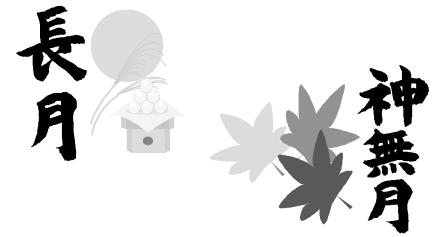


# JAPAN JOURNAL

NEWS FROM THE MIDWEST



JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2003

CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN AT CHICAGO

## Thanks to All...



The Consulate General of Japan at Chicago would like to express its deep gratitude to everyone who participated in and supported the *U.S.-Japan 150 Festival in Chicago* this September. Organizing such a large event would never have been possible without the hard work and dedication of so many contributors. In particular, we greatly appreciate the partnership of the Japan America Society of Chicago, co-organizers of the festival, and the dedication of Mr. Jack Beem, the Chairman of the festival Steering Committee.

We would also like to thank all of our event hosts and co-sponsors:

- American Institute of Floral Design
- Art Institute of Chicago
- Chicago Asian American Jazz Festival
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Chicago Cultural Center
- Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
- Chicago Historical Society
- Chicago Japanese American Historical Society
- Chicago Sister Cities International Program
- City of Osaka, Chicago Office
- Cultural Foundation for Promoting the National Costume of Japan
- Daley Center
- Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust
- Frank Lloyd Wright Unity Temple Restoration Foundation
- Gallery 37
- Gene Siskel Film Center
- Hakubi Kyoto Kimono Schools
- Ikebana International
- Illinois Association of Teachers of Japanese
- Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association (JETAA)
- Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
- Japan Foundation
- Japanese American Service Committee
- Kobe College Corporation
- Mayor's Office of Special Events



Lonnie Bunch (left), President of the Chicago Historical Society and Consul General Sakaba

- Mid-America Japanese Club
- Midwest Bonsai Society
- Midwest U.S.-Japan Association
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- Northwestern University
- Roosevelt University
- St. James Episcopal Cathedral
- Unity Temple
- University of Chicago
- Urasenke Chicago Chapter

Finally, a special thank you to the patrons and sponsors who made this festival financially feasible:

- United Airlines
- Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago
- Claridge Hotel
- Mitsubishi Motors of North America
- Kikkoman Foods, Inc.
- Takeda Pharmaceuticals
- Ernst & Young
- Fifth-Third Bank
- Mayer, Brown, Rowe, and Mawr

We hope to see you all again in 2153.



Gen Taiko at Museum of Contemporary Art

## Fall Has Come, and with It... *Kimono Fantasy*

Japan House, the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, and Spurlock Museum have collaborated to present a series of events, dubbed *Kimono Fantasy*, at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign this fall. An exhibit of Heian Era kimono in the Spurlock Museum from September 27 through December 13 forms the core of *Fantasy*, with lectures, demonstrations, and workshops also included in this wonderful series of programs.

### ***Luxurious Layers: Kimonos of the Heian Court***

**September 27 - December 13**  
Spurlock Museum Focus Gallery  
FREE

The Heian Period (794-1185) was an era of great peace for the Japanese people. As aesthetic skills became the focus of aristocrats, the arts flourished. The sense of Heian style and color are beautifully reflected in the multi-layered kimonos worn by members of the Court, as seen in the Spurlock Museum exhibit *Luxurious Layers*. Topics of kimono creation and symbolism, court life, and the modern continuation of kimono are all to be found and explored among the layers of wondrous silk on display.

### ***Creating Your Own Design with Japanese Traditional Fabric Dye***

**Sunday, December 7, 1 to 5 pm**  
Japan House  
\$35 Material Cost

This workshop is led by John Marshall, world-renowned American fiber artist specializing in the traditional Japanese techniques of *katazome* (stencil dyeing) and *tsutsugaki* (cone drawing). He is internationally recognized for his use of color and line to create truly unique articles of art-to-wear, turning traditionally inspired aesthetics into contemporary treasures for daily life. As a teacher he is recognized for his ability to adapt traditional recipes and methods to suit local climates, resources, and temperaments; and for his ability to distill complex techniques into easy to understand steps.

