



ConsuLink

June 2022 Newsletter

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

Japan's Umbrella Culture Keeps Evolving



June in Japan is a time of frequent rainy days. It is no wonder that umbrellas, or *kasa*, have played an important part in Japanese culture for centuries. The making of traditional Japanese umbrellas, or *wagasa* (above left), using single stalks of bamboo and oiled paper, has been designated an "intangible cultural asset," with only a handful of artisans remaining.

Umbrellas in Japan have become more much high-tech, including those made of ultra-lightweight material weighing less than a cell phone, those equipped with tracking devices in case they are misplaced, hands-free "drone" umbrellas that hover above one's head, and umbrellas made of special water-repellent material that reveal decorative patterns when wet (above right).



Outdoor artistic displays of umbrellas have become popular in Japan. First popularized at an art festival in Portugal, "umbrella sky" displays can now be found in various public spots in Japan, including an outdoor shopping area in Kusatsu, Shiga prefecture (above left), and Moominvalley animation theme park in Saitama prefecture (above right).

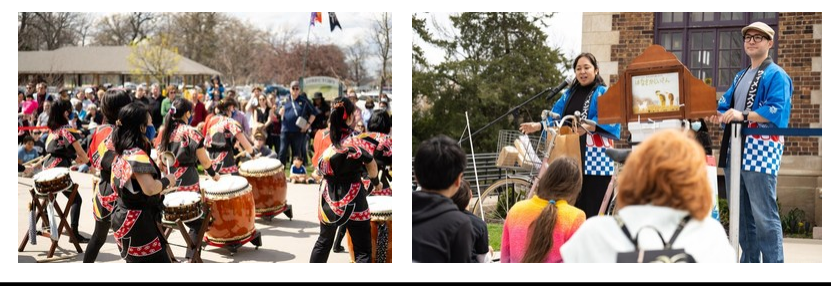
Manga Award Contest Now Open

Entries are now being accepted for the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs' International Manga Award contest! Michigan and Ohio residents are invited to submit their original, eligible manga to pr@dt.mofa.go.jp or via postal mail to the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit (see address in footer), no later than 5:00pm on Friday, July 1. Additional rules and details may be found [here](#).



RECENT CONSULATE ACTIVITIES

Koi Festival on Belle Isle Draws Over 2000



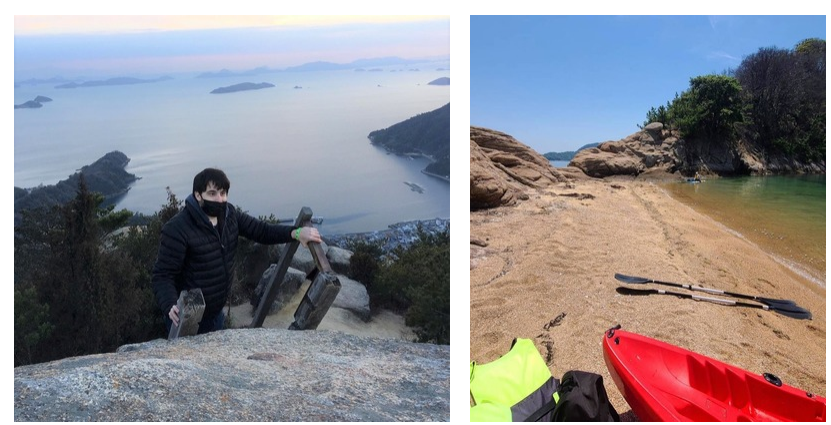
On May 1, the Belle Isle Conservancy hosted the Koi Festival on site for the first time since 2019, and drew more than 2000 attendees. This spring celebration of Belle Isle Aquarium's collection of *koi*, or Japanese carp, featured performances by Ensemble Hanabi, Great Lakes Taiko, and Sakura Japanese Instrumental Group, plus *kamishibai* storytelling by the Japan Society of Detroit Women's Club. Streetside Sushi provided a food truck, and the Great Lakes JET Alumni Association and our Consulate hosted children's activity tables.

Detroit's Belle Isle Park, the second most-visited state park in the U.S., has numerous blossoming cherry trees and a stone plaque commemorating the sister-city relationship between Detroit and Toyota (Aichi prefecture) which began in 1960. Details on the history of the festival and the sister-city relationship may be found [here](#).



SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL JET PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Ohio JET Enjoys Teaching English, Climbing, and Kayaking on Island in Hiroshima Bay



Since November 2021, Westerville, OH, native Nate Stover (above left) has been working as an assistant English teacher at 5 different schools in Kurahashi (Hiroshima prefecture), a fishing town in western Japan (population 7000), on the Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program. Nate reports that he is enjoying his new job and learning something new every day.

In addition to the natural beauty of its many beaches, mountains, hot springs, and plentiful wildlife, Nate also appreciates the kindness of the residents of the island, located in Hiroshima Bay, and about 75 minutes by train from the city of Kure (pop. 215,000). During his off-duty hours, Nate enjoys kayaking, paddle boarding, and occasionally climbing to high points on Mt. Hiyama to capture stunning views of the sea.

CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

Wed.-Sun., June 1-5
[Colossalcon](#) @ Sandusky, OH

Thurs., June 2
[JASMSO 30th Anniversary Celebration/Annual Dinner](#) @ Detroit Opera House Skydeck, Detroit, MI

Fri., June 3
[WMU Virtual Japanese Conversation Table](#) @ online platform

Sat.-Sun., June 4-5
[Bonsai in Bloom](#) @ Matthaei Botanical Gardens, Ann Arbor, MI

Sat. & Sun., June 4 & 12
[Ann Arbor \(MI\) Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ online platform

Thurs., June 9
[Hofu-Monroe Book Club](#) @ online platform

Fri.-Sat., June 10-11
[Grand Rapids Asian Pacific Festival](#) @ Grand Rapids, MI

Sun.-Sat., June 12-18
[Ann Arbor Japan Week](#) @ Ann Arbor, MI

Fri.-Sat., June 17-18
[Anime Ohio](#) @ Cincinnati, OH

Sat., June 18
[Anime Afternoon](#) @ Ellet Branch Library, Akron, OH

Sat.-Sun., June 18-19
[Cleveland Bonsai Club Spring Show](#) @ Cleveland, OH

Fri., June 24
[Van Buren District Library Anime/Manga Club](#) @ Covert, MI

Fri.-Sun, June 24-26
[Japanese Anime Film & Art Expo \(JAFAX\) 2022](#) @ Grand Rapids, MI

QUICK LINKS

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

KIZUNA



[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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