

November 16, 2023



It may be hard to believe, but we're almost at the end of 2023. In preparation for the New Year, JFT Library is bringing back our [Nengajo \(New Year's Cards\) Making Workshop](#) on **Saturday, December 2**. Three time slots are available but space is limited. Register now to reserve a spot. In conjunction with the *nengajo* workshops, we will also be screening acclaimed director KORE-EDA Hirokazu's [Our Little Sister](#), also on **December 2**.

Thank you for your patience. We're happy to announce that the postponed yokai [Kamishibai Storytelling](#) event and screening of [Summer Days With Coo](#) have officially been rescheduled for **Saturday, December 9**. The storytelling event is open to all, but please re-register for the film screening so we can reserve your spot.

If you haven't heard, our virtual lectures are back with a new talk on **November 27** titled [Japanese Video Games and the Mediation of Trauma](#). Dr. Ben Whaley (University of Calgary) will take us on an exploration of how players work through social and personal trauma via video games.

For more upcoming JFT events, community news, as well as online resources, **see details below**.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Now - December 16 | GALLERY EXHIBITION | Contemporary Wood-Carved NETSUKE |
| November 27 | ONLINE TALK | Japanese Video Games and the Mediation of Trauma |
| December 2 | LIBRARY EVENT | Nengajo (New Year's Cards) Making Workshop |
| December 2 | FILM SCREENING | Our Little Sister |
| December 9 | FILM SCREENING | Summer Days With Coo |
| December 9 | LIBRARY EVENT | Kamishibai Storytelling |
| December 9 | ONLINE TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | Online Network for Heritage Language Education 10 |
| December 13 | ONLINE TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT | 58th 'Sawakai' |

UPCOMING EVENTS



Online Talk

Japanese Video Games and the Mediation of Trauma - With Dr. Ben Whaley (University of Calgary)

Monday, November 27 @ 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Online Talk | Admission Free | Registration Required | Parental Supervision Recommended for Young Viewers

How do Japanese video games grapple with social anxieties and traumatic events? And how might games prompt players' own emotional engagement and self-reflection around these issues?

This talk introduces four contemporary Japanese video games in terms of how they simulate some of Japan's biggest social and personal issues: natural disasters (*Disaster Report*), a declining birthrate and aging population (*Catherine*), nuclear proliferation (*Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain*), and youth social withdrawal (*The World Ends with You*). Come along with us and investigate what some of the benefits are of working through a site of trauma from within a video game. See how might games teach us about Japanese culture and society through interactive frameworks different from literature and film.

[Register here](#)



JFT Library Items on Video Games

Complementing Dr. Ben Whaley's lecture, JFT Library presents a curated selection of physical and electronic books on Japanese video games.

Immerse yourself even deeper into the world of Japanese video games and their transformative power by checking out those items before or after the online lecture! You can borrow our physical items by visiting JFT library in person during [our hours](#) and/or borrow ebooks by accessing [JF Canada Digital Library](#), available 24/7.

[See full list here](#)



Library Event

Nengajo (New Year's Cards) Making Workshop at JFT Library

Saturday, December 2 @ 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM (ET)

In-person Event | Admission Free | Registration Required

Following the success of last year's workshop, our *Nengajo* (Japanese New Year's Cards) Making Workshop will be back! Immerse yourself in the Japanese New Year's tradition at our workshop, where you'll not only create your own greeting cards but also learn essential Japanese New Year phrases for 2024 – the Year of the Dragon – and discover the cultural significance behind traditional designs! Secure your spot now to ensure you don't miss out on this unique blend of creativity, cultural exchange, and a meaningful welcome to the new year!

[Register here](#)



Film Screening

Our Little Sister

Saturday, December 2 @ 5:00 PM (ET)

In-Person Screening | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in Japanese with English subtitles

Continuing our streak of heartwarming slice-of-life films, join us for a meditative screening of Director KORE-EDA Hirokazu's acclaimed *Our Little Sister* as perfect wind-down to the year. The film follows three sisters — Sachi, Yoshino, and Chika — who live together in a large house in the seaside city of Kamakura. When their estranged and absent father suddenly dies, they travel to the countryside for his funeral. There, they meet their shy teenage half-sister Suzu for the first time and, bonding quickly, invite her to live with them. Suzu eagerly agrees and begins a new life with her older sisters.

