



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

New England's Gateway To Japan Since 1904

Monthly Newsletter



[Become a Member](#)

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

Announcements from JSB

**JSB
JAPANESE
LANGUAGE
PROGRAM**

こんにちは

Learn Japanese for travel
or to engage with your
favorite types of media!

Classes begin
September 2026

 **JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON**

Japanese language classes begin September 2026!

The JSB Japanese Language Program kicks off this fall with 10-week online courses for beginner and intermediate learners! The program features:

- Two Focused Tracks: *Travel* and *Media & Pop Culture*
- Expert Guidance: Led by instructors with years of teaching experience at local universities
- Community Connection: An optional in-person meetup in the Boston area

Registration opens Monday, July 20th, and JSB Members receive a 15% discount on tuition!

[More Info](#)



Submit your best shots to our 2026 photo contest! 12 winning photos will be featured in a fundraising calendar (on sale later this year) and on our social media.

The theme is **Shiki (Four Seasons)** – including seasonal scenery and festivities from Japan and New England.

Submitted photos must be:

1. Your original work
2. Landscape orientation (4:3 aspect ratio recommended; may be cropped slightly for calendar)
3. High-resolution .jpg/.jpeg files

To enter, email your photo(s) to info@japansocietyboston.org with the subject line "2026 Photo Contest" by **August 31st**. We can accept up to 3 submissions per person.



JOHN E. THAYER III & KEIKO THAYER AWARD

Nominations for the 2026 Thayer Award are open!

The John E. Thayer III and Keiko Thayer Award recognizes the achievements of individuals, groups, or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to promote understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan in such areas as business, cultural exchange, education, public affairs, and visual and performing arts. It was established in 1991 to commemorate the work and commitment of John E. “Jack” Thayer III and Keiko Thayer, long-time members of the Japan Society of Boston’s board of directors dedicated to furthering relations between Japan and the U.S.

Submissions are due Sunday, September 13th. Please see our website for details.

[More Info](#)

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!

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!

Registration closes Friday, July 17th.

[Register](#)



Fashioning the Future of Japan's Textile Traditions

*A discussion with designers Hiroyuki Murase of
suzusan and Sara Sakanaka of Considered Objects*

August, 19, 2026 | 7:00-8:00pm EDT
Online on Zoom

Fashioning the Future of Japan's Textile Traditions

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 - 7:00PM EDT
Online

As Japan's kimono and textile industry experiences major transformation in the 21st century, designers and craftspeople around the world seek to carry traditional textiles and techniques into the future with fresh relevance.

In this virtual discussion with designers **Hiroyuki Murase** of [suzusan](#) and **Sara Sakanaka** of [Considered Objects](#), moderated by Boston-based kimono stylist **Ara Mahar**, we will hear the stories behind two up-and-coming fashion labels and explore how the designers thoughtfully honor generations of tradition through contemporary practices that span Japan, the U.S., and Europe.

[Register](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

Connect with JSB! - Summer Bash

Friday, August 21, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Venture Café Cambridge

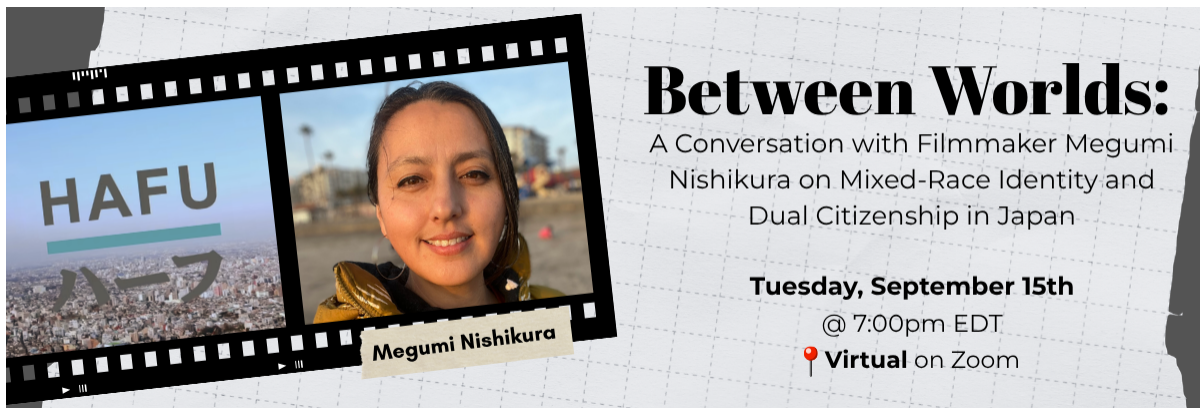
1 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02142

Japan Society of Boston and [CIC Japan Desk](#) invite you to an evening of fun, food, and networking with local Japan-connected professionals. Join us to make new connections and celebrate the end of summer over drinks and refreshments!

