



ConsuLink

February 2025 Newsletter

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

Consul General Kishimori accompanies Governor Whitmer to the Detroit Auto Show 2025



Consul General Kishimori accompanied Governor Whitmer on a tour of the Toyota exhibit at the Detroit Auto Show in January. Together, they explored the latest advancements, highlighting Michigan's position as a leader in automotive innovation and underscoring the vital contributions of Japanese companies to the state's automotive sector. The Consul General also attended Governor Whitmer's inspiring speech titled "The Roads Ahead," showcasing her leadership and vision for Michigan's future in the automotive industry.

The Detroit Auto Show is a premier event showcasing the latest innovations and designs in the automotive industry. This incredible experience provided the Consul General a valuable opportunity to engage with leaders shaping the future of mobility and strengthening connections between Japan and the United States.

The Consul General had the pleasure of meeting with several other distinguished leaders, including US Senator Gary Peters, US Senator Elissa Slotkin, US Representative Debbie Dingell, US Representative Haley Stevens, Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan, GenZ Engagement Director Cassidy Conley, and Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association's President and Vice Chairman Akira Matsunaga.

It was an exciting opportunity to explore cutting-edge advancements in the auto industry and to celebrate the collaborative spirit of Michigan and Japan's shared commitment to innovation and excellence.

CALENDAR Exhibits & Events

Thursday, February 6th

[CJS Lecture Series](#)
[| Dancing in Motion: Untangling the Framing of 'Geisha' in Early Cinematic Records](#) @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Thursday, February 6th

[2025 Japanese Job Fair - Bridging Cultures, Bridging Futures: Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce through Japanese-American Synergies](#) @ Novi Civic Center, Novi, MI

Friday, February 7th

[IJS Lecture: Zack Davisson, "Manga Localization 101 - The Art and Business of Translating Japanese Comics"](#) @ The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Saturday, February 8th

[Traditional Tea Ceremony](#) @ Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens, Saginaw, MI

Sunday, February 9th

[Ayumu - Taiko Journey:](#)



[Musical Excursions of a Taiko Vocalist by Stuart Paton from Burlington Taiko @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

Thursday, February 13th
[CJS Winter Film Series: Chronicle of My Mother \(2011\) @ Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

Friday, February 14th
[IJS Lecture: Hilary Holbrow, "The Future is Foreign: Women and Immigrants in Corporate Japan" @ The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH](#)

Saturday, February 15th
[2025 Ohio Japan Bowl \(高校生対象 日本クイズ大会\) @ Marysville Early College High School, Marysville, OH](#)

Wednesday, February 19th
[Amache: America's Newest National Historic Site @ Novi Public Library, Novi, MI](#)

Thursday, February 20th
[CJS Lecture Series | What Do Japanese People Want From Their Constitution? @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

Thursday, February 20th
[CJS Winter Film Series: Kakekomi \(2015\) @ Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI](#)

The New Year Tradition of Mochitsuki

Here at the Consulate, we have several [cultural items available for lending](#). One of our most popular items is the mochitsuki set, which includes the kine (pestle, or "hammer") and usu (mortar, or "bowl").

This past December and January, several groups borrowed these items to host mochitsuki events! Here are some photos they shared with us:



Experiencing Setsubun in Saitama

Setsubun (節分) is a Japanese holiday marking the transition from winter to spring with bean-throwing (*mamemaki*). This time of year is believed to bring out demons, and throwing roasted soybeans is a way to drive them away and welcome good fortune. During the celebrations, people wear demon masks and others throw beans at them while chanting "鬼は外! 福は内!" ("Oni wa soto! Fuku wa uchi!"), meaning "Demons out! Fortune in!"



[Chichibu Railway Co. Ltd.](#)

Saitama offers a unique way to celebrate: the Setsubun Bean-Throwing Train by Chichibu Railway. When the train stops at various stations, passengers can toss beans at the demons that appear on

the train platforms. A regular train ticket is all that's needed to join in!

Through the Eyes of the Consul General of Japan in Detroit Vol. 2

How do autonomous vehicles “think” on the road?



In Volume 2 of Consul General Kishimori's journal, [“Through the Eyes of the Consul General of Japan in Detroit,”](#) the Consul General describes his recent experience in a driverless car.

Consul General Kishimori and Taro Kobayashi, Assistant Vice-

Minister for Public Transport Policy, Logistics and Road Transport of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT) took a ride through Ann Arbor with [May Mobility](#), exploring the future of self-driving technology.

Saturday, February 22nd
[JASGC Bi-Monthly Book Club – February Meeting, Featured Book: Before the Coffee Gets Cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi](#) @ provided to registrants, OH

Saturday, February 22nd
[Michigan Japanese Speech Contest](#) @ Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI

Thursday, February 27th
[CJS Winter Film Series: Bounce Ko Gals \(1997\)](#) @ Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI

Friday, February 28th
[IJS Lecture: Ben Whaley, "What Japanese Video Games Have to Teach Us About Trauma and Recovery"](#) @ The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

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](#)



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

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[CGJ Website](#)

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