

# Bi-Weekly Newsletter

## June 30 - July 14, 2021



Now open for registration!

[July 2nd](#)  
[Auction Closing This FRIDAY!](#)

[July 9th](#)  
[JSB Language Room](#)

[July 28th](#)  
[JSB Members' Book Club](#)

[July 31st](#)  
[Easy Japanese Home Cooking](#)  
[for Non-chefs! - Part 13-](#)  
[Hiyashi-chuka](#)

*Read more about all our events below!*

### [NEW AUCTION ITEMS](#) [Annual Spring Fundraiser](#)

New items have been added to the [online auction!](#) Check it out and place a bid before the end of the fundraiser this Friday!

### NEW AUCTION ITEMS!

#### Meiji-era Ukiyo-e Woodblock Prints

These ukiyo-e woodblock prints from the "Chiyoda no Ô-oku (The Chiyoda Inner Palace)" collection depicts the annual festivals and events that took place in and women who lived in the Chiyoda Palace in Edo (Tokyo.) Their production dates all the way back to the Meiji period (between 1894 and 1896)!



[JSB meets JET Alumni](#)

## Featured Events



### "Inheritors"

A Conversation with Asako Serizawa  
Saturday, July 10, 2021  
4:30 PM EDT

A conversation surrounding Serizawa's award winning novel, *Inheritors*, a heartbreakingly beautiful and brutal exploration of a Japanese family fragmented by World War II, featuring author Asako Serizawa and moderator, Suzan Napier.

RSVP by calling (617)267-9473 or emailing [contactus@puckergallery.com](mailto:contactus@puckergallery.com).



[Letters from Tokyo](#)  
with Roland Kelts  
June Issue

Our interview this week is with JET alum **Ben Green** who was placed in **Saitama** prefecture, where the famous Musashi-Kyuryo National Government Park (shinrin-kouen) is located! Check below to read more about his experience as a JET or read the complete version on our [website](#)!



### Join or Renew Your Membership

The Japan Society of Boston is a community of bridge builders and curious minds who have found connections with others through their common interest in strengthening the ties between the US and Japan.

[Join or Renew](#) your Membership and support us continue this important work of bridge building!

Keep up with JSB on social media!



In his second letter, author, journalist, and scholar **Roland Kelts** paints a picture of the hot spring hotels (or *onsen-yado*) of Japan and the escape they can provide from the dense hustle and bustle of city life. [Click here](#) to read the full letter, or check the section below to read an excerpt!



### [Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-chefs! - Part 13 - Hiyashi-Chūka!](#)

with Debra Samuels  
**Saturday, July 31, 2021**  
**5:00 PM EDT**

Hiyashi-chūka, literally meaning "chilled Chinese", is the perfect Japanese dish for a hot summer day. Learn how to make Hiyashi-chūka with Debra Samuels, friend of the Japan Society of Boston and an excellent cookbook author and cooking teacher!

## Annual Spring Fundraiser

### [Help Us Get To \\$5000!](#)

**Monday, June 21 - Friday July 2, 2021**

JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON  
**FUNDRAISER**

Monday, June 21st to Friday, July 2nd



Your attendance at our events and insightful conversations keep inspiring us to bring new programs that are true to our mission of deepening the mutual understanding between the U.S. and Japan.

Our goal of \$5000 by July 2nd will help realize some of the very exciting programs we have planned for the fall. You can browse and bid in the online [auction](#) or take a moment to [donate](#) directly!

Whether you are our Greater Boston neighbors or have joined us from afar since our move online, we are deeply grateful to have such a vibrant audience. We promise to continue bringing meaningful and exciting programs bridging the US and Japan!

## NEW AUCTION ITEMS!

### Meiji-era Ukiyo-e Woodblock Prints

These ukiyo-e woodblock prints from the "*Chiyoda no Ō-oku (The Chiyoda Inner Palace)*" collection depicts the annual festivals and events that took place in and women who lived in the Chiyoda Palace in Edo (Tokyo.) Their production dates all the way back to the Meiji period (between 1894 and 1896)!



## Japan Society of Boston Online Events

### Conversation with Asako Serizawa "Inheritors"



**Saturday, July 10, 2021  
4:30 PM EDT**

**in-person at the Pucker Gallery  
240 Newbury Street, Floor 3  
Boston, MA**

(A recording will also be made available  
after the event.)

Join us for this up coming in-person  
event at the Pucker Gallery or watch

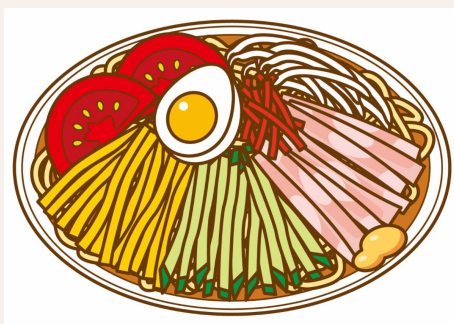
the taping of the event at a latter time by RSVPing to this event! A  
conversation between Asako Serizawa, author of *Inheritors*, and Susan Napier,

Goldthwaite Professor of Rhetoric at Tufts University.

