

Welcome to Japan Week 2025

Time of Great Change,
Time of Great Connection

Japan Week 2025 aims to give students and communities the opportunity to obtain a better understanding of Japanese culture and demonstrate the University's ongoing commitment to building bridges between cultures and bringing together people of different customs, religions and ethnic backgrounds. Japan Week seeks to continue to promote diversity and unity and hopes that participants will become leaders in a flourishing dialogue between Japan and the United States and will work towards building a more peaceful global community. The goal of Japan Week is to support an inclusive environment for students and community members of all backgrounds.

Japan Week 2025 Committee

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<https://www.shu.edu/languages-literatures-cultures/japan-week/index.cfm>

JAPAN WEEK 2025

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March 28 (Friday)

12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Jubilee Hall Auditorium
*New Jersey Statewide
Japanese Language and Cultural
Studies Awards Ceremony*



The Japanese language is offered at more than 20 high schools and universities in New Jersey. For the past 20 years, the NJATJ has been presenting awards to recognize the efforts of Japanese language learners and their hopes for a bright future.

This year, approximately 150 Japanese language learners will be receiving awards, and Japanese cultural dance presentations will also be held at the awards ceremony. Three recently retired Japanese teachers will be recognized with Lifetime Achievement Awards. Hosted by New Jersey Association of Teachers of Japanese (NJATJ).

March 31 (Monday)

12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. Chancellor's Suite
*Japanese Language & Digital
Storytelling Awards Ceremony*



The Japanese Program is pleased to honor its motivated and hardworking Japanese language learners. For the 2024-2025 academic year, 50 students have been studying Japanese language and culture, pursuing challenging curriculums

in one of the most internationally well-known language programs. The awardees are expected to be future cultural ambassadors in the respective community, foster a peaceful global society, and continue to study Japanese as a lifelong learning pursuit. Congratulations to the awardees! Hosted by LLC Department and Global Learning Center.

April 1 (Tuesday)

3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Chancellor's Suite
*Interned in Wartime Japan:
Diary of a Young British National*



The fact that there were internment camps for enemy civilians in wartime Japan is not well known. Born in Japan to a Japanese mother, Sydenham Duer, a physician at Jikei Medical School, is troubled by his own identity. He was arrested and interned by the Totsuka Police Department's

Special Higher Police on December 8, 1941. His diary from 1944-1945, during his period of internment, vividly describes the conditions at the Uchiyama Internment Camp in Kanagawa Prefecture. One day in his diary, he wrote, "Japan treats me as an enemy, but as for me, I love Japan..." Kei Sakayama, the first daughter of Sydenham, shares the diary which her father kept during the harsh days of WWII. The bilingual book, *Interned in Wartime Japan: Diary of a Young British National*, was published in 2021 by Ronsō-sya publishing company in Tokyo, Japan. Presented by Kei Sakayama, Northern Valley Regional High School at Demarest, FDU, and Ramapo College (Retired). Hosted by Asian Studies Program & Japanese Program.

April 2 (Wednesday)

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. University Center
Kendama Contest



Kendama (Lit. sword and ball) is a traditional Japanese toy. It consists of a handle (ken), a pair of cups (sarado), and a ball (tama). Kendama is a popular toy for developing skills such as hand-eye coordination, focus, and perseverance. Currently, people use Kendama as a means of improving their concentration or as a stress-relief tool. Test your Kendama skills. Hosted by Advanced Japanese Class.

April 3 (Thursday)

12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Chancellor's Suite
*It's Raining Pikachu:
Pokémon as a Window to Nostalgia,
Consumerism, and Globalization*



When Pokémon came to America in 1996, hundreds of stuffed Pikachu fell to earth in Topeka, Kansas (renamed To Pikachu for the day). This talk will explore the humble beginnings of a game that merged a popular pastime (bug collecting) with traditions from Shinto and Daoist folklore. We will look at how the Pokémon Corporation then went globally, forging an empire of product lines, movies, tv shows, books, manga, and even themed cafés. Ultimately, we will see how Pokémon encapsulated not just "pocket monsters" in their "Poké Balls," but also captured and commercialized childhood nostalgia. Hosted by Anne Giblin Gedacht, Associate Professor of History.

April 3 (Thursday)

3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Chancellor's Suite
*Japanese-style Curry:
Strengthening Nutrition, Military,
and Identity of Japan*



Have you ever tried Japanese-style curry? Curry is famous in India and nearby regions, but it is also popular in Japan. In this workshop, the participants will learn the history of curry, Japanese-style curry, and the evolution of curry. There will also be a tasting opportunity at the workshop. Hosted by Shigeru Osuka, Professor of Asian Studies and Japanese.

April 4 (Friday)

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Japan Week Luncheon



Amid your busy daily schedule, why not make time to have a delicious lunch with your colleagues this spring? The world population is over 8 billion, but why not spend some time with friends you have met at the right time and space in your life? The Japan Week luncheon will be held at a local Asian restaurant in South Orange. Space is very limited, and a reservation is required no later than March 25 at Fahy Hall 211.

All events are open to the public (The program is subject to change)

Sponsorship for Japan Week 2025 is provided by Seton Hall University's Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, Office of International Programs, LLC Global Learning Center, Asian Studies Program, Japanese Program, The J.C.C. Fund of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, and New Jersey Association of Teachers of Japanese (NJATJ).