

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

July 30 - August 12, 2021



Message from the Director:

This summer, I came across some old pictures of the Japan Society of Boston. It was a beautiful reminder of the long history of people coming together to strengthen the ties between the US and Japan. The Japan Society of Boston is the oldest of the Japan Societies in the US, founded in 1904, and today, our commitment to growing this community of bridge builders is as strong as it probably was in 1904.

This edition of our newsletter is especially rich in the stories of how the US/Japan connections have deeply impacted individual lives. We will be talking about Umeko Tsuda, who is one of the first Japanese women to have come to the US in an event on 8/25. We share a video of Andy Gordon, whose long commitment to the study of Japanese history has earned him the NIHU Award. We have a letter from our intern, Dustin Hinkley, who writes about his experience at the Hiroshima Peace Museum. We offer two personal Japan Journey stories from our interns which highlight the different ways Japan has touched the lives of two young Americans. We have Roland Kelts' latest "Letter from Tokyo" which gives us an insight into what it feels like to be in Tokyo today. And last but not least, the "JSB meets JET Alums" shows what it was like to live and work in Chiba. **Curiosity Creates Connections, Connections Creates Community.** I hope you will find something in this newsletter that sparks your curiosity!

Stay amazed,
Yuko Handa
Executive Director

Now open for registration!

[July 31st](#)
[Easy Japanese Home Cooking
for Non-chefs!](#)
[Part 13: Hiyashi-Chuka](#)

[August 17th](#)
[Poetry of Japan](#)

[August 25th](#)
[Umeko Tsuda's Contributions To
Modern Japan](#)

[September 10th](#)
[JSB Language Room](#)

Read more about all our events below!

[John E. Thayer Award](#)

Featured Events & Programs

(Scroll for more details!)

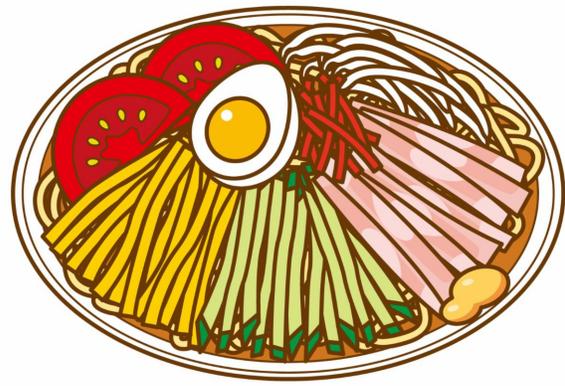


[Letters from Tokyo](#)

"The Gaman Games"
by Roland Kelts



Download the [Nomination Form](#) and send to info@japansocietyboston.org by August 20th!



JSB meets JET Alumni



Our interview this week is with JET alum **Ella McCann**, who was placed in **Chiba** prefecture! She worked in the city of **Kamogawa**, which is known for its peanuts and its adorable peanut-themed mascots! Check below to read more about her experience as a JET or read the complete version on our [website](#)!

Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-chefs!

Part 13: Hiyashi-Chūka!

with **Debra Samuels**
Saturday, July 31, 2021
5:00 PM EDT

Join or Renew Your Membership

The Japan Society of Boston is a community of bridge builders and curious minds who have found connections with others through their common interest in strengthening the ties between the US and Japan.

[Join or Renew](#) your Membership and support us continue this important work of bridge-building!



Keep up with JSB on social media!



NIHU Award Ceremony:

Commemorative Lecture
by Andrew Gordon
 (in Japanese)

Japan Society of Boston Online Events

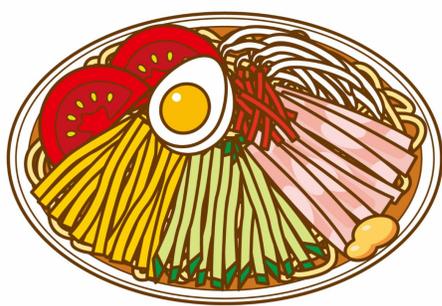
Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-chefs!

Part 13: Hiyashi-Chūka!

with **Debra Samuels**
Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 5:00PM EDT

Hosted online via Zoom
 (you will be sent the meeting code upon registering)

It's not too late to register for our next installment of our Cooking Lesson Series taught by Debra Samuels, cookbook author,



cooking instructor, and friend of the Japan Society! Hiyashi-chūka, literally meaning "chilled Chinese", is a popular Japanese dish made with cold Chinese-style ramen noodles topped with colorful ingredients like sliced cucumber, ham, egg crepes, and tomato, but you can be as creative as you want with the toppings to make it your

own! It's sure to be a household hit during the summer months!

[Register](#)

Poetry of Japan

with Christopher Ellars

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 6:00PM EDT

The Japan Society of Boston Proudly Presents:

Poetry of Japan

Exploring the poetic works of Matsuo Bashō, Izumi Shikibu, and Ono no Komachi

Tuesday, August 17th, 2021 at 6:00 EDT

The Japan Society of Boston: where Curiosity Creates Connections, Connections Create Community

Join the Japan Society of Boston on August 17th as we enter the world of poetry! We will be discussing different poetry forms, including haiku and waka. We will also take a look into the lives and works of three Japanese poetry masters: Matsuo Bashō, Izumi Shikibu, and Ono no Komachi. Come along for the literary journey, and make sure to bring some poems of your own to share at the end of this event!

