

# Bi-Weekly Newsletter

## March 10 - March 23, 2021



### A message from Executive Director Yuko Handa

March 11th marks the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake which spurred a tsunami and meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant and mass destruction along Japan's northern east coast. The magnitude 9.0 earthquake took the lives of nearly 20,000 people, and some 470,000 people\* evacuated from their homes. 20% of those who evacuated from the area closed off because of the nuclear meltdown have not been able to return to their homes, 10 years after the disaster.

We are dedicating this newsletter to commemorate the stories of loss, of pain, of courage, and of resolve that we saw from the Tohoku region affected by this disaster, and to remember the international effort from the US and around the world that came together to help when Japan needed it the most.

From the Japan Society of Boston, we offer two messages from our staff, a video from Ian Malloy and a letter from Ciara Jacques. The tragedy of the Great East Japan Earthquake and the Japanese response had a deep impact on them and like Ian and Ciara, everyone here at the Japan Society of Boston will carry within, something that we have felt from this tragedy, as we believe that is the way we can contribute to the continuous rebuilding efforts. We hope you will also join some of the events our friends in the US-Japan community are putting together to remember and honor 3.11.

\*Data from Reconstruction Agency of the Government of Japan

### Now open for registration!

[03/16 Rice Ball Making Demo](#)

[03/19 The JSB Language Room \(Virtual Language Exchange\)](#)

[03/24 JSB Member Book Club](#)

[03/26 Language School Social](#)

[03/28 The Art of Scent: Incense Sachet Workshop with Shoyeido](#)

[04/03 Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-Chefs -Part 10 -](#)

On March 25th, we'll be releasing our new podcast series: *My Japan Journey!*

*Read more about all our events below!*

### Remembering 3.11

A Video by Ian Malloy



### JSB meets JET Alumni

This week we interviewed an alum who was

### A Letter from Ciara Jacques




 RESEARCHER INSTITUTE OF JAPANESE STUDIES  
 HARVARD UNIVERSITY


 PROGRAM ON U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONS  
 Weatherhead Center FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
 HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**PANEL**

**JAPAN'S 2011 DISASTERS:  
Ten-Year Anniversary Reflections**

**MARCH 11 (THURSDAY), 12:00 - 1:30 PM | ONLINE ZOOM EVENT**

**DANIEL ALDRICH**  
Professor of Political Science, Public Policy and Urban Affairs and  
Director, Security and Resilience Studies Program, Northeastern University

**HIROKO KUMAKI**  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows, Dartmouth College

**RYO MORIMOTO**  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University

Moderator: **ANDREW GORDON**  
Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History and  
Project Director, Japan Disasters Digital Archive, Harvard University

Special Series on Japan's 2011 Disasters sponsored by the Weatherhead Center Program on U.S.-Japan Relations and the Research Institute of Japanese Studies

Image: Noto Toriumi Shrine in Omi, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan



**Thursday, March 11, 2021  
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM EST**

Panelist: DANIEL ALDRICH, Professor of Political Science, Public Policy and Urban Affairs and Director, Security and Resilience Studies Program, Northeastern University  
 Panelist: HIROKO KUMAKI, Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows, Dartmouth College  
 Panelist: RYO MORIMOTO, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University

Moderator: ANDREW GORDON, Lee and Juliet Folger Fund Professor of History and Project Director, Japan Disasters Digital Archive, Harvard University

[Learn More](#)

## Footprints and Footsteps 3.11 and the Future of Tohoku Online Tribute Event

This is an online event to look back at the events of March 11, 2011, and efforts to recover and rebuild in the 10 years since. Featuring a number of documentaries focusing on those affected by the disasters arising out of the events of that day, both Japanese and non-Japanese, especially JET Program participants and alumni, we will look back from this ten-year mark to remember what happened, and look at today and tomorrow to get a sense of what has been accomplished and what the future holds.

We are also collecting messages and memories on our [Facebook page](#). We will keep you updated with the latest information about the film screening event.

