



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!



## Mai "Mia" Okuda

[Canon Solutions America](#)

Sales Specialist

### How long have you been doing business in Boston?

I came from Japan in 2022 and currently work in New York. We provide expatriate support for Japanese companies (language support during business meetings, troubleshooting, dealing with differences in business practices between Japan and the U.S., etc.), which has received high praise. I started visiting regularly in June 2023 to extend this support to the Boston area.



### What does your company do?

Canon Solutions America was founded in 2013, although predecessors of the company date back to 1971 and provide office MFPs, commercial printing equipment, and document security products. We are in the business of helping organizations of all sizes in all industries find ways to improve sustainability, increase efficiency, and contain costs in

conjunction with high-volume, continuous feed, digital, and traditional printing, consulting services, document management, and workflow solutions. We also focus on providing DX-driven solutions and services in response to recent changes in work styles.

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

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## Announcements from JSB

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### Calling all movie fans!

We are very excited to announce the new **JSB Film Club**, to be held on the last Wednesday of every other month from 6-8pm ET, starting February 28th, 2024.

Join us to discuss the best of modern and classic Japanese cinema. More details will be announced in a future newsletter.

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### JSB Fundraising Apparel

Marie Romano's winning Japan-Boston design is now available to purchase as a T-shirt or sweatshirt to help us fundraise for JSB.

Check out our online shop to see the different colors and styles!

Shop

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### Celebrating Hachiko

Thank you to everyone who celebrated the 100th anniversary of Hachiko's birth with us and our two featured authors, Pamela S. Turner and Lesléa Newman. You may view the full videos of these programs on our [YouTube channel](#).

Thanks to your kind donations, we were able to raise \$150 for the nonprofit, volunteer-run, akita foundation, [Big East Akita Rescue](#). Please check out their website for more resources on supporting the akitas.



YouTube

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## Crane & Turtle Workshop

### Kintsugi Workshop for Beginners

*Kintsugi* is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with natural lacquer and gold powder. Class time is up to 2.5 - 3 hours long and you will be provided with all the materials you need, including broken pottery.

JSB members get a 10% discount! Visit the [Member Portal](#) for the code.

Register

## JSB Programming

ONLINE EVENT

### How Japanese Stories Hook the World

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT 6PM (EST)  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 AT 8AM (JST)

SPEAKERS  
MOTOYUKI SHIBATA  
ROLAND KELTS  
SATOSHI KITAMURA

JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON  
MONKEY  
NEW WRITING FROM JAPAN

### How Japanese Stories Hook the World Tuesday, December 5th, 2023 - 6:00 PM EST Wednesday, December 6th, 2023 - 8:00 AM JST Online

Join JSB to celebrate the launch of Volume 4 of "MONKEY: New Writing from Japan." [MONKEY](#) is the only annual English-language magazine of Japanese literature and art.

Our program will be moderated by Roland Kelts, Tokyo-based Japanese-American writer, editor, lecturer, scholar, and longtime author of our Letters from Tokyo series.

As a major contributing editor of the magazine, Kelts will lead a conversation with Motoyuki Shibata, Founding Editor of MONKEY, and Satoshi Kitamura, contributing illustrator, to discuss the appeal of Japanese literature around the world and the important mission of the team at MONKEY.

This is a free hour-long presentation hosted on Zoom.

Register

# The Art of Kintsugi

Online  
Monday, December 11th, 2023 | 6pm ET

**The Art of Kintsugi**  
**Monday, December 11th, 2023 - 6:00pm EST**  
**Online**

*Kintsugi* is the traditional Japanese practice of repairing broken pottery with *urushi* lacquer and metal powder, transforming it into something even more beautiful than before. Unlike many restoration techniques that work to hide the damage, this technique embraces the “imperfections” and highlights the life of the object.

During this online presentation by Kintsugi artist, Tatsuya Murao of [Kintsugi Boston](#), we will explore the history and philosophy of *kintsugi*, the disappearing art of *urushi* lacquer harvest, and briefly demonstrate the repair process.

This is a free hour-long presentation with Q&A hosted on Zoom.

Register

## 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, December 1st, 2023 6:00 to 8:00 PM EST**

□□□□□□12□2□□□□□□8□□10□□

Online

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 \(TUJ\)](#). TUJ is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

This month's theme is □□□□□□□□ (Winter Holidays).

