



THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON
A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

Monthly Newsletter



Boston: The U.S.-Japan Intersection

This month we are featuring a Japanese startup company!

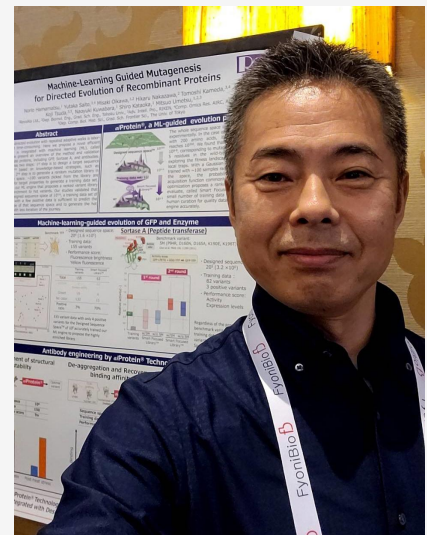
Norio Hamamatsu, RevolKa Ltd.
Senior Director and Head of US Office

1. How long have you been in Boston?

I've been in Boston since 2008. I came from Japan with my wife and a domestic short hair. I started my career in the US as a Ph.D. biochemist at a big pharma company, Novartis. I made the second big decision last year to take a new role at a small Japanese start-up and bridge the US and Japan.

2. What does your company do?

RevolKa is a venture-backed startup in Japan. We have a cutting-edge technology platform of artificial intelligence (AI)-integrated protein engineering, called aiProtein. Our mission is to create unprecedented protein therapeutics and contribute to human well-being. Protein therapeutics are an increasingly important class of drugs especially for difficult-to-treat diseases, such as cancer. Naturally occurring or artificially designed proteins are used for the treatment. Our technology learned and mimics the biological evolution process and integrated AI to accelerate that at laboratories. We believe this will open the door to designing prominent molecules. We started our US office in Boston in Sep 2022 to expand our business outside of Japan. Currently, we are focusing on partnerships with pharma and biotech to co-create phenomenal therapeutic molecules by using our technology.



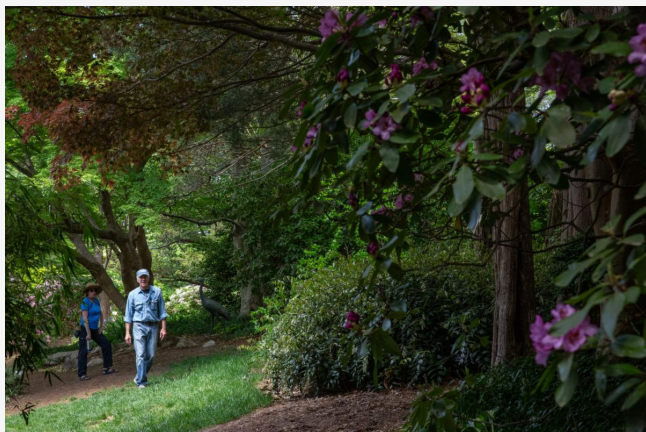
Click [here](#) to read the full interview!

Announcements from JSB

We encourage readers who are not in the Boston area to check out our new discounted membership level, **Online-Only Membership**.

JSB members, please visit the **Member Portal** and log in, to explore exclusive discounts and other perks!

Currently featured are free ebooks on a variety of Japanese topics.



Long Hill estate in Beverly, MA is offering free general admission to JSB members with membership card. This limited time opportunity runs from **Saturday, May 20th until the end of their visitor season on October 29th**. Please note that special programs and events would require additional tickets.

Visit Long Hill to see their vast collection of Japanese native plants and enjoy the beauty of their private gardens surrounded by woodland trails.

There are just a few performances of Boston Ballet's *Our Journey* left! Highlighting two of the show's stellar cast, costume designer, Yuima Nakazato, and principal dancer, Chisako Oga.

Use code "BBFRIENDS" for \$40 tickets to any performance.