Hosted by the Japan Local Government Center, NY

[Learn More](#)



## Kizuna 10: Inochi

**Thursday, March 11, 2021  
1 - 2 PM EST (12 - 1 PM CST)**



**10TH ANNIVERSARY  
COMMEMORATION CEREMONY**

東日本大震災10周年追悼式  
絆10:いのち - 10年の歩み

LOCATION: Zoom  
Thursday, March 11, 2021 - 12:00-1:00 p.m.  
Please register via Zoom: <https://bit.ly/2Z7V5lq>

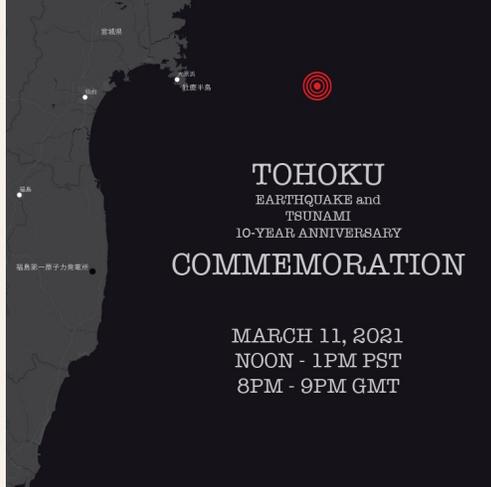
会場: Zoom  
3月11日(木) 午後12時~1時  
参加登録はこちらへ: <https://bit.ly/2Z7V5lq>



[Learn More](#)

## Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami 10-Year Anniversary Commemoration

**Thursday, March 11, 2021  
3:00 - 4:00 PM EST (12:00 - 1:00 PM PST)**



On March 11, ten years ago, the largest earthquake in modern Japanese history shook the Tohoku region. The tsunami that followed devastated many areas in the region; and was the cause of the Fukushima nuclear accident. Keizai Silicon Valley invites the community and its members to observe a minute of silence for the victims, before we hear from two speakers who witnessed the aftermath of 3.11 and bravely took the initiative to respond to the disaster.

[Learn More](#)

## [VIRTUAL EVENT: Starr Forum: 3.11 Ten Years Later: Disaster and Resilience](#)

Thursday, March 11, 2021  
4:30 - 6:00 PM EST

Experts gather a decade after Japan's earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown to reflect on what has changed and the lessons learned.

**Daniel Aldrich** is a professor of political science, public policy and urban affairs and director of the Security and Resilience Studies program at Northeastern University.

**Miho Mazereeuw** is associate professor of architecture and urbanism at MIT. She also is the director of MIT's Urban Risk Lab. Working on a large, territorial scale with an interest in public spaces and the urban experience, Mazereeuw is known for her expertise in disaster resilience.

**Tatsujiro Suzuki**, a nuclear engineer, is vice director of and professor at the Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition at Nagasaki University (RECNA), Japan.

**Moderator:**

**Richard Samuels** is Ford International Professor of Political Science and director of the Center for International Studies at MIT.

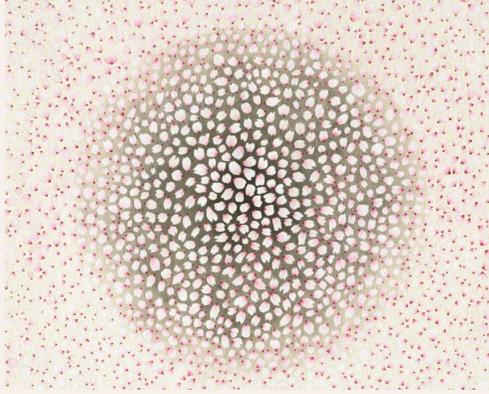


[Learn More](#)