Register



□□□□□□! **Ouchigohan - Okonomiyaki**  
**Saturday, December 9th, 2023 - 5:00 PM EST**  
**Online**

Join us for the December edition of the family-friendly online Japanese cooking class series □□□□□□ Ouchigohan! – Japanese Home Cooking, hosted by Japan Society (New York)! On the menu this month is *okonomiyaki*, a crispy and fluffy savory pancake made from crunchy cabbage mixed with batter.

“*Okonomi*” means “as you like it” and “*yaki*” means “grilled,” so you can pick and choose the fillings: keep it vegetarian with mushrooms or add shrimp, thinly sliced pork or bacon, however you like it! Learn how to make traditional *okonomiyaki* sauce to put on top, along with a drizzle of mayonnaise. Kids will love designing and decorating their very own special *okonomiyaki*! Then, a simple wakame soup rounds out the meal. This month’s dishes can be prepared vegetarian and/or gluten-free.

The ingredient list and recipe will be provided before the event. JSB members get discounted tickets!

Register

Coolidge Corner Theatre presents



HAUSU

Wednesday, March 27 | 7pm



**Hausu (House) Film Screening**  
**Wednesday, March 27th, 2024 - 7:00 PM EDT**  
**Coolidge Corner Theatre**  
290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

In celebration of the debut of the Coolidge Corner Theatre's new expanded theatre space, the [Big Screen Debuts](#) film series, which showcases prominent first films from a variety of famous and highly regarded directors, is happening now through late March.

An unforgettable mixture of bubblegum teen melodrama and grisly phantasmagoria, Nobuhiko Obayashi's deranged fairy tale *Hausu* is one of Japanese cinema's wildest supernatural ventures and a truly startling debut feature.

Tickets are on sale now. JSB members visit the [Members-Only Portal](#) for a discount code!

Tickets

## Programs for JSB Members

**Connect with JSB!**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 | 6PM ET

MARUICHI SELECT



**Connect with JSB!**  
**Wednesday, November 29th, 2023 - 6:00 PM EST**  
**Maruichi Select**

Join us for our last in-person gathering of 2023!

Connect with JSB is a great way to get to know us better, meet other society members, practice your Japanese in a casual environment, and enjoy great food at Japanese restaurants in Boston!

This event is open to [JSB members only](#). Registrants are welcome to bring a plus-one, but their guest must be included in the registration. All attendees should be prepared to pay for their own meal/drinks.

[Register](#)

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# Between the Lines

A Monthly Discussion on **Medieval Japanese Women's Literature** for JSB Members every first Thursday of the month.

## **Between the Lines**

**Thursday, December 7th, 2023 - 6:00 PM EST**

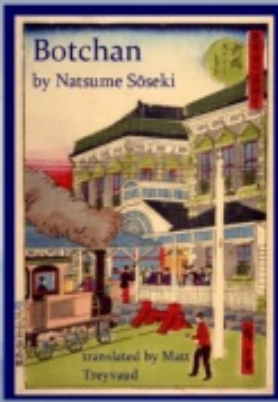
**Online**

Join us to discuss some of the greatest classics of medieval Japanese literature, written by women authors! In this session, we will be looking at book three of a Kamakura-era classic *The Confessions of Lady Nijo*, as translated by Karen Brazell.

The club is limited to Japan Society of Boston Members.  
Consider becoming a [Member](#) today!

[Register](#)

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JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

# BOOK CLUB

*BOTCHAN*  
BY NATSUME SOSEKI

## JSB Book Club

Wednesday, January 31st, 2024 - 6:00 PM EST

Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Botchan* by Natsume Soseki. This story follows a young man from Tokyo who moves to rural Japan and his struggles of self versus society. This novel is taught in Japanese schools, much like the American novel *Catcher in the Rye*.

The JSB Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of every other month to discuss great modern Japanese novels. The purpose of our club is to strengthen the Boston community of Japan enthusiasts by creating a space for thoughtful and sociable discussion.

The club is limited to Japan Society of Boston Members.  
Consider becoming a [Member](#) today!

Find a copy of *Botchan* [here](#). You are welcome to read any translation.

