

NIPPON QUARTERLY

Everything Japanese in the Fort Wayne Area

#29 – April 2025

Sponsored by the Japanese American Association of Indiana, Inc., a 501 c (3) community organization (www.jaain.org).

Our goal is to:

1. provide communication between the various segments of the Japanese-American population of Northeast Indiana
2. Give you information about events that have happened or will happen that pertain to Japanese-American culture, education, and community issues.

This is your community newsletter. As much as possible, it will be in English and Japanese. We welcome your input. It is quarterly.

ニッポン・クォーターリー

～フォートウェインエリアの日本の全て～

#29 04/2025

本新聞は JAAI が主体となり発行する日米新聞です。

私達のゴール:

1. インディアナ州北西部にお住いの日本人とアメリカ人にコミュニケーションの場を提供する
2. 日米の文化や教育、コミュニティについて、イベントの報告やお知らせを行う

この日米新聞は上記の内容を含めた情報提供を目的としたニュースレターです。可能な限り日本語と英語にて提供していきますが、四半期毎に発行する予定ですので、もし何かインプットがございましたら是非ご連絡下さい。

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Bentenya visiting
Fort Wayne

Gangsta Kimono Fashion Focus of the Coming-of-Age Ceremony in Kita Kyushu City Again This Year

The gaudier the better is how young people in this industrial city in northeastern Kyushu choose what to wear for the official holiday celebrating their 20th birthday.

[Mark Kennedy](#) Real Gaijin
Jan 25, 2025

What's new: On Sunday, January 12, 2025¹, 20-year-olds across the country celebrated *Seijin-no-Hi* (成人の日), which means "Coming of Age Day" in Japanese, in town halls, Shinto shrines, and Buddhist temples. Coming of Age Day is also a holiday to celebrate the beginning of the new year and the awareness and responsibilities that come with adulthood².



Kita Kyushu City has gained a reputation for allowing young people to dress in outrageous fashion for their coming-of-age ceremony (image sourced from Kita Kyushu Nokoto)

While most young women who are honored on this day choose to dress in traditional *furisode*, a type of kimono with long, flowing sleeves, intricate designs, and bright colors, and most young men wear a *hakama*, a pair of skirt-like pants originally worn by samurai to allow greater freedom of movement while riding a horse, there is one city in Japan that has developed a reputation for unique costumes and over-the-top hairstyles that make the holiday seem more like a cosplay convention.

Go deeper: The unique costumes worn at the coming-of-age ceremony in the industrial metropolis of Kita Kyushu City in Fukuoka Prefecture on the southwestern main island of Kyushu in Japan have attracted worldwide attention. Many of these costumes are made by [Miyabi](#), a local costume rental shop. This tailor has produced more than 10,000 costumes over the past few decades, many of which are available to the new crop of twenty-year-olds each year. Lately, its activities have expanded to the world stage, and in 2023, the shop's designer held a show at New York Fashion Week.

The history of Coming of Age Day dates back to the Edo period (1603 - 1868). It used to be called *Genpuku* (元服), which was a ceremony in which boys were recognized as adults. The modern Coming of Age Day continues this tradition and is a holiday to celebrate taking a new step forward as an adult.

Things took a creative turn in Kita Kyushu City beginning in 2003. [Miyabi Ikeda](#) (池田雅), the manager and designer of the Miyabi costume rental store (named after her first name), was approached by two young men with an unusual request.

*"We want to go to the coming-of-age ceremony in full gold and full silver costumes."
- Two young clients of Miyabi Ikeda more than 20 years ago who approached the designer months before the ceremony*

At the time, there was no precedent for such costumes, and even when Ikeda asked her business partners, they couldn't find the right material. Time passed without Ikeda being able to source the unique fabric that would satisfy her two young customers. Every month, they came to her store to ask for a status update.

"I was moved by the sight of them coming to pay a little at a time every month, looking forward to their costumes, and I just couldn't say no." - Designer Ikeda of Miyabi Costume Shop

Ikeda committed to making matching full-body gold and silver coming-of-age ceremony costumes from original fabrics. It was a challenge she was willing to lose money on, but it turned out to be the best business decision of her career.

"We had been in the bridal costume rental and beauty services business, so we were already accustomed to fulfilling the bride's wishes no matter what. It's easy to say, 'We can't do it,' but I never want to disappoint my customers." - Ikeda

She not only met but far exceeded the expectations of her two young clients. Her debut at the Coming of Age Day in 2003 made quite a splash. Ikeda was almost immediately inundated with orders for the following year's ceremony. During subsequent years the requests became more diverse, with people saying things like, "I want something more flashy" and "Please put a pattern here." These requests created new standards, and the costumes became more and more glamorous.

"It is not enough to simply fulfill the designs that the new adults want to realize. By listening to them, we clarify their vision and give shape to their ideas, but we also want to create costumes that are a step above - that literally dazzle and far exceed their expectations." - Ikeda

Originally a hairdresser, Ikeda taught herself design. She mastered the use of design software and began to create unique, original patterns. As a result, the Miyabi costume shop has developed a reputation for creating seemingly impossible designs.

Almost every design is custom-made in Japan. In a textile industry where China is now the main player, Miyabi has made a conscious decision to work only with craftsmen in her own country.

"Only Japanese craftsmen can make them." - Ikeda, noting that they rely on trusted suppliers with whom she has developed a strong bond over the past two decades.

Existing costumes are rarely loaned out without modifications. Although only a few dozen completely new costumes are made each year, the amount of custom tailoring is enormous.



The young men in this photo have definitely chosen an OG vibe for their coming-of-age costumes (image sourced from Kita Kyushu Nokoto)

Reality check: You may ask, "Hey, wait a minute. Isn't Japanese culture known for its belief in 'hammering down the nail that sticks up' (出る釘は打たれる)?" You are correct to ask why the city is so tolerant of Ikeda's exaggerated designs.

