

AJET

# CONNECT



**JANUARY 2016  
SPECIAL END OF THE YEAR  
ISSUE**



# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello! Welcome to the January 2016 edition of *Connect* magazine. But wait, this isn't just any regular edition of our magazine. This one's special...

Having indulged and enjoyed the holiday season, now is the time to sit back and reflect on the year gone by and the year ahead. And what better way than to look back at some of our favourite content of 2015, chosen for you by the *Connect* staff.

In addition, we've featured various links to our staff members' social media platforms so that you can see what they're all about outside of *Connect* (FYI: Patrick leads a lavish lifestyle), and for you to get in touch. Whether it was the jam-packed events calendar, the delectable recipes, our on-site reporting from the marvellous Tokyo Game Show, or the Tokyo Fashion Week events; let us know what you thought!

In the December 2015 edition of *Connect*, I mentioned the aspirations and goals of the departing and upcoming year. The idea of reflection resonates with me as we leave 2015 behind. I think about the things I've done that have made me proud (and the things that haven't), the lessons learnt, the joys and sorrows. And with these memories I think about how they have attributed to my being and character. Every step is a step taken closer to yourself. Use what you can from these moments; be proud, be beautiful, be happy.

I hope the holidays have brought you nothing but joy in its various forms (my joys being food of all kinds!), and you are now ready for an exciting year ahead. You got this!

A Happy New Year to you.



Rajeev  
Rajeev



# WHO IS CONNECT?

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Daniel Kenney

Kero Kero Bonito

Derek Macatantan

Kiyomi Moore

Nippon-Graph

Susan Roberts

Timothy Saar

Simona Sampaolo

Andy Seward

Trevor Swann

Teddy Toyozaki

Wikicommons



# ALEXANDRA BRUECKNER

Food Editor  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter  
Instagram



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

I'll consider 2016 a success if I can rack up fifty days of snowboarding, stomp just one successful 360, and make it down Asahidake alive.

# NOT YOUR AVERAGE JIRO LUNCH

December 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Teddy Toyozaki*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I love this story so much, since it's so unlike the usual, worshipful, "Oh, the sushi was just divine!" stories you hear about eating at Jiro's.

# MATHEW CARTWRIGHT

Assistant Designer

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook  
Pinterest  
Instagram



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

This could be my last year on JET, so my resolution is to make the most of every opportunity, and experience, in this wonderful country.

# '300 THOUSAND PEOPLE' JOINED YOUR PARTY

November 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Timothy Saar*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I couldn't make TGS this year, so this fantastic article helped me to overcome that disappointment with its unique coverage of the show.

# THEA FELMORE

Copy Editor

# JAPAN'S ANIMAL ISLANDS

April 2015

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Blog



**READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE**



*Simone Armer*

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

My New Year's resolution is to continue travelling and exploring around Japan, especially to the lesser-known areas - and Hokkaido!

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

My two favourite things in one article: animals and travelling. Great info provided about what animals are out there and where to find them!

# PATRICK FINN

Head Designer  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Website  
Instagram  
Tumblr  
Twitter  
LinkedIn

