



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!



Tetsu Kawakami

Managing Director, Global Sales,
Eastern Sales

[Japan Airlines](#)

How long have you been doing business in Boston?

In 2008, I joined the Japan Airlines New York office, where I was responsible for sales in the Boston area. I had the opportunity to meet wonderful people in Boston by visiting various schools, the Consulate General of Japan, travel agencies, and companies. Although my visits to Boston have decreased after the opening of our Boston branch in April 2012, I have still been involved through our Boston branch.



What is your connection to Kyoto?

I was born in Kyoto, but I only discovered the sister city relationship between Boston and Kyoto after I began working as a sales representative in the Boston area. Going forward, I hope to be a bridge between these two cities and contribute in any way I can.

What does your company do?

As a global airline, we offer safe and reliable services for both passengers and cargo. Our primary goal is to ensure safe and timely transportation for our valued customers and their cargo to their respective destinations. Moreover, we aim to enhance customer experience by offering services such as credit card services and agriculture, which in turn helps us maximize the overall value of the JAL Group.

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

Thank you to Mr. Kawakami and to Japan Airlines, JSB's official airline sponsor.
Now offering direct flights between Boston-Tokyo!

Announcements from JSB



In Remembrance May Kyoko Takayanagi

We are sad to announce the passing of one of our longtime board members.

She passed away on March 12th, peacefully at the age of 99, after years of dedicated work for Japanese culture and Japanese Americans.

Our condolences go to all her family and friends.



*Historic
Anniversary*

Gala

at the Fairmont Copley Plaza
138 St James Ave, Boston, MA 02116



Japan Society of Boston Historic Anniversary Gala
Tuesday, April 16th, 2024 - 6PM EDT

Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel

Individual registration for our 2024 Annual Gala is open!

Japan Society of Boston will be hosting the 2024 Historic Anniversary Gala to celebrate our 120th anniversary and the 65th anniversary of Boston-Kyoto Sister City partnership.

In addition to honored guests, the annual gala features fine cuisine, world-class music and entertainment, and an opportunity to support our mission: to connect Boston and Japan in friendship for the greater good.

Information for corporate sponsorship is still available [here](#).

Tickets



Gala Silent Auction

This year our annual silent auction will be hosted on Charity Auctions Today. Please check out our selection of specially curated goods and experiences!

There are less than two weeks remaining until the auction closes on Thursday, April 18th at 12pm. Please see the auction page site for all items and more information.

Auction

JSB Programming



GYOTAKU: A DEEP DIVE

With Nate Garrett

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5TH | 6-7:30PM EDT




Gyotaku: A Deep Dive Wednesday, June 5th, 2024 - 6:00 PM EDT Online

Join us to learn about the traditional Japanese art of gyotaku. Gyo (fish) taku (to press or rub) is a method of fish printing in which real fish (and other sea creatures) are used as a printing plate. Professional gyotaku artist, Nate Garrett, will be discussing the origins of gyotaku, first as a form of record keeping, and its evolution into a modern day art form exploring three different methods and five distinct styles.

Along the way we will also touch on Japanese sumi ink and paper making as well as traditional and modern tools of the trade. Nate will share his perspective on why gyotaku has relevance and importance in our modern world. Following the presentation there will be a live demonstration of the artform.

This is a free, hour and 30 minute long presentation with Q&A hosted on zoom.

[Register](#)



COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE Since 1933

日会本 JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

GHIBLIOTHEQUE

May 1-29, 2024

GHIBLIOTHEQUE

May 1-29th, 2024

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

Join us for a month of screenings celebrating the works of visionary writer/director

and Studio Ghibli co-founder Hayao Miyazaki!

We will be kicking things off with his newest film, *The Boy and the Heron* on May 1st, with special seminar and remarks by Miyazaki expert and JSB board member, Susan Napier! Stay tuned for more information to register for Susan's seminar.

His creations have inspired filmmakers and audiences alike over the last 30 years with beloved stories and breathtaking visuals. We're proud to collaborate with Coolidge Corner Theatre to present a number of these gorgeous films in 35mm!

Tickets are on sale now. JSB members visit the [Members-Only Portal](#) for a discount code!

