

THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

Monthly Newsletter









Please View Entire Message in your Email to see all of what we have to offer in our newsletter!



Christine Pilcavage Managing Director

MIT-Japan Program

How long have you been working in Boston?

I moved to Boston (Cambridge to be precise) about 20 years ago when I came to work for a global health nonprofit called Management Sciences for Health (MSH). At MSH I helped to manage the Iwamura Fellows Program and grants supporting a Japanese NGO working in reproductive health issues in less developed countries.

MSH is an MIT 'startup' that was co-founded by Dr. Ron O'Connor who was inspired by **Dr. Noboru Iwamura**, the sole survivor of his high school from the Hiroshima atomic bombing who dedicated his life to improving the health of others.



I met Ron when I worked with the US Agency for International Development. Little did I know

my life would change when Ron asked me to come work for MSH. I was a migratory bird only planning to stay in Boston for a few years, but I found a special "tree" and married someone who was also in love with this beautiful city of Boston. And now I'm working at MIT.

What do you do?

I believe I have a dream job. As the Managing Director of the MIT-Japan Program. I am privileged to work with MIT students, faculty and staff, share my culture with them and bring Japan a little closer to our community. I help build partnerships with Japanese corporations, research institutes, universities and startups, and connect MIT students with research and internships in Japan. My portfolio also includes MIT study abroad programs with Japanese universities, as well as promoting Japanese culture at MIT. I believe I get to nurture students in my Program to be future "ambassadors" who build bridges between our two countries...

Click here to read the full interview!

Announcements from JSB



2025 Hokkaido Fair April 15th - May 15th

To recognize the 35th anniversary of the Massachusetts-Hokkaido sister state/prefecture relationship, we are having a month-long celebration of Hokkaido in Boston! Please check out the following events and local businesses to get a taste of authentic Hokkaido culture and specialties, right here in Boston.

The first 20 people to submit 5 receipts from participating businesses and/or our events during the time frame of April 15-May 15 will receive a free Massachusetts-Hokkaido Baseball Cap from our recent design competition.

JSB Hokkaido Fair events: (our record of your attendance will count as receipt)

April 22 - Ainu Mosir: Film Screening and Director Talk

April 26-27 - **JSB Booth at Japan Festival Boston** (must purchase at least one item from our booth, our button pins are \$1 each!)

May 5 - Exploring Hokkaido Ramen

May 6 - <u>Shashin Koshien: A Summer in 0.5 Seconds: Film Screening & Director</u> Talk

Participating businesses: (receipt must show proof of at least one entree ordered)

Miraku Boston

9 Babcock St, Brookline, MA 02446

Ganko Ittetsu Ramen

Brookline: 318 Harvard St., Unit 3, Brookline, MA 02446 (inside of arcade building)

Braintree: 224 Quincy Ave, Braintree, MA 02184

Hokkaido Ramen Santouka

Allston: 169 Brighton Ave, Allston, MA 02134 Harvard Square: 1 Bow St, Cambridge, MA 02138 Back Bay: 66 Hereford St, Boston, MA 02115

Only one cap per person. Will be shipped to domestic addresses only. We reserve the right to judge if receipts are submitted with fair accordance to our promotion. This event is made possible thanks to a grant from the **Toshiba International Foundation**.

Please submit receipts or questions to joanneha@japansocietyboston.org.





Massachusetts-Hokkaido Baseball Cap

Our Massachusetts-Hokkaido Baseball Cap is now available for sale on our website for a limited time from April 14 - May 22. We will also be selling the caps (and other goodies) at our booth at the **2025 Japan Festival Boston** on Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27. Stop by Boston Common anytime from 11am-5pm that

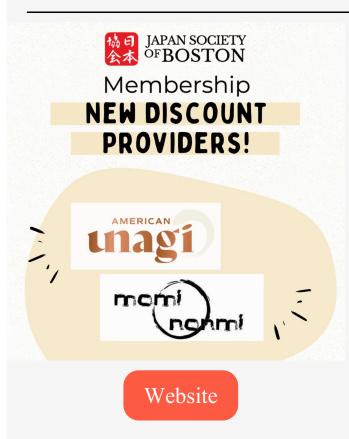
weekend to see us!

