



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

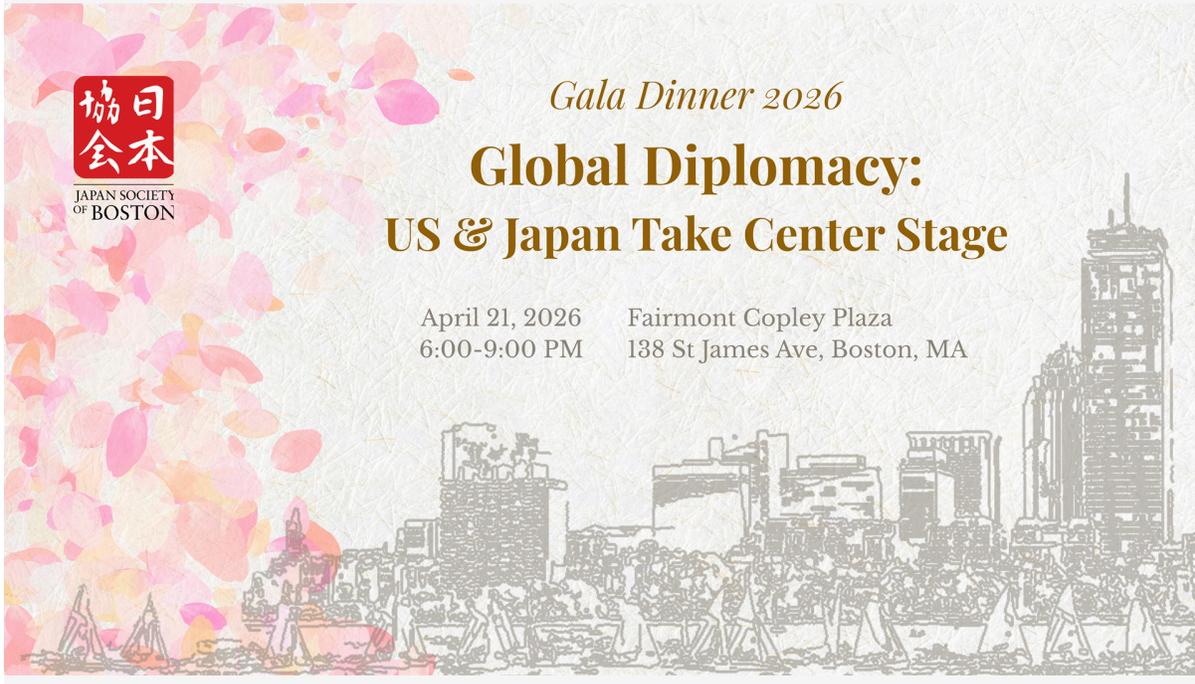


Gala Dinner 2026

Global Diplomacy: US & Japan Take Center Stage

April 21, 2026
6:00-9:00 PM

Fairmont Copley Plaza
138 St James Ave, Boston, MA



Save the Date: Gala Dinner 2026

Global Diplomacy: US & Japan Take Center Stage

On **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, join the Japan Society of Boston for an evening of fine cuisine, world-class entertainment, and an auction in recognition of the increasingly important role of the U.S.-Japan relationship in global diplomacy.

The Japan Society of Boston's Gala Dinner is a celebration of our community and vital role as a gateway between New England and Japan. We carefully select individuals to honor who have made outstanding contributions to the greater good in both the US and Japan: business and cultural leaders as well as internationally celebrated artists and performers.

This year, we are honored that **Ambassador Shigeo Yamada**, Japan's Ambassador to the United States, will attend in person to give a keynote address, providing an opportunity to convene the cross-border community that strengthens U.S.-Japan ties.

Be a part of this momentous night and support the continuation of Japan Society of Boston's diverse and impactful programming in 2026 and beyond.

Table sponsorships are available now, and the first tranche of individual tickets will go on sale March 20th.