## [A Conversation on Art & Healing](#)

Thursday, March 11, 2021

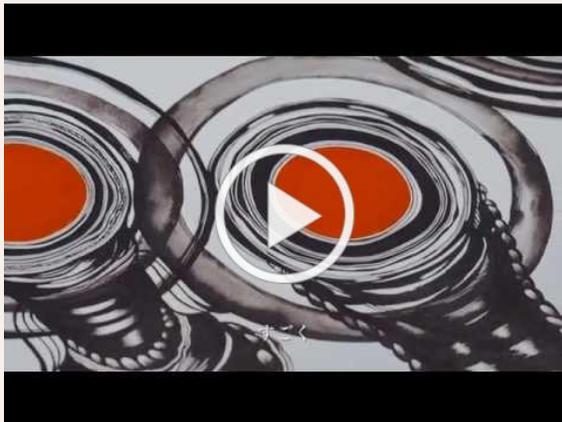
8:00 PM EST



**Artist Yuri Shimojo, gallery founder Yng-Ru Chen, and**

**Duke University professor and art historian, Dr. Gennifer Weisenfeld, PhD**

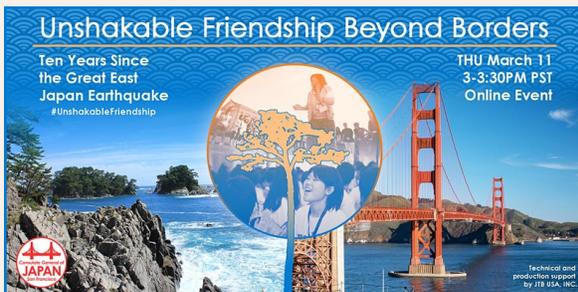
### About the artist



Join us for an exclusive virtual preview of Yuri Shimojo's "Memento Mori," a monumental painting series premiering in the US on the tenth anniversary of the Japanese Tōhoku earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima nuclear crisis. Meet Yng-Ru Chen '01, owner of the Boston-based Praise Shadows Art Gallery; Yuri Shimojo, the artist; and Gennifer Weisenfeld, professor of art, art history & visual studies at Duke University, as they discuss Shimojo's exhibition, and Chen's journey from Duke University to the international art world, including Sotheby's and MoMA.

Dedicated to the memory of the lives lost in the disaster and considered Shimojo's most significant work to date, "Memento Mori" has only been shown in the Japanese cities Kyoto (2013) and Tokyo (2014)—until now. This event will also feature a preview of the artist's new mixed media installation dedicated to the victims of Tōhoku, as well as the millions of lives lost around the world to COVID-19. The panel's exploration of the artist's response to the 21st-century universal human condition will illuminate how empathy and resilience are born out of crisis.

[Learn More](#)



[Learn More](#)

## [Unshakable Friendship Beyond Borders: 10 Years Since the Great East Japan Earthquake](#)

**Thursday, March 11, 2021  
6:00 - 6:30 PM EST (3:00 - 3:30 PM PST)**

On Thursday, March 11, in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco will host an online event to remember the victims of the disaster and to thank the people of the United States for their boundless support and encouragement. The program will include a minute of silence and feature inspiring stories of Japan-U.S. exchange following the disaster.

[Great East Japan Earthquake  
10th Memorial & BCC 10th](#)

## Anniversary Concert

**March 11 - 15, 2021**  
**7:30 PM - 8:00 PM EST/EDT**  
( 3  12, 13, 14  9:30   
15, 16  8:30)

It's been a year since the 2020 Boston Charity Concert was postponed due to the pandemic. We are excited to share that the Boston Charity Concert is dedicated to bringing care and inspiration to our communities. In the midst of this global pandemic, we have been seeking ways to bring music performances back into our lives. Although our in-person concert will have to wait until everyone's safety can be guaranteed, the Boston Charity Concert would like to brighten your lives with music as much as possible.

~ Great East Japan Earthquake 10th memorial & BCC 10th Anniversary ~

*Virtual Boston Charity Concert*

March 11-15, 7:30pm

Featuring Performance of Young Stars and Professional Musicians

Watch Free Streaming at:

<https://www.bostoncharityconcert.com>



With support from Japanese Women's Club of Boston 後援: ボストン日本女性の会

[Learn More](#)



[Learn More](#)

## Unshakable Friendship: Remembering the 3/11 "Great East Japan Earthquake"

Starting Friday, March 12

This year marks the 10th Anniversary of the 3/11 "Great East Japan Earthquake." The National Museum of Asian Art, the Japan Information and Culture Center and the National Cherry Blossom Festival commemorate the occasion with films by two master filmmakers who look at the disaster's legacy.

