



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



Presented by



In Partnership With



Announcing the Boston Stationery Festival

Presented by the Japan Society of
Boston, uni Brands Corporation, & MUJI

Get ready for the first annual **Boston
Stationery Festival**, coming **October
9-10, 2027!**

Explore unique products in the
marketplace and participate in hands-
on workshops that celebrate Japanese
stationery culture and its global
influence. Discover new and well-loved
stationery products, support
independent designers and retailers,
and connect with fellow stationery fans!

**JSB Members can access
discounted early-bird tickets now
through October 30.**

[More Info](#)



Support JSB by purchasing a 2027 Wall Calendar

Enjoy the seasonal sights of Japan and New England and support the Japan Society of Boston by purchasing a 2027 fundraising calendar. Perfect for holiday gifting or in your own home!

All featured images were taken by members of the Japan Society of Boston community and selected through a photo contest this summer.

These hanging wall calendars are 11 x 8.5 inches, full-color, saddle-stitched, and pre-filled with U.S. and Japanese national holidays.

All orders are due by November 16, 2026 and will be shipped in early December.

With support from:



[Get Yours Here!](#)



APPLY FOR THE

2026 CENET STUDENT MEMBERSHIP



APPLICATIONS DUE OCT. 31, 2026



[Cenet](#), a JSB Nonprofit Member, is gifting one local student a one-year JSB membership. Students – use the form below to apply by October 31st and tell us why you are excited to be considered for the 2026 Cenet Student Membership.

Cenet (Cultural Exchange Network) is a nonprofit cultural exchange organization that implements exchange programs for the U.S. Department of State. Cenet inspires future global leaders, fostering a more prosperous and compassionate world through international education and cultural exploration.

Apply

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!



Speak, Memory!

MONKEY: NEW WRITING FROM JAPAN, VOL. 7
ONLINE LAUNCH EVENT



MONKEY
NEW WRITING FROM JAPAN



JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

WED, OCTOBER 21 | 7-8PM (EDT)



HIROMI
ITŌ



YŪSHŌ
TAKIGUCHI



JEFFREY
ANGLES



KENDALL
HEITZMAN



ROLAND NOZOMU
KELTS



MOTOYUKI
SHIBATA

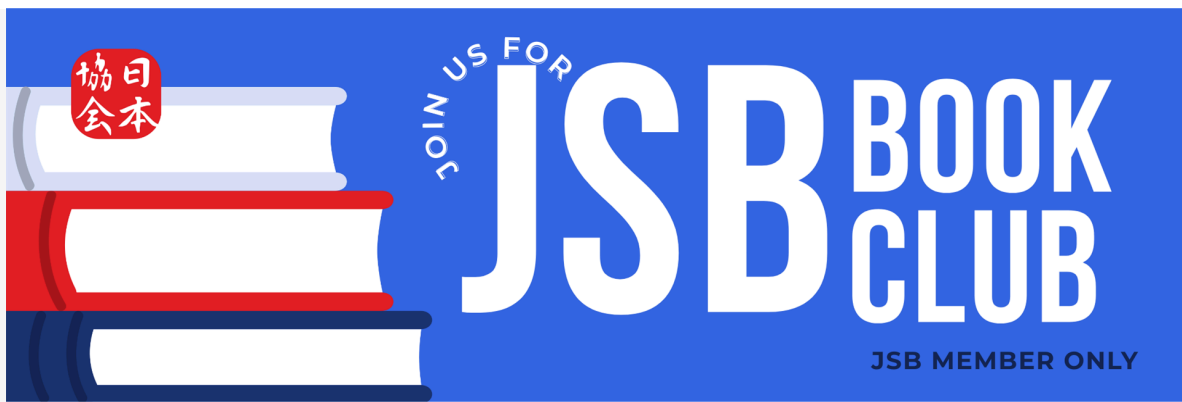
Speak, Memory! Online Launch for MONKEY New Writing from Japan, Vol. 7

Wednesday, October 21st, 2026 - 7:00PM EDT
Online

Memory is not History; it's Story—as much reflection as it is reinvention. Over the centuries, Japan's own story has been driven by relentless reinventions. Join us for an evening of transformative storytelling to celebrate the worldwide launch of **MONKEY: New Writing from Japan, Vol. 7 – Memory**, the annual anthology featuring the best of contemporary Japanese literature, with award-winning authors Hiromi Itō and Yūshō Takiguchi and their brilliant translators Jeffrey Angles and Kendall Heitzman, hosted by editors Roland Kelts and Motoyuki Shibata.