Tickets



Japan Festival Boston



April 27th - April 28th, 2024
11am - 5pm

Boston Common
16 Charles Street
Boston, MA 02108

Japan Festival Boston 2024

April 27th-28th, 2024
Boston Common

The Japan Festival Boston provides the opportunity to share Japanese culture with the Greater Boston area and the festival has been steadily expanding every year (about 70,000 visitors in the past few years).

Stop by JSB's booth at Japan Festival! We will be offering fun drop-in activities all day like origami folding, paper games, writing kanji names, and a yukata try-on corner. We will also have guests joining us to present topics such as Bonsai, Japanese farming, Japanese crafts, live Japanese music, Saori weaving, Kintsugi, Manga, tea, poetry, and more! Full schedule will be posted on our social media.

If you are interested in volunteering at our booth to help us with our activities, please contact joanneha@japansocietyboston.org

For businesses and organizations interested in having a booth, see their [vendor page](#).

To support Japan fest, check out their [fundraising campaign](#).

Info

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, April 12th, 2024 - 6:00 PM EDT

□□□□□□□4□13□□□□□□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 (TUI). TUI is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

Theme: Spring (□)

[Register](#)

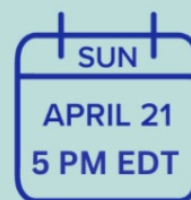
Oûchigohan!

おうちごはん!



FRUITS SANDO

Online Cooking
Class via ZOOM



\$10 | JAS/JS Members
\$15 | Non-members



TABLE FOR TWO



□□□□□□□ **Ouchigohan - Fruits Sando**

Sunday, April 21st, 2024 - 5:00pm EDT

Online

Join us for the April edition of the family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series □□□□□□□ Ouchigohan! – Japanese Home Cooking and cook along with the Japan American Society of Houston. On the menu this month is Fruits Sando!

Is it a dessert? Is it a sandwich? It's both! It's Fruits Sando, the famous Japanese edible work of art. A kaleidoscope of fruit, strawberries, orange, kiwi and bananas, is arranged on pillows of homemade whipped cream and sandwiched between pieces of

fluffy bread. Sliced at a precise angle and you get a gorgeous cross section of delicious fresh fruit. Join this family friendly activity and learn how to make fresh whipped cream and how to select and place the fruit to maximum effect when cut.

JSB members use code: BOSTON for a discount.

[Register](#)



Japanese Celebration

協日 JAPAN SOCIETY
会本 OF BOSTON

Saturday, Sep 28, 2024 | 4:10 PM



Boston Red Sox Japanese Celebration **Saturday, September 28th, 2024 - 4:10pm EDT** **Fenway Park**

Join the Boston Red Sox and the Japan Society of Boston in celebrating Japanese heritage and culture at Fenway Park on Saturday, September 28! Show your support as we honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Japanese-American community of New England.

Ticket holders who purchase tickets through this special offer will receive a Red Sox Japan jersey, available in sizes Adult Small to XL, with preferred sizes distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Arrive early to enjoy lively traditional taiko drumming performances and other festivities that showcase the spirit of Japan. Classic Japanese ballpark food and drink will also be available for purchase.

[Tickets](#)

Programs for JSB Members



CONNECT WITH JSB!



Tuesday, May 7th | 6pm

Genki Ya Somerville

Connect with JSB!

Tuesday, May 7th, 2024 - 6:00 to 8:00 PM EDT

Genki Ya Somerville

246 Elm St, Somerville MA 02144

Join Japan Society of Boston staff and members for dinner at Genki Ya in Somerville! Connect with JSB is a great way to get to know us better, meet other society members, practice your Japanese in a casual environment, and enjoy great food at Japanese restaurants in Boston!

Genki Ya has multiple locations in the Boston area and we will be visiting their Somerville restaurant. See their [website](#) for their full menu of sushi and other Japanese dishes.

This event is open to JSB members only. Registrants are welcome to bring a plus one, but their guest must be included in the registration. All attendees should be prepared to pay for their own meal/drinks.

Register



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

BOOK CLUB

WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR IS IN THE LIBRARY
BY MICHIKO AOYAMA

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, May 29th, 2024 - 6:00 PM EDT

Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *What*

You Are Looking For Is in the Library by Michiko Aoyama.

