



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!



Takeshi Niinami

Chairman & CEO

[Suntory Holdings Limited](#)

What is your connection with Boston?

Boston is a city that has profoundly shaped my personal and professional journey. I earned my MBA from Harvard Business School (HBS) in 1991, and the experience continues to influence how I think, lead, and engage with the world.

Boston also plays a special role in advancing Suntory's global leadership development. We conduct the Suntory Leadership Program at HBS, launched with the vision to cultivate future leaders across our global organization through exposure to world-class academic insights and diverse perspectives.

Each year, we bring together rising leaders from Suntory's global businesses in Boston, where

they engage with Harvard faculty and thought leaders on topics such as sustainability, innovation, and geopolitical strategy. I make it a point to join one of the sessions in person to interact with participants, share my experiences, and reinforce the importance of leadership grounded in our founding values. Boston's rich academic and cultural environment provides the perfect setting for this kind of transformative learning.

Click [here](#) to read the full interview!

Announcements from JSB

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!

JSB Programming



Boston Red Sox Japanese Celebration
Friday, September 26th, 2025 - 7:10PM EDT
Fenway Park
4 Jersey St, Boston, MA 02215

Join the Boston Red Sox and the Japan Society of Boston in celebrating Japanese heritage and culture at Fenway Park on Friday, September 26! Show your support as we honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Japanese American community of New England.

Ticket holders who purchase tickets through the special offer on their [website](#) will receive a Red Sox Japan-inspired hat.

Arrive early to enjoy lively traditional taiko drumming performances and other festivities that showcase the spirit of Japan. Classic Japanese ballpark food and drink will also be available for purchase.

For questions or groups of 15 or more, please contact the Red Sox Ticket Office at ticketoffice@redsox.com.

Info



KAIDAN KIMODAMESHI: Chilling Tales from Japan

July 1-29, 2025

Kaidan Kimodameshi: Chilling Tales from Japan

July 1-29, 2025

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

Summer is a time for scares in Japan. As a way of chilling their bones in the heat, people challenge themselves to watch *kaidan*, or ghost stories. The Japanese word for this is *kimodameshi*.

Some say the reason for this tradition is the fact that Obon, the festival of the dead, falls in August. Other scholars attribute the phenomenon to Edo-period Kabuki theaters performing ghost stories outdoors in the summer to help audiences keep cool. Whatever the origin may be, we thought we'd contribute to this terrifying means of climate control!

In partnership with the Japan Society of Boston, the Coolidge Corner Theatre has programmed five films spanning 50 years of supernatural storytelling from Japanese filmmakers. From Kenji Mizoguchi's masterful *Ugetsu* (1953), to the folk-horror fantasia *Demon Pond* (1979), through 2004's hair-raising Hollywood horror *The Grudge*, and more, "Kaidan Kimodameshi: Chilling Tales from Japan" will certainly send a tingle down your spine this summer!

JSB members can get \$3 off tickets by using the discount code provided on the [Member Portal](#)!

[Tickets](#)



TRAILBLAZERS: Celebrating Contemporary Japanese Prints

June 21 - 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.

More Info



□□□□□□ Ouchigohan
Summer Matsuri Special!
Saturday, July 19th, 2025 - 5:00PM EDT
Online

Join the Japan-America Society of Washington DC for the July edition of the family-friendly online Japanese home cooking class series □□□□□□! OUCHIGOCHAN and cook along from your own kitchen!

This month we're cooking up a "Summer Matsuri Special!"

Japanese summers are known for being steamy (*mushiatsui*)! But people forget the humidity as soon as they get into their summer yukata and enjoy street food at their local festivals, or *matsuri*.

Join the July Ouchigohan cooking session as we make these popular matsuri dishes: yakisoba (fried noodles), takoyaki (grilled octopus fritters), and refreshing strawberry kakigori (shaved ice).

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.

