

February 22, 2024



**THE GENEALOGY OF SAKE**  
一献の系譜

**Tuesday, March 5, 6:00PM**

*Follow the lives of artisans from the Noto Peninsula who pass on the heritage of brewing the perfect drop of sake.*

Documentary Film Screening  
at The Japan Foundation, Toronto

Admission Free. Register for tickets.








(C) IKKON FILM PARTNERS 



**29th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival**  
- After Every Storm Comes a Rainbow -  
第29回 語りの会～待てば海路の日和あり～

**Saturday, March 23, 2024 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM ET**  
In-Person @ JFT Event Hall



February at JFT has been brimming with activities, and we have no intention of slowing down as we look ahead to March.

On **March 5**, we will screen a beautiful documentary, [The Genealogy of Sake](#), which shines a light on the artisan sake brewers of the Noto Peninsula, whose works have suffered setbacks due to the earthquake that occurred on January 1. The screening will also include a video message from Director ISHII Kaori regarding the future of this local industry. We welcome our community to come together and enjoy this special screening in a show of solidarity for the regional sake breweries of earthquake-impacted areas.

We're reaching beyond the borders of Ontario in mid-March with two very special [literary events](#) featuring the renowned novelist **HIRANO Keiichiro**, co-presented with the Japan P.E.N. Club. West Coast friends can find us in [Seattle on March 16](#) or [Vancouver on March 18](#) with Mr. Hirano to discuss his takes on modern Japanese literature.

On **March 23**, [Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival](#) finally returns in-person to JFT. Space is limited so be sure to register soon for this afternoon of Japanese folklore, stories, and songs.

For more upcoming JFT events, community news, as well as online resources, [see details below](#).

**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

<b>Now</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	<a href="#">Registration Now Open for Winter Term</a>
<b>Now - March 31</b>	LIBRARY	<a href="#">Book Tree 2024 - Borrow Library Items &amp; Win a Prize!</a>
<b>Now - June 28</b>	EXHIBITION	<a href="#">From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics</a>
<b>February 24</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	<a href="#">(Re)Making Sense of Kanji [FULL]</a>
<b>February 28</b>	JAPANESE LANGUAGE CLASSES	<a href="#">JF Toronto x JF Sao Paulo Japanese Chat Event</a>

<b>March 5</b>	FILM SCREENING	<a href="#">The Genealogy of Sake — 献の系譜</a>
<b>March 16 &amp; 18</b>	AUTHOR EVENTS	<a href="#">North American Japanese Literary Forum with HIRANO Keiichiro</a>
<b>March 23</b>	LIBRARY	<a href="#">29th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival</a>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



JFT Virtual Study Space  
**JF Toronto x JF Sao Paulo Japanese Chat Event**

**Wednesday, February 28 @ 7:45 PM - 8:30 PM (ET)**  
**Registration Deadline: February 25**  
 Online Event | Admission Free | Registration Required | Beginner to Late-Elementary Levels Only

Are you learning Japanese at the elementary level? Come and practice speaking Japanese in small groups with native speakers (volunteers + staff) and students from Brazil! Maximum 10 students from Canada.

Register in our virtual study space to attend.

[Register here](#)



**Enhance Your Gallery Experience: Dive Deeper into Japanese Ceramics with JFT Library!**

Whether you are a future gallery-goer or have already been captivated by the exhibition "[From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics](#)" at JFT Gallery, add an extra layer of appreciation by checking out [JFT Library](#) items! To enhance your understanding of this fascinating art form, we have curated a [library item list](#) (including physical books, DVDs, and ebooks in English and Japanese) on the history, craftsmanship, and cultural significance of Japanese ceramics. The physical items are currently on display in our library right next to the gallery and ebooks are available from [JF Canada Digital Library](#) 24/7. So, don't miss this opportunity to delve deeper into the transformative world of Japanese ceramic art!

