

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

February 26 - March 10, 2021



Now open for registration!

[02/27 Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-Chefs -Part 9 -](#)

[03/04 Japan's Pop Culture Takeover Series - Susan Napier's Miyazakiworld -](#)

[03/05 The JSB Language Room \(Virtual Language Exchange\)](#)

[03/06 Resilience & Rugby: An Evening with Japanese Rugby Legend, Kensuke Hatakeyama](#)

[03/24 JSB Member Book Club](#)

[03/28 The Art of Scent: Incense Sachet Workshop with Shoyeido](#)

Read more about all our events below!

JSB meets JET Alumni

This week we interviewed an alum placed in **Akita!** Can you guess what "nda" means in Akita-ben? Keep scrolling to read an excerpt of the interview, or read the complete version on our [website!](#)



Are you studying or hoping to study Japanese? Check out our monthly language newsletter designed for language learners like you! You can sign up to receive

Featured Events

We're launching a new speaker series:
Japan's Pop Culture Takeover!

To kick off the new series, anime expert Susan Napier will be in conversation with Ian Condry to discuss her latest work, *Miyazakiworld: A Life in Art!*





Resilience & Rugby: An Evening with Japanese Rugby Legend, Kensuke Hatakeyama

the Nihongo Perapera Newsletter by
[emailing us your info!](#)



Keep up with JSB on social media!



JSB and JASH are pleased to present this informal conversation with the Japanese Major League Rugby star about the importance of resilience in the face of challenges and about U.S.-Japan sports exchange.



The Art of Scent: Incense Sachet Workshop with Shoyeido

While we are unable to hold our traditional in-person event this year, we hope you will join us online to hear Mr. Hata from Kyoto share the history and significance of incense in Japan. Stay for a sachet-making workshop at the end!

Japan Society of Boston Online Events

Japan's Pop Culture Takeover! Speaker Series

[Susan Napier's Miyazakiworld](#)

Susan Napier in conversation with Ian Condry on her latest work, *Miyazakiworld: A Life in Art*

**Thursday, March 4, 2021
6:00 - 7:00 PM EST**

We are launching a new speaker series called **Japan's Pop Culture Takeover!**

Join us next week to hear anime expert Susan Napier discuss her latest work, *Miyazakiworld: A Life in Art*, with MIT cultural anthropologist and author, Ian Condry!



Eight years in the making, Susan's *Miyazakiworld* sheds light on the indelible link between artist and environment, creator and creation. Susan describes Miyazaki as an "unprecedented animator," and in her words, *Miyazakiworld* is "an examination of why and how Hayao Miyazaki

came to be that animator: of the world he has created and of the worlds that created him."

Hear Susan Napier divulge the story of filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki's life and work, including his profound impact on Japan and the world, as she dives into conversation with Ian Condry.

[Register Here](#)

Resilience & Rugby: An Evening with Japanese Rugby Legend, Kensuke Hatakeyama

co-hosted with the Japan America Society of Houston



Saturday, March 6, 2021

7:00 - 8:00 PM EST

(6:00 - 7:00 PM CST)

From helping the Japan national team pull off an upset against favored South Africa in the 2015 Rugby World Cup to responding to the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami that destroyed his family home, Kensuke Hatakeyama knows a thing or two

about what it takes to be resilient both on and off the pitch.

JSB and JASH are pleased to present this informal conversation with the Japanese Major League Rugby star about the importance of resilience in the face of challenges and about U.S.-Japan sports exchange.

Moderating the conversation will be Dr. Akira Asada, Assistant Professor of Sport Management at Texas Tech University.

[Register Here](#)

The Art of Scent: Incense Sachet Workshop with Shoyeido

in collaboration with *Japan America Society Colorado*
and *The Japan Society Canada*

Sunday, March 28, 2021

7:00 PM EDT (5:00 PM MDT)

The Shoyeido Incense Company began in Kyoto in 1705, becoming the world's premiere incense-

making company and the preferred supplier of incense to most temples in Japan. Twelve generations later, Masataka Hata continues his family's legacy and travels to the U.S. every year to spread the art of incense appreciation.



While we are unable to hold our traditional in-person event this year, we invite you to join us to hear Mr. Hata from Kyoto share the history and significance of incense in Japan. This year, we will end the event with a sachet-making workshop,* guided by Mr. Hata, in lieu of the traditional incense appreciation ceremony.

