

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

September 20 - October 3, 2021



Now open for registration!

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

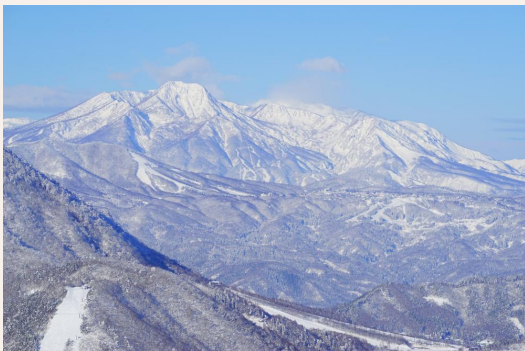
September 23rd
Stories of Japanese Pioneers
[Part 2: Bridging the US and Japan: The Story of John Manjiro and Capt. William Whitfield](#)

September 24th
[JSB Language Room](#)

October 28th
[Coffee Life in Japan](#)

Read more about all our events below!

[JSB meets JET Alumni](#)



Our next interview is with **Liz Brailsford**, an ALT who was placed in Joetsu-shi and Myoko Kogen in **Niigata** prefecture. Did you know that Myoko Kogen is one of Japan's oldest ski areas? Read more about Liz's JET experiences below and on our [website!](#)

[Join or Renew Your Membership](#)

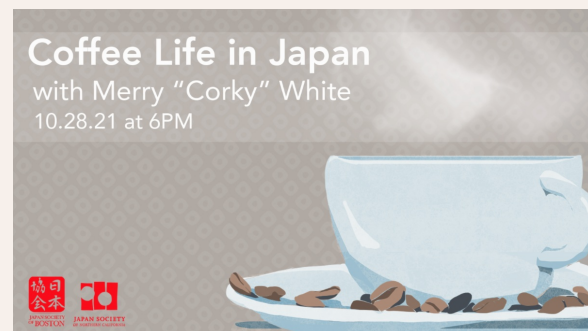
The Japan Society of Boston is a community of bridge builders and curious minds who have found connections with others through their common interest in strengthening the ties between the US and Japan.

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



[Coffee Life in Japan](#) Thursday, October 28, 2021 6:00 PM EDT

[New Podcast Episode!](#)



Check out our latest episode with **Maria Toyoda**! Currently the Senior Vice President and Provost at Western New England University, Maria shares her unique perspective on

[Join or Renew](#) your Membership and support us continue this important work of bridge-building!



Japan and Japan-US relations thanks to her extensive background in Political Science, Economics, and Higher Education Administration, as well as her experience growing up as part of one of the few Asian immigrant families in Miami, Florida.

[Maria Toyoda: A Special Relationship with Another Culture](#)

Japan Society of Boston Featured Online Events

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 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 of 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.

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

Coffee Life in Japan

in collaboration with the Japan Society of Northern California

Thursday, October 28, 2021 | 6:00 PM EDT / 3:00 PM PDT

Life in Japan over the past almost two hundred years can be measured in coffee cups and experienced in the spaces that coffee has created – the *koohiihausu*, the café, the *kissaten*. A trip through Japan's coffee history and contemporary places demonstrates the ways in which an artifact, a material object – often coming originally from somewhere else – becomes Japanese, and then travels the world to be appreciated and emulated. A cup of coffee, Japanese style, has become a world standard. In these times when travel to Japan has been limited, making yourself a cup of Japanese coffee might just take you back to that *kissaten* you miss so much.



Register

Japan Society of Boston Recurring Online Events

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

The JSB Language Room

Virtual Language Exchange

Friday, September 24, 2021 | 6:00 to 8:00 PM EDT

9 25 7 9



Join the JSB
Language Room!
A Japanese and English
Virtual Language
Exchange

Hosted online via Zoom

(you will be sent the meeting code upon registering)

The theme for this exchange is
"Cooking"

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

Notes from JSB

In Memoriam: Ezra F. Vogel (1930 - 2020)

Editor's Note: Last December, Ezra F. Vogel, Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences Emeritus at Harvard University, passed away at the age of ninety. A remarkable contributor to the study of East Asia, Vogel's breadth of research covered the entirety of the region, and he brought not only a deep knowledge and understanding of each country, but also of East Asia's regional and global impact. His interdisciplinary work contributed extensively to building institutions that would support generations of scholars and practitioners with an interest in East Asia. In the following two essays, Peter Frost and Glen Fukushima reminisce on his extraordinary life, and tremendous and long-lasting influence on the field of Asian studies.

IN MEMORIAM: EZRA F. VOGEL (1930-2020)

Those of us who are committed to studying East Asia lost an extraordinary scholar, teacher, and friend when the retired Harvard University Sociology Professor Ezra F. Vogel died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, this last December.

My first "contact" with Ezra Vogel came when I picked up a copy of his 1963 book, *Japan's New Middle Class*. He and his first wife, Suzanne, had written the book after one of his Harvard graduate school sociology professors told him that he needed to experience other cultures in order to get a better perspective on the United States. As the title makes clear, the book shows how the beginnings of high economic growth were changing Japanese society from rural to urban, and from three-generation families to the Western-style nuclear family headed by a *safari* man (talented employees, his wife, and his children). I loved the book, in good part because, as *The New York Times* writer Amy Qin pointed out in her December 22, 2020, obituary, Vogel was "uninterested in elegant theories or quantitative modeling." This was simply an eloquently written analysis of a new Japan. I was hooked.

