



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON
New England's Gateway To Japan Since 1904

Monthly Newsletter



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

Announcements from JSB



Thank you for supporting JSB's 2026 Gala Dinner!

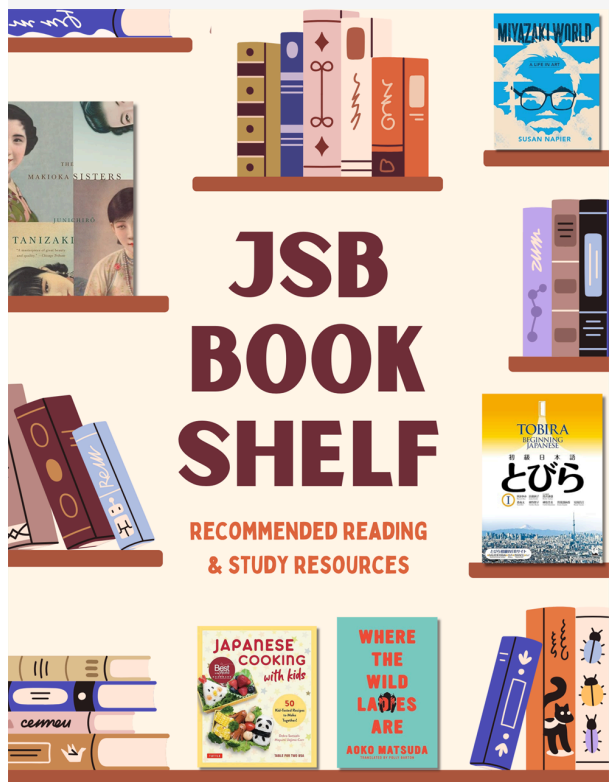
We are still feeling the excitement from Japan Society of Boston's 2026 Gala Dinner, *Global Diplomacy: US-Japan Takes Center Stage*, where we celebrated the vitality of the US-Japan relationship.

We were thrilled to welcome Ambassador Shigeo Yamada for a keynote address, honor Nobuko Saito Cleary and Andrew D. Gordon for their impactful work to bridge the US and Japan, and enjoy lively performances by Eiko Kano, Tiger Okoshi and Truly True, and Odaiko New England.

We extend thanks to the sponsors, donors, supporters, and nearly 200 guests who came together for this special evening, and we are grateful for continued contributions in recognition of this historic occasion.

Please consider donating to support JSB's continued work to bring the best of Japan to Boston, inspiring the next generation to pursue their passion for Japan and fostering greater understanding of Japanese culture in Boston.

[Donate](#)



Introducing the JSB Bookshelf!

Check out this new page on our website to browse and shop* a rotating selection of recommended reading.

Whether you're looking for the latest fiction from Japan or resources to guide your study of Japanese language and culture, find your next read here!

*JSB earns commission from qualifying purchases made through links on the webpage. We appreciate your support!

[Visit Page](#)



NEW *Membership* DISCOUNT PARTNERS



See our website for all discount partners and membership information.

Discount Partners

Announcing new discount partners for JSB members! Thank you to **Bento Japanese** and **KOKO utsuwa** for their support.

[Bento Japanese](#) turns Japanese literacy into a game! Take a placement test to find your rank, then climb through lessons, real-world graded reading, and daily practice tools, one step at a time. JSB members receive **10% off all plans**.

[KOKO utsuwa](#) offers a curated selection of handmade Japanese ceramics. Many of their pieces are crafted by skilled artisans who use time-honored techniques thoughtfully adapted for modern living. JSB members receive **10% off their first online order**.

JSB Programming

Some events 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!



Japanese Business Culture Workshop

Fostering Global Collaboration through Understanding

Wednesday, June 3 | 12 - 2 PM (EDT) | Online



Japanese Business Culture Workshop Fostering Global Collaboration through Understanding

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 - 12:00-2:00PM EDT
Online

Join us for an interactive workshop that will provide practical tools to enhance your collaboration skills when working with Japanese colleagues or clients. You will learn about the underlying societal and geographical factors that shape Japanese business culture. The workshop will provide a chance for you to reflect on your own cultural background and how it might influence your approach to work. Come away with new insights for improved cross-border communication and collaboration for your professional working relationships.