There are a number of environmental factors about Kita Kyushu City that made it easier for cosplay-like designs to become widely accepted. Unlike any other city or town in Japan, Kita Kyushu City used the then-existing theme park "Space World" as the venue for its coming-of-age ceremony from 1998 to 2013. This was the first coming-of-age ceremony to be held in a theme park in Japan, which was a historic departure from tradition.

"Because it's a theme park, there were mascot characters, and the venue itself was very flashy. I think the costumes also became more glamorous to match the environment." - Ikeda

Even before Ikeda committed to designing the groundbreaking gold and silver matching costumes in 2003, Kita Kyushu City was known for its progressive attitude toward fashion. It is not uncommon for young people who graduate from high school and go to work in the area's many factories to have eye-catching hairstyles and outfits.

"There's a friendliness in this town toward new adults that says, 'You want to make this a once-in-a-lifetime, special occasion, don't you?'" – Ikeda

She certainly does her best to help her clients make a splash.

Fun fact: A few years ago, Kita Kyushu City's unique coming-of-age costume culture spread beyond Japan's borders and made its debut on the world stage during New York Fashion Week. In 2024, Ikeda participated in the Paris collection and caused a sensation on the catwalk with 16-year-old model [Nao Saito \(斉藤菜桜\)](#), who has Down syndrome and goes by the stage name Nao (菜桜).

Later last year, Ikeda designed the dress for Miss International Japan representative [Mei Ueda \(植田明依\)](#). The costume, which incorporated the traditional Yamaga lanterns of Kumamoto Prefecture, became a big topic at the press conference held at Yamaga City Hall after she won the Miss Asia Pacific title.

By the numbers: In a nation of more than 123.7 million people, about 1.2 million of whom will turn 20 this fiscal year, the participants in this year's coming-of-age ceremony in Kita Kyushu City made a big impact.

- *Ripple effect:* In Kita Kyushu City, a total of only 8,967 people will turn 20 this fiscal year, 134 fewer than last year.
- *Financial burden:* The costumes are not cheap. The most elaborate - *including custom hairstyles* - typically cost between 400,000 and 600,000 yen (about \$2,500 to \$3,800). Some participants reportedly spent as much as 800,000 yen (\$5,200) to prepare for the big day.



A more traditional look for the coming-of-age ceremony (image sourced from Photo AC)

"I think it cost about 500,000 yen (\$3,200), including the pompadour. I saved the money by working part-time. My dream for the future is to become a great auto mechanic. I'll study hard for the national examination next year." - Young man attending technical college to become a car mechanic who wore an elaborate custom costume at this year's Coming of Age Day ceremony in Kita Kyushu City

- *Media blitz:* On the day of the ceremony, more than 20 media organizations came to cover the event.

What they're saying: The reputation of Kita Kyushu City is definitely improving thanks to the way its residents have embraced its unique way of celebrating Coming of Age Day.

"I've wanted to come to the Kita Kyushu City Coming of Age Day ceremony for a long time, so I'm really impressed. You can't find a culture that enjoys fashion so freely anywhere else in the world. I think it's really wonderful that people express their individuality in this way. I'm glad I was able to take pictures." - A photographer from the US named Alex, who traveled all the way to Japan just to attend this event.

City Hall strongly supports this movement.

"As I said last year, I think we have been able to realize our policy of 'making Kita Kyushu a city that rejects no one's values.' For the first time in 60 years since 1965, Kita Kyushu City achieved a net increase in population (an increase of 492 people). The reason for this is that the number of young people who want to continue living here has increased, and the number of people moving out has been brought under control. We will continue to promote the development of an attractive city for young people and many start-up companies, so please continue to support Kita Kyushu City. Congratulations to everyone who turns 20 today!" - Kita Kyushu Mayor Kazuhisa Takeuchi, who attended this year's ceremony wearing a stylish hakama.



No matter where you go during Japan's coming-of-age season (usually the second Monday in January, but sometimes other dates in January), it is possible to see many beautiful kimonos (image sourced from Photo AC)

Commentary: Kita Kyushu City should be commended for leveraging what began as a very fringe movement to improve the city's image. While there are undoubtedly other factors at play, the mayor's support to promote a tolerant culture has allowed the city to attract and retain young people. This is no small feat, considering that its much larger neighbor Fukuoka in the same prefecture has essentially been "stealing" young talent from the city for decades.

I hope other cities take a similarly progressive approach to this holiday.

Excerpts/photos used with permission from article by Mark Kennedy. https://realgaijin.substack.com/p/gangsta-kimono-fashion-focus-of-the?utm_source=publication-search. See more at <https://realgaijin.substack.com/>

Links to Japanese Sources: <https://news.yahoo.co.jp/articles/216178a8a893ab11f72c2ba71d572771212e8639>, https://www.homes.co.jp/cont/press/buy/buy_01761/, <https://laquan.com/20th/topics/oyakudachi61.html>, <https://www.gov-online.go.jp/useful/article/201808/2.html>, and <https://news.nifty.com/article/item/neta/12378-3727158/>.

#ComingOfAgeDay #KitaKyushu #AgeofAdulthood #AgeofConsent #Miyabikeda #Miyabi #NaoSaito #MeiUeda #成人の日 #ド派手 #二十歳の記念式典 #成人の日 #ど派手成人式衣装 #北九州市成人式 #性交同意年齢 #20歳未満の者の飲酒防 #飲酒最低年齢 #池田雅 #斉藤菜桜 #植田明依

1

Not all towns and villages in Japan celebrate on the second Sunday or Monday in January. Usually, however, most coming-of-age ceremonies take place during the month of January after the winter solstice.