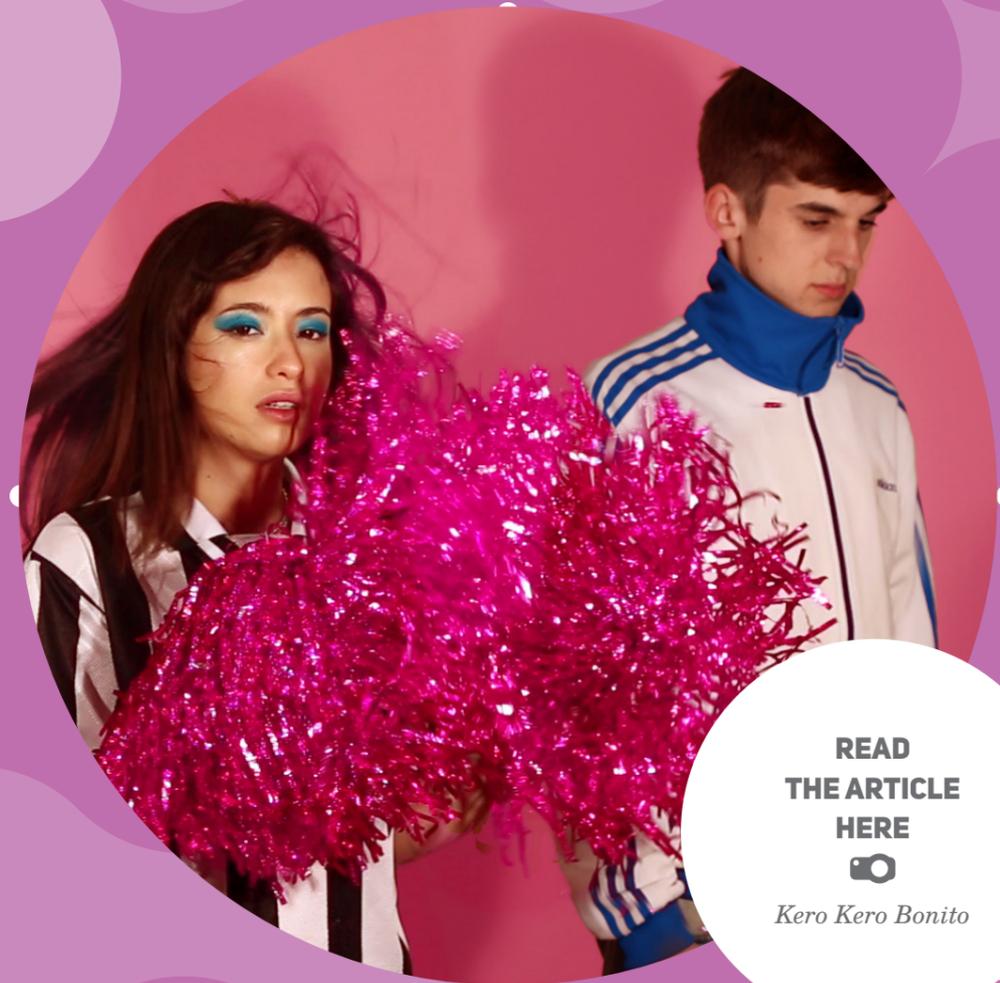


## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Make the most of my (potentially) last year in Japan, eat, eat, eat, and go to as many concerts as humanly possible!

# KERO KERO BONITO

March 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Kero Kero Bonito*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

Nonsensical name, overwhelming amounts of pink, and, of course, great music. This article introduced me to one of my new favorite acts.

# HIROSHI FUKUSHIMA

Sports Editor  
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## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Make more experiences in Japan than last year.  
Make every year count.

# IT'S SNOWTIME PART TWO

February 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Andy Seward*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

Japan is famous for its copious amounts of powdery snow. It's Snowtime shows how you can get the most out of the snow.