This charming novel is about a librarian, Sayuri Komachi, who has a special ability to recommend the perfect book for all her visitors. This heartwarming story features a unique cast of characters that is sure to capture your intrigue.

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

The JSB Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of every other month to discuss great modern Japanese novels. The purpose of our club is to strengthen the Boston community of Japan enthusiasts by creating a space for thoughtful and sociable discussion.

The club is limited to Japan Society of Boston Members.
Consider becoming a [Member](#) today!

Register



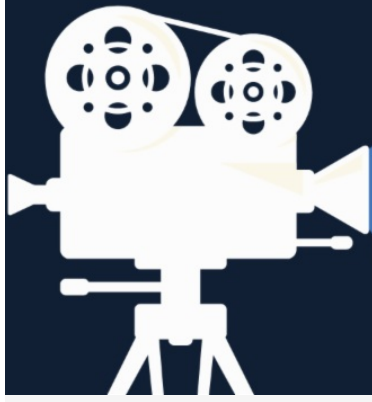
Between the Lines
Thursday, May 2nd, 2024 - 6:00 PM EDT
Online

Join us to discuss some of the greatest classics of medieval Japanese literature, written by women authors! We will be continuing our discussion of *Sarashina Nikki* or *As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams* by Takasue no Musume (Lady Sarashina) as translated by Ivan Morris. This session will be supplemented by a scholarly article which can be obtained by emailing joanneha@japansocietyboston.org.

You may find a copy of the book [here](#).

The club is limited to Japan Society of Boston Members.
Consider becoming a [Member](#) today!

Register



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



JSB Film Club

Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 - 6:00 to 8:00 PM ET
Online

Our next film will be [Departures](#) (2008), directed by Yojiro Takita. It was the first Japanese film to win the Academy Award for Best International Feature Film. In the film, a failed cellist (Masahiro Motoki) reluctantly returns to his quiet hometown to start a new job as a *nokanshi* or ritual mortician. The film highlights the profoundly intimate nature of traditional Japanese funeral rituals like hand-washing bodies for cremation and is a thought-provoking and disarmingly moving piece about life, death, and intricate familial bonds.

Films should be viewed in advance of our meetings. Due to copyright laws, meetings will not feature screenings. This film can be viewed for free on [Plex](#), rented from the [Boston Public Library](#), or purchased online at various sites.

The Japan Society of Boston Film Club meets on the last Wednesday of every other month to discuss great classic and contemporary Japanese films. The purpose of our club is to support the community of Japan film enthusiasts in the New England region by creating a space for thoughtful and sociable discussion.

The club is 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!

[Register](#)

More Content from JSB



#MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

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: [Rona Conti](#)

"My children had graduated college, and I decided to fulfill my dream of 35 years. I got a job teaching English in Gunma-machi (now Takasaki), sold my car, rented my apartment, bought a dictionary since I knew no Japanese, told said children I was moving to Japan and to please come visit."



[Full 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 [Kate Chevarley Vong](#) (Niigata 2004-2006).



"I loved living in Maki. My apartment was surrounded by rice fields and I would often find little frogs in the basket of the mamachari (□□□□□) bike that I rode everywhere."

[Read the Blog](#)



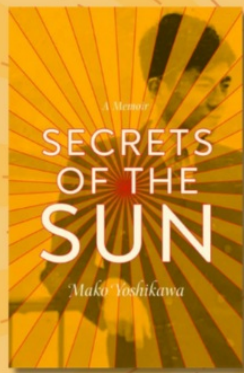
Famous in Japan

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

This month we are featuring the famous medieval Japanese female writer, [Murasaki Shikibu](#).

[Read the Blog](#)

[Other Japan-Related Events](#)



Mako Yoshikawa

Author of
Secrets of the Sun

**and
Kyoko Mori**

Author of
Cat and Bird

Discuss their memoirs!

Friday, April 12th
7:00

Belmont Books



Japanese Authors Book Talk

April 12th, 2024 - 7:00PM EDT

Belmont Books

79 Leonard Street

Belmont, MA 02478

Authors, Mako Yoshikawa and Kyoko Mori will discuss Yoshikawa's new memoir. This event is free and requires no pre-registration. Event is suitable for adults.