If interested in the workshop, be sure to register with the sachet kit purchase **by March 18 to receive the sachet kit in time for the event.*

[Register Here](#)

Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-Chefs - Part 9 - Kamonanban

Saturday, February 27, 2021

5:00 - 6:00 PM EST

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

Hosted online via Zoom



Kamonanban (鴨葱そば) is a Japanese noodle dish made with soba, duck, and Japanese leeks or Welsh onions. Kamo (鴨) meaning duck, and nanban (葱) referring to the onions in the dish. The dish is especially popular at soba restaurants during cold winters in Japan. **Feel free to substitute the duck for chicken when making your own kamonanban!**

JSB volunteer Masayo Kawaguchi is excited to show you how to make your own kamonanban soba!

[Register Here](#)



The JSB Language Room (Virtual Language Exchange)

Friday, March 5, 2021

6:00 to 8:00 PM EST

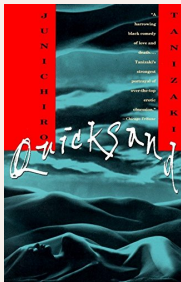
Hosted online via Zoom
(you will be sent the meeting code after registering)

Please join us for two hours of conversation, where you will be grouped based on your proficiency level. We hope you will take part in our community as we strive to bridge Japanese and American cultures. Get ready to play **shiritori**, a word-chain game!

The JSB Language Room is currently free for all. To help us continue offering our language exchange, please consider [making a donation](#) or [becoming a member](#) today!

[Register Here](#)

Japan Society of Boston Members' Book Club



Wednesday, March 24, 2021
6:00 - 8:00 PM EDT

Do you love Japanese literature? Our goal at the JSB Members' Book Club is to strengthen the Boston community of Japan enthusiasts by coming together to discuss Japanese works. Join us for a conversation about the novel ***Quicksand* by Jun'ichiro Tanizaki**.

Our book club is limited to members only, but don't worry, you can sign up [here](#) today! If you are already a member and interested in the group, please [contact us](#) to have your name added to the club mailing list.

[Register Here](#)

Notes from JSB

JSB Staff Pick of the Week

With more time at home, we've asked our staff to pick some of their favorite movies and books.

JSB Meets JET Alumni

As part of our partnership with the [United States-Japan Exchange & Teaching Alumni Association](#) (USJETAA), we will be sharing excerpts of interviews with JET alums in our newsletter!



To read the full interviews, [please visit our website](#).

Episode 3: **Akita**
Interview with **Jesse Kerstetter**
(Odate, Akita 2006-2010)

Q: What are some of the things



Grave of the Fireflies

(□□□□□)

A brother and sister attempt to survive during the end of WWII in Tokyo. American firebombs ravage the land and take countless lives. It offers a first-hand look at the horrors of war and how it affects everyday people, regardless of their affiliation.

1988. Written and Directed by Isao Takahata. Starring Tsutomu Tatsumi, Ayano Shiraishi

[IMDb Page](#)

your prefecture is known for?
Culturally, it might be best known for a number of winter festivals and traditions including the Kamakura Matsuri in Yokote and the Namahage from Oga.

Also, Akita Inu are probably a quick association many people have with the prefecture. The famous Akita-inu, Hachiko, is actually from Odate where a similar statue to the one in Shibuya also stands.



Q: Did you pick up any of the regional dialects? What are some of your favorite words or phrase?

One of my favorites is still “nda” which is just another way to say “soudesu”. It felt good to understand what someone was saying and be able to reply “nda, nda, nda.” I also like the Akitaben for “tabete,” or eat, which was just Ke. Lots of Akitaben and the general Akita accent was clipped and shortened. People said it was so that people wouldn’t lose too much hot air speaking in the winter.

Q: If you were to return to live in Japan, would you choose to live in that same prefecture?

Absolutely. Akita is incredibly endearing and I think there’s something there for everyone. I think about it almost every day 10 years after I left.

[Read the rest of Jesse's interview here!](#)

Daiki's Ramen-Nikki

□□□□□□

As a university student and JSB intern who is homesick for Japanese food, I will be exploring what Boston can offer for my ramen cravings. Please bear in mind that this is not a ranked list or endorsement, but rather the opinions of an intern with a ramen addiction!



Entry 9: Tsurumen Davis

For this entry, I ordered from Tsurumen, in Davis Square (420 Highland Ave, Somerville, MA 02144). I have to admit, I deviated from the precedent of ordering the most basic ramen in this instance as the “Formula 2020” caught my intrigue; it was a shio (□/salt) based ramen with chicken broth, and the main hallmark is the chicken and shiso (□□/perilla) wontons it comes with. The bowl also comes with negi (□□/scallions), tamanegi (□□□/onions), and menma (□□□/fermented bamboo shoots). This was an amazing bowl of ramen, and I cannot overstate just how well-tuned every piece of the puzzle was; the chicken broth was light and paired nicely with the soft noodles, and the shio base went well with the shiso (which happens to be my favorite herb). In all, Tsurumen Davis is an absolute must, and it doesn’t hurt that you can double up and go to Yume ga Arukara across the street right after if you’re ready to keep going!

