



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

New England's Gateway To Japan Since 1904

Monthly Newsletter



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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



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 and world-class entertainment in recognition of the increasingly important role of the U.S.-Japan relationship in global diplomacy.

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.

Nobuko Saito Cleary and **Andrew D. Gordon** will be honored for their impactful work to bridge the U.S. and Japan in the cultural, humanitarian, and academic spheres.

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

Thank you to our sponsors: Glen S. & Sakie T. Fukushima, [Takeda](#), [Japan Airlines](#), [Covington](#), [MUJI USA](#), [Zen Associates](#), Sue & Bernie Pucker, [cenet](#), [Peabody Essex Museum](#), and [Showa Boston](#).

Individual tickets and table sponsorships are available now!

[Details & Tickets](#)

Online Auction

Curated goods and experiences
offering the best of New England and Japan

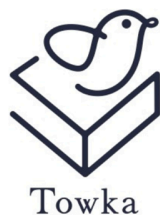
2026 Gala Online Auction

Support the Japan Society of Boston by bidding on a curated selection of more than 50 goods and experiences that represent the best of New England and Japan.

Preview the catalog below, and join the bidding online **April 8-21** for a chance to make one of these special items yours!

[Preview Auction](#)

NEW *Membership* DISCOUNT PARTNERS



Announcing new discount partners for JSB members! Thank you to **Komorebi Stationery** and **Towka** for their support.

[Komorebi Stationery](#) is a family-owned brand based in Tokyo, with the mission to share the beauty of Japanese craftsmanship and culture with the world through carefully made stationery and desk items that are genuinely made in Japan. JSB members receive **10% off all purchases**.

[Towka](#) is a Boston-based brand selling artisan Japanese home decor. Their signature masu box candles evoke the scents of Japan's four seasons and blend quintessential Japanese aesthetics with modern simplicity. JSB members receive **10% off online purchases**.

See our website for all discount partners and membership information.

[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!



New England Revolution AAPI Night

Saturday, May 2, 2026 - 5:00PM EDT
Gillette Stadium

1 Patriot Place, Foxborough, MA 02035

Celebrate the vibrant cultures of Asia and the Pacific Islands at the New England Revolution's annual AAPI Night! Enjoy a special Fan Zone with cultural performances, activations from community partners (including JSB!), and an exclusive AAPI Night scarf designed by a local artist.

Fan Zone – 5:00 PM

Dance performances, a live DJ, special giveaways, soccer activities, cultural experiences, cosplayers, and more

Kickoff – 7:30 PM

Plus special pregame activations and halftime programming

For each ticket purchased through the link below, \$10 will be donated to support the Japan Society of Boston. We appreciate your support!

[Tickets](#)



SPONSORED BY:
 Temple
University
Japan Campus

JSB LANGUAGE ROOM

A JAPANESE & ENGLISH
VIRTUAL LANGUAGE
EXCHANGE



JSB Language Room

Thursday, April 16, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT

(日本時間では4月17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: 学校生活 / School Life

Advance registration required.

[Register](#)



**JSB Booth & Tea Tasting at the
Arnold Arboretum's Cherry
Blossom Celebration**

Sat, April 18, 2026 - 1:00-4:00PM EDT
Arnold Arboretum
125 Arborway, Boston, MA 02130

Enjoy the beauty of the cherry blossoms at the **Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University's Cherry Blossom Celebration on April 18th!**

The Japan Society of Boston will host a dedicated booth at the festival, offering attendees an opportunity to connect with our organization and experience a taste of Japanese culture.

We will also collaborate with **Boston University's Tea Club** to offer a special selection of teas for tasting, and members of the Tea Club will walk you through the nuances of each brew.

Come celebrate the arrival of spring with JSB and the BU Tea Club and enjoy a day full of nature, culture, and community!

[More Info](#)



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 - 11:00AM-5:00PM 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.

Visit the Japan Society of Boston's booth to connect with our organization, take home goods from JSB and [Shoyeido](#), and celebrate Japanese culture together.

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

[More Info](#)

Oûchigohan!

