



THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON  
A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

# Monthly Newsletter



Please View Entire Message in your Email to see all of what we have to offer in our newsletter!



## Boston: The U.S.-Japan Intersection

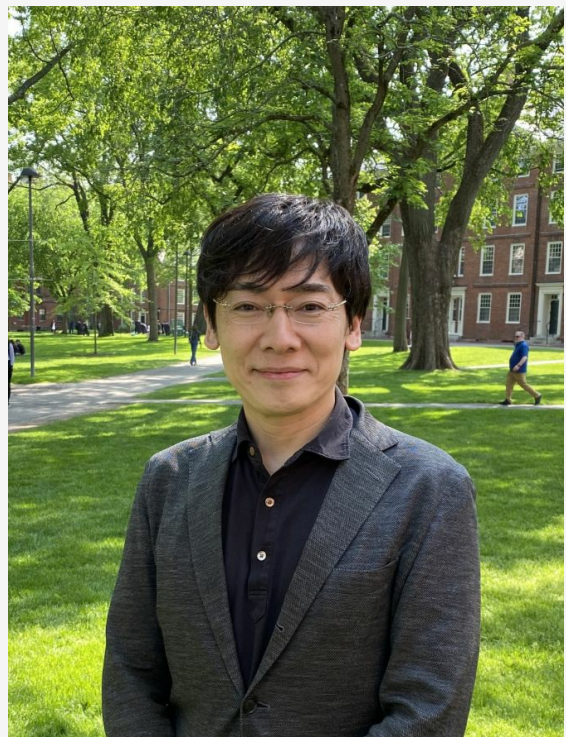
### **Nobuhiro Mitsuoka** **President** [Japan Festival Boston](#)

#### **How long have you been working in Boston?**

I moved to Boston in July 2021. I first visited Boston in high school, traveling with my family to visit relatives. I remember being impressed by the beautiful campuses of Belmont High School and Harvard University and being surprised by the size of the lobsters. In 2019, I revisited Boston as a Ministry of Foreign Affairs diplomat. I have now built strong bonds with many friends and the local community, and I feel that Boston is my “second home.”

#### **What do you do?**

As a scholar specializing in global environmental issues, I am researching at Harvard University and the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), a national research institute in Kyoto. RIHN is based on the principle that “human culture—beliefs, values, and actions—are at



the root of contemporary global environmental problems. "It is working to solve global-scale issues by bringing together experts from various fields while building on a natural science database....

Since 2023, I have been the President of the 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Boston Japan Community Hub Inc. As part of this volunteer work, we host the Japan Festival Boston. The festival has three basic principles: to express our gratitude to Boston, to provide an authentic experience of Japanese culture, and to create an opportunity for the community to come together through the event and the preparation process.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview!

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## Announcements from JSB

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In the spring of last year, we commemorated the 65th Anniversary of the Boston - Kyoto Sister City Relationship and this organization's 120th Anniversary at our 2024 Historic Anniversary Gala.

While we won't be holding a gala this year, we wanted to take a moment to once again thank all the organizations and individuals who made last year not only possible, but a wonderful success. Thank you for your support!

And please consider supporting these local businesses, and artists who donated to our auction, raising funds to support our work.

Fundraising Auction Donors: [Farthest Star Sake](#), [Red Sox](#), [J-Life International](#), [Cafe Sushi](#), [Kokoro Care](#), [O Gawa Shou Bed & Breakfast](#), [Matcha.com](#), [FuGaKyu Japanese Cuisine](#), [Bonsai West](#), [Institute of Contemporary Art Boston](#), [Peabody Essex Museum](#), [Tad Muraio](#), [South River Miso Company](#), [Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society](#), [New England Revolution](#), [Lady M](#), [Nate Garrett](#), Susan Legere, Toini Jaffe, Helen Waldorf, [Ebisuya Market](#), [Morrie Goldman](#), [Boston Children's Museum](#), and [The Koji Club](#).

