



# 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




NEW MEMBER

*Gift Raffle*

JOIN BY DEC. 31 TO ENTER



SAKABAYASHI  
SUSHI TAVERN



New England  
Botanic Garden  
AT TOWER HILL



ICA

### Become a JSB member to enter our year-end gift raffle!

Now is the time to join JSB! New members who join between now and December 31, 2025 will be automatically entered in a raffle to win one of the following prizes:

- \$30 gift certificate to Sakabayashi Sushi Tavern (5 winners)
- Pair of admission passes to the New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill (2 winners)
- Pair of admission passes to the Institute of Contemporary Art / Boston (1 winner)

Our thanks to Sakabayashi Sushi Tavern, New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, and ICA/Boston for their generous support!

[Become a Member](#)

Our **Kyoto-Boston Tote Bags**  
are back for a limited time!

Featuring a Kyoto-Boston architectural design created by artist Randall Imai in honor of the 65th anniversary of Boston and Kyoto's sister city relationship, these midweight cotton canvas tote bags are 15" (H) x 14.5" (W) x 3" (D) with a handle drop of 10". The bags are a light beige color with a black design and black handles.

Place your order in time for the holidays!

Order



JAPAN SOCIETY  
OF BOSTON

**NEW** *Membership*  
**DISCOUNT  
PARTNER**

**SAYAKO HIROI STUDIO**

*Sayako Hiroi*

Sayako Hiroi Studio

Announcing a new discount partner  
for JSB members! Thank you  
to **Sayako Hiroi Studio** for their  
support.

Sayako Hiroi is a skilled Japanese  
artist based in Boston, providing  
professional kintsugi repair services  
to restore and rejuvenate cherished  
ceramics. Kintsugi (金継ぎ) is the  
traditional Japanese art of repairing  
broken ceramics with lacquer and  
gold, emphasizing the beauty of  
imperfection.

See JSB's website for  
all discount partners and membership  
information.

[Sayako Hiroi Studio](#)

5% off kintsugi repair commissions

Discount Partners

# 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!



## Green Approaches to Japanese Woodworking and Bath Culture

**Tuesday, December 16, 2025 - 6:00PM EST  
Online**

Join us for a discussion on sustainability that bridges craft, ecology, and design across cultures. This webinar will feature a Japanese architect specializing in traditional carpentry in conversation with a New England regenerative farmer and a Pakistani expert in sustainable infrastructure. Together, they will dive into the shared philosophies and distinct approaches that guide their work, revealing how time-honored techniques and modern innovations can coexist to nurture more sustainable futures.

The speakers will also discuss how their respective disciplines are converging at OnsenKoguma, an exciting project to create an authentic bathhouse in rural Vermont that is both rooted in Japanese tradition and unique to its New England environment.

This is a free, hour-long panel discussion with Q&A hosted on Zoom.  
Advance registration required.

[Register](#)



SPONSORED BY:  
 Temple  
University  
Japan Campus

# JSB LANGUAGE ROOM

A JAPANESE & ENGLISH  
VIRTUAL LANGUAGE  
EXCHANGE

会  
話

## JSB Language Room

**Thursday, December 18, 2025 - 6:00PM EST**  
(日本時間では12月19日金曜日午前8時)  
**Online**

Looking for a fun way to socialize and grow your language skills from the comfort of your own home? Join JSB to practice your Japanese or English at our next online Japanese / English language exchange.

Our monthly language room is sponsored by Temple University, Japan Campus (TUJ), the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

**This Month's Theme: 冬の風物詩 / Winter Activities & Traditions**

Advance registration required.

[Register](#)

**おうちごはん！ (Uchigohan)  
Christmas Cake and Karaage**

**Sunday, December 21, 2025 - 5:00PM  
EST  
Online**



Let's celebrate the season, Japanese style!

Guest chef Chieko Sakiyama (Boston-based) will demonstrate how to make and decorate a classic **Japanese Christmas cake**, including adorable strawberry Santas. Debra Samuels will lead us in making **JFC—Japanese Fried Chicken (karaage)**.

