



# ConsuLink

November/December 2024 Newsletter

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

## Farewell to Consul General Shindo

On Wednesday, November 13th, a gathering was held to honor Consul General Yusuke Shindo upon completion of his tenure at the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit. The event brought together leaders, friends, and members of the community to celebrate the profound connections he fostered in Michigan and Ohio.



The evening was filled with laughter, heartfelt tributes, and warm farewells. Distinguished speakers included Oakland County Executive Mr. David Coulter, Troy Mayor Robin Oda, and Mr. Haruhisa Kawase, Executive Director of the Japanese Business Society of Detroit, who all shared inspiring words of gratitude and admiration toward Consul General Shindo. Special recognition came from Battle Creek Mayor Mark Behnke and Mr. Derrick Redding, Chair of the Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Ontario, who presented awards honoring Consul General Shindo's achievements in strengthening Japan-Michigan relations, expressing gratitude for all that he accomplished since his arrival to Detroit in 2021. The celebration also featured a beautiful musical performance by Ms. Miyuki Mori and Mr. Yuta Sugano, whose artistry captivated the audience and added a poignant touch to the evening.

This memorable occasion was a celebration of the enduring friendships and shared memories he'll be leaving behind. The evening reminded all in attendance of the deep ties between Japan and the U.S. and the importance of fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

## Welcome Back JETs

## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

October 12th - March 30th, 2025

[EXHIBIT - Making Faces: 18 Essential Kabuki Plays](#)

@ Dayton Art Institute, Dayton, OH

Mon., December 2nd;  
Tues., December 17th

[Foreign Language and Area Studies \(FLAS\) Fellowship Info Session](#)

@ University of Michigan, MI

Thurs., December 5th  
[CJS Lecture Series | Fantasies of Ito Michio](#) @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Thurs., December 5th;  
Wed., December 11th;  
Thurs., January 9th  
[Ohio State University - EASC FLAS Fellowship Information Sessions](#) @ The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

December 6th and 7th  
[Study in Japan Virtual Fair 2024](#) @ Online Event, Japan

Mon., December 9th  
[University of Michigan, CJS presents: Benshi Attacks!](#) @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI



On Friday, November 8th, Consul General Shindo hosted a Welcome Back Reception for Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program participants who returned to the Michigan/Ohio area upon completion of their terms serving local communities in Japan as Assistant Language Teachers and Coordinators for International Relations.

Nine JET returnees as well as nearly a dozen Great Lakes JET Alumni Association officers, board members and leaders attended for a fruitful evening of networking. Our recently returned JET participants had the opportunity to learn more about a variety of career opportunities available to them as well as ways to become involved in the JET alumni community. A buffet of freshly prepared Japanese food and a variety of fine Japanese sake were served to help remind the guests of their second home: Japan. It is our sincere hope that some important connections were made at this event.

We trust the JET returnees will continue their relationship with Japan and share their experiences with others here in Michigan and Ohio. If you would like more information on the JET Program or are interested in applying, please visit: [jetprogramusa.org](http://jetprogramusa.org).

## **SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHER AND LIFELONG LEARNER FROM MICHIGAN**

**Former Exchange Student Promotes Japanese Language  
& Culture Education**

Saturday, December 14th  
[Traditional Tea Ceremony](#)  
@ Japanese Cultural  
Center, Tea House, &  
Gardens, Saginaw, MI

Tues., December 17th  
[Kalamazoo Institute of  
Arts: Artbreak: Samurai](#) @  
Kalamazoo Institute of  
Arts, Kalamazoo, MI

Sat., December 28th  
[Bonsai Workshop with  
Jack Sustic](#) @ Japanese  
Cultural Center, Tea  
House, & Gardens,  
Saginaw, MI

## **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](#)







Anne M. Hooghart, Ph.D. estimates she has taught more than 1500 students, from preschoolers to senior citizens, over the course of the past 30 years of her career as a teacher of Japanese language and culture. She fell in love with Japan during high school, when she spent a summer in Yokohama as a Youth for Understanding exchange student. She studied Japanese at the University of Michigan. After graduation, she took a position as an Assistant English Teacher on the JET Program.

Once returning back to Michigan, Dr. Hooghart started working at a Japanese manufacturing plant in Battle Creek. Soon, her employer had her teaching English to the Japanese ex-patriates and Japanese to the American associates there. On the side, she began serving as a private consultant about cross-cultural business practices and teaching introductory language courses at Western Michigan University, Kellogg Community College, and Lansing Community College.

Eventually, Battle Creek Lakeview High School hired Dr. Hooghart to build their Japanese program. She earned a Ph.D. in comparative education from Michigan State University, completing dissertation research fieldwork at schools in Shiga, and becoming a teacher educator, associate professor, and dean at Siena Heights University in Adrian. Since then, she has served as a Japanese-English translator, online instructor, and a member of the Consulate's public and cultural affairs section. Dr. Hooghart currently serves as an adjunct instructor of Japanese at Mott Community College in Flint, and as Educational Research Coordinator/Board Secretary at the Hinoki Foundation in Ypsilanti. "I will continue to study Japanese for the rest of my life," she observes. "And I will never get tired of teaching. I encourage everyone to do a job you love."



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

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