



THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON  
A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

# Monthly Newsletter



## Boston: The U.S.-Japan Intersection

This month we are featuring a notable academic connection between Massachusetts and Japan.

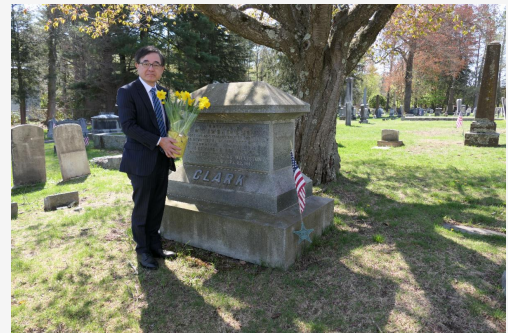
### **Kiyohiro Houkin**

President of Hokkaido University

#### 1. How did the relationship between Hokkaido University and Massachusetts start?

Hokkaido University was founded as Sapporo Agricultural College in 1876, on the northern island of Japan. Dr.

William S. Clark, then President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College (now the University of Massachusetts Amherst), was invited to Sapporo Agricultural College by the Government of Japan to serve as its first Vice President. Due to this long-standing connection since its foundation, Hokkaido University and the University of Massachusetts Amherst still share some characteristics, such as both excelling in the field of agriculture. In April 2023, President Houkin and a delegation from Hokkaido University visited the University of Massachusetts Amherst and also paid a visit to the grave of Dr. Clark in honor of his legacy.



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

## Announcements from JSB

We encourage readers who are not in the Boston area to check out our new discounted membership level, [Online-Only Membership](#).

JSB members, please visit the [Member Portal](#) and log in, to explore exclusive discounts and other perks!

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[Long Hill](#) estate in Beverly, MA is offering free general admission to JSB members with their membership card. This limited time opportunity runs from **Saturday, May 20th until the end of their visitor season on October 29th**. Please note that special programs and events would require additional tickets.

Visit Long Hill to see their vast collection of Japanese native plants and enjoy the beauty of their private gardens surrounded by woodland trails!

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## JOHN E. THAYER III AWARD

The John E. Thayer, III Award was established in 1991 to commemorate the work and commitment of John E. “Jack” Thayer, III, a longtime member of the Japan Society’s board of directors who was dedicated to furthering relations between Japan and the U.S. This award was established to recognize the achievements of individuals, groups of individuals, or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the progress of the understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

[Apply for the Thayer Award](#)

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**JSB Programming**

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Let's cook!

# SHOJIN RYORI

Buddhist Temple Cuisine

Sunday, May 21st  
6:00 – 7:30 PM EST

## Oûchigohan!

TABLE FOR TWO



Online cooking class  
\$10 Members w/ code  
\$15 Non-members

Featuring special guest  
Reverend  
Daiko Matsuyama



Sunday, May 21st, 2023 — 6:00 PM ET  
Online

This month's unique Ouchigohan event features a special guest, **Reverend Daiko Matsuyama**, Buddhist monk from [Taizo-in Buddhist Temple](#) in Kyoto, who will teach us about Shōjin Ryōri (traditional Buddhist cooking eaten by monks). Attendees can choose to cook along with Debra Samuels from Table for Two. On the menu is a vegetarian soup accompanied by rice mixed with greens, and *kinpira*, a side dish of simmered vegetables in Japanese seasonings.

Register

# Join the JSB Language Room

A Japanese and English Virtual Language Exchange

JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

Sponsored by:

Temple University Japan Campus

Friday, May 19th, 2023 6:00 to 8:00 PM ET

□□□□□□□5□20□□□□□□□7□□9□□

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.

Register

# Discover Saori Weaving

Thursday June 22, 2023

Online at 6PM ET

Presented by Mihoko Wakabayashi



## Discover Saori Weaving Thursday, June 22nd, 2023 6:00 PM ET Online

Join us to discover the beauty and simplicity of Saori weaving, a Japanese style of weaving that emphasizes creativity, self-expression, and mindfulness.

Led by expert artist Mihoko Wakabayashi, the presentation will cover the history, method, and philosophy of Saori weaving, followed by a Q&A session.

[Register](#)

## Programs for JSB Members



### MFA Hokusai Private Tour for JSB Members Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 - 3:30 PM ET Museum of Fine Arts Boston

In collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, we are excited to announce a private tour of the "Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence" exhibit for JSB members. Members will enjoy exclusive access of the museum during this special tour, led by [Dr. Sarah Thompson](#), curator of the exhibit. We will be joined by one of our Board

Members, [Dr. Susan Napier](#), Tufts professor and specialist in Japanese media and pop culture.

Register



**Wednesday, May 24th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET**  
**Online**

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Confessions of a Yakuza: A Life in Japan's Underworld* by Jun'ichi Saga. The purpose of the JSB Book Club is to strengthen the Boston community of Japan enthusiasts by coming together to discuss Japanese literature.

Find a copy of *Confessions of a Yakuza* [here](#).

Register



**Friday, May 26th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET**  
**Online**

Join us to discuss some of the greatest classics of medieval Japanese literature, written by women authors! In this session, we will finish the *Kagerō Nikki*, or *The Gossamer Years : Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan*, by the Mother of Michitsuna.

Register

## More Content from JSB

# 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 [Mark Flanigan](#) - Nagasaki (2000-2004)

Read the Blog

# FAMOUS IN JAPAN

*Celebrities from Around the World*



### Famous in Japan: Celebrities from Around the World

This month we featured [Hiromi](#), virtuoso pianist and composer. Read more about why she is famous in Japan on our blog!

Full Article

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## Other Japan-Related Events

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# OPERA NIGHT

at the **Boston Public Library**

**Thursday, May 25th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET**  
**Boston Public Library, Central Library Copley Square**  
**Rabb Lecture Hall**  
700 Boylston St, Boston MA 02116

In partnership with the Boston Public Library, Boston Lyric Opera presents an evening of opera performance and conversation exploring what it means to have Asian representation in the opera industry for AAPI Month. BLO Artistic Advisor, founder of Asian Opera Alliance, and mezzo-soprano Nina Yoshida Nelsen will lead a dialogue with fellow artists about the historical, dramaturgical, and personal relevance of contemporary and classic repertoire.

The event is free, register at the link below:

[Register](#)

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**Boston Festival of Films from Japan**  
**May 11th - 20th**  
**Museum of Fine Arts Boston**

The Museum of Fine Arts Boston's [Harry and Mildred Remis Auditorium](#) will be the host for this year's Boston Festival of Films from Japan! Running from May 11th through May 20th, this year's festival is a showcase of bold new titles and animated classics.

[Tickets](#)

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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.



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THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON, INC. | 50 Milk Street, 16F, Boston, MA 02109

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