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

[Check library item list](#)



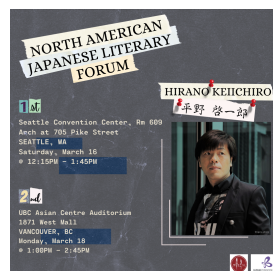
In-Person Film Screening  
***The Genealogy of Sake — 献の系譜***

**Tuesday, March 5 @ 6:00 PM (ET)**  
 In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in Japanese with English subtitles

A glass of Japanese sake (sah-keh) is filled with the spirit of the Japanese sake brewers, or toji. The history of Japanese sake goes back to 2000 years ago, and its brewing process is extremely detailed and complex. This documentary film follows the lives of artisans who pass on the heritage of brewing the perfect drop of sake.

Shot in the bio-geographically diverse Noto peninsula, Ishikawa prefecture, this beautiful film takes a deeper look into Japanese sake brewing, following an intense six-month period of sake production and focuses on the lives and artistry of Noto *toji*, and the close connection they have with their environment, the past and their future.

[Register here](#)



**North American Japanese Literary Forum with HIRANO Keiichiro**

**Saturday, March 16 @ Seattle, Washington**  
**Monday, March 18 @ Vancouver, British Columbia**  
 In-person | Admission Free | Registration required only for Vancouver event

HIRANO Keiichiro is an award-winning author of novels such as *A Man* and *At the End of the Matinee*. In March 2024, he will visit Seattle and Vancouver to share his personal experiences as a writer of Japan's "Lost Generation," defined as a generation whose socio-economic stability declined dramatically following the collapse of the country's asset price bubble. Mr. HIRANO will also discuss the characteristics of writers of the generation before and after him,

delve into the question of identity, and as a current member of the Akutagawa Prize selection committee, touch upon recent trends in Japanese literature. Co-presented with the Japan P.E.N. Club.

[Details of Seattle Stop](#)

[Details of Vancouver Stop](#)



### 29th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival – After Every Storm Comes a Rainbow –

**Saturday, March 23 @ 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)**  
In-Person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in English

Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Japanese heritage at the 29th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival, back in person after 5 years! Co-presented with Katari Japanese Storytellers, this event brings Japanese folktales, creative stories, and songs to life in English. This year's theme, "After every storm comes a rainbow (待てば海路の日和あり)," promises an uplifting experience, where we embrace the positive energy that comes with Japanese storytelling. Mark your calendars, and bring your family and friends to be part of this unique cultural experience!

[Register here](#)



### Japanese Language Education Programs FY2024 Japan Foundation Toronto Local Grant Program for Japanese Language Education – Applications Open!

**Application Deadline: April 15, 2024**  
This program is intended to promote Japanese language education in Canada by providing support to a wide range of activities essential to the dissemination of Japanese language and the development of Japanese language education.

[Details here](#)

## ONGOING EVENTS



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

**Now – 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](#)



### Dive Deeper into Japanese Fashion, Design, and Aesthetics after Film Screening of *Mantles of Transience*

Enrich your understanding of the philosophy and inspirations behind the Fashion brand matohu's creations by checking out JFT Library items on Japanese fashion, design, and aesthetics before or after the event! 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. Join us as we celebrate Japan's rich artistic heritage, and discover how matohu's creations embody the essence of Japanese culture and tradition!

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

[Check library item list](#)

## Visit JFT Library to borrow February New Arrivals



[See full list here](#)

## Library News

### February New Arrivals

Visit the library to borrow newly arrived titles! Delve into the gripping world of AYATSUJI Yukito's [The Mill House Murders](#), a classic Japanese locked room mystery full of twists and turns; experience Tokyo's vibrant interplay with pop culture icons through the bilingual exhibition catalogue [Manga toshi Tokyo : Nippon no manga, anime, gēmu, tokusatsu 2020D](#); get inspired by the captivating fusion of Eastern and Western theatre in Conor Hanratty's [Shakespeare in the Theatre: Yukio Ninagawa](#); and more!

\*Borrow 5+ library items and win a prize with [Book Tree](#) program!