## JASDFW 3/11 Resilience Series: A Resurgent Region – Tohoku's Recovery Since 2011

**Tuesday, March 16, 2021**  
**6 PM - 7 PM EST (5 PM - 6 PM CST)**

Please join us for this special conversation with representatives from Fukushima, Iwate, and Miyagi Prefectures on the progress made in Tohoku since 2011. We will discuss reconstructing physical infrastructure, attracting economic activity to the region, debunking myths about disaster-afflicted areas, providing social services for those still in need, and ensuring a prosperous future for Tohoku through community building and grassroots organizations.



[Learn More](#)

## Marking the 10th Anniversary of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
8:00 - 9:15 PM EDT**

In Session 1, using the concepts of “Light and Shadow” and “Challenges,” Governor Uchibori from Fukushima Prefecture will talk about the steps for revitalization and Fukushima’s efforts after the compound disaster of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the nuclear accident, and the resulting issue of harmful rumors, as well as the fading of memories related to the disaster over time.

In Session 2, Mr. Hirose from TEPCO will look back at the Fukushima nuclear accident and review the current status of the nuclear power plant and its decommissioning, including progress with radiation levels and the present state of the evacuation zone.

**Session 1:**

The Future of Fukushima: Coping with Disaster and the Road to Recovery



Featuring:  
**Masao Uchibori**  
Governor of Fukushima Prefecture

**Session 2:**

The Current Status of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant and Its Decommissioning



Featuring:  
**Naomi Hirose**  
Senior Advisor and Former President and CEO  
Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO)

[Learn More](#)

## Tohoku Update: Overcoming Challenges

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
8:00 - 9:30 PM EDT (7:00 - 8:30 PM CST)**

Since March 15, 2012, we have continuously organized an annual program on the pace of recovery and the challenges that the Tohoku region faces since The Great East Japan Earthquake. This will be our tenth annual program, TOHOKU UPDATE and it faithfully follows those programs that have set a precedent in presenting first-hand insights to the work that is being done to build a positive future.



**TOHOKU UPDATE:  
OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND  
DEVELOPING NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES**

JOIN US: Live from Miyagi and Fukushima

Featured Speakers: Takashi Kamikura, Director, Economic Affairs, City of Sendai; Shinji Takada, Chief Executive Officer, Yamamoto, Inc.; Hiroyuki Karahashi, President, Homare Sake Brewery, Co., Ltd. & Ryoichi Ito, Director General of JETRO Sendai

Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
7:00-8:30 pm (CST)

**FREE ADMISSION**  
EVENT WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM  
Simultaneous translation provided  
(only Japanese to English)  
[www.jaschicago.org](http://www.jaschicago.org)

(Photo Caption) Tohoku Rokkousai in Sendai City (2011) just four months after the earthquake. To recognize the popularity of the Tohoku region each of the six prefectures closely worked together to combine their major summer festivals into one large event that rotated each year. After Sendai City, Tohoku Rokkousai was also held in Morioka City (2012), Fukushima City (2013) and in Yamagata City (2014) attracting over 1 million people.



[Learn More](#)

## JSB Meets JET Alumni (Miyagi)

### 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!

To read the full interviews, [please visit our website](#).

*Episode 6: Miyagi  
Interview with Ed Clemons  
(Karakuwa, Miyagi 2009-2011)*

**Q: What are some of the things your prefecture is known for?**  
Until I came to Miyagi Prefecture, I had never experienced the level of nature and quality of food it has to offer. The scenic parks and rock beaches along the sea coast (Matsushima), the super fresh and tasty seafood (probably the best I've had still to this day!), and access to some relaxing onsens and mountains for skiing/snowboarding (Mount Zao).



Closer to where I lived, Kesenuma City is known as one of the biggest fishing ports in Miyagi and Japan, so I also enjoyed a variety of seafood there - various fish sashimi, oysters, and scallops among them. Even our city mascot "Hoya Boya" is named after a sea pineapple, which I would say is an acquired taste. What I really appreciated the most is being able to taste the freshness of locally sourced food. Unfortunately, Kesenuma was also one of coastal cities in Tohoku hit hard by the 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster, which in turn had a big impact on their fishing industry and local economy. Since then they have made some strides in recovery, and while not at the level they once operated at, their fishing market has been back open for business for some years now.