[More Info](#)

Japanese Language Learning Survey

JSB hopes to better understand our community's interest in Japanese language learning opportunities so we can explore ways to help support your needs.

All answers are anonymous. Thank you for taking the time to offer your insights!

[Survey](#)



NEW *Membership* DISCOUNT PARTNERS

JAHO

ARTISAN COFFEE



Announcing new discount partners for JSB members! Thank you to **Jaho** and **JapaneseCircle** for their support.

Jaho is a family-run roastery and bakery that takes influence from the founder's experience in both Massachusetts and Japan. JSB Members receive **15% off at the register** at their Boston, Cambridge, and Salem locations.

JapaneseCircle is a Boston-based online community for Japanese learners who want real accountability, structured study plans, and a group to grow with. JSB members receive **10% off all offerings**.

See our website for all discount partners and membership information.

[Discount Partners](#)

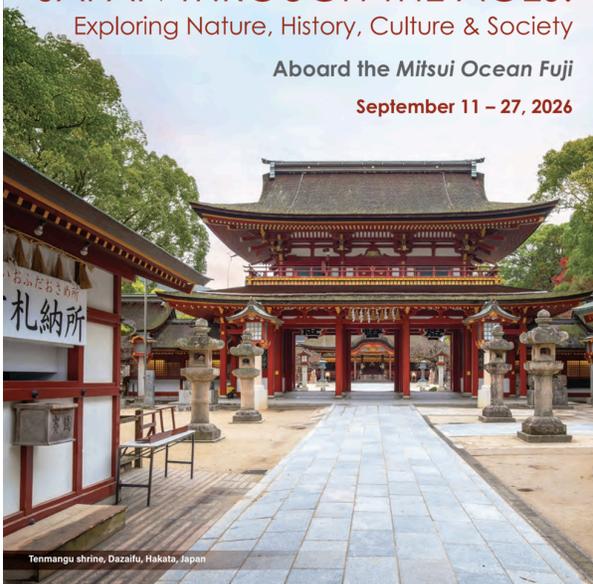


With Distinguished Guest Lecturer
PROFESSOR JARED DIAMOND

JAPAN THROUGH THE AGES: Exploring Nature, History, Culture & Society

Aboard the *Mitsui Ocean Fuji*

September 11 – 27, 2026



Temmangu shrine, Dazaifu, Hakata, Japan

The JSB community has a rare opportunity to **travel Japan with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond** on a journey to discover MA's sister state of Hokkaido, western Japan, and the southern Nansei Islands.

Enjoy excursions to historic and modern cultural landmarks such as the Hakodate Museum of Northern Peoples, Kumamoto Castle, and the Tanegashima Space Center, a series of lectures by Professor Diamond, and authentic Japanese cultural workshops, performances, and cuisine aboard the Mitsui Ocean Fuji.

This opportunity is open to anyone in our community, regardless of membership. Please see below for the full itinerary, rates, and other details.

[More Info](#)

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!



JSB Language Room

Thursday, March 19, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT

(日本時間では3月20日金曜日午前7時)

Online

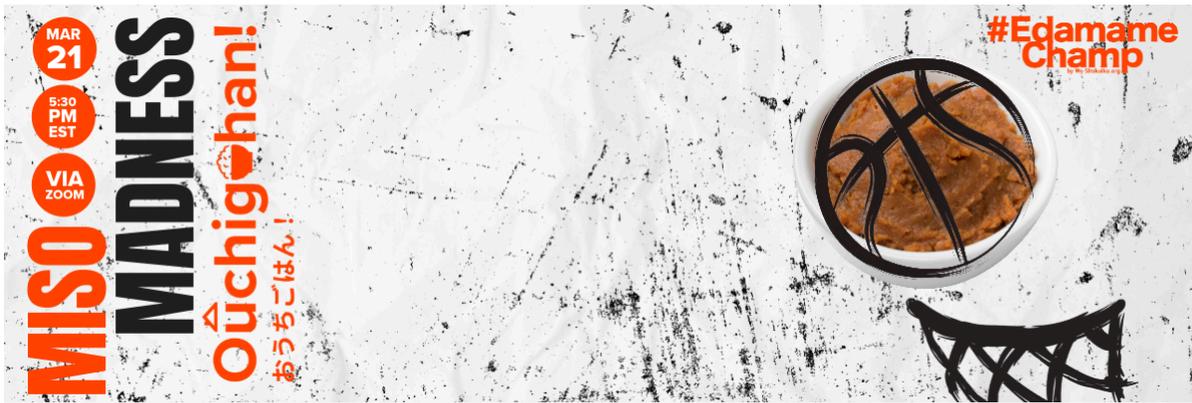
Looking for a fun way to socialize and grow your language skills from the comfort of your own home? Join JSB to practice your Japanese or English at our next online Japanese / English language exchange.

