



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

Introducing our newest corporate sponsor:

Dan Rasmussen

[Verdad Advisers](#)

Founder and Portfolio Manager

How long have you been in Boston?

I launched Verdad in 2014, and we've been in Boston since 2018.

What does your company do?

We are a hedge fund that invests across a variety of asset classes and strategies. We specialize in Japanese equities, and we own over \$200M worth of Japanese stocks.



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

Check out our [website](#) for more information about corporate sponsorship.



...and a huge *arigato gozaimasu* to all our members, partners, sponsors, and community! Thanks to your support, we were able to offer 52 online events and 22 in-person events for a total of 74 events in 2023. Please look forward to more wonderful programming next year as we celebrate our 120th anniversary in 2024!

Please consider donating to support the future of US-Japan relations.

[Donate](#)



Shop JSB Fundraising Apparel

Our t-shirts and sweatshirts make for great holiday gifts! Know that you are making a difference in our organization with your purchase.

Check out our online shop to see the different colors and styles!

[Shop](#)



Introducing: The JSB College Events Hub

We are launching a new page on our website to gather and promote Japan-related college events and other resources for college students pursuing Japanese studies! Check out the hub below for more information, to view our current listings, or to submit an event or opportunity!

***Note:** All events must be free and open to the public*

Website



CRANE & TURTLE
· JAPANESE ARTISAN CRAFTS ·

Crane & Turtle Announcement

Our longtime sponsor, [Crane & Turtle](#), will be closed for renovations at their Bow Market location in January. In February of 2024, check out their reopening as Ko Kyoto and stop by with your JSB member card for a 10% in store discount!

JSB Programming



The Art of Kintsugi

Online

Monday, December 11th, 2023 | 6pm ET

The Art of Kintsugi

Monday, December 11th, 2023 - 6:00pm EST

Online

Kintsugi is the traditional Japanese practice of repairing broken pottery with *urushi* lacquer and metal powder, transforming it into something even more beautiful than before. Unlike many restoration techniques that work to hide the damage, this technique embraces the “imperfections” and highlights the life of the object.

During this online presentation by *Kintsugi* artist Tatsuya Murao of [Kintsugi Boston](#), we will explore the history and philosophy of *kintsugi*, the disappearing art of *urushi* lacquer harvest, and briefly demonstrate the repair process.

This is a free hour-long presentation with Q&A hosted on Zoom.

Register



Kamishibai Storytime at Boston Children's Museum



Wednesday, December 13th @ 10:30am & 2:00pm

Kamishibai Storytime at Boston Children's Museum Wednesday, December 13th, 2023 - 10:30am & 2:00pm EST Boston Children's Museum

The Japan Society of Boston will be performing a traditional *kamishibai*, or paper theater storytelling, of the classic Japanese folktale *Kasa Jizō* (or the Grateful Statues) at the Boston Children's Museum as part of their Religious Literacy Project to foster understanding and respect for different religions and traditions.

On Wednesday, December 13th at 10:30am, all museum guests can gather at the Floor 3 Bridge in front of the Machiya Japanese House for storytime in English and a family-friendly activity. Learn easy Japanese phrases and hear one of the most popular traditional Japanese folktales teaching generosity and Japanese New Year's traditions.

Registration is not required for the morning performance, but tickets to the museum must be independently purchased.

Later that day at 2pm, we will be doing a second bilingual performance inside the Machiya and invite members of the Japan Society of Boston to join us for no cost. Members will have the opportunity to join a fun, hands-on workshop following the show, designed to be fun for all ages.

Register

GEOSTRATEGY IN THE GRASSROOTS SERIES

Economic Statecraft and Security in the Indo-Pacific:
Views from Japan, US, and Southeast Asia



Panel featuring **Kenneth Oye, Kei Koga, and Phillip Lipsky**
Free event with Japanese bento lunch



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2024 | 12:00 PM EDT
THE FOUNDRY, 101 ROGERS ST, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142

Geostrategy in the Grassroots Series **Economic Statecraft and Security in the Indo-Pacific:** **Views from Japan, US, and Southeast Asia** **Friday, February 9th, 2024 - 12:00pm EST** **The Foundry (Steam Set Room): 101 Rogers St, Cambridge, MA**

Please join us for a very special event on Economic Statecraft and Security in the Indo-Pacific. Our panel will be moderated by Professor Kenneth Oye and we will be joined by guests Professor Kei Koga and Professor Phillip Lipsky.

This is a public, free, in-person event with the option of a light Japanese style bento lunch. Check-in opens at 11:45, and program will start promptly at noon. Pre-registration is required.

If you would like to receive a free bento lunch, please register by 5pm on January 31st. A vegetarian option is also available. All registrations made after January 31st will not include a lunch.