おうちごはん！

SAT

Apr 25
5 PMET

\$10 JAS/JS/JETAA Members
\$15 Non-Members



Salmon Takikomi Gohan & Broccolini with Miso Dressing

Mitarashi
Dango



TABLE FOR TWO



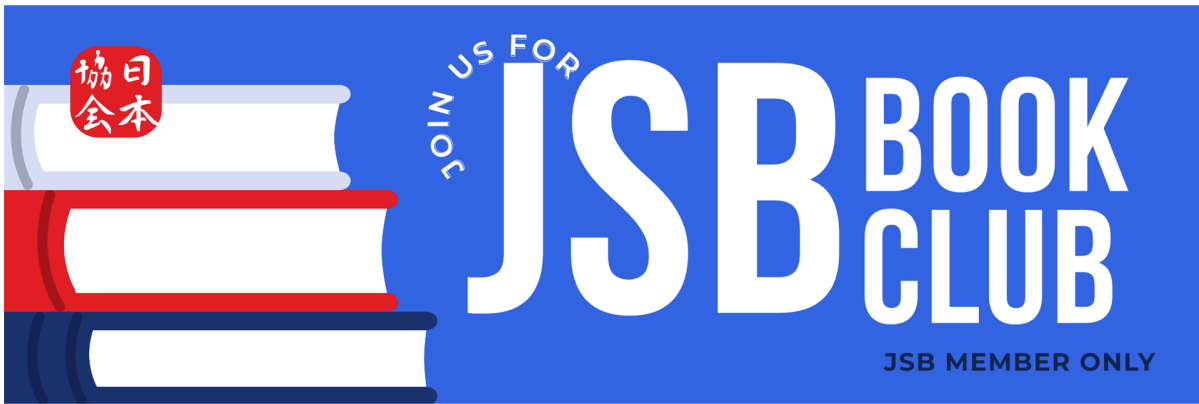
おうちごはん！ (Ouchigohan) Salmon Takikomi Gohan

Saturday, April 25, 2026 - 5:00PM EDT
Online

Let's welcome the new season with a trio of delicious spring dishes! This month's menu continues our **#EdamameChamp** programming with **Salmon Takikomi Gohan**, a comforting one-pot rice dish studded with bright green edamame. Rice, salmon, vegetables, and savory seasonings cook together in a rice cooker or on the stovetop, creating a flavorful and nourishing Japanese-style pilaf! We'll also prepare **Broccolini with Miso Dressing**, and finish with **Mitarashi Dango**, one of Japan's most beloved traditional sweets.

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 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

Make Onigiri

with Chef Yoko



West Roxbury Branch
Wednesday, May 6th
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

All Ages

Registration Required

Learn to make onigiri! Chef Yoko Bryden and the Japan Society of Boston will teach you the ins and outs of this delicious Japanese snack. All supplies provided, but register in advance.



Accessibility Notice: We strive to make our events accessible. To request a disability accommodation and/or language services, call 617.325.3147. Please allow at least two weeks to arrange accommodation.

West Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library
1961 Centre St., West Roxbury, MA 02132
For more information, call 617.325.3147 or visit bpl.org.



Make Onigiri at the Boston Public Library

Weds, May 6, 2026 - 4:00 PM EDT

BPL West Roxbury Branch

1961 Centre St, West Roxbury, MA 02132

Learn to make onigiri! Chef Yoko Bryden and the Japan Society of Boston will teach you the ins and outs of this delicious Japanese snack. Guests will shape their own onigiri using their choice of pre-prepared fillings such as scallion miso, tuna mayo, and simmered mushrooms. All ages are welcome, and all supplies will be provided.

Advanced registration is required. Registration opens at the Boston Public Library West Roxbury Branch on April 15, and online registration opens **April 22.**

[More Info](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Film Club

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

In May the JSB Film Club will discuss *Sweet Bean* (2015), directed by Naomi Kawase.

Sweet Bean is a delicious red bean paste, the sweet heart of the dorayaki pancakes that Sentaro (Masatoshi Nagase) sells from his little bakery to a small but loyal clientele. Absorbed in sad memories and distant thoughts, Sentaro cooks with skill but without enthusiasm. When seventy-six-year-old Tokue (Kirin Kiki) responds to his ad for an assistant and cheerfully offers to work for a ridiculously low wage, Sentaro is skeptical about the eccentric old lady's ability to endure the long hours. But when she shows up early one morning and reveals to him the secret to the perfect sweet bean paste, Sentaro agrees to take her on.

With Tokue's new home cooked sweet bean paste recipe, Sentaro's business begins to flourish, but Tokue is afflicted with an illness that, once revealed, drives her into isolation once again. (Synopsis from Kino Lorber)

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



Celebrate Japan! at Long Hill

**Sun, May 31, 2026 - 10AM-3PM EDT
Long Hill**

572 Essex St, Beverly, MA 01915

This event is free for members of The Trustees and JSB. Pre-registration is recommended for all guests.

[More Info](#)

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, join us at Long Hill for our annual Celebrate Japan! event, a partnership between **The Trustees** and the Japan Society of Boston. Together, we celebrate the rich cultural traditions, artistic practices, and enduring influence of Japanese heritage within Long Hill's gardens and beyond.

Complimentary activities include an origami station, a Miné Crane art exhibition, self-guided Japanese garden tours, a kids scavenger hunt, story time, and a taiko drumming performance by ShinDaiko!