Mako Yoshikawa's father, Shoichi, was a man of contradictions. He grew up fabulously wealthy in prewar Japan but spent his final years living in squalor; he was a proper Japanese man who craved society's approval yet cross-dressed; he was a brilliant Princeton University physicist and renowned nuclear fusion researcher, yet his career withered as his severe bipolar disorder tightened its grip. And despite his generosity and charisma, he was often violent and cruel toward those closest to him. Yoshikawa adored him, feared him, and eventually cut him out of her life, but after he died, she was driven to try to understand this extraordinarily complex man. In *Secrets of the Sun*, her search takes her through everything from the Asian American experience of racism to her father's dedication to fusion energy research, from mental illness to the treatment of women in Japan, and more.

Info

MFA Boston

April 13–September 2, 2024

Songs for Modern Japan

Popular Music and Graphic Design, 1900–1950



Songs for Modern Japan

April 13 - September 2, 2024
Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Japan experienced a whirlwind of change between 1900 and 1950. At the turn of the century, Western music notation had become a sign of modernity, helping spread jazz and Broadway to Tokyo cafés and nightclubs, and promoting Japanese film music both inside and outside Japan. Increasing modernism, consumerism, and influence from the West came alongside a revolution in sound and mass-produced images from movies and radio.

“Songs for Modern Japan: Popular Music and Graphic Design, 1900–1950” explores how sheet music covers provide a window into Japanese society and culture during this period of immense transformation. Visitors discover how leading Japanese graphic designers of the day interpreted modernist international art movements like Art Nouveau and Art Deco, and how demand for military sheet music with propagandist images grew in the 1920s and '30s, reflecting the country’s imperialist aspirations. Through investigating styles of graphic design, bold typography, genres of music, and the societal environment in Japan, visitors get a glimpse of how design and music celebrating modernity and globalism gave way to endorsing nationalism.

About 100 sheet music covers from the collection of Mary and Robert Levenson—alongside paintings, photographs, textiles, music, film clips, and musical instruments from the period—capture the dynamic effects of international artistic exchange and the profound societal shifts in a globalizing Japan. The exhibition presents an opportunity to draw parallels between this pivotal time in Japan’s history and today.

Info



EN-NICHI Old School Japanese Festival

April 26th, 2024 - 4:00 to 9:00pm EDT

Bow Market

1 Bow Market WaySomerville, MA 02143

On April 26th, the Bow Market courtyard will be transformed into an old-school Japanese festival for all ages. Hosted by one of our sponsors, Ko-Kyoto, there will be food, music, dance, games, and merriment.

En-nichi means "Festival Day" in Japanese. Every summer in Japan, people wearing Yukata gather to enjoy locally-rooted festivals in each town. Originally, these festivals served as ceremonies for warding off evil and praying for a good harvest. However, they have evolved into summer fun traditions cherished by people of all ages.

At this event, Ko-Kyoto will recreate the atmosphere of an old-school Japanese festival with a special guest group from Japan, Dagashiya Rock!

The event is FREE. However, advance tickets can be purchased online or at KO-KYOTO before the event, for discounted prices on food and games. Please note, these tickets will not cover the cost of food from other Bow Market Retailers.

Info

MFA Boston

Opens May 11

Arts of Japan



Arts of Japan

May 11, 2024

[Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)

These galleries open at 2 pm on May 11, following the **[Japanese Buddhist Temple Room Rededication](#)** ceremony.

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.

Ikebana Exhibition

Opening reception April 19 | 5pm



Ikebana Exhibition

April 19, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET

The Garden at Elm Bank

900 Washington St, Wellesley, MA 02482

The Sogetsu Massachusetts Branch of Ikebana present an exhibition on Japanese Flower Arranging.

The opening reception offering refreshments, a concert, floral demonstrations, and free admission to the gardens is a fundraiser for the Massachusetts Horticultural Society to revive their long-neglected Asian Garden. All proceeds go to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and The Suzuki Association of Massachusetts.

Tickets: \$45 each at [Mass Hort's website](#)

JSB members get a discount for \$35 tickets. Check our event page [here](#) to learn how.

