



# ConsuLink

May 2022 Newsletter

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

## Season of New Tea and Special Sweets



May 5 is Children's Day, or "*Kodomo no Hi*," one of several consecutive holidays that comprise "Golden Week" in early May. In addition to displays of samurai helmets and colorful carp-shaped banners, celebrating Children's Day in Japan includes eating *kashiwa mochi*, sweet rice cakes filled with *anko* (red bean paste) and wrapped in *kashiwa* (oak) leaves. The oak leaves are considered a symbol of the prosperity of one's descendants, since oak trees don't shed old leaves until new leaves grow.



In Japan, May is also the time of year when the first green tea leaves are ready for harvest, as celebrated in the traditional children's song, "*Chatsumi*" (or "Tea Harvest"). The tea harvest extends from May to October, but the tea made from the first spring shoots, called "*shincha*" or "new tea," is prized for its particular flavor and health benefits.

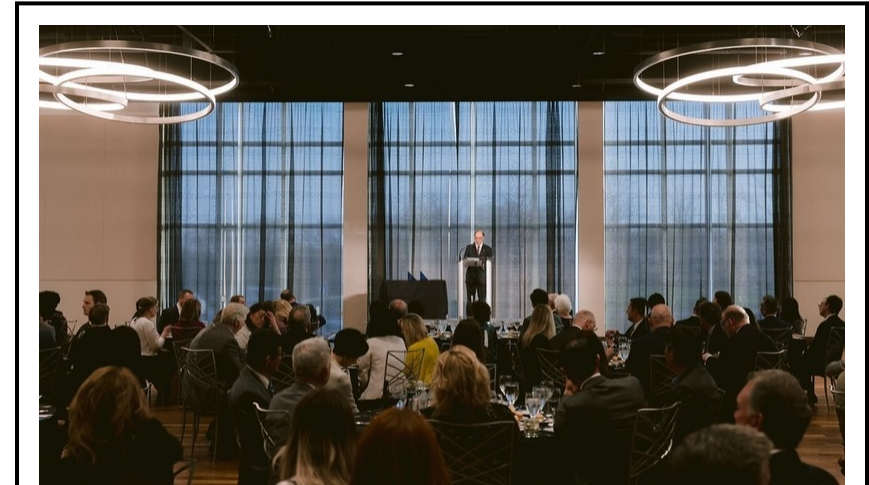
Tea plants are believed to store up the amino acid theanine and other nutrients during their winter dormancy period. Traditionally, drinking *shincha* harvested on "*hachijuu-hachiya*," or the "88th night" from beginning of spring, is believed to bring good health throughout the following year. Michigan's sister-state of Shiga is known for producing a tea called "*Omi-cha*," and Ohio's sister-state of Saitama is known for "*Sayama-cha*."

## Asian American Heritage Month Events Abound in Michigan and Ohio

May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and a wide variety of organizations in Michigan and Ohio are holding special events around that theme. In addition to the Asian Food Fest in downtown Cincinnati on May 7-8 and the Cleveland Asian Festival on May 21-22, Dayton Metro Library is hosting a variety of [speakers and performances](#) throughout the month, including a Japanese taiko drumming concert on May 7. In Michigan, the Detroit Institute of Arts is [hosting a weekend of performances](#), including folk stories from Japan, on May 18-19, and [Novi Public Library's AAPI Heritage Month programs](#) include storytelling, origami crafts, tea tasting, and an anime matinee. Additional events are posted in the "Calendar" column in the right margin, and on the Consulate's online [Event Calendar](#).