Paid activities include a bento box lunch, Ikebana and Indigo Shibori workshops, a guided Japanese Garden Tour, and a guided Forest Bathing therapy walk. Pre-registration is required for all paid activities.



Japanese Business Culture Workshop

Fostering Global Collaboration
through Understanding

Wednesday, June 3 | 12 - 2 PM (EDT) | Online



Japanese Business Culture Workshop Fostering Global Collaboration through Understanding

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 - 12:00-2:00PM EDT
Online

Join us for an interactive workshop that will provide practical tools to enhance your collaboration skills when working with Japanese colleagues or clients. You will learn about the underlying societal and geographical factors that shape Japanese business culture. The workshop will provide a chance for you to reflect on your own cultural background and how it might influence your approach to work. Come away with new insights for improved cross-border communication and collaboration for your professional working relationships.

This session is provided in partnership between the Japan Society of Boston and **Japan Consulting Office (JCO)**.

\$490 General Admission / \$245 for JSB Members / Free for qualifying JSB Corporate Members

[More Info](#)

JSB Member Exclusive

協会 日本 JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

MFA GALLERY TOUR

ASIAN INFLUENCES IN EARLY AMERICAN ART

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 | 4:00 - 5:00 PM



BIOMBO (FOLDING SCREEN), MID-19TH CENTURY, OIL ON WOOD PANEL, HEIGHT 11'
AND 2/4" GIFTED THROUGH FUND, MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, BOSTON

[JSB Member Exclusive]

MFA Gallery Tour: Asian Influences in Early American Art

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - 4:00 PM EDT

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

465 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA 02115

Step into the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston's newly reimagined Art of the Americas Wing and discover the influences of Asian aesthetics, materials, and ideas in the continental Americas.

Guided by curatorial staff Nanase Shirokawa, Layla Bermeo, and Nonie Gadsden, the visit will offer fresh perspectives on the history and legacy of the China Trade and the Manila Galleons, and highlight recent acquisitions including a 17-foot *biombo*, a Mexican folding screen inspired by Japanese *byōbu*.

An exclusive opportunity to explore the gallery in a private setting, this tour invites close looking, thoughtful conversation, and a deeper understanding of the global influences embedded in American art history.

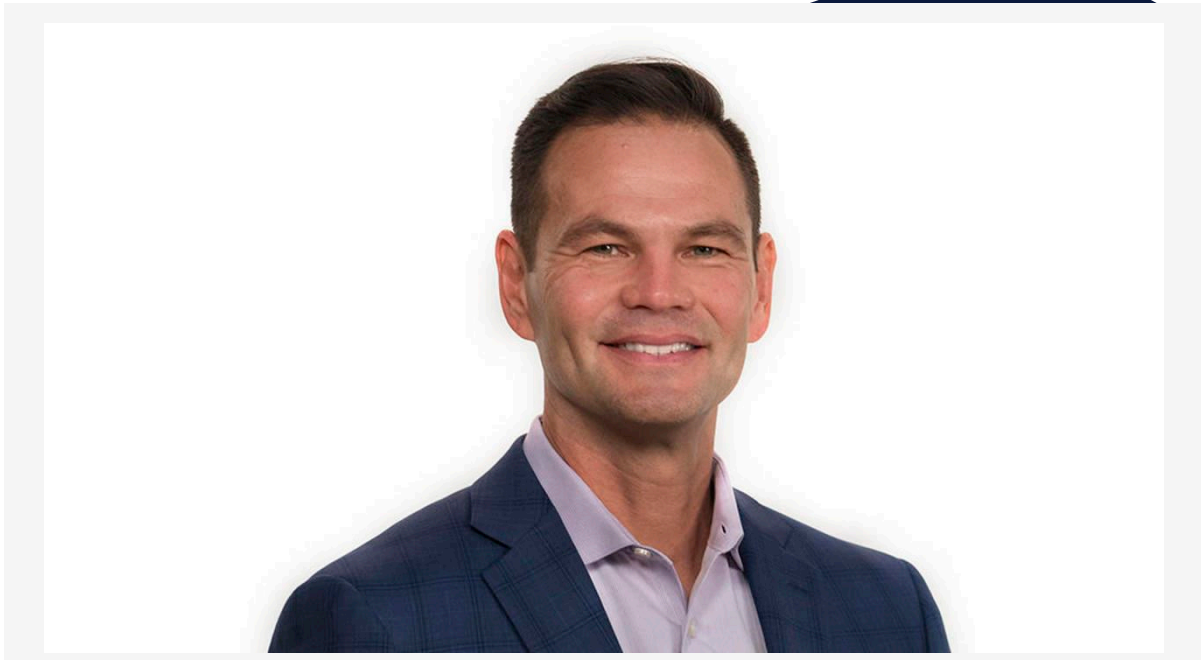
Registration opens to JSB Members at 12pm on Friday, April 10th.