[Register here](#)



Film Screening
Summer Days with Coo

Saturday, December 9 @ 12:45 PM (ET)
In-Person Screening | Admission Free | Registration Required |
Presented in Japanese with English subtitles

Keep the yokai vibes going after *kamishibai* storytelling and hop over to our event hall for our anime screening of *Summer Days with Coo*. The film follows a small, lone Kappa (also known as a water imp) who miraculously survives over 200 years into modern day Japan, when he is found by young Koichi. Coo, who is secretly adopted by Koichi's family, searches with his new human friend for unpopulated places in hopes of finding any remaining of his kind.

[Register here](#)



Library Event
Kamishibai Storytelling
— *The Goblin, The Water Imp and The Thunder God & The Three Magic Charms* —

Saturday, December 9 @ 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)
In-person Event | Admission Free | Registration Not Required

Join JFT Library as we share the tales of *yokai* — Japanese ghosts, goblins, and mysterious creatures — through the enchanting art of *kamishibai* storytelling! *Kamishibai* (紙芝居, literally meaning "paper drama") is a traditional Japanese street theatre presented with vibrant illustrations and dynamic narration. Whether you're a family with little ones or someone eager to discover the rich tradition of Japanese storytelling, don't miss this rare opportunity to experience the magic of *kamishibai* in Toronto, connecting with the rich tapestry of Japanese folklore!

[Details here](#)



Online Teachers' Professional Development
Online Network for Heritage Language Education 10

Saturday, December 9 @ 8:00 PM - 9:30 PM (ET)
Theme: Japanese language learning (as a native) you can do at home
Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Conducted in Japanese only

In this 10th session we will welcome Mr. Kawamura, Principal of The Japanese School of Toronto Shokokai Inc., as a lecturer to talk about "Japanese language learning (as a native) you can do at home". Then, we will have a discussion among participants in small groups.

[Register here](#)



Online Teachers' Professional Development
Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers

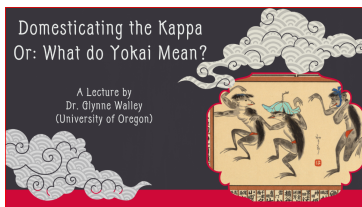
58th 'Sawakai':
Wednesday, December 13 @ 6:00 PM - 6:40 PM (ET)
Topic: New advisor arrived!

Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Conducted in Japanese only

The JFT Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers is a place where teachers can share with others how their online classes are going. All topics are welcome, including if you have any ideas you would like to try out, anything you feel a little stuck on, etc. Why not take the opportunity to talk with other teachers from across Canada?

[Register here](#)

ONGOING EVENTS



Lecture Recording

Domesticating the Kappa, Or: What do Yokai Mean?

If you missed our October 26 lecture on Japanese water imps, recording of the lecture is now available on our YouTube channel. Watch Dr. Glynne Walley break down the meaning of yokai - Japanese spirits and monsters - and their place within Japan's cultural context.

[Watch here](#)



Library News

JF Canada Digital Library: Newly Added Ebooks and Audiobooks

Check out new ebooks and audiobooks just added to [JF Canada Digital Library!](#) Whether you're a classic gaming aficionado or a newcomer to the world of video games, Chris Kohler's [Power-Up](#) is a must-read, uncovering the secrets behind how Japanese video games shaped the gaming industry and influenced popular culture worldwide; journey into a realm of dark twist, magic and folklore with YAMAZAKI Kore's manga series [The Ancient Magus' Bride](#) following an orphan sold as a slave to an inhuman mage; explore the intricate world of Japanese miniature sculpture along with a delightfully informative description in Raymond Bushell's [Wonderful World of Netsuke](#), a new addition to [our library's netsuke collection](#), complementing the adjacent gallery exhibition [Contemporary Wood-Carved NETSUKE](#); and more!