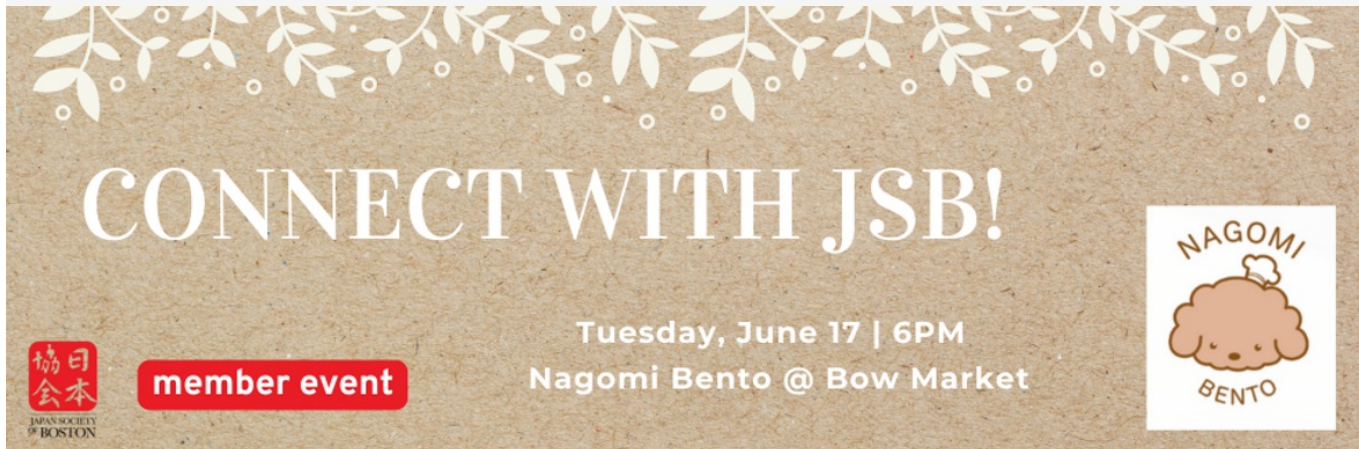
JSB members visit the [member only portal](#) for the discount code.

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!
Tuesday, June 17th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT
Nagomi Bento

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

Join Japan Society of Boston staff and members for dinner at Nagomi Bento! 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!

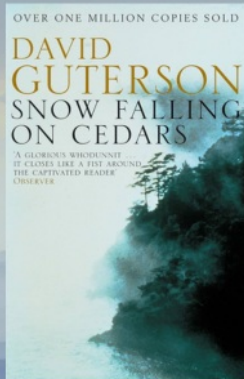
Founded in 2022 by Japanese immigrants, Nagomi Bento offers delicious, balanced bento boxes, onigiri rice balls, and a variety of tasty Japanese snacks and beverages, perfect for your busy day. The friendly Nagomi Bento team prepares every meal with love, using simple, high-quality ingredients and sustainable methods.

See their [website](#) for their full menu.

This Connect with JSB will be held at Bow Market, where Nagomi Bento, and a variety of other local businesses are located. It is an outdoor venue so the event may be canceled in the case of rain. Learn more about Bow Market at their [website](#).

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](#)



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

BOOK CLUB

SNOW FALLING ON CEDARS
BY DAVID GUTERSON

JSB Book Club

(Date changed!) Wednesday, June 18th, 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



日本
会
社
JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON

KYUDO BOW MAKING

Demonstration
with Shibata Kanjuro XXI Sensei

JSB Member Event

FRIDAY, JUNE 20 | 5:00 PM
1950 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, CAMBRIDGE, MA

Kyudo Bow Making
Demonstration with Shibata Kanjuro XXI Sensei
Friday, June 20th, 2025 - 5:00 PM EDT
1950 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140

Shibata Kanjuro XXI Sensei is coming from Kyoto to teach in Boston and will demonstrate the art of Yumi (bow) making to JSB members and their plus-ones!

Shibata Sensei is Yumi Maker (Onyumishi) to the Japanese Imperial Household and

master archer of The Heki-Ryu Bishu Chikurin-Ha School of Kyudo (Japanese traditional archery).

JSB participants will join local students of Kyudo from the Boston area, members of Byakko Kyudojo (White Tiger practice group), in observing how a Yumi, more than six feet long when finished, is assembled from seasoned, selected bamboo and other wood. We will be able to see the glueing, roping, and shaping with bamboo wedges, that form the curves of the finished bow.

[Byakko Kyudojo](#) was established by Shibata Kanjuro XX, Sendai, in 1981 when he was invited to teach in the United States. It is one of several across the country and in Europe.

Register



JSB Film Club

Wednesday, July 30th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

Online

Our next film, Hirokazu Kore-eda's *Monster* (2023), is psychological drama mystery thriller film and is considered one of Kore-eda's finest. In it, a young boy, Minato, begins acting strangely, worrying his single mother who goes to his school to demand answers. Learning that his teacher is responsible, things get complicated, but as the story unfolds through the eyes of mother, teacher, and child, the truth gradually emerges.

