

# Jcd Newsletter

## DIA Spring Events 2024/March-June

There are finally signs of spring! For this spring's event, we will welcome Rakugo storyteller San'yūtei Ponta from Japan to bring laughter to Michigan. For the opening performance of the JCD Performer Series, DIA will host for the first "Rakugo performance". Performance date at DIA is scheduled for Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 2:00 pm in the Lecture Hall. There is a fee for the performance (available for purchase from mid-March on the DIA website). The proceeds from the performance at DIA will be secured for DIA's Japan program fund. We hope many people will come and enjoy Ponta's rakugo. The performance will be told by Ponta in Japanese with English subtitles slides. His performances will begin at

**2024 JCD Performer Series**  
**San'yūtei Ponta**  
 三遊亭ぽん太  
 (Rakugo-ka)  
**Brings Laugh to Michigan**

- ▶ Performances: 2024/4/14 ~ 2024/4/19
- ▶ Venues: Detroit Institute of Arts, Ann Arbor District Library, Michigan State University, Eastern Michigan University, and Monroe City
- ▶ Rakugo stories: Shini Gami (Grim Reaper), Chou-Tan (Long and Short), and Tengu Sabaki (Tengu Judgement)
- ▶ Rakugo will be told in Japanese with English script on projected slides

Main Sponsor  
 Introduction of San'yūtei Ponta: The seventh disciple of San'yūtei Koraku. The first Ponta was a disciple of the master San'yūtei Enchō, and for the first time in over 100 years. He revived his name and took the name of his second generation Ponta. In honor of that name, he currently only writes humorous stories as a budding rakugo storyteller. He has written many human stories and ghost stories written by Enchō.

DIA, and will also be held at universities and libraries in Michigan. Performance schedule can be found on JCD-MI.org and JBSD newsletter "Views".

Ponta's biography: San'yūtei Ponta was born in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture in 1985. In 2015, Ponta became the seventh disciple of rakugo artist San'yūtei Kōraku and he was promoted to futatsume, the second-highest rank for rakugo performers, in November of 2018.

His stage name, San'yūtei Ponta II, comes from San'yūtei Ponta [1832-1881], who was a disciple of rakugo master San'yūtei Enchō [1839-1900], the most famous performer of the late nineteenth century. Ponta revived this stage name for the first time in 100 years.

## Hinamatsuri 2024

All Day fun in DIA on **March 3rd, Sunday!** Visit multiple venues for workshops, performances, tasting tea, Japanese cultural displays and a guided tour to Japanese Gallery and Friendship Dolls Exhibition! Please check [DIA.org](http://DIA.org), [JCD-MI.org](http://JCD-MI.org), or [JBSD.org](http://JBSD.org) to find out the detail schedule of performances and workshop tickets information.

### For your visit to Friendship Doll's Exhibition

The Friendship Doll exhibition started last December, and five beautiful dolls are on display. Three of these dolls are called Friendship Dolls, and the Ichimatsu doll craftsmen who made them are, Fukiko Akita: Takizawa Koryusai Hiroko Hiroshima: Takizawa Koryusai Mariko, Osaka Prefecture: Hirata Goyo II (Living National Treasure)

The dolls were made as quickly as possible in six months so that they could be delivered to American children for Christmas, and it is said that the dolls cost as much to make a house.

The 58 Friendship Dolls that left Japan in 1927, first received a warm welcome in Hawaii. However, Hawaii had not yet become a state, and there were no dolls who settled there. It is said that many people in Hawaii saw off the dolls with sadness and tears

Actually Akita Fukiko who was mistakenly replaced by Miss Ishikawa (at the Montana Historical Society) Here in Detroit she has been carefully raised at the Detroit Children's Museum for years. Three years after Akita Fukiko came to Detroit, her younger brother Sugio came to live with her sister and they grew up together.

Another boy doll, a boyfriend, Tomoki, is a city boy who came to DIA from Tokyo in 2018. The artist is Fujimura Kokan, a grand-disciple of Takizawa Koryusai. Master

Fujimura Kokan was invited from Asakusa, Tokyo to commemorate the opening of the Japanese Gallery in 2017.



### Asian Culture event

Every Month of May is a special month for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM), and DIA hosts performances (dance and music) by people from many Asian countries including Japan. Although JCD does not officially participate in this, the quality of the event is improving year by year. Please spend hours in this event!

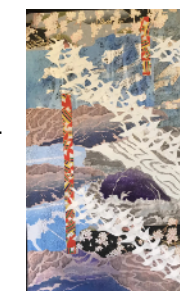
The name "Tomoki" was chosen by the students of the Ringo-kai. Ms. Ayari Mizui, as shown in the photo below, who named him, at DIA with Master Fujimura and her family.

Tomoki is in DIA and Fukiko is in Detroit Children Museum which is about 2 miles apart!!

This Friendship Dolls Exhibition in DIA made them meet together.



Right is the art used in APAHM event flyer in 2023. This was originally made by Ms. Nobuko Yamasaki, Woodblock Printmaker.



## I N F O R M A T I O N Event List

**Friendship Dolls Exhibition**  
 2023/12~2024/6/5 Dolls Showcase

**Hinamatsuri 2024**  
 2024/3/3(Sun) Multiple venues

**Lecture by Miya Ando**  
 2024/3/7(Thu) 6:30pm, Lecture Hall

**Rakugo by San'yūtei Ponta**  
 2024/4/14(Sun) 2pm, Lecture Hall

**APAHM events**  
 2024/5 Multiple Venues

**Events Information: please see** [DIA.org](http://DIA.org), [JCD-MI.org](http://JCD-MI.org), or [JBSD.org](http://JBSD.org)

Jcd Newsletter will be published with DIA events information for 2~3 times per year.

Our Cultural Partners:  
 JBSD, DIA, JAS and JSD Women's Club