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Announcing new discount providers for JSB members! We thank the following local restaurants for their support. JSB members can receive discounts by showing their active membership card at checkout.

### [Yume Wo Katare](#)

10% off in person

(If 3 JSB members come together, they can get 1 bowl of ramen for free)

### [Bosso Ramen Tavern](#) & [Sushi by Bosso Ramen Tavern](#)

10% off at both locations

[Typhoon Asian Bistro](#)

15% off in person

[Sugidama Soba & Izakaya](#)

10% off in person



JAPAN SOCIETY  
OF BOSTON

Membership

**NEW DISCOUNT  
PROVIDERS!**



See our website for all discount providers  
and membership information

[Website](#)



JAPAN SOCIETY  
OF BOSTON

**2025 MASSACHUSETTS  
HOKKAIDO DESIGN  
CONTEST**



Deadline: 11:59PM ET, March 15, 2025

UPDATE: The submission deadline has been extended to 11:59 PM EDT on March 16th to give everyone the full weekend.

We are holding this contest to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Massachusetts-Hokkaido sister state/prefecture relationship. The contest is open to all ages and multiple entrees are allowed. The top designs will be nominated by JSB, and then the final design will be chosen by popular vote. The winner of the contest will be featured and will receive a free hat with their design!

Submit designs and questions through email to: [joanneha@japansocietyboston.org](mailto:joanneha@japansocietyboston.org)

[Details](#)



Celebrate the arrival of spring with Kokoro Care's limited edition sakura box! This beautiful box will be available for all March and Spring subscription packages, as well as individual orders over \$99 placed in March (while supplies last).

Visit the website to see the contents of their Spring "Sakura & Hanami: Flower Viewing" Package, filled with a selection of seasonal products inspired by Japan's iconic sakura & ume (plum) blossoms!

JSB members always get 10% off at Kokoro Care with the discount code from our member portal.

Shop

## Japan - Massachusetts Sister Cities Page

In addition to Boston and Kyoto, did you know the state of Massachusetts has 13 [sister city relationships](#) with Japan?

Massachusetts's sister state/prefecture partnership with Hokkaido is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year!

Check out our webpage below to learn more.

Website



# The JSB College Hub

The JSB College Hub is our webpage for Japan-related college events, opportunities, and resources for young adults pursuing Japanese studies!

Check out the hub below for more information, to view our current listings, or to submit an event or opportunity!

Website

## JSB Programming



Urasenke Boston



### CHADO: JAPANESE TEA CEREMONY WITH URASENKE BOSTON

Sunday, March 23 | 12PM & 1:30PM

Boston Children's Museum

#### Chado: Japanese Tea Ceremony with Urasenke Boston

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025 - 12:00 & 1:30 PM EDT

Boston Children's Museum

Meet [Urasenke Boston](#), the Japanese tea ceremony group of Greater Boston! Learn about Chado (茶道) Japanese tea ceremony, and experience the concept of Ichigo Ichie (一期一会) - cherish the present, cherish the gathering, and appreciate each other.

This workshop program is open to everyone. Recommended for 5 years old and above. A 40-minute program of demonstration and dialogues. No food or drink is provided during this program.

The program will run at 12pm and again at 1:30pm. The event is free and doesn't require registration, however it is hosted within the Boston Children's Museum.

Admission is only \$1 for all BCM visitors on Sunday afternoons from 1:00pm.

Online Reservations Required. Learn more [here](#).

This program is offered in collaboration with the Boston Children's Museum and supported by the Pucker family.

Info



# Japan Festival Boston



## 2025

April 26th - 27th

11am - 5pm

Boston Common  
16 Charles Street  
Boston, MA 02108

### Japan Festival Boston 2025

April 26-27, 11am-5pm

Boston Commons

In 2012, the first Japan Festival Boston was hosted, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the gift of cherry blossom trees from Tokyo to Washington D.C. The Japan Festival Boston gives people a chance to share Japanese culture in the Greater Boston area, and they have been expanding this festival each year (about 70,000 people in the past few years). The festival is completely organized by volunteers (more than 400 volunteers in 2019) and is supported by many sponsors and contributors from the community.