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

The film is available to rent on a [variety of platforms](#), including Amazon Prime and Apple TV.

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: **Cuong Nguyen Sensei** from [Boston Iaido](#)

(Photo: Nguyen Sensei [back row, third from the left] with members of Boston Iaido at this year's Japan Festival Boston, featuring a Tateyama Satomi-clan style armor)

"I've been passionate about martial arts since I was 11, training in Kung Fu, Judo, Tae-Kwon-Do, Kenjutsu, Karate, Kendo, Kyudo, and finally Iaido. As an engineer, I became curious about how martial arts benefit both body and mind. Over time, I've deeply valued the ethics and traditions behind each practice. Iaido, in particular, helps me stay grounded and connected to centuries of wisdom."

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 **Chelsie Blackwell - Kyoto (2019-2020)**

"Japan feels like it's in my bones; so much of what I do comes back to it. My experiences that formed me there influence my current life here in America....I teach my current students Japanese words and phrases; it's fun to hear them talk about how much they want to go to Japan someday. Some even talk about living there in the future! It feels like a full circle moment and it makes me proud."

FAMOUS IN JAPAN

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 Ayako Miura, a prolific author from Hokkaido whose works primarily revolve around Christianity, which she converted to after a major health scare.

[Article](#)

Other Japan-Related Events



Chiharu Shiota: *Home Less Home* Exhibition

June 1 - September 1, 2025

ICA Watershed Gallery

256 Marginal St, Boston, MA 02128

In her awe-inspiring installations, Chiharu Shiota (born 1972 in Osaka, Japan; lives and works in Berlin) foregrounds stories of migration, home, connection, memory, and consciousness. Using line in the form of string, Shiota creates immersive installations that underscore human connection and experience.

For the ICA Watershed, Shiota will present two signature, large-scale installations that consider the ways humans collect memories and form connections as they move and travel: a site-specific iteration of *Accumulation – Searching for the Destination* (2014/2025) and a newly commissioned installation, *Home Less Home* (2025).

Featured as part of the Boston Public Art Triennial 2025, this exhibition is Chiharu Shiota's first solo presentation in New England.

Image: Chiharu Shiota, *Home Less Home* (detail), 2025. Installation view, *Chiharu Shiota: Home Less Home*, the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston, 2025. Photo by Timothy Schenck. © 2025 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn

Tickets



JAPAN EXCHANGE AND TEACHING PROGRAM

JET Program Virtual Info Session
Tuesday June 17th, 2025 - 8:00 PM EDT
Online

For recent college graduates as well as current students, check out this Virtual Info Session from [USJETAA](#)! 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 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.

Register below to receive the Zoom link via email.

Register



JUNE 21 & 22, 2025

RECEDING AND REEMERGING



Receding and Reemerging **Asian American Ballet Project**

Saturday, June 21st at 7PM and Sunday, June 22nd at 3PM EDT

Arrow Street Arts

2 Arrow St, Cambridge, MA 02138

Asian American Ballet Project's 3rd annual performance, *Receding and Reemerging*, weaves together six original ballets that honor ancient folktales, confront painful histories, and unravel the complexities of Asian American identity. With original choreography, live music, and bold new interpretations, AABP offers a powerful artistic response to this moment.

Featuring contributions by 18 Asian American artists, *Receding and Reemerging* invites audiences to imagine a future where Asian American experiences are not only seen—but celebrated.

JSB members can get a \$10 discount on tickets! Visit the [Member Portal](#) for the code.

Tickets



***Spirited Away* with Author Sachiko Kashiwaba**

Tuesday, June 24th, 2025 - 6:00 PM EDT

Coolidge Corner Theatre

290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

Join the Coolidge Corner Theatre in celebrating *The Village Beyond the Mist*, the novel that inspired Studio Ghibli's *Spirited Away*, with author Sachiko Kashiwaba and translator Avery Fischer Udagawa in conversation with WBUR's Kalyani Saxena. The talk will be followed by a screening of *Spirited Away*.

Ticket options include general admission OR general admission and a copy of *The Village Beyond the Mist*. Additional copies will be available for sale from Brookline Booksmith.

