



ConsuLink

January 2025 Newsletter

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

Happy New Year!

あけまして おめでとう ございます !
(Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu!)

Happy New Year to all from the
Consulate General of Japan in Detroit!

2025 is the Year of the Snake!



SNAKE: People born in the year of the Snake are said to be fortunate in money matters and determined to reach their goals. They may speak very little but are believed to be deep thinkers who possess great wisdom.

Past Years of the Snake: 2013, 2001, 1989, 1977, 1965, 1953, 1941, 1929, 1917

Source: <https://www.thoughtco.com/japanese-zodiac-overview-2028019>

Image credit: <https://www.irasutoya.com>

Governor Whitmer Welcomes Consul General Kishimori to Michigan

CALENDAR

Exhibits & Events

October 12th - March 30th, 2025

[EXHIBIT - Making Faces: 18 Essential Kabuki Plays](#)
@ Dayton Art Institute,
Dayton, OH

Thursday, January 9th
[Ohio State University - EASC FLAS Fellowship Information Sessions](#) @
The Ohio State University,
Columbus, OH

Friday, January 10th
[The Academy of Early Music Presents Lyracle: Musicians of the Tenshō Embassy](#) @ Northbrook Presbyterian Church,
Beverly Hills, MI

Saturday, January 11th
[Traditional Tea Ceremony](#) @ Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House, & Gardens,
Saginaw, MI

Saturday, January 11th
[Hikari Mochi Pounding New Year Festival](#) @ Mile City Church, Plymouth, MI

Saturday, January 11th



On Tuesday, December 17, incoming Consul General Hajime “Jimmy” Kishimori met with Governor Gretchen Whitmer to discuss Michigan’s strong relationship with Japan.

Both Consul General Kishimori and Governor Whitmer hope to continue developing opportunities by building on cultural and educational exchanges between Michigan and Japan, strengthening relations with Japanese businesses in Michigan, boosting tourism for Japanese to visit Michigan, and promoting Japanese language programs in Michigan for career and internship opportunities.

When discussing tourism between Michigan and Japan, Governor Whitmer mentioned her September 2023 trip to Japan as “the best [economic development opportunity] I have been on.” Consul General Kishimori encouraged future visits to Japan, mentioning [Expo 2025](#), which will be held in Osaka starting in April, and the [Midwest-US Japan Association Conference](#) to be held in Tokyo in September. They also discussed Michigan-Shiga-specific opportunities, hoping to build on the sister state relationship, established in 1968.

As their first meeting came to a close, Governor Whitmer commented to Consul General Kishimori, “I can tell we’ll get along famously and look forward to working with you.”



A Kanji that Sums Up 2024

What was the “word of the year” in 2024? The answer varies depending on which source you check!

“Demure,” “brain rot,” and “polarization” made top picks for some prominent sources. In Japan, however, the most reputable source is the annual announcement at Kyoto’s famed Kiyomizu

[The Academy of Early Music Presents Lyracle: Musicians of the Tenshō Embassy @ St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

Thursday, January 16th
[CJS Lecture Series | In Close Association: Politics, Gender, and Reform in Meiji Japan, 1868-1900 @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

Thursday, January 23rd
[CJS Lecture Series | Laughter's Time, Media's Time: Contemporary Comedy in Japan @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

Thursday, January 23rd
[CJS Winter Film Series: Sekigahara \(2017\) @ Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

Thursday, January 23rd
[Interdisciplinary MA in East Asian Studies Information Session @ The Ohio State University \(virtual\)](#)

Thursday, January 30th
[CJS Noon Lecture Series | Do Victims and Survivors Voices Reach Society? Changes to the Support System for Gender-based Violence in Japan @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

Thursday, January 30th
[CJS Winter Film Series: Baragaki:](#)

Temple.

On December 12th, Seihan MORI, chief priest at Kiyomizu revealed the “kanji of 2024” by writing it with a large calligraphy brush on a massive board on one of Kiyomizu’s famous “stages” overlooking Kyoto City. The contest is run by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation and received a total of 221,971 ballots. For the fifth year in the contest’s 30-year history, the character 「金」 meaning “gold” and “money” received the highest number of votes.

People attributed Japan’s strong gold-medal performances at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris this past summer and baseball superstar Shohei OHTANI’s various accolades, as well as the influence of rising prices and the weak yen as reasons for their vote.

Sources:

<https://www.kanken.or.jp/kotoshinokanji/former/2024.html>

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2024/12/12/japan/japan-2024-kanji-of-the-year/>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/wordplay/word-of-the-year>

<https://corp.oup.com/word-of-the-year/>

<https://www.dictionary.com/e/word-of-the-year-2024/>

Welcome to Detroit, Consul General Kishimori!



In December 2024, Mr. Hajime “Jimmy” Kishimori assumed his role as Consul General of Japan in Detroit.

Since joining Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in 1987, Consul General Kishimori has held key positions in Japan and abroad. His extensive experience includes roles in Thailand, Egypt, and the United Nations, where he contributed significantly to Japan’s global engagements. From 2019 to 2022, he worked as Senior Advisor and Director for the Japan Unit at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York. Most recently, he served as Deputy Consul-General at the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco.

Outside of his professional life, Consul General Kishimori enjoys pottery-making—a passion that has earned him the nickname “Jimmy Potter.” He is also an enthusiast

[Unbroken Samurai \(2021\)](#)

@ Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, 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](#)



for oil painting, swimming, and Japanese tea ceremonies.



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

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[CGJ Website](#)

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