



## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Through July 17, 2022:  
[Kabuki Woodblock Prints](#) @  
Allen Memorial Art  
Museum, Oberlin, OH

Wed., February 2  
[Novi \(MI\) Library Japanese  
Conversation Group](#) @  
online platform

Thurs., February 3:  
[UM-CJS Lecture on Japan  
by Consul General Shindo](#)  
@ online platform  
[JASGC Webinar about The  
Minds of Japanese  
Business Managers](#) @  
online platform

Sun. & Sat., February 6 &  
12  
[Ann Arbor \(MI\) Japanese  
Language Meetup](#) @ online  
platform

Thurs., February 10  
[Hofu-Monroe Book Club](#) @  
online platform

Thurs., February 17  
[IJS/JASCO Geostrategy in  
the Grassroots Update](#) @  
online platform

Fri., February 18  
[Van Buren District Library  
Anime/Manga Club](#) @  
Covert, MI

Sat., February 19  
[LifeSmart Education Japan  
Summit](#) @ online platform

Mon., February 21  
[OSU Brad Richardson  
Lecture on Bridging Divides](#)  
@ online platform

Tues., February 22  
[Mogadore Branch Library  
Teen Anime Club](#) @  
Mogadore, OH



The official magazine of the  
**Government of Japan:**  
*Kizuna*



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Government of Japan.  
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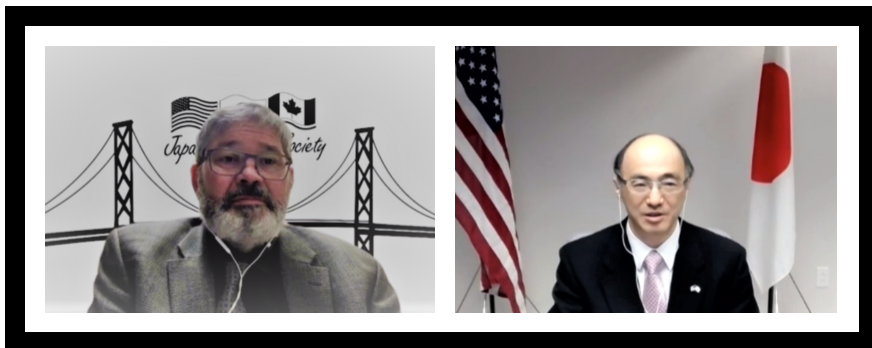
## Quick Links

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

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
Japan](#)



## Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Ontario Hosts Webinar



On December 13, 2021, Consul General Shindo participated in a webinar hosted by the Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Ontario (JASMO) as part of their virtual year-end event.

JASMO Chairman, Dr. Michael Fetters (pictured above left), conducted a mini-interview of the Consul General (pictured above right), and Mr. Bernard Swiecki (pictured below, lower right) of the Center for Automotive Research presented an update about automotive industry trends, including electrification of vehicles, autonomous driving features, and other advances in which Japan-affiliated companies are actively involved.

JASMO President, Liseann Gouin (pictured below, upper right) served as moderator. The Consulate appreciates JASMO's efforts to further understanding and friendship between Japan and the U.S.



## Virtual Setsubun Reaches Students Online



On January 31, Consulate staff members made an online "class visit" to an 8th grade, beginning-level Japanese class at Garden City (MI) Middle School, taught by Ms. Carrie Watkins. Their visit included a presentation about Setsubun, a traditional Japanese event occurring in early February each year.

During Setsubun, Japanese families aim to expel any evil spirits from their homes and welcome in good fortune. The custom of "mamemaki" involves chanting while throwing dried soybeans at a "demon" (usually a family member dressed up in a costume and/or mask) until he exits the home. Information about requesting a school visit or presentation about Japanese culture may be found [here](#).

## Registration Deadlines for Online Japanese Language Events Near



The formats and deadlines of next month's Japanese language competitions for students in Michigan and Ohio were recently announced, as detailed below.

### 2022 Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest Application Deadline: 5:00pm on Wednesday, February 16

This contest is open to high school and college/university non-native learners of Japanese. Finalists will present their speeches before a panel of judges online on **Sunday, March 13**. The guidelines and application form for the Michigan speech contest may be found [here](#).

### 2022 Ohio Japanese Speech Contest Application Deadline: 11:59pm on Friday, February 25

In a shift from previous years, this contest now includes a single category, open to anyone age 15 and up who has lived in Ohio for at least two years, and has studied Japanese as a non-native learner. Finalists will present their speeches online before a panel of judges on **Sunday, March 20**. The guidelines and application form for this year's Ohio speech contest may be found [here](#).

Other events for students of Japanese language and culture to be held online in March include: [Ohio Japan Bowl](#) (Sat., March 5) for teams of high schoolers; [Hinoki Cup](#) Japanese-English bilingual quiz competition (Sun., March 6) for grades 3-9; and the [Michigan Japanese Culture Festa](#) (Sun., March 20) for high school and college students.

*ConsuLink is the official newsletter of  
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400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1600 | Detroit, MI 48243 US

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