

# Bi-Weekly Newsletter

## August 31 - September 14, 2021



Now open for registration!

Register Now  
[Fall Japanese Language Classes](#)

September 10th  
[JSB Language Room](#)

September 22nd  
[JSB Member Book Club](#)

September 23rd  
Stories of Japanese Pioneers  
[Part 2: Bridging the US and Japan: The Story of John Manjiro and Capt. William Whitfield](#)

*Read more about all our events below!*

### [JSB meets JET Alumni](#)



This week we interviewed **George Rose**, an ALT who was placed in Soma-shi, Fukushima-ken. Did you know the city is famous for its Soma-Noumaoi Festival, an annual horse race where the riders are dressed as samurai? Read more about George's JET experiences below or on our [website](#)! And for even more of George's story, listen to our latest podcast episode [here](#)!

[Learn Japanese this Fall!](#)

Our Group Lessons

Featured Events & Programs



[Bridging the US and Japan: The Story of John Manjiro and Capt. William Whitfield](#)

Thursday, September 23rd, 2021  
7:00 - 8:00 PM EDT



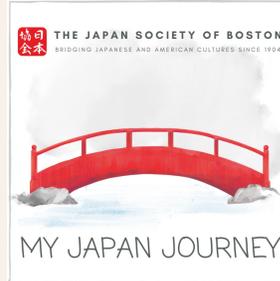
[Letters from Tokyo](#)  
**"Cicada Cry"**  
with Author, Journalist, and Scholar Roland Kelts

[New Podcast Episode!](#)

Check out our latest episode with **George Rose!** Currently the Executive Advisor of Pacific Rim



are now open for  
Registration!



Operations for the New York Yankees and advisor for Japan's Yomiuri Giants, George Rose shares how a spontaneous decision to apply for the JET program brought him to Fukushima, and how the skills he gained in Japan contributed to his future opportunities and success with the New York Yankees.

### [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!

### [George Rose: From JET to the New York Yankees](#)



## Japan Society of Boston Online Events

### [Fall Registration Now Open!](#)

Classes begin Monday, September 13, 2021

Our fall Japanese group lessons are now open for registration! We offer classes from introductory to pre-advanced Japanese.

- Small class sizes (never more than 8 students per class)
- Taught by native professional instructors
- Classes are online for 10 weeks
- JSB members enjoy a 15% discount!



[Register](#)

**Uncharted Waters:  
Stories of Japanese Pioneers who First came to the US  
in collaboration with The Japan America Society of Chicago**

[Part 2 | Bridging the US and Japan:  
The Story of John Manjiro and Capt. William Whitfield](#)  
Thursday, September 23, 2021 | 7 - 8 PM EDT (6 - 7 PM CDT)

On May 6, 1843, a young Japanese boy

9/23  
7PM EDT



## Bridging the US and Japan: The Story of John Manjiro and Capt. William Whitfield

named Manjiro sailed into New Bedford harbor, setting his eyes on the U.S for the first time and getting a glimpse of what would become his second home.

After being shipwrecked on a deserted island off

Shikoku during a fishing expedition, Manjiro and his crew were rescued by American whaling ship captain William Whitfield and taken aboard the John Howland. Capt. Whitfield brought Manjiro back with him to his home in Fairhaven, MA, where he educated young Manjiro and welcomed him as a son.

As the first Japanese man to live in the U.S., Manjiro became the first bridge between American and Japanese cultures. His bond with Captain Whitfield has spanned generations, and in 1987, a delegation from New Bedford/Fairhaven traveled to Tosashimizu (Manjiro's hometown) and signed a Sister City Agreement which has been active ever since.

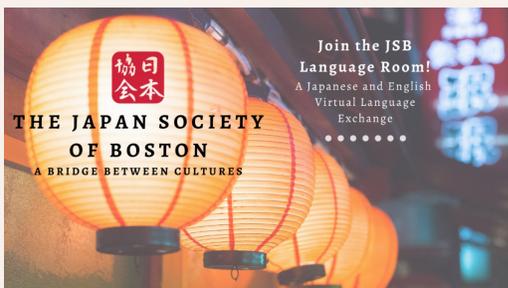
Please join us in honoring the history of this powerful, lasting friendship in our online event with the Japan America Society of Chicago. We will hear from Gerald P. Rooney, President and CEO of the [Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society](#), who is central to keeping the Manjiro-Whitfield legacy alive.