[Tickets](#)



The Rad Smith Program in Japanese Art

Japanese Lacquerware Culture and the Appeal of Urushi

Saturday, June 28, 2025 2:00 pm–3:00 pm MFA Boston

Japanese Lacquerware Culture and the Appeal of Urushi

The Rad Smith Program in Japanese Art

Saturday, June 28th, 2025 - 2:00PM EDT

Museum of Fine Arts Boston

Harry and Mildred Remis Auditorium (Auditorium 161)

Join Murose Kazumi, a master of urushi lacquerware and designated a Living National Treasure of Japan, as he delves into the ancient relationship between the Japanese people and urushi lacquer dating back to the early Jōmon period. Reflect on how lacquer techniques, influenced by the Asian continent after the 8th century, have been passed down and continuously refined—particularly the celebrated *maki-e* technique

perfected during the Heian period. Drawing from his own renowned expertise, Murose emphasizes the unique qualities of Japanese lacquerware and its enduring cultural significance as one of the world's most exceptional artistic traditions.

Presented in Japanese with English interpretation.

The event is free and tickets can be reserved in advance below.

Tickets



Kintsugi and Mizuhiki Bookmark Workshops

Various June Dates

Ko□Kyoto

1 Bow Market Way #33, Somerville, Massachusetts 02143

Ko□Kyoto, one of JSB's [member discount providers](#), has four workshops coming up at the end of June: two beginner Kintsugi and two Mizuhiki Bookmark Making.

Kintsugi is a traditional Japanese method of repairing ceramics by highlighting the lines of breakage with precious metals. It embraces the philosophy of wabi-sabi, highlighting "imperfections" with metal powders and transforming broken pieces into unique works of art. You can bring your own broken pottery or Ko□Kyoto can provide one for you.

Or learn how to make a Mizuhiki bookmark. Mizuhiki is a traditional Japanese art form that involves the use of decorative cords made of brightly colored paper or silk. These cords are often used as embellishments for gifts and ceremonial occasions, as the intricate designs and knots of Mizuhiki carry symbolic meanings.

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

Info



Japanese Tea Ceremony and Sano Gofu Exhibit
June 29, July 27, and September 28, 2025 at 2:00pm
Art Complex Museum

189 Alden St, Duxbury, MA 02332

The Art Complex Museum invites you to their *Sho-fu-an* or “Wind in the Pines” tea house for a Japanese Tea Ceremony.

Traditionally, the ceremony is practiced in a specialized space called a tea house, designed specifically for tea ceremony gatherings. *Sho-fu-an* was designed by Japanese artist, Sano Gofu. It was built in Kyoto, Japan in 1969 and reassembled at the museum in 1975 under the direction of Yasahiro Iguchi of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. This year marks the 50th anniversary of *Sho-fu-an*.

To celebrate the anniversary, the museum is displaying the show, “Celebrating Sano Gofu” through August 31, 2025. This exhibit features artworks by Gofu from the museum’s collection, including original sketches of the design for *Sho-fu-an*.

The tea event is free and all are welcome. Visitors will observe the tea ceremony, receive tea and a special “sweet,” and have the opportunity to ask questions of our presenters, who are from Chado Urasenke Tankokai Boston Association.

More Info

MAINE JAPANESE WOODWORKING FESTIVAL 2025

July 24 - 27 in Mercer, Maine



never stop building

Maine Japanese Woodworking Festival 2005

July 24-27, 2025

Never Stop Building

772 Rome Rd, Mercer, ME 04957

The annual Maine Japanese Woodworking Festival brings together the best of the Japanese woodworking community where beginners to seasoned woodworkers can share their experience, learn from tool and technique demonstrations and workshops, and compete in a contest to pull the thinnest shaving with a Japanese hand plane.

This year they are expanding from 3 to 4 days, starting with an all-hands group timber frame raising and continuing the tradition of in-depth, hands-on workshops, expert instructors, opportunities to learn and practice with Japanese tools, and special events including a Japanese boat launch ceremony, swordsmanship demonstration, BBQ Bonfire Party, and, of course, the revered planing competition!

See their [website](#) for full schedule and details.

JSB members can get 7% off any of the workshops or individual festival days (the festival bundle packages already have discounts) using the code on the [Member Portal](#)!

[Tickets](#)

FLOATING CLOUDS. THE CINEMA OF MIKIO NARUSE

The Harvard Film Archive

July 5th - November 3rd



Floating Clouds. The Cinema of Mikio Naruse

July 5th - 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.

Full schedule and advance tickets will appear on [their website](#) later in June. Once tickets are on sale, JSB members can get a \$3 discount! Visit the [Member Portal](#) for the code.

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

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

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