



## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Through April 3, 2022:  
[Stories in Japanese Art](#) @  
Cleveland Museum of Art,  
Cleveland, OH

Through Sun., January 23:  
[Contemporary Japanese  
Ceramics](#) @ Allen Memorial  
Art Museum, Oberlin, OH

Sat. & Sun., January 1 & 9  
[Ann Arbor \(MI\) Japanese  
Language Meetup](#) @ online  
platform

Wed., January 5  
[Novi \(MI\) Library Japanese  
Conversation Group](#) @  
online platform

Fri., January 7 & 21  
[Van Buren District Library  
Anime/Manga Club](#) @  
Covert, MI

Thurs., January 13  
[Hofu-Monroe Book Club](#) @  
online platform  
[UM-CJS Lecture on Voter  
Evaluations of Candidate  
Age](#) @ Ann Arbor, MI and  
online

Fri., January 21  
[JASGC Kimono-Wearing  
Demonstration](#) @ online  
platform

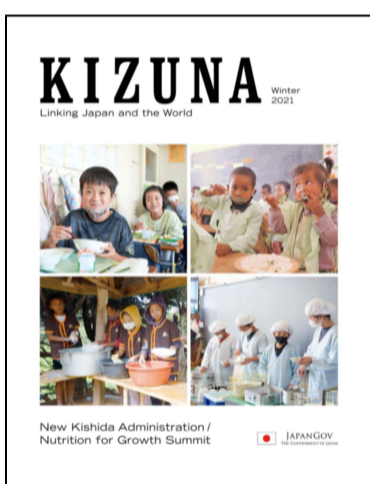
Sat., January 29  
[JASGC Dry Landscape  
Gardens seminar](#) @ New  
Richmond, OH

Thurs., February 3  
[UM-CJS Lecture on Japan  
by Consul General Shindo](#)  
@ Ann Arbor, MI and online



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*Kizuna*



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## Quick Links

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

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
Japan](#)



## We Wish You All a Happy New Year!



あけましておめでとうございます！ (Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu!) Happy New Year! According to the traditional zodiac (called *eto*, pronounced "eh-toe," in Japanese), this is the year of the tiger, a symbol of strength and bravery. The animals associated with each of the 12 years in the zodiac cycle are, in order: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and boar. We hope that the year 2022 brings all of our readers health, strength, courage, and happiness!

## Consul General Shindo "Meets"

### Miss Osaka Prefecture



On December 6, Consul General Shindo made a visit to the Ohio History Connection, home of "Miss Osaka Prefecture," one of 58 special "friendship dolls" (or *yūjō ningyō*) sent to the U.S. from Japan in 1927, as a gesture of goodwill and friendship. Miss Mariko Osaka-fu, the friendship doll designed to represent Osaka Prefecture in western Honshū, was originally sent to New Jersey, but was gifted to the state of Ohio in 1929.

Miss Osaka-fu was created almost a century ago by the artisan Goyo Hirata, who was later designated one of Japan's Living National Treasures. Modeled on a 7-year-old of the time, she is dressed in a silk *kimono* and *obi* sash patterned with flowers and butterflies, and has several pairs of miniature sandals for her feet. Other accessories that came with her to the U.S. include a miniature *koto* (floor harp) and a complete set of tea ceremony utensils. Miss Osaka-fu is one of three existing friendship dolls in Ohio.

## School Visits Offered Online



In recent months, the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit has expanded its school visit program to include online presentations about Japan and Japanese culture to schools anywhere in our service area of Michigan and Ohio. Examples from a recent presentation about "fall in Japan" are pictured here.

Consulate staff members with expertise in Japanese culture and language are available during weekday business hours to make online presentations and answer questions. Details and contact information may be found [here](#).



## Michigan & Ohio Japanese Language Contests Slated for March 2022

While they may be subject to change due to various factors related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, plans are being made for this year's Japanese language contests for non-native learners of Japanese in Michigan and Ohio. The 2022 Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest, the Ohio Japanese Language Speech Contest, and the Ohio Japan Bowl are expected to be held on various weekends in March.

Instead of the traditional Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl, the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan plans to host a (non-competitive) online Japanese Culture Festa again this year, also in March. These events are typically open to students in high school and college/university. Please stay tuned for details!

*ConsuLink is the official newsletter of  
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