[Register](#)

Umeko Tsuda's Contributions To Modern Japan

in collaboration with The Japan America Society of Chicago



UNCHARTERED WATERS: STORIES OF
JAPANESE PIONEERS WHO FIRST CAME
TO THE U.S.

**UMEKO TSUDA'S CONTRIBUTIONS
TO MODERN JAPAN:
A PIONEERING WOMAN
EDUCATOR AND HER
TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

Featuring: Yuko Takahashi, Ph.D.,
President, Tsuda University

**Wednesday, August 25, 2021
7:00-8:00 pm CST**

FREE ADMISSION
EVENT WILL BE HELD VIA ZOOM
www.jaschicago.org



Umeko Tsuda, said to be the first female "exchange student" from Japan to the U.S., was a pioneering woman educator in Meiji era Japan. This talk, featuring Yuko Takahashi, Ph.D., current President of Tsuda University and expert in American Studies, will trace Tsuda's footsteps from when she was sent to the U.S. by the Japanese government in 1871 and focus on her transnational collaboration with U.S. women in founding Tsuda College (now Tsuda University). Tsuda's story is evermore topical as her image will soon be immortalized as the face of Japan's new 5000 yen bill, which will go into print in 2024.

[Register](#)

[The JSB Language Room](#) [Virtual Language Exchange](#)

Friday, September 10th | 6:00 to 8:00 PM EDT
9 11 | 7 ~9



Hosted online via Zoom

(you will be sent the meeting code upon registering)

*The theme for our September exchange is
"What I did during the Summer"*

Practice your Japanese or your English
at our next online language exchange!

Join us for two hours of conversation where you will be grouped based on your proficiency level. We will begin speaking in Japanese, followed by English. We will conclude the meeting with free, casual conversation in Japanese and/or English until we hit 8 PM.

The JSB Language Room is currently free for all. To help us continue offering our language exchange, please consider [making a donation](#) or [becoming a member](#) today!

Register

Notes from JSB

[NIHU Award Ceremony: Commemorative Lecture by Andrew Gordon](#)

(the lecture is in Japanese)



On June 10, 2021, Professor Andrew Gordon of Harvard University received the second annual NIHU International Prize in Japanese Studies (国際賞) at the award ceremony of the National Institute of Humanities (NIHU, 人間文化研究機構).

The Prize recognizes his wide-ranging research activities and outstanding achievements in the study of Japanese history and in bridging society and academia.

To learn more about Dr. Gordon's contributions, [please read the NIHU article here.](#)

[Letters from Tokyo](#)

"The Gaman Games"
with Author, Journalist, and Scholar
Roland Kelts

One hot July day I was invited to give a [TED Talk in Tokyo](#) about my book "[Japanamerica](#)" and "Cool Japan," the government's campaign to capitalize on the international appeal of Japanese popular culture. But I didn't feel cool at all, and I didn't want to speak again about manga and anime, so instead I gave a talk about gaman: the virtue of enduring adversity with patience and dignity, and without whining... [\(Read more!\)](#)



Roland Kelts speaks at
TEDx Haneda
["The Core of Cool Japan: Sustainability vs. Stagnation"](#)

[The Path Forward: A Young American in the Face of Hiroshima's Legacy](#) by Dustin Hinkley (JSB Intern, Summer 2021)

In May of 2019, I arrived in Hiroshima with a singular purpose in mind: to learn more about the atomic bombing that had destroyed the city



over seventy years before and earned it an eternal place in global history.

I am an American, and growing up I learned about the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. I had learned in school that it was a very unfortunate decision, but also could not have been averted and was maybe even justified. I was taught that it was what shocked the Japanese government into surrendering and that it prevented an American invasion of Japan itself. Later, I would also learn that these claims were not entirely true and that Japan had made overtures to surrender. I would question whether it was needed after all and if such an act could truly be justified. So I sought to learn more. [\(Read more!\)](#)

My Japan Journey

featuring Ian Malloy and Christopher Ellars

Ian Malloy
JSB Intern
(Winter & Summer
2021)



Christopher Ellars
JSB Intern
(Winter and
Summer 2021)

To accompany our new Podcast "My Japan Journey," we will be sharing the various Japan Journeys of our staff and interns. What was it that sparked their interest in Japan and what path have they followed to arrive at JSB? Find out in our first installment where we feature two of our interns, Ian Malloy and Christopher Ellars. [\(read more!\)](#)

JSB Meets JET Alumni



As part of our partnership with the [United States-Japan Exchange & Teaching Alumni Association](#) (USJETAA), we will be sharing excerpts of interviews with JET alums in our newsletter!

*Episode 16: Chiba
Interview with **Ella McCann**
(Kamogawa-shi, Chiba-ken, 2012-2014)*

Q: If you were to return to live in Japan, would you choose to live in that same prefecture?