A full list of ingredients, recipes, and instructions for both the cake and karaage will be sent the week of the class.

JSB members can visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for the discount code.

## Register

# Japanese New Year Celebration 2026

**Saturday, January 17, 2026 -  
12:00PM EST  
Bow Market**

1 Bow Mkt Way, Somerville, MA

## Japanese New Year Celebration 2026

@Bow Market, Somerville

**SAT, JAN 17TH  
12-4 PM**

Special Zoni Soup  
\$12 each

Japanese New Year Card  
FREE workshop

DJ Set: Japanese City Pop  
by Deep Digs

Small Business Pop-up  
Candle, Upcycled T-shirts, etc.



Towka



アップサイクル



JAPAN SOCIETY  
OF BOSTON



Ring in 2026 with a Japanese New Year Celebration at Bow Market! The festivities will include zoni soup (a traditional Japanese new year's dish with mochi rice cakes) from Nagomi Bento, Japanese "city pop" music from DJ Deep Digs, and pop-up shops from small businesses selling Japanese goods.

Japan Society of Boston will host a booth where visitors of all ages can enjoy making Japanese new year's cards, or *nengajo* (年賀状). Learn about Japan's *nengajo* culture and try your hand at decorating postcards using simple *chigiri-e* (torn paper collage) and other techniques. Art supplies are generously provided by [BLICK Art Materials](#).

We will also have a limited quantity of our [Kyoto-Boston tote bags](#) available for sale.

No registration required!

**Oshogatsu 2026 –  
The Japanese New Year!**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**  
**Boston Children's Museum**  
308 Congress St, Boston, MA



More details coming soon!

Join us at Boston Children's Museum for Oshogatsu 2026, the celebration of the Japanese New Year! Experience lively programs featuring taiko drumming, shishimai lion dance, omikujī fortunes, and other exciting activities. Visit the Japanese House exhibit—an authentic Kyoto home from the 1800s located on the Museum's third floor to view special New Year's decorations. Come together to welcome the Year of the Horse!

This event is held in partnership between Boston Children's Museum and the Japan Society of Boston. These two organizations proudly honor their long tradition of welcoming Oshogatsu together. Mark your calendar, bring your friends and family, and be part of a joyful celebration.





**[JSB Member Exclusive]**

## **JSB Film Club**

**January 20, 2025 - 6:00PM EST  
Online**

Join us for a discussion of *Perfect Days* (2023), an Academy Award nominee for Best International Feature directed by Wim Wenders and starring Koji Yakusho.

In *Perfect Days*, Hirayama is content with his life as a toilet cleaner in Tokyo. Outside of his structured routine he cherishes music on cassette tapes, books, and taking photos of trees. Through unexpected encounters, he reflects on finding beauty in the world. (Synopsis from NEON)

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**

**Signature Content from JSB**



# **BOSTON: THE U.S.-JAPAN INTERSECTION**

Interviews with leaders bridging the U.S. and Japan



**Katherine Tallman**  
**Executive Director & CEO**  
[Coolidge Corner Theatre](#)

## **Would you introduce yourself briefly?**

Katherine Tallman, Executive Director & CEO, Coolidge Corner Theatre. I have been in this role for 12 years and was on the Board for several years prior.

## **What inspired the Coolidge Corner Theatre's unique focus on championing international cinema, especially Japanese film?**

... All of us at the Coolidge know that film is a gateway to knowledge, empathy and community. Our international programming furthers that. In addition to Japanese films, we show the best in world cinema, and broaden our audiences by partnering with other arts organizations, including Goethe Institut, Cinefest Latino film festival and The French Library among others. We recently launched Cinema Masala, highlighting Indian films.

[Full Article](#)



## MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Showcasing stories from our vibrant community



**Ryan Patrick Barry**

[Full Article](#)

And be sure to check out our [Japanese Woodworking and Bath Culture event](#) in collaboration with Koguma Benefit Corp.!

"Hello, I'm Ryan Patrick Barry, co-founder of Koguma Benefit Corp., an exploratory collective of American appreciators and Japanese masters of onsen culture. This winter Koguma Benefit Corp. is starting with an invitation-only net-zero *rotenburo* (露天風呂 - outdoor bath) in Vermont.