### **Kimono Dressing for Children**

**Saturday, October 4, 1 to 4 pm**  
Japan House  
FREE

Children will be dressed in traditional Japanese cotton kimono called *yukata* and colorful sashes called *obi*. Mrs. Toshie Kasada, a senior kimono specialist at the Hakubi Kyoto Kimono School, leads this program. Mrs. Kasada teaches kimono dressing techniques and special rituals and aspects of the Heian Court attire at the Hakubi School and various cultural centers in Japan. She has been appointed as an International Exchange Kimono Instructor and has demonstrated her skills around the world. Registration is required; contact Japan House.

### **Kimono Dressing Demonstration and Lecture**

**Tuesday, October 7, 7 pm**  
Spurlock Museum  
FREE

This event features Toshie Kasada, Kimono dressing specialist (see above) & Kimiko Gunji, Professor of Japanese Art and Culture.

### ***The Japanese Kimono: History and Development through the Ages***

**Saturday, December 6, 7 pm**  
Spurlock Museum  
FREE

In this lecture and Q-and-A session, John Marshall, world-renowned fiber artist, traces the history and development of Japanese clothing and explores how non-Japanese styles have influenced the Japanese aesthetic. A reception and sale of kimono will follow.



Kimono from the exhibit *Luxurious Layers*

### ***Japanese Traditional Weaving Techniques***

**Tuesday, November 11, 7 pm**  
Japan House  
FREE

Weaving in Japan originated as a practical and necessary craft and evolved into a socio-economic symbol. It has since emerged as an aesthetic force of its own. Using movies, slides, and collected fabrics, Professor Doyle Moore (Professor Emeritus of the University of Illinois) will present two methods of producing the folk expression of *kasuri* (*ikat*, or splash weaving) and discuss the sources of—and changes in—taste with the complex silk brocades, damasks, and satins that affected the tea ceremony.

### **Japan House**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
2000 South Lincoln Avenue  
Urbana IL 61802  
217-244-9934  
[www.art.uiuc.edu/galleries/japanhouse](http://www.art.uiuc.edu/galleries/japanhouse)

### **Spurlock Museum**

600 S. Gregory St.  
Urbana IL 61801  
217-333-2360  
[www.spurlock.uiuc.edu](http://www.spurlock.uiuc.edu)



## Five Japanese Films Appear in Chicago International Film Festival

The Chicago International Film Festival is set to run from October 2 through 16. This year's line-up includes five films from Japan, including a special screening of Yasujiro Ozu's 1932 silent film, *I Was Born, But...* The screening will be accompanied by simultaneous narrative and promises to be a unique experience at the festival.

For further information on any of the films—or the festival in general—call 312-332-FILM, or visit [www.chicagofilmfestival.org](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.org).

### *I Was Born, But...*

#### **Yasujiro Ozu**

“Roger Ebert’s choice” combines the Ozu’s 1932 silent masterpiece with a live, parallel performance by Midori Sawato, the world’s leading traditional Japanese *benshi* (narrative interpreter skilled in the

storytelling art). Ozu’s social satire sees the antics of childhood yield to the disillusionment of maturity as two youngsters witness their father pandering to his boss. Initially comic, this classic work about childhood ultimately delivers a pointed, yet sympathetic, social lesson.

October 8 at 6:30 pm

### *Bright Future*

#### **Kiyoshi Kurosawa**

The future is not bright for Mamoru and Yuji, two loners at a wet hand-towel processing plant. The pair bond while Mamoru teaches Yuji how to care for his pet jellyfish. Mamoru fails in his plan to change the jellyfish into a freshwater creature and Yuji sets out to avenge his friend’s bad fortune. However, Yuji winds up with the jellyfish—and Mamoru’s estranged father—while

Mamoru awaits trial.