[Register](#)

## The JSB Language Room Virtual Language Exchange

Friday, September 10th | 6:00 to 8:00 PM EDT

9 11 | 7 ~9



### Hosted online via Zoom

(you will be sent the meeting code upon registering)

*The theme for our September exchange is*  
***"What I did during the Summer"***

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

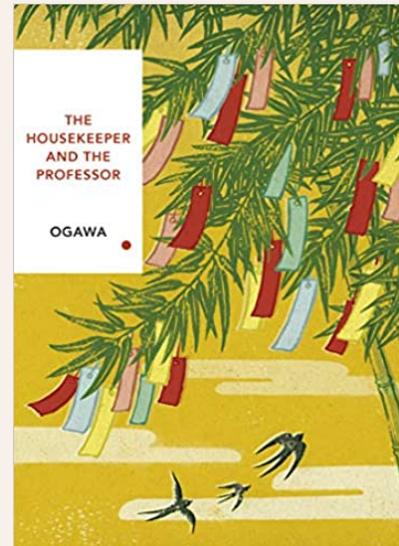
## Japan Society of Boston Members' Book Club

Wednesday, September 22, 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 Housekeeper and the Professor*** by Yoko Ogawa.

*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

## Notes from JSB

### Letters from Tokyo

#### "Cicada Cry"

with Author, Journalist, and Scholar Roland Kelts

*I caught cicadas in my grandparents' garden when I was five years old. This was in Morioka City in August, the first full month I lived in Japan before attending kindergarten.*

*It was hot. I used a lightweight long-necked net to capture them and kept them in a green plastic cage my grandfather had bought for me. The cicadas seemed huge and powerful and I loved looking into their eye bulbs with the little black dots in the middle. When you held them from behind by the tips of their wings, their legs clawed at the air then stopped. Their faces looked like they could have been dangerous insects, biting or stinging, but at the last minute decided not to be. So they just stared back at you.*



*There is the famous Basho haiku about cicada cries hiding the nearness of their death but I didn't know anything about that then. I just loved their eyes and wings and the perfect ghost husks they left behind, clinging to the trees as if they were still alive inside.*

[READ THE FULL LETTER](#)

## 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 17: **Fukushima**  
Interview with **George Rose**  
(Soma, Fukushima, 1989-1991)*

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

Fukushima is in Tohoku, northern Japan, and it is known for its agriculture, such as *nashi* (pears) and rice. The city I lived in is also well-known for the Soma-Noumaoi Festival. It is a famous horse race festival in Fukushima Prefecture.

The festival has a history of more than 1,000 years and today it remembers the society of the Warring States Period of fighting warlords. The festival is held for three days and men transform into samurai with beautiful costumes. They ride on horses with different flags, which represent their city, over a distance of 1,000 meters on a track. I participated in the parade when I lived there. But only walking, not riding a horse!



**Did you pick up any of the regional dialects? What are some of your favorite words or phrases?**

I did pick up some Soma-ben. I used to love saying "*Dou dabeshita*" rather than "*Dou deshita ka*", and "*Iku be*" rather than "*Ikimashou*".

**If you were to return to Japan, would you choose to live in that same prefecture?**

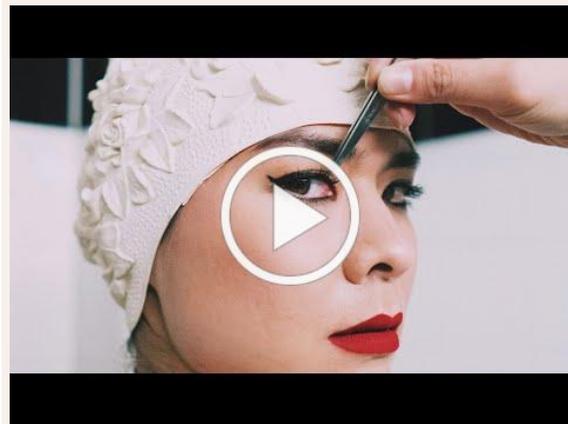
I did return to Japan in 2007 when I opened and ran an office for the New York Yankees in Tokyo. We lived in Minami Azabu, which was THE nicest place I have ever lived. I used to take my family up to visit Fukushima and we would visit old friends. It was wonderful. My toddler son even got to ride a combine and do "*inakar!*".

