



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

New England's Gateway To Japan Since 1904

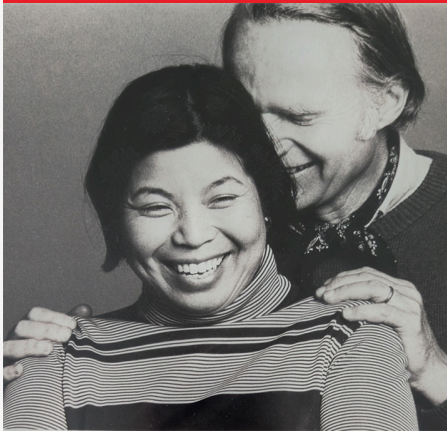
Monthly Newsletter



[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



JOHN E. THAYER III
& KEIKO THAYER
AWARD

Nominations for the 2026 Thayer Award are open!

The John E. Thayer III and Keiko Thayer Award recognizes the achievements of individuals, groups, or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to promote understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan in such areas as business, cultural exchange, education, public affairs, and visual and performing arts. It was established in 1991 to commemorate the work and commitment of John E. “Jack” Thayer III and Keiko Thayer, long-time members of the Japan Society of Boston’s board of directors dedicated to furthering relations between Japan and the U.S.

Submissions are due Sunday, September 13th. Please click below for details.

[More Info](#)



Congratulations to the 12 winners of our recent photo contest, and thanks to all who submitted!

View the winning shots and vote for your favorite to be featured on the cover of our 2027 Fundraising Calendar.

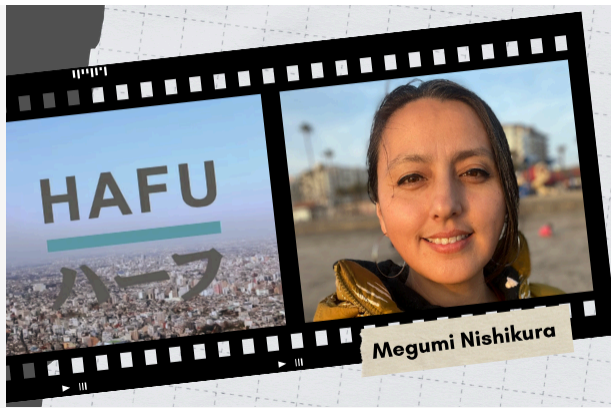
[Vote](#)

We will begin taking orders for the 2027 Fundraising Calendars on our [website](#) in October. We appreciate your support!

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!



Between Worlds:

A Conversation with Filmmaker Megumi Nishikura on Mixed-Race Identity and Dual Citizenship in Japan

Tuesday, September 15th

@ 7:00pm EDT

 **Virtual** on Zoom

Between Worlds: A Conversation with Filmmaker Megumi Nishikura on Mixed-Race Identity and Dual Citizenship in Japan

**Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 - 7:00PM EDT
Online**

Join us for a conversation on mixed-race identity and belonging featuring acclaimed filmmaker Megumi Nishikura and moderated by Yuga Cohler.

Megumi Nishikura will share her personal experience as a mixed-race individual and her commitment to the power of storytelling, including with her celebrated documentary *HAFU: The Mixed Race Experience in Japan*. The film highlighted the stories of mixed-race people navigating life in Japan. Megumi will also discuss her current film project, which focuses on the impacts caused by Japan's nationality law, which does not recognize dual citizenship. Whether you are mixed, multilingual, multicultural, or just curious about mixed race identity, we hope you will join us for this conversation with Megumi Nishikura!

[Register](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Film Club

**Wednesday, September 30th, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online**

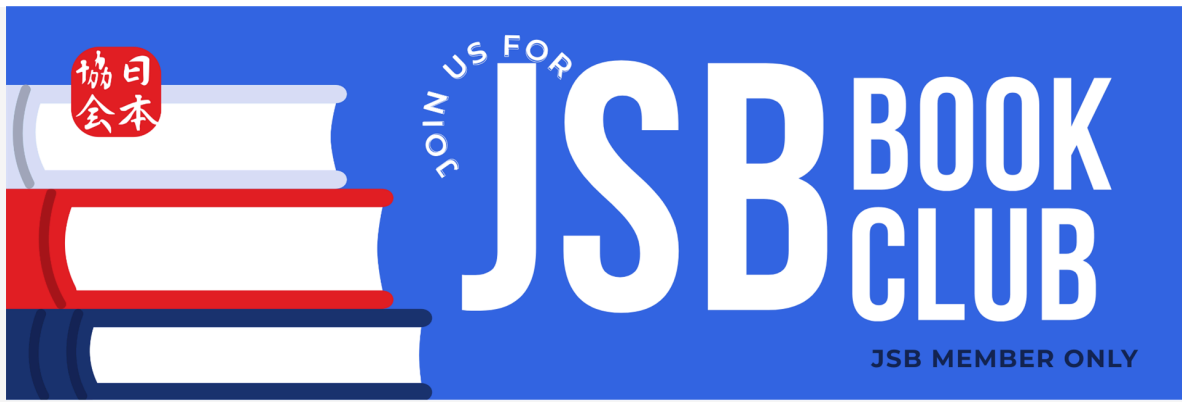
In September, the JSB Film Club will discuss ***Moving*** (1993), a poignant family drama from director Shinji Sōmai.