October 7 at 8:45 pm

October 10 at 7 pm

### *The Twilight Samurai*

#### **Yoji Yamada**

This award-winning film follows a reluctant samurai in the fading days of feudal Japan. Rather than exciting sword battles, Iguchi’s life is filled with mindless chores. A widower deep in debt with a family to care for, he is ridiculed by his fellow samurai. When the clan lord dies, Iguchi is ordered to kill a master swordsman who refuses to commit *hara-kiri*.

October 4 at 6:30 pm

October 5 at 12 noon

October 6 at 6:30 pm

### *Josee, the Tiger, and the Fish*

#### **Inudo Isshin**

Tsuneo is a curious, but basically normal, university student. However, he is set on an unexpected odyssey when a mysterious baby carriage—pushed around daily by an equally mysterious old woman—crashes into his path. Tsuneo is slowly lured into the seductive charms of Kumiko (aka Josee), an intriguing, well-read, disabled young woman who cooks a mean breakfast.

October 9 at 6:45 pm

October 11 at 4:45 pm

October 12 at 6:15 pm

### *Tamala2010, A Punk Cat in Space*

#### **t.o.L**

Combining elements of the Powerpuff Girls and *Cowboy Bebop*, this Japanimation film chronicles the travels of Tamala, a foul-mouthed, one-year-old punk rock kitten in heat. With her companion, Michaelangelo, Tamala investigates a vast galactic conspiracy by corporate menace CATTY & Co. After being victimized by a brutish canine, Tamala is transformed into a bizarre messianic figure.

October 10 at 9:45 pm

October 12 at 9:15 pm

## Facets Film School Focuses on Yasujiro Ozu

In addition to being a venue for unknown, offbeat, foreign, independent, “artsy,” or otherwise out-of-the-mainstream films, Facets Multimedia also offers a way to further explore this other side of the cinema world. It’s called “Facets Film School.”

The film school offers classes focused on particular directors or actors and includes screenings of films and discussions led by someone in the know: critic, journalist, scholar, or film maker.

Facets winter session includes a six-week course devoted to Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu. Born December 12, 1903, this winter will mark the centennial of his birth. From the silent era until his death in 1963, Ozu continually refined and elaborated upon his fundamental theme: the dissolution of the Japanese family.

The course will include screenings of six films and discussion will explore Ozu’s formal techniques;

the philosophical, poetic, and comic undercurrents of his films; and how these relate to his approach to the joys and sorrows of family life.

Leading discussion will be Joseph Knowles. Mr. Knowles is the culture editor for *In These Times* magazine, where he has written essays on film and literature since 1998. He has previously taught a class at Facets Film School entitled *Laughter in the Dark: The Tragicomic Tradition*.

Registration will be accepted up to the day of the first class.

**Dates** Tuesdays, November 11 through December 16

**Time** 7 to 10 pm

**Place** Facets Multimedia  
1517 W. Fullerton Ave.  
Chicago IL 60614

**Cost** \$80 members  
\$95 non-members

**Info** 773-281-9075  
[www.facets.org](http://www.facets.org)



## Reading, Writing, Kicking, and Punching

Hidy Ochiai is a kind of Japanese jack-of-all-trades. The calligrapher, author, and martial arts master will be in Minnesota on **Thursday, October 9** for an evening of Japanese culture and art.

In conjunction with the 150th anniversary of U.S.-Japan relations, the Japan America Society of Minnesota (JASM) has invited Mr. Ochiai to lead a discussion of his *A Way to Victory*, which is a translation and commentary on *The Book of Five Rings* by Musashi Miyamoto. There will also be a reception and exhibition of his Japanese brush calligraphy.

Attendees will also enjoy a workshop in traditional *jufu* ("gentle wind") martial arts given by Mr. Ochiai. It should be an enjoyable and eclectic evening of Japanese entertainment.