This free, hour-long session will include a presentation and opportunities for audience Q&A. Pre-registration is required.

[Register](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, October 28th, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

The JSB Book Club will meet in October to discuss ***Sisters in Yellow***, the latest translated work by Mieko Kawakami.

Hana has nothing – she’s fifteen years old and living in a tiny apartment in a suburb of Tokyo with her young mother, a hostess at a local dive bar. They have no money, no security. Then Kimiko appears, a bright light in Hana’s dark world.

Together they set up Lemon, a bar that, despite its shabby setting and seedy clientele, becomes a haven for Hana. Suddenly Hana has a job she loves, friends to share her days with, and the glittering promise of money. But soon all of Hana’s hope, her optimism, and her drive will be pushed to the limit... A story of enduring friendship and deep betrayal, *Sisters in Yellow* is a masterpiece of teenage dreams and adult cruelties that confirms Mieko Kawakami as one of the great writers of her generation. (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



[JSB Member Exclusive]

Connect with JSB!

Tuesday, November 3rd, 2026 - 6:00PM EST

Tori Jiro

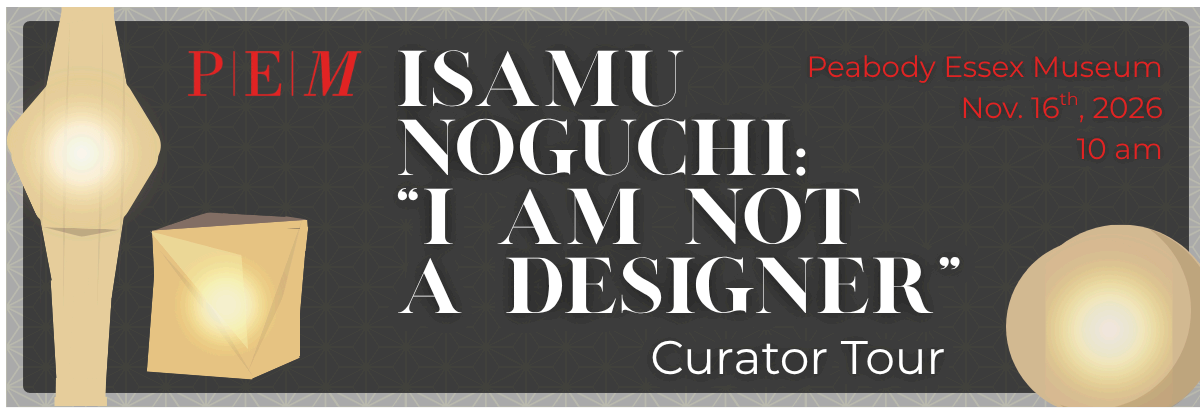
98 Arsenal Yards Blvd, Watertown, MA 02472

Join Japan Society of Boston members and staff for an izakaya dinner at Tori Jiro!

Whether you are a new or longtime member, this is a great opportunity to meet others in the community, connect over shared interests, and enjoy Japanese food together.

[Tori Jiro](#) in Watertown is the first U.S. location of the Japan-based yakitori speciality chain. Tickets include a family-style meal of yakitori and other izakaya specialities (including some vegetarian items).

[Register](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

PEM Curator Tour – Isamu Noguchi "I am not a designer"

Monday, November 16th, 2026 - 10:00AM EST

Peabody Essex Museum

161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970

Japan Society of Boston Members are invited to take a deeper look at the Peabody Essex Museum's exhibition, ***Isamu Noguchi: "I am not a designer"***, in a private tour led by curator Ruthie Dibble.

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.