## RECENT CONSULATE ACTIVITIES

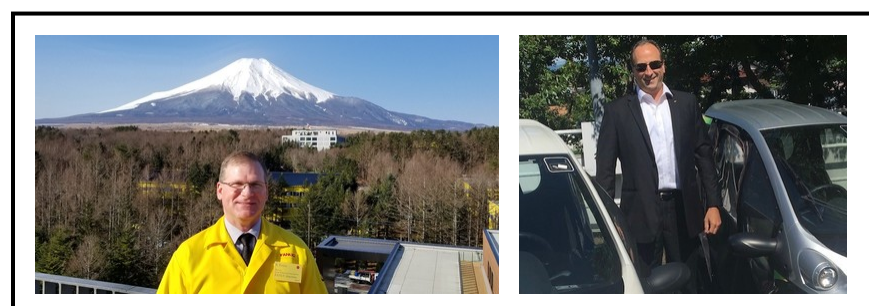
### JASCO Celebrates 25th Anniversary



The Japan America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO) was officially founded in April 1997, with the mission of bringing Ohio's Japanese and American communities together. On April 21, JASCO hosted a gala in Dublin, OH, to celebrate its 25th anniversary of fostering strong U.S.-Japan relations. At the gala, awards were presented to leaders of Honda Development & Manufacturing of America and American Honda Motor Co., and to the late Dr. Bradley Moore Richardson, for helping to further JASCO's mission. Consul General Shindo also gave remarks to the crowd who gathered to celebrate this milestone. Congratulations, JASCO!

## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL EMPLOYEES OF JAPAN-BASED BUSINESSES

### Executives Like Culture at FANUC America



FANUC America, in Rochester Hills, MI, is a world leader in cutting-edge robotics technologies, including computer numerical controls, servos, and other machines essential to the automotive industry. In recent interviews, two employees of FANUC America commented on their memorable experiences living in Japan and working with Japanese people.

Mr. Eric Potter, General Manager (pictured above left), observed that he is "always impressed by the Japanese culture of service and dedication," adding that attention to detail enables FANUC to "create the best products with world-class reliability." Mr. Todd Babisch, Director of Sales (pictured above right), mentioned his appreciation for how the "respect and pride" in Japanese culture are reflected in interactions with others in everyday life.

## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Through Sept. 18  
[Flower Prints of Katsuhira Tokushi](#) @ Dayton Art Institute

Sun., May 1  
[Koi Festival](#) @ Belle Isle, Detroit, MI

Fri., May 6  
[WMU Virtual Japanese Conversation Table](#) @ online platform

Sat., May 7  
[Anime Matinee: Spirited Away](#) @ Novi Public Library, Novi, MI  
[JASCO Children's Day Event](#) @ Dublin, OH  
[Wadaiko Gouken Drum Troupe](#) @ Main Library, Dayton, OH

Sat.-Sun., May 7-8  
[Asian Food Fest](#) @ Cincinnati, OH

Sat. & Sun., May 7 & 15  
[Ann Arbor \(MI\) Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ online platform

Thurs., May 12  
[Hofu-Monroe Book Club](#) @ online platform

Sat., May 14  
[A Taste of Tea](#) @ Novi Public Library, Novi, MI

Sat.-Sun., May 14-15  
[Michigan All-State Bonsai Show](#) @ Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, MI

Sun., May 15  
[Hanami Spring Picnic](#) @ MSU Tollgate Farm, Novi, MI

Tues., May 17  
[Anime Club for Teens & Tweens](#) @ Kenmore Branch Library, Akron, OH

Thurs., May 19  
[JASGC Nature Origami](#) @ Sharonville, OH

Fri., May 20  
[Van Buren District Library Anime/Manga Club](#) @ Covert, MI

Sat., May 21  
[Anime Afternoon: Manga](#) @ Ellet Branch Library, Akron, OH  
[FC Cincinnati Japan-America Community Night](#) @ Cincinnati, OH

Sat. & Sun, May 21-22  
[7th Annual Asian Festival](#) @ Cleveland, OH

Tues., May 24  
[JASMO Hokusai & Freer Lecture](#) @ online platform  
[Manga Mania: Koinobori](#) @ Paw Paw (MI) District Library

## QUICK LINKS

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)



[Kizuna: The official magazine of the Government of Japan](#)

Digital publication reporting on a variety of topics, promoting stronger links between Japan and the world.

[Consulate General of Japan in Detroit](#)



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

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[CGJ Website](#)

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