When her parents split and her father Kenichi moves out of their family home, Renko (Tomoko Tabata), a bright and energetic 6th grade girl, is left alone with her mother, Nazuna, in Kyoto. As Nazuna sets out new rules for their life together, Renko makes plans of her own, and sees to it that any changes happening in her family happen on her terms. Since its premiere at Cannes in Un Certain Regard in 1993, *Moving* has been one Shinji Somai's most beloved films. In this poignant family drama, Somai transcends the tropes of stories of children dealing with divorce to bring us a film filled with indelible images about an unforgettable teenage girl who encounters the unknown and refuses to succumb to it.

(Synopsis from Cinema Guild)

Watch the trailer [here](#). Films should be viewed independently in advance of our meetings. Find the film [available to stream online](#) or check out your local library.

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. Kimiko is older, 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. She feels like a normal girl. She feels invincible. But in the narrow alleys of Sangenjaya, nothing is as it seems. 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! - Summer Bash

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!

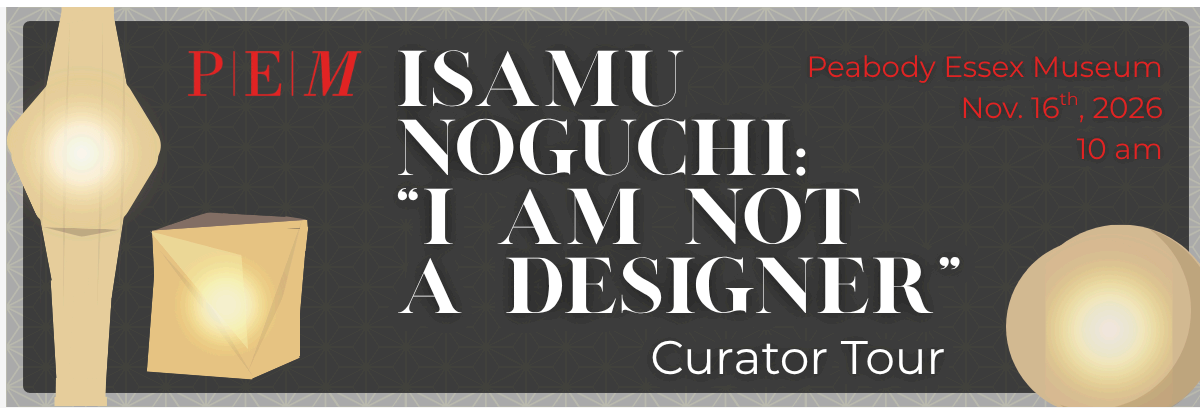
Whether you are a new or longtime member, this is a great opportunity to meet others in the community, connect over shared interests, and enjoy Japanese food together.

Tickets include a family-style meal of yakitori and other izakaya specialties.

*Menu customizations are not possible. Menu will include some vegetarian dishes.

Tori Jiro in Watertown is the first U.S. location of the Japan-based yakitori speciality chain. Learn more [here](#).

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

GLEN FUKUSHIMA

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.

Ticketed and open to the public (pre-registration required).

[Register](#)



おうちごはん ! (Ouchigohan) Otsukimi

Sun Sept 20, 2026 - 5:00PM EDT
Online

Register

Join the Japan-America Society of Alabama and Table for Two for this family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series おうちごはん (OUCHIGOHAN) and cook along or just watch from your own kitchen!

The theme for this month will be "Otsukimi - お月見" where we'll be making **Otsukimi Meatballs**, **Okura Pickles**, and **Mitarashi Dango**.

お月見 (Otsukimi), literally meaning "moon viewing," is a celebration that honors the autumn harvest moon. In Japanese folklore, a rabbit lives on the moon, endlessly pounding rice into soft, chewy mochi with a wooden mallet. The rabbit and mochi connection also influences the treats eaten during otsukimi.

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



 **SAKE DAY EAST**
Saturday October 3, 2026

Sake Day East

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 - 3:30-6:30PM EDT

Julio's Liquors

140 Turnpike Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Sake Day East 2026 is an opportunity to taste nearly **100 exceptional sake!** Explore sake from Japanese brewers or enjoy a more local taste from American brewers. Learn from sake experts, take home a commemorative glass, enjoy delicious food, and more.

In addition to General Admission tickets, a limited number of **VIP tickets** include early entry and other perks, and **guided tastings** take you deeper into the world of sake under the guidance of experts.

