford, MI

Sat., December 7
[JASGC Bonenkai](#) @ Cincinnati Zoo, Cincinnati, OH

Sun., December 8
[JASCO Japanese Film Screening](#) @ Columbus, OH

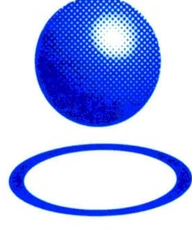
Thurs., December 12
[JASMSO Holiday Dinner](#) @ Meadow Brook Hall, Rochester, MI

Dec. 14, 2019 - April 26, 2020
[Yayoi Kusama: Fireflies on the Water](#) @ Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, OH

Sat., December 14
[JLSC Fun Fair](#) @ Japanese Language School of Cleveland, OH

Mon.-Wed., December 16-18
[Studio Ghibli Fest: The Tale of Princess Kaguya](#) @ selected theaters in MI & OH

Thurs., December 26
[Tea-Time Theatre: Howl's Moving Castle](#) @ Detroit Film Theatre, Detroit, MI



The official magazine of the
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We Are Tomodachi



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Japanese Art Appreciation Day Draws Crowds at Oakland University



On November 8, Japanese Art Appreciation Day was held on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester, MI. Students, faculty, and community members were treated to presentations and live demonstrations by Ms. Kyoko Fujii, a *shodo* master from Kyoka Japanese Calligraphy Design Art Studio, and Mr. Tatsuki Hakoyama, fine artist and instructor from Ferris State University's Kendall College of Art & Design.

The Oakland University Japan Club and the Grassroots Exchange Network Japan (GEN-J) co-hosted this event with the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. Many thanks to all who participated!

Fashion Expert Highlights

Pop Culture Style in Ohio and Michigan



In late October and early November, Atomi University Associate Professor Jin Nakamura shared his insights about Japanese fashion and pop culture with various audiences in Ohio and Michigan.


Dr. Nakamura spoke about the co-creation of pop culture and fashion during his visits to Bowling Green State University and Kent State University in Ohio, and to the Youmacon anime and cosplay convention in Detroit, MI.

Thank you to all who attended, and to the venues that collaborated with the Consulate General of Japan to host these presentations!

Virtual Robotics Expert to Speak in Michigan

DR. REO MATSUMURA

Can an Animation Character Robot Increase Our Productivity?



Dr. Reo Matsumura, PhD, is CEO, CTO, and co-founder of Karakuri Products Inc., located in Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Matsumura was awarded his PhD by the Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University, in 2012. His research interests include human-robot interaction, social implementation via robotics, and the development of communication robots. He currently directs the "Ghost-In-The-Shell S.A.C. 1/2 sized TACHIKOMA" project.

In collaboration with Michigan State University and the Soga Center at Western Michigan University, the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit is pleased to welcome Dr. Reo Matsumura to Michigan for a series of lectures about his cutting-edge research on the use of virtual and real robots in a retail environment. Dr. Matsumura is CEO & CTO of Karakuri, Inc. in Tokyo.

In "Can an Animation Character Robot Increase Our Productivity?" Dr. Matsumura will focus on improving human productivity through the integration of robotics and otaku culture. Specifically, he will use as an example the case of a miniaturized virtual robot version of Tachikoma, a character from the film *Ghost in the Shell*, working in a retail environment.

Admission to Dr. Matsumura's lectures is free and open to the public:

Wednesday, December 4, at 3:00pm in Room 115 International Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI; and

Thursday, December 5, at 5:00pm in Room 2730 Sangren Hall, WMU, Kalamazoo, MI.

Japanese Movies on the Big Screen in Ohio



Consulate General of Japan in Detroit

FREE SPECIAL FILM SCREENINGS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

Pop in Q 3 PM



(c) TOEI ANIMATION / POP IN Q Partners 2016

Dad's Lunch Box 5 PM



(c) 2017 "DAD'S LUNCH BOX" Film Partners

GATEWAY FILM CENTER
1550 NORTH HIGH STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43201

FREE SCREENING, RSVP REQUIRED
VISIT [HTTPS://JAS-CO.ORG/EVENTS](https://jas-co.org/events) TO RSVP



On Sunday, December 8, there will be a public screening of two recent films from Japan (in Japanese with English subtitles) at the Gateway Film Center in Columbus, OH:

3:00-5:00pm: Pop in Q (ポップインQ) (animation, 2016)

5:00-7:00pm: Dad's Lunch Box (パパの弁当は世界一) (live action, 2017)

Organized with the support of the Japan Foundation, this event is presented by the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) in partnership with the Gateway Film Center and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. Admission is free, but advance registration is required. Please visit the [JASCO website](#) to register.

Seibo: Holiday Gift-Giving in Japan



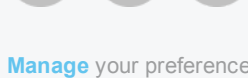
December in Japan, as in many other countries, is a time for gift giving. But unlike Christmas presents, *seibo* end-of-year gifts in Japan often consist of food and drink or other practical items, and are given by one family to another, or by a company to its clients. Historically, gifts were given to one's parents or the head of one's clan as an offering for a New Year rituals. Nowadays, sending gifts as the year draws to a close is an expression of gratitude to those whose assistance has been helpful throughout the year.

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

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