... Returning to Japan for fieldwork, meeting elders and masters, I experienced the concept of *on* (恩) firsthand—a debt of gratitude so profound it can never be fully repaid.

The artists at SomaKosha, our carpentry collaborators on the project, taught me that a building can be an act of reciprocity. I realized OnsenKoguma wasn't a disruption—it was *ongaeshi* (恩返し), an attempt to repay what I could never repay."

# JSB MEETS JET ALUMNI

An interview series on alumni experiences in Japan



**Jennifer Sherman**  
**Mie (2012-2016)**

"For most of my life before that, I never thought I could move across the country, let alone to the other side of the world. Suddenly, after that info session, something clicked with me. I gradually realized I could do it. The idea of participating in JET wouldn't leave my mind, and I knew I'd apply.... Those four years turned out to be the most impactful time of my life so far, so I'm glad I stuck with it!"

[Full Article](#)

From Our Friends

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

## FLOATING CLOUDS... THE CINEMA OF NARUSE MIKIO

The Harvard Film Archive



### Floating Clouds... The Cinema of Naruse Mikio

**Final Film Screening: December 15, 2025 - 7:00PM**

**Harvard Film Archive**

24 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA

Co-presented by The Japan Foundation, the Harvard Film Archive joins venues across the continent in paying tribute to one of Japan's overlooked masters, Naruse Mikio (1905-1969), in a retrospective featuring forty-five film prints.

The special final film screening of ***Every-Night Dreams***, featuring live musical accompaniment, will be on Monday, December 15th at 7pm ET.

JSB members can get a \$3 discount on tickets! Visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for the code.

[Tickets](#)





## ***Rental Family***

### **Multiple Showings Coolidge Corner Theatre**

290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA

Set in modern-day Tokyo, *Rental Family* follows an American actor (Brendan Fraser) who struggles to find purpose until he lands an unusual gig: working for a Japanese "rental family" agency, playing stand-in roles for strangers.

JSB members can get \$3 off tickets! See the [JSB Member Portal](#) for the code.

[Tickets](#)



## **Jazz Concert: Tiger Okoshi and Truly True**

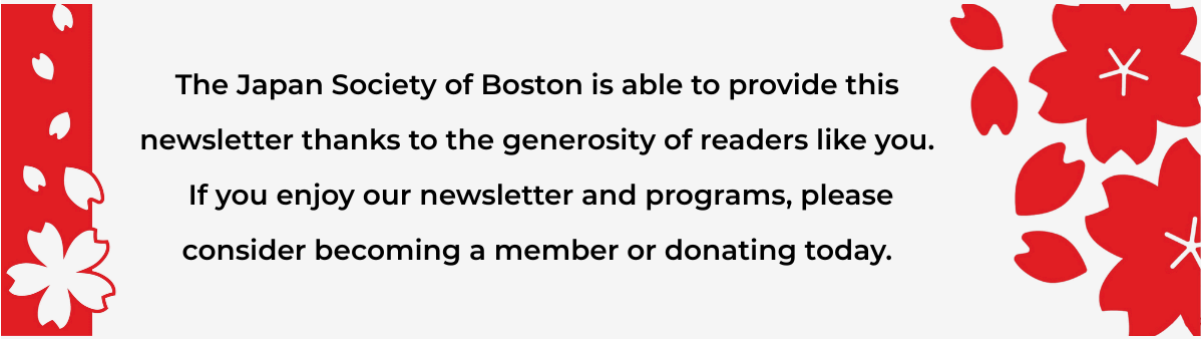
**January 11, 2026 - 3:00PM**

**First Parish in Wayland**

225 Boston Post Rd, Wayland, MA

Tiger Okoshi, internationally acclaimed trumpeter from Japan and Berklee College of Music professor, plays with a new, extraordinary, and unique quintet. Tiger will be joined by violinist Louis Thélot, cellist Peter Sumner, bassist Ferran Rico Andres and Sam Cerra on vibraphone.

[Tickets](#)



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