

## New Consul General Arrives in Chicago

In April, the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago welcomed the Honorable Yutaka Yoshizawa as the next Consul General from Japan. Mr. Yoshizawa entered the Foreign Ministry in 1974 after graduating from the University of Tokyo's Department of Law. Since then, he has held various posts in various countries, including India, South Africa, China, and two previous posts in the United States. Most recently, he served as the Managing Director of the General Affairs Department of the Japan Foundation.

The Consul General agreed to answer a few questions about his thoughts on his new post in Chicago and his plans for his tenure here. We are happy to share those with you.

*Why did you originally decide to join the foreign service and make a career of diplomacy?*

I like to study history, read historical novels, and visit historical places and I thought if I joined the foreign service, I would have the opportunity to be present at historic moments. Actually, my

grandfather was a lawyer and I studied law, so maybe law was a natural field for me to enter. But, I felt that it was too narrow, based on my grandfather's experience. The foreign service is more broad and I felt it would provide a broader range of experiences.

*What was your reaction upon learning of your placement at the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago?*

Nine years ago, when I visited Chicago for the first time, I was very impressed by the charm of the city—its arts, its architecture. I quickly fell in love with the city and knew then that I wanted to return and live here someday. So, truly, this appointment is a kind of dream come true for me.

*Are there any aspects of Chicago, the Midwest, or the United States you are looking forward to exploring more?*

Actually, I am looking forward to the famous Chicago winter. When I first visited Chicago it was in the summer, and now again I have arrived just at the be-



Consul General of Japan Yutaka Yoshizawa

ginning of summer. So, I want to see what the famous winters are like. I have also heard of many things to do in Chicago in winter: concerts or opera, for example, and, of course, a Chicago Bears game at Soldier Field.

Also, I am interested in learning more about the history of the relationship between Chicago and the Midwest and Japan. Already I have been intrigued by the historical ties I saw represented in the photo panels commissioned by my predecessor, Mr. Sakaba, and I would like to explore more.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## This Month in Japan

*Minazuki*, the old Japanese name for June, literally means "month of no water." Ironically, June is the rainy season in Japan today, but the name formerly applied to a drier time of year based on the lunar calendar.



There are no major holidays in Minazuki in Japan, so Japanese simply stay indoors out of all the rain!

### Minazuki in History

Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako were married on June 9, 1993.

Ginkakuji, the Silver Pavilion, was completed on June 27, 1483 in Kyoto.

## Last Month in Japan

Do you remember what happened in Japan last month...

1. What American set a new record in Japan's major league baseball for most career home runs by a foreign player with 300?
2. Prime Minister Koizumi scolded young lawmakers for doing what during Parliamentary sessions?
3. How much money (in dollars) has Japan dedicated to a new missile defense system in collaboration with the U.S., England, and Australia?

Answers to May's *Last Month* trivia:

1. Kiyoshi Amemiya made the news for his invention of a landmine disposal machine.
2. A musical piece by Johann Sebastian Bach was rediscovered in Japan after nearly 8 decades.
3. Mayo Clinic researchers discovered in green tea a component that kills leukemia cells.

Congratulations to Eluides Pagan of Hobart, Indiana for winning the Last Month Trivia Quiz!

Think you know the answers? If so, email them to [jicoutreach@webkddi.com](mailto:jicoutreach@webkddi.com) or mail them to us Attn: Last Month (see page 6 for our address) by the 15th of this month. Those with the most answers correct will be eligible for a prize drawing.

## JIC Hosts Staged Reading of Adapted Noh Play

The Japan Information Center will host a presentation by the Silk Road Theatre Project (S RTP) of a staged reading of an adapted Noh play on **Tuesday, June 15 at 7 pm**. The play, *The Gempei War: A Cycle of Noh Plays*, was adapted for the modern stage by Kyle Gorden and will be directed by Julieanne Ehre.