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

While in Tohoku, I did pick up the "-be/-ppe" ending, but honestly it was a challenge to incorporate it into my everyday conversations. On top of that, there was an even more local dialect in Kesenuma where I lived, mostly spoken by older people that sounded like a whole new language compared to the standard Japanese I was learning.

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

I'm grateful to say that since living in Japan, I have maintained a strong connection to the people and culture. Participating in the JET program also gave me some unbelievable experiences to reflect on and give perspective to life.

I happened to be in Japan during the March 2011 Tohoku Disaster, a witness to the devastating effects on Kesenuma City where I lived and the nearby towns hit hardest. It was a challenging time, to say the least, but throughout it all, I can honestly say I never wanted to leave. Despite what we were going through, I saw many people come together as a community to help support each other in various ways - whether through providing shelter for others without, sharing food sources and supplies, and many volunteers from other parts of Japan coming to help with donations and various needs. I volunteered where I could as well, and felt glad I could develop a deeper connection to the people in my town through what contributions I could give. I will always consider Japan a home of mine.

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

## Japan Society of Boston Online Events

**We're launching our new podcast series: *My Japan Journey!***

**Thursday, March 25, 2021  
6:00 PM EDT**

We're launching our exciting new podcast series, in which we explore the untold stories behind the cultural encounters that have transformed lives.



In our first episode, Executive Director Yuko Handa interviews Susan Napier, Tufts University Professor of Rhetoric and Japanese Studies and anime expert! We hope you hear Susan's story and feel inspired to embrace the unfamiliar.

AND we'll be kicking off our new Youtube channel with a podcast listening party! Join us on March 25 to hear the exclusive release of our first episode on Youtube Live! Follow us on

social media for the link!



## JSB Language School Social

with special guest Ed Demling

Friday, March 26, 2021

7:00 - 8:30 PM EDT

3 27 8 9

This is an opportunity to meet and network with fellow students who are studying Japanese in our virtual classrooms. Find out what motivates and inspires others to

□□ (ganbaru; give it your all) in their Japanese endeavors. Current, past and future students of our Language Program welcome!

Our guest speaker Edward Demling will share with us how his interest led him from being a student of Japanese to a translator and visa consultant in Japan which spans over 20 years!

A spring social to meet the community of JSB language learners

Friday, March 26th, 2021  
7:00 - 8:30pm EDT  
Via Zoom

Featuring  
guest speaker  
Edward Demling



[Register Here](#)

## The Art of Scent: Incense Sachet Workshop with Shoyeido

in collaboration with *Japan America Society Colorado*  
and *The Japan Society Canada*



Sunday, March 28, 2021  
7:00 PM EDT (5:00 PM MDT)

The Shoyeido Incense Company began in Kyoto in 1705, becoming the world's premiere incense-making company and the preferred supplier of

incense to most temples in Japan. Twelve generations later, Masataka Hata continues his family's legacy and travels to the U.S. every year to spread the art of incense appreciation.

While we are unable to hold our traditional in-person event this year, we invite you to join us to hear Mr. Hata from Kyoto share the history and significance of incense in Japan. This year, we will end the event with a sachet-making workshop,\* guided by Mr. Hata, in lieu of the traditional incense appreciation ceremony.

*\*If interested in the workshop, be sure to register with the sachet kit purchase **by March 18** to receive the sachet kit in time for the event.*

[Register Here](#)

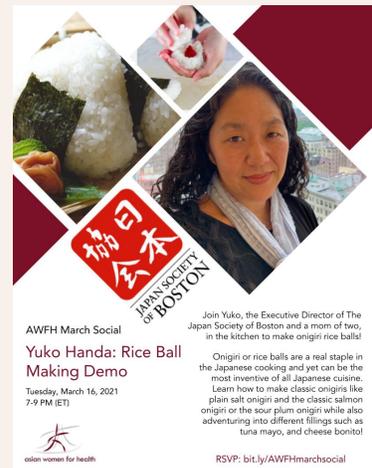
## Rice Ball Making Demo

in collaboration with Asian Women for Health

**Sunday, March 16, 2021  
7:00 PM EDT**

Join Yuko Handa, the Executive Director of The Japan Society of Boston and a mom of two, in the kitchen to make onigiri rice balls!

