



# ConsuLink CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN

Keeping you updated on Japan-related news in Michigan and Ohio

March 2022

## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Wed., March 2  
[Cleveland Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ online platform  
[OSU-IJS Lecture on Honorifics in Japanese](#) @ online platform

Sat., March 5  
[Ohio Japan Bowl](#) @ online platform

Sun., March 6  
[Hinamatsuri Sing-Along Concert](#) @ online platform  
[Hinoki Cup Bilingual Quiz Game](#) @ online platform

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

Mon., March 7  
[JASGC Bonsai Webinar](#) @ online platform

Tues., March 8  
[Kenmore Branch Library Teen Anime Club](#) @ Akron, OH

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

Fri., March 11  
[Van Buren District Library Anime/Manga Club](#) @ Covert, MI

Sun., March 13  
[MI Japanese Language Speech Contest](#) @ online platform

Thurs., March 17  
[UM-CJS Lecture on Royal Women Landownership in Medieval Japan](#) @ online platform

Sat., March 19  
[Ellet Branch Library Anime Afternoon](#) @ Akron, OH

Sun., March 20  
[JTAM Michigan Japanese Culture Festa](#) @ online platform  
[Ohio Japanese Speech Contest](#) @ online platform

Thurs., March 24  
[JASGC Sukiyaki Cooking Demonstration](#) @ Cincinnati, OH

Wed., March 30  
[OSU-IJS Symposium on Global Comics and Manga](#) @ online platform

## Plum Blossoms Herald Spring in Japan



Admiring cherry blossoms is a well-known spring activity in Japan, but did you know that plum blossoms are the traditional first sign of spring, since they actually emerge several weeks earlier, in February and March? The Japanese plum tree (*Prunus salicina*) is the source of the apricot-sized plums, or ume, used to make sweet plum wine (umeshu) and sour pickled plums (umeboshi).

Plum blossoms can be red, pink, or white, and they are admired in parks and gardens, on hilltops, and even in potted bonsai displays. The plum blossoms pictured above are from Kairaku-en in Mito, Ibaraki Prefecture, one of the "Three Great Gardens of Japan," along with Kōraku-en in Okayama and Kenroku-en in Kanazawa.

## Japanese Language Events Abound in Michigan and Ohio



This month, the weekends are filled with a variety of events for students of Japanese language and culture in Michigan and Ohio. All will be using an online format, and several are open for public viewing. First, on **Sat., March 5, at the [Ohio Japan Bowl](#)**, teams of high school students of Japanese will compete using their knowledge of Japanese language and culture in a quiz-bowl type format. Then, on **Sun., March 6**, teams of heritage and non-heritage speakers of Japanese and English will compete in the **[5th Annual Hinoki Cup](#)**, for Michigan students in grades 3-9.

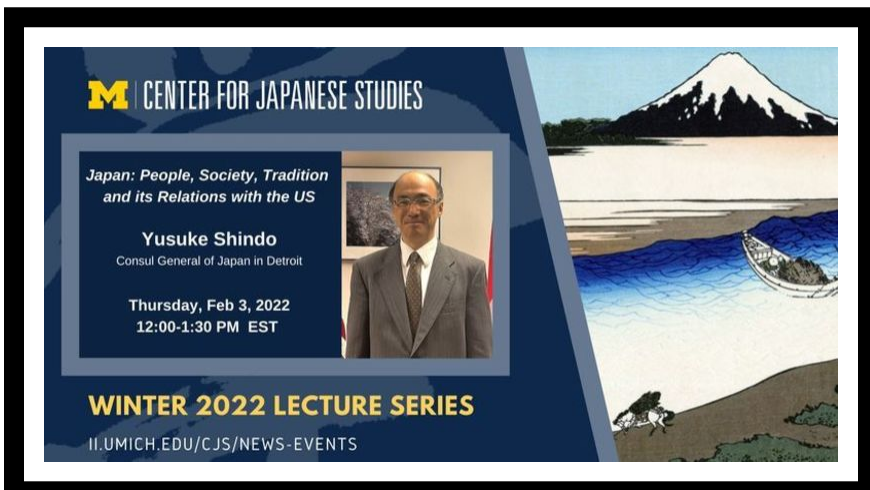
The following weekend, on **Sun., March 13**, the **[Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest](#)** will feature non-native learners in the high school and university categories, competing for hundreds of dollars in gift cards donated by generous local sponsors.

Finally, the month will wrap up with two events held on **Sun., March 20**. At the **[Ohio Japanese Speech Contest](#)**, non-native learners of Japanese age 15 and up will compete for prizes in front of a panel of judges, in an event hosted by the Japan America Society of Central Ohio. That same day, the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan will host the 2nd annual **[Michigan Japanese Culture Festa](#)**, a non-competitive conference-style collection of panels, presentations, and interactive activities related to various aspects of Japanese culture, ranging from tea ceremony and ikebana to anime and karaoke.

Best of luck to everyone involved!

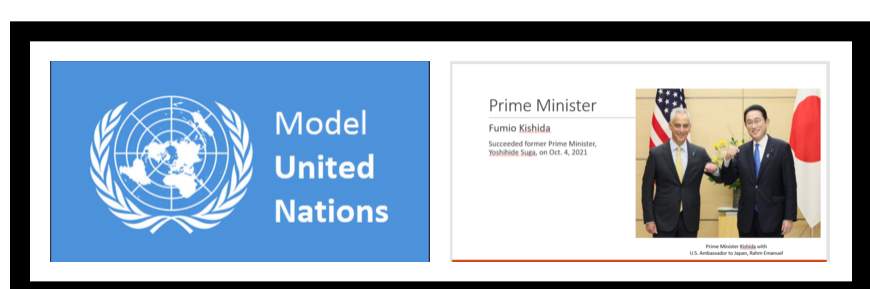
## RECENT CONSULATE ACTIVITIES

### Consul General Shindo Speaks on Japan in University Lecture Series



On February 3, Consul General Shindo presented a lecture online as part of the University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies (UM-CJS) Winter 2022 Lecture Series. Entitled "*Japan: People, Society, Tradition, and Its Relations with the U.S.*," the webinar was attended by scholars and students from all over the U.S. and beyond. After the lecture, participants engaged in a lively question-and-answer session, moderated by Prof. Shinobu Kitayama, Interim Director of UM-CJS. A video recording of the event is available [here](#).

### Consulate Helps Rural High School Team Prepare for Japan Role at Model U.N.



The Consulate General of Japan in Detroit recently received a special class visit request from a social studies teacher at Beaver Island Community School, located on Beaver Island in the northern part of Lake Michigan, a community of only 600 year-round residents. Mr. Adam Richards is the advisor to the school's Model United Nations Club, which is planning to attend the **[Mid-American Model United Nations Conference](#)** in Kalamazoo, MI, in early March.

The Beaver Island students, in grades 8-11, have been selected to play the role of the nation of Japan at the conference, and they wanted to learn more about Japan's government and culture before the event. In late February, Consulate staff members met virtually with Mr. Richards and the Model UN club members, and led a presentation about Japan, followed by a question-and-answer session. The students had done significant research and asked very good questions. We wish all the Model UN members the very best! Others interested in classroom presentations about Japan are welcome to contact us at [PR@dt.mofa.go.jp](mailto:PR@dt.mofa.go.jp).

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

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