The 2025 Japan Festival Boston will once again be hosted at the historic Boston Common on Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th. Please stay tuned for updates on booth applications, performers, food vendors, cultural events, and more on their [website](#).

Stop by the Japan Society of Boston booth where we will be selling various JSB merchandise for the first time! We will also share fun cultural activities and be joined by some of our local community partners.

Info

**Ouchigohan!**

#Edamame Champ  
COOKALONG

featuring  
KID CHEF MINA

MAR 30 4:30 PM CST 5:30 PM EST VIA ZOOM

TABLE FOR TWO

□□□□□□□ Ouchigohan  
Edamame Korokke

**Sunday, March 30th, 2025 - 5:30PM EST**

**Online**

On the menu this month is KOROKKE! Yes, picnic season is soon upon us, making it the perfect time to learn how to make one of our favorite bento box staples—korokke (□□□□)! These crispy, golden potato spheres have a crunchy panko exterior that gives way to a soft, savory filling

For this special Ouchigohan! program, we're putting a fresh twist on the classic by adding edamame, in celebration of Table for Two's #EdamameChampCampaign—shining a spotlight on soybeans, the tasty and nutritious plant-based hero.

To make the event even more exciting, we'll be joined by KID CHEF Mina, star of the popular YouTube channel Mina Makes, who will guide us step-by-step through creating the perfect korokke.

This family-friendly cook-along is the perfect way to kick off spring, come cook with us! One registration per family.

JSB members visit the [member only portal](#) for discount code.

Register

**Join the JSB  
Language Room**  
A Japanese and English  
Virtual Language Exchange

 **JAPAN SOCIETY  
OF BOSTON**

Sponsored by:  
 **Temple  
University  
Japan Campus**

**JSB Language Room**

**Friday, March 21st, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT**

□□□□□□□3□22□□□□□□7□□

**Online**

Practice your Japanese (or your English) at our next online Japanese / English language exchange. Our monthly language room is sponsored by [Temple University, Japan Campus \(TUJ\)](#). TUJ is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

Theme: Cherry blossom viewing □□

Register

# Programs for JSB Members

The following events and clubs are limited to Japan Society of Boston Members. Interested in joining but not yet a member of the Japan Society of Boston? Consider [becoming a Member](#) today! \*Please note that online only members can attend the online member only events, but not the in-person member events.

Join our community of hundreds of Japan enthusiasts from Boston and beyond and support the Japan Society of Boston's mission to inspire curiosity, connection, and community. We are sustained by your donations.



LIMITED TO MEMBERS  
**Japan Society  
of Boston  
Film Club**  
Tokyo Sonata (2008)

FROM ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR KIYOSHI KUROSAWA  
KAGURA KOJIMA KOYAHAGI SHOIKI & YUKIHO

**TOKYO SONATA**  
EVERY FAMILY HAS ITS SECRETS

## JSB Film Club

Wednesday, March 26th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT  
Online

*Tokyo Sonata*, directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa (no relation to Akira Kurosawa), is a drama film about a Japanese man hiding the secret of his unemployment from his family. It won the Prix Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival.

Watch the [Trailer](#). Films should be viewed in advance of our meetings.

Register



協日 合本 JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

**JSB X  
Aikido Tekkojuku of Boston**

Member Event

Wednesday, May 7 | 6:15pm

JSB X Aikido Tekkojuku of Boston



**Wednesday, May 7th, 2025 - 6:15 PM EDT**

170 Rindge Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140

JSB members and their guests are invited to a special session with local martial arts school, [Aikido Tekkojuku of Boston](#). Learn about the Japanese practice of Aikido at an active local dojo, and some lucky members will have the chance to try some beginner moves firsthand!

Aikido Tekkojuku of Boston is a traditional dojo that promotes the practice of the Japanese martial art of [Aikido](#) in an environment of sincerity, celebration, and mutual respect. We recommend registrants to check out JSB's [program](#) about Aikido created in collaboration with Aikido Tekkojuku in 2022 as part of our Budo Practice series.

