

JFNY NEWSLETTER | February 21, 2025 ☐☐

We're more than halfway through February! For those interested in Asian Studies, be sure to mark your calendars for the AAS Conference and make plans to visit our booth and attend our reception next month. Our Dragon Ball pop culture series episode is also coming up, so be sure to register and submit your questions as soon as possible ☐☐♀

Plus, Betenya is stopping in the Midwest, our friends at Japan Society are hosting a talk by Sayaka Kobayashi (the real life Biri-Gal), and much more. Read below for more info! ☐☐

## *From Us*



### **Dragon Ball: How Black and Latin American Fans Found Themselves in This Anime**

March 4, 7pm (EST)

Online

Come join our FREE online panel session as our experts will guide you through the fascinating world of anime fandom, focusing on how Black and Latin American fans found a unique connection with ***Dragon Ball***.

This is more than just a conversation about your favorite characters—it's about understanding Dragon Ball's powerful cultural role and its global influence on identity, community, and self-expression.

→[REGISTER HERE](#)



## **AAS Conference 2025 (Association for Asian Studies)**

March 13-16

Greater Columbus Convention Center (Columbus, OH)

The Japan Foundation, New York will have a booth in the exhibitor's hall at this year's **AAS Conference**. Visit our booth to learn more about our grants, fellowships and programs. We will also be hosting a reception on Friday, March 14 at 7:30pm, open to all conference attendees.

→[LEARN MORE](#)



## JFF Theater Spotlight: School Meals Time Graduation

Available until April 30 (9pm EDT)

Have you watched ***School Meals Time Graduation***? This laugh-out-loud film currently one of the films available on JFF Theater!

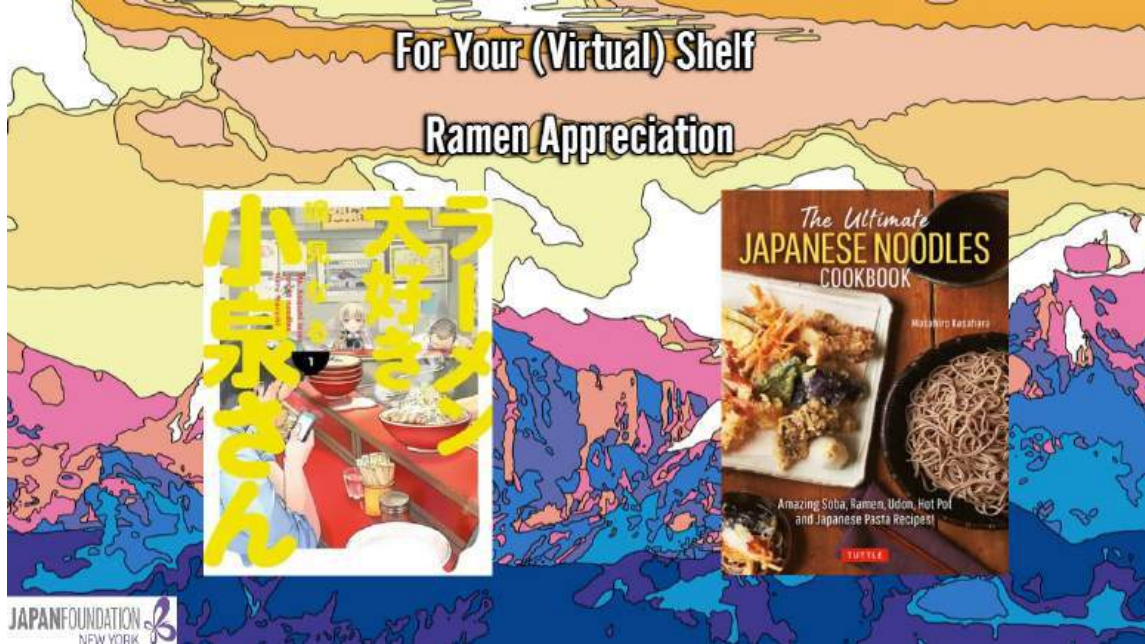
Set in Japan where teachers and students eat school-provided meals in the same classroom, this food-centered comedy follows Amarida (played by comic **Hayato Ichihara**), a teacher overly zealous about the meals. When the school meals taste is threatened, he goes against the local board to save it.