Read more from Daiki's Ramen Nikki [here!](#)



The Impact on Japan of Geostrategic Challenges in Asia: Two Perspectives

Tuesday, March 2, 2021
6:00 - 7:00 PM EST

[Learn More](#)



Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day) Virtual Event

Wednesday, March 3, 2021
6:00 - 9:00 PM EST (5:00 - 8:00 PM CST)

Join us for a virtual presentation of Hinamatsuri, or "Girl's Day" on Wednesday, March 3rd. We'll learn about the history of the holiday, hina dolls and each doll's significance, and special Japanese food associated with Hinamatsuri.

Hinamatsuri is a special Japanese holiday held on the third day of the third month each year dedicated to young girls. Until they are about ten years old, young girls will enjoy a display of ornamental dolls known as hinanaginata, set up on a red tiered display known as a hinadan.

[Learn More](#)

How Japan's Female Board Members Can Drive Board Diversity in Japan

Thursday, March 4, 2021
7:30 PM EST (4:30 PM PST)

While investors, stock exchanges and the Corporate Governance Code decide what standards to hold Japan to, female board directors themselves have a critical role to play in setting and achieving diversity goals.



JAPAN SOCIETY
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

When these women rise to the highest roles of excellence, they have an extraordinary ability to influence.

Please join this event to hear firsthand about experiences in the boardroom and what other players are doing to move Japan towards global standards.

How Japan's **Female Board Members** Can Drive **Board Diversity** in Japan



[Learn More](#)

Remembering 3/11



Resiliency & Recovery: A U.S.-Japan Dialogue Ten Years after 3.11



**Tuesday,
March 9, 2021
7:00 - 9:00 PM
EST**

At this live
online

symposium, leading voices and experts from Tohoku and the U.S. gather to exchange ideas and draw lessons from 3.11. Also featured is the premier of a short video of testimonials from leaders in Tohoku who received or participated in programs supported by Japan Society's **Japan Earthquake Relief Fund**. Co-organized with ETIC., a Japanese nonprofit dedicated to nurturing social entrepreneurs and recovery efforts in Tohoku, this event is part of Japan Society's programs marking the 10th year anniversary of 3.11.

[Learn More](#)



Remembering March 11, 2011: Looking Back, Looking Forward



**Wednesday, March 10 (U.S.)
6:00 - 7:30 PM EST
Thursday, March 11 (Japan)
8:00 - 9:30 AM JST**

Please join the U.S.-Japan Council and other U.S.-Japan-related organizations for a special event to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011. This virtual event will symbolize the United States standing together in solidarity with Japan and underscore the importance of our alliance, friendship and shared values.

[Learn More](#)



**VIRTUAL EVENT:
Starr Forum: 3.11**



REISCHAUER INSTITUTE
OF JAPANESE STUDIES

Panel: Japan's 2011 Disasters: Ten-Year Anniversary Reflections

Thursday, March 11, 2021
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST



Panelist: DANIEL ALDRICH, Professor of Political Science, Public Policy and Urban Affairs and Director, Security and Resilience Studies Program, Northeastern University

Panelist: HIROKO KUMAKI, Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows, Dartmouth College

Panelist: RYO MORIMOTO, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University

Moderator: ANDREW GORDON, Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History and Project Director, Japan Disasters Digital Archive, Harvard University

[Learn More](#)

Ten Years Later: Disaster and Resilience

Thursday,
March 11, 2021
4:30 - 6:00 PM
EST

Experts gather a decade after Japan's earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown to reflect on what has changed and the lessons learned.



Daniel Aldrich is a professor of political science, public policy and urban affairs and director of the Security and Resilience Studies program at Northeastern University.

Miho Mazereeuw is associate professor of architecture and urbanism at MIT. She also is the director of MIT's Urban Risk Lab. Working on a large, territorial scale with an interest in public spaces and the urban experience, Mazereeuw is known for her expertise in disaster resilience.

Tatsujiro Suzuki, a nuclear engineer, is vice director of and professor at the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition at Nagasaki University (RECNA), Japan.

Moderator:
Richard Samuels is Ford International Professor of Political Science and director of the Center for International Studies at MIT.