Register

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## More Content from JSB

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## #MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

[japansocietyboston.org/](http://japansocietyboston.org/)

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## Member Highlight



The Japan Society of Boston is pleased to introduce you to the wonderful members of our community through this blog series.

Each month we will feature a JSB member and ask them to share with us their Japan Story.

This month: [Martin Klein](#)

"What I like about bonsai is that, unlike other hobbies, you can't let it go. If you do, you can kill them. Even in a day. It requires a lot of focus and passion."



[Full 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 [Justin Bussies](#) (Kagawa 2010-2013).



[Read the Blog](#)

# FAMOUS IN JAPAN

*Celebrities from Around the World*



## Famous in Japan

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

This month, read about women's higher education pioneer [Tsuda Umeko](#).

Read the Blog

## Other Japan-Related Events

Harvard Film Archive

### UNDER THE UNDERGROUND

The Visionary Cinema of Kanai Katsu

November 18 – December 1



## Under the Underground: The Visionary Cinema of Kanai Katsu

November 18 - December 1, 2023

Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138

Virtually unknown in the West, radical cinema pioneer Kanai Katsu (b. 1936) remains one of the most vital and inventive filmmakers in the history of Japanese underground film. Dedicated to constant and intensive imaginative reinvention, Kanai continues to

conjure entirely new surprising visions with little resemblance to previous works.

See link for the full schedule.

Tickets

## **Boston Japan Film Festival**

Introducing Japan-related cinema and culture to New England audiences since 2011

**Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 | 2 - 6 PM**  
**MIT Stata Center**



**Boston Japan Film Festival 2023**  
**Saturday, December 2nd, 2023, 2:00PM EST**  
**MIT Strata Center**

Room 32-123, 32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA

The 13th Boston Japan Film Festival is going to be held on Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA. The concept of the film festival is to create opportunities, “think and discuss” through films!

They will screen 2 short films, 2 feature films and will have a talk back with director, Takashi Horie (The Last Passenger) and a post-screening discussion on Silent Fallout with Professor Kenneth Akito Oye (MIT) and Professor Marc G. Weisskopf (Harvard). See link for the full program.

The event is free, and a reception with light refreshments will follow the program.

Please register here: <https://forms.gle/GkfvMAJZKtrrDHvj6>

For any questions, contact [bostonjapanfilmfes@gmail.com](mailto:bostonjapanfilmfes@gmail.com)

Register



Harvard Film Archive

# THE OATH OF THE SWORD

Monday, December 4th, 2023 | 7:00 pm

**The Oath of the Sword**  
**Monday, December 4th, 2023, 7:00PM EST**  
**Harvard Film Archive**  
24 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138

*The Oath of the Sword* tells the story of two young lovers separated as the ambitious young man, Masao, leaves his lover Hisa to study abroad at the University of California, Berkeley.

Live Musical Accompaniment by Robert Humphreville  
Features Professor Denise Khor in conversation with Professor Alexander Zahlten

[Tickets](#)

  
Celebrity Series of Boston

## Miho Hazama and m\_unit

Berklee Performance Center

Saturday, March 16 | 8PM ET



**Miho Hazama and m\_unit**  
**Saturday, March 16th, 2024, 8:00PM ET**  
**Berklee Performance Center**  
136 Massachusetts Ave, Boston MA 02115

Grammy-nominated composer and conductor Miho Hazama is one of the most promising and talented composers/arrangers of her generation. Lauded in *DownBeat* magazine as one of “25 for the Future” and an ASCAP Foundation awardee for Best Young Jazz Composer, Hazama creates inventive, complex, and surprising compositions for m\_unit, the 13-piece jazz chamber orchestra that she leads.

This brilliant composer and her jazz orchestra make their Boston debuts at the Berklee Performance Center.

Tickets on sale now. JSB members and newsletter readers can get a [25% discount!](#)  
Valid for up to 4 tickets per order, offer expires 3/15 at 12PM.

