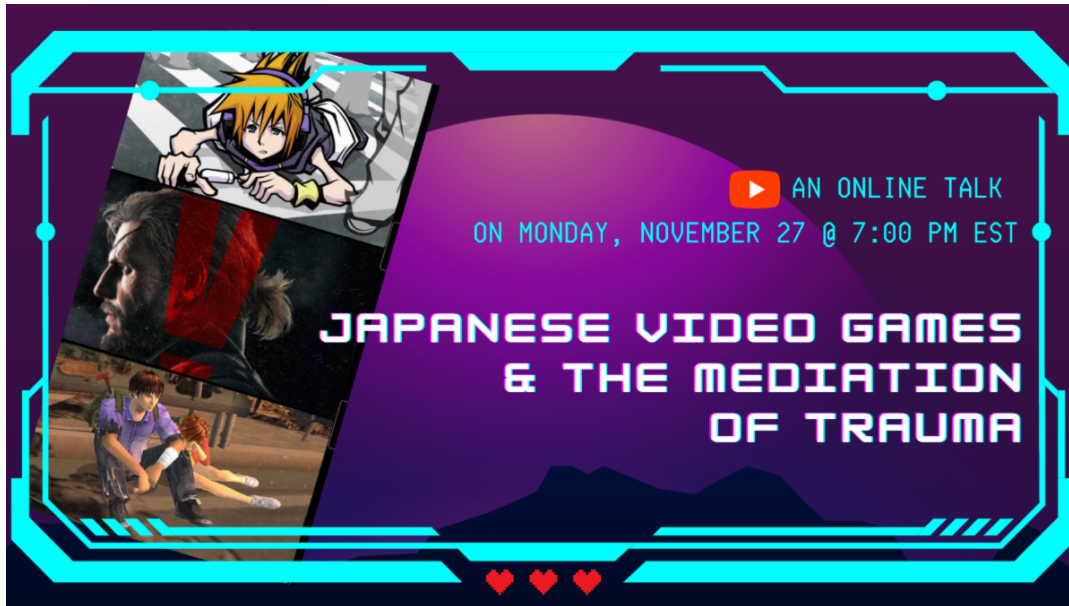


November 23, 2023



Please note that less than two weeks remain to apply to Japan Foundation's [grants and programs](#) for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Application forms and deadline vary depending on the program.

In the mood of unique Japanese movies? Limited seats remain for our screening of acclaimed director KORE-EDA Hirokazu's [Our Little Sister](#) on **December 2**. If you can't make it that Saturday, on **December 9**, we'll be screening the delightful [Summer Days With Coo](#), followed by yokai [Kamishibai Storytelling](#) at the library.

Don't want to go outside? On **November 27**, Dr. Ben Whaley (University of Calgary) will explore 4 popular video games and the social anxieties they tackle with [Japanese Video Games and the Mediation of Trauma](#). Watch this lecture from the comfort of home.

If you're looking for productive ways to spend winter break, [Online Japanese Grammar Boot Camps](#) will begin on **December 14**. Finish courses to be entered into a draw for prizes!

Last but not least, our ongoing exhibition [Contemporary Wood-Carved NETSUKE](#) is available to view for another 3 weeks; catch it before it's gone.

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

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Now	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	Registration Now Open for Winter Term
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'
December 14	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	Online Japanese Grammar Boot Camps

UPCOMING EVENTS



Job Opening - Program Officer, Japanese Studies and International Dialogue

Application Deadline: Wednesday, January 3, 2024

We are seeking a full-time Program Officer responsible for the administration of Japanese Studies & International Dialogue programs including researching, planning, execution and reporting in grants and other activities.

[Details here](#)



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 various levels up to intermediate speakers (Intermediate B1/JLPT N3 level).

[Register here](#)



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](#)



Warm Up Your Winter with Japan-Related Holiday Reads!

We extend a warm thank you to all who joined [JFT Book Club \(Hybrid\) – With Silent Reading Time – Holiday Reading Recommendations](#) on November 16! Your enthusiasm and bookish insights light up our community! For those who missed this enriching event, fear not! We've compiled a list of Japan-related books and manga selected by our fantastic participants - explore the literary gems that made it to our holiday reading list! Wish you happy reading during the holiday season!

[Details 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
****Now fully booked. Waitlist registration available.****

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 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](#)



Japanese Language Classes

Online Japanese Grammar Boot Camps

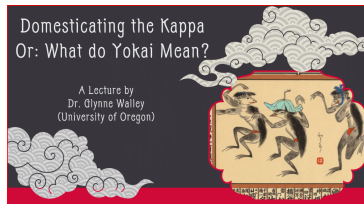
Start Thursday, December 14

Online Course | Admission Free | Registration Required | Some Japanese Study Experience Required

Looking for a free and productive way to spend the winter break? Join our online self-study boot camp where you can learn and practice basic Japanese grammar in your own time! Register to access a variety of free resources, online games, and exercises developed by us. There are two different courses (levels) available, both starting on Thursday December 14. Those who complete one or both by January 4, 2024 will be entered into a draw to win prizes!

[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. Glynnie 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! Dive into a paradigm-shifting exploration of human history challenging Eurocentric perspectives with OKAMOTO Takashi's [Asia Reoriented: A New Conception of World History](#); experience a unique blend of frustration and self-discovery in a maddening tale of love with [The Real Thing](#) (『本気のしるし』) [DVD] directed by FUKADA Koji; 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 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



Nihoncha Canada Japanese Tea Festival Canada 2023

Sunday, November 26 @ 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM (ET)

In-Person @ Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre | 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](#)



University of Quebec in Montreal
Textile Design Now

Thursday, November 30, 2023 – Sunday, February 11, 2024
 Exhibition @ Pavillon de design, UQAM, Montreal | Admission Free

Textile Design Now presents the work of 23 women designers and artists from around the world. This unique gathering will provide an opportunity to discover several previously unseen pieces. Cutting-edge works by the artists on show will reveal a wide range of unexpected practices, from weaving and 3D printing to sound and solar textiles, bacterial dyeing as well as the manufacture of replacement organs woven by silkworms. The exhibition space highlights the interweaving of tradition and innovation, experimental practices as well as the emotional potential of soft materials. A historical section and a selection of publications offer keys to understanding the rich origins of textile practices and the complexity of their cultural and societal roles.

[Details 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](#)



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 @ Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, Burnaby, BC | 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



Regent Park Film Festival

Seagrass

Saturday, November 25 @ 8:30 PM (ET)

Film Screening at Ada Slight Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in English

Desperate to find a deeper connection in her marriage after the recent death of her mother, Judith, a Japanese Canadian woman, brings her family to a self-development retreat on a remote island. But when they befriend another interracial couple who seem to have the perfect marriage, Judith begins to recognize how irreparably fractured her relationship is. Meanwhile, their two daughters are plunged into a destabilizing world under the constant stress of their parents' crumbling relationship. In the end, the family must collectively face their most unnerving insecurities before they become permanently broken.

[Register 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 members from Oregon Percussion, the Canadian Chinese Orchestra, 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. Use promo code **JFDN40** for discounted tickets!

[Tickets here](#)

ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



Visual Arts Recommendation

Netsuke Carving, Making of Pine Cone

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

8 min. 13 sec. | With English subtitles

[Watch here](#)



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