*The Gempei War* investigates the messy aftermath of war as told in three classic Japanese plays. "Tomoe" tells the story of a female samurai unable to forgive her master's final betrayal. In "Atsumori," a war-weary samurai is changed forever after being forced to kill a young musician. And in "Ataka," a great general is brought to self-degradation by his brother's paranoia.

Long overlooked in the cannon of classic theatre, these ancient texts are given new life in this adaptation by playwright Kyle Gorden. A Q&A

session with Mr. Gorden will follow the reading.

S RTP is dedicated to bringing Asian theater to Chicago. They recently finished a quite successful run with the play *Tea*, by Velina Hasu Houston, which recounts the loneliness and alienation of Japanese war brides living in Kansas. More information about the group is available on their website, [www.srtp.org](http://www.srtp.org).



**Date** June 15  
**Time** 7 pm  
**Place** Japan Information Center  
 737 N. Michigan Ave.  
 Suite 1000  
 Chicago IL 60611  
**Cost** Free  
**Info** 312-236-6881  
[info@srtp.org](mailto:info@srtp.org)

## Thousands Expected at Botanic Gardens for Japan Festival

One of the biggest weekends of the year at Chicago Botanic Gardens is approaching. For 23 years, tens of thousands of people have been flocking to this celebration of Japanese culture. This year, the Mid-America Japanese Club and Japanese American Association of Chicago together with the Chicago Botanic Garden have organized the festival for **Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14**.

Growing year by year, it now includes a variety of Japanese food favorites such as teriyaki and yakisoba, cultural demonstrations, performances, and many artisans and craftsmen selling their wares. The music of *taiko* drums, *koto*, *shakuhachi*, *shinobue*, and singing ring out from the indoor stage. Visitors can witness karate, judo, aikido, and

kendo demonstrations. Practitioners of *chano-yu*—the way of tea—will perform tea ceremonies and members of Ikebana International will create and display beautiful flower arrangements.

Those who want to come away with more than a memory will be able to buy *sumie* (ink paintings), *suminagashi* (marbled ink prints), jewelry, books of Japanese folklore, and many more hand crafted products.

**Date** June 12 and 13  
**Time** 10 am to 5 pm  
**Place** Chicago Botanic Garden  
 1000 Lake Cook Rd.  
 Glencoe IL 60022  
**Cost** Free with admission to garden  
**Info** 847-593-1633  
[info@japanfest-chicago.org](mailto:info@japanfest-chicago.org)  
[www.japanfest-chicago.org](http://www.japanfest-chicago.org)

## Anderson Gardens Named Best in North America

A recent survey conducted by the *Roth Journal of Japanese Gardening* (JOJG) has identified Anderson Gardens in Rockford, Illinois as “the best Japanese Garden in North America.” The conclusion was the result of a questionnaire distributed to 41 Japanese garden specialists asking one simple question: “What are the highest-quality public Japanese gardens in North America?”

The survey encouraged respondents to apply their own definitions of quality and to avoid emphasizing gardens on the basis of size or fame. With more than 300 public gardens in North America, the competition was certainly fierce. In the end, the top spot was a dead heat between Portland Japanese Garden and Anderson Gardens, with the latter just nosing out the Oregon garden.

JOJG conducted a similar survey four years ago. Then, Portland captured the number one position, with Anderson settling for runner-up. Obviously, these two gardens have developed a friendly rivalry in the Japanese garden world that one hopes will continue their drives for excellence.

Other gardens in the Midwest also made it into the top 25: Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota came in at #9; the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum appeared at #19; and the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis is at #13.

Hoping more people will come to see the treasure hidden in upstate Illinois, Anderson Gardens is offering a free admission to readers of the *Japan Journal*. Simply present the coupon below at Anderson and get a free admission with one paying admission. The offer is good only for the 2004 season, though, so make sure you get there by **October 31** of this year.

Anderson Japanese Gardens is open 10 to 5 Monday through Friday, 10 to 4 on Saturday, and 12 to 4 on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students, and \$4 for seniors (62+). Children 4 and under are admitted free. More information is available on the web at **www.andersongardens.org**.