2

At present, the rules regarding the age of participants in coming-of-age ceremonies vary depending on the local government. For about 140 years since the Meiji era, the age of adulthood in Japan had been set at 20 years in the Civil Code. However, in accordance with the revision of the Civil Code, the age of adulthood was lowered to 18 years on April 1, 2022. As a result, some local governments now allow 18- or 19-year-olds to participate in their Coming of Age Day ceremony, but most still limit participation to those who have reached or will reach the age of 20 during the current fiscal year, which runs from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Japanese Foodies Gobble up a \$1.3 Million Tuna for New Year's

Connoisseurs of high-end sushi in Tokyo literally bought the "first catch" of 2025 hook, line, and sinker.

[Mark Kennedy](#) – Real Gaijin, Substack
Jan 08, 2025



Tuna, called maguro (鰯) in Japanese, is the "big kahuna" of sushi (image sourced from Photo AC)

What's new: The first tuna auction of the year was held on January 5, 2025 at the world's largest fish market in Toyosu¹, Tokyo. The highest priced "Ichiban Maguro" was a 276-kilogram (approximately 610 pounds) Pacific bluefin tuna from Oma, Aomori Prefecture, which sold for 207 million yen (approximately \$1.3 million), or 750,000 yen per kilogram, which equates to \$2,160 per pound. This was the second highest price ever recorded since 1999.

Why it matters: "Ichiban Maguro" is the first tuna to be sold at the annual New Year's auction at the Toyosu Market in Tokyo. This highly anticipated event is a major media spectacle, with intense competition among buyers driving prices into the millions of yen. The auction symbolizes the start of the new year in the fishing industry and carries significant cultural significance, representing prosperity and good fortune for the winning bidder and the entire industry.

Go deeper: A total of 1,284 tuna were lined up in the market, and when the bell rang to signal the start of the auction just after 5 a.m., the auctioneers' energetic shouts echoed throughout the market. The first tuna was purchased for the fifth year in a row by the fish wholesaler Yama Yusa (やま幸). It was then delivered to the conveyor belt sushi restaurant Kaiten Sushi Ginza Onodera Honten (廻転鰯かいてんすし銀座おのでら本店) in Tokyo's Shibuya district, where the most expensive slices of the fatty belly of raw tuna, called *toro*, were sold as a pair of two pieces of sushi (with rice) for 1,160 yen (\$7.36) including tax.

What they're saying: The guy who caught this year's "first tuna" was literally a "son of a fisherman."

"It's like a dream. It's a little expensive, but I'm grateful if people enjoy eating it." - Captain Masahiro Takeuchi, a 73-year-old fisherman from Oma, Aomori, who caught this year's first tuna

It was indeed a lucky catch.

Please read the whole article. This is an excerpt from https://realgaijin.substack.com/p/japanese-foodies-gobble-up-a-13-million?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Sushi from the "ichiban maguro" first catch of prized tuna (image sourced from Photo AC - modified)



¹ Until October 2018, this huge fish market was located in Tsukiji, which is near Ginza in downtown Tokyo.

Links to Japanese Sources: <https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/economy/20250105-OYT1T50014/>, <https://news.yahoo.co.jp/articles/184203835048a59f8331d04f62a5520520844563>, and <https://news.yahoo.co.jp/articles/6086bfd801bee7cd3069e62a4409e8924ae94224>.

#tuna #maguro #sushi #sashimi #SeaUrchin #uni #ConveyorBeltSushi #ToyosuMarket #一番マグロ #一番鰯 #トロ #赤身 #豊洲市場 #初競り #一番ウニ #廻転鰯 #まぐろ解体ショー



JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

JANUARY 19

As it usually is for this event, the weather was cold. But 54 people joined together in the Lakeside #1 Pavilion at Lakeside Park to celebrate the New Year.



After a greeting by 2025 JAAI president, Tali Smith, people were free to enjoy many delicious and traditional Japanese foods, especially New Year dishes. JAAI provided a big plate of sushi, made by Pho Shi Restaurant



We enjoyed a short program by 5 of the Fort Wayne Taiko drummers.

After sitting so long, Carol Wilhems got us moving by leading us in Radio Taisou exercises. Then each table played Jan Ken Pon with quarters being the prize. Each table winner competed with the other table winners, and the final winner got to keep all the quarters.



JAAI is family-oriented so we try to have activities that all ages can enjoy. The next game was the “Draw a face on a plate on top of your head” game. It is not as easy as it sounds. Here you see one of the winners with his masterpiece.



Another game played was the “Unwrapping the gift with oven mitts”. This is a very fast-paced and noisy game in which one person wearing oven mitts tries to remove the wrapping from a gift before another person with a pair of dice rolls double. Once “doubles” is rolled, the mitts are passed on to the next person and a new person rolls the dice. Whoever removes the final layer of wrapping from the gift gets to keep the gift.



The final game was Bingo, and it was played until everyone had a bingo and received a prize.

At the close of the event, everyone helped to clean up. It was a wonderful show of cooperation among the Japanese American community.

Did you miss it? COME NEXT YEAR!

-M. Yamanaka

Events you may have missed

-9

Steven Hiroyuki Aoki is an American DJ and record producer. In 2012, [Pollstar](#) designated Aoki as the highest-grossing [electronic dance music](#) artist in North America from tours.^{[5][6]} In 2024, Gold House recognized him as one of the Most Impactful Asians.^[7]

Aoki has released seven studio albums to date, including several [Billboard](#)-charting albums. His debut studio album [Wonderland](#) was nominated for [Grammy Award for Best Dance/Electronic Album](#) in 2013.

He is the founder of the Steve Aoki Charitable Fund, which raises money for global humanitarian relief organizations.^[10]

His father, Rocky Aoki, is the founder of the restaurant chain Benihana.

—excerpts from Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steve_Aoki

STEVE AOKI

This Japanese American DJ, well loved by the younger generation, performed at Pierre's in Fort Wayne on **Feb. 27, 2025**. We learned about this from Carol Wilhems.



Photo from Wikipedia



KODO One Earth Tour 2025: Warabe 2/19, 21, 23

— See review by Nidia Flis in this issue.