This session is provided in partnership between the Japan Society of Boston and **Japan Consulting Office (JCO)**.

\$490 General Admission / \$245 for JSB Members / Free for qualifying JSB Corporate Members

[Tickets](#)

JSB Member Exclusive

協白
会日
本 JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

MFA GALLERY TOUR

ASIAN INFLUENCES IN EARLY AMERICAN ART

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM



BIOMBO (folding screen), mid-18th century. Oil on wood panels. Height 6' 4 1/2". The Great Sherman Fund, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

[JSB Member Exclusive]

MFA Gallery Tour: Asian Influences in Early American Art

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - 4:00 PM EDT

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

465 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115

Step into the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's newly reimagined Art of the Americas Wing and discover the influences of Asian aesthetics, materials, and ideas in the continental Americas.

Guided by curatorial staff Nanase Shirokawa, Layla Bermeo, and Nonie Gadsden, the visit will offer fresh perspectives on the history and legacy of the China Trade and the Manila Galleons, and highlight recent acquisitions including a 17-foot *biombo*, a Mexican folding screen inspired by Japanese *byōbu*.

An exclusive opportunity to explore the gallery in a private setting, this tour invites close looking, thoughtful conversation, and a deeper understanding of the global influences embedded in American art history.

Please note that the deadline to register is May 22!

[Register](#)

Oûchigohan!

おうちごはん！



Online Cooking
Class via ZOOM



\$10 | USJETAA/JAS Members
\$15 | Non-Members



おうちごはん！ (Ouchigohan) Kei-Chan Yaki & Strawberry Matcha Latte

Sat, May 16, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

For your busy spring schedules, try our simple and delicious recipes for dinner and more! This month, Ouchigohan will finish its #EdamameChamp theme with **Kei-chan Yaki**, a specialty of Gifu Prefecture. This flavorful dish features miso-marinated chicken thighs stir-fried with cabbage and vegetables, making it a hearty and approachable meal.

We'll also prepare **Rice with Spring Peas** as a light and seasonal side dish and finish with a **Strawberry Matcha Latte**.

Advance ticket purchase required (only one registration per household needed). JSB members can visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for a discount code.

Register



SPONSORED BY:
 Temple
University
Japan Campus

JSB LANGUAGE ROOM

A JAPANESE & ENGLISH
VIRTUAL LANGUAGE
EXCHANGE



JSB Language Room

Thursday, May 21, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT

(日本時間では5月22日金曜日午前7時)

Online

Looking for a fun way to socialize and grow your language skills from the comfort of your own home? Join JSB to practice your Japanese or English at our next online Japanese / English language exchange.

Our monthly language room is sponsored by Temple University, Japan Campus (TUJ), the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

This Month's Theme: 旅行 / Travel

Advance registration required.

[Register](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Film Club

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

In May the JSB Film Club will discuss *Sweet Bean* (2015), directed by Naomi Kawase.

Sweet Bean is a delicious red bean paste, the sweet heart of the dorayaki pancakes that Sentaro (Masatoshi Nagase) sells from his little bakery to a small but loyal clientele. Absorbed in sad memories and distant thoughts, Sentaro cooks with skill but without enthusiasm. When seventy-six-year-old Tokue (Kirin Kiki) responds to his ad for an assistant and cheerfully offers to work for a ridiculously low wage, Sentaro is skeptical about the eccentric old lady's ability to endure the long hours. But when she shows up early one morning and reveals to him the secret to the perfect sweet bean paste, Sentaro agrees to take her on.

With Tokue's new home cooked sweet bean paste recipe, Sentaro's business begins to flourish, but Tokue is afflicted with an illness that, once revealed, drives her into isolation once again. (Synopsis from Kino Lorber)

Watch the trailer [here](#). Films should be viewed independently in advance of our meetings. Find the film [available to stream online](#) or check out your local library.