[\*\*READ THE REST OF GEORGE'S INTERVIEW!\*\*](#)

### **JSB Staff Song of the Week**

#### **Me and My Husband**

originally performed by **Mitski**,  
a Japanese-American singer-songwriter





## The U.S.-Japan Space Partnership: Fostering Collaboration on Earth and Beyond

by The Japan America Society of Alabama

**Thursday, September 16, 2021**  
**7:00 - 8:15 PM EDT (6:00 - 7:15 PM CDT)**

"Making up two of the five principal countries involved on the International Space Station, the United States and Japan continue to directly work together on exploring the final frontier. This program, led by several esteemed speakers from across the U.S. and Japan, will dive deep into the evolving landscape of historic and startup space industries, the business factors playing into current space exploration, the government policies affecting space regulations, and the benefits of U.S.-Japan joint research."

[Learn More](#)



## Bridging Cultural Differences at Work: A Conversation with Japanese and American Professionals in Greater Cincinnati

by The Japan-America Society of Greater Cincinnati

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021**  
**6:00 PM EDT**

Join us for an informative and inspiring conversation with 3 professionals in Greater Cincinnati who have bridged cultural differences between Japan and the US for many years. Each has an inspiring and unique story to tell about what cultural differences have been most significant, and how they have successfully navigated those differences.

[Learn More](#)

## Online Events by Non-Japan Societies



**Friday, September 3, 7:00 PM EDT -**  
**Sunday, September 5, 7:00 PM EDT**

Tokyo Paralympics: Festival of Love and Glory was screened outside of Japan for the first time during May 7-28, 2021 as part of Japan Society's Passing the Torch series, a celebration of the upcoming Tokyo Summer Games. This summer, Tokyo will be the first city to host the Paralympic Games on two separate occasions.

## Special Virtual Screening - Tokyo Paralympics: Festival of Love and Glory

by Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan

This frank and intimate documentary—recently rediscovered and restored after being forgotten in storage for decades—offers a fascinating glimpse of the first occasion in 1964, the 2nd official Paralympics, by following the journey of several pioneering

[Learn More](#)

Japanese athletes whose participation (along with that of over 300 other athletes from 20 countries) helped raise disability awareness and change prevailing stigmas in their home country. [Adapted from **Japan Society**]



## [Japan Update 2021](#)

by Australia Japan Research Centre

**Tuesday, September 7, 2021**

**8:00 PM EDT**

*Japan Update is the flagship conference of the Australia-Japan Research Centre and the Japan Institute at the Australian National University*

The Australia Japan Research Centre and ANU Japan Institute are proud to host the virtual 2021 annual Japan Update conference on Wednesday, September 8, between 10:00am - 3:30pm AEST (9:00am - 2:30pm JST)

Bringing together experts from Australia, Japan, and the region, the Update will focus on the impact of COVID-19 on Japanese society and prospects for recovery, governance challenges and science, defense and technology issues.

[Learn More](#)



## [Japanese Sounds - Spiriting Away and Praying for Peace](#)

by The Japan Foundation

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

**8:00 AM EDT**

In this special talk, Prof MOTEGI Kiyoko, one of the leading specialists and researchers of Japanese sound (Oto), will introduce and demonstrate in real-time some examples of Oto and the musical objects identified in Japanese life, discussing how these have evolved and have come to be associated with Japanese faith and culture.

After Prof. MOTEGI's presentation, there will be a discussion with Dr. Lucia Dolce, Numata Professor of Japanese Buddhism at SOAS University of London, and Chair of the SOAS Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions.

[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](#)

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

[Tokyo National Museum](#)

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

[Kyoto National Museum](#)

[Fukuoka Asian Art Museum](#)

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

[Yamatane Museum of Art](#)

[How to Read and Write Hiragana](#)

[Adachi Museum of Art](#)



The Japan Society of Boston, Inc. | [\[www.japansocietyboston.org\]](http://www.japansocietyboston.org)