



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!



Takashi Sato, PhD

Chief Scientist & Technical Architect
[Rigaku Corporation](#)

How long have you been working in Boston?
Since last September, I've been fully immersed in establishing a new lab in Boston for [Rigaku Corporation](#). We aim to showcase to Boston our groundbreaking technology which allows scientists to delve into the molecular image and characteristics of viruses, antibodies, and nucleic acids in solutions named Electron Density Topography or [EDT](#). It's a challenging yet exciting journey which you can read more about in this article by Nature Portfolio: ["For protein imaging, the answer is in solution"](#).

My first visit to Boston was in July 1995, the first place I landed in the US. At that time, little information was available online, and there was no such thing as Uber. I still remember



mistakenly taking a Black Cab from Logan Airport. I misunderstood that it was a shared taxi worldwide (except the yellow Ford in NY that I saw on TV) since I had just experienced black cabs in London on my first overseas visit as a university professor. Also, my English at the time was no match for my driver's heavy Boston accent, which I hear little of these days.

What are the benefits and challenges of working in the US?

Our technology, which provides rapid imaging of therapeutic molecules under flexible conditions in solution, is best demonstrated in Boston/Cambridge. Freezing samples for shipping devalues the unique merits of the technology so we are now settling at SmartLabs at 21 Erie St., within walking distance of many innovative pharmaceutical labs...

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 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.

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.

Made possible thanks to support from [Toshiba International Foundation](#).

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

Details



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.

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. Each cap comes with a JSB logo button pin.

Shipping (including a small handling fee) is not included in the price and is a flat fee.

Shop

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.

[Website](#)

Japan-Massachusetts Sister Cities



College Hub

JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON



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!

[Website](#)

JSB Programming



TOMOO HAMADA

ONE GENERATION TO NEXT

An Evening with Japanese Mashiko Potter Artist

Thursday, May 15 | 6:00 - 7:30 PM EDT
@ Boston Children's Museum

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 [Boston Children's Museum](#), is pleased to present an evening 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 [Coolidge Corner Theatre](#) 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 get a discount on screenings using code on the [member only portal](#).

[Tickets](#)

Oûchigohan!

おうごはん!



SUPER SANDO SPECIAL

Online Cooking
Class via ZOOM



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



□□□□□□ Ouchigohan

Super Sando Special!

Friday, May 16th, 2025 - 6:00PM EDT

Online

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

Like most other Japanese food, Japanese Sandos are next level! Not only delicious but also beautiful, eclectic combinations are put between two slices of bread in Japan. Conbini (convenience store) sandos are almost as popular as the traditional onigiri.

A perfect way to prepare for spring picnic weather, we will make Pork, Chicken or Tofu Katsu sando, along with the Kyoto specialty fuwa-fuwa or fluffy Dashi Tamago Sando. For dessert, Fruits Sando with strawberries and blueberries on a cloud of whipped cream. Add asparagus spears with wasabi sauce as an optional side and enjoy!

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

Oûchigohan!

おうちごはん!



ONE PAN MEAL

Online Cooking Class
via ZOOM



\$10 | JAS/JS Members
\$15 | General Admission



TABLE FOR TWO



□□□□□□ Ouchigohan

One Pan Meal

Saturday, June 7th, 2025 - 5:00PM EDT

Online

Join us at the Japan Society of Boston for the June edition of our family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class, □□□□□□ Ouchigohan! Cook along with us or just watch from your own kitchen.

Let's try another trending food hack from Japan! Popular among busy Japanese homecooks is this healthy and practical method of cooking a whole meal in one large pan or skillet. A main dish, sides, and even dessert are wrapped in parchment paper, set in simmering water, covered and steamed. Kansei □□! Dinner is cooked in just 15 minutes!

This session, learn how to make a delicious meal with minimal clean-up and maximum flavor and nutrition! Different from Western sheet pan meals, the Japanese way is faster, healthier, and allows for more variation and moisture retention. We will show you a typical example using this method and then experiment at home for endless variations!

Menu:

Salmon in Ginger Miso Sauce with Cabbage and Mushrooms

Okra or Asparagus with Wasabi Soy Sauce

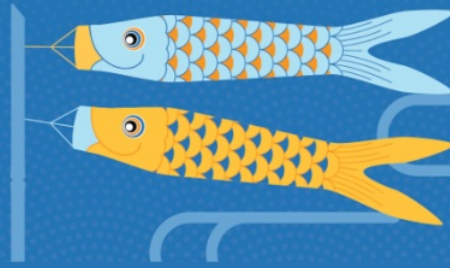
Baby Potatoes with Carrots with Butter and Soy Sauce

Japanese Sweet Potato and Apples Dessert

*If you don't have a large enough frying pan, you can use two.