[Learn More](#)



Kizuna 10: Inochi

Footprints and Footsteps 3.11 and the Future of Tohoku Online Tribute Event

This is an online event to look back at the events of March 11, 2011, and efforts to

Thursday, March 11, 2021
1 - 2 PM EST (12 - 1 PM CST)



[Learn More](#)

recover and rebuild in the 10 years since. Featuring a number of documentaries focusing on those affected by the disasters arising out of the events of that day, both Japanese and non-Japanese, especially JET Program participants and alumni, we will look back from this ten-year mark to remember what happened, and look at today and tomorrow to get a sense of what has been accomplished and what the future holds.

We are also collecting messages and memories on our [Facebook page](#). We will keep you updated with the latest information about the film screening event.

Hosted by the Japan Local Government Center, NY

[Learn More](#)

Non-JSB Online Activities



Associates' Panel: "Liberalization and Regulation in the Global Political Economy"

Monday, March 1, 2021
12:00 - 1:00 PM EST

"Restructuring Japan: Administrative Reform and the Quest for Free Trade"

Diana Stanesco, Postdoctoral Fellow, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations, Harvard University. Ph.D., Political Science, Princeton University.

"Duties and Taxes for Cross-Border E-commerce: A Comparative Analysis of the *de minimis* Threshold"

Takashi Nakao, Associate, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations. Senior Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance, Japan.

"Competition Policy and Regulation of U.S. Tech Giants"

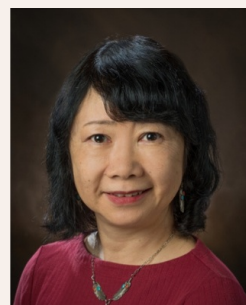
Ryoma Nikaido, Deputy Editor, Weekly Toyo Keizai Magazine.



Yamauba, A Benevolent and Malevolent Mountain Witch

Tuesday, March 2, 2021
4:30 - 5:45 PM EST (3:30 - 4:45 PM CST)

A yamauba is an enigmatic woman living in the mountains, and one of the most popular yōkai (weird or mysterious creatures). The presentation considers some major characteristics of yamauba, her image, and what a yamauba is.



Bio: Noriko T. Reider is a Professor of Japanese at Miami University of Ohio. Her Ph.D. is in Japanese literature from The Ohio State University. Her research and

publications are primarily in Japanese literature and folklore.

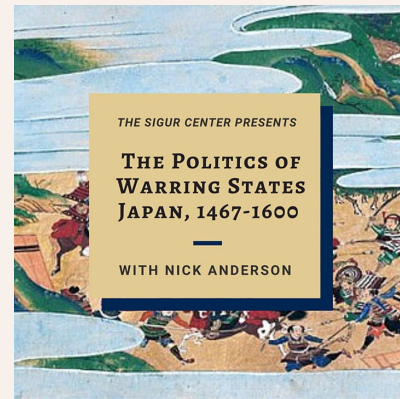
[Learn More](#)[Learn More](#)

[Japanese Americans & Japan: Legacies – Double Feature: Interviews with Daniel Okimoto, Ph.D., and James Higa](#)

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021
6:00 - 8:00 PM EST**

Featuring Daniel Okimoto, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at Stanford University, Co-Chairman of the Silicon Valley Japan Platform, and member of the USJC Board of Councilors; and James Higa, Managing Partner at Offline Ventures, Executive Director of Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, and USJC Board Member.

In these back-to-back interviews, we will hear their unique family stories and perspectives on the evolution of the enduring U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship in business and technology through their unique experiences in Japan and Silicon Valley.

[Learn More](#)

[The Politics of Warring-States Japan \(1467-1600\) with Nick Anderson](#)

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021
10:00 - 11:15 AM EST**

This presentation introduces 'The Politics of Warring-States Japan, 1467-1600,' a new collection of data covering political and military relations between warlords in Japan during its warring-states period, from 1467-1600.

Nicholas Anderson is a Visiting Scholar with the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, and a Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science at Yale University. Mike Mochizuki, Japan-US Relations Chair in Memory of Gaston Sigur at the George Washington University, will serve as moderator for the audience Q&A.

[Learn More](#)

Additional Resources

[Japanese study resources](#)

[Tofugu: Learn Hiragana](#)

[Tofugu: Learn Katakana](#)

[WaniKani](#)

[Tae Kim's Guide to Learning Japanese](#)

[Google Arts & Culture Virtual Museum Collections](#)

[Tokyo National Museum](#)

[The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo](#)

[Kyoto National Museum](#)

[Learn Japanese with Erin](#)

[Fukuoka Asian Art Museum](#)

[NHK-World Japan: Easy Japanese Grammer](#)

[Yamatane Museum of Art](#)

[How to Read and Write Hiragana](#)

[Adachi Museum of Art](#)



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