This event is open to JSB Members and the CIC Japan Desk community.

Presented with airline sponsor [Japan Airlines](#).

Register



Between Worlds: A Conversation with Filmmaker Megumi Nishikura on Mixed-Race Identity and Dual Citizenship in Japan

**Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 - 7:00PM EDT
Online**

Join us for a conversation on mixed-race identity and belonging featuring acclaimed filmmaker Megumi Nishikura and moderated by Yuga Cohler.

Megumi Nishikura will share her personal experience as a mixed-race individual and her commitment to the power of storytelling, including with her celebrated documentary *HAFU: The Mixed Race Experience in Japan*. The film highlighted the stories of mixed-race people navigating life in Japan. Megumi will also discuss her current film project, which focuses on the impacts caused by Japan's nationality law, which does not recognize dual citizenship. Whether you are mixed, multilingual, multicultural, or just curious about mixed race identity, we hope you will join us for this conversation with Megumi Nishikura!

[Register](#)



JAPANESE CELEBRATION
RED SOX
VS **GUARDIANS**

FENWAY PARK

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 | GAME @ 6:45PM



Save the Date!

Red Sox Japanese Celebration

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 - 6:45PM EDT

Fenway Park

4 Jersey St, Boston, MA 02215

Join the Boston Red Sox and the Japan Society of Boston in celebrating Japanese heritage and culture at Fenway Park! Show your support as we honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Japanese American community of New England.

The game against the Cleveland Guardians starts at 6:45pm, but arrive early to catch pre-game festivities celebrating the spirit of Japan on Jersey Street!

Buy a ticket in JSB's designated seating section (Infield Grandstand 26) to enjoy the game alongside other members of Boston's Japan-connected community!

These special tickets come with a **Red Sox Japanese Celebration soccer jersey**, and a portion of the proceeds benefit JSB's cultural and educational programming.

Tickets on sale soon!

[More Info](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Film Club

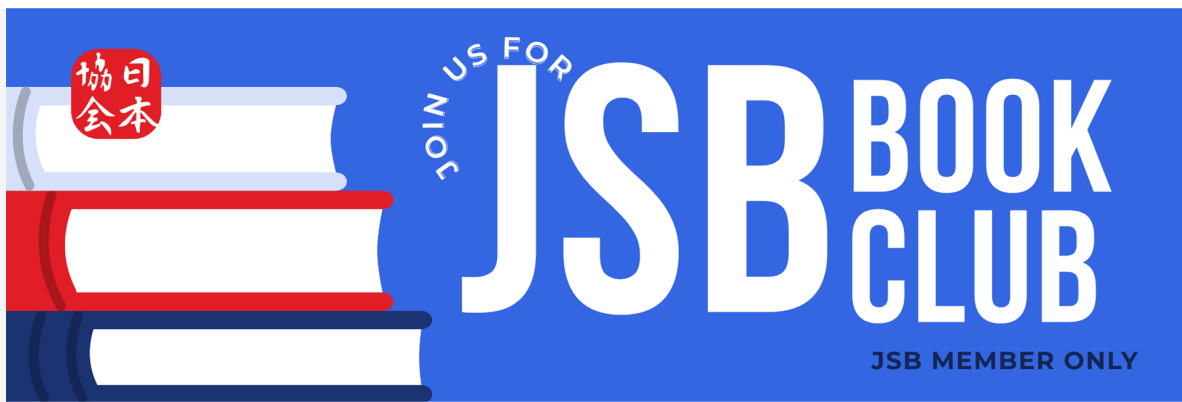
Wednesday, July 29, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

In July, the JSB Film Club will discuss Isao Takahata's *Pom Poko* (1994).

In this brilliant and often overlooked Studio Ghibli masterpiece, the forests are filled with groups of magical tanuki, mischievous raccoon-like animals from Japanese folklore that are capable of shape-shifting from their standard raccoon form to practically any object. The tanuki spend their days playing idly in the hillsides and squabbling over food – until the construction of a huge new Tokyo suburb clears the nearby forest and threatens their way of life. In an effort to defend their home, the tanuki learn to transform into humans and start playing tricks to make the workers think the construction site is haunted, ending in a spectacular night-time spirit parade, with thousands of ghosts, dragons and other magical creatures descending on the city. (Synopsis from GKIDS)

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



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

The JSB Book Club will meet in April to discuss ***The Temple of Dawn*** by **Yukio Mishima**, the third novel in *The Sea of Fertility* tetralogy.