Featuring a design by artist Koji Hellman, these 100% cotton pigment dyed twill baseball caps were the winner of our 2025 Design Contest commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Massachusetts-Hokkaido sister state relationship.

The design features the Massachusetts state flower, the mayflower, and the star motif from Hokkaido's prefectural flag. The cap color is khaki and has an adjustable band accommodating hat sizes 6 5/8 - 7 3/8.

Shipping (including a small handling fee) is not included in the price and is a flat fee. We will only be shipping to US addresses and shipments will not be going out until after May 22. We encourage in-person purchase at Japan Fest or pick-up for orders.





Announcing additional new discount providers for JSB members! We thank the following businesses for their support.

Momi Nonmi

5% off food only for dine-in omakase reservations

American Unagi

10% off purchases site-wide, excluding wholesale orders

The discount codes and instructions for these providers can be found on the member only portal.

See our website for all discount providers and membership information.

Japan - Massachusetts Sister Cities Page

In addition to Boston and Kyoto, did you know the state of Massachusetts has 13 sister city relationships with Japan?

Massachusetts's sister state/prefecture partnership with Hokkaido is celebrating its 35th anniversary this year!

Check out our webpage below to learn more.







The JSB College Hub

The JSB College Hub is our webpage for Japan-related college events, opportunities, and resources for young adults pursuing Japanese studies!

Check out the hub below for more information, to view our current listings, or to submit an event or opportunity!



JSB Programming









AINU MOSIR

FILM SCREENING & DIRECTOR TALK



Tuesday, April 22 | 7:30PM Coolidge Corner Theatre



Ainu Mosir: Film Screening & Director Talk
Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025 - 7:30 PM EDT
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA

\$20 General Admission | \$15 JSB Members

As part of JSB's 2025 Hokkaido Fair, we will be screening the 2020 Japanese film *Ainu Mosir*. Directed by Takeshi Fukunaga, it tells the story of an Ainu teenager who looks for a spiritual connection with his recently deceased father while struggling with his indigenous identity in a changing world. It is a beautiful coming-of-age film that also gives a glimpse into the lives of the indigenous Ainu people in modern Japan.

Ainu Mosir is highly acclaimed by critics and won best International Feature at the Guanajuato International Film Festival, and was a Special Jury Mention at the Tribeca Film Festival. It was filmed on location in various parts of Hokkaido, the birthplace of the director.

Following the film screening, we are honored to have director Takeshi Fukunaga join us virtually on Zoom for a brief talk and Q&A, where the audience will be able to ask about the making of the film.

Ainu Mosir's runtime is 84 minutes. Watch the trailer <u>here</u>. Screening will be in Japanese language with English subtitles.

This event is made possible thanks to a grant from the **Toshiba International Foundation**.











Exploring Hokkaido Ran



Monday, May 5 | 6:00PM EDT

30 General Admission \$25 JSB Members



Exploring Hokkaido Ramen at Miraku Boston with Corky White Monday, May 5th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT Miraku Boston

9 Babcock St, Brookline, MA 02446

\$30 General Admission | \$25 JSB Members

As part of JSB's 2025 Hokkaido Fair, we will be having a special event all about ramen at Miraku Boston. Learn about and taste a one-of-a-kind ramen from Rishiri Island, located off the Northern coast of Hokkaido!

We will be joined by food anthropologist, Professor Merry "Corky" White who will give a brief talk about the history and developments of Japanese ramen cuisine and culture. Then we will hear from our hosting local ramen restaurant, Miraku Boston, who will share about the unique qualities of their special style of kombu-enriched ramen from Rishiri Island.

After learning about ramen, you will be able to enjoy a bowl of ramen by Miraku Boston and taste for yourself the delicious and authentic taste of Hokkaido that they bring to Boston! Ramen will be served with an individually-sized portion of Miraku Boston's other Hokkaido specialty, Zangi Fried Chicken, which is a variation of the popular Japanese karaage.

A special menu vegan ramen and side dish option is also available.