# ELENA GALINDO

Fashion Editor  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram  
Blog

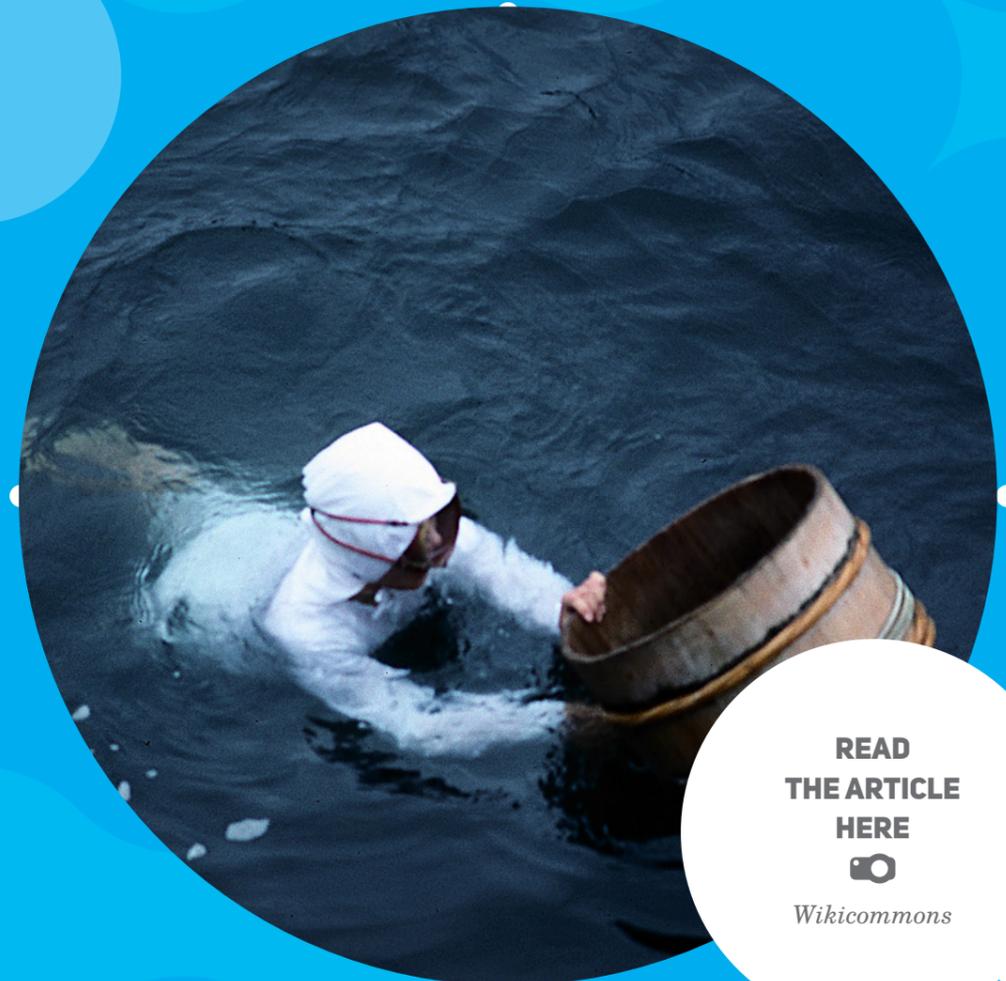


## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Having not renewed my JET contract for another year, my resolution is to make the absolute most of my remaining time in Japan.

# AMA

April 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Wikicommons*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

A refreshing mix of history, culture, and science, this article tells the fascinating story of the Ama, Japan's lesser known diving heroines.

# ERICA GRAINGER

Fashion Editor  
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## WEBSITE RECOMMENDATION

TokyoFashion



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Stress less with more pampering and tea parties!  
Indulge my senses via 5Fs: food, friends, festivals,  
fashion, and fitness!

