



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!

Announcements from JSB

Formally Introducing...



Hayley Valk
Managing Director,
Programs and Operations

Hayley Valk is originally from Massachusetts and spent over 8 years living in Japan. She has worked to connect Japanese innovation to the rest of the world through program management, operations, communications, and translation roles at Tokyo- and Boston-based companies. She has a BA in East Asian Languages & Cultures from Barnard

Jessy LeClair
Executive Director

Jessy LeClair is originally from the Boston area and has spent time in Kyoto, Yokohama, and California. She has a BA in Japanese and Biology from Williams College and received her PhD in Social Psychology from UC Santa Barbara with a focus on how culture shapes the mind. Following her passion to build community, Jessy has worked in various organizations to facilitate relationships and build bridges across cultures.

College/Columbia University and is an alum of the JET Program (Shiso City, Hyogo).



Learn more about Jessy and Hayley in the interview below!



Jessy LeClair & Hayley Valk

Executive Director & Managing Director, Programs and Operations Japan Society of Boston

What are you each most excited to be involved with at JSB moving forward?

JL: I am looking forward to building programs and activities to serve our community. I am excited to find ways to use the experience from my previous job, which introduced me to many Japanese startups working on cutting edge technologies. In addition, personally, I love Japanese food. I am a licensed Japanese vegetable sommelier, and in my own kitchen, I enjoy cooking with many Japanese fruits and vegetables. I am looking forward to connecting with other people and learning about their expertise related to Japan.

HV: I've spent the past several years working in innovation between Japan and Boston, so I'm interested to continue bridging that space. I'm also very excited for cultural programming. In college I studied Japanese arts and had a formative experience interning for the Performing Arts program at Japan Society in New York, so I'm thrilled for my career to take me back to related programming work at JSB.

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



Do you love JSB? Think there are ways we could improve?

Our team wants to hear from you! Fill out this survey to help shape the future of JSB.

[Survey](#)

Announcing a
new discount provider for JSB
members! Thank you to **Nagomi
Bento** for their support.

“A Little Box of Happiness” – Nagomi
Bento offers authentic Japanese bento
boxes at their shop inside Bow Market.
Their menu features Japanese
ingredients, a variety of protein options,



JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

Membership

**NEW DISCOUNT
PROVIDER!**



[Nagomi Bento](#)
10% off in store

and local vegetables.

See the JSB website for
all discount providers and membership
information.

[Website](#)

THE **ASIAN COMMUNITY** FUND
AT THE BOSTON FOUNDATION

**WE ARE A 2025
ACF GRANTEE!**

We are honored to announce that the Japan Society of Boston has been selected as a 2025 grantee partner of the Asian Community Fund!

Thank you to the ACF at the Boston Foundation for supporting our organization's work. We're deeply grateful for this opportunity and excited to continue our mission in serving the community.

[Info](#)

JSB Programming



SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

FESTIVITIES AT 5:40 • GAME AT 7:10

Boston Red Sox Japanese Celebration
Friday, September 26th, 2025 - 7:10PM 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 on **Friday, September 26!** Show your support as we honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Japanese American community of New England.

The game starts at **7:10pm**, but the pre-game festivities begin at **5:40pm** with a unique opportunity to experience lively performances, classic Japanese ballpark food and drink, and cultural activities. Traditional taiko drumming and other festivities will showcase the spirit of Japan!

Additional tickets have been added to JSB's designated seating section in Grandstand 27! [Click here](#) to purchase seats near other Japan Society of Boston community members.

Tickets purchased through [this special offer](#) will receive the same Japan-inspired Red Sox hat, but you can choose seats anywhere in the stadium.

Info

Oyako Don
WITH PICKLED DAIKON AND BUBBLY MATCHA LASSI!

Oûchigohan!
おうちはん!
Online Cooking Class via ZOOM
With Recipes from our NEW Cookbook!

SAT
SEP 13
4pm MDT/
6pm EDT

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



□ □ □ □ □ □ □ Ouchigohan

Oyako Donburi!

Saturday, September 13th, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT

Online

Join the Japan-America Society of Colorado (JASC) for the September edition of the family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series ! OUCHIGOHAN and cook along from your own kitchen!

This special session will focus on one of Japan's most comforting one-bowl meals, oyako donburi! You'll learn to create this dish of tender chicken and sweet onions, simmered in a savory dashi-based sauce, all held together by a gently cooked egg and served over a warm bed of rice.

