



# ConsuLink

March 2025 Newsletter

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

## JASYP Japanese Job Fair 2025



The 2025 Japanese Job Fair was held on February 6th at the Novi Civic Center in Novi, Michigan. This annual event, hosted by the Japan America Society of Michigan & Southwestern Ontario Young Professionals (JASYP) in partnership with Great Lakes JETAA, continues to serve as a vital platform for connecting talented professionals with companies seeking individuals with Japanese-English language skills and cross-cultural expertise.

City of Novi Mayor Justin Fischer welcomed attendees with an inspiring speech, emphasizing the importance of creating career pathways through the connections made at the job fair. At the end of the day, he was so pleased with the meaningful outcome that he will book the same Novi Civic Center for next year's Job Fair on February 5th, 2026.

This year's event, themed "Bridging Cultures, Bridging Futures: Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce through Japanese-American Synergies," was led by JASMSO President Liseann Gouin, Great Lakes JETAA President Alicia Smith, Ikigai Connections Founder Kasia Lynch, JASYP President Areen Rizq, and JASYP Strategic Advisor Michele Plattenberger, who welcomed 23 companies seeking professionals across various industries, offering job seekers opportunities to engage directly with Japanese businesses.

Shiga Visiting Official Keiko Nakajima spoke about Michigan and Shiga's long-standing sister-state relationship and the importance of their connection. JBSD President Sasaki Shin also dropped by, reaffirming the growing interest of Japanese businesses in engaging with international talent.

The dedication and hard work of JASYP and Great Lakes JETAA made this event a resounding success. Their efforts created an

## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Sunday, March 2nd  
[Hinamatsuri \(Japanese Girls Day\)](#) @ Detroit  
Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

Saturday, March 8th  
[Traditional Tea Ceremony](#) @ Japanese Cultural Center, Tea House and Gardens, Saginaw, MI

Sunday, March 9th  
[Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl \(Formal Program\)](#) @ University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Thursday, March 13 -  
Sunday, March 16  
[Association for Asian Studies Conference](#) @ Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH

Thursday, March 13th  
[CJS Winter Film Series: Bad Lands \(2023\)](#) @ Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI

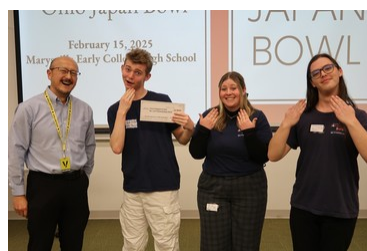
Friday, March 14th  
[Creative Encounters: A](#)

uplifting and welcoming atmosphere for both job seekers and employers, facilitating meaningful career connections.



## Japanese Language Competitions Excite Students Across Michigan and Ohio

Michigan and Ohio are fortunate to have strong Japanese language programs in their schools, from the kindergarten level through college. Both states also have exciting events for students to showcase their language and cultural knowledge.



*Photo Credit: Japan-America Society of Central Ohio*

On February 15th, students from across Ohio gathered for the Ohio Japan Bowl in Marysville, Ohio. This annual event, organized by the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio in cooperation with the Japan-America Society of Washington DC and the Ohio Association of Teachers of Japanese, brings together high school students who are passionate about Japan. Participants took part in a friendly competition, answering questions that challenged their knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

On February 22nd, thirteen university and college students from four Michigan schools showed off their oration skills at the 30th Annual Michigan Japanese Speech Contest. Topics ranged from students' inspiration to study Japanese to social issues like the declining birth rate in Japan.

In March, the competitions continue with the Ohio Japanese Language Speech Contest and the Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl. Here at the Consulate, want to tell everyone: がんばってください! (Do your best!)

Congratulations to all the participants for their dedication and passion for Japan! We hope you are inspired to continue your Japanese language studies!



[Fairytale Evening of Dance & Celebration \(Eisenhower Dance Detroit\)](#) @ Maggie Allesee Studios for Dance and Arts Innovation, Bloomfield, Hills, MI

Tuesday, March 18th  
[IJS Lecture: Simon Kaner, "Jomon Repotted"](#) @ The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Thursday, March 20th  
[CJS Winter Film Series: Jubaku: Spellbound](#) (1999) @ Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor, MI

Friday, March 21st  
[Linguistics Colloquium: Maji?: The Language Patterns of Japanese Youth](#) @ Virtual or The Ohio University, Athens, OH

Saturday, March 22nd  
[2025 Ohio Japanese Language Speech Contest Finals](#) @ Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Thursday, March 27th  
[CJS Noon Lecture Series: The Politics of Taxation and Redistributive Equality](#) @ Virtual or University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Sunday, March 30th  
[IJS Lecture: Kohei Saito](#) @ The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

## Toledo Opera Panel Discussion



*Photo Credit: Toledo Opera*

On February 4th, Consul General Kishimori was invited to participate in a "Roots and Routes: A South Pacific Tuesday Talk" panel discussion at the Toledo Opera in Ohio. This engaging event, hosted by Toledo Opera's Director of Development Leah Whitaker and WGTE-FM 91.3 Radio Station Manager Bob

Cresswell, co-hosts of the "Opera Out of the Box" podcast, featured a thought-provoking panel discussion followed by a lively Q&A session, as well as an incredible vocal performance by singers Sarah Rachael Bacani, Robbie Raso, Emily Cotton, and Brady Delvecchio.

Consul General Kishimori, alongside esteemed panelists Japanese American Citizens League Detroit Chapter Treasurer Mary Kamidoi, Japanese WWII "War Bride" Keiko Hahn, and Bowling Green State University Professor Emerita Akiko Kawano-Jones, delved into the stories of resilience and identity among Japanese Americans during WWII. The discussion also shed light on the evolving historical relationship between Japan and the United States and its relevance to fostering mutual understanding and collaboration in today's interconnected world.



*Photo Credit: Toledo Opera*

It was an insightful discussion, complemented by an engaging Q&A session that highlighted the community's interest in these untold stories and their relevance to current global issues, serving as a powerful reminder of how cultural dialogue fosters understanding and unity.

## Through the Eyes of the Consul General of Japan in Detroit Vol. 3

On Saturday, January 25th, Consul General Hajime "Jimmy" Kishimori



[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](#)



was invited to join singer-songwriter and composer Mr. Keizo Nakanishi and members of the Japan Business Society of Detroit (JBSD) on a tour of some unique landmarks in the city. Mr. Nakanishi was set to perform at JBSD's annual New Year's party the next evening, so members of JBSD invited him and Consul General Kishimori on a "Tour Detroit."

Highlights included the Motown Museum, the Packard Automotive Plant, recently renovated Michigan Central Station, the houses on Heidelberg Street, the Guardian and Fisher Buildings, and "The Spirit of Detroit" and "Monument to Joe Louis (The Fist)" statues.

The group enjoyed lunch at Greektown's iconic Pegasus Tavernas, and they ended the day with a reception at the Consul General's residence.

What Detroit landmark would you suggest Consul General visit next? You can read more about his tour on our homepage!



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

400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1600 | Detroit, MI 48243 US

[CGJ Website](#)

Share this email:



emma®

[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

400 Renaissance Center, Suite 1600  
Detroit, MI | 48243 US

This email was sent to .

*To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.*

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.