A kaleidoscopic portrait of five generations scattered across Asia and the United States, *Inheritors* is a heartbreakingly beautiful and brutal exploration of a Japanese family fragmented by the Pacific side of World War II. Grappling with the legacies of loss, imperialism, and war, *Inheritors* offers an intricate tapestry of stories illuminating the complex ways in which we live, interpret, and pass on our tangled histories. *Inheritors* is the Winner of the PEN/Open Book Award and of The Story Prize Spotlight Award.

RSVP at (617)267-9473 or  
[contactus@puckergallery.com](mailto:contactus@puckergallery.com).

## Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-chefs! Hiyashi-Chūka! with Debra Samuels



**Saturday, July 31, 2021  
5:00PM EDT**

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

Come learn how to make "hiyashi-chūka" with Debra Samuels, cookbook author, cooking instructor, and friend of the Japan

Society! Hiyashi-chūka, literally meaning "chilled Chinese", is a popular Japanese dish made with cold Chinese-style ramen noodles topped with colorful ingredients like sliced cucumber, ham, egg crepes, and tomato, but you can be as creative as you want with the toppings to make it your own! Sure to be a household hit during the summer months.

[Register Here](#)

## The JSB Language Room Virtual Language Exchange



**Friday, July 9, 2021  
6:00 to 8:00 PM EDT  
7 10  
7 ~9**

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



*The theme for this exchange is "Haiku"*

Practice your Japanese or your English at our next online language exchange! Join us for two hours of conversation where you will be grouped based on your proficiency level. We will begin speaking in Japanese, followed by English. We will conclude the meeting with free casual conversation in Japanese and/or English until we hit 8 PM.

*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!*

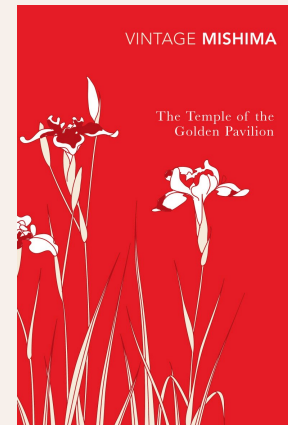
[Register Here](#)

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## [Japan Society of Boston Members' Book Club](#)

**Wednesday, July 28, 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 ***The Temple of the Golden Pavilion*** by Yukio Mishima.



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](#)

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## Notes from JSB

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### [Letters from Tokyo](#)

with author, journalist, and scholar Roland Kelts

#### **Letter from Tokyo, June 2021: [Choosing Onsen Over Olympics](#)**

My favorite kind of getaway is a stay at an *onsen-yado* (Japanese hot springs hotel). It used to rotate among my top three, but the pandemic has edged it into the top spot.



Where I live in central Tokyo, I share each square mile with over 16,000 neighbors. If I don't immediately see someone strolling below when I look out one of my windows, I will very soon. And the moment I step from my building's courtyard to the sidewalk, I join the coursing crowds weaving past and dodging one another on sidewalks that can barely accommodate three adjacent modestly-sized bodies.

Choosing to wear a mask, sanitize, and speak quietly or not at all *is* possible, and most of us choose to do all three. Social distancing, however, is not.

Comparatively, there was no one in Izu. And no one on the quaint old Limited-Express Odoriko line to Izu, whose empty lace-doiled seats feel a little like a theme park ride from the 1980s, reassuringly out-of-date. And even in historic Shuzenji, whose fairy-tale Kamakura-age pathways are usually clogged with tourists, local craftspeople and rickshaw-runners, you could pause in the bamboo forest and breathe in the air, letting your mask slip for a moment or two near the naked Katsura river.

Near Shuzenji Temple, founded in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, I saw three old Tokyo 2020 Olympics banners announcing that the torch relay would soon pass through town. The juxtaposition was rich: something about to happen felt more dated than something truly ancient.

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Our hope is to make this letter interactive. As such, here's a question we'd love for you to answer after you read Roland's letter by leaving a comment on our blog:

**Have you been keeping up with the Tokyo Olympics, or has it receded to the back of your mind?**

Comment on our blog to let us know so we can share the news and help each other --wherever we are.

[Read the full letter and make comments here!](#)

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## **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!



*Episode 14: **Saitama**  
Interview with **Ben Green**  
(Wakō-shi, Saitama-ken 1997-1999)*

**Q: What sparked your interest in applying for the JET program?**

I had job interviews for Wall Street banks and large corporations, but decided halfway through my senior year at Morehouse College that (A) I wanted to try something totally different and (B) I wanted to experience life overseas and outside of the Southeast US.

**Q: What are some of the things your prefecture is known for?  
Ex. food, hotspots, etc.**

Saitama is known for manufacturing, along with a lot of large companies being based there, including Honda, and it's known for hosting several great communities like Omiya and Asaka that are close to downtown Tokyo. It also has a great park called Shinrin Koen that is famous





(<https://www.shinrinkoen.jp/en/>). It also hosted some World Cup games as well. Saitama is great.