Register

anime
BOSTON
2025 MAY
23-25



Anime Boston
May 23rd - 25th, 2025
Hynes Convention Center

Anime Boston is an annual 3-day convention held in spring that celebrates Japanese culture and media, such as anime, manga, and video games.

Stay up to date with news and information on their Instagram page [@AnimeBoston](#) and their [website](#).

JSB will have a table at community row, so please stop by!

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, May 16th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

□□□□□□5□17□□□□□□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 \(TUJ\)](#). TUJ is the oldest and largest foreign university in Japan.

Theme: □□□□□ Japanese movies

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.



JSB Film Club

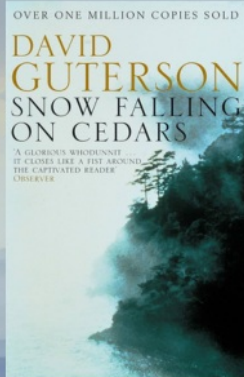
Wednesday, May 28th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

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 [Trailer](#). Films should be viewed in advance of our meetings.

The film is streaming for free on [Internet Archive](#).



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

BOOK CLUB

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS
BY DAVID GUTERSON

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, June 25th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson.

Set in 1954, this novel follows a small community on the island of San Piedro, north of Puget Sound, where Japanese American Kabuo Miyamoto is on trial for murder. A compelling drama that delves into the fallout of Japanese internment after World War II.

Find a copy [here](#).

Register

Signature Content from JSB



#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: **Kathleen M. Fink**

(Photo: two students practicing tea ceremony in Kathleen's backyard tea hut)

"After taking Japanese tea ceremony lessons for a while, I longed for an uncluttered place of my own to practice, and decided to install a tea hut in a shady corner of my yard where moss already liked to grow... Many different people have shared tea with me in my modified garden shed tea hut over the years."

[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's JET Alum is **Jessica Smith**
- **Okinawa (2003-2006)**

"There are several military bases on the island, including Kadena Air Base, which is huge. This has created some interesting culinary dishes, such as Taco Rice, which is essentially taco fixings on top of sticky rice instead of tortillas. This was invented for the GIs and has become a staple. [Goya Champuru](#) is another traditional Okinawan dish."



Article



Famous in Japan

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

This month we are featuring Yurie Chiri, an important figure in the preservation of Ainu culture with her transcription of traditional Ainu folktales.



Article

Other Japan-Related Events



BOSTON
JEWISH
FILM

Persona Non Grata

West Newton Cinema

Wednesday, May 21 | 7PM



Persona Non Grata

Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 - 7:00 PM EDT

West Newton Cinema

1296 Washington St, West Newton, MA 02465

Boston Jewish Film is screening this Japanese film based on a true story!

Chiune Sugihara is a Japanese diplomat posted in Lithuania. He is also a world-class spy. In Lithuania, he and his partner, Pesh, gather intelligence on European affairs. As WWII began and Germany invaded Poland, hordes of Jewish refugees fled to Lithuania. In search of transit visas, they turn to Sugihara who is torn between his loyalty to his country and his loyalty to mankind.

Watch the trailer [here](#).

Introduction by Japanese Consulate Cultural Affairs Consul, Ms. Chieko Yoshida.
In observance of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month.

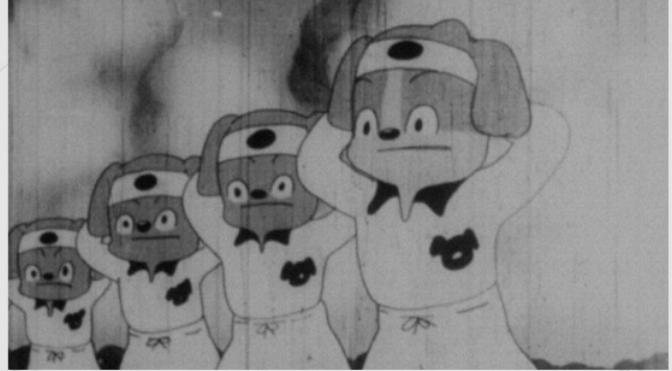
Persona Non Grata (2015) is directed by Cellin Gluck. Film is in Japanese, English, and Polish language. Running time: 139 min. Tickets on sale now.

Tickets

HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE

○ April 11 – May 9

PLANET AT 50



Planet at 50

April 11th - May 9th, 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 get a discount on screenings using code on the [member only portal](#).