To complement this satisfying meal, we'll be creating a side of tangy daikon pickle. We'll also be making a refreshing bubbly matcha lassi, a drink that perfectly balances the earthy notes of matcha with the creamy tang of yogurt.

JSB members can visit the [member portal](#) for a discount code.

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, September 19th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

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.

Theme: Learning Lately
Something new you learned recently or something you want to learn

Register



TRAILBLAZERS: Celebrating Contemporary Japanese Prints

On now through October 26, 2025

Highfield Hall & Gardens

56 Highfield Dr, Falmouth, MA 02540

The Japan Society of Boston is proud to be a co-sponsor of *TRAILBLAZERS: Celebrating Contemporary Japanese Prints*, hosted by Highfield Hall & Gardens.

Summer 2025 is the return of Japanese Prints at Highfield Hall & Gardens on Cape Cod. The College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ)'s prestigious juried exhibit of contemporary printmaking will be on view from June 21, 2025 through October 26, 2025.

TRAILBLAZERS will feature 137 acclaimed Japanese printmakers, showcasing a range of printmaking techniques from traditional woodblock and intaglio to lithography, etching, aquatint, silkscreen, and contemporary digital innovations. The exhibition highlights five groundbreaking women artists whose contributions have shaped the evolution of contemporary Japanese printmaking: **Toko Shinoda (1913-2021)**, **Chizuko Yoshida (1924-2017)**, **Reika Iwami (1927-2020)**, **Noriko Yanagisawa (1940-)**, and **Toeko Tatsuno (1950-2014)**.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Highfield Hall & Gardens will offer a variety of Japanese cultural programs for children and adults, including gardening, printmaking, origami, cooking classes, lectures, and musical performances. These immersive experiences will provide visitors with deeper insight into Japanese traditions and culture. To learn more, visit highfieldhallandgardens.org

Image: Reika Iwami, *Water Goes Well with Fuji*, AP (Artist's Proof), woodcut, 1995.

More Info

Programs for JSB Members

The following events and clubs 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!

**Please note that online-only members are not eligible to attend in-person member events.*

Join our community of hundreds of Japan enthusiasts from Boston and beyond and support the Japan Society of Boston's mission to inspire curiosity, connection, and community. We are sustained by your donations.



The banner features a dark blue background on the left with a white silhouette of a movie camera. To its right is a red square with white Japanese characters '協日本' (Kwaichu Nihon). Further right is a circular portrait of Professor Susan Napier. Text to the right of the portrait reads 'LIMITED TO MEMBERS Japan Society of Boston Film Club The Wind Rises'. On the far right is a poster for the film 'THE WIND RISES' showing two characters under an umbrella in a field.

JSB Film Club

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT

Online

Our next film, Hayao Miyazaki's *The Wind Rises* (2013), is a Japanese animated historical drama film written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki based on his 2009 manga of the same name. The original "Miyazaki's last film," *The Wind Rises* is Miyazaki's love letter to flying and the technology that enables it, while recognizing the terrible destructive purposes for which it can be used. Through the eyes of the main character Jiro Horikoshi, who was inspired by a [real Japanese aeronautical engineer](#) of the same name, the film is also a love story between the characters Jiro and Nahoko. See the [trailer](#) here.

September's film club features a special guest speaker! **Susan Napier**, Goldthwaite Professor of Rhetoric and Japanese at Tufts University and scholar of animation, and Studio Ghibli in particular, will be joining us. She will give a short introductory talk and then will join us for the main discussion.

Films should be viewed in advance of our meetings. This film can be watched on

HBO MAX with a subscription and is also available to rent on a [variety of platforms](#).

Register

CONNECT WITH JSB!



member event

Tuesday, October 14 | 6PM
Nagomi Bento @ Bow Market



Connect with JSB!

Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT

Nagomi Bento

Bow Market, [1 Bow Market Way, Somerville, MA 02143](#)

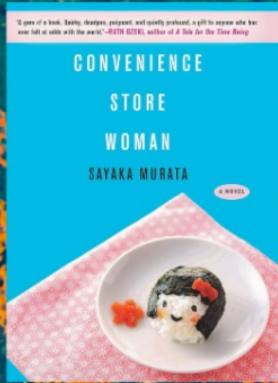
Connect with JSB! is back! Join Japan Society of Boston staff and members for dinner at JSB's newest [discount provider](#), Nagomi Bento. Connect with JSB! is a great way to meet other members, get to know JSB better, and enjoy great food at Japanese restaurants in Boston.