Called the best traditional Japanese drumming group in the world, they performed at Muncie (2/19), Bloomington (2/21, and Chicago (2/23). https://www.kodo.or.jp/en/sch_en/49744

From information shared with me by Laura Semba



BENTENYA

Bentenya is a Chindon-ya troupe which was invited to perform in Detroit (3/2), Carmel IN (3/6), Cincinnati (3/7 & 8).

“Chindon-ya is an advertising business that is unique to Japan and now becoming rare. Chindon-ya wears flashy costumes and plays instruments while marching down streets. They also have posters on their instruments and/or backs. It is the oldest advertising agency in Japan. It was born nearly 170 years ago-before newspapers appeared in Japan. Currently there are only about 150 people on the job, and it has become a very rare occupation.” -From The Benten Times, Oct. 2024

This particular troupe of 4 girls and 1 manager stopped in Fort Wayne to meet JAAI board and CBF committee members at DeBrand Chocolates before going to Carmel. They explained what they do and showed their instruments. Perhaps they will return and perform at the Cherry Blossom Festival in the future...

Thanks to JASI for connecting us with Bentenya.

べんてんや！

べんてんや（Benten-ya）は、日本の名古屋からやって来た「チンドン」スタイルのパフォーマンス集団です。べんてんやの2025年米国ツアーは中西部で開催され、3月初旬にデトロイト、インディアナ、シンシナティで公演が行われます。

「チンドン」は、日本の伝統的なストリートパフォーマンスで、華やかな衣装を身にまとった演者たちが街を練り歩きながら、商店や企業、公演の宣伝を行うものです。チンドンの演者は、鮮やかで豪華な衣装を身に着け、声や楽器を駆使し、有名なキャラクターの物真似などを披露しながら、人々の注目を集めます。

べんてんやの中西部ツアーは、本場日本からやって来る、この楽しく魅力的な伝統を体験できる、貴重でユニークな機会となるでしょう！

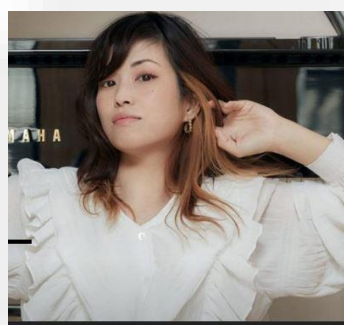
(From promotional email sent out by JASI)

MARCH 9-MIHO SASAKI

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Youth Symphony Orchestras Of Hope & Remembrance: Commemoration of the 80th Anniversary of the End of World War II

This performance took place at Auer Hall at Rhinehart Center for the Performing Arts Purdue Fort Wayne Campus 2101 E. Coliseum Boulevard Fort Wayne, IN 46805. It was a symphonic celebration of hope, peace, and remembrance featuring music and composers connected to World War II, including the adventurous soundtrack to the 1952 television series Victory at Sea and the delicate and mesmerizing Piano Concert No. 3 by Philip Glass performed by acclaimed Japanese pianist Miho Sasaki.

-Information from website: <https://violinsandhopefw.org/events>



Miho Sasaki is a jazz pianist and educator in New York. Born in Japan, she played piano at age five and continued studying music through high school. After her exposure to jazz and enrolling in a jazz program for two years, Miho began her musical career. She has performed in many venues and has taught in Tokyo.

-Information and photo from website:
<https://mihosasakimusic.site/>

Thanks to Carol Wilhems for making this known to NQ.



2024 Ohanami – Cherry Trees at West Swinney Park

KODO One Earth Tour 2025: Warabe Performance in Muncie, IN

Ball State University had the honor of having the internationally famous taiko performing band, KODO. KODO is considered by many to be Japan's most well-known and respected taiko group. When I told my friends in Japan that I was going to go attend Kodo's performance in Muncie, they told me that they were very excited that I was going to see one of the best performances of my life, and they were absolutely right!



According to KODO's official [website](#), they have been performing for over 40 years and have given more than 7,000 performances in many countries all around the world! Some of their notable achievements include performing at a Nobel Peace Prize Concert, being featured in a FIFA World Cup anthem, and have even contributed to the film industry.

This is why we in the BSU community, especially the Japanese Section of the Modern Languages and Classics Department, were so excited. We all felt honored to have these renowned artists in our small but beautiful town of Muncie. We are deeply grateful that Ball State made arrangements to bring KODO to Muncie again. They had performed approximately 15 years ago, and people who saw it, still remember it.



The performance took place on Wednesday, February 19. The day had freezing temperatures and had some snow as well. It was a dark night, but the snow brought a little bit of light. It was one of those days when most people would only leave their homes if they had to or if there was something worth going out for. However, the vibrant and warm performance made us forget the coldness and the darkness of the night. Their performance was flawless... it was perfect! It was beautiful to see all of those talented performers from different genders and ages playing together as one. A Japanese traditional Koto and a short bamboo flute were a great addition this time. Their storytelling along with their props and lighting made the experience unforgettable. Every drumbeat made our hearts throb during the performance. I personally loved hearing different people drumming in perfect unison. Each strike echoed through the large room.



The solo performances were also equally striking, and it was impressive how their presence filled the whole stage and captivated the audience from beginning to end. I looked around to see other people's reactions. They were glued to the stage. Many had that sense of wonder. To me, they looked as though they could not believe their eyes and ears; many of them had a wide, joyful grin on their faces. Their excitement and happiness was evident. The constant applause and standing ovation were a testament to how much the audience enjoyed their performance. I'm absolutely sure they were glad they left their homes to witness this incredible performance.



One of the translations for the word “kodo” is “heartbeat”. I can honestly say that Japan’s heart “beat” in Muncie, IN on February 19 in a beautiful way, which I’m attempting to put into words. We felt the representation of life and had a deep emotional connection, as well as love and admiration for Japanese culture and art. I hope everyone can see KODO perform at least once in their life! Personally, I am already looking forward to watching them again.