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

This Month's Theme: 語学 / Language Learning

Advance registration required.

[Register](#)



おうちごはん！ (Ouchigohan) Miso Madness

Saturday, March 21, 2026 - 5:30PM EDT
Online

This month's edition of Ouchigohan spotlights **miso** as the bold, umami-rich MVP of the Japanese pantry. During this interactive cookalong, participants will explore creative and delicious ways to cook with miso, highlighting its rich flavor and cultural significance while inspiring new everyday favorites.

Whether you're a seasoned home cook or brand new to Japanese cuisine, this family-friendly program is designed for all ages and skill levels. Get ready to stir, whisk, and taste your way through MISO MADNESS!

Advance ticket purchase required (only one registration per household needed). JSB members can visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for a discount code.

Register



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Film Club

Wednesday, March 25, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

In March the JSB Film Club will discuss *Plan 75* (2022), a dystopian drama directed by Chie Hayakawa.

The film takes place in Japan, in a near future. The government program « Plan 75 » encourages senior citizens to be voluntarily euthanized in order to remedy a super-aged society. An elderly woman who loses the means to live independently, a pragmatic Plan 75 salesman, and a young Filipino caregiver face choices of life and death. (Synopsis from Urban Sales) 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](#)



Spring Sake Fest

Spring Sake Fest

Saturday, March 28, 2026 - 2:00-4:00 PM EDT
Julio's Liquors

140 Turnpike Rd, Westborough, MA 01581

The producers of **Sake Day East** are bringing a brand-new seasonal tradition to Julio's Liquors in Westborough!

The **SDE Spring Sake Fest** features a hand-picked lineup of premium sakes to sample, small bites, and local vendors. Whether you're an expert or a beginner, it's the perfect opportunity to explore various sake styles in an intimate setting and place on-site orders for your spring collection.

Tickets are \$60 and include **unlimited sake pours and food pairings**. JSB members receive a **\$10 discount** on each ticket! Visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for the discount code.

[Register](#)



Japan Festival Boston 2026



April 25th - 26th

11am - 5pm

Boston Common
16 Charles Street
Boston, MA 02108

Japan Festival Boston 2026

**April 25-26, 2026 - 11:00 AM-5:00 PM EDT
Boston Commons**

16 Charles St, Boston, MA 02108

Japan Festival Boston will once again be hosted at the historic Boston Common on Saturday, April 25th and Sunday, April 26th.

Stay tuned for updates on booth applications, performers, food vendors, cultural events, and more on their website.

[More Info](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

The JSB Book Club will meet in April to discuss *Where the Wild Ladies Are* by **Aoko Matsuda**, a collection of Japanese folktales retold by one of Japan's leading feminist voices.

Aoko Matsuda is "a significant, award-winning voice in contemporary Japanese literature, distinguished by her incisive social commentary and innovative narrative techniques that interrogate gender politics and cultural conventions in Japanese society." (Reischauer Institute)

In this witty and exuberant collection of linked stories, Aoko Matsuda takes the rich, millennia-old tradition of Japanese folktales—shapeshifting wives and foxes, magical trees and wells—and wholly reinvents them, presenting a world in which humans are consoled, guided, challenged, and transformed by the only-sometimes-visible forces that surround them. (From the publisher's description)

Find a copy [here](#). The discussion will be in English, but you are welcome to read the novel in any language.