Ticket cost covers admission and food, but drinks purchased will be an additional charge. Guests are welcome to stay after the event to order more food as well.

This event is made possible thanks to a grant from the **Toshiba International** Foundation.

Register



Shashin Koshien: A Summer in 0.5 Seconds
Film Screening & Director Talk
Tuesday, May 6th, 2025 - 7:30 PM EDT
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA

\$20 General Admission | \$15 JSB Members

As part of JSB's 2025 Hokkaido Fair, we will be screening the 2017 Japanese film *Shashin Koshien: A Summer in 0.5 Seconds* (\$\subseteq\$ \subseteq\$ 0.5\$\subseteq\$ \subseteq\$ 0.5\$\subseteq\$ \subseteq\$ 1. This will be the US premiere of the exciting drama directed by Hiroshi Sugawara following several high school groups as they compete in a national photography competition.

The film is a fictionalized story about the real life photography competition that is held annually in Higashikawa, Hokkaido, called *shashin koshien*. Since 1994, the contest has grown in popularity and now receives submissions from more than 500 schools every year to determine the best high school photography team in Japan!

Following the film screening, we are honored to have director Hiroshi Sugawara join us virtually on Zoom for a brief talk and Q&A, where the audience will be able to ask about the making of the film.

Shashin Koshien: A Summer in 0.5 Seconds' runtime is 117 minutes. Watch the trailer here. Screening will be in Japanese language with English subtitles.

This event is made possible thanks to a grant from the **Toshiba International Foundation**.





Japan Festival Boston 2025



April 26th - 27th 11am - 5pm

Boston Common 16 Charles Street Boston, MA 02108

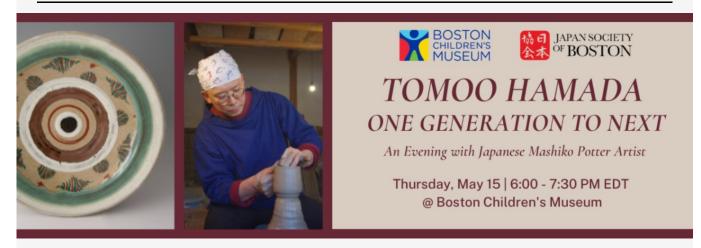
Japan Festival Boston 2025 April 26-27, 11am-5pm Boston Commons

Japan Festival Boston will once again be hosted at the historic Boston Common on Saturday, April 26th and Sunday, April 27th. Please stay tuned for updates on booth applications, performers, food vendors, cultural events, and more on their website.

Stop by the Japan Society of Boston booth where we will be selling various JSB merchandise for the first time! Look forward to special JSB branded t-shirts, tote bags, baseball caps, pins, and stickers. Plus Japanese books and products from Shoyeido. We will also share fun cultural activities and be joined by some of our local community partners. See website for schedule.

Stopping by our booth and purchasing at least one item from our booth (our button pins are \$1 each!) will also count as one "receipt" for our 2025 Hokkaido Fair!

Info



Tomoo Hamada: One Generation to Next
An Evening with Japanese Mashiko Potter Artist Tomoo Hamada
Thursday, May 15th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT
Boston Children's Museum
308 Congress St, Boston, MA 02210

The Japan Society of Boston, in collaboration with the **Boston Children's Museum**, is pleased to present an evening event with Japanese Mashiko Potter artist, Tomoo Hamada.

Registrants will be able to hear firsthand from the visiting ceramic artist, Tomoo Hamada, who specializes in Mashiko ware (Mashiko-yaki, a type of Japanese pottery traditionally made in the town of Mashiko, located in Tochigi prefecture, Japan). Learn about his art, his family kiln, his community, and his view on the history, philosophy, and concept of Japanese Mingei - people's folk art.

After the presentation, Hamada will briefly demonstrate some of his working techniques with clay. And to close the program, registrants will be able to speak directly with the artist during the Q&A session.

Tomoo's grandfather is Shoji Hamada (1894-1978), a major figure in Japan's Mingei folk art movement in the 1920s, and a recipient of the Living National Treasure recognition in 1955. Tomoo's father, Shinsaku Hamada, (1929-2023), was a respected devotee of Mashiko artisanship who exhibited his works nationally and internationally, a quiet craft maker who truly embraced his studio art process.