My second "contact" came when Vogel's 1979 book, *Japan as Number One: Lessons for America*, sold over 500,000 copies. The title was deliberately provocative, but the content, as usual, is a clearly written analysis of the many positive aspects of Japanese society that the United States can learn from. Put another way, the book encourages all of us to look (just as Vogel himself had been told to do) beyond the common view that American values are the only way to create a just society. It is a very useful contribution to the ongoing debate between those who are known as "Chrysanthemum Clubbers" and their sometimes quite angry opponents, the "Japan Busters." I then watched in amazement as Professor Vogel expanded his studies from Japan to other parts of Asia. His 1969 book, *Canton under Communism: Programs and Politics in a Provincial Capital, 1949-1962*, and his 1991 book, *The Four Little Dragons: The Spread of Industrialization in East Asia*, expanded his research to the People's Republic of China and four other East Asian nations. All this was topped off by his 879-page blockbuster, *Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China* (2011), and the last of his many other works, the 2019 book *China and Japan: Facing History*. At the time of his death, he apparently was working on four additional projects, all once again responding to key current issues, up to and including recommendations for the new Joe Biden presidency.

This extraordinarily wide range of scholarship reflects at least two key facts. One is that Professor Vogel was one of a handful of people who could happily research, write, and lecture in Chinese, Japanese, and English. When he visited me at my postretirement job at the University of



Mississippi to talk to us about his Deng Xiaoping book, he told me that he formally practiced both Chinese and Japanese each day. He then made a point of talking with the university's Chinese- and Japanese-language instructors, each of whom praised his linguistic skills. Those instructors, I should add, are highly skilled professionals, not given to polite flattery.

Second, Vogel's language skills also helped him maintain cordial relations with everyone he wrote about. While some wondered if he properly criticized Deng Xiaoping's crackdown on free speech, the book, even though some parts were censored in translation, clearly deals with the 1989 Tiananmen tragedy, as well as Deng's controversial balance between greater economic flexibility and less tolerance for political criticism. Indeed, Vogel's ability to get high-level Asian officials to agree to an interview is one of the many strengths of his work.

I have often wondered how Professor Vogel found time amongst all this scholarly production to also contribute to the improvement of the academic community. His work included seven years as director in the 1980s of Harvard University's Program on US-Japan relations, a two-year stint as a national intelligence officer for the US government's National Intelligence Center from 1993 to 1995, and then a two-year stint as director of Harvard's Asia Center. Retiring from teaching in 2000 at age seventy seemed to speed up his activities, not slow him down.

What I most wish to stress is Professor Vogel's mentoring. While it would have been easy in this "publish or perish" era for him to skim over a university professor's obligation to teach, Vogel's students have testified to his unrepentant decency and his frequent invitations to discuss key topics as his home. When I retired from Williams College to help the University of Mississippi start its International Studies Program, Professor Vogel would sit me down at the annual Association of Asian Studies Conference to ask what I thought about my decision. What was Mississippi like? (Fun.) How capable were the students in the university's Honors Program? (Very.) Like so many others, I felt supported, respected and even honored. That is what I will always remember as one of Ezra F. Vogel's greatest legacies.

PETER K. FROST is Frederick L. Schumann Professor of International Studies, Emeritus, Williams College, and Visiting Professor (ret.) and formerly of CofC Institute, the University of Mississippi. He still serves as an Associate Editor for *Education About Asia*.

We are honored to share an obituary for Dr. Ezra Vogel, once our longest-running board member and leading expert on East Asia. Written by our board member Glen S. Fukushima, this tribute was recently published in the Spring edition of *Education about Asia*.

Remembering Ezra, we will continue to cherish interpersonal connections and cultural exchange as he did. Ezra always saw the best in others and has continued to inspire us to do the same.

Obituary originally published in *Education About Asia*, Volume 26, Number 1, Spring 2021, reprinted with permission of the Association for Asian Studies.

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 19: *Niigata*

Interview with **Liz Brailsford**

(Joetsu and Myoko Kogen, Niigata, 2004-2007)

What sparked your interest in applying for the JET program?

The opportunity to travel, experience the wonderful culture and food of Japan, and to see the moon from a different viewpoint. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do for my career and felt a bit aimless at that point, so this seemed like the perfect chance to explore and ponder my next era. I never regretted my choice and loved every moment in Japan - I soaked up every day like a sponge.



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

Food, most specifically rice and sake! It's also a wonderful place to go snowboarding/skiing (Myoko Kogen) and has tons of farmland and snow. A really friendly area - the "midwest" of Japan.

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

Being that Niigata is kind of like the midwest of Japan, it has a pretty standard dialect! But I love douzo, yoroshiku/yoroshiku onegai shimasu - simple phrases for which we here in America just don't seem to have an easy replica. I also love their saying ichi-go ichi-e; I have that in calligraphy and framed to this day.

