



ConsuLink

September 2022 Newsletter

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

Tea Houses Bring Flavor of Japan to MI & OH



As mentioned in the May 2021 issue of this newsletter, Michigan and Ohio boast several Japanese-style gardens, featuring elements of trees, water, and stones reminiscent of traditional *Nihon teien* gardens in Japan. Some of these gardens, such as [Schnormeier Gardens](#) in Gambier, OH (pictured above), include a Japanese-style tea house, or *chashitsu*, a place to perform the tea ceremony (known as *chadō* or *sadō*). Gardens make a fitting location for a tea house due to the tea ceremony's emphasis on nature and tranquility.



In Michigan, tea houses originally designed and built by Japanese carpenters may be found at the [Tokushima-Saginaw Friendship Garden](#) (pictured above left) and the [Richard & Helen DeVos Japanese Garden](#) at Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids (above right). At both locations, demonstrations of the Japanese tea ceremony are held on a regular basis and at special events. Tea ceremony demonstrations are among the activities that will be offered at the Saginaw Japan Festival, from 1:00-4:00pm on Sunday, September 18, at the Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House, & Gardens in Saginaw, MI.

For more information about the Japanese tea ceremony, please see the video titled "*Sadō: The Way of Tea*," by clicking [here](#). It is one of hundreds of educational videos about Japan on the [Japan Video Topics](#) YouTube channel.

Michigan Sister-City Activities Resume



Photo credits: WLEN News (L) & Marquette Area Sister Cities Partnership (R)

After the travel restrictions of recent years, there are signs that exchanges between sister cities in Michigan and Japan are beginning to resume. In late July, a 5-member delegation from Moriyama, Shiga (pictured above left), made a week-long visit to their sister city of Adrian, MI. The Moriyama City Council members toured the local area, met with the current and former mayors of Adrian, and transferred the Sister City Globe that travels between the two cities.

In early August, the city of Marquette, MI, celebrated the 43rd anniversary of its sister-city relationship with Higashiomi, Shiga, by hosting a visit by Consul General Shindo, and announcing a new Sister City Student Ambassador Scholarship. Funded by the City of Higashiomi, the scholarship was awarded to Northern Michigan University student, Chelsea Peterson, for a year of study at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU) in Shiga beginning this fall. The Marquette Area Sister Cities Partnership (members of which are pictured above right) received a certificate of recognition from Michigan Governor Whitmer for their efforts.

RECENT CONSULATE ACTIVITIES "Miss Okinawa" Friendship Doll and Obon Festival Highlights of CG Visit to Ohio



In mid-August, Consul General Shindo's visit to Ohio included stops in Cincinnati, Defiance, and Dublin. In Dublin, he took part in the 2022 Obon Festival, hosted by the Japan America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO), which featured the Dublin Taiko Group (pictured above left), traditional bon odori dancing, and other activities. In Defiance, the Consul General met with city officials and toured local industrial and educational sites. In Cincinnati, he met with members of the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati (JASGC) and staffers at the Cincinnati Art Museum (pictured above right), and got to "meet" the fourth of four friendship dolls in the Consulate's service area, Miss Mariko Okinawa, who arrived in the U.S. 95 years ago, in 1927.

SPOTLIGHT ON JAPANESE EDUCATORS IN MICHIGAN & OHIO

Junko Markovich Named Ohio Association of Teachers of Japanese President for 2022-24



In Ohio, the local affiliate chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Japanese is the Ohio Association of Teachers of Japanese, or [OATJ](#), which was established in 2000. The mission of this non-profit organization is to promote and improve the study and teaching of Japanese in Ohio, and to encourage a spirit of professional cooperation among its members. OATJ's membership is comprised of teachers at K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, and other advocates of Japanese education in Ohio.

After serving as OATJ's webmaster and most recently, as vice president, Junko Markovich (pictured above) of the University of Cincinnati was recently elected OATJ President for the 2022-2024 term. She says her goals as OATJ President include advocating for Japanese teaching and teacher preparation, particularly in light of the current nationwide shortage of instructors of Japanese, and strengthening OATJ's collaboration with industrial, governmental, and other sectors.

OATJ has a tradition of offering its members professional development workshops at least twice a year, in collaboration with such organizations as the Japan Foundation, Japan-America Society of Central Ohio, and The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center. During the pandemic, these in-person workshops pivoted to online offerings, including monthly informal discussions of issues related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in Japanese education. A recent survey of OATJ members revealed a preference for online offerings, so that will help shape decisions about future workshops. For more information about OATJ and its activities, please contact the group via email: oiatjohio@gmail.com.



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

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[CGJ Website](#)

CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

Through September 29:
[Made in Japan? Exhibit](#) @ Artworks, Big Rapids, MI

Sun., September 4
[Tottori-Detroit Reunion Band](#) @ Detroit Jazz Fest, Detroit, MI

Tues., September 6
[OSU-IJS Webinar on Two-Way Immersion Student Japanese Phonetic Ability](#) @ Columbus, OH

Thurs., September 8
[Hofu-Monroe Book Club](#) @ online platform
[UM-CJS Webinar on 75th Anniversary Communal Blueprint](#) @ online platform

Sat., September 10
[Dancing Babies with Momo Sensei](#) @ Traverwood Branch Library, Ann Arbor, MI

Sat., September 17
[Japanese Cultural Arts Hop](#) @ Vicksburg (MI) Cultural Arts Center
[JTAM Info Session on Studying Japanese at Michigan Colleges & Universities](#) @ online platform
[Summer's Mirage Koto Concert](#) @ Columbus, OH

Sun., September 18
[Saginaw Japan Festival](#) @ Saginaw, MI

Tues., September 20
[Anime Club Tweens & Teens](#) @ Kenmore Branch Library, Akron, OH

Fri., September 23
[Van Buren District Library Anime/Manga Club](#) @ Covert, MI

Sat., September 24
[MI Bon Summer Festival](#) @ Novi Public Library, Novi, MI

Wed., September 28
[JASGC Shabu-Shabu Cooking Demo](#) @ Cincinnati, OH

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](#)



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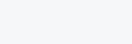
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