Event is free, but registration is required. This event is for adults, ages 16 and up.

This event is made possible with support from **The Pucker Gallery**.

Register



ANI-MANIA!
May 7 - 28, 2025
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA

The Japan Society of Boston is proud to be a co-sponsor of ANI-MANIA! hosted by Coolidge Corner Theatre.

We're excited to bring eight of our favorite anime films to the big screen throughout the month of May. Whether you're a seasoned fan or an anime novice, this list of certified classics has you covered.

The line-up includes *Millennium Actress, The Tale of The Princess Kaguya, Vampire Hunter D (1985), Weathering with You, Belladonna of Sadness, Ghost in the Shell Double Feature, Neon Genesis Evangelion: The End of Evangelion, and Inu-oh.* See their website for all screenings and details.

The <u>Coolidge Corner Theatre</u> is an independent, nonprofit cinema and cultural institution with six screens, an Education & Community Engagement Center, and the capacity for more than 900 audience members. Since 1933, audiences in the greater Boston area have relied on the Coolidge for the best of contemporary independent film, repertory, and educational programming.

JSB members can get a discount on all screenings using code on the **member only portal**.

Tickets



Join the Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG) this April for the family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series \(\subseteq \subset

Nasu Dengaku is a delicious Japanese dish featuring grilled or broiled eggplant topped with a sweet and savory miso glaze. The rich umami flavor comes from a blend of miso paste, mirin, sake, and sugar, creating a beautifully caramelized finish.

Agedashi Tofu is a comforting and flavorful Japanese dish featuring crispy, deep-fried tofu served in a light, savory broth. The tofu is coated in a thin layer of starch, creating a delicate crispness that contrasts beautifully with the warm, umami-rich dashi-based sauce.

The class will be taught by Debra Samuels, lead curriculum and recipe developer for Wa-Shokuiku, a program by Table for Two.

The recipe card with ingredient list and Zoom link will be provided a few days before the event. Only one registration needed per household.

JSB members visit the **member only portal** for discount code.

Register

Join the JSB Language Room

A Japanese and English Virtual Language Exchange



JSB Language Room Friday, April 18th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

0nline

Practice your Japanese (or your English) at our next online Japanese / English language exchange. Our monthly language room is sponsored by <u>Temple University</u>, <u>Japan Campus (TUJ)</u>. TUJ is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

Theme: $\Box \Box$ Festivals

Register

Programs for JSB Members

The following events and clubs 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! *Please note that online only members can attend the online member only events, but not the 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.



Connect with JSB! Wednesday, April 16th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT Bosso Ramen Tavern

24 Holyoke St, Cambridge, MA 02138

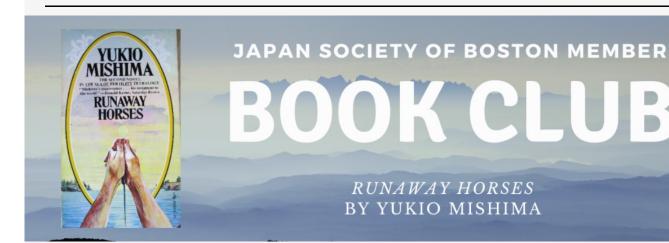
Join Japan Society of Boston staff and members for dinner at Bosso Ramen Tavern! Connect with JSB is a great way to get to know us better, meet other society members, practice your Japanese in a casual environment, and enjoy great food at Japanese restaurants in Boston!

Bosso Ramen Tavern describes itself as the first Japanese-owned ramen izakaya in Boston. They are a <u>JSB discount provider</u> and offer 10% off dine-in for JSB members.

See their website for their full menu.

This event is open to JSB members only. 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/drinks.

Register



JSB Book Club Wednesday, April 30th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Runaway Horses* by Yukio Mishima.

After reading *Spring Snow* by Yukio Mishima in our club, we are continuing with the second book of his iconic tetralogy, *The Sea of Fertility* series. A classic and complex Japanese author, readers may benefit from looking into the story of Mishima's life and the previous novel, since we have begun that discussion, but it is not necessary to sign up for this meeting.