Tickets and more information are available **here**.



One of JSB's member discount providers, Crane & Turtle, is hosting multiple Kintsugi Workshops over the next couple of weeks! Bring your broken pottery and, in one class session, Crane & Turtle will teach you how to turn your broken pottery into art!

JSB Members can get a 10% discount for these workshops! Please visit the JSB Member Portal **here** to get the code.

Sign up **here**.



JOHN E. THAYER III AWARD

The John E. Thayer, III Award was established in 1991 to commemorate the work and commitment of John E. “Jack” Thayer, III, a long time member of the Japan Society’s board of directors who was dedicated to furthering relations between Japan and the U.S. This award was established to recognize the achievements of individuals, groups of individuals or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the progress of the understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

[Apply for the Thayer Award](#)

JSB Programming



Distinguished
Visitor Lecture:
Glen S. Fukushima

Wednesday, April 26, 2023
12:00pm EST



The Trade Controversy in U.S. Foreign Policy: Issues and Prospects

Wednesday, April 26th, 2023 12:00 PM ET

**Harvard's Bowie-Vernon Conference Room (K262), CGIS Knafel,
and Online**

Harvard's Weatherhead Center for International Affairs will welcome Glen Fukushima —Vice Chair, Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC); Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress— as a distinguished visitor in April 2023. The session will be moderated by Christina L. Davis, Director, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations;

Edwin O. Reischauer Professor of Japanese Politics, Department of Government; and Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University.

Event Info



Join the JSB Language Room

A Japanese and English Virtual Language Exchange

 JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

Sponsored by:

 Temple University Japan Campus

Friday, April 21st, 2023 6:00 to 8:00 PM ET

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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.

Register



Let's cook!

SHOJIN RYORI

Buddhist Temple Cuisine

Sunday, May 21st
6:00 - 7:30 PM EST

Oûchigohan!

 TABLE FOR TWO 

Online cooking class
\$10 Members w/ code
\$15 Non-members

Featuring special guest
Reverend
Daiko Matsuyama



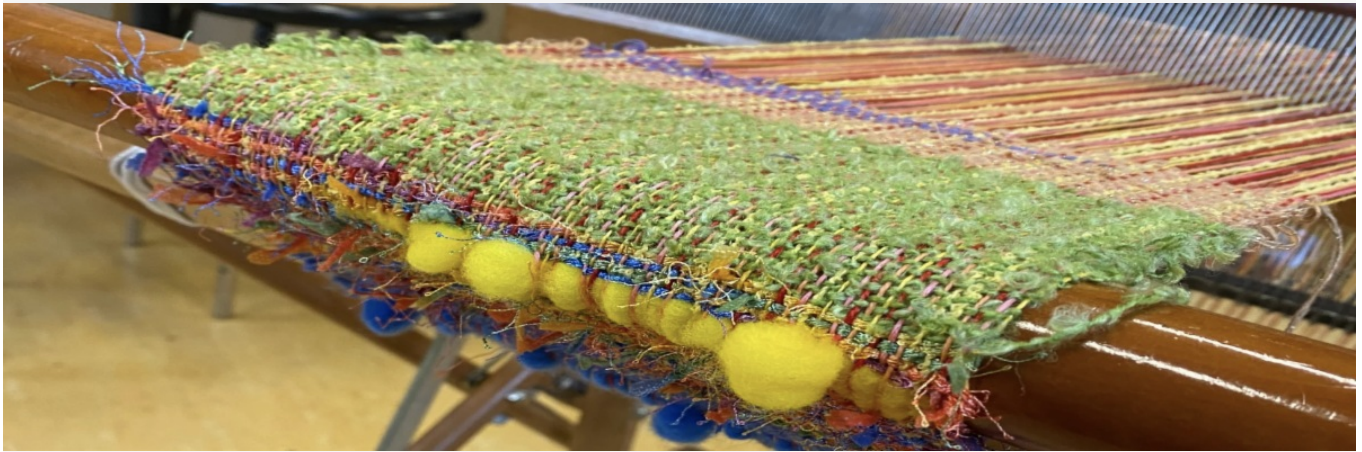
Sunday, May 21st, 2023 — 6:00 PM ET

Online

This month's unique Ouchigohan event features a special guest, **Reverend Daiko Matsuyama**, Buddhist monk from **Taizo-in Buddhist Temple** in Kyoto, who will teach us about Shojin Ryori. Attendees can choose to cook along with Debra Samuels from Table for Two. On the menu is a vegetarian soup accompanied by rice mixed