# JAPAN'S ISLAND OF MYSTERY

February 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



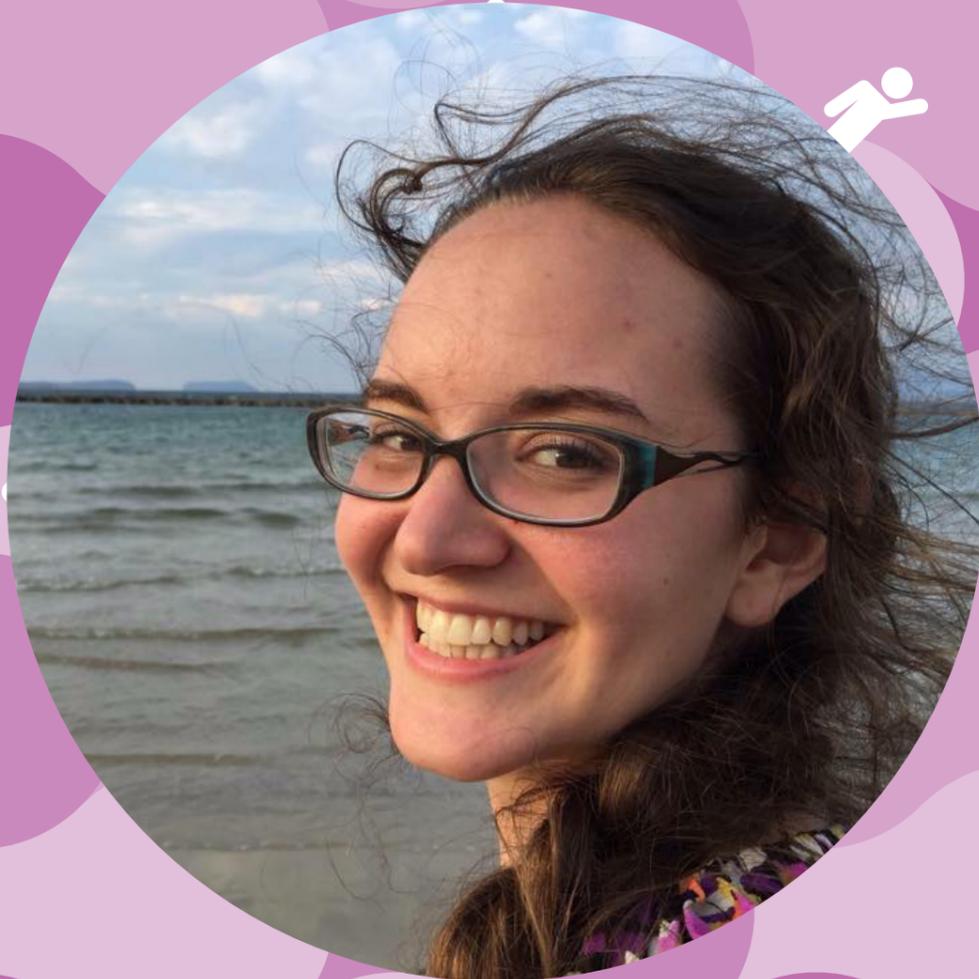
*Tim Franklin*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

A Japanese mystery? Be swept away and find yourself  
in Minami Daito, Okinawa. The captivating pictures  
led me to visit beautiful Okinawa!

# LEAH GRAY

Travel Editor  
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## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

My time in Japan is limited, so I want to make the most of the opportunities I've been given during work and during my free time.

# JAPANESE FASHION IN FILM

March 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Nippon-Graph*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I'm interested in film studies, so it isn't a surprise that my favorite article covered fashion in Japanese cinema in the 1940s and 50s.

# RAYNA HEALY

Culture Editor  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Tumblr  
Twitter



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

My New Year's resolution is to meditate. After a brief stint that ended last summer after some gnarly bug bites made it hard to sit still, I'm ready to try again.

# AMA

April 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Wikipedia*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

This article showed me a side of Japanese culture that I knew nothing about. It helped me see the many facets of "Japanese culture" opening more doors than just tea ceremonies and manga.

# CAMERON JOE

Community Editor  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook  
Instagram



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Finishing up my last year on JET, 2016 will be about farewells and transitions--which means eating all my favorite Japanese foods, traveling, and onsen!

# KERO KERO BONITO

March 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Kero Kero Bonito*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I'm always a fan of new, funky beats—even better if it combines two things I love, EDM and Japan! A wonderful interview of a phenomenal group!

# HANNAH KILLOH

Assistant Designer

# SMALL WOMEN, BIG DRUMS

September 2015

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Website  
Instagram



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Simona Sampaolo*

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Try not to spend January like I did last year: drinking too much wine, eating all the chocolate and watching too many screaming goat videos.

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

Being part of a taiko group myself, I can really relate to this article. Taiko is all about community, rhythm, fun, and being badass!