Runaway Horses continues the story of Shigekuni Honda and weaves a chronicle of conspiracy, telling a story about the roots and nature of Japanese fanaticism in the years that led to war. As always Mishima's works are deeply reflective of his own life, in this case, his passion for the age of samurai and emperor in Japan.

Find a copy <u>here</u>. You are welcome to read any translation.

Register



JSB Film Club Wednesday, May 28th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT Online

Our next film, *Good Morning*, tells the story of two young boys who stop speaking in protest after their parents refuse to buy them a television set. The 1959 film was acclaimed director Yasujiro Ozu's second film in color that tackles his common theme of family dynamics and the challenges of intergenerational relationship. Ozu weaves a wealth of subtle gags through a family portrait as rich as those of his dramatic films, mocking the foibles of the adult world through the eyes of his child protagonists.

Watch the <u>Trailer</u>. Films should be viewed in advance of our meetings.

Register



#MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

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: Cyrus Konstantinakos (pictured right)

"My favorite (event) so far is last year's Gakuensai; it was an excellent networking opportunity for students. I took members of Showa Boston's Teaching Japanese Club, and they connected with Boston-area students and JET Program alumni who have since come to our campus for activities like takoyaki, norimaki, and shiratama dangomaking parties."



JSB MEETS JET ALUMNI

An interview series on alumni experiences in Japan





JSB Meets JET Alumni

As part of our partnership with the <u>United States Japan Exchange and Teaching Alumni Association</u> (USJETAA), the Japan Society of Boston features a new JET Alumni in our monthly blog!

This month's JET Alum is Bianca Sanchez Alvarez - Hiroshima (2016-2018)

"My friend Mayumi, a music teacher at Hatsuko, would invite me to her favorite curry restaurant where we drew on napkins to explain different parts of American and Japanese culture. While we couldn't exactly speak each other's language with ease, we found common ground and joy in our conversations."

Article

FAMOUS IN JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON Celebrities from Around the World



Famous in Japan

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

This month we are featuring Machiko Kyo, an iconic actress with over 80 film credits, including Akira Kurosawa's *Rashomon* (1950).

Article

Other Japan-Related Events



Back to the Center

New Work by Yoshinori Hagiwara

O1 March through O4 May 2025







Back to the Center New work by Yoshinori Hagiwara On display March 1st through May 4th, 2025

Pucker Gallery

Yoshinori Hagiwara is the fifth generation of the Hagiwara family ceramic workshop, currently residing in Mashiko, Japan. To obtain formal training, he studied and researched at the Tochigi Prefectural Ceramics Instructional Institute. Yoshinori's work has since been selected for inclusion, and has won numerous prizes at the National Art Exhibition for multiple years. The most recent ceramics have broadened beyond his well-known persimmon glaze, and he has incorporated yellow kaki, blue nuka, and namijiro glaze into his artistic vocabulary. Creating his own expression through these glazes, he exhibits great control in creating elegant forms. In 2014, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry designated Hagiwara as a "Traditional Craftsman." His ceramics are included in significant public collections including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Schein Joseph Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University in Alfred, New York, and the Tikotin Museum of Art in Haifa, Israel.

Back to the Center is currently on view for free at **Pucker Gallery**. **Back to the Center Exhibition Catalogue**





Info

Ko Kyoto April Workshops

Gansai Coloring Workshop
Try traditional Japanese watercolor and
discover the charm of Etegami—a unique
postcard art culture in Japan.

Kintsugi-Style Earrings Workshop This is an easier version compared to our March brooch-making class—perfect for creating your own one-of-a-kind jewelry.

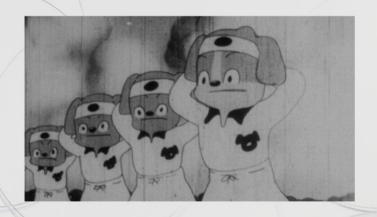
Calligraphy Artwork Workshop Renowned calligrapher Hiroko will guide you through practicing brushwork and designing your own framed piece. Create something truly special with shimmering gold ink and beautiful washi paper.

