



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!



Thank you for your continued support. Please look forward to exciting programming in the year of 2024 as we celebrate our 120th anniversary, and the 65th anniversary of the Boston-Kyoto sister city relationship!

Our thoughts are with the victims and families who were affected by the Ishikawa earthquake in these difficult times.

## Jan. 1 Earthquake Fund

Please join the [United States-Japan Foundation](#) and its [US-Japan Leadership Program](#) to help raise funds for recovery and relief efforts around the Noto Peninsula, following the magnitude 7.6 earthquake that struck New Year's Day. They will match all contributions made through the page below up to \$25,000, for a total goal of \$50,000.

All donations go to [Peace Winds America](#), a leading organization in the relief efforts. One of their volunteers, Dr. Mototaka Inaba, is responsible for the rescue of a woman in her 90s after being trapped for five days.

Donate



## Mikihiko "Miki" Kato

### Program Director

MIT Office of Corporate Relations

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

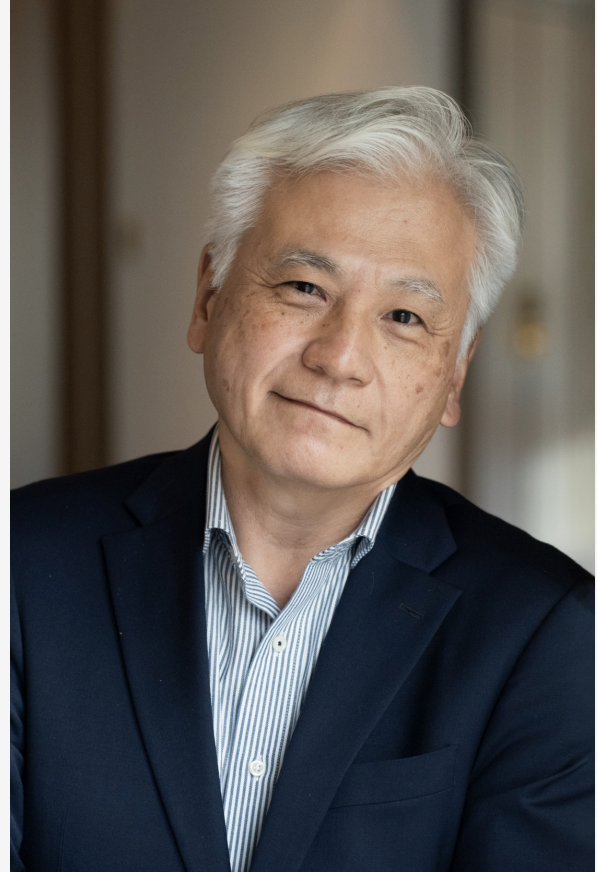
That is a quite difficult question to answer. Thirty-three years ago, I was a Sloan School student at MIT. After graduation, I always tried to make a good reason to come back to Boston, so I commuted 6-8 times a year from Tokyo for business. I have stayed for 7 years as a resident.

#### What is your connection to Kyoto?

I was born and grew up in Kyoto. Kyoto is a sister city with Boston. I was involved to prepare and execute the 60th anniversary Kyoto-Boston sister city celebration Life Science Forum (2019) with the City of Boston, the Japan Society of Boston, and the Consulate General of Japan.

Kyoto has a similarity of entrepreneurship to Boston Ecosystem. A lot of global companies started their business from Kyoto. It will be very interesting if we can study more what is common key factors with Boston, and what is different.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview!  
Check out our [website](#) for more information about corporate sponsorship.



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## Announcements from JSB

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### 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](#)

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## JSB Fundraising Apparel

Marie Romano's winning Japan-Boston design is now available to purchase as a T-shirt or sweatshirt to help us fundraise for JSB.

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

Shop

## JSB Programming



### 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.

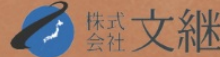
This event is sponsored by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation and the National Association of Japan-America Societies as part of their Geostrategy in the Grassroots series, a public affairs program focusing on the geostrategic challenges Japan and the US face in a changing Asia.

