



# ConsuLink

April 2025 Newsletter

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

## The Annual Emperor's Birthday Reception



On Wednesday, March 12th, Consul General Hajime Kishimori warmly welcomed guests to his residence in Bloomfield Hills for the annual Emperor's Birthday Reception, held in celebration of His Majesty Emperor Naruhito's 65th birthday.

Distinguished guests from across Michigan and Ohio gathered for this important occasion, reflecting the deep and enduring friendship between Japan and the Midwest. Governors Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan and Mike DeWine of Ohio shared special proclamations to commemorate the day and express their continued support for Japan-U.S. relations.



Following the national anthems, "Team Japan," consisting of Consul General Kishimori, Deputy Consul General Kentaro Yamane, Columbus Honorary Consul of Japan Dave Cook, Japan Business Society of Detroit (JBSD) President Shin Sasaki, JBSD Executive Director Harry Kawase, Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Ontario (JASMSO) Chairman Derrick Redding, JASMSO President Liseann Gouin, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) Chicago Executive Director Tomofumi Nishizawa and Shiga Visiting Official Keiko Nakajima, gave introductions before giving a toast led by Keiko Nakajima.

## CALENDAR

### Exhibits & Events

Thursday, April 17th

[CJS Lecture Series |](#)  
[Matsumoto Toshio and the](#)  
[Antifascist Avant-Garde](#) @  
Ann Arbor, MI

Friday, April 18th

[DEALL's 44th Language](#)  
[Festival](#) @ Ohio State  
University

Friday, May 2nd and  
Sunday, May 4th

[Drawing in the Galleries:](#)  
[Japanese & Korean Art and](#)  
[Indian & Southeast Asian Art](#)  
[Galleries](#) @ Detroit Institute  
of Art, Detroit, MI

Friday, May 2nd,  
Saturday, May 3rd, and  
Sunday, May 4th

[Drop-in Workshop: Uchiwa](#)  
@ Detroit Institute of Art,  
Detroit, MI

Saturday, May 3rd

[Asian American Pacific](#)  
[Islander Festival](#) @  
Farmington Community  
Library, Farmington Hills, MI

Saturday, May 3rd

[Asian American Pacific](#)

The evening continued with a special "Whiskey Talk," where Consul General Kishimori sat down with various guests for relaxed and thought-provoking conversations on the diverse and growing ties between Japan and the states of Michigan and Ohio. Topics ranged from economic ties between Japan, Michigan and Ohio to cultural exchange and community engagement, showcasing the many dimensions of our bilateral relationship.



Guests also enjoyed a curated selection of high-quality Japanese sake from Shiga Prefecture—Michigan's sister prefecture in Japan—served by Keiko Nakajima. Guests also had the opportunity to enjoy traditional tea ceremony presentations by members of the JSD Women's Club in a special area of the residence designed for cultural appreciation, as well as beautifully crafted Ikebana arrangements provided by Ikebana International President Leslie Rosinski.

We are grateful to all who joined us in celebrating His Majesty's birthday and look forward to another year of friendship and collaboration between Japan and the communities in Michigan and Ohio.

## Meeting Gov. DeWine (OH) and Vivek Ramaswamy

On Tuesday, March 25th, Consul General Kishimori had his first official meeting with Governor Mike DeWine at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus to discuss the Governor's State of the State address. The Governor's speech emphasized Ohio's continued commitment to strengthening business, enhancing education, and investing in the future of its people.



During the meeting, Consul General Kishimori and Governor DeWine discussed shared goals and opportunities for future collaboration between Japan and Ohio. As a symbol of friendship, Governor DeWine graciously presented Consul General Kishimori with a Buckeye Plate—an iconic emblem of Ohio.

The following day, on Wednesday, March 26th, Consul General Kishimori met with Entrepreneur Mr. Vivek Ramaswamy ahead of his speech at the Asian American Commerce Group (AACG) Economic Summit in Columbus, Ohio. This event brought together industry leaders discuss the economic forecast for the U.S. and Ohio.