# AMY KOLLER

Assistant Designer

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Website  
Blog



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

To stop taking life so seriously and enjoy the moment.

# HOICHI THE EARLESS

October 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



Wikicommons

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I'm a huge fan of Japanese ghost stories. I felt like I was transported into a classic tale through this article.

# JASMIN LAU

Public Relations/Social Media Manager  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook  
Twitter  
Instagram



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

To do more of everything, and particularly learn how to blog, vlog, and make interesting things happen all the time!

# LET'S SPEAK ENGLISH & MARY'S COMICS

March 2015



## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

Do comics count? I absolutely love Mary Cagle and Marika's contributions in the March issues because I'm a huge fan of art, comics, and graphic novels.

# KEITH LAWTON

Public Relations/Social Media Manager  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

LinkedIn  
WordPress  
Twitter



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Last year's resolution was to keep better track of my things. This year's will be to better keep my promises.

# LET'S SPEAK ENGLISH

February 2015



READ  
THE COMIC  
HERE



Mary Cagle

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I'm gonna give some love to Mary Cagle's comics. My students love them too! Put them on your English board.

# LIAM NOLAN

Copy Editor

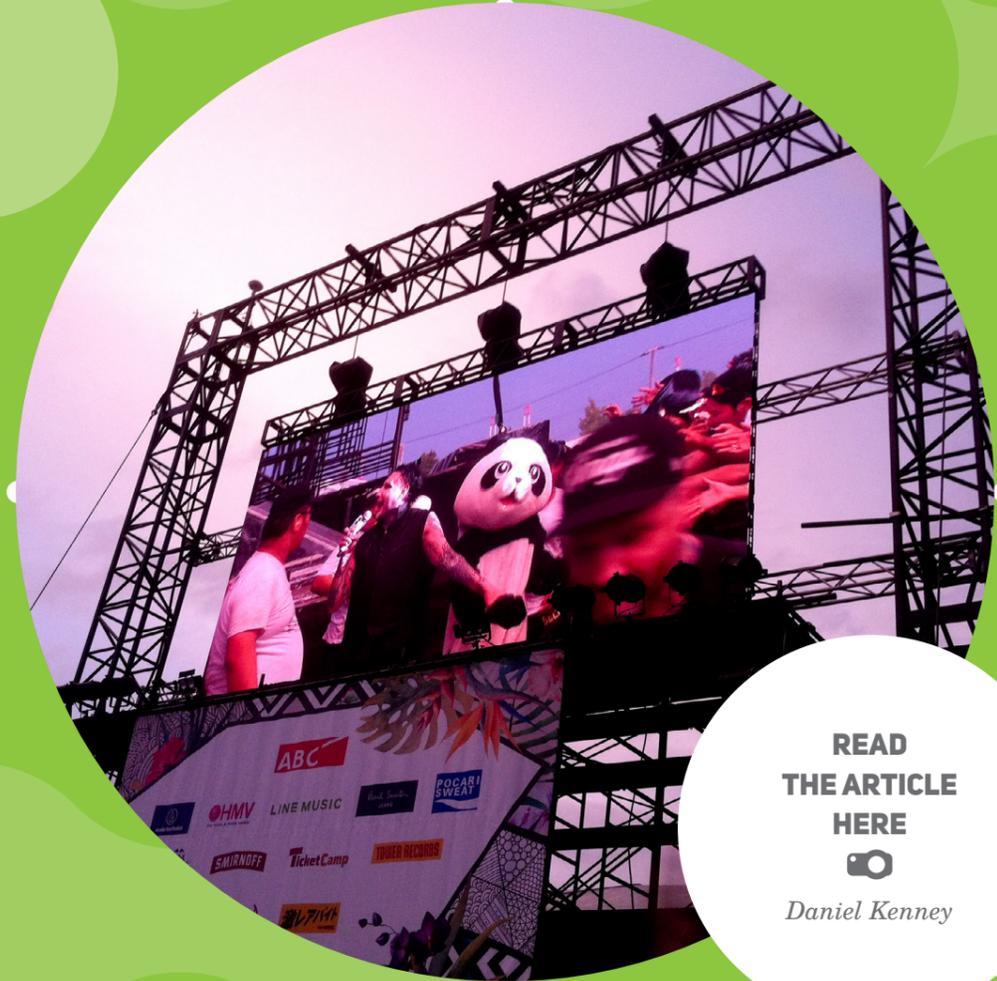


## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

My New Year's resolution is to write more about Japan.