**Q: How has your connection in relation to Japan changed since living in Japan?**

It has stayed strong. After my 2 years on JET, I returned to live and work in Japan two more times, and represented the state of South Carolina in Japan as their official representative while hosting the state of SC Governor there.

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

## JSB Staff Song of the Week

### Shadow World

Music by **Shoji Meguro**  
Lyrics by **Benjamin Franklin**  
Vocals by **Shihoko Hirata**

This upbeat title track to the 2008 playstation sensation "*Shin Megami Tensei: Persona 4*" is sure to brighten your day!



## Online Activities from Other Japan Societies

### 2021 Innovation Awards Symposium

by the Japan Society of Northern California  
US-Asia Technology Management Center of Stanford University



**Part A: Thursday, July 8, 2021**  
**Part B: Thursday, July 15, 2021**  
**7:30 - 10:30 PM EDT (4:30 - 7:30 PM PDT)**

The Japan – U.S. Innovation Awards Symposium is the signature event of the Innovation Awards Program, organized by the Japan Society of Northern California in cooperation with the US – Asia Technology Management Center of Stanford University. Each year, two companies (one each from Japan and the U.S.) receive the SunBridge Emerging Leader award for technological innovations deemed to be disrupting their markets.

[Learn More](#)



## **Hiroshima Day by First Parish Dorchester**

**Friday, August 6, 2021**  
**Origami 6:00 PM EDT**  
**Movie Screening 8:00 PM EDT**  
**10 Parish St, Dorchester**  
**MA 02122**

Starting at 6 pm with picnicking and activities for kids, the event will include the folding of origami cranes led by Akemi Chayama from the Children's Museum and a demonstration of folding a giant paper crane from a sheet of 12' x 12' paper by Tim Nagaoka, a Boston Public School teacher. The cranes will be strung and hung in the entrance to the meetinghouse as a symbol of the wish for peace.

At 8 p.m., there will be a screening of the documentary film *"Paper Lanterns"* about the atomic bomb survivor Shigeaki Mori and his lifelong effort to tell their story of Normand Brissette, who grew up in Massachusetts and ten American POWs killed by the bombing of Hiroshima will be screened. The film's producer and co-director Barry Frechette will introduce the film and answer questions afterwards.

**This event is free for all attendees!**

**CRANE & TURTLE**  
**1YEAR ANNIVERSARY**  
**JULY 11TH, SUNDAY**

Yukata (Japanese Summer Kimono) rental, dressing, and photo shoot for Guys & Gals 🏳️🌈 and hangout at Bow Market!



## **Yukata Rental, Dressing, and Photo Shoot by Crane & Turtle**

**Sunday, July 11, 2021**  
**1 Bow Market Way, Somerville**  
**MA 02143**

What is Yukata? Yukata refers to cotton kimono worn during the summer. A staple of festivals across Japan, it keeps the wearer cool in hot weather. Try one on at Crane & Turtle's 1 year anniversary event on July 11th. Reserve a kimono in advance and try it on with the help of Seiko Kitagawa, prolific dancer and founder of Boston Kimono Dressing: Ayame. There will be a photo session space with a backdrop, right next to the dressing room, and Adam Erdossy, a professional photographer, will be there help you capture the moment. You can also take as many photos as you like in the market during the yukata rental.

[Learn More](#)





### [Root & Branches: Three Generations of the Hamada Family](#) by Pucker Gallery

**June 5 - July 11, 2021**

240 Newbury St., 3rd floor,  
Boston, MA 02116

Pucker Gallery's latest exhibition exploring the legacy of the Hamada Family across three generations of artistry and craftsmanship. Now available in both virtual and in-person! Take the [virtual tour](#) here!

The exhibit features works across the careers of three generations of Hamadas—Shoji (b. 1894), Shinsaku (b. 1929), and Tomoo (1967).

[Learn More](#)



### [Women's Voices Women's Verses](#) by The Japan Foundation

**Tuesday, July 13, 2021  
8:00 PM EDT**

In the very long history of Japanese literature, poetry is arguably one of the first recognized literary forms. Contrary to the common perception that the world of literature is dominated by male voices, Japanese society did not always exclude women's perspectives when it came to the arts. However, has the trend evolved with the times?

The Japan Foundation invites poets and translators, Yotsumoto Yasuhiro and Moriyama Megumi to trace the role of female poets from ancient to contemporary Japan, discussing their creativity, the gaze of women, and the impact their verses made upon Japan and its literary society.

[Learn More](#)

## Additional Resources

### [Japanese study resources](#)

[Tofugu: Learn Hiragana](#)

[Tofugu: Learn Katakana](#)

[WaniKani](#)

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

[Learn Japanese with Erin](#)

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

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

[Tokyo National Museum](#)

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

[Kyoto National Museum](#)

[Fukuoka Asian Art Museum](#)

[Yamatane Museum of Art](#)

[Adachi Museum of Art](#)