- By Nidia Flis, Senior Lecturer of Spanish and Japanese Student, Modern Languages and Classics, Ball State University
Contributor: Dr. Sadatoshi Tomizawa, Professor of Japanese, Modern Languages and Classics, Ball State University

Sources

- [Kodo's Website](#)
- BSU Emens Website [Events at Emens: Kodo One Earth Tour 2025: Warabe](#)
- Photos of the performance courtesy of Kodo



Photo of Dr. Tomizawa, Dr. Jen Rathbun, Department Chari, Modern Languages and Classics, Nidia Flis and BSU Japanese students

https://bsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5A2uE7Z9vI7qwU6?Q_CHL=qr



Research Study Participants Needed

研究参加者募集

Purpose of the Study: Understanding the Psychological and Familial Effects of Communication in Families of Japanese Background in the Midwest.

研究の目的：中西部の日系家族におけるコミュニケーションの心理的・家族的効果を理解する。

We are currently looking for participants to take part in a research study on language use and psychological well-being in Japanese families residing in Indiana to understand family relationships and communication between parent and child.

現在、インディアナ州在住の日系人家族における言語使用と心理的幸福に関するアンケート調査研究に参加し、家族関係と親子間のコミュニケーションを理解するためにご協力いただける方を募集しています。

Those who agree to participate will be asked to complete a survey in English or Japanese. The survey should take approximately 20-30 minutes. At the end of the survey, participants will be asked if they would like to participate in an optional interview with a Japanese-speaking researcher about language and communication.

調査にご協力いただける方には、英語または日本語でアンケートにお答えいただきます。調査にかかる時間は約 20～30 分。調査終了後、参加者は日本語を話す研究者との言語とコミュニケーションに関するインタビューに任意で参加するかどうかを尋ねられます。

Eligibility:

- You are a parent of a child(ren) 8-17 years-old
- You are 18 years of age or older
- You are of Japanese background and/or Japanese heritage
- You are an Indiana resident

参加資格

- 8～17 歳の子どもを持つ親であること。
- 18 歳以上の方
- 日本人の血を引いている
- インディアナ州在住の方

For questions please contact:

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https://bsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5A2uE7Z9vI7qwU6?Q_CHL=qr





■ CELEBRATING ■

ASIAN AMERICAN — AND — PACIFIC ISLANDER

HERITAGE MONTH

Tea-Time Retreat
April 9th
4 PM – 5:30 PM
IDEASpace (LB137)

Panel Discussion
April 16th
12 PM (noon)–1:30 PM
WALB G-08

Asian Heritage Fest
April 23rd
10 AM – 1 PM
Alumni Plaza
*Rain location: WU
Hallway outside the first-
floor bookstore and Java
Spot

AAPI HERITAGE MONTH 2025 EVENTS

Please join us in celebrating
Asian American & Pacific
Islander Heritage!

May is AAPI Heritage Month, but PFW
observance is in April

Contact: pfwaapialliance@gmail.com

PURDUE UNIVERSITY®
FORT WAYNE



Winning Anime Art Competition entry by Yohan



Scan the code
for more festival
information

FORT WAYNE Cherry BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

May 18, 2025
Purdue Fort Wayne
Walb Student Union
FREE Admission & Parking

12 PM
to 6 PM

Children's Games & Crafts
Competitions
Demonstrations
Displays
Marketplace
Music
Taste of Japan Food Court
Tea Ceremony
Traditional Attractions

Thank you to our generous sponsors and community partners!



C & A Tool Engineering Inc.
The Chapman Fund
Tom Herr in support of
Naturalization & Legal Assistance
a not-for profit organization
NISCO Nishikawa Cooper LLC
Noel Knox & SOLVE Consulting LLC

American Mitsuba Corporation
FCC (Adams) LLC
Ford Meter Box Foundation
Sweetwater Sound

Sato Rashi Co Inc.

Find us at:



www.cherryblossomfw.com

This festival is made possible in part by Arts United and the Indiana Arts Commission, which receives support from the State of Indiana and the National Endowment for the Arts.

If you are hungry for films in Japanese, these are available in Chicago. Although half of these films are past, there is still time for you to enjoy some in April. This information is from the Japanese American Service Committee in Chicago.

Japan Cinema Showcase



ASIAN

POP-UP CINEMA
CHICAGO



Saturday, March 22

Belonging (とりつくしま)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Sunset Sunrise (サンセット・サンライズ)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Yukiko a.k.a (雪子 a.k.a)

UNITED STATES PREMIERE

Saturday, March 29

Welcome to the Village (喰う蟲)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Saturday, April 5

A Samurai in Time (侍タイムスリッパ)

MIDWEST PREMIERE
Q&A with Director Junichi Yasuda
and Actress Yuno Sakura

Friday, April 11

Teki Cometh (敵)

NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

Sunday, April 13

Brush of the God (カミノフデ〜怪獣たちのいる島)

CLOSING NIGHT FILM
Intro by Producer Daisuke Sato



AMC NEWCITY14

1500 North Clybourn Avenue

Supported in part by:

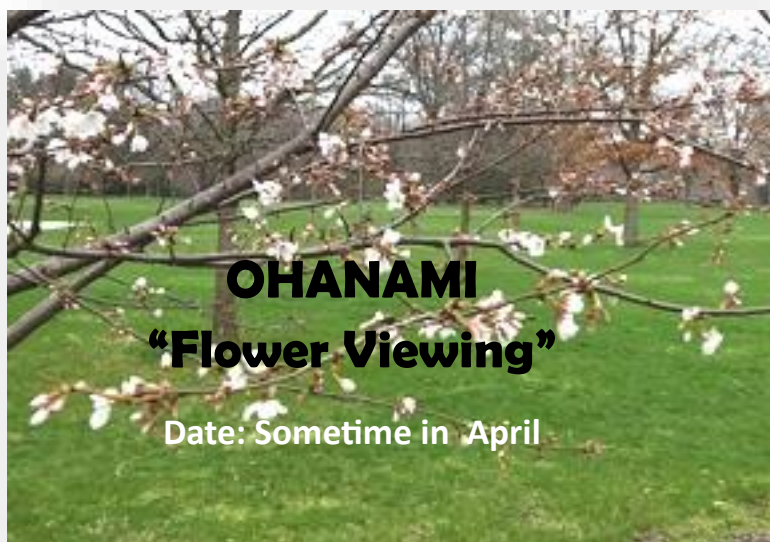


JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN CHICAGO

Buy Tickets at
bit.ly/APUC19

COMING EVENTS



OHANAMI "Flower Viewing"

Date: Sometime in April

Hanami is the ancient Japanese tradition of enjoying the beautiful, but short-lived blossoms of the cherry trees. The most common variety is the Yoshino Cherry.