# THE SOUNDS OF SUMMER SNOIC

October 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Daniel Kenney*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

October 2015's The Sounds of Sonic Summer is an article that a copy-editor dreams of: beautifully written.

# PIA PETERSON

Travel Editor  
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**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Instagram



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

I take these really seriously. This year, up my running game and don't stress out about travel plans. One foot in front of the other!

# JAPANESE FASHION IN FILM

March 2015



**READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE**



*Nippon-Graph*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

This was a great series for two reasons—one of them being that I love old clothes and technicolor, the second being that I can always use good film recommendations!

# MARGARET PICKARD

News Editor  
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## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

My resolution is to visit somewhere new at least once a month, be it a city or town or even that café that just opened down the street.

# THE PET SOCIAL NETWORK

March 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Susan Roberts*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

Anyone who has left a pet back home will appreciate this article! A great balance of wit, information, and cute animal pictures.

# RAJEEV RAHELA

Head Editor  
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# SMALL WOMEN, BIG DRUMS

September 2015

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Flickr  
Twitter  
LinkedIn  
Blog



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Gratitude is something I take for granted. My resolution is to appreciate all that I have, had, and am working towards!



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Simona Sampaolo*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

Simona's experience with Taiko was a well written and thoughtful piece, with great comedic flair that never missed a beat.



# MIRA RICHARD-FIORAMORE

Food Editor  
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# NOT YOUR AVERAGE JIRO LUNCH

December 2015

## SOCIAL MEDIA

YouTube  
Instagram  
Facebook  
Twitter



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Teddy Toyozaki*

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

I really want to focus on my YouTube channel, write as many recipes as I can, and take many mouth-watering food pictures for my future cookbook!

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I've always wanted to go there, and now I'm glad I know what to expect when eating there!

# TIMOTHY SAAR

Entertainment Editor  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

LinkedIn



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Cook more. Study more. Travel more. Be open. Be proud. Be humble. Be generous. Treasure friends. Treasure family. Write a joke resolution.

# '300 THOUSAND PEOPLE' JOINED YOUR PARTY

November 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Rebecca Guttentag*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

Is it bad to pick an article I wrote? I had a blast writing it, and I love what the Connect team did with it. Can't wait to keep working with them.