Our visit will be an introduction to Aikido, through talk and demonstration by Itoh-sensei and other members of the dojo. The first eight people who arrive will be able to participate if they would like to, but it is first come, first serve due to the limitations of the space.

This event is for adults 18+. Members may register with one guest. All registrants, regardless of participation, must sign a safety waiver to attend.

Register



## **Between the Lines**

**Thursday, April 3rd, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT**

**Online**

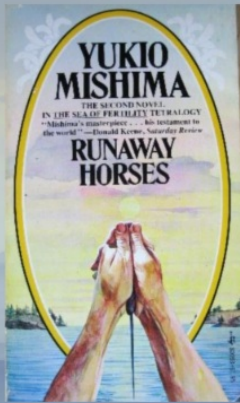
Join us to discuss some of the greatest classics of medieval Japanese literature, written by women authors!

For April we will be reading the works *Utatane* and *Izayoi Nikki* by the Kamakura period nun Abutsu-ni. These are very interesting reflections from one of the most celebrated writers of the medieval era.

For the PDFs of these texts, please email [joanneha@japansocietyboston.org](mailto:joanneha@japansocietyboston.org). Full text should be read in advance of the meeting.

Looking ahead to May, we will be reading *The Poetic Memoirs of Lady Daibu* - a fascinating account of life in the Taira-dominated imperial court of the 12th century.

Register



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

# BOOK CLUB

*RUNAWAY HORSES*  
BY YUKIO MISHIMA

## JSB Book Club

Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Runaway Horses* by Yukio Mishima.

After reading *Spring Snow* by Yukio Mishima in our club, we are continuing with the second book of his iconic tetralogy, *The Sea of Fertility* series. A classic and complex Japanese author, readers may benefit from looking into the story of Mishima's life and the previous novel, since we have begun that discussion, but it is not necessary to sign up for this meeting.

*Runaway Horses* continues the story of Shigekuni Honda and weaves a chronicle of conspiracy, telling a story about the roots and nature of Japanese fanaticism in the years that led to war. As always Mishima's works are deeply reflective of his own life, in this case, his passion for the age of samurai and emperor in Japan.

Find a copy [here](#). You are welcome to read any translation.

Register

Signature Content from JSB



# #MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

[japansocietyboston.org/](http://japansocietyboston.org/)

## Member Highlight

The Japan Society of Boston is pleased to introduce you to the wonderful members of our community through this blog series. Each month we feature a JSB member and ask them to share with us their Japan Story.

This month: Shirley Rendell

"Thanks to my daughter Julia, who studied Japanese in high school and college, and taught in Japan, I have fallen in love with the country and its culture. We take every opportunity to travel there."

Article



## JSB MEETS JET ALUMNI

An interview series on alumni experiences in Japan



### JSB Meets JET Alumni

As part of our partnership with the [United States Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association \(USJETAA\)](#), the Japan Society of Boston features a new JET Alumni

in our monthly blog!

This month's JET Alum is Lillian Wies (Saga 2012-2013).

"After college, I was interested in pursuing a career as a Japanese art historian but had never been to Japan and had very limited language abilities. JET seemed like a great way to immerse myself in Japanese culture, gain a greater understanding of the seasonal rhythms that are critical to Japanese art, and improve my language skills."



Article



## Famous in Japan

Studying individuals from around the world who are famous in Japan, both past and present.

This month we are featuring Kenzo Tange, a Japanese architect whose works spans decades and continents.

