

December 10, 2020



Today is the start of the **38th Annual Japan Film Festival!** Catch *Koshien* and *A Long Goodbye* before **Saturday**, and don't forget to tune in for the **post-film talks**. Also on **Saturday** is our live co-presentation on ukiyo-e artist **KATSUSHIKA Oei** with the Japan Society. Check out this week's **Staff Pick review** of *The Briefcase*; then browse our online catalogue and booklist to find out which **contemporary Japanese novel** you'll want to check out next. The JFT already has an exciting lineup of events for the new year. On **January 7**, join us for a talk on **Japanese STEAM education**. Japanese language teachers may wish to sign up for our new **Trying Out Free Online Resources** and **Nihongo Salon** workshops. For more JFT events, community news, and online resource recommendations, see **further details below >**

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

December 10-12	FILM SCREENING	38th Annual Japan Film Festival
December 12	ONLINE TALK	KATSUSHIKA Oei: A Woman Artist in the Floating World

December 16	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	24th 'Sawakai': Thank you very much for your hard work this year!
December 17	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Online Network for Heritage Language Education 4
January 6	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	25th 'Sawakai': Happy New Year!
January 7	ONLINE TALK	Cultivating the Next Generation of STEAM Thinkers
January 12, 19, 26, & February 2,	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Trying Out Free Online Resources: "Hirogaru: Get more of Japan and Japanese"!
January 13	TEACHERS' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	4th Online Nihongo Salon: "Let's make haiku!"
February 11	LIBRARY	JFT Book Club Online

JFT NEWS



38th
JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL
Free online screenings Dec. 10-12

CFI-ICF.ca/JFF

EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN CANADA
JAPAN FOUNDATION
Celebrating 20 Years in Canada

38th Annual Japan Film Festival

Co-presented by the Canadian Film Institute, Embassy of Japan in Canada and The Japan Foundation, Toronto

Thursday, December 10, 00:00 AM - Saturday, December 12, 11:59 PM (EST)

@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

One of the Canadian Film Institute's longest-running annual festivals, the Japan Film Festival, has showcased the best in contemporary filmmaking in Japan. Despite the pandemic, we are proud to continue this cinematic tradition online to film lovers all across Canada.

[Details >](#)



***A Long Goodbye* 長いお別れ**

Directed by NAKANO Ryota
2019 | 127 min. | Japanese with English Subtitles

Shohei is a retired school principal dealing with dementia whose escapades wreak havoc on his family. His two daughters return home to take care of their father together with their mom as he faces Alzheimer's. In *A Long Goodbye* to their father, fond memories and forgotten hopes flow back into their lives. The film is adapted from the novel by Naoki Prize-winning author NAKAJIMA Kyoko (*The Little House*) with NAKANO Ryota (*Her Love Boils Bathwater*) as director and screenplay writer. After the film, watch CFI Executive Director Tom McSorley's conversation on dementia in Japan and Canada with Momiji Heath Care Society's Kiyoshi Dembo.

[Watch trailer >](#)
[Watch movie here >](#)



Koshien: Japan's Field of Dreams

Directed by YAMAZAKI Ema Ryan
2019 | 94 min. | Japanese with English Subtitles

Koshien: Japan's Field of Dreams is an intense documentary that follows coaches and players in their quest to win the historic 100th national high school baseball tournament. The story is an emotional journey to the heart of the Japanese national character and window into the struggle to balance tradition with progress. After the film, please be sure to watch the Q+A discussion with director YAMAZAKI Ema Ryan and let us know how you like the film and discussion in the questionnaire.

[Watch trailer >](#)
[Watch movie here >](#)



Online Talk
KATSUSHIKA Oei: A Woman Artist in the Floating World

Saturday, December 12, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (EST)
@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

KATSUSHIKA Oei (Ōi) is not a household name. Her father, however, is renowned as one of the greatest masters of art — Hokusai. In this joint presentation hosted by the Japan Foundation, Toronto and The Japan Society Canada, novelist Ms. Katherine Govier and art historian Dr. Rosina Buckland (the British Museum) will discuss Oei's skills, her contributions to Hokusai's lifework, and why she deserves to be celebrated as an artist in her own right.