This film is available on JFF Theater now. Watch for FREE today!

→[WATCH NOW](#)

*For Your (Virtual) Shelf*





## For Your (Virtual) Shelf: Ramen Appreciation

Welcome to another edition of For Your (Virtual) Shelf! In this edition, we're featuring books that will inspire you to grab a good warm bowl of noodles for your next meal.

☐ FEB. VOL. 2 THEME: Ramen Appreciation

☐ FEB. VOL. 2 BOOKS:

- Ms. Koizumi Loves Ramen Noodles by Naru Narumi
- The Ultimate Japanese Noodles Cookbook by Masahiro Kasahara

→ [LEARN MORE \(Ms. Koizumi Loves Ramen Noodles\)](#)

→ [LEARN MORE \(The Ultimate Japanese Noodles Cookbook\)](#)

Not what you're looking for this time? There are plenty more books of all genres available. Visit the JF USA Digital Library today!

→ [LEARN MORE](#)

You will need a library card to be able to borrow and place holds for the books in the digital library. Visit the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles website below for instructions on how to get your digital library card.

→ [LEARN MORE](#)

***Your (Virtual) Shelf - Join the Giveaway!***



## **Book Tree 2025 @ JFT Library & JF Canada/USA Digital Library** Ongoing until March 29

Don't miss your chance to take part in our Book Tree! Share your thoughts on library items (and refer your friends) to make the library's book tree bloom and for your chance to win various prizes!

How to participate:

- 1) Borrow ebooks/audiobooks at the JF USA Digital Library. Every time you borrow 5 or more items, you are entitled to enter a drawing for prizes.
- 2) Submit comments on (an) item(s) of your choice on the virtual Book Tree board on Padlet.
- 3) If you want to opt in for the prize lottery, please submit your information from the form available on the virtual Book Tree board.

This year, we're also offering a Friend Referral Bonus. If you learned about the Book Tree and/or the library services from a friend, write your friend's library card number in the form. Both you and your friend get an extra ballot worth chance for small prizes!

Prize winners will be notified directly in late April.

→[LEARN MORE](#)

## ***From Our Grantees***



### **Bentenya Chindon Culture Midwest Tour**

March 2

Rivera Court at the Detroit Institute of Arts (Detroit, MI)

March 6

The Studio Theater at Allied Solutions Center for the Performing Arts (Carmel, IN)

March 8

The Fath Auditorium at the Cincinnati Art Museum (Cincinnati, OH)

**Bentenya** is coming to the Midwest! A renowned Japanese *chindon* music troupe from Nagoya, Japan, Bentenya bridges traditional Japanese folk songs with J-Pop and anime songs, using only their voices and live instruments.

Don't miss your chance to experience this unique musical blend of modernity with nostalgia!

→[LEARN MORE](#)

***From Our Friends***





### **Author Talk and Signing: Meet Real-Life Biri Gal Sayaka Kobayashi**

Feb. 27, 7pm (EST)

Japan Society (New York, NY)

On the tenth anniversary of *Flying Colors (Biri Gal)*, Japan Society will present author, speaker, columnist and entrepreneur **Sayaka Kobayashi** for a special talk about her life, career, writing, including her new book *How I Fell in Love with Learning*, and motivation for lifelong learning.

Kobayashi is the real-life inspiration behind the beloved 2015 film, which details her journey from a troubled middle school student on the verge of expulsion to passing one of most difficult university entrance exams in Japan.

→[LEARN MORE](#)



### **The Eternal Breasts**

March 12, 6:30pm (EST)

Asia Society (New York, NY)

As part of the monthly Films to See Before You Die series, Asia Society New York will screen ***The Eternal Breasts***, directed by Kinuyo Tanaka. The film follows poet Fumiko Shimojô (a version of real-life tanka poet Fumiko Nakajo) as she pursues creative fulfillment, deals with divorce and motherhood, and receives a terminal breast cancer diagnosis before awakening to the possibility of new love.

The film will be screened with an imported 35mm print, courtesy of The Japan Foundation.

→[LEARN MORE](#)

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For inquiries, please contact: [NY\\_info@jpf.go.jp](mailto:NY_info@jpf.go.jp)

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