Founded in 2022 by Japanese immigrants, Nagomi Bento offers delicious, balanced bento boxes, onigiri rice balls, and a variety of tasty Japanese snacks and beverages, perfect for your busy day. The friendly Nagomi Bento team prepares every meal with love, using simple, high-quality ingredients and sustainable methods. See their [website](#) for the full menu.

This Connect with JSB! will be held at Bow Market, where Nagomi Bento and a variety of other local businesses are located. It is an outdoor venue, so the event may be canceled in the case of rain. Learn more about Bow Market at their [website](#).

This event is open to JSB members only. Registrants are welcome to bring a plus one, but their guest must be included in the registration. All attendees should be prepared to pay for their own meal/drinks. JSB members receive a 10% discount on in-person orders at Nagomi Bento.

Register



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

BOOK CLUB

CONVENIENCE STORE WOMAN
BY SAYAKA MURATA

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, October 29th, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT

Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata.

Convenience Store Woman tells the story of Tokyo sales clerk Keiko Furukura. Keiko is someone who has never fit in, but when she takes a job at a Smile Mart convenience store, she finally finds peace and purpose in her daily tasks. But there is also huge pressure on Keiko – to pursue a "real" career, to find a husband – and she feels forced to take desperate action in order to please the people around her. Is there room in this "normal" world for someone as strange as Keiko? (From the publisher's description.)

Find a copy [here](#).

Register

Signature Content from JSB



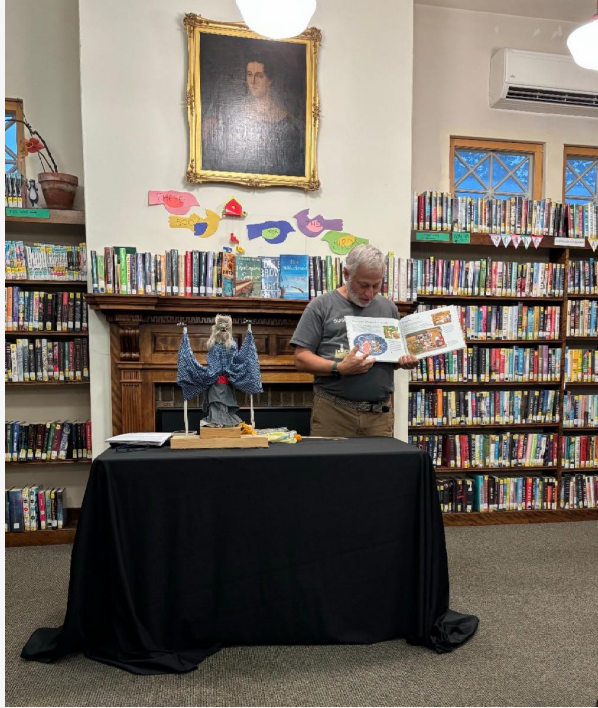
#MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

japansocietyboston.org/

Member Highlight

The Japan Society of Boston is pleased to introduce you to the wonderful



Jack putting on a Tanabata (Star Festival) puppet show at the Lanpher Memorial Library in Hyde Park, Vermont

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: **Jack Wool**

"The root of my passion is a lifelong interest in the works of Miyazawa Kenji and that extended my interest into Japanese culture, history, arts and literature."

[Article](#)