The discussion will be followed by a live Q+A moderated by Ms. Deanna Horton, Senior Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

[Details and registration >](#)

Image: from "Three Women Playing Musical Instruments," KATSUSHIKA Ōi, Museum of Fine Arts Boston, William Sturgis Bigelow Collection



Online Teachers' Workshop
Online Network for Heritage Language Education 4:

Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba, Montreal Japanese Language Center, The Japanese School of Toronto Shokokai Inc.

Thursday, December 17, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (EST)

@ONLINE, free admission, registration required

In the fourth meeting of the Online Network for Heritage Language Education, there will be activity reports from Japanese Cultural Association of Manitoba, Montreal Japanese Language Center, and The Japanese School of Toronto Shokokai Inc., followed by time for networking and discussion.

[Details >](#)



Online Teachers' Professional Development
JFT Online 'Sawakai' for Japanese Teachers

24th 'Sawakai': Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 PM - 6:40 PM (EST)

Topic: "Thank you very much for your hard work this year!"

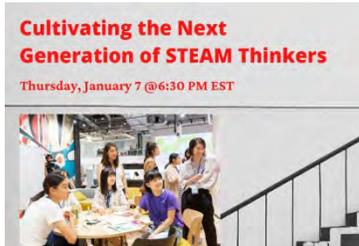
25th 'Sawakai': Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6:00 PM - 6:40 PM (EST)

Topic: "Happy New Year!"

@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

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? (*These gatherings will be conducted in Japanese.)

[Details >](#)



Online Talk
Cultivating the Next Generation of STEAM Thinkers

Thursday, January 7, 2021, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (EST)

@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

What is STEAM education? How is it different from STEM education? In this talk, Dr. Rie Kijima (University of Toronto and SKY Labo) and Dr. Mariko Yang-Yoshihara (Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education & SKY Labo) will discuss key concepts related to STEAM learning in the 21st century. Discussion will include the gender gap in STEM, what it takes to reverse this trend, and the importance of key mindsets, such as failing forward and thinking out of the box. The talk will centre around an innovative education program offered for female youths in Japan that utilizes design thinking to cultivate the next generation of STEAM thinkers.

[Details and registration >](#)



Library News Staff Pick Review

Read our new Staff Pick review about the novel *The Briefcase* (alternate title *Strange Weather in Tokyo*) by KAWAKAMI Hiromi, an immersive tale of loneliness and love that defies age, marked by Kawakami's gentle hints at the changing seasons.

Check out past book and movie reviews and thematic booklists on our [Booklist webpage](#) to look for library items without having to browse the shelves onsite.



Library News Contemporary Japanese Fiction at JFT Library

Although the library is currently closed, you can still browse for library items online for your next pickup! Check out our new complete list of Contemporary Japanese Fiction, available at JFT Library. Available in PDF format, discover new books and authors, as well as old favourites, without having to browse the shelves onsite. Stay tuned for more booklists to be available for download on the [Library Online catalogue](#).



Online Teachers' Professional Development Online Nihongo Salon for Japanese-Language Teachers

4th Online Nihongo Salon:
Wednesday, January 13, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (EST)
Topic: "Let's make haiku!"

The Japan Foundation, Toronto has launched a Nihongo Salon series for Japanese language teachers with the aim of providing a place where Japanese language teachers in Canada who would like to maintain Japanese language proficiency can speak Japanese regularly and network with other teachers.

[Details >](#)

Online Teachers' Professional Development

Trying Out Free Online Resources: "Hirogaru: Get more of Japan and Japanese"!

