



January 18, 2024



Event dates: Saturday, January 20 - Sunday, March 31, 2024 EST



Moderator: Kris Kosaka
(Columnist, *The Japan Times*)



読書会

JFT BOOK CLUB (HYBRID)

Tuesday, February 13 2024
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM EST

Dive deep into a mesmerizing exploration of everyday life depicted with innovative storytelling!

「日本語で育てよう！」 &
国際交流基金トロント日本文化センター 共催

第5回 オンラインセミナー



「親子で参加できるコミュニティ作り」

Creating community for parents and children

2024.1.28 日 カナダ東部時間 13:30-15:30
Zoom開催

Only one week left until our annual January film showcase, [KOTATSU: Japanese Cinema at Innis Town Hall](#). On **January 27 and 28**, join us for a marathon of 5 critically acclaimed films, led by the jazz anime hit *Blue Giant*.

On **February 1**, Dr. Jérémie Pelletier-Gagnon will be looking back on 50 years of [Japanese videogame arcade culture](#). Register for free to hear about Japanese arcades' influences on North America's gaming culture, their role in Japan's media landscape, and how the arcade culture survives today.

The first [JFT Book Club](#) of 2024 will take place on **February 13**. Kris Kosaka will moderate a discussion revolving around KANAI Mieko's novel *Mild Vertigo*. Participants can join in virtually or in-person, and a small number of observer slots are available for those who want to listen.

After a four-year hiatus, [Book Tree](#) is back at JFT! Between **January 20 and March 31**, borrow 5 or more items from our physical or digital libraries and submit comments on the borrow items to be entered into a contest for exciting prizes!

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 - June 28	EXHIBITION	From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics
January 20 - March 31	LIBRARY	Book Tree 2024 - Borrow Library Items & Win a Prize!
January 20	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	Re(Making) Sense of Kanji - FULL
January 27 - 28	JANUARY FILM SHOWCASE	KOTATSU: Japanese Cinema at Innis Town Hall
January 28	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Let's Raise Them in Japanese! 5th Seminar
February 1	IN-PERSON TALK	Play, Communication, and Media in Japanese Videogame Arcades

February 13

LIBRARY EVENT

[JFT Book Club \(Hybrid\) - Mild Vertigo by KANAI Mieko](#)

February 24

JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES

[\(Re\)Making Sense of Kanji – For Learners Who Use Chinese Characters in Their Native Language](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



January Film Showcase

KOTATSU: Japanese Cinema at Innis Town Hall

Saturday, January 27 & Sunday, January 28

Film Screenings | Admission Free | Registration Required | All films presented in Japanese with English subtitles

Join us for a cozy weekend of soul-stirring films at Innis Town Hall, headlined by the acclaimed jazz anime hit **Blue Giant!** Co-presented by the Japan Foundation, Toronto and the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto.



BLUE GIANT

Saturday, January 27 @ 6:00 PM (ET)

[Register here](#)



Close-Knit 彼らが本気で編むときは
Saturday, January 27 @ 1:30 PM (ET)

[Register here](#)



Princess Arete アリーテ姫
Sunday, January 28 @ 11:00 AM (ET)

[Register here](#)



Office Royale 地獄の花園
Sunday, January 28 @ 1:30 PM (ET)

[Register here](#)



It's a Summer Film! サマーフィルムにのって
Sunday, January 28 @ 4:00PM (ET)

[Register here](#)

「日本語で育てよう！」&
国際交流基金トロント日本文化センター 共催
第5回 オンラインセミナー

「親子で参加できるコミュニティ作り」
Creating community for parents and children

2024.1.28 日 カナダ東部時間 13:30-15:30
Zoom開催

第5回となる今回は、親子で楽しむ活動を
10年以上も続けコミュニティを育てて
こられたお二人をゲストに迎え、お
話を伺います

- ・親子参加型「わらべうた」体験
- ・インタビュー
- ・小グループで情報交換

※を予定

共催 JAPAN FOUNDATION
後援 YORK U

Artwork by Ben Shanon

Teachers' Professional Development

Let's Raise Them in Japanese! 5th Seminar 「日本語で育てよう！」第5回セミナー

Sunday, January 28, 01:30 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

Topic: Creating Community for Parents and Children 「親子で参加できるコミュニティ作り」

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

In this seminar, we welcome two guests with over 10 years of experience organizing activities for parents and children to enjoy

together and fostering communities.
第5回となる今回は、親子で楽しむ活動を10年以上も続けコミュニティを育ててこられたお二人をゲストに迎え、お話を伺います。