JSB members can get a discount on all workshops using the code on the member only portal.

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

April 11 – May 9

PLANET AT 50



Planet at 50 April 11-May 9, 2025 Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138

Only superstars are recognizable by a single name, and "Planet" is one of them. This special series celebrates the monumental contributions of the Kobe Planet Film Archive to cinema history as it celebrates its 50th anniversary. A legendary institution and one of the largest private film archives in Japan, Planet by now stores almost 20,000 film prints along with huge amounts of additional material such as film posters, scripts and rare publications.

This series presents a small selection of fascinating works from the treasure trove that Planet has amassed over the decades. Most of these films cannot be seen anywhere but at Planet; the Harvard Film Archive is delighted to present this very rare selection of extraordinary films.

JSB members can get a discount on all screenings using code on the **member only portal**.

Tickets



Spotlight Talk

Conservation Spotlight Talk: Japanese Swords

Friday, April 25, 2025 10:30 am—11:00 am Jean S. and Frederic A. Sharf Visitor Center (130.10) Included with General Admission

Meet in Sharf Visitor Center

MFABoston

Conservation Spotlight Talk: Japanese Swords Friday, April 25th, 2025 - 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM EDT Museum of Fine Arts Boston

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115

This <u>Japanese sword</u> is one of more than 550 in the MFA collection. The swords make up one of the best collections outside of Japan and span the 1,000 years from the Heian to modern periods, including many important and rare examples from renowned Japanese swordsmiths. Learn about the very particular care required for these objects and the highly specialized world of Japanese sword connoisseurship.

With Linsly Boyer, associate conservator, Objects Conservation Laboratory.

Free with general admission. No advance registration or tickets required. Talks meet at Sharf Visitor Center.

Info



Music of the Cosmos Multiple Dates Symphony Hall

301 Massachusetts Ave, Boston, MA 02115

Keith Lockhart, conductor George Takei, narrator

Drift among the stars with the Boston Pops as we traverse the vast reaches of the universe in a multimedia program that explores the intersection of music, space, and science fiction. Featuring the incomparable George Takei as your cosmic storyteller and developed in partnership with the Museum of Science, Boston and its Center for Space Sciences, this concert will boldly go where no man has gone before!

Tickets



Ichiko Aoba: Luminescent Creatures tour Monday, May 12th, 2025 - 8:00 PM EDT Berklee Performance Center

136 Massachusetts Ave, Boston, MA 02115

Join Ichiko Aoba on an ethereal journey with her latest release, Luminescent Creatures. With the power to bend space around her, Aoba pulls listeners from reality and surrounds them in the comforting fabric of her imagination.

Known for her ability to create "pockets of intimacy... that make you feel like she's performing for you alone" (Pitchfork), Aoba draws listeners into her deeply personal cosmos. Luminescent Creatures is an expansion of the world she built in her previous effort, the critically-acclaimed album Windswept Adan (2020), which propelled Aoba's reputation beyond her native Japan. While she sings in Japanese, her delicate voice, gentle guitar playing, and orchestral expanses operate on an emotional frequency that pierce through language barriers and cultural divides.

Tickets now on sale.

Tickets

MFABoston

Opens May 11

Arts of Japan



Arts of Japan Starting May 11, 2024 Museum of Fine Arts Boston The MFA has one of the most comprehensive collections of Japanese art anywhere in the world. Reimagined galleries explore Japan's art and visual culture from the 7th century to today, including painting, sculpture, decorative arts, and selections from the Museum's vast collection of ukiyo-e prints. Evocative spaces include the renovated Japanese Buddhist Temple Room, which opened in 1909, and an adaptation of a traditional tea room, with tatami mats and an alcove. Multimedia displays illuminate performative art forms, such as Nō theater, bringing their drama to life.

The new space for the Museum's unparalleled Japanese collection—which was the first of its kind in America when established in 1890, and now holds about 100,000 objects—will change regularly, giving visitors the opportunity to see even more works in a setting that honors and celebrates Japan's rich history and cultural legacy.



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. | [www.japansocietyboston.org]

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

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