



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

In Memory: Masataka Hata, President of Shoyeido Incense Co.



The Japan Society of Boston is deeply saddened by the passing of Masataka Hata, President of the [Shoyeido Incense Company](#), on August 9, 2025.

Mr. Masataka Hata was the 12th-generation President of Shoyeido Incense Company which was founded in the early 18th century with over 300 years of history. As part of

the long lineage of the Hata family, Mr. Masataka Hata continued the family legacy of his ancestors, offering a wide variety of unique, hand-blended incense using ingredients sourced from around Asia. He had a long-standing relationship with Boston, as he began traveling to Boston over 40 years ago. He visited Boston nearly every year to hold events introducing the art of Japanese incense.

The Japan Society of Boston extends heartfelt condolences to his family members and friends.

In his memory, we also invite you to read [our interview](#) with Mr. Hata, conducted early last year before our [2024 Gala](#) at which he was honored.



Tim Rowe

Founder & CEO

[Cambridge Innovation Center \(CIC\)](#)

Would you introduce yourself briefly?

Hi! My name is Tim Rowe. I grew up in the Boston area (Cambridge and Belmont). I visited Japan for the first time as a high school freshman, tagging along on a business trip with my father. I was blown away by what I saw, and that began, as is the case for so many of us, a lifelong love for the country and its culture. I was particularly impressed by the care that the Japanese give to each detail of what they do, from trains that run on time to little details about the food they serve....



Scroll forward to today, I am the founder and CEO of Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC). Collectively with an affiliate we co-founded, we run the world's largest startup hub in a collection of buildings next to MIT in Kendall Square with over 1000 small companies in around half a million square feet. In 2000 we opened our first location in Japan, in Toranomon in Tokyo, in a collaboration with Mori Building, one of Japan's leading real estate owners. That facility is today Japan's largest startup hub.

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

JSB Programming



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 traditional music, captivating performances, authentic classic Japanese ballpark food and drink, and hands-on cultural activities. There will be lively traditional taiko drumming and other festivities that showcase the spirit of Japan!

JSB now has its own designated seat section in Grandstand 27! [Click here](#) to purchase seats near other Japan Society of Boston members and community.

Tickets purchased through [this special offer](#) will also receive a Red Sox Japan-inspired hat, but you can choose whichever seats you like.

Info



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](#)



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, August 29th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT
□□□□□□8□30□□□□□7□□
Online

JSB's Language Room is back! 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 (TUI). TUI is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

Theme: □□□□□ Summer Traditions and Pastimes

[Register](#)

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 can attend the online member only events, but not the 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.



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" (before he returned in 2023 with *The Boy and the Heron*), *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.

Watch the [Trailer](#). Films should be viewed in advance of our meetings.

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

Register

Signature Content from JSB



#MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

japansocietyboston.org/

Member Highlight



Tony at Kinosaki Onsen, a beautiful little onsen town on the coast of the Sea of Japan

The Japan Society of Boston is pleased to introduce you to the wonderful 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: **Anthony (Tony) Arno**

"I'm passionate about martial arts, reading, Asian cinema, and anything Godzilla.

I could probably write for hours about my trips to Japan (I've been 11 times), but I think it would get boring fast.

For my most recent trip this past spring, I focused more on places I don't normally go (or only briefly stop at, in some cases) since it was all new for my nephew and his girlfriend."

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 **Annelise Wilp - Saitma (2018-2020)**

"Though I no longer work in a Japan-related field, JET was a stepping stone for my career in education. Being an ALT on JET made me realize how much I enjoy helping students succeed, and I now work as an academic advisor at a university."

Article



Famous in Japan

Studying individuals from around the world who are famous in Japan, both past and present.



This month we are featuring Junko Tabei, a trailblazer in the mountaineering world who accomplished the incredible feat of being the first woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest and the first woman to complete the Seven Summits, scaling the tallest peaks in the world's seven continents.

Article

Junko Tabei in 1985 at Communism Peak (now known as Ismoil Somoni Peak) in Tajikistan, [Jaan Künnap, CC BY-SA 4.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

Other Japan-Related Events

A movie poster for the film 'Highest 2 Lowest' by Spike Lee. The poster features a man wearing a New York Yankees cap and sunglasses, looking off to the side. The background shows a subway car interior. The title 'SPIKE LEE'S HIGHEST 2 LOWEST' is prominently displayed in white text on a dark background. To the right, the text 'August 15-21, 2025' is shown. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE Since 1933'.

Highest 2 Lowest

August 15th - August 21st, 2025 - Multiple Screenings Every Day
Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

Brothers Denzel Washington and Spike Lee reunite for the 5th time in their long working relationship for a reinterpretation of the great filmmaker Akira Kurosawa's crime thriller *High and Low*, now played out on the mean streets of modern day New York City.

When a titan music mogul (Denzel Washington), widely known as having the “best ears in the business,” is targeted with a ransom plot, he is jammed up in a life-or-death moral dilemma.

JSB members get a discount using the code on the [member only portal](#)!

This is part of the Coolidge's ["Spike and Denzel" summer series](#).

[Tickets](#)



Black Ships Festival
August 22 - 24, 2025
Bristol & Newport, Rhode Island

Celebrate Japanese culture at the 42nd annual Black Ships Festival, a family-friendly, three-day festival held in Bristol and Newport, Rhode Island.

Don't miss this weekend of joyful community events where immersive cultural attractions and art experiences await. All are welcome!

[Info](#)



Chiharu Shiota: *Home Less Home* Exhibition

June 1 - September 1, 2025

ICA Watershed Gallery

256 Marginal St, Boston, MA 02128

In her awe-inspiring installations, Chiharu Shiota (born 1972 in Osaka, Japan; lives and works in Berlin) foregrounds stories of migration, home, connection, memory, and consciousness. Using line in the form of string, Shiota creates immersive installations that underscore human connection and experience.

For the ICA Watershed, Shiota will present two signature, large-scale installations that consider the ways humans collect memories and form connections as they move and travel: a site-specific iteration of *Accumulation – Searching for the Destination* (2014/2025) and a newly commissioned installation, *Home Less Home* (2025).

Featured as part of the Boston Public Art Triennial 2025, this exhibition is Chiharu Shiota's first solo presentation in New England.

Image: Chiharu Shiota, *Home Less Home* (detail), 2025. Installation view, *Chiharu Shiota: Home Less Home*, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, 2025. Photo by Timothy Schenck. © 2025 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn

[Tickets](#)



Japanese Tea Ceremony and Sano Gofu Exhibit

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*.

To celebrate the anniversary, the museum is also displaying the show “Celebrating Sano Gofu” through August 31, 2025. This exhibit features artworks by Gofu from the museum’s collection, including original sketches of the design for *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](#)

MFA Boston

Opens May 11

Arts of Japan



Arts of Japan Starting May 11, 2024 [Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)

The MFA has one of the most comprehensive collections of Japanese art anywhere in the world. Reimagined galleries explore Japan's art and visual culture from the 7th century to today, including painting, sculpture, decorative arts, and selections from the Museum's vast collection of ukiyo-e prints. Evocative spaces include the renovated Japanese Buddhist Temple Room, which opened in 1909, and an adaptation of a traditional tea room, with tatami mats and an alcove. Multimedia displays illuminate performative art forms, such as Nō theater, bringing drama to life.

The new space for the Museum's unparalleled Japanese collection—which was the first of its kind in America when established in 1890, and now holds about 100,000 objects—will change regularly, giving visitors the opportunity to see even more works in a setting that honors and celebrates Japan's rich history and cultural legacy.

Info

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)

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