[More Info](#)

Signature Content from JSB

BOSTON: THE U.S.-JAPAN INTERSECTION

Interviews with leaders bridging the U.S. and Japan



Chris Tanaka
News Anchor
CBS News Boston

Would you introduce yourself briefly?

Hello! My name is Chris Tanaka. I co-anchor WBZ News Mornings and host Walking Boston episodes on social media. I was born in Taipei, Taiwan but grew up in southern New Hampshire. I've been fortunate enough to live all over the country, with stops in the Midwest, Rocky Mountains, West Coast and Hawaii. It's been a wonderful journey, and what I appreciate most is the interaction with locals along the way. It's important to learn that the social norms and sensibilities of one place are not necessarily the same as another. People's experiences tend to be hyper local and having the opportunity to observe and interact with so many different people really has shaped my worldview.

We are excited to have Chris join us again this year as MC for our [2026 Gala Dinner!](#)

[Full Article](#)



FAMOUS IN JAPAN

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





Lafcadio Hearn

This month, we will learn about Lafcadio Hearn, the Greek and Irish writer and translator whose writings helped introduce Japanese culture and literature to the West.

After moving to Japan from the US, he married Setsuko Koizumi, the daughter of a poor samurai. Setsuko served not only as Lafcadio's Japanese language and customs teacher, but also provided much of the material for his later books, particularly Japanese ghost stories.

[Full Article](#)

From Our Friends

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

Wellesley AIKO Spring Show 2026: DAWN

Saturday, April 11, 2026 - 7:00-9:00 PM ET
Jewett Arts Center Auditorium at Wellesley College
106 Central St, Wellesley, MA 02482

Wellesley AIKO's annual spring taiko show, presenting spirited performances, big drums (taiko), and amazing guests including Yanvalou, Samulnori, and Boston Rebel Alliance Taiko.

The event is free and open to the public and will also be [livestreamed](#).

[More Info](#)

David Phillips: 57 Years of Sculpture

May 1 - August 16, 2026

Cape Cod Museum of Art

60 Hope Lane, Dennis, MA 02638

The Cape Cod Museum of Art will host a retrospective art exhibition with works by David Phillips, sculptor and JSB member. The exhibit will showcase some of his public works created in Japan and the United States, particularly Cambridge and Boston. David has a long personal and professional history in both Massachusetts and Japan and has worked with Ikuko Burns and the International Women's Club of Boston, the Duxbury Art Complex Museum for their exhibition *The Way of Tea: American Art for the Japanese Tea Ceremony*, and Japanese architect Hideto Horiike on projects in Kofu and Shiroishi.

[More Info](#)

Pianist Makoto Ozone at Symphony Hall

Sunday, May 3, 2026 - 7:00PM ET

Symphony Hall Boston

301 Massachusetts Ave, Boston, MA 02115

Renowned Japanese pianist Makoto Ozone returns to Symphony Hall for the first time in a long time to perform his thrilling, jazz-infused, and invigorating interpretation of Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, under the direction of Benjamin Zander. You've never heard *Rhapsody in Blue* like this before! The All-American program also includes Harbison's *Remembering Gatsby* and Copland's *Symphony No. 3*.

JSB members save \$20 on tickets originally priced at \$50 and \$75. Visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for a discount code.

[Tickets](#)

Naomi Watanabe - From Tokyo

Friday, May 29, 2026 - 7:30PM ET

The Wilbur

246 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02116

Naomi Watanabe is a comedian, actress, and fashion entrepreneur celebrated for her fearless humor and bold sense of style. Naomi skyrocketed to fame with her viral impersonations and has since become a global pop culture icon. With her unique blend of humor, glamour, and authenticity, Naomi continues to inspire millions around the world to embrace confidence, individuality, and joy.

JSB members save 20% on tickets! Visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for a discount code.

Tickets

Asian American Ballet Project: *Once Upon Our Time*

Saturday, June 27 at 7:30 PM ET | Sunday, June 28 at 2:30 PM ET


The Roberts Studio Theatre at the Calderwood Pavilion

527 Tremont St, Boston, MA 02116

The Asian American Ballet Project returns to Boston June 27–28 with *Once Upon Our Time*, a concert of four original ballets inspired by Asian folktales. These are stories many audience members grew up hearing, but rarely see honored on professional stages. Presented by an all-Asian American cast of dancers, choreographers, and composers, the program brings these narratives to life through ballet and live music.


JSB members get 20% off tickets for the June 28 performance! Visit the [JSB Member Portal](#) for a discount code.

Tickets



The Japan Society of Boston is able to provide this newsletter thanks to the generosity of readers like you.

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



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