JSB MEETS JET ALUMNI

An interview series on alumni experiences in Japan





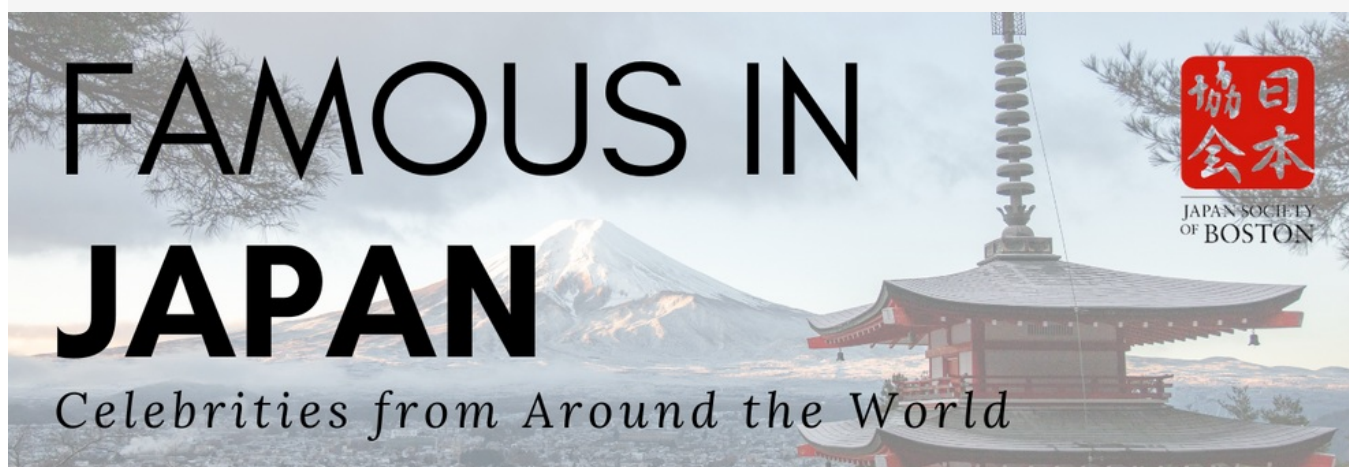
JSB Meets JET Alumni

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 **Steven Horowitz - Aichi (1992-1994)**

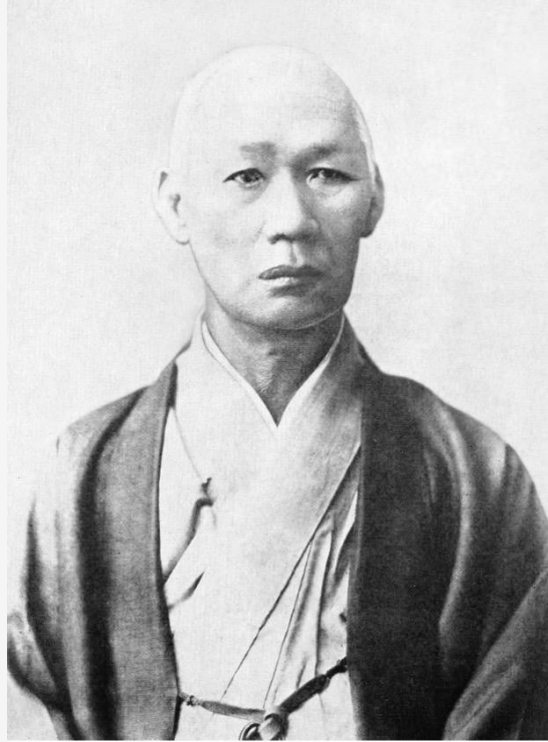
"It's funny because so many of my friends and relatives called me a Japanophile after I got back to the US, but that never felt accurate.... But I finally realized that I had spent several very formative years in Japan, and Japan would always be part of me and my identity. And Kariya would always be my *furusato*."

Article



Famous in Japan

Studying individuals from around the world



who are famous in Japan, both past and present.

This month we are featuring Manjiro Nakahama, one of the first Japanese people to go to the United States after he was shipwrecked during a fishing trip at the age of 14 and rescued by Captain William H. Whitfield.

After staying with the Whitfield family in Fairhaven, Massachusetts and learning English, Nakahama went on to have a pivotal role in the opening of Japan to the rest of the world as an interpreter, translator, and cultural liaison.

Article

Manjiro Nakahama, image from "The Presentation of a Samurai Sword" at Millicent Library (1918)

Other Japan-Related Events



Sake Day East 2025

Saturday, October 4th, 2025 - 5:00-8:00PM EDT

100 High Street, 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02110

World Sake Day, October 1st, traditionally marks the beginning of the Sake brewing season in Japan. It is celebrated at tasting events all over the world. Join us at New England's largest Sake Day celebration, Sake Day East 2025!

Sake Day East 2025 is an opportunity to enjoy more than **70 sake** varieties, optional guided expert sessions, VIP perks, and even 10% off local food before the

event. A commemorative cup and light bites are included, and a portion of ticket proceeds benefits the Sake Brewers Association.

It's a toast to tradition, discovery, and community—don't miss it!

JSB members get a \$10 discount on tickets using the code on the [member portal!](#)

Tickets



JAPAN EXCHANGE AND TEACHING PROGRAM

JET Virtual Info Session

Tuesday, September 16th, 2025 - 8:00PM EDT

Online

Are you interested in teaching in Japan or curious about the JET Program? Whether you're actively preparing your application or just starting to explore the opportunity, this 90-minute virtual info session will give you the insights you need to take the next step.