Organized by the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, *Isamu Noguchi: "I am not a designer"* shines a light on the artist's limitless creativity and social consciousness. Discover the evolution of Noguchi's design work, particularly the way he created environments through theatrical set design, furniture and inclusive public spaces — all of which were intentionally designed to improve the way people lived.

Following the tour, enjoy connecting with other JSB Members and exchanging thoughts on the exhibition over coffee at PEM's Atrium Café.

Registration deadline: Monday, November 2nd, 1pm EST

[Register](#)

US-JAPAN RELATIONS

in the Wake of the US
Midterm Elections.....

121 BAY STATE RD.
NOVEMBER 18, 2026
5PM-6:30PM EDT

*Organized by The Japan
Society of Boston in
partnership with the Boston
University Center for the Study
of Asia at the Pardee School*



US-Japan Relations in the Wake of the US Midterm Elections

Wednesday, November 18th, 2026 - 5:00PM EST

BU Pardee School of Global Studies

121 Bay State Rd, Boston, MA 02215

Join us for a timely discussion about the state of the US-Japan relationship following the US midterm elections.

The relationship between the United States and Japan remains strong amid an unstable and unpredictable global environment. But the relationship faces many challenges, both foreign and domestic, including the US midterm elections of

November 3 and questions about the longevity of the current Japanese government. Join us for a discussion with **Glen S. Fukushima**, JSB Board member and Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, currently a Visiting Fellow at Stanford University. In conversation with Boston University's **Professor William Grimes**, Mr. Fukushima will assess the outlook for US-Japan relations following the US midterm elections.

Free for JSB Members and BU students / \$25 for general public (pre-registration required for all)

[Register](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

**Introduction to Contemporary
Japanese Printmakers
with Allison Tolman**

Sat, Oct 24, 2026 - 11:00AM EDT
Affordable Art Fair Boston
SoWa Power Station (Booth #C-2)
550 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02118

[More Info](#)

JSB Members are invited to gather at Allison Tolman's booth at the Affordable Art Fair Boston for a discussion about the established artists that the Tokyo-based gallery represents and for the opportunity to see the prints up close.

Allison Tolman is a second-generation art dealer with long-standing ties to Japan and personal relationships since childhood. She oversees the Tolman Collection of Tokyo, established by her parents in 1972, which has grown to be the world's largest publisher of contemporary Japanese graphic art. Allison Tolman will be offering prints from the Tolman Collection for sale at Boston's Affordable Art Fair, featuring thousands of contemporary artworks priced between \$100 and \$12,000 from local, national, and international galleries.

To access the event, please secure your complimentary All-Access Pass ticket (\$55 value) to the Affordable Art Fair by logging into the [JSB Member Portal](#) and following the special link provided.

Oûchigohan!

おうちはん！



Online Cooking Class via ZOOM

SAT

Oct. 24

5 PM ET

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

Onigirazu & Kabocha no Nimono

Rice Sandwiches & Seasoned Japanese Squash



おうちはん！ (Ouchigohan) Onigirazu & Kabocha no Nimono

Saturday, October 24th, 2026 - 5:00PM EST
Online

Join hosts Table for Two and the Japan-America Society of North Carolina for a delicious taste of autumn as we celebrate Onigiri Action with a fun and flavorful Japanese home-cooking menu. Cook along or just watch from your own kitchen!

This month we're putting a modern twist on the classic onigiri with two delicious **Onigirazu**—a sandwich-style version of onigiri that is easy to make, fun to customize, and perfect for lunch or a light meal. To round out our fall menu, we'll prepare **Kabocha no Nimono**, a comforting Japanese home-style dish featuring tender kabocha squash simmered in a savory-sweet soy-based broth.

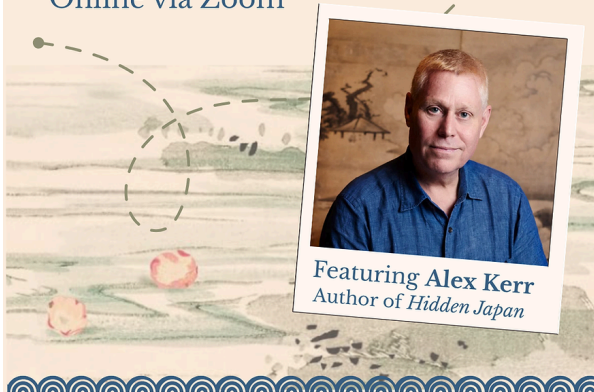
Advance ticket purchase required (only one registration per household needed). JSB members can visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for the discount code.

