



CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

Monday, April 2nd
["Modern Japan in a Global Context" Mini-Conference @ Bernath Auditorium](#)

Wednesday, April 4th
[OSU IJS Lecture: Mark MacWilliams, "Rethinking What's Sacred about 'Ano Hana' Anime Pilgrimage" @ Billy Ireland Cartoon Library and Museum](#)

Thursday, April 5th
[CJS Thursday Lecture Series | Dancing Ground Zeroes in Japan and the United States: Eiko & Koma's Transnational Choreographies of the Nuclear @ Weiser Hall](#)

Friday, April 6th
[Sacred Scriptures in a Secular Society: Hand-copying Buddhist Texts in Japan @ Hatcher Graduate Library](#)

Saturday, April 7th
[Marysville High School Evening of Japanese Culture @ Marysville High School](#)

Saturday, April 7th
[3rd Annual Midwestern Japanese Studies Graduate Student Workshop @ Hagerty Hall](#)

Saturday, April 7th
[Ohanami Cherry Blossom Festival @ Bowen-Thompson Student Union](#)

Sunday, April 8th
[13th Annual JSO Spring Festival @ Ohio Union](#)

Monday, April 9th
[CJS Film Series | Ran @ Michigan Theater](#)

Thursday, April 12th
[CJS Thursday Lecture Series | Murakami Haruki: Whatever Works @ Weiser Hall](#)

Thursday, April 12th
[The 21st JASCO Anniversary Reception @ Law office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP](#)

Saturday, April 14th
[Columbus Bonsai Society Introductory Bonsai Class @ Oakland Nursery](#)

Sunday, April 15th
[EMU Japanese Culture Festival @ Bowen Field House](#)

Monday, April 16th
[CJS Film Series | The 47 Ronin Part 1 & 2 @ Michigan Theater](#)

Tuesday, April 17th
[Weiser Hall Inauguration Lecture: Global Hot Spots and Blind Spots @ Weiser Hall](#)

Hanami Season



As winter turns to spring, the cherry blossoms, or Sakura, begin to bloom. It is a time of change and rebirth. In Japan, this is the beginning of the new school year, as well as the new fiscal year, so viewing the cherry blossoms is representative of a fresh start.

Traditionally, flower viewing, or hanami, welcomed the new year's harvest, as well as kicked off the new rice planting season. Over the centuries this tradition has evolved. Today, hanami is a great opportunity to spend time with friends and family while picnicking under the cherry blossom trees. You may want to try a special lunch box, or bento, feature Sakura themed foods, or you may want to drink some delicious sake and take in your surroundings. You may also join in an exciting festival to celebrate the coming of spring.

There are many Cherry Blossom events that you can attend all across Michigan and Ohio such as the Bowling Green State University Ohanami Chery Blossom Festival in Bowling Green, Ohio. Additionally, if you would like to enjoy relaxing under cherry blossom trees, you can visit the groves of Belle Isle in Detroit, Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, the Cherry Blossom Trail in Dayton, or travel up to Traverse City along County Road 633.

Wherever you choose to go and whatever you do to celebrate, please enjoy the cherry blossom season!

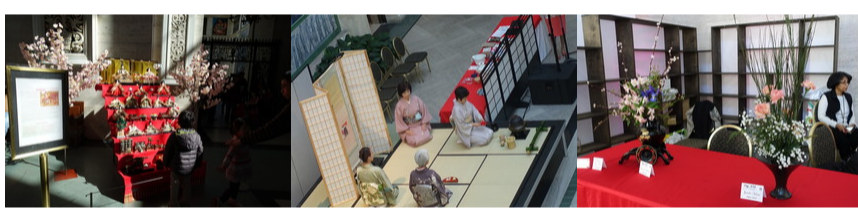
Invitation Program for Japanese American Students

Applications are currently available (until April 6th) for the annual Invitation Program for Japanese American Students. This program provides an expense paid ten-day trip to Japan, with meetings, tours, sightseeing, school visits, and home stays. The purpose is designed to familiarize students with various aspects of the country and promote mutual understanding between Japanese people and Japanese American youth.

Applicants must be Japanese American high school students (not possessing Japanese nationality) who have not been previously invited to Japan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the same program. Applicants should have a strong interest in Japan.

For more information and to apply, please click [here](#).

Hinamatsuri at the DIA



On Sunday, March 4th, the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, together with the Detroit Institute of Arts and Japan Cultural Development, hosted the Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day) Festival.

Over 2000 people attended the day's festivities which included flower decorating (ikebana), tea ceremonies, koto performances, Japanese sweets making, and origami folding. Additionally, several girls were chosen to try on kimonos and attendees enjoyed a seven-tiered Hina doll display.

Announcing the Winners of the 2018 Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest



On Saturday, February 24th, 18 high school and university/college students competed in the Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest at the Novi Civic Center in Novi, Michigan. Everyone received participation prizes, but there were 10 overall winners.

In the high school category, Brian Engwall from Troy Athens High School won the Consul General's Award. Claire Stibich from Troy Athens High School won the JBSD Special Prize. Ben Nolan, Ekim Koca, and Emily Lin, all from Troy Athens High School, won third, second, and first place respectfully.

From the university/college level, Shahad Sulaimani from Western Michigan University won the Consul General's Award. Eric Jutila from Michigan State University won the JBSD Special Prize. The third place winner was Emelyn Rutowski from Eastern Michigan University. In second place was Gai Robertson from Eastern Michigan University. And, in first place was Sakila Islam from the University of Michigan.

Congratulations to all the speech contest winners!

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



The official magazine of the
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

We Are Tomodachi

We Are Tomodachi
Winter 2018



The Winter 2018 edition is available in PDF and E-book formats. Find them here: [Magazine homepage](#)

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