**Dates** October 9  
**Time** 5:30 to 8 pm  
**Place** The Marsh  
 15000 Minnetonka Blvd.  
 Minnetonka MN 55345  
**Cost** \$120 members  
 \$135 non-members  
**Info** 612-627-9357  
 jasm@us-japan.org

## Bonsai Shown in Indy

The Indianapolis Bonsai Club will repeat its very successful show at White River Gardens Conservatory. New this year, several specimens will be exhibited in the outdoor DeHaan Tiergarten, where they can be truly appreciated in their natural growing environments.

**Date** through November 16  
**Place** White River Gardens,  
 next to Indianapolis Zoo at  
 1200 W. Washington St.  
 Indianapolis IN 46222  
**Cost** Included with admission  
**Info** 317-630-2001  
 www.whiterivergardens.com

## Japan America Society Offers Programs on History, Society, Economy

### *Indigenous Capitalism and the Birth of Deposit Banking in Late-Edo Japan*

**Dr. Ronald P. Toby, UIUC**

Japan experienced a credit revolution in early 19th-century Japan as rural lenders transformed themselves from "money lenders" to "bankers." These country bankers' activities greatly increased the liquidity of capital and the velocity of money. This, in turn, laid the foundation of Japan's economic strength entering the Meiji period and prepared for its modern economic success.

Dr. Ronald P. Toby, a specialist in Tokugawa-period Japanese history, received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1977 and has taught at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign for 25 years.

**Date** Wednesday, October 8  
**Time** 7:45 to 9 am  
**Place** The Chicago Club  
 81 East Van Buren Street  
 Chicago IL  
**Cost** \$20 members  
 \$25 non-members  
**Info** 312-263-3049  
 jasc@us-japan.org

### *Untangling the Japanese Mind: Understanding/Misunderstanding in US-Japan Relations*

**Ms. Yukie Kudo, Newscaster, Journalist, & Author**

This timely presentation comes as Japan is expected to dispatch ships to support American actions in Iraq. The move is certain to provoke speculation as to Japan's defense posture abroad. Ms. Kudo will also present her observations on how Europe looks upon U.S.-Japan military and diplomatic relations.

Ms. Yukie Kudo received an LLB in 1988 from the University of Tokyo, School of Law and a master's degree from the London School of Economics. In 1992, she became a newscaster, journalist, and anchor for the nation-wide TV Asahi network.

**Date** Friday, October 17  
**Time** 7:45 to 9 am  
**Place** The Chicago Club  
 81 East Van Buren Street  
 Chicago IL  
**Cost** \$20 members  
 \$25 non-members  
**Info** 312-263-3049  
 jasc@us-japan.org

### *Japan's Cultural, Political and Economic Position in East Asia: The Past, Present and Future*

**Dr. Emanuel Pastreich, UIUC**

What are the cultural aspects that shape behavior, from education to business, throughout East Asia? How similar is Japan to China and Korea in values and habits? What is Japan's relative status in Asia today and what are the implications for the United States? Dr. Pastreich leads discussion of these and other topics.

Dr. Emanuel Pastreich has written extensively on the intellectual history of Japan, China, and Korea. He received his Ph.D. in East Asian studies from Harvard in 1997 and currently serves as Assistant Professor at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**Date** Wednesday, October 29  
**Time** 5:30 to 7:30 pm  
**Place** Japan Information Center  
 737 N. Michigan Ave.  
 Suite 1000  
 Chicago IL 60611  
**Cost** \$5 members  
 \$10 non-members  
**Info** 312-263-3049  
 jasc@us-japan.org



## Film and Foreign Policy in JASI Repertoire

The Japan America Society of Indiana (JASI) runs the gamut of events to satisfy Japan-related interests this fall, offering a talk on Japanese foreign affairs perspectives, as well as a film series of contemporary Japanese cinema.

### Contemporary Japanese Film

**Samurai Fiction**, Oct. 7 This affectionate parody of the classic Japanese samurai film follows the pursuit of a feudal lord's prized sword and the battles it triggers.