Anderson Japanese Gardens  
318 Spring Creek Road  
Rockford, Illinois 61107  
815-229-9390



(Consul General from page 1)

*The Japan Journal mainly reports on opportunities for readers to experience and learn about Japan and Japanese culture. What specific aspects of Japanese culture you are eager to share with Midwesterners?*

Japanese culture is very rich—and it is rich in both traditional culture and contemporary culture. I hope the Consulate will be able to introduce and promote as many aspects of Japanese culture as possible.

I worked for the Japan Foundation for 3 ½ years. The mission of the Japan Foundation is to introduce Japanese culture to other countries, to introduce foreign cultures to Japan, and to support joint cultural projects. From this experience, I have learned about and come to appreciate many aspects of Japanese culture I had not known much about before. So, I try not to have any prejudices.

*What are your main goals for the Japan Information Center during your tenure here?*

Let me answer that question by saying that during my career, I have been involved in PR and cultural exchange quite a lot, including at the Japan Foundation, as head of the cultural affairs section at the embassy in Beijing, and as the director of the information section at the consulate in New York. I hope all my previous experiences on those occasions will contribute to the further development of the JIC's work, which is already significant and, I feel, quite good.



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**ANDERSON™  
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GARDENS**

Anderson Gardens generously offers *Japan Journal* readers one free admission to the garden with one paying admission. **Valid through October 31, 2004**

## Essay Contest Offers Youngsters a Chance at a Trip to Japan

The Goi Peace Foundation and The World Peace Prayer Society are sponsoring an international essay contest for young people on the theme "Making the most of my qualities." Young people from around the world are invited to submit their creative ideas on this theme in essay form. **Deadline for submission is June 30, 2004.**

1st Prize (one entrant) is a certificate and prize of ¥100,000 (approx. \$900). 2nd Prize (two entrants) is a certificate and prize of ¥50,000 (approx. \$450). 3rd Prize (5 entrants) is a certificate and a special gift. First Prize winners will be invited to the award ceremony to be held in Tokyo, Japan on November 21, 2004. Travel expenses will be covered by the sponsor.

Essays may be submitted by anyone up to 25 years old and must be 800 words or less, typed or printed. Submissions must be previously unpublished original works by a single author. Copyright of the essays entered will be assigned to the sponsor. Teachers and youth directors also may submit a collection of essays from their class or group.

For more information on the theme, format or other specifics, visit [www.goipeace.or.jp](http://www.goipeace.or.jp), email [essay@goipeace.or.jp](mailto:essay@goipeace.or.jp), or write to International Essay Contest c/o The Goi Peace Foundation, 1-4-5 Hirakawacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0093, Japan.

## Language Camp Provides Japanese Immersion

School is almost out for the summer and many parents may be looking for ways to continue their children's education. At the same time, many youngsters are no doubt anxious for long, warm days playing outside with friends, going to summer parties, and eating something other than cafeteria tater tots.

Well, Concordia Language Villages in Dent, Minnesota could be just the answer. The Villages include a variety of internationally-themed summer camps. The Japanese village, *Mori no ike* (Pond in the Forest), offers young boys and girls an unforgettable journey through Japanese language and culture.

To provide the most authentic immersion experience, new arrivals at *Mori no Ike* will pass through customs, where "officials" will ask for their Concordia Language Villages passport and visa. The officials then check the luggage for *contorobando* (contraband)—English language tapes, books, and any other American items. Don't worry! All the items will be given back when it's time to leave the village! But while at Concordia, the stay in Japan will be as authentic as possible.

Learning to use *hashi* (chopsticks), participants can enjoy authentic cuisine such as rice,

noodles, miso soup, tofu, fish, and seaweed. Then, to burn up all that food, campers can explore the martial arts of judo, karate, or kendo.

