

February 29, 2024



  
**Visit JFT Library to borrow**  
**March New Arrivals**  
 Email [library\\_jftoronto@jpf.go.jp](mailto:library_jftoronto@jpf.go.jp) to place a hold for pick-up



**時代の寵児か、社会のはみ出し者か。**  
**LIVING THE GAME**   
 FRIDAY, MARCH 8 - SUNDAY, MARCH 10  
 Follow the journey of five young Pro-Gamers from Japan, France, Taiwan, and the USA as they chase glory.  
 Free to stream Canada-wide  
 Virtual Documentary Film Screening  
 Details & registration below  
   
 JAPANFOUNDATION

Happy Leap Day, everyone. March may be on hold for an extra day, but [March New Arrivals](#) in our Library are ready to be checked out. Only one month left to borrow 5 or more library items and contribute to blooming our [Book Tree](#) for a chance to win an exciting prize!

If you attended our Japanese games studies lectures, you'll want to tune in for a Canada-wide virtual screening of [Living the Game](#), a documentary about the massively popular world of competitive gaming. The film will be free to watch from **March 8 to March 10**.

On **March 18**, we are delighted to welcome Norwegian-based Ainu scholar Dr. Kanako Uzawa to shed light on the hidden stories and narratives of Ainu collections held in museums worldwide, with a special talk entitled, [Ainupuri: Giving Voice to Museum Objects](#).

The popular [Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival](#) will return in-person to JFT on **March 23!** Visit us for a family-friendly 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>March 5</b>	FILM SCREENING	<a href="#">The Genealogy of Sake 一 献の系譜</a>
<b>March 8-10</b>	VIRTUAL FILM SCREENING	<a href="#">Living the Game</a>
<b>March 16 &amp; 18</b>	AUTHOR EVENTS	<a href="#">North American Japanese Literary Forum with HIRANO Keiichiro</a>
<b>March 18</b>	IN-PERSON TALK	<a href="#">Ainupuri: Giving Voice to Museum Objects</a>
<b>March 23</b>	LIBRARY	<a href="#">29th Annual Katari Japanese Storytelling Festival</a>

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Visit JFT Library to borrow March New Arrivals

### Library News

### March New Arrivals

**Visit the library** to borrow newly arrived titles! Delve into the poignant journey of a Zainichi (ethnic Korean in Japan) teen navigating the complexities of identity, prejudice and diaspora in Chesil's [The Color of the Sky Is the Shape of the Heart](#); if you are an intermediate learner looking to enhance Japanese conversational skills beyond the basics and sound more natural, [200 quick and easy phrases for Japanese conversation \(すぐに使える日本語会話超ミニフレーズ200\)](#) is a perfect addition; unravel mysteries of the post-apocalyptic world in [Attack on Titan Season 3, Part 1 \[DVD & Blu-ray\]](#) (for newcomers of this critically acclaimed anime series, begin your journey with [Season 1 \[DVD & Blu-ray\]](#)); and more!

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

[See full list here](#)

[Place a hold for pickup](#)



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](#)

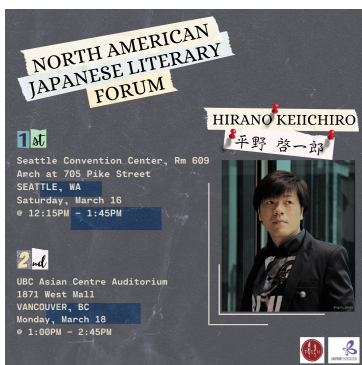


Virtual Film Screening  
**Living the Game**

**Friday, March 8, 6:00 PM – Sunday, March 10, 11:59 PM (ET)**  
Streaming Canada-wide | Admission Free | Registration Required | Presented in Japanese, English, French, Mandarin with English subtitles

The world of professional video-gaming is a high stakes arena where cash prizes are worth millions, and international fame and glory await the best. But who are these pro gamers, and what does it take to become a true legend? In the gaming world they are heroes, but in society pro gamers are still seen as social outcasts or even addicts. *Living The Game* profiles five pro gamers from Japan, France, the USA and Taiwan through their highs and lows as they land huge sponsorship deals, attract crazy fan bases and above all, live the game.

[Register here](#)



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

**Saturday, March 16 @ Seattle, Washington**

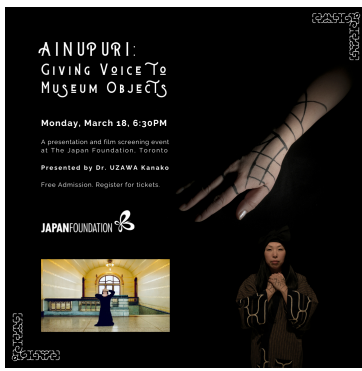
**Monday, March 18 @ Vancouver, British Columbia**

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](#)



In-person Talk

## ***Ainupuri: Giving Voice to Museum Objects***

**Monday, March 18 @ 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (ET)**

In-person @ JFT Event Hall | Admission Free | Registration Required

This presentation will focus on hidden stories and narratives of Ainu museum collections from the eye of Dr. Kanako Uzawa, an Ainu scholar and artist. She will discuss the process and challenges she faces through ongoing Ainu art exhibition curation in collaboration with the University of Michigan Museum of Art. Lastly, she will introduce her most recent art video production, *Ainupuri*, in which she reconstructs the counter-narratives of Ainu objects stored in the Historical Museum of Oslo University in Norway. This tells her own story in the form of narration, poetry, song, dance, and performance; these personal and collective histories are mediated by Laura Liverani's visual storytelling in a constant dialogue between the two artists.

[Register here](#)



## **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**



## 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](#)



## 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](#)



### Library News

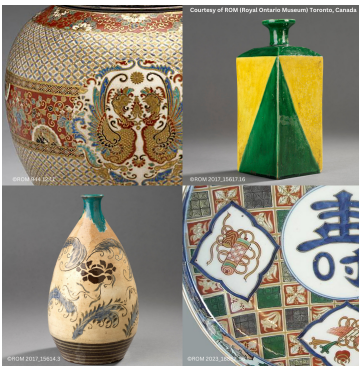
## JF Canada Digital Library: Newly Added Ebooks and Audiobooks

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](#)



@ the Japan Foundation, Toronto

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**



Japanese Language & Culture  
Competition for High School Students

The 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. Participants compete in teams of 2-3 students. This year, we will meet virtually!

## Japan Bowl Ontario Organizing Committee Japan Bowl Ontario 2024

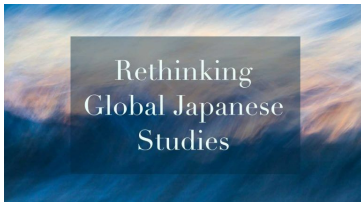
**Saturday, March 16 @ 12:30 PM – 4:00 PM (ET)**  
**Registration Deadline: March 1**

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



## Nagata Shachu From Japan to Madagascar

**Friday, March 22, 8:00PM & Saturday, March 23, 8:00PM (ET)**  
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.

[Details here](#)

## ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



Performing Arts Recommendation  
**Stage Beyond Borders, Contemporary Theatre: Epoch  
Man "Aurelian Siblings"**

Recorded in 2021 at Ekimae Theater | 1 hr. 15 min. | Subtitled in English

Script, direction, and scenic design by OZAWA Michinari

[Watch here](#)



The Japan Foundation, Toronto | 2 Bloor St. East, Suite 300, P.O. Box 130, Toronto, M4W 1J7  
Canada