Register



Celebrate Japan! at Long Hill

**Sun, May 31, 2026 - 10AM-3PM EDT
Long Hill**

572 Essex St, Beverly, MA 01915

This event is free for members of The Trustees and JSB. Pre-registration is recommended for all guests.

[More Info](#)

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, join us at Long Hill for our annual Celebrate Japan! event, a partnership between **The Trustees** and the Japan Society of Boston. Together, we celebrate the rich cultural traditions, artistic practices, and enduring influence of Japanese heritage within Long Hill's gardens and beyond.

Complimentary activities include an origami station, a Miné Crane art exhibition, self-guided Japanese garden tours, a kids scavenger hunt, story time, and a taiko drumming performance by ShinDaiko!

Paid activities include a bento lunch, Ikebana and Indigo Shibori workshops, a guided Japanese Garden Tour, and a guided Forest Bathing therapy walk. Pre-registration is required for all paid activities.



JSB Members Only



Connect with JSB!

Picnic at Cambridge Common
featuring *Kokoro Don Cafe*
Tuesday, June 16 | 6-8pm

[JSB Member Exclusive]

Connect with JSB!

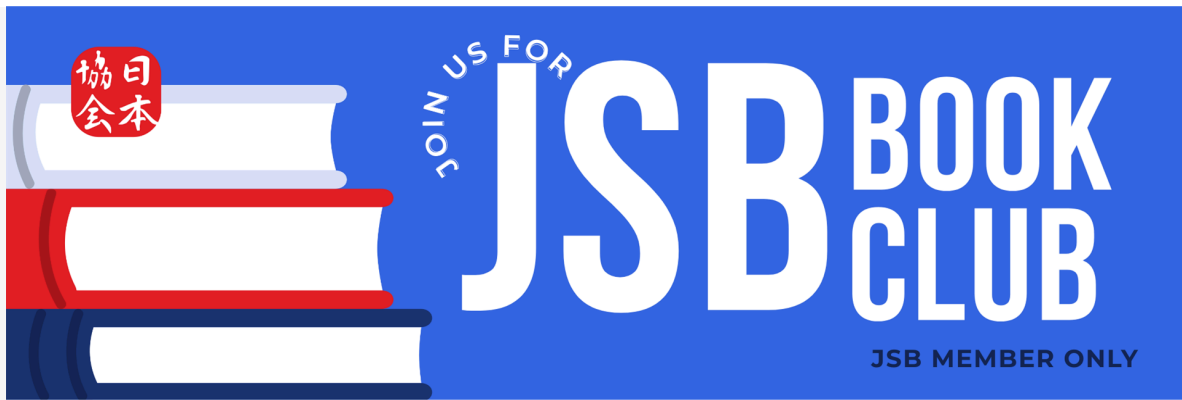
Tuesday, June 16, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Cambridge Common

Waterhouse St & Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02138

Join Japan Society of Boston members and staff for a picnic dinner at Cambridge Common! Whether you are a new or longtime member, this is a great opportunity to meet others in the community, connect over shared interests, and enjoy Japanese food.

Registrants have the option to pre-order a meal from **Kokoro Don Cafe**, a Japanese comfort food café focused on fresh, made-to-order rice bowls and simple, well-balanced flavors crafted with care. You are also welcome to bring outside food or join without a meal.

[Register](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, June 24, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

The JSB Book Club will meet in April to discuss *The Devotion of Suspect X* by **Keigo Higashino**, winner of the 134th Naoki Prize.

"In this tightly plotted crime novel, Higashino pits a brilliant math teacher, Tetsuya Ishigami, against Dr. Manabu Yukawa, a shrewd physicist whose deductive prowess has earned him the nickname Detective Galileo. When Ishigami overhears his lovely neighbor, Yasuko Hanaoka, strangling her abusive ex-husband in the next apartment, he rushes to her aid. Smitten, he concocts a perfect, if complex, alibi for her. It's enough to mystify the investigating detective, but when Dr. Yukawa, the policeman's friend, begins his own sleuthing, and Yasuko falls in love with another man, both alibi and participants bend under the pressure." (*Publishers Weekly*)

Find a copy [here](#). The discussion will be in English, but you are welcome to read the novel in any language.