This event is sponsored by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the National Association of Japan-America Societies as part of their Geostrategy in the Grassroots series, a public affairs program focusing on the geostrategic challenges Japan and the US face in a changing Asia.

[Register](#)

Kanpai! An Introduction to Japanese Whisky



ticketed tasting event

Monday, February 5th @7pm | backbar

Kanpai! An Introduction to Japanese Whisky
Monday, February 5th, 2024 - 7:00 PM EST
backbar

Join JSB for a lively evening of Japanese whisky tasting and discovery!

Professor Merry "Corky" White will give guests a brief history and background on the unique characteristics of Japanese whisky. Then our three tasting experts, Nate, David, and Colin, will guide us as we sample five different kinds of Japanese whisky from popular labels such as Suntory and Nikka.

The event will take place at the award-winning cocktail bar in Somerville, [backbar](#), thanks to the support of Sam Treadway, co-owner and manager.

This event is strictly for those 21 years and up. All registrants are required to bring a US driver's license, state issued ID, or passport. Refunds will not be issued if registrants cannot supply the correct identification.

Tickets are \$50 for the general public and \$45 for JSB members.

Register

The banner features a background image of an Ippodo Tea storefront. In the center, there is a circular inset showing two pieces of green and brown wagashi (daifuku). To the right, the text reads: "IPPODO TEA Kyoto since 1717", "Ouchigohan! おうちごはん!", "JAPANESE TEA TIME", and "Online Cooking Class Via Zoom". Below this, there is a row of logos for partner organizations including the Japan America Society, Ippodo Tea, and the Japan Society. On the far right, a dark grey box contains the event date and time: "SUN 2.4.24 5-6:30 PM ET", and the ticket prices: "\$10 JAS/JS Members" and "\$15 Non-members".

□□□□□□□(Ouchigohan) Japanese Teatime
Sunday, February 4th, 2024 - 5:00 PM EST
Online

Join us for a special edition of the family-friendly online Japanese cooking class series □□□□□□□Ouchigohan! – Japanese Home Cooking. We will start by learning how to make a type of *wagashi*, a traditional Japanese confection that pairs well with tea. Cook along with our instructor Deb Samuels to make *daifuku*, a mochi ball with *anko* or sweet red bean paste filling.

After preparing our treats, we will be joined by Tomoko Honda of [Ippodo Tea](#) to learn all about the teas they make and how Japanese people enjoy them in their daily lives. Honda will teach us the differences among three kinds of classic Japanese teas, sencha, matcha, and hojicha, and how to best prepare them.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about everyday Japanese Teatime as it is enjoyed by families and friends in a relaxed setting.

The recipe card with ingredient list will be provided a few days before the event.

Register



Ouchigohan!
おうちごはん!

Online Cooking Class
via ZOOM

SAT
12.09.23
5-6:30pm ET

\$10 | JSB Members
\$15 | Non-members

OKONOMIYAKI

TABLE FOR TWO

JAPAN SOCIETY

□□□□□□! **Ouchigohan - Okonomiyaki**
Saturday, December 9th, 2023 - 5:00 PM EST
Online

Join us for the December edition of the family-friendly online Japanese cooking class series □□□□□□ Ouchigohan! – Japanese Home Cooking, hosted by Japan Society (New York)! On the menu this month is *okonomiyaki*, a crispy and fluffy savory pancake made from crunchy cabbage mixed with batter.

“*Okonomi*” means “as you like it” and “*yaki*” means “grilled,” so you can pick and choose the fillings: keep it vegetarian with mushrooms or add shrimp, thinly sliced pork or bacon, however you like it! Learn how to make traditional *okonomiyaki* sauce to put on top, along with a drizzle of mayonnaise. Kids will love designing and decorating their very own special *okonomiyaki*! Then, a simple wakame soup rounds out the meal. This month’s dishes can be prepared vegetarian and/or gluten-free.

The ingredient list and recipe will be provided before the event. JSB members get discounted tickets!

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, January 19th, 2024 - 6:00 to 7:30 PM EST

□□□□□□□1□20□□□□□□8□□

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: New Year's resolution (□□□□□).

[Register](#)

Coolidge Corner Theatre presents



HAUSU

Wednesday, March 27 | 7pm

 COOLIDGE CORNER
THEATRE

 JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

Hausu (House) Film Screening

Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 - 7:00 PM EDT

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

In celebration of the debut of the Coolidge Corner Theatre's new expanded theatre space, the [Big Screen Debuts](#) film series, which showcases prominent first films from a variety of famous and highly regarded directors, is happening now through late March.

An unforgettable mixture of bubblegum teen melodrama and grisly phantasmagoria, Nobuhiko Obayashi's deranged fairy tale *Hausu* is one of Japanese cinema's wildest

supernatural ventures and a truly startling debut feature.