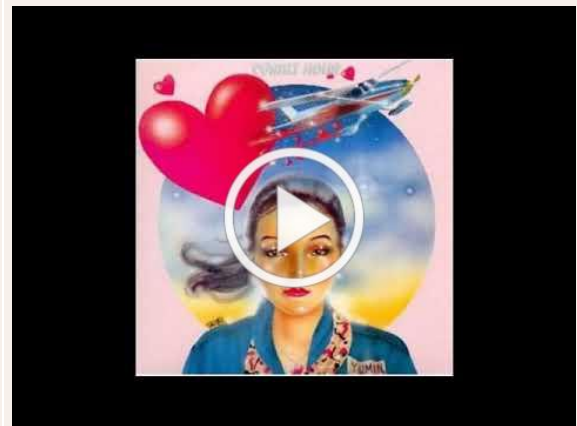
[Read the rest of Liz's interview!](#)

JSB Staff Song of the Week



by **Yumi Arai**,

a Japanese singer, composer, lyricist, and pianist



Online Events by other Japan Societies





Japan's Business Reinvention: How to lead Corporate Culture Change

by The Japan Society of Northern
California

Tuesday, September 21, 2021
7:30 - 8:30 PM EDT (4:30 - 5:30 PM PDT)

Over the past decade, Japan's leading companies have undergone a reinvention, away from brand names and commoditized products to a stealth, deep-tech leadership in critical inputs into global supply chains.

This event will introduce the core message of Ulrike Schaede's award-winning book "The Business Reinvention of Japan", followed by a discussion with the key executives of JSR and AGC who have led this corporate renewal and reinvention in their effort to turn what used to be traditional, risk-averse, slow and steady companies into agile, tech-driven, global competitors. AGC Inc., formerly Asahi Glass Co., Ltd., is a supplier of flat, automotive, display glass, chemicals, ceramics and other high-tech components and the JSR Corporation, formerly Japan Synthetic Rubber Co., Ltd., engages in the manufacture and sale of synthetic rubber and fine chemical materials.

[Learn More](#)

Gateway to New Horizons - Alberta

by The Japan Society Canada
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
7:00 - 8:30 PM EDT

"Gateway to New Horizons - Investment Opportunities in Canada", co-hosted by the Japan Society, Invest in Canada, JETRO Toronto and sponsored by Torys LLP, is designed to showcase Canadian investment opportunities to Japanese investors.

List of speakers:

- Don Bell, Partner, Torys
- Bill Baver, SMART World Executive Leader, NTT
- Nella Brodett, Director of Investment and Partnerships, Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute (Amii)
- Michael Couch, Senior Investment Advisor (Japan), Invest Alberta Corporation
- Emily Kneteman, Regional Director, Invest in Canada
- Howard Shearer, Chief Executive Canada, Hitachi Canada
- Marko Trivun, Senior Associate, Torys

Q&A session moderated by Emily Kneteman, Regional Director, Invest in Canada

[Learn More](#)

Online Events by Non-Japan Societies

KAGA YUZEN
加賀 友禪
Colours of Japanese Elegance
A Talk with MAIDA Hitoshi

AN ONLINE TALK BY JAPAN SOCIETY



**Panel: "Investment Screening
and Supply Chain Security:
Japanese, EU, and U.S.
Perspectives on China"**

**Kaga Yuzen: Colours of
Japanese Elegance - A Talk
with MAIDA Hitoshi**
by The Japan Foundation
**Tuesday, September 21, 2021
8:00 AM EDT**

Kaga Yuzen is the traditional technique of dyeing preserved in the Kaga area (Ishikawa prefecture) of Japan.

In this special talk, the Japan Foundation has invited MAIDA Hitoshi, a descendant of Maida Senga Kogei, to guide us through the intricate creation process of Kaga Yuzen by showcasing the work and the captivating workmanship of his workshop. In 21st century society, kimono may no longer be the prime attire for Japanese people, but MAIDA will also discuss how he, representing a new generation within the long-standing traditional artform, believes this beautiful craft could be sustained and evolve alongside modern life. The talk will be followed by a discussion moderated by Marjolein de Raat, a Japan Foundation Assistant Curator at the National Museum of Scotland.

[Learn More](#)

by Weatherhead Center for International
Affairs, Harvard University
**Monday, September 27, 2021
12:00 - 1:30 PM EDT**

Sarah Bauerle-Danzman

Assistant Professor, Department of
International Studies, Hamilton Lugar
School of Global and International Studies,
Indiana University Bloomington

Sophie Meunier

Senior Research Scholar, Princeton School
of Public and International Affairs; Co-
Director, European Union Program at
Princeton, Princeton University

Kristin Vekasi

Academic Associate, Program on U.S.-
Japan Relations, Harvard University;
Associate Professor, Department of
Political Science and School of Policy &
International Affairs, University of Maine

Moderator: **Christina L. Davis**

Director, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations;
Professor of Government; Susan S. and
Kenneth L. Wallach Professor, Radcliffe
Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard
University

[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](#)

[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](#)