Register

Hidden Japan:

Sustainable Travel to Japan's Unexplored Treasures

December 15, 2026
7-8pm ET
Online via Zoom



Hidden Japan: Sustainable Travel to Japan's Unexplored Treasures

Featuring author Alex Kerr

Tuesday, Dec 15, 2026 - 7:00PM EST
Online

[Register](#)

Whether you have been reading *Hidden Japan* along with our community this year or are gathering insights for your next trip to Japan, we invite you to bring your curiosity and take advantage of this special opportunity to hear firsthand from Alex Kerr.

All JSB Members receive a copy of *Hidden Japan* upon sign-up or renewal in 2026. [Join JSB](#) today to get yours!

Discover Japan's hidden treasures with acclaimed author, environmentalist, and restorationist Alex Kerr. In this talk inspired by Kerr's book, *Hidden Japan*—the Japan Society of Boston's [2026 Book of the Year](#)—he will offer a deeper look at some of the remarkable regions featured in his writing and provide practical insights for travelers on how to thoughtfully explore Japan's less-visited locales.

Born in the U.S. and based near Kyoto since 1977, Kerr has devoted his career to restoring Japanese historic homes and advocating for responsible and sustainable tourism.

Drawing from his decades of experience, he will speak about how the preservation of historic and local communities intersects with Japan's rapidly growing inbound tourism. In conversation with moderator Jenn Haggerty, he will also highlight concealed pockets of traditional arts, cuisine, and architecture across the country, with honest advice for travelers who consider venturing to Japan's more remote corners.



JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON



Joint Meeting
BOOK CLUB + FILM CLUB



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Joint Book & Film Club

**Wednesday, December 9th, 2026 - 6:00PM EST
Online**

Join us for a special collaborative Book & Film Club meeting to celebrate the end of the year! We will be reading Akutagawa's short story "In a Grove" and watching the film adaptation, *Rashomon*.

Find a copy of the book [here](#) or at your local [library](#) and the film [available to stream online](#).