In small- and large-group language sessions, the youngsters will experience such traditional activities as origami, *ikebana* (flower arranging), *sumi-e* (ink painting), *chanoyu* (tea ceremony), *odori* (folk dancing), *shodo* (calligraphy), or *taiko* (drums) as well as the pop culture of modern Japan. In addition, camp counselors bring to life the cultural festivals of *Tanabata* and *Obon* in evening programs. In short, *Mori no Ike* provides an opportunity and atmosphere to experience both traditional ways and modern lifestyles of Japan, all through the Japanese language.

For more information about application, dates, and costs for the camp—as well as available financial assistance—contact the camp directly at 800-222-4750, 218-299-4544, [clv@cord.edu](mailto:clv@cord.edu), or by visiting the website at [www.cord.edu/dept/clv/index.html](http://www.cord.edu/dept/clv/index.html).



## WWW.ORIGAMI.AS/HOME.HTML

Most readers of *Japan Journal* will be familiar with such ubiquitous origami designs as the crane, the samurai helmet, and maybe a frog. But have you ever seen mushrooms, delicate sea anemones, or intricate three-dimensional masks and figures? This website is a privately maintained site by professional origami designer Joseph Wu. It includes not only his own work, but that of many other origami masters. Visit the galleries on this site and witness amazing possibilities in the ancient art of folding paper.

## Asian Moon Festival Returns for 11th Year

The 11th annual Asian Moon Festival, organized by the Wisconsin Organization for Asian Americans, Milwaukee, will be held at Milwaukee's beautiful lakefront festival grounds **Friday through Sunday, June 11-13, 2004.**

Each year, over 30,000 people visit Milwaukee for the first ethnic festival of the season—Asian Moon, organized by the Wisconsin Organization for Asian Americans, Milwaukee. Visitors enjoy music, dancing, drumming, exotic foods and spices, shopping, and learning about various Asian cultures.



While not an exclusively Japanese event, there is plenty of Japanese culture represented, including Japanese flute, *taiko* (drum), karaoke, kabuki, origami, calligraphy, aikido, jujitsu, and karate.

Musicians, magicians, and storytellers share songs and stories from

various areas of Asia. Demonstrations of jujitsu, aikido and other martial arts portray the combined power and grace of disciplined martial artists as they break boards and bricks with their bare hands or move silently through complex movements. Merchants bring fine wares, wearables, and traditional crafts from the Far East.

In addition, there is entertainment for everyone at the small, children's area stage. Young people of all ethnic backgrounds sing, dance, drum, and perform. Expect to be impressed by little people with big talent! And the children's craft area offers hands-on fun.

Not to mention food! Who can resist the aromas of exotic Asian foods wafting in the summer breeze? There will certainly be plenty to tempt your appetite.

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	June 11—5 to 11 pm June 12—12 noon to 12 pm June 13—12 noon to 6 pm
<b>Place</b>	Lakefront Festival Grounds 200 North Harbor Dr. Milwaukee WI 53202
<b>Cost</b>	\$6.00 single day (advance) \$15.00 all weekend (advance) \$7.00 single day (gate) Children 12 & under FREE with adult
<b>Info</b>	info@asianmoon.org www.asianmoon.org

## Facets Film School Focuses on Six by Takeshi Miike

The June session of Facets Film School will focus on six films by Japanese director Takeshi Miike. Meeting on Mondays **June 14 through July 17**, the course will include screenings and discussions led by independent film maker, Michael Smith. Students will examine how Miike critiques contemporary Japanese society and the language of cinema itself.