**Sumo Do, Sumo Don't**, Nov. 4 In this comedy about a seemingly hopeless college sumo team, the unlikely quintet of misfits and slackers seems destined for obscurity, but they just might save the day, and the wrestling team.

**Traffic Jam**, Dec. 2 A young Tokyo couple are at the center of this dark, comic satire. They take their children to visit the husband's faraway parents, but the long road trip proves filled with disastrous incidents.

This event is co-sponsored by the Indiana Film Society. All films are in Japanese with English subtitles.

**Dates** October 7  
November 4  
December 2

**Time** Screenings begin 7 pm

**Place** Laikin Auditorium  
Jewish Community Center  
6701 Hoover Rd.  
Indianapolis IN 46260

**Cost** Free

**Info** [info@indianafilmsociety.org](mailto:info@indianafilmsociety.org)  
[www.indianafilmsociety.org](http://www.indianafilmsociety.org)

### Foreign Policy

Ms. Yukie Kudo will give a talk on **Wednesday, October 15**—just before the Japan Self Defense Forces are expected to send ships to Iraq in support of U.S. efforts—a move certain to provoke public outcry in Japan.

One of Japan's most insightful analysts of how that country's sense of history and identity shapes and constrains its international policies, Ms. Kudo's talk comes at a most opportune time. She has just returned from a month-long seminar in France at the Defense Ministry and her talk in Indianapolis will discuss how Europe views the global roles of Japan and the United States.

Ms. Kudo is a leading television journalist and international affairs analyst in Japan. She was previously the anchorperson for the Japanese national news network TV Asahi and for the international program "CNN News Break." She graduated with top honors in Law from Tokyo University and has a masters degree from the London School of Economics.

This program is co-sponsored by the Indiana Council on World Affairs (ICWA).

**Date** October 15

**Time** 5:30 pm—Reception  
6:30 pm—Dinner  
7:15 pm—Talk

**Place** Robertson Hall, Butler Univ.  
4742 Garden Rd.  
Indianapolis IN 46208

**Cost** \$20 JASI and ICWA members  
\$22 non-members

**Info** Reservations required by October 10 to ICWA  
317-566-2036

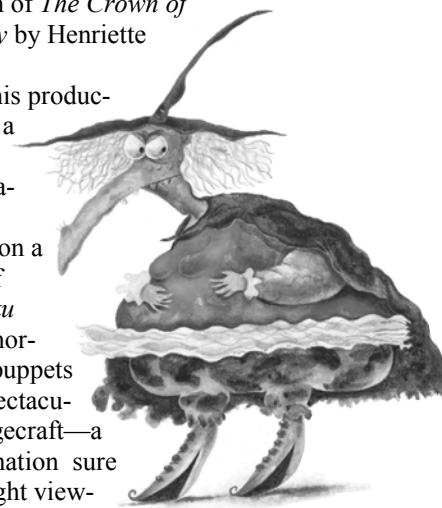
## Japanese Bunraku Influences Canadian Puppet Troupe

On **Sunday, October 26**, a Canadian puppet troupe with Japanese influences will enchant audiences at the Madison Civic Center with their version of *Hänsel and Gretel*.

Founded in Quebec in 1971, *Théâtre Sans Fil (Theater Without Strings)* is a unique puppet company inspired by the classical technique of Japanese *bunraku* theater.

*L'Araignée*, the troupe's first production, was based on a Japanese *Noh* play and first presented in 1971 at the University of Quebec in Montreal. In 1998, they traveled to Tokyo and Osaka to perform a Japanese version of *The Crown of Destiny* by Henriette Major.

This production of a childhood favorite builds on a base of *bunraku* with enormous puppets and spectacular stagecraft—a combination sure to delight viewers of all ages.