Yes, I will always choose to live in Chiba. After my first experience and then getting placed there, I determined that I will always live in and love Chiba when in Japan. I would love to buy a home in Kamogawa at some point. Chiba is the best prefecture and I am always sure to share that with anyone who will listen.

Q: Did you pick up any of the regional dialects? What are some of your favorite words or phrases?

Kamogawa is in the *boushuu* region (□□) of Chiba prefecture so occasionally they would try to



teach me *boushuu-ben* words like "Soudappel" (□□□□□□), "Issho ni ikubesa" (□□□□□□), and "Andayo" (□□□□). There are some great LINE stickers with *boushuu-ben* if anyone is interested.

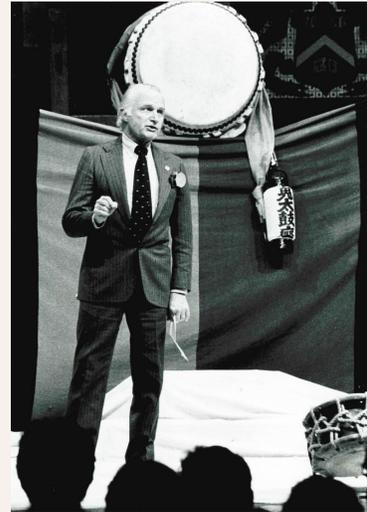
[**READ THE REST OF ELLA'S INTERVIEW!**](#)

[**John E. Thayer Award**](#)

Seeking Applications!

Deadline is Friday, August 20, 2021 at 12:00 pm EDT

The John E. Thayer, III Award was established in 1991 to commemorate the work and commitment of John E. "Jack" Thayer, III, a long-time member of the Japan Society's board of directors who was dedicated to furthering relations between Japan and the U.S. This award was established to recognize the achievements of individuals, groups of individuals, or organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the progress of the understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan. From Seiji Ozawa, for his work as long-time music director of the BSO, to the Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange, for its promotion of cross-cultural understanding and friendship between the cities of Salem and Ota, the achievements of past recipients vary, but are valuable all the same.



[**DOWNLOAD THE NOMINATION FORM**](#) AND SEND TO [**INFO@JAPANSOCIETYBOSTON.ORG**](mailto:INFO@JAPANSOCIETYBOSTON.ORG) BY **AUGUST 20th**

[Learn More](#)

JSB Staff Song of the Week

[**Kaibutsu \(□□\)**](#)

by YOASOBI

After their smashing debut last year with "Yoru ni Kakeru", the duo act YOASOBI's latest project are the intro and outro themes for season 2 of popular anime series "Beastars" (Now available on netflix.)



Non-JSB Activities



join us for the 2-part ceremony ...

part 1
thursday, 8.5.21 @ 7pm EDT
@ showa boston,
YouTube, ClubHouse
hnpm2021-part1.eventbrite.com

part 2
sunday, 8.8.21 @ 9pm EDT
on ZOOM
hnpm2021-part2.eventbrite.com

peace handmade
storytellers



Hiroshima Day

by First Parish Dorchester

Friday, August 6, 2021

Origami - 6pm EDT

Movie Screening - 8pm EDT

10 Parish St, Dorchester, MA 02122

Starting at 6 pm with picnicking and activities for kids, the event will include the folding of origami cranes led by Akemi Chayama from the Children's Museum and a demonstration of folding a giant paper crane from a sheet of 12' x 12' paper by Tim Nagaoka, a Boston Public School teacher. The cranes will be strung and hung in the entrance to the meetinghouse as a symbol of the wish for peace.

At 8 p.m., there will be a screening of the documentary film *"Paper Lanterns"* about the atomic bomb survivor Shigeaki Mori and his lifelong effort to tell the story of Normand Brissette, who grew up in Massachusetts, and ten American POWs killed by the bombing of Hiroshima. The film's producer and co-director Barry Frechette will introduce the film and answer questions afterward.

This event is free for all attendees!

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Memorial 2021

by Actors Refuge Repertory Theater

**Part 1 - Thursday, August 5, 2021
7pm EDT**

in-person at Showa Boston
YouTube | Clubhouse

**Part 2 - Sunday, August 8, 2021
9pm EDT
ZOOM**

A 2-part ceremony commemorating the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This year's theme is "peace handmade" and "storytellers." The spotlight will be on handmade "peace crafts" and the healing power of storytelling. Add your own peace-inspired arts & crafts or your own peace story to the event.

This event is free for all attendees!

Additional Resources

[Japanese study resources](#)

[Tofugu: Learn Hiragana](#)

[Tofugu: Learn Katakana](#)

[WaniKani](#)

[Tae Kim's Guide to Learning Japanese](#)

[Google Arts & Culture Virtual Museum Collections](#)

[Tokyo National Museum](#)

[The National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo](#)

[Kyoto National Museum](#)

[Fukuoka Asian Art Museum](#)

[Learn Japanese with Erin](#)

[NHK-World Japan: Easy Japanese Grammar](#)

[How to Read and Write Hiragana](#)

[Yamatane Museum of Art](#)

[Adachi Museum of Art](#)



The Japan Society of Boston, Inc. | [\[www.japansocietyboston.org\]](http://www.japansocietyboston.org)