January 12, 19, 26, and February 2, 2021, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM (EST)
@ONLINE, admission free, registration required

As classes continue to be held online at many educational institutions, we will hold a series of workshops where teachers can try out the free online resource "Hirogaru: Get more of Japan and Japanese." Through using Hirogaru's educational materials, teachers will have the opportunity to think about how to handle Japanese culture and circumstances in their own lessons, how the materials can be arranged, how it can fit the goals of their class, etc.

[Details >](#)



Library News JFT Book Club Online

Thursday, February 11, 2021, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (EST)
@ONLINE, RSVP required

Join our first book club of year 2021!

We will discuss the highly acclaimed novel *The Memory Police* (密やかな結晶) by OGAWA Yoko, shortlisted for the 2020 International Booker Prize and finalist of the 2019 National Book Award. Include this surreal story about the power of memory to your list of holiday readings for the next book club! Please email library@jftor.org to reserve your spot.

[Details >](#)



Video Recording Re-engineering Reproductive Futures in Japanese Science Fiction

A live recording of our online lecture with Dr. Kazue Harada is available to watch on our YouTube channel until **January 6**. Tune in from home to learn about some of Japan's best modern female sci-fi writers and how they use the genre to subvert ideas of reproductive futurism.

[Click here to watch >](#)

JAPAN FOUNDATION SUPPORTED EVENTS



JF Digital Collection - Let your curiosity open the doors to Japan and the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected many aspects of our society and individual lives, and greatly limited our opportunities to connect with one another. Although international cultural exchange programs around the world have also been curtailed, we believe that this situation shouldn't discourage our innate curiosity to one another.

As Japan Foundation's response, we are proud to present JF digital collection, an online platform showcasing a variety of online programs created by JF headquarters and our offices overseas. We hope this will serve as a way to bridge the gap between our audience, Japan, and the world.

[Details >](#)



Japan Foundation, New York presents
SATOSHI KON: Tracing the Legacy of an Anime Giant

Saturday, December 12, 2:00 PM (EST)
@ONLINE, free admission, registration required

On the 10th anniversary of the passing of Satoshi Kon, one of the world's most applauded creators of anime films, four expert panelists will explore his body of work—from *Perfect Blue*, *Millennium Actress*, *Tokyo Godfathers*, *Paranoia Agent* to *Paprika*—and their impact on the film industry. The panel will be moderated by Sandra Annett, associate professor in the Film Studies program at Wilfrid Laurier University.

[Details >](#)

Call for Participation in a Survey about the Japan Foundation's Official Website

Available until **Sunday, December 13**

The Japan Foundation has a plan to revamp its [official website](#). For this purpose, we would like to get your feedback about your experience with our website. Please provide your opinions in the questionnaire. It would take only about 10 minutes.

[Take survey here >](#)



Japan Foundation, Sydney Presents
Hiroshi Nagai: Paintings for Music

Now - Saturday, January 23, 2021

This exhibition explores an era that encapsulated the new young urban lifestyle in Tokyo through the lens of NAGAI Hiroshi's paintings. His dreamy visual palette and associated city pop hits epitomised the cultural reverberations of Japan's economic boom, providing a soundtrack and aesthetic for young urbanites lusting after endless summers by the poolside and an indulgent city nightlife.

[Details and online catalogue >](#)

Bilingual Multilingual Children's Net (BMCN)
**International Forum on "Japanese Language Education Promotion Law":
To promote heritage language education to foster global human talent**

October 2020 - March 2021
@ONLINE, admission free

This online international forum is planned to promote native and heritage language education in Japan and abroad. From October 2020 for 6 months, connecting Japan with five overseas regions, we will promote "understanding of areas and issues" and "promotion of exchange / cooperation activities" by country / region and "summary of important items" and "promotion of public support" for the future. Website is in Japanese only.