Historically, people in the Nara Period (710-794) celebrated spring with blossom viewing parties which included cherry and plum trees. In modern times, people in Japanese society meet together under the cherry trees for an informal picnic, enjoying food, drink and maybe music while sitting on plastic sheets on the ground and contemplating the delicate cherry blooms.

Since the cherry trees were just budding with a little pink on March 31, the peak for flowers should be toward **the middle to end of April**. Because of the cold weather and rain, the flowering may be shorter than usual. The trees are in Swinney Park by the Oriental Pavilion. The Nippon Quarterly will send out a special notice when it seems that the best time to view the cherry blooms is near, probably between April 13-20. We will suggest a day and time to gather for Ohanami, but you can also come when it is convenient for your family.

-Michele Yamanaka

ASIAN HERITAGE FEST - APRIL 23

10 am to 1 pm

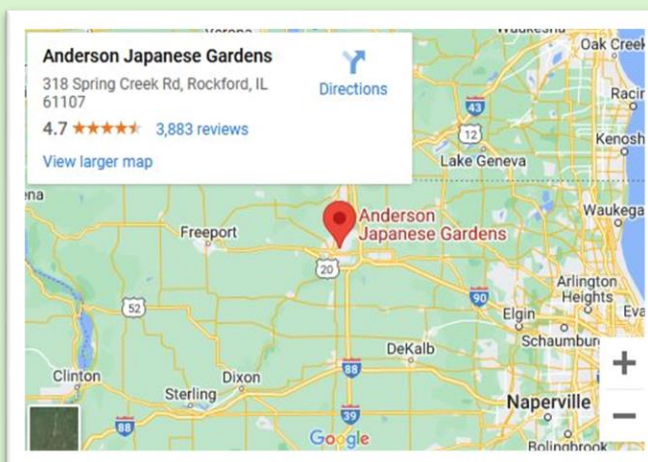
Alumni Plaza, PFW

(Rain location: WU Hallway outside
the first-floor bookstore and Java Spot

May 18 CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL – We need volunteers to help set up May 17, May 18, help during the festival, and tear down May 18. Please email Michele at yamanakam@cs.com if you would like to volunteer. You may also sign up from the CBF website at <https://www.cherryblossomfw.com/volunteer>

Anderson Japanese Gardens

318 Spring Creek Rd
Rockford, IL 61107



Lecture Series

7:00 PM Lecture | Members – Free | Non-Members \$5 | Pre-Registration Required | To register: <https://andersongardens.org/cultural-educational/monthly-lecture-series/>

April 17

Cutting Ranjatai: The History of Japan Reflected in Incense

The story of the Japanese art of incense has at its beginnings the most famous piece of fragrant wood in the incense world: Ranjatai. A national treasure of Japan, pieces of this famous incense have been cut only three times in its 1400-year existence. In this talk, we'll examine the intertwining of Japanese history and incense through three individuals for whom Ranjatai was cut, Ashikaga Yoshimasa, Oda Nobunga, and Emperor Meiji.

Michael Cousineau is the founder of Kikoh Incense, one of North America's largest retailers of Japanese incense. His new book, *The Fragrant Path*, offers a rare look into the Japanese art of incense in the first in-depth English-language book on the subject in nearly three decades.

June 19

Wagashi by the Season



Kimiko Gunji

Professor Gunji has been a regular presenter and lecturer for the Anderson Japanese Garden since 2012. She has given season-by-season tea ceremony demonstrations, and various Japanese art-related workshops such as wagashi (Japanese sweet) making, kimono dressing, and Japanese cooking. She was a special presenter for the Regional North American Japanese Garden Association seminar, Kokoro and the Gardener: Health for Spirit, Body, and Community hosted by the Anderson Japanese Garden from August 4th through August 8th, 2022.

IKEBANA IN THE GARDEN

Taught by Reiko Takahashi, an Ikenobo-certified ikebana instructor.

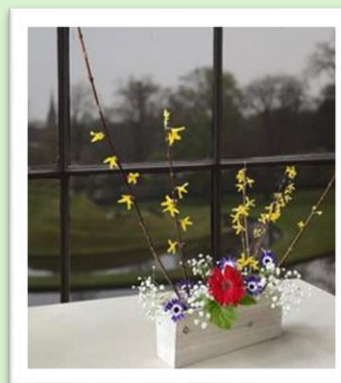
April 23

May 14

June 11

Introduction: 1 pm both days

Continuing: 4 pm both days



Ikebana Classes

Classes are now available for both beginners (Introduction to Ikebana) and those looking to continue to develop their skills (Continuing Ikebana).

Cost: Introduction - \$58 Members | \$68 Non-Members per class. Includes flower materials

Cost: Continuing - \$48 Members | \$58 Non-Members per class. Includes flower materials

Space is limited and registration is required. Cancellation deadline is 4 days prior to the class. After that, registration is non-refundable.