[Register here](#)



In-Person Talk
Play, Communication, and Media in Japanese Videogame Arcades

Thursday, February 1 @ 6:30 PM
In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required

Japanese videogame arcades, commonly called game centers, have been a mainstay of the Japanese urban entertainment scene since the release of *Space Invaders* in the late 1970s. They introduced culturally significant games such as *Pacman*, *Street Fighter II*, and *Dance Dance Revolution*, which have had a lasting impact on arcade and videogame culture throughout the world. This presentation will provide an overview of the evolution of videogame arcades in Japan, examining their social functions as alternative sites of interpersonal communication and as urban hubs embodying the interconnectivity of the videogame, anime, and manga industries within Japan's media environment.

[Register here](#)



JFT Book Club (Hybrid) - *Mild Vertigo* by KANAI Mieko

Tuesday, February 13, 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)
Online & In-Person @ JFT Library | Admission Free | Registration Required

Join us in person or virtually to discuss KANAI Mieko's novel *Mild Vertigo* (金井 美恵子著『軽いめまい』), a mesmerizing exploration of everyday life in Japan depicted with an innovative storytelling approach. Whether you're new to our library or a seasoned book club participant, this is your chance to connect, discuss, and discover the magic of Japanese literature. Let's enjoy this unique novel together with fellow book lovers from different backgrounds! If you just want to listen this time, we also have a small number of "Observer" slots!

[Details here](#)



For Those Who Know Chinese Characters

Online | Sat Feb 24 | 1:30-3:15 pm ET
bit.ly/kanjisemi

Japanese Language Classes

(Re)Making Sense of Kanji – For Learners Who Use Chinese Characters in Their Native Language

Saturday, February 24 @ 1:30 PM – 3:15 PM (ET)

Registration Deadline: Friday, February 23

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

When we are already using Chinese characters in our native language, it is easy to fall into the habit of treating Japanese Kanji just like we do in Chinese. This does not always work though, because while there are certainly many things in common, there are also many differences that someone who knows Chinese characters should keep in mind to really master the language. Join us in this thought-provoking and interactive seminar, where we will explore the differences between Kanji in Japanese and Chinese, and learn strategies to improve your Japanese fluency.

[Register here](#)



Book Tree 2024 - Borrow Library Items & Win a Prize!

Saturday, January 20 – Sunday, March 31

Online & In-Person @ JFT Library & JF Canada/USA Digital Library | Registration Required

Our annual Book Tree is back after a 4-year hiatus! Starting from Saturday, January 20, those who borrow 5 or more items from [our physical library in Toronto](#) or [JF Canada/USA Digital Library](#) and contribute to blooming our Book Tree by submitting comments on *tsubaki* flower will have a chance to win an exciting prize! Join us in warming up the season with books & movies, sharing the excitement with the vibrant community of readers and Japan enthusiasts!

[Details here](#)

ONGOING EVENTS



All Gone! - FukuBookLoan (Lucky Bags) 2024 @ JFT Library

JFT Library's "FukuBookLoan" Luck Bags bag, containing secret selections of books and/or audiovisual materials to borrow, are all gone as of Saturday, January 13. Thank you to all those who participated! For those who are curious about what items were included in all those bags, we will reveal the secret contents of the bag shortly, so stay tuned! We hope you enjoyed experiencing the Japanese New Year custom and that this event has helped you discover new favourite authors, amazing film titles, and interesting topics to explore!

[Details here](#)



Library News January New Arrivals

[Visit the library](#) to borrow newly arrived titles! Immerse yourself in the profound world of Japanese poetry with [Basho: The Complete Haiku of Matsuo Basho](#) accompanied by insightful notes to enjoy the depth and subtlety of the greatest haiku master; delve into DAZAI Osamu's exploration of existential questions, self-hatred, and the fascination with death, with a comic-twist in [Early Light](#); discover Japan's uniquely fascinating sporting culture rarely seen with [The War on Wheels: Inside the Keirin and Japan's Cycling Subculture](#) offering a detailed look at the sport's history, politics, and the societal dynamics in current Japanese culture; and more!