Register

Signature Content from JSB

BOSTON: THE U.S.-JAPAN INTERSECTION

Interviews with leaders bridging the U.S. and Japan



Marina Giordano
Founder
[Sake Day East](#)

Would you introduce yourself briefly?

I'm Marina Giordano. By day—or rather, by early morning—I'm a Director at 7 News Boston, working on the morning newscasts. My other great passion is education; specifically, I'm a certified Sake and wine educator.

I hold the WSET (Wine & Spirit Education Trust) Diploma in Wine and Spirits and the Sake Diploma from the Japan Sommelier Association. I am deeply committed to growing the sake community here in New England. In 2021, I founded **Sake Day East**, a consumer sake tasting event. I love finding ways to make the complex world of sake accessible to everyone here in Boston!

[Full Article](#)

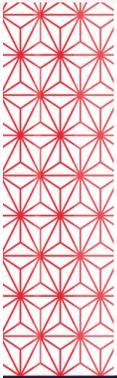




"Before I came here [to Boston from Japan as an exchange student], my life was relatively stable—living with my parents, being surrounded by wonderful friends, and balancing part-time jobs with my studies. However, I felt the need to step out of this familiar environment and challenge myself in a new setting. Actually, I was almost randomly assigned to Northeastern University, so I didn't know much about Boston initially. However, I have grown to love this calm and peaceful city."

[Full Article](#)

Ayuko Okuzawa



FAMOUS IN JAPAN

Introducing noteworthy figures, events, and concepts from Japanese culture and history





Yuki Onna (雪女)

This month, explore the story of Yuki Onna (雪女), the "woman of snow" yōkai (a supernatural entity/spirit in Japanese folklore) who appears only in the depths of winter and can be both malevolent and benevolent.

One of the most enduring figures in Japanese folklore, Yuki Onna appears in legends across Japan and continues to captivate audiences through literature, film, anime, and popular culture.

[Full Article](#)

From Our Friends

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

JET Program Virtual Info Session

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 - 8:00-9:30 PM EDT
Online

Are you interested in teaching in Japan or curious about the JET Program? Whether you're actively preparing your application or just starting to explore the opportunity, this 90-minute virtual info session will give you the insights you need to take the next step.

What to Expect:

- **Firsthand Experiences:** Hear from a panel of JET alumni who will share their personal experiences living and working in Japan on JET
- **Application Tips:** Guidance from a JET Program Coordinator on the process and what makes a strong application
- **Q&A Session:** Ask your questions and get real-time answers

[More Info](#)

Anime Boston 2026

April 3-5, 2026

Hynes Convention Center

900 Boylston St, Boston, MA 02155

Anime Boston is a three-day convention held annually in Boston, Massachusetts under the supervision of the New England Anime Society. Their goal is to celebrate and promote Japanese animation, comics, and pop-culture.

See their website for more information and tickets.

[More Info](#)

Cherry Blossom Celebration

Saturday, April 18, 2026 - 1:00-4:00 PM EDT

Arnold Arboretum

125 Arborway, Boston, MA 02130

Come celebrate Japanese culture amongst the Arboretum's beautiful cherry blossoms with taiko drumming, traditional Japanese dance, Japanese games and calligraphy, family activities, and the inside scoop on the Arboretum's own cherry collection.

Registration is free and recommended, but not required.

[More Info](#)

Lex Language Project Japanese Language Exchange Opportunities

Lex Language Project offers immersion-style Japanese language learning opportunities for individuals and families including international exchange programs, internships, summer camps, homestays, and more!

[More Info](#)



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If you enjoy our newsletter and programs, please consider becoming a member or donating today.



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