[Details >](#)

COMMUNITY NEWS

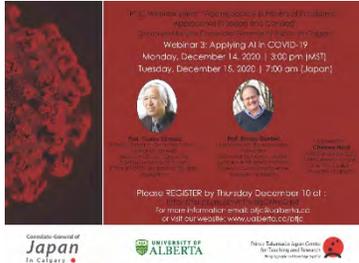


The Embassy of Japan in Ottawa Presents
**'Visa for Life' and the Bond of Humanity:
Sugihara Chiune's courageous humanitarian
act**

Tuesday, December 8 - Saturday, December 12
@ONLINE

Learn more about Japanese diplomat SUGIHARA Chiune, whose 'visas for life' helped about 6,000 Jews flee Europe in 1940. We're pleased to present the stories of some of the 'Sugihara visa' survivors and their descendants, as well as host virtual screenings of the film *Persona Non Grata* and the documentary *Sugihara Survivors*.

[Details >](#)



Prince Takamado Japan Centre Presents
"The Ageing Society in the Era of Pandemics: Approaches in Japan and Canada" Series 3: Applying AI in COVID-19
Sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan in Calgary

Monday, December 14, 3:00 PM (MST) / 5:00 PM (EST)

@ONLINE, reservation required by December 10

What is the role of AI in the era of the pandemics? Two top computer scientists in Japan and Canada will discuss the potentials and challenges in adopting AI to contact tracing during the COVID-19, medical diagnoses, the New Normal, and more. This talk is designed for both specialists and the general public. All are welcome!

[Details and reservation >](#)

ONLINE RESOURCE RECOMMENDATIONS



Performing Arts Recommendation
Instrumental Recordings from Philharmonie (Philharmonic Hall), Cologne, Germany - ABE Keiko: *The Wave* (2006) for marimba and percussion

Performed by musicians of the WDR Symphony Orchestra
13 min. 48 sec. | recorded live on November 12, 2020

[Watch here >](#)



Performing Arts Recommendation
Instrumental Recordings from Philharmonie (Philharmonic Hall), Cologne, Germany - TAKEMITSU Tōru: *Autumn* (1973) for Biwa, Shakuhachi and Orchestra

KAKIZAKAI Kaoru, Shakuhachi bamboo flute
KUBOTA Akiko, Biwa
Peter Eötvös, conductor
WDR Sinfonieorchester

16 min. 31 sec. | recorded live on November 2, 2018

[Watch here >](#)



Gallery Recommendation
Masterpiece of the Week

National Treasure
View of Ama-no-Hashidate, Heavenly Bridge
天橋立図 あまのはしだてず
Ink on paper, Muromachi Period, the 16th century
Attributed to SESSHŪ (1420-1506?)
Height: 89.4cm; Width: 168.5cm
A collection of the Kyoto National Museum

[Click here](#) to zoom in and see the painting in its entirety. [Click here](#) for more information on the landmass this painting is based upon.



Performing Arts Recommendation
WORLD TAIKO CONFERENCE: Live talks with Eitetsu Hayashi

Recording from November 22, 2020, in Japanese with English subtitles and interpretation

This event aims to connect people from around the world through taiko (Japanese drums) and share the wonder of taiko with a wider global audience. Eitetsu Hayashi, who helped JFT celebrate the Japan Canada 90th anniversary celebrations, composed the WTC theme song, and together with international taiko artists, was featured in the WTC Premium Talks.

[Watch performance >](#)

WTC Special Talk by Eitetsu Hayashi: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), [Part 3](#)



Film Recommendation
AINU MOSIR

Directed by FUKUNAGA Takeshi
2020 | 84 min. | Japanese with English Subtitles

Available to watch through subscription to Netflix Canada

AINU MOSIR captures the struggle of upholding traditions in a modern world with an all-Ainu cast. Set in northern Japan's Hokkaido community, a sensitive Ainu teen searches

for a spiritual connection with his recently deceased dad while navigating his indigenous identity in a changing world.

[Special Conversation](#) between *AINU MOSIR* director FUKUNAGA Takeshi and Isabel Sandoval.

[Details here >](#)

[Watch trailer here >](#)