with greens, and kinpira, a side dish of simmered vegetables in Japanese seasonings.

Register



SAORI Weaving Workshops
Sunday, April 30th, 2023
Boston Children's Museum

Meet guest artist Mihoko Wakabayashi and try [SAORI Weaving](#) to make collaborative art! See event page for times.

There will also be four hour-long SAORI weaving workshops happening on Sunday, May 7th. More details to come!

This program is part of the Japanese Cultural Collaborative: A Boston Children's Museum & Japan Society of Boston Partnership – Funded by Sue and Bernie Pucker.

Event Info

Programs for JSB Members



**CONNECT
WITH JSB!**

Tuesday, April 25th @6PM

Omori Izakaya
195 Washington St, Brookline MA 02445

Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET

Omori Izakaya

195 Washington St
Brookline, Ma 02445

Join Japan Society of Boston staff members for a delicious Japanese meal at Omori Izakaya in Brookline! A great way to get to know us better, meet other members of JSB, practice your Japanese in a casual environment, eat authentic Japanese food, and enjoy a wonderful evening!

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.

[Register](#)



MFA Hokusai Private Tour for JSB Members

Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023 - 3:30 PM ET

Museum of Fine Arts

In collaboration with the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, we are excited to announce a private tour of the Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence exhibit for JSB members. Members will enjoy exclusive access of the museum during this special tour, led by [Dr. Sarah Thompson](#), curator of the exhibit. We will be joined by one of our Board Members, [Dr. Susan Napier](#), Tufts professor and specialist in Japanese media and pop culture.

[Register](#)

Between the Lines

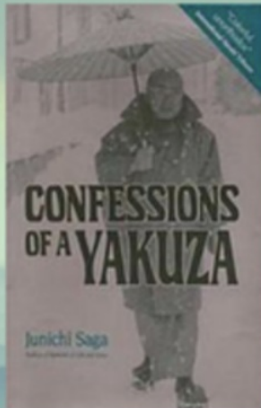
A Monthly Discussion on **Medieval Japanese Women's Literature** for JSB Members every first Thursday of the month.



Thursday, May 4th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET
Online

Join us to discuss some of the greatest classics of medieval Japanese literature, written by women authors! In this session, we will begin looking into the Kagerō Nikki, or *The Gossamer Years : Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan* , by the Mother of Michitsuna.

Register



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

BOOK CLUB

CONFESSIONS OF A YAKUZA:
A LIFE IN JAPAN'S UNDERWORLD
BY JUN'ICHI SAGA

Wednesday, May 24th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET
Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Confessions of a Yakuza: A Life in Japan's Underworld* by Jun'ichi Saga. The purpose of the JSB Book Club is to strengthen the Boston community of Japan enthusiasts by coming together to discuss Japanese literature.

Find a copy of *Confessions of a Yakuza* [here](#).

Register

More Content from JSB



#MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

japansocietyboston.org/

JSB Member Highlight

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

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

This Month: [Eleanor Rubin](#)



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!