Apply for a new library card or renew your expired card [here](#).

[Browse other ebooks and audiobooks](#)



Library News

November New Arrivals

[Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! Explore the evolving narrative of Japanese contemporary art's triumphs and challenges on the global stage over 70 years in [Japan at the Venice Biennale, 1952-2022](#) or 『[ヴェネチア・ビエンナーレと日本](#)』; experience a mesmerizing blend of magical realism, Japanese folklore, and heart-wrenching family drama set against the backdrop of a devastating earthquake in [Catfish Rolling](#) by Clara Kumagai; get inspired by Gen'yū Sōkyū's [Living Life as It Comes: Post-Disaster Reflections of a Zen Priest in Fukushima](#), a collection of insightful essays that offer a heartfelt

perspective on navigating life's uncertainties with wisdom and grace; and more!

[See full list here](#)

[Place a hold for pickup](#)



Gallery Exhibition

Contemporary Wood-Carved NETSUKE

Open now until Saturday, December 16, 2023

Admission Free | Open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays

Netsuke is a delicate and whimsical art form unique to Japan which fits on your palm intimately. In the 17th and 18th century Netsuke developed rapidly in the kimono fashion culture. For kimonos, which had no pockets, Netsukes acted as toggles providing daily-life convenience for carrying things such as pouches, medicine cases, and smoking pipe cases.

Since Japanese fashion had been westernized in the mid-19th century, Netsuke receded from practical use, but still attracted artistic interest not only within Japan but worldwide. In this exhibition, 65 contemporary pieces which are all wood-carved are on display. SAITŌ Bishū, a master Netsuke carver, describes the charm and attraction of Netsuke as "Freedom amidst constraints." Netsukes are made under certain restrictions, such as needing two holes to run the cord through and requiring it to be round to avoid getting caught. The carvers express themselves as freely as possible under these constraints, which, in the end, magically stimulate the imaginations of both creators and viewers.

[Details here](#)

[Book your visit](#)



Gallery-Goers, Don't Miss JFT's Netsuke Library Collection!

Whether you are a future gallery-goer or have already been captivated by the [Contemporary Wood-Carved NETSUKE](#) exhibition at JFT Gallery, add an extra layer of appreciation by checking out [JFT Library's](#) items! To enhance your understanding of this unique art form, we have curated a [library item list](#), including select titles on the history, craftsmanship, and cultural significance of netsuke, as well as related art forms such as woodcarving, sculptures and figurines. Those items are currently on display in our library right next to the gallery. So, don't miss this opportunity to delve deeper into the intricate world of netsuke and the artistry that surrounds it!

Apply for a new library card or renew your expired card [here](#).

[Check Library item list](#)



Japanese Language Classes

Continue Learning Japanese with us!

Looking for somewhere to continue studying Japanese? Registration for our winter term is now open! We offer online courses for everyone from complete beginners (Starter A1) to intermediate speakers (Intermediate B1/JLPT N3 level).

[Details here](#)



Japanese Language Classes

JFT Virtual Study Space

Online Space | Admission Free | Registration Required

Looking for a space to practice the Japanese language outside of class? Want to connect with fellow learners from all over Canada (or study alone if you wish)? Our free online 24/7 JFT Virtual Study Space is now open to all learners of Japanese in Canada. Here, learners can practice speaking, complete weekly language challenges, play games, chill, study together or alone, and more.

