



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!

Announcements from JSB

John E. Thayer III Award 2025 Recipients



Christine Pilcavage **Managing Director, MIT-Japan Program**

Christine Pilcavage receives this award for her central role in program-building activities as Managing Director of the MIT-Japan Program in the MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI), where she works closely with MIT students, faculty, and staff to share Japanese culture and foster strong ties between Japan and the MIT community.

Chris has been promoting cultural exchange and understanding between the US and Japan throughout her career. She has worked with USAID, various Japanese Ministries, local

governments, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. For the last 10 years, Chris has served as the Managing Director of the MIT-Japan Program, where she connects MIT students to Japan through industry and academic internships. Chris was born and raised in Japan, and has also lived in Cambodia, the Philippines, Kenya, and the United States. However, she considers herself to be a true Kansai-jin.

A note from Chris: “I am honored to receive this year’s Japan Society of Boston’s Thayer Award joining a larger group of people who have dedicated their lives to strengthening the ties between the US and Japan. Looking back on my career spanning the fields of education, public health and international development I see an AKAI ITO—a ‘red thread of fate’—sewing the tapestry of my passion in bridging the two countries that I love so much. This Thayer Award will further fuel and energize my work. Thank you very much.”

[Read More](#)



Coolidge Corner Theatre

The Coolidge Corner Theatre receives this award for its distinction as one of the region’s foremost presenters of Japanese film, curating programs that have brought thousands of people together to experience the breadth, depth, and artistry of Japanese cinema.

The nomination reflects, “This work has made the Coolidge a vital conduit for strengthening ties between Japan and the United States, fully embodying the spirit of the Thayer Award. The Coolidge’s programming has consistently highlighted Japanese cinema in ways that go beyond simple exhibition. By presenting retrospectives of legendary directors, contemporary works by emerging filmmakers, and themed series exploring cultural and historical contexts, the Coolidge creates meaningful encounters with Japanese culture. The Coolidge Corner Theatre’s dedication to showcasing Japanese cinema has made a lasting impact on Boston’s cultural landscape and on the many individuals who have been inspired, challenged, and connected through these films.”

A note from the Coolidge Corner Theatre’s Executive Director & CEO, Katherine Tallman: “The Coolidge is greatly honored to receive The Thayer Award, which speaks directly to our mission ‘to entertain, inform, and engage — building a vital community through film culture.’ Our longstanding commitment to showcasing Japanese cinema is an extension of this mission — it has allowed us to highlight the many great cinema artists from Japan, and to partner with the esteemed Japan Society of Boston. It has been tremendously gratifying to see audiences across demographics discovering and enjoying these films. The Thayer Award is further validation of the Coolidge’s commitment to showcasing diverse, global perspectives in film.



APPLY FOR THE 2025 CENET STUDENT MEMBERSHIP



APPLICATIONS DUE OCT. 31, 2025

Cenet, a JSB Nonprofit Member, is generously gifting one local student a one-year membership to the Japan Society of Boston. Use the form below to apply by October 31st and tell us why you are excited to be considered for the 2025 Cenet Student Membership.

Cenet (Cultural Exchange Network) is a nonprofit cultural exchange organization that implements exchange programs for the U.S. Department of State. Cenet inspires future global leaders, fostering a more prosperous and compassionate world through international education and cultural exploration.

Apply



JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

Membership

**NEW DISCOUNT
PARTNERS!**



ICHIDO®

October 1st was World Sake Day, and we are celebrating with two new discounts for JSB members, courtesy of **Farthest Star Sake** and **ICHIDO**!

Farthest Star Sake brewery and taproom is the only one of its kind in New England. Their mission is to make the best, local, minimally processed, hand-made, delicious sake possible. Find local sake in stores and restaurants in MA, RI, ME, and CT. Visit the Medfield taproom to see the brewery and sample exclusive styles.

ICHIDO sparkling sakes fuse the renowned Japanese spirit with the time-honored natural fermentation process used to produce champagne. Bright, delicate bubbles combine with sake's balanced, slight sweetness—a unique toast for your next celebration.

Farthest Star Sake – One free Farthest Star Sake-branded sake glass for first-time taproom visitors
ICHIDO – 10% off online ICHIDO and Yuzu purchases

[Details](#)

Volunteer for the JSB Book Club

*JSB is recruiting a committed
volunteer to lead our Book Club
starting in 2026!*



JSB is looking for a committed and enthusiastic volunteer to lead our Book Club in 2026!

If you are interested in this or any other volunteer opportunities at JSB, please submit our Volunteer Interest Form. We will be in touch if there are opportunities that match your preferences.

[Volunteer Interest Form](#)



Do you love JSB? Think there are ways we could improve?
Our team wants to hear from you! Fill out this survey to help shape the future of JSB.