Register



# Beyond the Blade: Japanese Knife Craftsmanship

Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 | 6PM EST



## Beyond the Blade: Japanese Knife Craftsmanship Tuesday, March 5th, 2024 - 6:00pm EST Online

Kentaro Hoshiba is a fourth generation blacksmith whose family has been supporting fishing and farming villages in Noto since the Meiji period by polishing and selling knives. Their company, [Fukube Kaji Corp.](#) began in 1901 as traveling knife peddlers, selling and maintaining the vital everyday tools of housewives, farmers, and fishermen. Today, they keep the tradition of knife polishing services alive through "Pochisupa," now with the help of online shipping. They are also currently working to expand business to the U.S., and launch their own knives, the Shinbu and Tafu.

Fukube Kaji and other companies are supported by [Bunkei Corp.](#), a consulting firm that aims to continue the culture of traditional Japanese craftsmanship into the 22nd century by providing guidance and resources to aid the transition into the modern age.

Our speakers will not only teach us about the precise art of Japanese knife making, but will also share about their traditions, companies, and current activities in Japan.

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

Register



IPPODO TEA  
Kyoto since 1717

Oûchigohan!  
おうちごはん!

## JAPANESE TEA TIME

Online Cooking Class Via Zoom



SUN  
2.4.24  
5-6:30 PM ET

\$10  
JAS/JS Members

\$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

協同  
会本 JAPAN SOCIETY  
OF BOSTON



## 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

7 Sanborn Ct, Somerville, MA 02143

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.

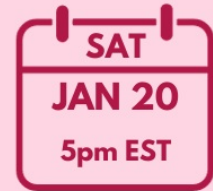
**Only Three Spots Left!**

Register

**Oûchigohan!**

おうちごはん!

Online Cooking Class  
via ZOOM



\$10 | JAS/JS Members

\$15 | Non-members



TABLE FOR TWO



□□□□□□! **Ouchigohan - Oyakodon**

**Sunday, January 20th, 2023 - 5:00 PM EST**

Online

This month's online Japanese Home Cooking will be hosted by the Japan Society of Greater Philadelphia. Have you ever tried a Japanese dish called Domburi? Domburi, also romanized as donburi, are bowls of rice with delicious toppings – a meal in a bowl. Oyako Domburi (or oyakodon for short) is called “Mother and Child Rice” Bowl. This savory dish is made with both chicken and eggs and the words oya and ko refer to parent and child.

Tender chunks of chicken are cooked in a dashi broth and, when just hot enough, beaten eggs are poured over the top and cooked briefly until the eggs are silky and just set.

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

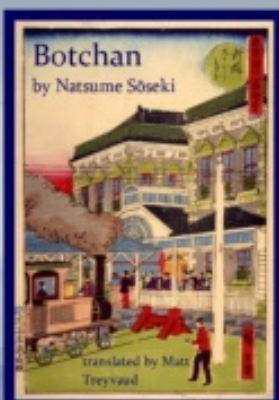
Thursday, February 1st, 2024 - 6:00 PM EST

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/](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: [Dylan Phelan](#)

"The monthly JSB Book Club has been so culturally enriching. Jumping on a zoom call to discuss a new work of Japanese literature every month has been a great way to nudge myself towards reading more books and learning more about Japanese authors, Japanese history, and other JSB members."



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 [Michael Gilbertson](#) (Saga 2018-2020).



[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 ukiyo-e artist, [Utagawa Hiroshige](#).



Read the Blog

## Other Japan-Related Events

EXPLOSIVE JAPANESE TAIKO DRUMMING

# DRUM TAO

Friday, February 2, 2024 | 8PM ET

BERKLEE PERFORMANCE CENTER

**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

  
Celebrity Series of Boston

# 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

**MF/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

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

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