[Register here](#)

JAPAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTED EVENTS



Consulate General of Japan in Vancouver

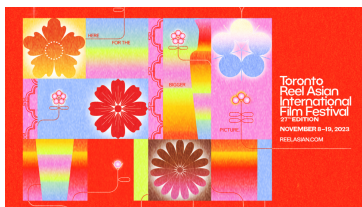
2023 Japan Film Show in Vancouver: *Finding Calico*

Thursday, November 16 @ 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (PT)

Film Screening @ Vancouver public Library, Central Branch | Admission Free; Limited Seating | In Japanese with English Subtitles

After his wife's passing, the good professor Kyoichi lives out his days as a widower in a seaside town. One day, a stray calico cat that his wife used to feed drops by and continues to visit the altar Kyoichi set up for his dearly departed wife. Initially unsure of the little visitor, Kyoichi's heart leaps into action when the cat suddenly disappears. His search leads him through the town's streets and connects him with his fellow townsfolk, showing him that love and memories are shared, and that he's not alone.

[Details here](#)



Reel Asian Film Festival

Japanese Films at Reel Asian 2023

Now - Sunday, November 19

In-person Film Festival | Various Toronto Venues | Ticket Prices Vary

The 27th edition of the [Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival](#) opened on November 8 and will run through November 19. Immerse yourself in pan-Asian cinema through feature films and shorts programmes from all over the world. This includes free screenings for select films and an all-ages program, Wee Asian. Japanese cinema and Japanese diasporic stories are well represented at this year's Reel Asian and we are stoked to share these films with our JFT community.

See the full list of Japanese films at Reel Asian below. The Japan Foundation, Toronto is a proud continued supporter of Reel Asian through our grant program.

[Details here](#)

Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary
2023 Japan Film Festival
 Free Entry! (Registration Required)
 10 guests will be randomly selected to win a reusable bento box set!

Bento Harassment (2019)
 From: Kazuo Ushiyama (Japan/Canada)
 Working to open up another line of communication with her rebellious teenage daughter, in the name of high school success, single mother Kazuo begins creating psychologically sound messages in her child's lunchbox meals. Will it work?

Dad's Lunch Box (2017)
 From: Yoshitaka Kuroki (Japan/Canada)
 This film was inspired by a real-life story of a Japanese father who for the first time in his daughter's school lunch prepared daily bento boxes for her reading to children, in learning or difficult situations. In all cases, he put an effort into engaging his daughter with motivation for school.

Calgary
 Sunday, Nov. 19, 2023
 Patricia A. Whelan Hall
 Calgary Central Library
 12:00-4:00pm
 - Calgary sign-up!

Lethbridge sign-up! -
 Lethbridge
 Friday, Nov. 10, 2023
 Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden
 12:00-4:30pm
 - Calgary sign-up!

JAPAN FOUNDATION
 Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden
 Calgary Central Library

Film Screening 2023 Japan Film Festival in Alberta

Calgary: Sunday, November 19 @ 12:00 PM (MT)
 In-person Film Screenings | Admission Free | Registration Required
 | In Japanese with English Subtitles

The Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary and the Japan Foundation, Toronto are pleased to present this year's Japan Film Festival, promoting the culture of Japan through cinema. Films to be screened are *Dad's Lunch Box* (2017) and *Bento Harassment* (2019). Ten guests will be randomly selected to win a reusable bento box set!

[Register here](#)

THE FIRST
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 F E S T I V A L
 C A N A D A

11
 2023
 Sunday
 26
 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

Drink, Learn and Enjoy
 Japanese Tea to the Last Drop

Nihoncha Canada Japanese Tea Festival Canada 2023

Sunday, November 26 @ 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)
 In-Person @ JCCC (6 Sakura Way, Toronto) | Admission: \$15 at the door; workshop admissions are extra

For those who love tea, Japanese culture, and Japanese food, or simply want to learn, this event will be full of fascinating discoveries. Numerous events are planned to match the theme, "Drink, learn and enjoy Japanese tea to the last drop."

At the festival vendors will be selling Japanese tea, sweets and bento boxes as well as other Japanese goods. Also, a full range of workshops will be offered throughout the day where visitors can experience the art of tea ceremony. Be sure to make reservations in advance as space is limited.

[Tickets here](#)



The Japan Foundation Grants and Programs

The Japan Foundation Grants and Programs for the 2024-2025 fiscal year are now open. The Japan Foundation conducts programs in the three major areas of Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, Japanese Studies and International Dialogue. There are applicable programs in each of these areas, and support is provided for activities conducted by individuals and organizations that are involved in international exchange.