# JENNIFER SANCHEZ

Events Editor  
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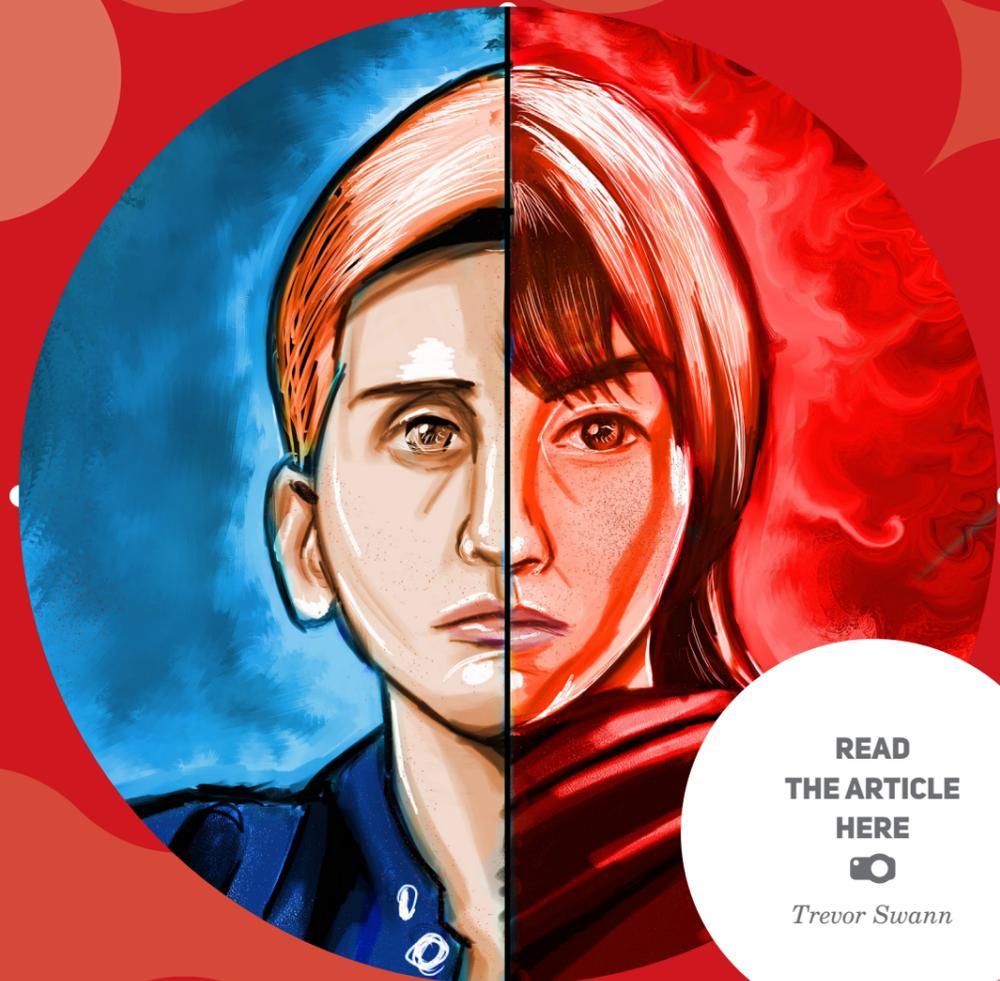


## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

More of everything, please: laughing, bonding, dancing, writing, living. And coffee. Don't forget the coffee.

# BATTLE ROYAL VS THE BREAKFAST CLUB

February 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Trevor Swann*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

A tale of two films: how can they be so different yet so similar? Examine how they revolutionized the industry. Watch before reading!

# BECCA SIMAS

Sports Editor  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

WordPress  
Instagram



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

I don't make resolutions, but cross things off my bucket list. 2016: First half marathon, visiting Kyoto, Thailand for Golden Week, etc!

# CHANGE YOUR PERCEPTION, CHANGE YOUR LIFE

February 2015 (Online)



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Suzanne Bhagan*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I wholly identify with this author's story. JET is a beautiful opportunity to get out there and experience a new culture. Don't waste it.

# JOYCE WAN

Culture Editor  
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**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Instagram



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

My new year's resolution is to actually try listening to all the Japanese pop groups my students have recommended.

# UKAI

November 2015



**READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE**



*Derek Macatantan*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

I had never heard of Ukai before reading this. It felt like a private glimpse into another, more magical world.

# SABRINA ZIRAKZADEH

Entertainment Editor  
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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook  
Twitter  
Website



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

I resolve to do more of what I love: music, dancing, reading, writing, traveling, and making life more magical.

# JAPANESE FASHION IN FILM

March 2015



READ  
THE ARTICLE  
HERE



*Nippon-Graph*

## WHY IS THIS MY TOP PICK?

Checking out old movies, fashion photos, and history is always exciting! Working with the full Arts and Culture section was a joy, too!



the art issuu

**C** is a special art issue of Connect that will act as a public portfolio for the expat community in Japan.

Go to **this site** for more information and to send us your work! Submissions are open until March 2016.



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