Article



## Other Japan-Related Events



### *Back to the Center*

New Work by Yoshinori Hagiwara

01 March through 04 May 2025



## **Back to the Center** **New work by Yoshinori Hagiwara** **On display March 1st through May 4th, 2025** **Pucker Gallery**

Yoshinori Hagiwara is the fifth generation of the Hagiwara family ceramic workshop, currently residing in Mashiko, Japan. To obtain formal training, he studied and researched at the Tochigi Prefectural Ceramics Instructional Institute. Yoshinori's work has since been selected for inclusion, and has won numerous prizes at the National Art Exhibition for multiple years. The most recent ceramics have broadened beyond his well-known persimmon glaze, and he has incorporated yellow kaki, blue nuka, and namijiro glaze into his artistic vocabulary. Creating his own expression through these glazes, he exhibits great control in creating elegant forms. In 2014, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry designated Hagiwara as a "Traditional Craftsman." His ceramics are included in significant public collections

including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Schein Joseph Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University in Alfred, New York, and the Tikotin Museum of Art in Haifa, Israel.

Back to the Center is currently on view for free at [Pucker Gallery](#).  
[Back to the Center Exhibition Catalogue](#)

Info



## Harakiri

**Monday, April 7th, 2025 - 7:00 PM EDT**  
**Harvard Film Archive**

Introduction by Peter Grilli, JSB President Emeritus

Among the newest additions to the Shochiku Centennial Collection is a stunning new 35mm print, created at Imagica—the renowned photochemical lab in Osaka, Japan—of *Harakiri*, one of several masterworks directed by firebrand director Kobayashi Masaki (1916-1996) during the 1960s.

Nakadai Tatsuya sets into motion the slow-burning narrative of Kobayashi's powerful *jidaigeki* epic as a wraith-like *ronin* who appears at the compound of the local ruling samurai clan with an unusual request: to commit *seppuku*, assisted ritualized suicide, in order to end his drifting life....

Tickets

# US-JAPAN CULTURAL AMBASSADOR PROGRAM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



## Experience Intercultural Exchange in Boston!

**Location:**

**Program Dates:**

**Program Fee:**

**Showa Boston Institute**

**July 31 - August 12, 2025**

Refundable Deposit \$150

Room and board, tuition, activity fees are funded by grants. Participants need personal spending money.

**Application Deadline:**

**April 30**

- Immerse yourself in Japanese culture while building lifelong friendships
- Introduce American culture to Japanese students
- Discuss the social issues, including women's issues, faced by both countries
- Develop leadership skills through cultural exchange

For more information:



420 Pond Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02130

[www.showaboston.edu](http://www.showaboston.edu)

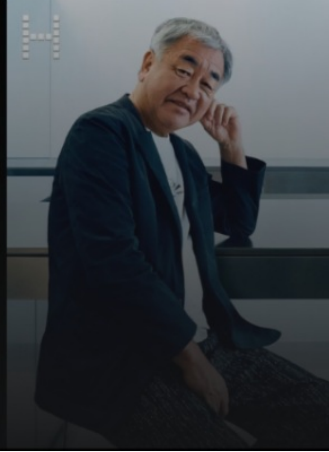
For more info: [GEC@showaboston.edu](mailto:GEC@showaboston.edu)

Info

# RETURN TO NATURE



Harvard University  
Graduate School of Design

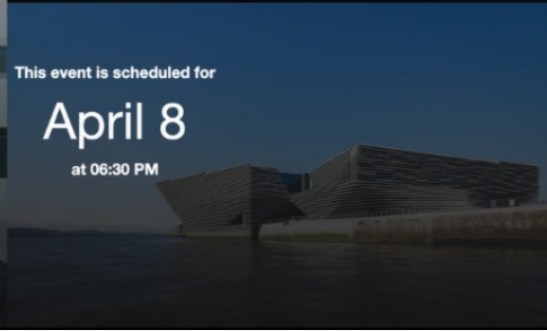


KENGO KUMA

This event is scheduled for

April 8

at 06:30 PM



## **Kengo Kuma, Return to Nature** **Tuesday, April 8th, 2025 - 6:30 PM EDT** **Harvard University Graduate School of Design**

Architecture must bridge the gap between human life and the natural environment, an ethos deeply ingrained in Kengo Kuma’s philosophy. Kuma prioritizes harmony with surroundings, using materials like wood and stone that are not only sustainable but also evoke warmth and intimacy. This approach reconnects people with nature while redefining the boundaries of urban spaces. Throughout Kuma’s projects, such as the Japan National Stadium and V&A Dundee in Scotland, Kuma has challenged modernist trends that overemphasize industrial materials like concrete. Instead, he advocates for lightness, transparency, and adaptability—values rooted in Japanese traditions that are also universally resonant.