Tickets



**NEW
UPDATE**

JWLI FELLOWSHIP 2025 PITCH EVENT

Women Leaders in Japan

ADVOCATING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Thursday, May 22 | **5PM - 6PM**



Women Leaders in Japan – Advocating for Social Change

Thursday, May 22nd, 2025 - 5:00 PM EDT

Venture Café Cambridge

One Broadway, 5th Floor, Santo Domingo Room, Cambridge, MA 02142

Join us for a special opportunity to hear directly from women leaders in Japan who are negotiating urgent social challenges. In this event, four Fellows participating in the JWLI Fellowship in Boston this month will take the stage to present their action plans—designed to address key social issues in Japan. Each Fellow will deliver a 5-minute pitch followed by live Q&A from the audience. This isn't just a presentation—it's an invitation to participate. Attendees will have the opportunity to offer real-time insights and help shape these ventures before the Fellows return to Japan to put their plans into action.

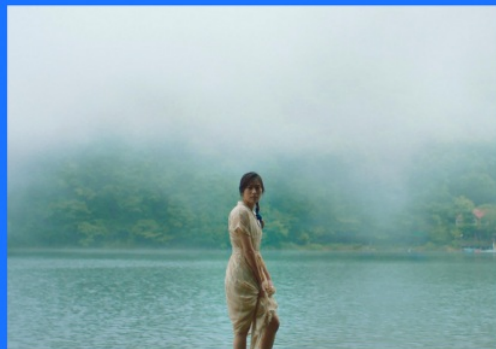
This event is free and open to the public. Session will be in English.

[Info](#)

May 22–June 6, 2025

UNIQLO Festival of Films from Japan

MFA Boston



UNIQLO Festival of Films from Japan

May 22nd - June 6th, 2025

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Curated by the MFA, the UNIQLO Festival of Films from Japan returns with an electrifying selection of bold new releases. This year's lineup spans genres, from Shinya Tsukamoto's haunting war drama *Shadow of Fire* to the heartwarming journey of grief and reconciliation in *Cottontail*. Kiyotaka Oshiyama's *Look Back*, adapted from the beloved manga by Tatsuki Fujimoto, explores artistic passion and collaboration, while *Bushido* delivers a thrilling samurai epic infused with social critique. The festival also features the inventive time-loop comedy *River* and the surreal, jazz-infused biopic *Between the White Key and the Black Key*. Join for a rich and remarkable showcase of contemporary Japanese cinema.

See website for schedule and to purchase tickets.

Tickets

Boston Show

Sunday, June 1 | 8PM

MGM Music Hall at Fenway

ONE OK ROCK

WITH
STAND ATLANTIC

NORTH
AMERICAN
DETOX
TOUR
2025

05.13 VANCOUVER, BC

05.14 SEATTLE, WA

05.16 SAN FRANCISCO, CA

05.18 LOS ANGELES, CA

05.19 LOS ANGELES, CA

05.22 DALLAS, TX

05.23 HOUSTON, TX

05.25 ORLANDO, FL

05.27 ATLANTA, GA

05.30 NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK

05.31 WASHINGTON, DC

06.01 BOSTON, MA

06.03 MONTREAL, QC

06.04 TORONTO, ON

06.06 CHICAGO, IL

06.07 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

@oneokrock.com

LIVE NATION

ONE OK ROCK

Sunday, June 1st, 2025 - 8:00 PM EDT

MGM Music Hall at Fenway

[ONE OK ROCK](#) DETOX North American Tour 2025

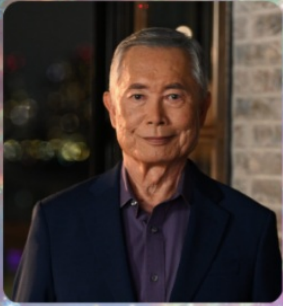
ONE OK ROCK is gearing up for an electrifying return on the road with their highly anticipated DETOX NORTH AMERICAN 2025 TOUR. This tour marks the band's most ambitious journey across the United States and Canada to date, including three arena shows, which showcase the band's growing fan base.

ONE OK ROCK is a Japanese rock band formed in 2005 and debuted in 2007. They have cultivated a following among the youth for their mix of emo and rock music paired with breathtaking live performances.

Tickets for their Boston show on sale now.

Tickets

 Boston Pops



Music of the Cosmos

Fri, May 23, 2025, 7:30pm EDT

Sat, May 24, 2025, 7:30pm EDT

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

MFA Boston

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 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.

Info

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.](#) | [\[www.japansocietyboston.org\]](http://www.japansocietyboston.org)

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

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