For more details or to register: <https://andersongardens.org/ikebana-in-the-gardens/>

JAPANESE ARTISAN WORKSHOPS

For details: <https://andersongardens.org/artisanworkshops/>

“Urushi” Lacquer Brooch Workshop

Monday, April 28, 2025, | 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Gallery

Cost: \$48 Members | \$58 Non-Members

Objective:

Workshop contents: Polishing a lacquer brooch. We will polish the layers of lacquer to create a brooch.

Supplies included in registration: Rags (cotton), vinyl gloves, protective sheet, paper towels, newspaper.

About Hirai Ayako:

Born in Fukushima Prefecture. Graduated from Tohoku University of Art and Design, majoring in Lacquer art. Worked at an antique furniture restoration studio. In 2016, she became independent with her husband.



To register:

<https://52957.blackbaudhosting.com/52957/>

**Urushi-Lacquer-
brooch-workshop**

“Hariko” (Paper Mache) Mini Druma Workshop

Monday, April 28, 2025, | 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM | Gallery

Cost: \$48 Members | \$58 Non-Members

Objective:

Workshop Contents: Painting a paper mache miniature daruma. We will enjoy painting on a small daruma made of Japanese paper.

Supplies included in registration: Rags (cotton), paints, paintbrushes, a protective sheet, a paper plate (for palette) 2-3 hair dryers, brush cleaner (plastic container), newspaper, and paper towels.

About Hashimoto Akie:

Born in Fukushima Prefecture. After graduating from university, she studied the manufacturing and processing of washi paper at the Kyoto College of Traditional Crafts. After working as a washi craftsman for six years, she went on a working holiday to Australia for two years. After returning to Japan, she began making Miharu paper mache at her birthplace Hashimoto Koji Mingei. In 2018, she conceived and created the work “Paper Mache Hanging Dolls”, which she exhibits every spring. In addition to the traditional style of Miharu paper mache, she also creates new works that incorporate dots and pastel colors.



To register:

<https://52957.blackbaudhosting.com/52957/Hariko-Paper-mache-mini-daruma-workshop>

Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage

May 21-24, 2025

Little Rock, Arkansas

Connection, Education, Healing

The Jerome Rohwer Committee and the Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage Planning Committee invite you to register for our upcoming 2025 Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage in Little Rock, AR, May 21-24, 2025. [Register here](#)

The Pilgrimage offers camp survivors, descendants, and others the opportunities to connect with fellow Pilgrims from around the globe. Last year we had Pilgrims from as far east as Europe, and as far west as Hawaii. You will learn about and discuss the legacy and aftermath of WWII era concentration camps in the USA. One day of the Pilgrimage is a journey to each concentration camp site in Jerome and Rohwer, where the sacred Ireichō (a book with names of over 125,000 innocent Japanese and Japanese Americans imprisoned during WWII) will be honored and short services will be held. We will have lunch in McGehee, AR, home to the WWII Japanese Internment Museum, followed by a program that includes taiko drummers and a short Obon festival to honor the spirits of our ancestors. There will be two full days of programming in Little Rock, with historical sessions, survivor perspectives, generational and intergenerational discussions, social activities, and opportunities to research family histories and to stamp the sacred Ireichō. Learning and open conversation lead to understanding and healing.

For more information: <https://jeromerohwer.org/index.php/pilgrimage/registration>

-Information from Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage website and JASC News

(<https://mail.aol.com/d/folders/43/messages/ABmRHZMnLnYjZ-U98QbWAPTYUKU>)

JULY 1-JULY 31

Angola Public Library, 322 S. Wayne St., Angola IN 46703



場所: アンゴラ公共図書館
EMBROIDERY EXHIBIT
by Mari Miller

ミラー真理によるジブリをモチーフにした刺繍作品を15から20作品程展示予定です。是非お越しください。

Come view embroidery on display by Mari Miller. Many feature Ghibli works. There will be 15-20 pieces to enjoy.

入場: 無料

Free to the public.



JULY 8 – AUGUST 29, 2025:

Fort Wayne Museum of Art

311 E. Main St. FW

**20TH CENTURY JAPANESE
PRINTS: SHIN-HANGA AND
SŌSAKU-HANGA**

For many books and articles, the study of Japanese woodblock prints ends in the 19th century. This exhibition looks beyond the classic era into the 20th century, in which prints diverged in two directions. Shin-hanga followed the traditional format, themes, and division of labor of the 18th and 19th centuries. Sōsaku-hanga showed the influence of Western art, embracing abstraction and the artist as printmaker. Included in this exhibition are prints by Yōshū Chikanobu, Haku Maki, Hiroshi Yoshida, and Toshi Yoshida, among others.

Hours for Print and Drawing Study Center: Tuesday – Friday: 10am – 3pm or by appointment; PDSC will be open 5-8pm every [2nd Thursday](#).

People are welcome to call or email to double check hours or to ask questions.

Sachi Yanari-Rizzo: 422-6467, ext. 336 or sachi.yanari@fwmoa.org

-Photo and information used by permission from FWMOA website

Photo caption:

Kamisaka Sekka

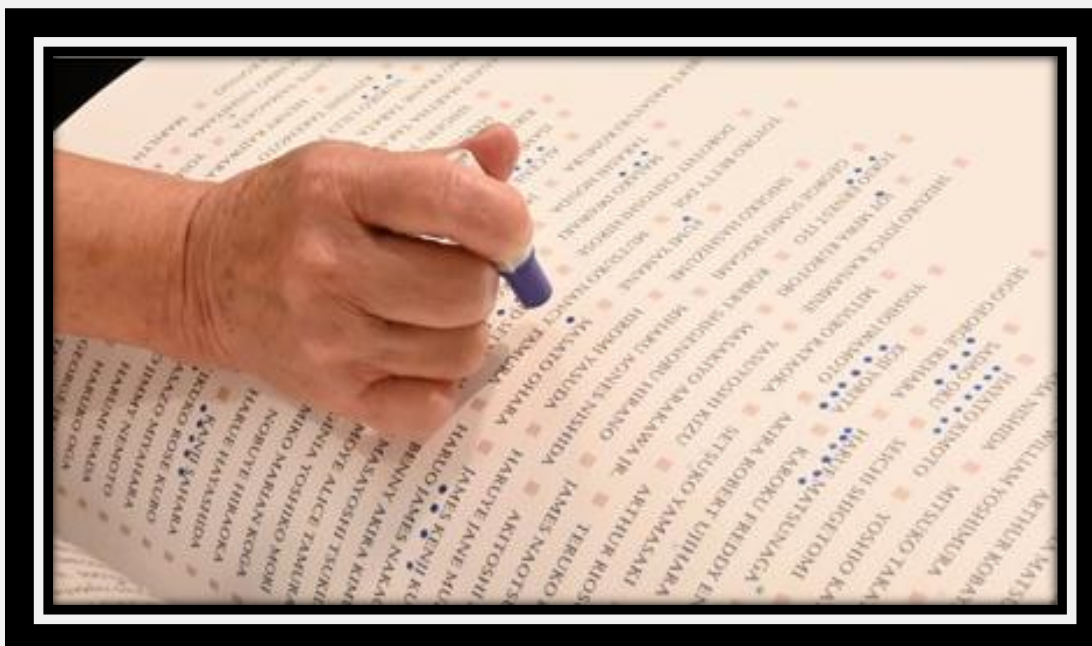
Japanese, 1860-1942

Women Reading from Momoyogusa

Woodblock print on paper, 1909

Gift of Wray C. McCalester, 2018.69

NOVEMBER 8TH & 9TH



-From the Japanese American Service Center in Chicago-

The Historic Ireichō is coming to JASC on November 8th and 9th, 2025!

We are honored to serve as the Chicago host of the Ireichō ("The Book of Names") on its national tour during 2025 and 2026. The Ireichō is a book monument with the names of the individuals of Japanese ancestry incarcerated during WWII. Named after the Japanese term for "consoling the spirits," the monument honors those who have gone before us as well as those who carry on the memories and legacies of forced removal, unjust incarceration, and family separation. Every visitor to the monument is invited to contribute to the creation of the monument by marking one or more names in the Ireichō with a blue hanko stamp.

The book started a national tour yesterday on the Day of Remembrance in Washington DC. JASC will host the Chicago tour dates in partnership with JACL Chicago, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, and Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago.

Visit **Ireizo's website** (<https://ireizo.org/tour/>) for more information on this project and **register here**.

This information is from an email from the Japanese American Service Center in Chicago on Feb. 19.

https://mail.aol.com/d/folders/43/messages/AABSc9w7eiNTZ7e_dQsT8OgX_zw

PEOPLE

WELCOME:

Toyoharu Maeda - American Mitsuba

Yukio Miyakoshi – American Mitsuba

Mr. & Mrs. Mano (Asako)

GOOD-BYE:

Takashi Ishinokawa (American Mitsuba) has returned to Japan.

Submissions should be emailed to yamanakam@cs.com, with “People” in the subject line. They will be included in the next quarterly newsletter. Categories are:

- Welcome (new to the area)
- Good-bye (leaving area)
- Births/deaths
- Marriage
- Special awards or accomplishments

If you are submitting information about someone else, be sure to have their permission.

This is a community newsletter. We need your input for it to be useful.

掲載ご希望の方は、件名を“People”とし yamanakam@cs.com までメールを下さい。次号のニュースレターへ掲載します。以下のカテゴリーでお願い致します。

- ようこそ（このエリアに新しく来られた方）
- さようなら（このエリアから離れる方）
- 誕生 / 訃報
- ご結婚
- 特別賞または功績

情報をご提供される場合には、ご本人に掲載の同意を得たうえでご提供くださいますよう、お願い致します。

本新聞は地域のニュースレターです。ご意見・ご感想・情報があればぜひお聞かせください。

NIPPON QUARTERLY

Everything Japanese in the Fort Wayne Area

Editor – Michele Yamanaka

yamanakam@cs.com

ニッポン・クォーターリー

～フォートウェインエリアの日本の全て～

編集ーミッシェル・ヤマナカ

yamanakam@cs.com

Contributing authors for this issue / 寄稿者（敬称略）:

- Gangsta Kimono Fashion – Mark Kennedy
- \$1.3 Million Dollar Tuna – Mark Kennedy
- New Year Celebration Review – M. Yamanaka
 - Kodo One Earth Tour – Nidia Flis
- Ball State Research Study – Dr. Ileleji
 - Embroidery Exhibit – Mari Miller

Thank you to Dr. Ileleji & Mari Miller for translation help.

Deadline for articles to be submitted	Publication date
December 31	Mid January
March 31	Mid April
June 30	Mid July
September 30	Mid October

We hope to have reports/articles from all segments of the Japanese – American community in order to connect us for good communication, provide better cultural understanding, and support each other.

The format of this newsletter is still developing. We welcome suggestions.

If you learn of cultural events of interest to the Japanese community, e.g., a Japanese language movie, an Ikebana workshop, a Japanese dance performance, etc., please email Michele so they can be included in the next newsletter.

If you do not want to receive this newsletter, please email Michele Yamanaka to remove your name from our email list.

記事提出の期限	発行日
12月31日	翌1月中旬
3月31日	4月中旬
6月30日	7月中旬
9月30日	10月中旬

JAAI は日本とアメリカと相互の文化を幅広く日米のコミュニティーへ広める為、様々なレポートや記事の提供をお願いしております。

また本新聞につきましては、改善を心掛けて行きますので、ご提案やアイデアなどありましたら是非ご連絡下さい。

また、もし日本に関するイベントなどがありましたら、次号へ掲載しますのでミッシェルまでご連絡を宜しくお願い致します。

今後配信をご希望されない方は、お手数ですがミッシェルまでご連絡を宜しくお願い申し上げます。

One piece of
embroidery at Angola
Library exhibit