[Details here](#)



The Japan Foundation Japanese Literature in the World Today

In this special essay project, The Japan Foundation invited essays from around the world describing people's thoughts on Japanese literature. The essays were written not only by scholars of literature, but also by translators, editors of publishing houses, and booksellers. We hope you will enjoy the diverse stories of how they encountered Japanese literature and what attracted them to it. From Canada, **Dr. Christina Yi** (Associate Professor, UBC) and **Jocelyne Allen** (translator/interpreter) contributed to the project.

[Details here](#)



Universities Canada Tanaka Fund Program - Call for Applications

Application deadline: Friday, January 12, 2024

The 2024 Tanaka Fund Grant is accepting applications from Doctoral and Masters level students in the fields of Japan Studies who are seeking to conduct research in Japan. Please see Program Guidelines for eligibility details.

[Details here](#)



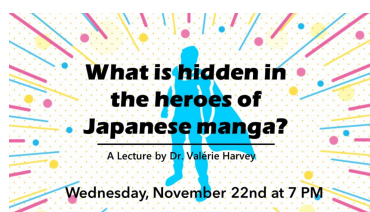
Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre Superlative Artistry of Japan: A traveling exhibition from the Japan Foundation

Now - January 20, 2024
Tuesdays to Saturdays @ 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM (PT)
In-person Exhibition | Admission Free

The exhibit includes a cohesive collection of work from a variety of art genres that emphasize highly skilled techniques, unique expression, and concepts intended to delight the viewer. Elaborate Meiji era (1868-1912) works are introduced alongside *kogei* (traditional arts & crafts) that influenced the Japonism trend in 19th century Europe. Also included in the display are numerous contemporary works of 'superlative artistry' as well as capsule toy figures and food that represent a strong commitment to artistic craftsmanship.

[Details here](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Embassy of Japan in Canada

What is hidden in the heroes of Japanese Manga? - A Lecture by Dr. Valérie Harvey

Wednesday, November 22 @ 7:00 PM (ET)

In-person Lecture @ Embassy of Japan | Admission Free

How well does manga such as Naruto represent today's Japanese society? Through the drawings and texts of manga, we will discover what is behind it, and how the Japanese superhero is different from the American. And we will try to understand why shōnen manga are so popular outside Japan's borders. Dr. Valérie Harvey is a sociologist and teacher of 'Les mangas et la société japonaise' at Université du Québec en Outaouais.

[Details here](#)



Nagata Shachu

Kiyoshi Nagata 40th Anniversary Concert

Saturday, December 9 @ 8:00 PM (ET)

Taiko Concert | Al Green Theatre | Ticket Prices Vary

Celebrating 40 years as a taiko performer, Kiyoshi Nagata will be joined by special guests at the 40th Anniversary Concert on December 9 including: Michelle Colton and Alejandro Céspedes of Oregon Percussion; Amely Zhou, Lipeng Wu, Lilian Yang, Lina Cao of the Canadian Chinese Orchestra; Charles Hong, Joo Hyung Kim, Soojung Kwon, and Seong Hyun Park of the Korean Music and Dance collective Rusterrat; and Kevin He on Japanese flute. The anniversary concert will also feature the debut of taiko duo Korokoro featuring Akemi Akachi and Kiyoshi Nagata, and the next generation of Nagata Shachu members Tatsuki Shimoda, Brian Liang, Eriko Murata and Sakura Ariga. Use promo code **JFDN40** for discounted tickets!

[Tickets here](#)

ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



Visual Arts Recommendation

Netsuke Carving, Making of RABBIT

In association with the exhibition [Contemporary Wood Carved Netsuke](#) at JFT

28 min. 06 sec. | With English subtitles

[Watch here](#)



The Japan Foundation, Toronto | 2 Bloor St. East, Suite 300, P.O. Box 130, Toronto, M4W 1A8
Canada