Register

COOKING & CULTURE



The Secret of Japanese Home Meals

AT THE FOUNDRY, 101 ROGERS ST., CAMBRIDGE, MA

JULY 25, 2026

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

[JSB Member Exclusive]

Cooking & Culture: The Secret of Japanese Home Meals

Saturday, July 25, 2026 - 11:00AM EDT

The Foundry

101 Rogers St, Cambridge, MA 02142

Learn the foundation of traditional Japanese home cooking through the concept of *ichiju-sansai* – “one soup and three dishes.” In this hands-on class led by Boston-based culinary entrepreneur and educator **Yoko Bryden**, you’ll discover how to create a healthy, well-balanced meal using seasonal vegetables, simple seasonings, and traditional cooking methods.

It’s the perfect opportunity for anyone who wants to understand the essence of Japanese home-style meals and enjoy cooking and eating together with other members of the JSB community!

[Register](#)

Signature Content from JSB



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Showcasing stories from our vibrant community



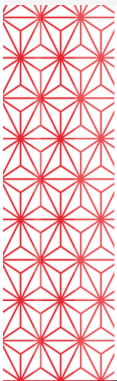
Roberto Gómez

"During the pandemic, I was constantly looking for online activities, especially literary and cultural ones. I looked around in bookstores and cultural centers' websites. That's how

I discovered Boston's cosmopolitanism; first and foremost, the Japan Society of Boston, as well as many others like the French Library, the Dante Alighieri Society of Massachusetts, and the Goethe-Institut. I was gladly surprised by the array of activities taking place in spite of the lockdown. I was immediately attracted to the book club, so I became a member without hesitation. It has been one of the staples of my life in the US. I was happy to find a new point of entry to Japan and to Japanese culture."

Roberto also leads JSB's film club!
Our [next meeting](#) is on May 27.

Full Article



FAMOUS IN JAPAN



Introducing noteworthy figures, events, and concepts from Japanese culture and history





Wabi-Sabi

In this month's edition of Famous in Japan, learn about the concept of *wabi-sabi* and how it has been transformed and reinterpreted through art, religion, ritual, and most recently, social media.

Often understood as an aesthetic that finds beauty in the impermanent, discover how *wabi-sabi* has taken on a different meaning on social platforms and understand the historical context and key figures behind its impact on Japanese culture.

[Full Article](#)

From Our Friends

Below are just a few featured events and opportunities from other local organizations. Check our [website](#) for many more!

Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Celebration

Sunday, May 16, 2026 - 10:00AM - 4:00PM ET

Museum of Science

1 Science Park, Boston, MA 02114

Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month at the Museum of Science with a day that brings together science, culture, and community! Hear from featured scientists sharing their work and perspectives, experience cultural performances, and connect with local organizations highlighting AAPI cultures and contributions.

JSB Members can get free tickets! Visit the [Member Portal](#) for the promo code.

[Tickets](#)

Naomi Watanabe - From Tokyo

Friday, May 29, 2026 - 7:30PM ET

The Wilbur

246 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02116

Naomi Watanabe is a comedian, actress, and fashion entrepreneur celebrated for her fearless humor and bold sense of style. Naomi skyrocketed to fame with her viral impersonations and has since become a global pop culture icon. With her unique blend of humor, glamour, and authenticity, Naomi continues to inspire millions around the world to embrace confidence, individuality, and joy.

JSB Members save 20% on tickets! Visit the [Member Portal](#) for the discount code.

[Tickets](#)

Lost Land (2025) Film Screening

Monday, June 8, 2026 - 7:00PM ET


West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St, West Newton, MA 02465

Belmont World Film presents the East Coast premiere of Akio Fujimoto's *Lost Land*. This is the first-ever Rohingya-language film, starring an all-Rohingya cast, about two children's perilous journey to reach Malaysia from a Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh. Winner of the Special Jury Prize at the Venice International Film Festival.


JSB Members get a discount on tickets! Visit the [Member Portal](#) for the code.

[Tickets](#)



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