



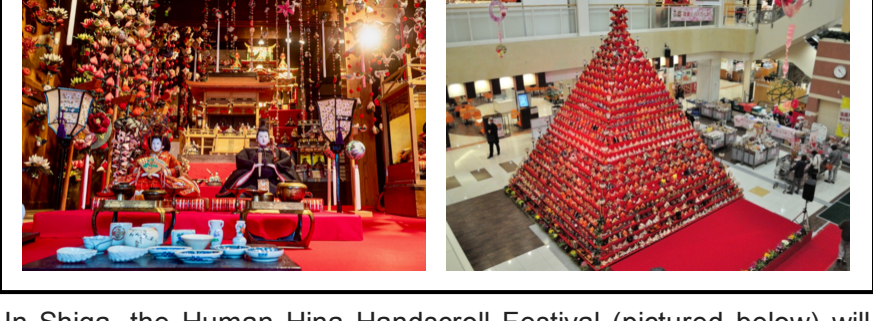
# ConsuLink

February/March 2023 Newsletter

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

## Japan's Doll Festival Taken to New Heights in Saitama and Shiga

Just as we welcome celebrations of Japan's traditional *Hina Matsuri*, or Doll Festival, in Detroit and Columbus during the first weekend in March, in-person celebrations are also returning in Japan, including Ohio's sister state of Saitama and Michigan's sister state of Shiga. Several towns in Saitama known for manufacturing *hina* dolls host elaborate public displays, such as the city-wide Hina Doll Exhibition in Hannō (below left), and the Surprise Hina Doll Festival in Kōnosu, featuring the "Hinamid," a 7-meter-high pyramid-shaped display of 31 tiers holding hundreds of *hina* dolls at a local shopping mall (below right).



In Shiga, the Human Hina Handscroll Festival (pictured below) will be held again this year after a 3-year hiatus. This festival features local young people dressed in period costumes, posing in *hina* doll formations at different locations in the Gokashō area of Higashiomi, the sister-city of Marquette, MI. This is supposed to evoke the illustrated handscrolls commonly used to tell stories in 12th century Japan.

Photo credits: Han-note.com (above left); Elumi Kounosu (above right); Maji.TV (below left); Higashiomi Tourist Assn. (below right)



## Events in Michigan and Ohio Spotlight Students of Japanese Language & Culture

This spring, many contests for learners of Japanese language in Michigan and Ohio are returning to an in-person format. Click on the links below to learn more about these upcoming events:

**[Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl & Culture Festa](#) - Sun., March 5, 2023 at University of Michigan - Ann Arbor**

**[Michigan Japanese Language Speech Contest](#) - Sat., March 11, 2023 at Novi Civic Center**

**[Ohio Japanese Speech Contest](#) - Sat., March 25, 2023 at Findlay University**

We also wish to congratulate the winners from all participating schools in the **Ohio Japan Bowl**, which was held on February 25th:

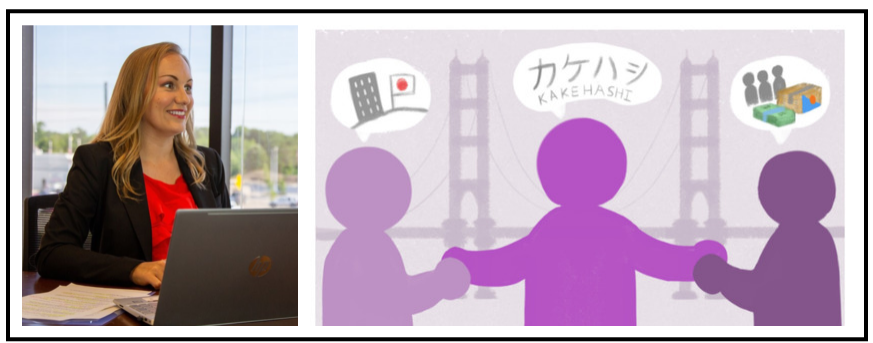
Dublin Coffman High School  
Dublin Jerome High School  
Fort Hayes Arts & Academic High School  
Marysville High School  
Marysville Early College High School



## SPOTLIGHT ON JAPAN-US CONSULTANT FROM MICHIGAN

### Student Exchange Leads to Japan-Centric Career

When Ms. Kasia Lynch (below left) decided to spend four months in Japan as a high school exchange student, she never could have predicted how dramatically it would affect her future. The Sterling Heights, MI, native ended up attending college and graduate school in Japan, and then working in Japan, Europe, and the U.S., building a career centered on her multilingual, multicultural skills and penchant for connecting people.



Kasia learned to speak Polish from her immigrant parents, and began studying Japanese while at Henry Ford II High School in Utica. At the urging of one of her favorite teachers, she took part in a sister-city exchange program and lived with a host family in Shiga for part of her senior year. She initially could not communicate well, but since her "host family, host teachers, and classmates were incredible," she soon got used to eating with chopsticks, commuting to school by train and bike, and so on.

Her Japanese language skills improved so much, Kasia earned first place in the inaugural Japanese Speech Contest hosted by the Consulate, in collaboration with the Japan Business Society of Detroit and the Greater Detroit & Windsor Japan America Society, in March of 1996. She continued studying Japanese at Boston University, then Kyoto, and later received a MEXT Scholarship to continue her studies in Tokyo, eventually completing her master's thesis, all in Japanese, at Ochanomizu Women's University.

Kasia has worked in the music promotion, electronics, translation, and automotive industries. As a consultant, she now focuses on connecting people who have Japanese language and cultural skills with companies aiming to be globally successful. She aims to help students of Japanese realize how marketable their skills are, and hopes to show companies how valuable such *kakehashi* ("bridge") employees can be.



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

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[CGJ Website](#)

## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Through May 12:

[Portraits of Feminism in Japan](#) @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Wed., March 1

[Japanese Conversation Group](#) @ Novi (MI) Public Library

Fri., March 3

[Hinamatsuri Dolls Festival](#) @ Yokoso Center, Columbus, OH

Sun., March 5

[Hinamatsuri Girls' Day Celebration](#) @ Detroit Institute of Arts

[Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl & Culture Festa](#) @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Thurs., March 9

[Hofu-Monroe Book Club](#) @ online platform

Sat., March 11

[MI Japanese Language Speech Contest](#) @ Novi, MI

Wed., March 15

[JASGC Wagashi Sweets Demonstration & Sampling](#) @ Cincinnati, OH

Sat., March 18

[Japan's Cool Words Lecture](#) @ Japanese Cultural Center, Saginaw, MI

Sun., March 19

[Hinoki Cup](#) @ Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI

Thurs., March 23

UM-CJS Film Screening [Tale of Princess Kaguya](#) @ State Theatre, Ann Arbor, MI

Sat., March 25

[JASCO Ohio Japanese Speech Contest](#) @ Findlay, OH

Tues., March 28

[OSU-IJS Lecture on Meiji Art](#) @ Columbus, OH

Fri., March 31

[Ohio Univ. Japanese Linguistics Colloquium](#) @ online platform

Thurs., April 20

[JASCO Anniversary Gala](#) @ Dublin, OH

## QUICK LINKS

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

## KIZUNA

Linking Japan and the World



[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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