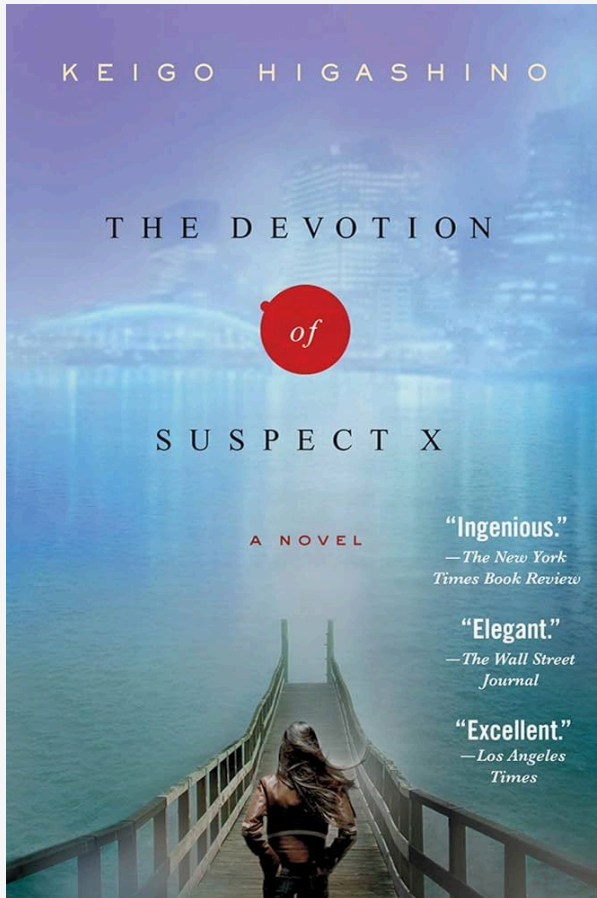
JSB Members receive \$10 off **VIP** and **General Admission** tickets using the discount code in the [JSB Member Portal](#).

Tickets

Signature Content from JSB

FAMOUS IN JAPAN

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



Keigo Higashino

In this month's edition of Famous in Japan, learn about Keigo Higashino, the Japanese author best known for his mystery novels including *The Devotion of Suspect X*, who passed away in July.

With over 100 titles to his name, Higashino was one of Japan's top mystery writers. Despite his prolific output, becoming an author wasn't his original intention. As a child, he didn't even like reading. But after graduating from university and working as an engineer at an auto parts company, he started writing stories in the evenings and on weekends for a few years before deciding to become a full-time writer. Higashino would go on to win many major awards for his books, almost twenty of which were adapted into films and television series.

[Full Article](#)

From Our Friends

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

Akira* (4K Restoration) and *Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

JSB Members get \$3 off tickets to the following screenings! Visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) now for the *Akira* discount code and check back later for *Ha-Chan*.

Akira (now playing): Katsuhiro Otomo's *Akira* is back on the big screen, fully restored in 4K. Otomo's landmark cyberpunk classic obliterated the boundaries of Japanese animation and forced the world to look into the future. *Akira*'s arrival shattered traditional thinking, creating space for future generations of ground-breaking movies.

Akira

Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty! (opens September 25): A film by Josef Kubota Wladyka. Haru and Luis love competing in Tokyo's ballroom dance scene, but after tragedy strikes, Haru withdraws into isolation. When friends coax her back to the studio, she develops an infatuation with the new instructor. She must face what comes next as sparks fly.

Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!

Hojoko × Kirin Pre-Game Activation

Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026 - 4:45-6:45PM EDT

Hojoko

1271 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02215

Before the Red Sox Japanese Celebration, head around the corner to [Hojoko](#) for a pre-game dinner and enjoy special product samples and swag from Kirin.

JSB Members get a 20% discount all day Sept. 22nd! Show your active JSB Membership Card before paying.

Hojoko is a rock n roll tavern honoring the pulse of Japanese nightlife and izakaya by serving sushi, robata grilled yakitori and street food small plates paired with craft cocktails, premium sake, wine and beer.

DEN ~Kokoro wo komete~ 6th Anniversary Performance

October 10th, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT

Cary Memorial Hall

1605 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA 02420

Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko (RMD) is a group that shares the vibrant culture of Okinawa through eisa, a high-energy folk dance characterized by powerful drumming and synchronized movements, sharing what they call "Kokoro Spirit" with audiences across New England and beyond.

This anniversary performance will bring talent from all around the world to spotlight Okinawan performing arts.

[More Info](#)

BROUGHT TO YOU
THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF:

**GLEN S. &
SAKIE T. FUKUSHIMA**



SHIN & MAHO ABE

COVINGTON



MUJI
無印良品



Donate

Follow us on social media for the latest event announcements, giveaways, and more!



Japan Society of Boston | www.japansocietyboston.org