Register

Signature Content from JSB



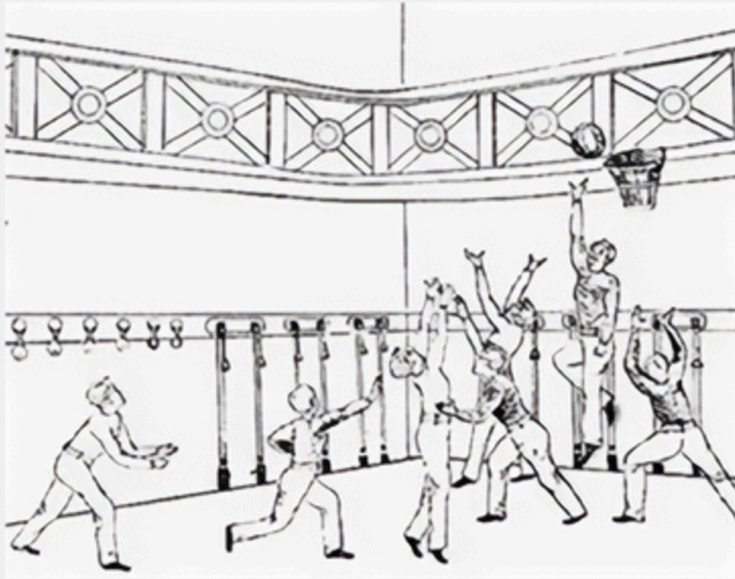
Boston Symposium 2026

On October 2, the 34th annual Boston Symposium was held at Harvard University. Organized by the Kansai Keizai Doyukai and supported by the Harvard Kennedy School and the Japan Society of Boston, the Symposium included two half-day panels entitled "Security and Stability in the Indo-Pacific: the Roles of Japan" and the United States, and "Trade Strategies in an Era of Growing Economic Security Risks". Led by co-chair persons Yuji Mikasa of Nippon Life Insurance Company and Kazuaki Hasegawa of West Japan Railway Company, the nineteen person delegation engaged in lively, detailed discussions on these important topics with Professors Roger Porter, Anthony Saitch and Robert Lawrence of the Kennedy School and Christopher Miller of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Japan Society of Boston participants included Board Members Kiyoko Morita Caine and Peter Kelley. Japan Society of Boston is pleased to partner with Kansai Keizai Doyukai and its Managing Director Koji Tomimori on the Boston Symposium.

FAMOUS IN JAPAN

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





A drawing by Genzaburo Ishikawa of the first game of a basketball.



Genzaburo Ishikawa

In this month's edition Famous in Japan, learn about Genzaburo Ishikawa, the Japanese student who participated in the world's first-ever basketball game!

In 1890, Ishikawa enrolled at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, now known as Springfield College. In December 1891, one of his instructors, James Naismith, was trying to create a new indoor game for his students, and Ishikawa got involved. Ishikawa also created a seminal illustration of the first basketball game.

[Full Article](#)

From Our Friends

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



[Sponsored Content]

Wegmans Sushi Fest

October 23-24, 2026 - 10:00AM -
7:00 PM EDT

Wegmans Burlington

53 3rd Ave, Burlington, MA 01803

Wegmans Burlington is bringing the Flavors of Japan to our region. Join in celebrating all that Japan has to offer!

Enjoy made-to-order sushi, fresh Bluefin Tuna cuttings daily at 11am and 3pm, and King Salmon cuttings throughout the day. Discover unique sushi and other Japanese products throughout the store.

[More Info](#)

Buying a Second Home in Japan

Friday, October 16th, 2026 - 8:00PM EDT
Online

Have you ever found yourself dreaming of having a place in Japan that you could call home? It feels so far-fetched and impossible. But what if it wasn't? What if you had someone to walk you through what this really looks like—the buying process, the reality of owning it and caring for it from afar, etc? This webinar is about the distance between that dream and your very own *genkan*, delivered to you on a silver platter.

USJETAA Members FREE | General Public \$10

[More Info](#)

Hoshino Satoru at the MFA

Wednesday, October 21st – Sunday, October 25th, 2026

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

465 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115

The suite of new Japanese galleries opening next year at the MFA will for the first time include a room devoted to modern and contemporary art. Oct 21-23, 10am-4pm, the internationally renowned ceramic artist Hoshino Satoru will work on a multi-piece ceramic installation in the Druker Family Pavilion of the museum that will be featured in the galleries in Fall 2027. Visitors can observe the process from outside the room, and are welcome to enter the room and talk with the artist Oct 22 and Oct 23, 2:30-3pm. On Oct 25, Hoshino will discuss his work and career as part of the annual Rad Smith Lecture for Contemporary Japanese Art.

[More Info](#)

Salem-Ota Sister City 35th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, November 14th, 2026 - 11:00AM EST

The Courtyard of the National Park Visitor Center and the flagpoles of the Peabody Essex Museum

Salem, MA

You are cordially invited to a flag raising, musical performances, and ceremony to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Salem, MA and Ota City, Tokyo Sister City relationship.

Special guests include the Consul General of Japan, elected officials and staff from both cities, Peabody Essex Museum dignitaries, residents from Ota with their homestay families, Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange Members, and so much more!

Noguchi and Japanese American Internment During World War II

Saturday, November 14th, 2026 - 1:00PM EST

Peabody Essex Museum
161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970

Join curator and scholar Christina Hiromi Hobbs for a talk examining Isamu Noguchi's voluntary incarceration at the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona during World War II. Hobbs will discuss Noguchi's complex motivations for entering the camp, discuss its impact on his life and work and examine the historical context of art making during Japanese American incarceration.

[More Info](#)

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THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF:

**GLEN S. &
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無印良品



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