[See full list here](#)

[Place a hold for pickup](#)

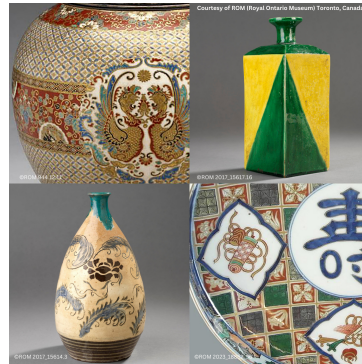


Library News JF Canada Digital Library: Newly Added Ebooks and Audiobooks

Check out new ebooks and audiobooks just added to [JF Canada Digital Library](#)! Embark on an exciting journey guided by Ben Groundwater's [Neon Lights in Tokyo](#), showcasing the city's multifaceted tapestry of culture, taste, and atmosphere; explore the vibrant world of ceramics through [Shoji Hamada](#), unravelling the energetic lifestyle and mesmerizing work cycle of this 20th-century studio pottery icon; dive into the lyrical world of a Japanese literary master INOUE Yasushi with [Counterfeiter and Other Stories](#), a collection of short stories which quietly explore the complexities of human existence; and more!

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

Browse other ebooks and audiobooks



Exhibition
From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics

Now - Friday, June 28, 2024

In-person Exhibition | Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays
| Admission Free | Registration Required

This special presentation of the collection of the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, reveals that Western modernization and the demand for exports influenced Japanese ceramics during the transitional period of the late Edo period to the Meiji period.



Now with an additional presentation, **Kutani-ware Display** with contributions from Toronto collectors, dedicated to the victims and survivors of the earthquake on January 1st, 2024, in Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa, Japan.

[Details here](#)



Library Event
Year of Dragon Origami Display

Let's welcome 2024, the Year of the Dragon – Tatsu-Doshi (辰年) – with origami! Visit the [JFT library](#) to see the beauty of meticulously crafted origami dragons folded by members of The Origami Society of Toronto (*on display until end of January) or explore them up close on our [web page](#).

If you would like to learn more about this Japanese art of paper folding, check out [The Origami Society of Toronto](#), or [ebooks on origami at JF Canada Digital Library](#).

[See more origami dragons](#)



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](#)



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



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

Until 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](#)



University of Quebec in Montreal
Textile Design Now

Until 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 Royal Ontario Museum

Of Catfish and Earthquakes: The Contemporary Art of Yuta Niwa

Thursday, February 29 @ 6:30 PM

In-person at ROM, Signy and Cléopée Eaton Theatre | Admission Free | Registration Required

ROM hosts emerging Japanese artist Yuta Niwa in a keynote presentation in support of the online exhibition, [Aftershocks: Japanese Earthquake Prints](#), that focuses on his reinterpretation of these important historical art forms for contemporary audiences.

Hosted by Akiko Takesue, Niwa's keynote presentation, supported by visual illustrations, will showcase his work, which incorporates traditional Japanese painting techniques and materials into artworks dealing

with modern disasters such as earthquakes and infectious diseases.

Image courtesy of Yuta Miwa.

[Visit our Website](#)

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Nagata Shachu From Japan to Madagascar

Friday, March 22 @ 8:00 PM & Saturday, March 23 @ 8:00 PM
Al Green Theatre (750 Spadina Ave) | Ticketed Admission | Ticket Prices Vary

Nagata Shachu Japanese Taiko & Music Group presents a double-bill concert "From Japan to Madagascar." The first half of the concert features **ten ten** – an eclectic seven-person music ensemble that performs Japanese folk songs with a modern twist using both western and Japanese instruments. The collective is directed by shamisen player and vocalist Aki Takahashi who is also the associate director of Nagata Shachu. The second half of the concert features a mashup of Nagata Shachu's thrilling Japanese taiko rhythms with the African infused melodies of Madagascar-born, Toronto-based guitarist and singer Donné Roberts (a two time Juno award winner) with his band.

Use the promo code **1010EB** for an early-bird discount of 20% off all regular priced adult tickets. Code is valid until January 23.

[Tickets here](#)

ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



Visual Arts Recommendation **FUKUSHIMA Buzan & AZUMA Gōtaro in Kutani-ware (Kutani-yaki Pottery)**

5 min. 37 secs | Subtitled in English

In association with the exhibition **From Edo to Meiji:
Transformation of Japanese Ceramics** at JFT.

An additional presentation, ***Kutani-ware Display*** with contributions from Toronto collectors, is dedicated to the victims and survivors of the earthquake on January 1st, 2024, in Noto Peninsula, Ishikawa, Japan.

Watch here



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