Shigekuni Honda continues his pursuit of the successive reincarnations of Kiyoaki Matsugae, his childhood friend. Traveling in Thailand in the early 1940s, Shigekuni Honda, now a brilliant lawyer, is granted an audience with a young Thai princess—an encounter that radically alters the course of his life. In spite of all reason, he is convinced she is the reincarnated spirit of his friend Kiyoaki. As Honda goes to great lengths to discover for certain if his theory is correct, *The Temple of Dawn* becomes the story of one man's obsessive pursuit of a beautiful woman and his equally passionate search for enlightenment. (From the publisher's description)

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

Register



Oûchigohan!
 おうちごはん！

Online Cooking Class via ZOOM

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

Yakitori
Hiyajiru & Ice Brewed Green Tea

SAT
JULY 25
4 PM ET



TABLE FOR TWO



おうちごはん！ (Ouchigohan) Yakitori, Hiyajiru, & Ice Brewed Green Tea

Saturday, July 25, 2026 - 4:00PM EDT
 Online

Join the Japan-America Society of Georgia and Table for Two for this family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series おうちごはん (OUCHIGOHAN) and cook along or just watch from your own kitchen!

Join us and experience the flavors of a Japanese summer with a menu featuring **Yakitori** (grilled chicken skewers), savory **Hiyajiru** (chilled miso soup), and refreshing **Ice-Brewed Green Tea**. This delicious combination offers a wonderful balance that is sure to beat the heat!

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

Register

Signature Content from JSB

FAMOUS IN JAPAN

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



Shuetsu Sato

In this month's edition of Famous in Japan, learn about Shuetsu Sato, the Shinjuku Station security guard turned pop culture and typographical icon!

Posted at Shinjuku Station in 2003 during a time of massive renovations, Sato began creating wayfinding signage out of readily available gaffer tape to help confused commuters. His self-designed and self-made font, dubbed “Shuetsu-tai” or “Shuetsu font,” soon became an internet sensation. This led to major opportunities, including designing the signs for Nike's new Shinjuku store which opened in April.

[Full Article](#)

From Our Friends

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

Giveaway!

YOASOBI: Never Ending Stories Tour

August 4, 2026 - 8:00PM

TD Garden

100 Legends Way, Boston, MA 02114

YOASOBI is bringing their Never Ending Stories Tour to Boston!

YOASOBI is a Japanese pop duo formed in 2019, consisting of producer Ayase and vocalist Ikura. Known for transforming short stories into songs, the pair broke out with their 2019 debut single Yoru ni Kakeru, which became a viral hit and topped multiple Japanese charts. Their 2023 single Idol, featured as the opening theme for the anime Oshi no Ko, became an international success and marked their first entry on the Billboard Global charts. Blending J-pop, electronic, and rock influences, YOASOBI are recognized for their cinematic storytelling and emotionally driven sound. They have quickly become one of Japan's most prominent contemporary acts, earning widespread acclaim both domestically and abroad.

We are giving away pairs of tickets! To enter the drawing, please respond with your full name and email address. Winners will be notified by email on July 22nd.

[More Info](#)

Shape of Time - Vestiges of Shadow and Light: Visiting Photographer, David Clough

July 15 - August 8, 2026
The Gallery at Somes Sound
1112 Main St, Mount Desert, ME 04660

In *Shape of Time: Vestiges of Shadow and Light*, artist and JSB member Dave Clough presents a series of black-and-white photographs exploring Japanese architecture as a record of duration, labor, and restraint. Rather than documenting place, the work attends to structure — beams, roofs, corridors, and walls — where light and shadow reveal how buildings are made, repaired, and sustained over time.

[More Info](#)

Isamu Noguchi: "I am not a designer"

September 19, 2026 - January 3, 2027
Peabody Essex Museum
161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970

As one of the 20th century's most critically acclaimed and genre-blurring artists, Noguchi created a remarkable design legacy encompassing sculpture, lighting, furniture, ceramics and designs for public spaces such as gardens, playgrounds and plazas. *Isamu Noguchi: "I am not a designer"* shines a light on the artist's limitless creativity and social consciousness.

[More Info](#)

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