



April in Japan, when the cherry blossoms are in full bloom, is a special time of year.

Many people start their "new life," entering school, starting a new job, moving to a new place...

Seeing those people excited about their new environment also gives us fresh feelings.

Japan Now: April 2024

Japan Now is the email newsletter of the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage

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Message from Mr. Hamada, New Head Consul of Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage

My name is Kiyohiko HAMADA, the newly appointed Head of the Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage. Prior to coming to Anchorage, I worked at the Embassy of Japan in Ukraine.

This is my second posting in the United States, having previously served in Seattle from 1993 to 1996. I am very much excited and pleased to be working in Alaska, which is blessed with vast and unspoiled natural beauty and has good friendly relations with Japan.



2024 Emperor's Birthday Celebration Reception

On Thursday, February 23rd, The Consular Office of Japan in Anchorage held the National Day reception in celebration of the 64th birthday of His Majesty, Emperor Naruhito of Japan, at the Anchorage Museum.

The event began with a vocal performance by Pipeline Vocal Project (PVP) of each country's national anthem; followed by a speech from Head Consul Kiyohiko Hamada wishing for His Majesty's good health and a deepening of Japanese-Alaskan cooperation and friendship; which was then followed by another speech by former Lieutenant Governor Mead Treadwell wherein he detailed Japan and Alaska's long-standing economic ties and his hope for their future development.

Afterward, the celebration continued with a video message from the mayor of Anchorage Dave Bronson and a toast by the president of the Japanese Alaska Association George Tolbert. The ceremony was an amiable affair in which one could feel US-Japan relations strengthening.



Sakura-mochi

Pink-colored rice cake with a red bean paste filling

Sakura-mochi is a traditional Japanese dessert made to resemble one of Japan's most beloved seasonal icons, Sakura, also known as cherry blossoms. This pink rice cake contains red bean paste and is usually covered with a salty cherry blossom leaf. Although the leaf is edible, there are many people who prefer not to eat it.

Sakura-mochi is thought to have been invented by Yamamoto Shinroku in 1717 using leaves from the foliage lining the Sumida River in Tokyo. After that, he began selling his mochi, and the rest is history! Now, it is available all year round, but it is most popular in Spring when cherry blossoms tend to bloom.

There are two versions of sakuramochi, the domyouji mochi from Kansai, consisting of steamed rice filled with anko and wrapped with a leaf, and the chomeiji mochi from Kanto, made with a pink crepe instead of rice.



domyouji mochi from Kansai



chomeiji mochi from Kanto



Niponica

Niponica is a magazine that introduces modern Japanese culture, entertainment, technology, and art. Previously, it was titled “Nipponia” and was first published in 2001. Today, the name has been changed to “Niponica” and is distributed all over the world by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

If you would like to have a booklet,
please contact our office by emailing pubcul-ak@se.mofa.go.jp

The below is the link of Niponica magazine site. You can download the latest PDF of the magazine as well as previous issues.
https://web-japan.org/niponica/index_en.html

JAPAN FES

JAPAN FES presents Kimono Show, Music and Ninja Action.
Meet the artists and actors from Japan and LA!

Time: April 27, 2024, 4:00PM-6:00PM

Location: Dimond High School Auditorium, 2909 W Ave, Anchorage, AK 99502, USA

Tickets: \$10.00(Adult) No fees(Children under 18).

For more information, please contact: hharada@alaska.edu

You can purchase tickets using the button below:

[Buy tickets](#)

JAPAN FES ジャパンフェス

**Kimono
Show**



by Sueko Oshimoto

Music



by KIKI

Action



by Burai

Presented by
Japan Alaska Association
UAA Dept of Languages and Japan Center
ASD World Languages and Immersion Programs

Link and QR Code for ticket:

<https://www.alaskajaa.org/event-details/japan-fes>



Saturday, April 27, 2024, 4-6 PM
Dimond High School Auditorium
Adult: \$10 * Free: 18 and under
Come in your Kimono or favorite costume!



For more information, contact hharada@alaska.edu



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