<b>Date</b>	June 14 to July 19
<b>Time</b>	7 to 10 pm
<b>Place</b>	Facets Film School 1517 W. Fullerton Ave. Chicago IL 60614
<b>Cost</b>	\$80 members \$95 non-members
<b>Info</b>	773-281-9075 sales@facets.org www.facets.org

## Ask a Monoshiri

*In the typical family household in Japan, what does the furniture look like?*



- Anonymous

Of course, it is hard to settle on a "typical" family household. Some families retain very traditional furniture throughout their homes, while others decorate with the most modern or most Western designs that would be familiar to any American family. Most homes, though, have some mixture of the two. Kitchens, though small, often have a Western table and chairs on a tile floor, while living rooms still use *kotatsu* and *zabuton* on *tatami* mats. *Kotatsu* are low tables with an electric heater mounted under the table top to be used while sitting on the floor. *Zabuton* are flat pillow cushions to make floor sitting more comfortable. Similarly, many bedrooms still feature the *futon* (pronounced foo-tone, not foo-tahn): a foldable mattress that can be easily stored when not in use. For further discussion—and photos—of Japanese furniture, visit [www.japan-guide.com/e/e2007.html](http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2007.html).

*Why is it that bread [in Japan] always has the crust cut off?*

- William Bennecke, Lisle, IL

Well, not ALL bread is sans crust, but it is rather common, especially for pre-made and packaged sandwiches. The reason for this is really quite simple—the crust is commonly considered the least desirable part of the bread. In Japan's service-oriented society, removing the crust from the bread shows that the manufacturer has gone the extra mile for the customer. Imagine if producers strove for this level of satisfaction for other products: pepperoncini peppers would be stemless, shrimp would be tailless, all the unpopped kernels would be sifted from popcorn, new shoes would be pre-laced, and we would never again see the footnote "\*\*Batteries not included."

Send your questions about Japan to the monoshiri at [jicoutreach@webkddi.com](mailto:jicoutreach@webkddi.com) or mail it to us Attn: Monoshiri (see page 6 for our address). All questions will get responses and a selection will be printed here. We will also send Japanese prizes to those readers whose questions are printed.

## JIC to Screen Blockbuster *Twilight Samurai*

The Japan Information Center will resume its FREE film series on **Wednesday, June 9 at 6:30 pm** with the hugely successful and critically acclaimed *Twilight Samurai* (*Tasogare Seibei*) by Yoji Yamada. The film won 12 Japanese Academy Awards and was nominated for Best Foreign Language film in the United States.

*Twilight Samurai* tells the story of Seibei Iguchi, a low-ranking samurai whose family is impoverished by misfortune. The moment his daily work as a warehouse clerk is over, he hurries home to care for them. When Seibei outduels a high-ranking samurai using just a wooden sword, his reputation as a swordsman spreads. As he begins to dream of rising fortunes, he is caught in the turmoil of a clan power struggle.

The screening will be held in the JIC auditorium. For more information about the film screening, call **312-280-0430** or email [jicchicago@webkddi.com](mailto:jicchicago@webkddi.com).



## Japan Journal Back Issues Now Available Online

Do you ever wonder what hot stories of 2002 were included in the Japan Journal? Or, do you ever feel nostalgic for the mastheads of years gone by? Well, readers can now take a trip down memory lane because past issues of the *Japan Journal* are now available on our website (top, right) in PDF format.

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS...

- Evanston Art Center offers a workshop on Japanese techniques of paper decoration and book binding **June 19 & 20**. Call **847-475-5300** or visit [www.evanstonartcenter.org](http://www.evanstonartcenter.org) for more information.
- The University of Chicago's Smart Museum of Art hosts *Taisho Chic: Japanese Modernity, Nostalgia, and Deco* **through June 20**. There are also several related events such as lectures, workshops, and film screenings. Call **773-702-0200**, write [smart-museum@uchicago.edu](mailto:smart-museum@uchicago.edu), or visit <http://smartmuseum.uchicago.edu/> for more information.

## JAPAN INFORMATION CENTER

### CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN AT CHICAGO

[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

**Until 7 pm the first Thursday of each month**

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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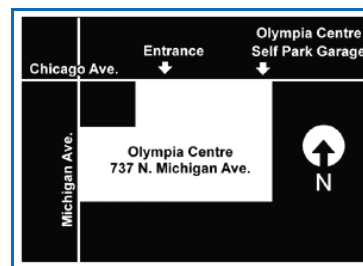
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### JAPAN JOURNAL

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