Tickets

# Yoko Miwa Jazz Trio

@ The Mad Monkfish

Friday Evenings 7pm & 8:45PM



## Yoko Miwa Jazz Trio Friday Evenings, 7PM & 8:45PM ET The Mad Monkfish

524 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139

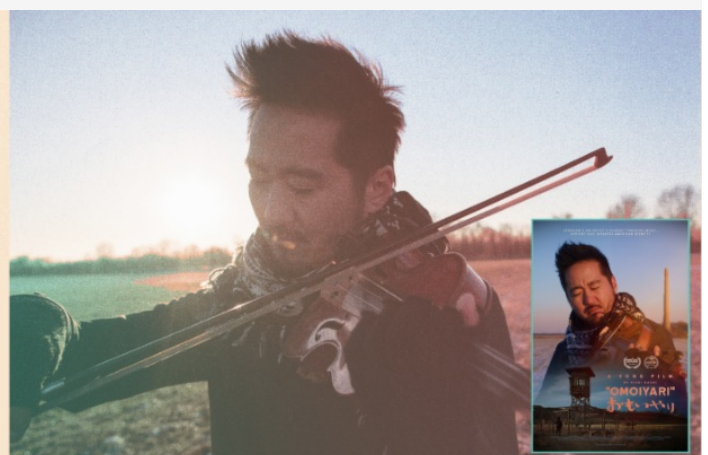
Take advantage of the opportunity to see Yoko Miwa, acclaimed jazz pianist and longtime faculty at Berklee College of Music. Her jazz trio will be playing at the Mad Monkfish on Friday evenings at 7pm and 8:45pm for the next couple of months. She will be accompanied by Brad Barrett on bass and Scott Goulding on drums.

Reservations

# kishi bashi

presents his song film: **omoiyari**

november 21 • berklee performance center



## Omoiyari

November 21st, 2023, 7:30PM ET  
Berklee Performance Center

136 Massachusetts Ave, Boston MA

This event will be the screening of the documentary film *Omoiyari*, followed by a conversation and live set by Kishi Bashi performing the album in its entirety. Violinist and songwriter Kaoru Ishibashi travels on a musical journey to understand WWII-era Japanese incarceration, assimilation, and what it means to be a minority in America today.

Tickets are now on sale at the registration link.

Tickets



EXPLOSIVE JAPANESE TAIKO DRUMMING

# DRUM TAO

Friday, February 2, 2024 | 8PM ET

BERKLEE  
PERFORMANCE  
CENTER

GLOBAL  
ARTS  
LIVE

## Drum Tao at Berklee Performance Center

February 2nd, 2023, 8:00PM ET

Berklee Performance Center

136 Massachusetts Ave, Boston MA

With explosive taiko drumming and innovative acrobatic choreography, DRUM TAO offers a breathtaking, vibrantly modern twist on a traditional art form, and a visual and sonic tour de force celebrating its 30th anniversary.

Check out their English [website](#) for information about the group, videos, and news.

Tickets are now on sale through Global Arts Live.

JSB members can visit the [Members-Only Portal](#) for a 20% off discount code. This discount expires 2/2 at 12PM.

Tickets

# Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction

September 30, 2023 - September 29, 2024



## Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction September 30, 2023 - September 29, 2024

[Museum of Fine Arts Boston](#)

Saundra B. and William H. Lane Galleries (Gallery 332)

Born in Hawaii to parents of Okinawan ancestry, Toshiko Takaezu (1922–2011) was a technically masterful and innovative artist best known for her ceramic sculptures, which she treated as abstract paintings in the round. The MFA holds a significant collection of Takaezu’s pottery—more than 20 examples are featured here alongside loans from private collections.

Challenging traditional presentations of American abstraction, “Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction” celebrates the extraordinary range of Takaezu’s work, aiming to make her contributions more widely known. It is organized in partnership with the Noguchi Museum and the Toshiko Takaezu Foundation.

Info

**Champion of Change Japan Award  
2023  
Award Ceremony**

Tuesday, December 12, 6 PM  
@ Reception Hall, 26th Floor, Tower H, Kodansha Ltd.

RSVP required by December 11  
<https://forms.office.com/r/C3xnbJJtUh>

### **Champion of Change Japan Award Ceremony December 12th 2023, 6:00PM JST In-person in Tokyo**

The Champion of Change Japan Award recognizes women leaders in Japan who tirelessly work to address the most pressing needs in their communities. Selected from 200 nominations, an award winner will be announced at an award ceremony in Tokyo.

RSVP required. The ceremony will be conducted in Japanese.

RSVP

Please send information about Japan-related events in Boston to [info@japansocietyboston.org](mailto:info@japansocietyboston.org) to help us feature select events.



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