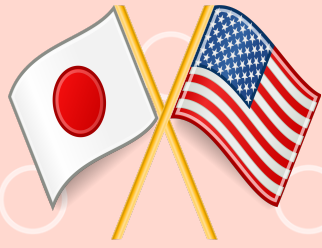


JOI Coordinator report Vol.4



Kanako Morishita
Japan Outreach Coordinator, JCMU
April 19th, 2019



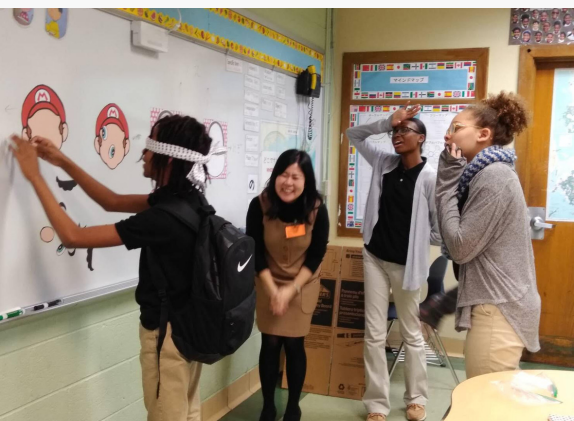
Cultural collaboration with Japan and Taiwan

I traveled with Taiwanese shadow puppet troupe 永興樂皮影劇團 Yung Shing Le Shadow Troupe from Nov 10th to 13th for story-telling performance across Michigan. We performed the unique fusion of Taiwanese and Japanese tradition through Japanese folktale "The peach boy (Momotaro)". It was my greatest honor to be part of this group to spread Asian culture in MI.



Genuine green tea from Shiga

At the reception of Japanese emperor's birthday in Detroit, Shiga prefectural government promoted their green tea to guests. Many people were very pleased with the taste of Japanese green tea. Café named Eli Tea, Goldfish Tea, and TeaHaus are now selling genuine Ohmi Tea right here in Michigan!!



K-12 school visits

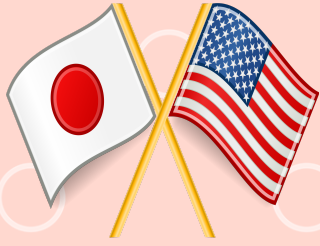
I visited several schools in Michigan to talk about Japanese culture. In schools, topics are quite various depend on school requests such as "National Holidays in Japan", "Japanese manners", "school lunch", "origami", and "language practice". I usually visit a school once or twice depending on their request. On the other hand, I visit Japanese classes more repeatedly so that we can enhance student's curiosity to learn Japanese.



Educational programs in library

I led several educational programs through the Capital Area District Libraries (CADL) network. This winter from January to March, I did several workshops for Origami in libraries. At the workshop, I usually show my presentation first and also do a hands-on activities so that everyone can participate. Three more library workshops are scheduled through July.

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Local news paper in Imlay city

After receiving an inquiry from a citizen in Imlay city, I visited this city in late December. I have heard that the awareness of Japan is limited there, so one newspaper writer contacted me and asked if he can observe my school visit next time for a news paper article. Thanks to this advertisement, I visited this city three times so far.



Japanese anime voice-acting

Thanks to the educational grant from Japan Foundation, we implemented voice acting workshops for people in Michigan from March 15th to 21st. A professional instructor taught about the Japanese voice-acting method by analyzing from a situation of the scene / character's facial expressions through Japanese anime. About 200 participants recorded their voices on the film and enjoyed a life-long memorable experience!



Multicultural social club at MSU

MSU has many social clubs on campus, and one new club invited me to talk about the Japanese culture to MSU students. I chose the topic of Japanese tea this time and let them try making matcha after the presentation. Food is always a good tool to get people excited. All students enjoyed their first experience to make green tea and told us that they want to travel to Japan someday in their future.



Japan Festival at U of M

Continuing from last year, The Japanese American Citizen League Detroit chapter invited me to help their recruiting of young generations at the Japan Festival at University of Michigan on March 31st. Using several origami designs, I offered a booth for guest to make a laminated bookmark. The 70 sheets I prepared in advance went quickly and closed the booth before 3 pm although the closing time was scheduled on 4 pm.

Please contact me anytime for Japanese outreach possibilities in your community!
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