Onigiri or rice balls are a staple in Japanese cooking and yet can be the most inventive of all Japanese cuisine. Learn how to make classic onigiris like plain salt onigiri, the classic salmon onigiri, or the sour plum onigiri, while also adventuring into different fillings such as tuna mayo, and cheese bonito!



[Register Here](#)



## The JSB Language Room (Virtual Language Exchange)

**Friday, March 19, 2021  
6:00 to 8:00 PM EDT**

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

Please join us for two hours of conversation, where you will be grouped based on your proficiency level. We hope you will take part in our

community as we strive to bridge Japanese and American cultures. This time, we'll be discussing **spring events!**

*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](#)

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

**Wednesday, March 24, 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 ***Quicksand*** by **Jun'ichiro Tanizaki**.



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](#)

## [Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-Chefs - Part 10 - Makizushi](#)



**Saturday, April 3, 2021**

**5:00 - 6:00 PM EDT**

**\$10 JSB Members / \$15 Non-members**

**Hosted online via Zoom**

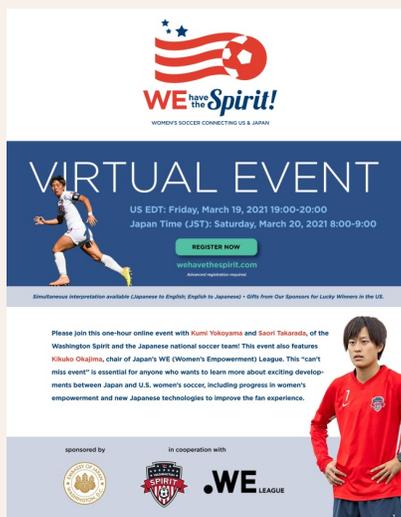
Makizushi (巻き寿司), also known as rolled sushi, is sushi rolled in nori seaweed. For this cooking lesson, we'll be making our own California rolls! The most commonly

accepted creator of the California roll is Ichiro Mashita, a Los Angeles sushi chef in the 1960s. He noticed that when he served Americans the standard makizushi, they would remove the seaweed on the outside thinking it was inedible. As a result, he inverted the sushi roll so that the rice was on the outside instead.

JSB volunteer Masayo Kawaguchi is excited to show you how to make your own California roll!

[Register Here](#)

## Other Online Events



**WE have Spirit!**  
WOMEN'S SOCCER CONNECTING US & JAPAN

**VIRTUAL EVENT**

US EDT: Friday, March 19, 2021 19:00-20:00  
Japan Time (JST): Saturday, March 20, 2021 8:00-9:00

[REGISTER NOW](#)  
wehave spiritspirit.com

Simultaneous interpretation available (Japanese to English, English to Japanese) - ©2021 From Our Sponsors for Lucky Women in the US

Please join this one-hour online event with **Kumi Yokoyama** and **Saori Takarada**, of the Washington Spirit and the Japanese national soccer team! This event also features **Kikuko Okajima**, chair of Japan's WE (Women's Empowerment) League. This "can't miss event" is essential for anyone who wants to learn more about exciting developments between Japan and U.S. women's soccer, including progress in women's empowerment and new Japanese technologies to improve the fan experience.

sponsored by  in cooperation with 

[Learn More](#)

### [Women's Soccer Connecting US & Japan](#)

**Friday, March 19, 7:00 - 10:00 PM EDT**  
**Saturday, March 20, 8:00 - 9:00 AM JST**

Please join this one-hour online event with Kumi Yokoyama and Saori Takarada, of the Washington Spirit and the Japanese national soccer team! This event also features Kikuko Okajima, chair of Japan's WE (Women's Empowerment) League. This "can't miss event" is essential for anyone who wants to learn more about exciting developments between Japan and U.S. women's soccer, including progress in women's empowerment and new Japanese technologies to improve the fan experience.

## 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](#)

[How to Read and Write Hiragana](#)

### [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](#)