Witch image courtesy of Madison Civic Center

**Date** October 26

**Time** 3 pm

**Place** Madison Civic Center  
211 State Street  
Madison WI 53716

**Cost** \$14

**Info** 608-266-6550  
[www.madcivic.org](http://www.madcivic.org)



### [www.kansai.gr.jp](http://www.kansai.gr.jp)

This website—dubbed "Kansai Window"—is dedicated to promotion of the Kansai region of Japan. Kansai consists of nine prefectures including such historical, cultural, and economic centers as Kyoto, Nara, and Osaka. The site includes background information on all prefectures as well as recent news about culture, tourism, and business in the region.

## JET Asst. Coordinator Recycles Article

Doug Bell, Assistant JET Coordinator at the JIC, wrote a brilliant article last September promoting the JET Program. It was so brilliant, in fact, that Doug has recycled it for this year, including all the original witty anecdotes, many of which he manufactured himself. He did take time out of his busy schedule, however, to change the dates of the deadline and information sessions to accurately reflect the current year's information. Without further ado, here it is...

### *JET Program: The Peace Corps in Japan (Redux)*

"As a JET, I expected to teach English to Japanese students. What I didn't expect was to find myself scaring monkeys out of the rice paddies of local farmers!"

Unusual statements like this are common among current and former Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program participants. Inaugurated in 1987 as "one of the largest educational programs in the history of mankind," the JET Program offers Americans and other non-Japanese a one-year renewable contract to assist local Japanese governments, schools and communities with foreign-language education, sports education and cultural exchange programs.

Begun in response to criticism that Japan was too insular, the aim of the JET Program is to promote grassroots intercultural exchange through team-teaching in local public schools or work in local government offices. At the same time, the JET Program also seeks to increase foreigners' awareness of Japanese society and culture.

In its first year, 848 young people from the United States, Britain, Australia and New Zealand joined the program; this year, over 6,000 people from 38 nations are carrying out their missions throughout Japan.

The JET Program offers three types of positions to applicants: Assistant Language Teacher (ALT), Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) and Sports Exchange Adviser (SEA). The ALT position constitutes the majority of JET participants.

Although teaching English is the primary means by which ALTs promote internationalization in Japan, they also get involved in a broad spectrum of activities from judging speech contests to creating web pages to participating in local sports events. Some have even created their own local TV programs. As one former JET noted, "When I first found out about the JET Program, I was a little leery about teaching because I lacked experience. But, I found out that 'teaching' can include a wide variety of things. And more than just variety, I got a lot of satisfaction out of helping the kids. You might say the JET Program is like the Peace Corps with excellent pay and living conditions."

### Information Session

For anyone interested in learning more about the JET Program and how to apply, an information session is tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, October 25, from 2 to 5 pm** at the Japan Information Center. Former JET Program participants will discuss various aspects of life as a JET and new 2004 applications will also be available. For more information, please consult the Consulate General of Japan web-page at [www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic.html](http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic.html), or contact Doug Bell at [jiemext@webkddi.com](mailto:jiemext@webkddi.com) or 312-280-0434. Anyone interested in having a JET representative come to his or her university for an information center can contact Doug for details.

## JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER

[www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic.html](http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jic.html)

The Japan Information Center (JIC) is the educational and cultural branch of the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago. Established in 1978, the JIC aims to promote knowledge of Japan in our four-state jurisdiction of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

### SERVICES

The JIC distributes Japan-related materials; maintains a lending library of books, videos, films, and slides; answers inquiries; and sponsors lectures, concerts, art exhibits and other cultural events related to Japan.

### BUSINESS HOURS

9:15 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday  
***We are open until 7 pm most Thursdays.***

The office is closed on most American holidays and between December 29 and January 3 (Japanese year-end and New Year holidays).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### JAPAN JOURNAL

If you would like to subscribe or submit an article or event for a future issue, please contact editor Chip Meyer at (312) 280-0431 or [jicoutreach@webkddi.com](mailto:jicoutreach@webkddi.com). We review all submissions.

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