During their conversation, Consul General Kishimori and Mr. Ramaswamy acknowledged current challenges while recognizing the many opportunities that lie ahead for Ohio's economic future.

[Islander Celebration Show](#) @  
Detroit Institute of Arts,  
Detroit, MI

Sunday, May 4th  
[Hanami Spring Picnic 2025](#)  
@ Novi, MI

Friday, May 16th  
[Friday Night Live! Masayo Ishigure](#) @ Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, MI

Friday, May 16th and  
Saturday, May 17th  
["My Sunshine" \(2025\)](#) @  
State Theatre, Ann Arbor, MI

Saturday, May 31st  
[Bonsai Workshop \(Juniper\)](#)  
[with Jack Sustic](#), Saginaw,  
MI

## QUICK LINKS

[Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan](#)

**KIZUNA**  
Spring 2024  
Linking Japan and the World



[Kizuna: The official magazine of the Government of Japan](#)

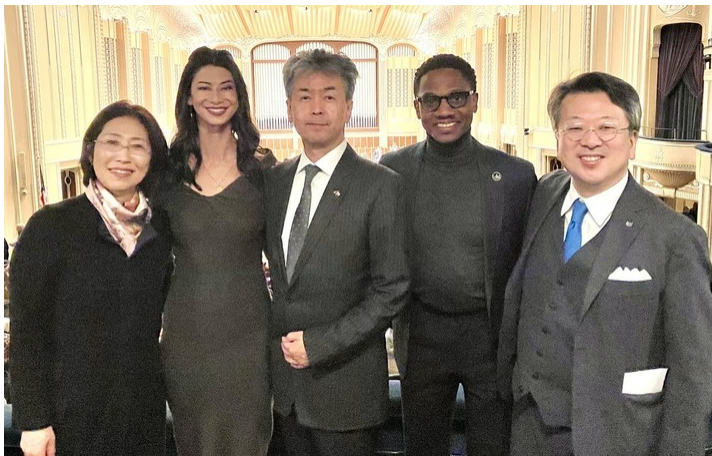
Digital publication reporting on a variety of topics, promoting stronger links between Japan and the world.





## Exploring Ohio

Since his arrival in Detroit in December, Consul General Kishimori is making it a priority to visit as many cities as possible to get to know the people in his new jurisdiction. Recently he has enjoyed several trips to Ohio.



Pictured: Mikiko Fujita, Consul General Kishimori, Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb, Honorary Consul Dr. Hiroyuki Fujita

The Consul General visited Findlay, Ohio, on March 10th, marking it the first time visiting Findlay since the start of his tenure in Detroit. During his visit, Consul General had the opportunity to meet with Professor Hiroaki Kawamura of Findlay University as well as Ms. Kinari Wakahara who is studying at the University of Findlay as part of the 2024-2025 Findlay Fukui Scholarship Program.



On March 11th, Consul General Kishimori made his first official visit to Troy, Ohio. Accompanied by JETRO Chicago Executive Director Tomofumi Nishizawa and JETRO Chicago Business Development Assistant Director Kelly Highland, they met with Mayor Robin Oda to discuss the strong ties between Japan and the city.

Consul General Kishimori also made stops in Dayton, Athens, and Brunswick, and looks forward to learning more about the people of Ohio.

Consul General Kishimori with Troy, Ohio Mayor



---

## Ohio Japanese Learners Compete Again in March

March was another busy month for Japanese language learners in Ohio. Held on Saturday, March 22nd and hosted by the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio (JASCO), the 26th Annual Ohio Japanese Speech Contest was a great success! Held at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, the contest brought together 12 talented Japanese language learners from across the state to present original speeches and connect through language and culture. Consul General Kishimori served as one of the judges for this year's competition.



---

## Through the Eyes of the Consul General of Japan in Detroit Vol. 4

As mentioned above, throughout the month of March, Consul General Kishimori has been criss-crossing Ohio, learning about the people and the industries that make the "great river" state so great.

Check out his latest installment of "Through the Eyes of the Consul General of Japan in Detroit" on our [homepage](#).



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

[CGJ Website](#)

Share this email:



[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.*

**emma**®

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.