



CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

Saturday, July 7th
[Tanabata Celebration @
Kaltenbach Park](#)

Saturday, July 28th
[26th Annual JASGC Golf
Outing @ The Links](#)



The official magazine of the
GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN

We Are Tomodachi



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Tanabata



Tanabata, also known as the 'Star Festival,' is an annual Japanese festival taking place on July 7th. The festival celebrates the story of the cowherd, Hikoboshi, and the weaver, Orihime. The story speaks of the two falling so deeply in love that they began shirking their duties. As a result, Orihime's father, one of the gods of the heavens, sent the two of them to opposite sides of the Milky Way. He decreed that the lovers would only be able to meet one time a year on the 7th day of the 7th month.

To celebrate this occasion, the Japanese people write their wishes on small strips of paper and tie them around bamboo trees in hope that they will come true. People decorate branches all over Japan in honor of the occasion. In certain areas of Japan, people celebrate Tanabata on August 7th, as it is closer to the seventh day of the seventh month on the traditional lunar calendar.

Umi-No-Hi



Umi-No-Hi, also known as Marine Day, is a Japanese national holiday celebrating the sea. This year it is celebrated on July 16th.

"For Japan, a nation surrounded by the sea, the sea has been essential from ancient times as a place for transporting goods and obtaining food in abundance. Japan enjoys the sixth largest maritime jurisdiction in the world and it extends far in the distance out to the horizon.

"The plentiful resources provided by this vast sea hold great potential. In recent years, there have been mounting expectations towards the development of ocean energy and mineral resources in the waters of Japan that will lead to the creation of new marine industries, including development efforts towards the commercialization of methane hydrate and other resources." (As stated by Prime Minister Abe [here](#).)

Umi-No-Hi doesn't have any formalized traditions associated with it, but, as it is celebrated in summer, many people enjoy participating in maritime activities and eating summer foods. In Odaiba, Tokyo, lanterns are illuminated all over the beachfront in honor of the holiday.

Sister City/Sister State Anniversaries

2018 is the 50th anniversary of the sister state relationship between Michigan and Shiga Prefecture. It is also a year of celebration for sister cities between Japan and Michigan/Ohio.

In the state of Michigan, Kalamazoo and Wyandotte are celebrating their 55th anniversary with their sister cities Numazu and Komaki respectively. Pontiac is celebrating its 40th anniversary with its sister city Kusatsu. Furthermore, Monroe and Clinton Township are both celebrating their 25th anniversaries with Houfu and Yasu respectively.

In Ohio, Dayton is celebrating its 50th anniversary with Oiso. Additionally, Cincinnati is celebrating its 30th anniversary with Gifu and Euclid is celebrating its 25th anniversary with Naraha. Marysville is celebrating its 5th anniversary of friendship city relations with Yorii.

There will be many festivities surrounding these anniversaries so please stay tuned to the Consulate General event calendar [here](#). For more information about Michigan and Ohio sister cities with Japan, please click [here](#).

Welcome Mr. Ebihara



The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit is delighted to welcome Mr. Yuki Ebihara as the newest member of its staff. Mr. Ebihara succeeds Mr. Takemura as the Consul of the Political/Economic Section.

Mr. Ebihara was dispatched to Detroit by the Ministry of Transportation where he worked for the Road Transport Bureau.

Mr. Ebihara enjoys driving around with his family and is actively seeking new hobbies. He enjoys eating ramen and drinking beer and wine. He also enjoys watching anime with his two sons.

Welcome Mr. Ebihara and Yoroshiku-onegaishimasu!

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

400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1600 | Detroit, MI 48243 US

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