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The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles Newsletter

July, 2018: Breeze Issue #129

<https://www.jflalc.org/pub-breeze129>



Director Greeting



Greetings!

As we approach another LA-signature hot summer, why not cool yourself down in our air-conditioned theater surrounded by Gyotaku (fish) prints of some of the most eclectic collection of river and ocean creatures? They look so alive and fresh that I can guarantee your seafood appetite will be uncontrollably invigorated afterward.

Hiroimi Paper, a Japanese Washi-paper distributor in LA that kindly provides materials for our Gyotaku exhibition will co-host a lecture with us on the incredible world of Washi toward the end of the month. This event will feature a special appearance of a group of master washi craftsmen from a variety of paper-making regions in Japan. It is a rare opportunity for you to literally get your hands on one of the longest crafts of Japan.

For those who love Japanese pop culture, please check out the latest article of our Japanese Language Education Update, a compilation of sites that are useful for both your personal leisure and classroom activities. Of course, nobody can list every interesting site on Japanese pop culture, so please let us know your go-to URLs when it comes to Japanese anime, manga, or anything else that we can share!

Sincerely,

Hideki Hara, Director

Events



World of Washi: Unfolding Tradition and Innovation

Thursday, July 26, 2018 7pm

Admission Free, [Reservation Required](#)

For 1,300 years Japan has been the world leader in paper making. Join JFLA and Hiroimi Paper, Inc. as we delve into the World of Washi (Japanese paper) and its history through a special Virtual Washi Tour Presentation of Japan's paper making regions.

[Read More](#)

**Art Exhibition - Impressions of the Seas: Gyotaku Fish Prints
Through July 13, 2018**



Japanese gyo-taku (lit. 'fish rubbing') is the unlikely marriage of fish, sumi ink, and washi paper. Once used to record the size of an impressive catch, it has been elevated to a fine art through the efforts of gyo-taku masters. "Impressions of the Seas: Gyo-taku Fish Prints" by Dwight Hwang features a selection of prints depicting freshwater, coastal and open ocean specimens alongside objects which detail the gyo-taku printmaking process.

[Read More](#)



Exhibit: Bamboo
Through September 9, 2018
[Craft and Folk Art Museum](#)
\$7 | free for members

BAMBOO explores the evolution of Japanese bamboo basketry from a purely functional art form into complicated, distinctly Japanese sculptural forms of variable scale. A major selection of historical and contemporary works from the Los Angeles-based Cotsen Collection are central to the exhibition, as well as a large-scale, interactive bamboo installation by Japan-based artist Akio Hizume.

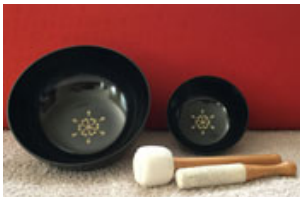
This exhibition is supported by The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles 国際交流基金ロサンゼルス日本文化センター, with additional support from the Pasadena Art Alliance.



The Long Excuse - 永い言い訳 (124mins, 2016)
Directed by Miwa Nishikawa
Wednesday, July 11 @7PM
In Japanese with English subtitles

Romance starring Motoki Masahiro from *Departures* with original story, script and direction from Nishikawa Miwa of *Dreams for Sale*. A bestselling author discovers the joys of living for others after his wife dies and he spends time with children who have lost their mother.

[Watch Trailer](#)



Meditation With Japanese Singing Lin Bowl
Wednesday, July 18
12:30/1:00PM (2 sessions, 20 min/session)
Just Show Up!

Mid-week fatigue is a familiar foe to many of us. Why not maximize your relaxation and join us for a Sound Bath at Lunchtime!

The Singing Lin Bowl harmoniously combines the healing qualities of the Tibetan singing bowl and its Japanese counterpart, the Lin bowl. Relax and feel your stress dissipate into thin air as the sounds of the singing-Lin bowl lead you into a meditative state.

There is no charge and no reservation required. All are welcome to come, sit, listen, and refresh!