[Survey](#)

JSB Programming

THE DEVIL TAKES BITCOIN

UNCOVERING THE INTERSECTION OF JAPAN, CRIME,
AND CRYPTOCURRENCY

SATURDAY NOV. 8TH AT 3PM



AUTHOR TALK & BOOK SIGNING WITH JAKE ADELSTEIN

Boston University Rajen Kilachand Center for Integrated Life Sciences & Engineering

The Devil Takes Bitcoin: Uncovering the Intersection of Japan, Crime, and Cryptocurrency

Saturday, November 8th, 2025 - 3:00PM Author Talk / 4:00PM Book
Signing

**Boston University Rajen Kilachand Center for Integrated Life Sciences &
Engineering**

610 Commonwealth Ave, Boston, MA

Join us in welcoming Jake Adelstein, bestselling author of *Tokyo Vice*, for an inside look at his thrilling newest book, *The Devil Takes Bitcoin: Cryptocurrency Crimes and the Japanese Connection*. In conversation with Boston University's Professor William W. Grimes, Jake will dive into the mysterious cryptocurrency heist and his experience as an investigative journalist in Tokyo, including opportunities for audience Q&A. There will be a book signing after the talk – guests can purchase copies of *The Devil Takes Bitcoin* at the event or bring copies of Jake's books from home.

\$18 General Admission / \$8 for JSB Members / Free for BU Students

Ticket sales begin October 17th at 12pm ET

In partnership with [Scribe Publications](#) and [Boston University Center for the Study of Asia](#)

More Info

Join the JSB Language Room

A Japanese and English
Virtual Language Exchange

 JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

Sponsored by:

 Temple
University
Japan Campus

JSB Language Room
Friday, October 17th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

□□□□□□10□18□□□□□□7□□

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 (TUU). TUJ is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

Theme: □□□□□□ - Sports & Exercise

[Register](#)



The banner features a dark blue background with a large white circle on the left containing two onigiri. The text 'ONIGIRI' is written in a white arc above them. To the right, the title 'Oûchigohan!' is in large white letters, with 'おうちごはん!' below it. Further right, a calendar icon shows 'SAT OCT 18 6 PM ET'. Below the title, it says 'Online Cooking Class via ZOOM' and 'with Kabocha Soup & Spinach Ohitashi'. At the bottom right, pricing is listed: '\$10 | JSB/JS/USJETAA Members' and '\$15 | Non-Members'. A row of logos is at the bottom, including 'ONIGIRI ACTION', 'TABLE FOR TWO', and 'USJETAA'.

□□□□□□ **Ouchigohan**
Onigiri Action Halloween Bash!
Saturday, October 18th, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

Join USJETAA for the October edition of the family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series □□□□□□! **OUCHIGOHAN** and cook along or just watch from your own kitchen!

This October, it's the **Onigiri Action Halloween Bash!** We will be making:

- Onigiri (Salmon or Tuna), hand-shaped rice balls filled with flaky salmon or creamy tuna mayo. We'll also show you how to decorate them in cute, festive ways for Halloween.
- Pumpkin (Kabocha) Soup, a cozy fall dish made with smooth, naturally sweet pumpkin. It's comforting and simple to make, perfect for warming up on a crisp fall day.
- Spinach Ohitashi, a classic Japanese side dish dressed with katsuo flakes or sesame seeds for a vegetarian option. It's light, flavorful, and a nice balance to the meal.

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



TRAILBLAZERS: Celebrating Contemporary Japanese Prints

On now through October 26, 2025

Highfield Hall & Gardens

56 Highfield Dr, Falmouth, MA 02540

The Japan Society of Boston is proud to be a co-sponsor of *TRAILBLAZERS: Celebrating Contemporary Japanese Prints*, hosted by Highfield Hall & Gardens.

Summer 2025 is the return of Japanese Prints at Highfield Hall & Gardens on Cape Cod. The College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ)'s prestigious juried exhibit of contemporary printmaking will be on view from June 21, 2025 through October 26, 2025.

TRAILBLAZERS will feature 137 acclaimed Japanese printmakers, showcasing a range of printmaking techniques from traditional woodblock and intaglio to lithography, etching, aquatint, silkscreen, and contemporary digital innovations. The exhibition highlights five groundbreaking women artists whose contributions have shaped the evolution of contemporary Japanese printmaking: **Toko Shinoda (1913-2021)**, **Chizuko Yoshida (1924-2017)**, **Reika Iwami (1927-2020)**, **Noriko Yanagisawa (1940-)**, and **Toeko Tatsuno (1950-2014)**.