Kuma pursues “openness and intimacy” in his designs, promoting structures that welcome their surroundings rather than dominate them. By combining traditional craftsmanship with modern technology, architecture can evolve into spaces that respect both cultural heritage and ecological systems.

In this lecture, Kuma invites architects, designers, and students to reconsider their roles in fostering a symbiotic relationship with nature. Together, we can craft a future where urban landscapes complement their natural contexts rather than compete with them.

Event is free and open to the public. RSVP encouraged.

[Register](#)



## Homestay and Multilingual Nature Camp in Japan



## Homestay and Multilingual Nature Camp in Japan

Enjoy the festivals and fun and ordinary life of summer in Japan, together with your own Japanese family. Participants will experience everyday life (shopping, cooking, talking, playing, sharing friendship, ideas, language, and more) with a carefully selected host family.

Then, experience an amazing multilingual nature camp with friends from Japan and other countries in Iiyama, Nagano. Three nights and four days of international friendship and bonding through outdoor activities and language activities. Outdoor activities may include: hiking, crafts, rafting, building bamboo structures, relaxing, bonfire, etc.

Homestay Location: Greater Tokyo Area

Camp Location: Iiyama, Nagano

Program details and fees may be subject to change. Some financial aid available.

Application Deadline: April 1

Please contact them at [info@lexlrf.org](mailto:info@lexlrf.org) or (617) 354-1140 for more information and an application.

Info

## Writing & Women Calligraphers in East Asia

Aida Yuen Wong  
 Brandeis University  
**Kimono Fabric Reuse in Scroll Mounting  
 for Japanese Women's Calligraphy**



### **Kimono Fabric Reuse in Scroll Mounting for Japanese Women's Calligraphy Friday, April 4th, 2025 - 2:00 PM EDT Online**

Professor Aida Yuen Wong of Brandeis University will speak on Kimono Fabric Reuse in Scroll Mounting for Japanese Women's Calligraphy as part of a larger online conference, "Writing & Women Calligraphers in East Asia," presented by Princeton University.

Professor Wong will be speaking at 2pm on a panel titled "Writing and Mediums" with Harvard University Professor Melissa McCormick who will speak on "Rengetsu's Calligraphy in Clay: Historicizing Script and Sound, Surface and Sensation." Registering for the conference will provide Zoom access to any of the panels throughout the conference.

See full conference information, schedule, and registration at the link below.

[Register](#)

# MFA Boston

Opens May 11

# Arts of Japan



**Arts of Japan**  
 Starting May 11, 2024  
[Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)

The MFA has one of the most comprehensive collections of Japanese art anywhere in the world. Reimagined galleries explore Japan's art and visual culture from the 7th

century to today, including painting, sculpture, decorative arts, and selections from the Museum's vast collection of ukiyo-e prints. Evocative spaces include the renovated Japanese Buddhist Temple Room, which opened in 1909, and an adaptation of a traditional tea room, with tatami mats and an alcove. Multimedia displays illuminate performative art forms, such as Nō theater, bringing their drama to life.

The new space for the Museum's unparalleled Japanese collection—which was the first of its kind in America when established in 1890, and now holds about 100,000 objects—will change regularly, giving visitors the opportunity to see even more works in a setting that honors and celebrates Japan's rich history and cultural legacy.

Info

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Please send information about Japan-related events in Boston to [info@japansocietyboston.org](mailto:info@japansocietyboston.org) to help us feature select events.



[The Japan Society of Boston, Inc. | \[www.japansocietyboston.org\]](http://www.japansocietyboston.org)

THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON, INC. | 50 Milk Street 16F | Boston, MA 02109 US

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