



ConsuLink

Oct./Nov. 2023 Newsletter

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

Saitama & Shiga Boast Unique, Colorful Trees

Some areas of Japan are famous for autumn displays of colorful leaves and special trees found nowhere else. In Ohio's sister-state of Saitama, the town of Nagatoro hosts a Fall Foliage Festival every November, including boat rides down the Arakawa River (below left) and nighttime illumination events. In a nearby town called Higashi Matsuyama, tree lovers can stop by Shoboji Temple to admire the bright yellow leaves of its massive, 700-year-old ginkgo tree (below right). A combination of several trees merged together, it measures over 100 feet tall and 36 feet in circumference.

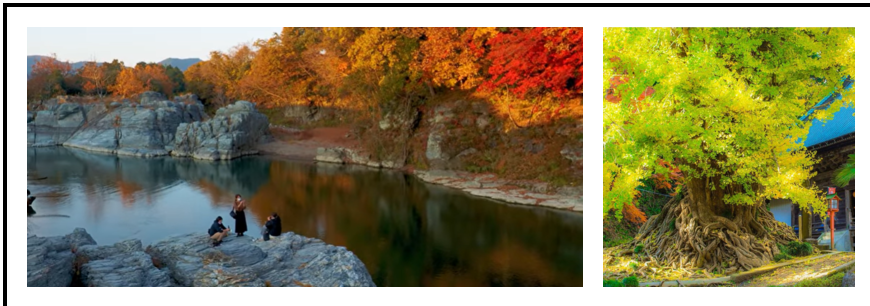


Photo credits: [InSaitama.com](https://www.insaitama.com) (left); [JapanBackpackersXpress](https://www.japanbackpackersxpress.com) (right)

In Michigan's sister-state of Shiga, a temple called Hyakusaiji, in the town of Higashiomori, is known for scenic foliage that reaches its peak in November (below left). Outside the town of Makino, Metasequoia Avenue offers a 1.5-mile long tunnel of 500 metasequoia trees, or "dawn redwoods" (below right).



Photo credits: [ZekkeiJapan.com](https://www.zekkeijapan.com) (above left and right)

Japan Festivals and Sake Tastings Draw Fans

This fall, Japan-related events in Michigan and Ohio drew many enthusiastic participants. In Michigan, crowds flocked to the Saginaw

CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

Through December 22:

[Manga no Ryokou Exhibit](#)
@ University of Michigan
Hatcher Graduate Library,
Ann Arbor, MI

Thurs., November 2

[Troy-Miami Public Library
High School Anime Club](#)
@ Troy, OH

Thur.-Sun., November 2-5

[Youmacon Anime
Convention](#) @ Detroit, MI

Sat., November 4

[JASGC Introduction to the
Way of Tea](#) @ Cincinnati,
OH

Tues., November 7

[Ikebana Workshop](#) @
Farmington Community
Library, Farmington Hills,
MI

Fri., November 10

[JASCO Japanese-English
Language Exchange](#) @
Columbus, OH

Sat., November 11

[Tea Ceremony
Demonstration](#) @ Hudson
Library & Historical
Society, Hudson, OH

Thurs., November 16

[UM CJS Lecture on
Geisha](#) @ Ann Arbor, MI

Sun., November 19

[JASMSO Sotatsu & Freer](#)

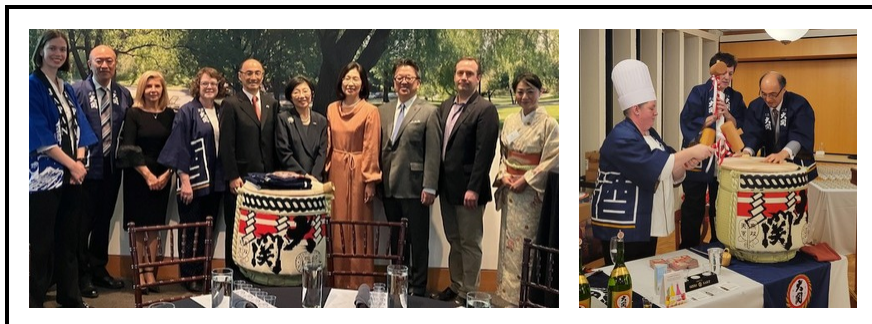
Japan Festival in mid-September (below left), and the Novi Japan Festival in early October (below right).



The Japan America Society of Central Ohio collaborated with the John Manjiro-Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange to host the 2023 Japan-America Grassroots Summit in late September. The summit involved dozens of visitors from Japan staying with host families and attending local events in Bellefontaine, Bluffton, Columbus, Delaware, Dublin, Findlay, Marysville, Sidney, and Troy, OH. (The Sidney group is pictured below left.) In mid-October, the Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati celebrated its 35th anniversary with a gala. Keynote speaker Toko Shiiki is pictured below right, with her partner, Dr. Erik Santos, and JASGC Executive Director, Ms. Anne Golden.



Also this fall, our Consulate collaborated with organizations in Michigan and Ohio to host educational events about Japanese sake. Dozens of culinary arts students, chefs, and fans of Japanese cuisine took part in these sake tastings, at gatherings of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs (below left), the Japan America Society of Michigan & Southwestern Ontario at PwC in Detroit, and the American Culinary Federation at Oakland Community College Culinary Studies Institute in Farmington Hills (below right).



SPOTLIGHT ON INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIAN FROM MICHIGAN

["Still Making Waves"](#)

[Presentation](#) @ Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

[Sho-jo-ji Japanese Dance Performance](#) @ Hudson Library & Historical Society, Hudson, OH

Fri., December 1
[WMU Soga Center/World Languages Dept. Godzilla Lecture](#) @ Brown Hall, Kalamazoo, MI

QUICK LINKS

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

KIZUNA Autumn 2023
 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](#)



Novi Librarian to Visit Japan on Goodwill Mission



For Ms. Shannon O'Leary, International Librarian at Novi (MI) Public Library (pictured below left with Consul General Shindo and his wife), a love of reading has led to a lifelong passion for Japanese culture. Ms. O'Leary first encountered a publication from Japan at the Birmingham (MI) library while in middle school. Stumbling upon an English translation of a Rumiko Takahashi *Inuyasha* series story, she began to read, and fell in love with the *manga* genre.



Ms. O'Leary made her first visit to Japan the summer before her senior year at St. Mary's College of California. She spent a month with her English-teacher aunt in Tokushima, then moved to Tokyo to take courses at Sophia University. After completing a master's degree in library and information science at Wayne State University in Detroit, Ms. O'Leary made her second visit to Japan in 2019, exploring Tokyo, Osaka, Nagano, and even climbing Mt. Fuji.

Since 2015, Ms. O'Leary has worked at the public library in Novi, a city with Michigan's largest concentration of Japanese residents. She manages the ESL and international collections, facilitates a monthly Japanese conversation group, and collaborates with local groups to expand cultural awareness. She volunteers as a *kamishibai* reader at the annual Hinamatsuri at the Detroit Institute of Arts, and deeply appreciates the "warm, welcoming openness" she has enjoyed from the Japanese community here. This fall, she is making her third visit to Japan, as a member of the Michigan-Shiga Goodwill Mission. She hopes that the experience will help her better serve the multicultural community of patrons at Novi Public Library and beyond.



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

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