[Place a hold for pickup](#)

## JF Canada Digital Library is Open 24/7



## Library News

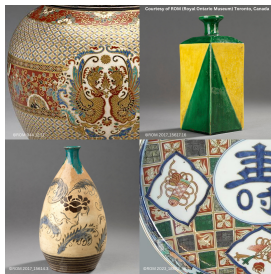
### JF Canada Digital Library: Newly Added Ebooks and Audiobooks

Check out new ebooks and audiobooks just added to [JF Canada Digital Library](#)! Get a rare glimpse into the mind of Sir William Van Horne, a nation builder of Canada and Japanese ceramics connoisseur with [Obsession](#) by Ron Graham; explore the complexities of an unconventional marriage in EKUNI Kaori's novel [Twinkle Twinkle](#) as the main characters discover the true meaning of connection amidst societal pressures; dive into the fascinating world of supernatural creatures with MIZUKI Shigeru's manga [The Trial of Kitaro](#) as beloved hero Kitaro stands accused of exposing the secret world (for those unfamiliar with Kitaro, start with [The Birth of Kitaro](#), the perfect introduction to the classic series); and more!

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

\*Borrow 5+ library items and win a prize with [Book Tree](#) program!

[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](#)



## 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



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](#)



Japanese Language & Culture  
Competition for High School Students

The Japan Bowl® Contest is not an exam, but a game show. It asks students about their knowledge of Japanese culture, society, daily life, history, geography, and current events. Participants compete in teams of 2-3 students. This year, we will meet virtually!

Japan Bowl Ontario Organizing Committee  
**Japan Bowl Ontario 2024**

**Saturday, March 16 @ 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM (ET)**  
**Registration Deadline: March 1**

Japan Bowl Ontario is a Japanese language and culture competition focusing on high school students in Ontario. The event is inspired and supported by the Japan Bowl® in the United States, which was created by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC in 1992. Japan Bowl Ontario is not an exam, but a game show. It asks students about their knowledge of Japanese culture, society, daily life, history, geography, and current events. Questions are all in English.

Entry form is open until Friday, March 1, 2024, or until all the available spots are filled.

[Register here](#)

[Email inquiries here](#)



University of British Columbia, Department of Asian Studies  
**Rethinking Global Japanese Studies Symposium**

**Sunday, March 10 - Monday, March 11**

In-person @ Various Locations on UBC Campus | Admission Free | Registration Required

This two-day international symposium will bring UBC graduate students in conversation with leading Japanese studies scholars from around the world in order to collectively think together about multiple competing centers and peripheries witnessed in the social imaginaries and global dissemination of Japanese (-language) studies.

The symposium will feature six panel sessions and a keynote speech by the Akutagawa-award-winning author Li Kotomi. Focusing in particular on literature and other forms of cultural production, we seek to take a decolonial and anti-racist approach to Japanese studies and critically consider both its limits and possibilities. Together, we hope to contribute new interdisciplinary methodologies and collaborative possibilities that will be of relevance to a wide range of scholars and students in the global humanities today.

[Details here](#)

## COMMUNITY EVENTS



TIFF Lightbox  
**Seagrass**

Friday, February 23 – Thursday, February 29  
TIFF Lightbox (350 King St W) | Ticketed Admission | Ticket Prices Vary

Set in the mid 1990's, a Japanese Canadian woman grappling with the recent death of her mother brings her family to a self-development retreat. When her distressed relationship with her husband begins to affect the children's emotional security, the family is forever changed. Official Selection at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival and the 2023 Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival.

[Details here](#)



JAMSNET-CANADA  
**Dementia Online Kamishibai for Parents and Children**

**Sunday, February 25 @ 13:00 PM - 13:45 PM (ET)**  
Online | Admission Free | Registration Required | In Japanese Only

On February 25th (Sunday), Ms. Mitsuko Litscher, the representative of Jamesnet Canada Switzerland, will read a handmade kamishibai (paper theatre) about dementia online in Japanese. This event is intended for children aged 6 and above. We encourage all family members to participate.

[Register here](#)

### ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



Performing Arts Recommendation  
**Stage Beyond Borders, Contemporary Theatre: Ikiume "The Obelisk of the Beast"**

Recorded in 2009 at Theatre Tram | 2 hr. 15 min. | Subtitled in English

[Watch here](#)



Visual Arts Recommendation  
**CERABO KUTANI, Kutani Ceramic Laboratory**

Komatsu, Ishikawa Prefecture | 8 min. 40 secs  
In association with the exhibition **From Edo to Meiji: Transformation of Japanese Ceramics** at JFT.

Architecture by [KUMA Kengo](#)

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](#)