The rest of the Ikebana showcase will run from 10am-6pm on Saturday 4/20 and Sunday 4/21 at the Garden at Elm Bank. Check their [website](#) for updated information on the Ikebana showcases, vendors, and workshops & activities schedule. Entrance to the Gardens to view the showcase is \$10 for April 20-21.

[Tickets](#)

High School Summer Program

TOKYO, JAPAN

JULY 31 – AUGUST 8, 2024

COME EXPLORE: TOKYO, NIKKO, DISNEYSEA & MORE

Temple University Japan High School Summer Program 2024

Wednesday, July 31 – Thursday, August 8, 2024

Temple University, Japan Campus in Tokyo

Program Fee:

260,000 JPY (additional 20,000 JPY registration fee applies)

Eligibility:

The program is open to high school students entering 9th-12th grade in the 2024-2025 academic year.

TUJ invites high school students to a summer of language and cultural experiences in Tokyo. The 8-night program includes a unique mix of Japanese language classes and one of four exciting electives. With adventures in Tokyo, an overnight excursion to Nikko, and a trip to DisneySea, this will be your summer to remember!

Info

**Showa Boston Friendship
Program 2024**

Boston-area 5th and 6th graders

August 5-9, 8:30am-4:30pm daily

Program highlights:

Teacher-led morning instructions in integrated groups Hands-on cultural activities Trips to Fenway Park, the Science Museum, and more

Program fee: \$700

Lunch, transportation, and trip



admissions are all included
 *\$50 discount for JSB members

Info

Recommended Points

- Discovering the secret of Japanese cuisine
- Climbing
- Local Festival

Kombu Kelp

Climbing

Mt. Rishiri

Nominated as Top 100 most beautiful mountains in Japan

Ainu Culture

Indigenous tribe, Ainu once lived in this island

Local Festival

★ Richest nature and culture registered with national treasure

★ Rare and unique experiences normally tourists cannot

★ Lifetime friends from all over the world ... and more!!

Who should participate

- Who has a strong interest in the discussion topic
- Who can fully enjoy Japan's remotest island
- Who wants to engage in international exchange

Comment From a Participant

I wanted to experience a new way of living, and I got that and much more. I met unforgettable people and made unforgettable memories - the too-good-to-post-on-Instagram kind.

Santiago Poveda Gutiérrez from Spain, Graduate School of Informatics

Official Language : English
The staff are proficient in both Japanese and English.

Discussion Topics

- Harmony in East Asia
- Future image of Japan-Russia relationship
- How we could achieve world peace
- Ideal relationship between Japan and your home country

Topic may be subject to change. Each session focuses on a single topic. Please indicate your preferred topic when applying.

5 August - 9 August
12 August - 16 August
19 August - 23 August
26 August - 30 August

Please provide as many available dates as possible.

6 people for each term

Actual cost US\$500~/person
Not included; transportation fee to and from island. The price in yen is determined according to the exchange rate. Cost may be changed depending on the circumstances.

Staff

Sota Inai (25) Kyoto University

Supervisor

Hiromasa Ogi (33) CEO, Bunkei Corp.

Designed by Bunkei corporation

Please refer to our website for your application

Rishiri Island Summer Camp

August 5-9
 August 12-16
 August 19-23
 August 26-30

A once-in-a-lifetime experience for 18-25 year olds to explore Northern Japan while interacting with the local fishing community and beautiful scenery.

Registrations are now open on a rolling basis. See their [website](#) for more information.

Info

MFA/Boston

Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction

September 30, 2023 - September 29, 2024



Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction

September 30, 2023 - September 29, 2024

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Saundra B. and William H. Lane Galleries (Gallery 332)

Born in Hawaii to parents of Okinawan ancestry, Toshiko Takaezu (1922–2011) was a technically masterful and innovative artist best known for her ceramic sculptures, which she treated as abstract paintings in the round. The MFA holds a significant collection of Takaezu’s pottery—more than 20 examples are featured here alongside loans from private collections.

Challenging traditional presentations of American abstraction, “Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction” celebrates the extraordinary range of Takaezu’s work, aiming to make her contributions more widely known. It is organized in partnership with the Noguchi Museum and the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation.

Info

Please send information about Japan-related events in Boston to info@japansocietyboston.org to help us feature select events.



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

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