



ConsuLink

June/July 2023 Newsletter

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

Summer Means Glamping and BBQ in Saltama & Shiga

Two popular summer activities in Shiga and Saitama prefectures are outdoor barbecues and "glamping" (a.k.a. "glamorous camping" or "luxurious tent living"). One reason for the growing popularity of glamping in Japan is that everything is provided, so campers can avoid the hassle of preparing and hauling equipment to and from the campsite. Those who would rather not "rough it" can stay outdoors in well-appointed tents in places such as Green Park Santō near Mt. Ibuki in Maibara, Shiga (pictured below left), and Riverpool near Minano in the Chichibu District, Saitama (pictured below right).



Many camping areas also feature barbecue facilities. Some offer campers the chance to pre-order meat, fish, and vegetables as part of their outdoor BBQ experience. This is the case at a campsite near Omihachiman, Shiga (pictured below left). At some camps located near rivers or lakes, tourists may choose to go fishing and then barbecue and eat what they catch. One traditional method of barbecuing fresh fish is still used at a camp near Tokigawa, Saitama (pictured below right).

Photo credits: [Glamp-Element.jp](#) (above left); [Casual-Camp-Style.com](#) (above right); [JTB Rurubu Kids](#) (below left); [InSaitama.com](#) (below right)



Grassroots Connections with Japan Flourish

In May, hundreds gathered at the MSU Tollgate Farm & Education Center in Novi for the 2023 Spring Hanami Picnic. In addition to a tea ceremony demonstration, kamishibai storytelling, taiko drumming, traditional dancing, and other activities, the Consulate and the Shiga Visiting Official from Michigan's sister state co-hosted an information booth (pictured below left).

In June, the Troy (MI) School District finalized an educational partnership agreement with Ritsumeikan Moriyama ("Ritsumori") High School in Moriyama, Shiga. After three years of participation in online collaborative research and cultural exchange with students at Ritsumori, students from Troy High School and Athens High School visited Japan in person in March and June of this year. Additional bilateral exchanges are also planned. Principal Keiji Terada is pictured (below right) on the Ritsumori campus holding a copy of the agreement.



In mid-June, the 9th annual Ann Arbor Week was co-sponsored by the U-M Center for Japanese Studies and the Japan Business Society of Detroit Foundation. Its free, family-friendly activities included special demonstrations and exhibits celebrating the 10th anniversary of the bonsai collection at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Those gardens were the site of [Japan America Society of Michigan & Southwestern Ontario's annual dinner](#) on June 6th, where U-M President Santa Ono and Consul General Shindo (pictured below left) made remarks and the Consul General presented JASMO Chairman Michael Fetters with a certificate of commendation (pictured below right).



SPOTLIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE LEADER FROM MICHIGAN

JCMU Alumnus Leads Sister-State Board

Mr. Jingran "David" Wang, an Ann Arbor software engineer and mobile application developer, was elected president of the [Michigan-Shiga Sister State Board](#) for 2023. He succeeds Michigan State Representative Brenda Carter of Pontiac (pictured below left with Consul General Shindo, Mrs. Shindo, and Mr. Wang, at the Emperor's Birthday Reception this February).



A graduate of the University of Michigan, Mr. Wang first visited Shiga prefecture during the 2008-09 academic year, as a student at the [Japan Center for Michigan Universities](#) (JCMU), in Ann Arbor's sister-city of Hikone. He returned in September 2017, as a member of the Michigan Goodwill Mission, and stayed with a host family in Hikone for a week. The photo (above right) from that visit includes, from right to left: Mr. Wang, Hikone International Friendship Association President Matsuo Ikegami, former Hikone Mayor Takashi Okubo, Mr. Wang's host mother Ms. Ikuko Tsutsumi, and fellow Goodwill Mission member Mr. Andy Gillman of Ypsilanti.

This fall, Mr. Wang will once again participate in the Michigan Goodwill Mission to Shiga, this time marking the 55th anniversary of the sister-state relationship. He attributes the health and longevity of Michigan-Shiga ties to the "personal relationships that have been built up over the years," adding that the homestay portion of the Goodwill Mission distinguishes it from other tour travel experiences. According to Mr. Wang, "Being invited to stay with a family in their home is truly a unique experience...We are not strangers, since we share a common bond of being sister-states or sister-cities before even setting foot in their door...so one can see why these bonds are so strong, even after many years apart."



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

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[CGJ Website](#)

CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

Through September 17:

[Washi Transformed Japanese Paper Exhibit](#)
@ Dayton (OH) Art Institute

Fri., June 30-Sun., July 2
[All U.S. Kendo Federation National Championships](#)
@ Oakland University, Rochester, MI

Mon., July 3
[Manga Monday](#) @ Redford Branch of Detroit (MI) Public Library

Fri., July 7
[JASGC Temakizushi Demo & Sampling Event](#)
@ Cincinnati, OH
[Tanabata Star Festival](#)
@ Saginaw, MI

Tues., July 11
[Japan America Society Young Professionals Member Company Visit to Toyota](#) @ Saline, MI

Tues., July 18
[Cleveland Elementary Japanese Language Meetup](#) @ Cleveland, OH

Sat., July 22
[Kogan Kon Anime Convention](#) @ Grand Haven, MI

Fri.-Sun., July 28 - 30
[Dokidokon Anime Convention](#) @ Kalamazoo, MI

Fri.-Sun., August 11-13
[Matsuricon Anime Convention](#) @ Columbus, OH

Sat., August 12
[JASCO Obon Festival](#) @ Columbus, OH

QUICK LINKS

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

KIZUNA

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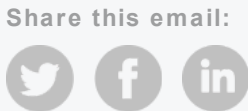
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