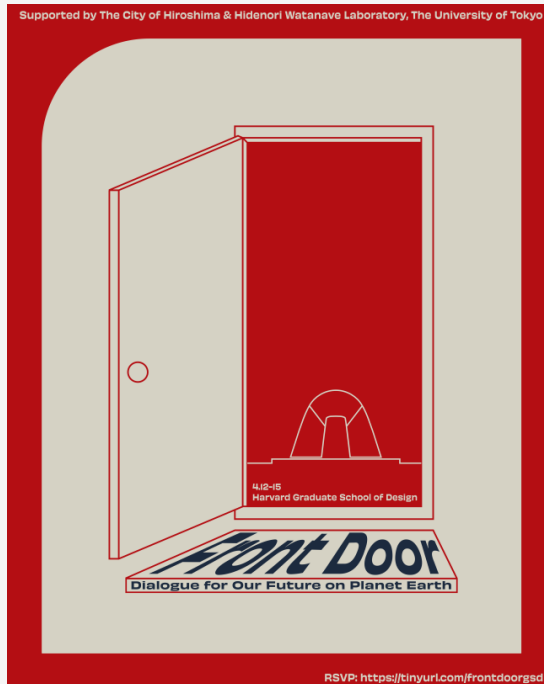
This month's JET Alum is [Kasey Doran](#) - Iwaki City, Fukushima (2007-2010)

USJETAA is seeking a well-organized individual with exceptional communication skills to serve as their next Program & Communications Coordinator. If you are

passionate about the JET alumni network or US-Japan relations, please consider applying [here](#).

Read the Blog

Other Japan-Related Events



April 15th Harvard Graduate School of Design

Bringing together many collaborators from across Harvard, MIT, Cambridge, and the larger Boston area, The Harvard Graduate School of Design is hosting an exchange featuring a community symposium, exhibition, film screening, various panels, and a dinner. Our President Emeritus Peter Grilli will be one of the panelists after the screening of *Paper Lantern* on April 15th.

Register



Special Event

Art in Bloom

Friday, April 28–Sunday, April 30, 2023

During Museum hours

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Included with General Admission

Special Preview: Thursday, April 27, 2023

April 28th - 30th
Museum of Fine Arts

Visit the MFA to see beautiful interpretive floral arrangements of 45 different artworks. Enjoy the creativity of professional floral designers, including two JSB board members.

[Register](#)



OPERA
NIGHT
at the Boston Public Library

Thursday, May 25th, 2023 - 6PM ET
Boston Public Library, Central location
700 Boylston St, Boston Ma 02116

In partnership with the Boston Public Library, Boston Lyric Opera presents an evening of opera performance and conversation exploring what it means to have Asian representation in the opera industry for AAPI Month. BLO Artistic Advisor, founder of Asian Opera Alliance, and mezzo-soprano Nina Yoshida Nelsen will lead a dialogue with fellow artists about the historical, dramaturgical, and personal relevance of contemporary and classic repertoire.

Event is free, register at the link below.

[Register](#)

Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St, Brookline MA 02446

ANI-MANIA!

Anime essentials
on the big screen

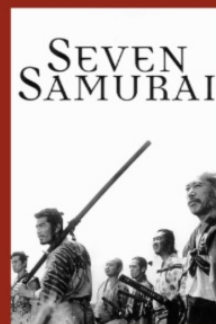
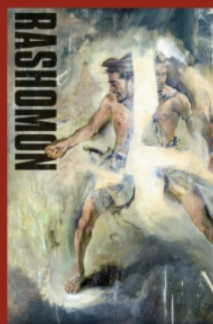
April 4th - 26th



April 4th - 26th Coolidge Corner Theatre

All through April, Coolidge Corner Theatre is showing eight iconic anime films on the big screen! Whether you're a seasoned fan or an anime novice, this list of certified classics has you covered.

Tickets



Akira Kurosawa Film Series at The Brattle Theatre

April 18th - 26th The Brattle Theatre

The Brattle Theatre in Cambridge, MA will be showing a number of Akira Kurosawa films in the second half of April, starting with Drunken Angel and Stray Dog on April 18th!

Tickets

Please send information about Japan-related events in Boston to info@japansocietyboston.org, to help us feature select events.



THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON, INC. | 50 Milk Street, 16F, Boston, MA 02109

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