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

Tickets

Programs for JSB Members



JSB Film Club

Wednesday, February 28th, 2024 - 6:00 to 8:00 PM EST
Online

We are excited to announce the first meeting of the new JSB Film Club!

Our first film will be *Tampopo* (1985), directed by Juzo Itami. In this humorous homage to the joys of food, a pair of truck drivers happen onto a decrepit roadside shop selling ramen noodles. The widowed owner, Tampopo, begs them to help her turn her establishment into a paragon of the "art of noodle-soup making."

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 if you have a subscription to [Max](#) or the [Criterion Channel](#). You can also rent from the [Boston Public Library](#) or purchase the DVD 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 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.
Consider becoming a [Member](#) today!

Register

Between the Lines

A Monthly Discussion on **Medieval Japanese Women's Literature** for JSB Members every first Thursday of the month.

Between the Lines

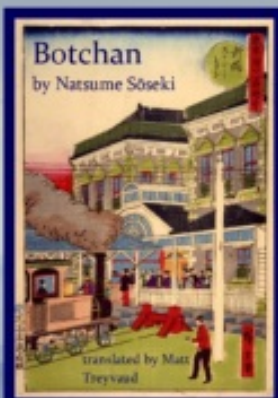
Thursday, February 1st, 2024 - 6:00 PM EST

Online

Join us to discuss some of the greatest classics of medieval Japanese literature, written by women authors! In this session, we will be looking at book four of a Kamakura-era classic *The Confessions of Lady Nijo*, as translated by Karen Brazell.

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

Register



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

BOOK CLUB

BOTCHAN
BY NATSUME SOSEKI

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 - 6:00 PM EST

Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Botchan* by Natsume Soseki. This story follows a young man from Tokyo who moves to rural Japan and his struggles of self versus society. This novel is taught in Japanese schools, much like the American novel *Catcher in the Rye*.

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!

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

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: [Scott Kearney](#)

"I discovered Competitive Karuta a few years ago, thanks to watching the *Chihayafuru* anime. Initially, I thought learning the game would be beneficial for language learning-and it was-but it offered a lot more."



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 [Monica Narang](#) (Osaka 2008-2022).

[Read the Blog](#)

FAMOUS IN JAPAN

Celebrities from Around the World



Famous in Japan

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

This month, read about a ctress, comedian, model, and fashion designer [Naomi Watanabe](#).

[Read the Blog](#)



Miho Hazama and m_unit

Berklee Performance Center

Saturday, March 16 | 8PM ET



Miho Hazama and m_unit
Saturday, March 16th, 2024, 8:00PM EDT
Berklee Performance Center
136 Massachusetts Ave, Boston MA 02115

Grammy-nominated composer and conductor Miho Hazama is one of the most promising and talented composers/arrangers of her generation. Lauded in *DownBeat* magazine as one of “25 for the Future” and an ASCAP Foundation awardee for Best Young Jazz Composer, Hazama creates inventive, complex, and surprising compositions for m_unit, the 13-piece jazz chamber orchestra that she leads.

This brilliant composer and her jazz orchestra make their Boston debuts at the Berklee Performance Center.

Tickets on sale now. JSB members and newsletter readers can get a [25% discount!](#) Valid for up to 4 tickets per order, offer expires 3/15 at 12PM.

[Tickets](#)

Yoko Miwa Jazz Trio

@ The Mad Monkfish

Friday Evenings 7pm & 8:45PM



Yoko Miwa Jazz Trio
Select Friday Evenings, 7PM & 8:45PM ET
The Mad Monkfish

Take advantage of the opportunity to see Yoko Miwa, acclaimed jazz pianist and longtime faculty at Berklee College of Music. Her jazz trio will be playing at the Mad Monkfish on Friday evenings at 7pm and 8:45pm through the end of the year, see website for full schedule. She will be accompanied by Brad Barrett on bass and Scott Goulding on drums.

Reservations



EXPLOSIVE JAPANESE TAIKO DRUMMING

DRUM TAO

Friday, February 2, 2024 | 8PM ET

BERKLEE
PERFORMANCE
CENTER

GLOBAL
ARTS
LIVE

Drum Tao at Berklee Performance Center
February 2nd, 2023, 8:00PM EST
Berklee Performance Center
136 Massachusetts Ave, Boston MA

With explosive taiko drumming and innovative acrobatic choreography, DRUM TAO offers a breathtaking, vibrantly modern twist on a traditional art form, and a visual and sonic tour de force celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Check out their English [website](#) for information about the group, videos, and news.

Tickets are now on sale through Global Arts Live.

JSB members can visit the [Members-Only Portal](#) for a 20% off discount code. This discount expires 2/2 at 12PM.

Tickets

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.](#) | [\[www.japansocietyboston.org\]](http://www.japansocietyboston.org)

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