[Read More](#)



The Magnificent Nine - 殿、利息でござる！ (129mins, 2016)
Directed by Yoshihiro Nakamura
Wednesday, July 25 @7PM
In Japanese with English subtitles

A film adaptation of Michifumi Isoda's original novel which is based on a true story from the middle Edo Period. This film comically depicts the efforts of Yoshiokajuku, an inn town in Sendai fief, to save themselves from impoverishment by running a moneylending enterprise against the fiefdom.

On the verge of financial crisis, the Sendai fiefdom levies a heavy tax upon its residents resulting in bankruptcies and people fleeing town in succession. Nine people including Juzaburo Kokudaya (Sadawo Abe), devise a relief plan to loan money to the fief with a partner and distribute the interest among the residents.

[Watch Trailer](#)

Applications



Workshop: Japanese for Travel Monday, July 9 @7PM This Event Is Full

Do you have plans to go to Japan in the near future? If so, we will get you prepared! You will learn helpful travel tips from a tourism specialist from JNTO (Japan National Tourism Organization), and essential Japanese phrases from our Japanese language course instructor. We will demonstrate Japanese social etiquette, too, so you won't be just a "stranger" in Japan. This workshop is suitable for beginners and those with no experience at all.

[Read More](#)

**Grants
Available
In The US**

2018-19 JAPANESE LANGUAGE GRANTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

We still have grant programs available during our Fiscal Year 2018-19 to support Japanese-Language Education in the United States.

They include the following:

1. Learners Event Grant previously known as "Speech Contest Grant" (Deadline: 9/1/2018)
2. Teaching Material Purchase Grant (Deadline: 9/15/2018)
3. Japanese-Language Education Project Grant (Deadline: 2 months prior to project start date)

[Read More](#)

News



Japanese Language Education Update #56: Resources for Teachers and Students, Part 1: Pop Culture

In our last 2015 survey, 90% of 1,451 institutions in the US reported that one of the reasons their students were studying Japanese was an interest in Japanese pop culture such as anime or manga. Yet searching for resources that are related to student interest is always daunting and time-consuming. The Japan Foundation has its own anime and manga learning site here: <http://anime-manga.jp/>. But there are of course many more out there in many shapes and forms!

We've compiled some more sites that you or your students can use in the classroom, whether for reference or for activities. Resources listed below are unaffiliated with JFLA.

Akiba Soken
<https://akiba-souken.com/article/anime/>
Anime news

Silent Manga Audition
<http://www.manga-audition.com/>
Manga without words. Great for creative activities. (Thanks to Suzuki-sensei for introducing this one!)

Japanese commercial database
<http://www.bb-navi.com/cm-douga/index-news.html>
Great if you want to show a quick clip in class! Note: some are unavailable due to country restrictions

Dorama database
<http://www.tvdrama-db.com/>
What's showing? Searchable database of all major dramas.

Sakuhin Database
<https://sakuhibd.com>
Review site in Japanese of various drama, movies, manga, and anime. Great to read Japanese opinions.

TRIVIA BONUS: Film sets in Japan
<http://loca.ash.jp/>
Ever curious about where a location a movie or drama was filmed? Or, conversely, ever want to know what was filmed in a particular prefecture? Use this database!

And while introduced already before, we would be remiss to neglect the Gakushuu Manga project by the Nippon Foundation, which selected 200 manga titles for their educational value, teaching

about history, diversity, culture, and more! We are currently working on including information on our own site about usage in the classroom.

<http://gakushumanga.jp/>

We are constantly updating our resources. Be sure to keep checking back!

Yujin Gakuen Receives Japan Foundation's Salary Assistance Grant

On Thursday June 7th, 2018, Consul General Takashi Teraoka attended the Yujin Gakuen Japanese Immersion School's 30th year anniversary and presented the Japan Foundation's grant check to Principal Thomas Piowaty (Eugene, Oregon). Our grant will be used to expand the current kindergarten Japanese immersion program. We congratulate them on reaching this historical milestone and wish them the best of luck with their program!

