



THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON  
A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

# 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

### **Congratulations to JSB Board Members Susan Napier and Kiyoko Caine Morita on their Order of the Rising Sun Conferments!**



#### **Susan Napier**

**Goldthwaite Professor of Rhetoric and Japanese at the School of Arts and Sciences, Tufts University**

For over 40 years, Professor Napier has been an active specialist in Japanese literature and culture in the United States. She has made particularly significant contributions to the dissemination of Japanese culture and the promotion of academic exchange between Japan and the United States, notably through her pioneering research in anime criticism.

Professor Napier has taught numerous courses and seminars on modern Japanese literature, anime, Japanese film, and popular culture, significantly shaping the development of Japanese studies in university education. Her particular focus on Japanese popular culture, especially anime, is evident in her establishment of groundbreaking seminars, including those dedicated to Hayao Miyazaki.

Learn More

## Kiyoko Caine Morita

**Former Lecturer of Japanese Language at Tufts University and current President of the Massachusetts Hokkaido Association**

Ms. Kiyoko Caine Morita has dedicated herself to Japanese language education since 1979. She served as a full-time Lecturer in Tufts University's Japanese Language Program for 23 years, beginning in 1993. Her significant contributions include establishing the "Japan in Boston Program," an educational internship system where students of Japanese language teach Japanese language and culture at local public schools. She also played a pivotal role in the creation of the "Japanese Language Teacher Training Course (Master's Program)," notably the first of its kind in the United States.



Furthermore, Ms. Caine Morita has been instrumental in fostering the Massachusetts-Hokkaido sister relationship and the Boston-Kyoto sister city relationship for many years.

[Learn More](#)

---

## Meet the 2025 Cenet Student Members!

**Cenet**, a JSB Nonprofit Member, has generously gifted JSB membership to the following two local students.



### Anna Takai, Wellesley

"I'm a first year at Wellesley College studying economics and computer science. I'm incredibly thankful to be a 2025 Cenet Student Member, and to have the opportunity to promote and celebrate Japanese culture both on campus and throughout the Boston area."

### Alex Carroll, MIT

"I'm genuinely excited to be part of the Japan Society of Boston because it fosters meaningful cultural exchange between two countries that have deeply shaped my life and interests. I look forward



to contributing to its efforts connecting academia, industry, and government across the U.S. and Japan in ways that strengthen mutual understanding and collaboration."



## JSB Programming

**Speakers**

**Green Approaches to Japanese Woodworking & Bath Culture**

**TUESDAY  
DEC. 16, 2025**

**6 - 7 PM ET  
ONLINE**

Organized by the Japan Society of Boston in collaboration with Koguma Benefit Corp.

### **Green Approaches to Japanese Woodworking and Bath Culture** **Tuesday, December 16th, 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 is required.

[Register](#)

# Oûchigohan!

おうちごはん！

Online Cooking  
Class via ZOOM



**Tsukune  
Hot Pot**  
(Tori Dango Nabe)



**shime no udon**  
(締め)

**\$10 JAS/JS/JETAA Members**

**\$15 Non-Members**



TABLE FOR TWO



□□□□□□ Ouchigohan

**Tsukune Hot Pot with Udon Noodles**

**Sunday, November 16th, 2025 - 6:00PM EST**

**Online**

Join the Japan-America Society of North Carolina for this family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series □□□□□□ **OUCHIGOHAN** and cook along or just watch from your own kitchen!

This November, we're warming up with a cozy **Tsukune Hot Pot (Tori Dango Nabe)** — a hearty Japanese one-pot dish featuring tender chicken meatballs simmered with vegetables in a light, flavorful broth. It's the perfect comfort food for the cooler season and a wonderful way to gather around the table with family and friends.

To complete the meal, we'll finish with **Shime no Udon**, adding udon noodles at the end to soak up the rich, savory broth — a classic and satisfying way to conclude a traditional Japanese winter hot pot meal.

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

Register



SPONSORED BY:  
 Temple  
University  
Japan Campus

# JSB LANGUAGE ROOM

A JAPANESE & ENGLISH  
VIRTUAL LANGUAGE  
EXCHANGE



## JSB Language Room

Thursday, November 20th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EST

□□□□□□11□21□□□□□□8□□

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:** □□□□/ **Hometowns**

Now meeting on Thursday evenings ET! Advance registration required.

[Register](#)

---

**Connect with Japan:  
Opportunities for US Students**  
Tuesday, November 18th, 2025 -  
8:00 PM EST  
Online

International Student Conferences and the Japan Society of Boston are pleased to present “Connect with Japan: Opportunities for U.S. Students,” a virtual session highlighting ways for U.S. college and university students to engage with Japan. Discover a range of Japan-related activities and academic programs. Participants will have the chance to ask questions of program representatives to learn more about each





initiative featured in this session.  
Featured programs include the Japan-  
America Student Conference and the  
JET Program.

Register by November 17 / Free to join

Register



**Boston Japan Film Festival 2025**  
**Sunday, November 30th, 2025 - 1:00PM EST**  
**MIT Strata Center**  
Room 32-123, 32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA

Celebrating their 15th anniversary at MIT, the BJFF is returning to their roots as a platform for dialogue between Japan and the U.S. through film.

This milestone year, themed “From Journalism to Dialogue,” highlights the power of visual storytelling to question, connect, and inspire — presenting films that explore how journalism can spark dialogue and reflection.