In conjunction with the exhibition, Highfield Hall & Gardens will offer a variety of Japanese cultural programs for children and adults, including gardening, printmaking, origami, cooking classes, lectures, and musical performances. These immersive experiences will provide visitors with deeper insight into Japanese traditions and

culture. To learn more, visit highfieldhallandgardens.org

Image: Reika Iwami, *Water Goes Well with Fuji*, AP (Artist's Proof), woodcut, 1995. Courtesy of CWAJ.

[More Info](#)

Programs for JSB Members

The following events are limited to Japan Society of Boston Members.

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.



CONNECT WITH JSB!

 **member event** 

Tuesday, October 14 | 6PM
Nagomi Bento @ Bow Market

Connect with JSB!

Tuesday, October 14th, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT

Nagomi Bento

Bow Market, 1 Bow Market Way, Somerville, MA 02143

Connect with JSB! is a great way to meet other members, get to know JSB better, and enjoy great food at Japanese restaurants in Boston. This time, we'll be meeting at JSB's [discount partner](#), [Nagomi Bento](#).

All attendees will be responsible for covering the cost of their own food/drinks. JSB members can show their JSB membership cards at the register to receive a 10% discount on in-person orders at Nagomi Bento.

Registration Full – Waitlist Available

[Join Waitlist](#)



Virtual Meet and Greet with the JSB Team
Wednesday, October 29th, 2025 - 12:00PM EDT
Online

Join us for an online gathering to welcome the newest members of our leadership team – Jessy LeClair, Executive Director, and Hayley Valk, Managing Director of Programs and Operations. This is a mutual opportunity for JSB members and the JSB team to get to know each other and learn about what brings us all to this community.

Whether you've been involved with JSB for years or are new to our network, we would love for you to be part of this conversation. The format will be informal office hours. Feel free to join for part or all of the session, and bring your questions, curiosity, and enthusiasm for JSB!

[Register](#)



JSB Book Club
Wednesday, October 29th, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Convenience Store Woman* by Sayaka Murata.

Convenience Store Woman tells the story of Tokyo sales clerk Keiko Furukura. Keiko

is someone who has never fit in, but when she takes a job at a Smile Mart convenience store, she finally finds peace and purpose in her daily tasks. But there is also huge pressure on Keiko – to pursue a "real" career, to find a husband – and she feels forced to take desperate action in order to please the people around her. Is there room in this "normal" world for someone as strange as Keiko? (*From the publisher's description.*)

Find a copy [here](#).

Register



JSB Joint Book & Film 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



#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: **Cuiboguan (Bowen) Wang**

"Right after I graduated college in the summer of 2025, I traveled all the way through Japan — from Cape Sata in Kagoshima, Kyushu to Cape Soya in Wakkanai, Hokkaido. That was definitely one of the highlights of my life so far."

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 **Aiya Perinne - Akita (2022-2024)**

"After studying abroad at Waseda University, I became determined to live and work in Japan as soon as I graduated from college. The JET program seemed to be the clearest path to pursue that goal and to give back to the people and country that have given my life and studies so much meaning."

Other Japan-Related Events

FLOATING CLOUDS... THE CINEMA OF NARUSE MIKIO

The Harvard Film Archive

July 5th - November 3rd



Floating Clouds... The Cinema of Naruse Mikio

On now through November 3rd, 2025

Harvard Film Archive

24 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138

Lesser known to US audiences than Japanese contemporaries Ozu and Mizoguchi, with whom he is often compared, Naruse Mikio (1905-1969) was an equally prolific, subtle and consummate, yet increasingly restrained stylist whose eighty-nine films—of which sixty-nine survive—spanned from the silent era through the 1960s. Although Naruse worked skillfully across genres in the 1930s, during the post-WW2 period he began to almost exclusively direct work in the broad categories of the “women’s film” and “*shomin-geki*,” films focused on the daily dramas of contemporary lower-middle-class life, with a frequent emphasis upon directly challenging gender inequality.

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. The HFA’s series will be the most extensive of the North American retrospectives, featuring forty-five film prints (all but one on 35mm) from the Japan Foundation and National Film Archive of Japan.

JSB members can get a \$3 discount on tickets! Visit the [Member Portal](#) for the code.

Tickets

Kokoro Care
2025 Advent Calendar: Enchanted Moments

KOKOROCARE



2025 ADVENT CALENDAR:
ENCHANTED MOMENTS

From December 1-24, 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!

Order by Oct 15, 2025 for a discounted price and receive a free Kokoro Care designed tenugui hand towel. Shipping begins early November.

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

[More Info](#)

Looking for more Japan-related events? Visit our [Events Page!](#)

To recommend events for our calendar, please email info@japansocietyboston.org.

[More Events](#)

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



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