What to Expect:

- Firsthand Experiences: Hear from a panel of JET alumni who will share their personal experiences living and working in Japan on JET
- Application Tips: Guidance from a JET Program Coordinator on the process and what makes a strong application
- Q&A Session: Ask your questions and get real-time answers

Register

**GrayMist September Kintsugi
Workshops**
Tuesday, September 23rd at

KINTSUGI WORKSHOP for Beginner

9/23 (Tue) 2pm - 5pm
9/25 (Thurs) 5pm - 8pm



\$125

/per person

All materials provided
including broken pottery

GRAYMIST

**2:00PM and Thursday,
September 25th at 5:00PM EDT
GrayMist Studio & Shop
364 Huron Ave, Cambridge, MA**

[GrayMist Studio & Shop](#) is offering
two kintsugi workshops this month!

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of repairing
broken pottery. GrayMist will teach you
how to take a broken plate (provided)
and bring it new life and beauty!

JSB members can get a 10% discount
on the workshops using the code
on the [member portal](#).

Register



20 Years of Weaving Love



Students' Exhibition and Party -show & tell-

364 Huron Ave, Cambridge, MA
cambridge@graymist.com

GrayMist's 20th Anniversary Celebration - 20 Years of Weaving Love

Nantucket Basket Exhibition: October 2nd - October 5, 2025
20th Anniversary Party: Friday, October 3rd, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT
GrayMist Studio & Shop
364 Huron Ave, Cambridge, MA

[GrayMist Studio & Shop](#), one of JSB's [membership discount providers](#), is
celebrating their 20th anniversary this October! To show their appreciation and to
celebrate this special milestone, they're planning two very special events—a
Nantucket Basket Student Exhibition and a 20th Anniversary Party—and everyone is
welcome.

The exhibition will be held in-store. The party will be a casual evening gathering with fun activities. Admission to both the exhibition and the party is free, but an RSVP is required for the party. Light snacks and drinks will be provided. Bring your friends and family!

In addition, during the event period, JSB members will receive a special gift with every \$100 purchase, so remember to bring your membership cards!

[More Info](#)



Yoko Miwa Trio
Friday, October 3rd, 2025 - 7:00PM EDT
Scullers Jazz Club
400 Soldiers Field Rd, Boston, MA

Award-winning, chart-topping, DownBeat Rising Star pianist Yoko Miwa and her trio return to Scullers Jazz Club presenting material from her new release as well as from her critically-acclaimed albums “Songs of Joy,” “Keep Talkin’,” & “Pathways.”

With Will Slater on acoustic bass and Scott Goulding on drums.

[Tickets](#)

Japanese Tea Ceremony

HOSTED BY THE ART COMPLEX MUSEUM

Japanese Tea Ceremony
September 28, 2025 at 2:00PM EDT
Art Complex Museum
189 Alden St, Duxbury, MA 02332

The Art Complex Museum invites you to their *Sho-fu-an* or “Wind in the Pines” tea house for a Japanese Tea Ceremony. The tea event is free and all are welcome.

Traditionally, tea ceremony is practiced in a specialized space called a tea house, designed specifically for tea ceremony gatherings. *Sho-fu-an* was designed by Japanese artist, Sano Gofu. It was built in Kyoto, Japan in 1969 and reassembled at the museum in 1975 under the direction of Yasahiro Iguchi of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. This year marks the 50th anniversary of *Sho-fu-an*.

[More Info](#)

FLOATING CLOUDS... THE CINEMA OF NARUSE MIKIO

The Harvard Film Archive
July 5th - November 3rd



Floating Clouds... The Cinema of Naruse Mikio

On now through November 3rd, 2025

Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138

Lesser known to US audiences than Japanese contemporaries Ozu and Mizoguchi, with whom he is often compared, Naruse Mikio (1905-1969) was an equally prolific, subtle and consummate, yet increasingly restrained stylist whose eighty-nine films—of which sixty-nine survive—spanned from the silent era

through the 1960s. Although Naruse worked skillfully across genres in the 1930s, during the post-WW2 period he began to almost exclusively direct work in the broad categories of the “women’s film” and “*shomin-geki*,” films focused on the daily dramas of contemporary lower-middle-class life, with a frequent emphasis upon directly challenging gender inequality.

Co-presented by The Japan Foundation, the Harvard Film Archive joins venues across the continent in paying tribute to one of Japan’s overlooked masters. The HFA’s series will be the most extensive of the North American retrospectives, featuring forty-five film prints (all but one on 35mm) from the Japan Foundation and National Film Archive of Japan.

JSB members can get a \$3 discount on tickets! Visit the [member portal](#) for the code.

Tickets

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)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!