The event is free, but donations are welcome! A networking reception with light

refreshments and a raffle will follow the program.

Register

## Programs for JSB Members

**The following event is 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!**

*\*Please note that online-only members are not eligible to attend in-person member events.*

Join our community of hundreds of Japan enthusiasts from Boston and beyond and support the Japan Society of Boston's mission to inspire curiosity, connection, and community. We are sustained by your donations.



### JSB Book Club

**Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 - 6:00PM EST**  
**Online**

Join us for a special collaborative Book & Film Club to celebrate the end of the year!  
We will be both reading and watching *[The] Woman in the Dunes*.

In this famous postwar Japanese novel, the first of Kōbō Abe's to be translated into English, Niki Jumpei, an amateur entomologist in pursuit of a rare specimen of beetle, wanders into a strange seaside village, whose residents all live in sandpits. He is taken prisoner, and, along with a widow cast out by the community, he is forced to move into her sandpit and continually shovel away the sand that threatens to take over the village. In Niki's struggles to escape his prison and his developing relationship with the woman, he gradually comes to understand the existential nature of life. *(From WorldCat's description.)*

The film is a Japanese New Wave avant-garde arthouse psychological thriller film. Directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara, it received widespread critical acclaim and was nominated for two Academy Awards.

Find a copy of the book [here](#).

Films should be viewed in advance of our meetings. This film can be streamed on [Darkroom](#) with a subscription and is also available to rent on a [variety of platforms](#).

Register

## Signature Content from JSB



**Megan Gates**

**Partner**

**[Covington & Burling](#)**

**Would you introduce yourself briefly?**

I'm a partner in the corporate group at the Boston office of the law firm Covington & Burling. I work with life sciences companies to help them raise funds to support their



research and development of new therapies, and to complete transactions like mergers and acquisitions. I live in the South End of Boston with my husband Bill and our dog Charlie, and I also try to get back to Tokyo as much as I can.

**You grew up in Japan, spending time there in both elementary school and high school. How do you think your early exposure to Japanese culture influenced you?**

I think my early exposure to Japanese culture gave me an appreciation and understanding of the importance of trying to live harmoniously with others. I believe that while expressing one's individuality is essential, it is also incredibly valuable to place respect for others' experiences, including how they experience working and living in community with you, at the core of how one interacts with the world. I try to be mindful of those around me in any setting, and to consider how my actions may affect others.

Click below to read the full interview!

Article



## #MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

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



### 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 feature a JSB member and ask them to share with us their Japan Story.

This month: **Koji Hellman**

Koji's design was recently chosen as the logo for the Massachusetts Hokkaido Association, on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the sister state relationship!

"My name is Koji Hellman (they/he), and I'm a Japanese-Swedish graphic designer and illustrator from Seattle, WA! I'm a junior studying graphic



design at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI. My website is [kojihellman.cargo.site](http://kojihellman.cargo.site) and I'm [@eeepykeepy](https://www.instagram.com/eeepykeepy) on Instagram!

As a Japanese designer, it means so much to me to design for the Massachusetts-Hokkaido Association! I'm really honored to have a part in sustaining friendship and collaboration across continents and cultures."

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: **Anise Overton - Fukuoka (2023-2024)**

"I would love to live in Japan again, and though it would be nice to experience life in a different prefecture, Fukuoka was perfect for me. It's got a lovely balance of city and countryside, I felt welcomed into my community in the suburbs, and there's still so much to explore after having been there for only a year. Plus, Fukuoka is the sister city of my hometown, Atlanta, so it felt like it was meant to be!"

Article



## Famous in Japan

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



This month we are featuring **Fusajiro Yamauchi**, a Japanese entrepreneur who founded what is now Nintendo.

As arcades and video games would not be created until many decades later, Yamauchi's Nintendo started as a company that made hanafuda and karuta playing cards. By 1926, Nintendo was the largest company in Japan.

Article

## From Our Friends

### *Rental Family*

**Opens Friday, November 21st**  
**Coolidge Corner Theatre**

290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

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.

Watch the trailer [here](#).

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

More Info



### **Kokoro Care** **2025 Advent Calendar:** **Enchanted Moments**

From December 1-24th, each day reveals an authentic Japanese treat or handcrafted item, paired with the story of the local producer who created it. It's a meaningful way to experience the season while discovering new flavors

and traditions of Japan!

## KOKOROCARE



2025 ADVENT CALENDAR:  
ENCHANTED MOMENTS

Limited quantities available. Order by  
November 23rd for a December 1st  
delivery.

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

[More Info](#)

## 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 02138

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 [Member Portal](#) for the code.

Tickets



**Coming soon!**

Stay tuned for news about the opening of MUJI's new Harvard Square location.

**Visit our website for even more Japan-related events!**

To recommend events for our calendar, please email [info@japansocietyboston.org](mailto:info@japansocietyboston.org).

More Events

**The Japan Society of Boston is able to provide this newsletter thanks to the generosity of our community. If you enjoy our newsletter and programs, please consider becoming a member or donating today.**

Become a Member

Donate



Follow us on social media for the latest event announcements, giveaways, and more!

[The Japan Society of Boston, Inc.](#) | [\[www.japansocietyboston.org\]](http://www.japansocietyboston.org)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!