JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

New England's Gateway To Japan Since 1904

Monthly Newsletter

Become a Member

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

Announcements from JSB

Thanks to your support, 2026 has been a year marked by tremendous growth and impact for the Japan Society of Boston. So far this year, we have:

- Welcomed more than 150 new members to our community, surpassing 500 active individual members for the first time in JSB's history
- Celebrated diverse aspects of Japanese culture through 27 events spanning fine art, home cooking, contemporary literature, textiles and fashion, and more
- Held 29 gatherings where New Englanders with diverse connections to Japan could find community and a sense of belonging
- Re-launched Japanese language classes at JSB, welcoming 57 students to our first semester of classes
- Hosted Ambassador Shigeo Yamada for a keynote address at our 2026 Gala Dinner

If you believe in our mission to deepen mutual understanding and inspire collaboration between the people of New England and Japan, we ask that you support our continued work with a tax deductible year-end gift to our annual fund.

Your generous contributions will allow us to continue the above initiatives in 2027, plus:

- Organize the first annual Boston Stationery Festival, sharing Japanese stationery and paper crafts with thousands of local participants
- Enhance our innovation, business, and policy programming to support the ongoing vitality of the US-Japan alliance
- Foster appreciation for Japanese culture in the next generation by expanding our community outreach offerings to local schools, libraries, and community centers

Our activities are only possible with your support. Big or small, we are grateful for any contribution you are able to make this holiday season.

To thank you for your generosity, we will send one of JSB's 2027 calendars to donors who make a gift of $50 or more by Thursday, November 19th.

Click below to donate easily by credit card, DAF, PayPal, Venmo, and more.

Donate



With support from:

anime BOSTON 2027 MAY 28–30 · BOSTON IAIDO · brookline booksmith · KOKORO · KYŌYO HAUS MOCHI ICE CREAM · OGAWA COFFEE · Oishii · SAKE DAY EAST · Shoyeido Japanese Incense · Sodateru TOWEL

Support JSB by purchasing a
2027 Wall Calendar

Enjoy the seasonal sights of Japan and New England and support the Japan Society of Boston by purchasing a 2027 fundraising calendar. Perfect for holiday gifting or in your own home!

All featured images were taken by members of the Japan Society of Boston community and selected through a photo contest this summer.

These hanging wall calendars are 11 x 8.5 inches, full-color, saddle-stitched, and pre-filled with U.S. and Japanese national holidays.

All orders are due by **Monday, November 16, 2026** for shipment in early December, so don't wait to get yours!

Order Here!



Japanese Language Classes return February 2027!

The JSB Japanese Language Program will be back in the spring with another round of 10-week online courses for beginner and intermediate learners!
The program features:

- Expert Guidance: Led by professional instructors with years of teaching experience at local universities
- Practical Focus: Class time concentrates on interactive exercises that simulate real-life use of the language
- Hybrid Format: Classes are fully online, with an optional in-person gathering at the end of the semester

Registration opens **Monday, November 30th**, and JSB Members receive a 15% discount on tuition!

More Info

JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON

NEW *Membership* DISCOUNT PARTNER

SHOYEIDO

Shoyeido Japanese Incense

Announcing a new discount for JSB members! Thank you to **Shoyeido Incense** for their support.

Established in Kyoto in the early 18th century, Shoyeido has worked diligently for centuries to perfect the art of Japanese incense.

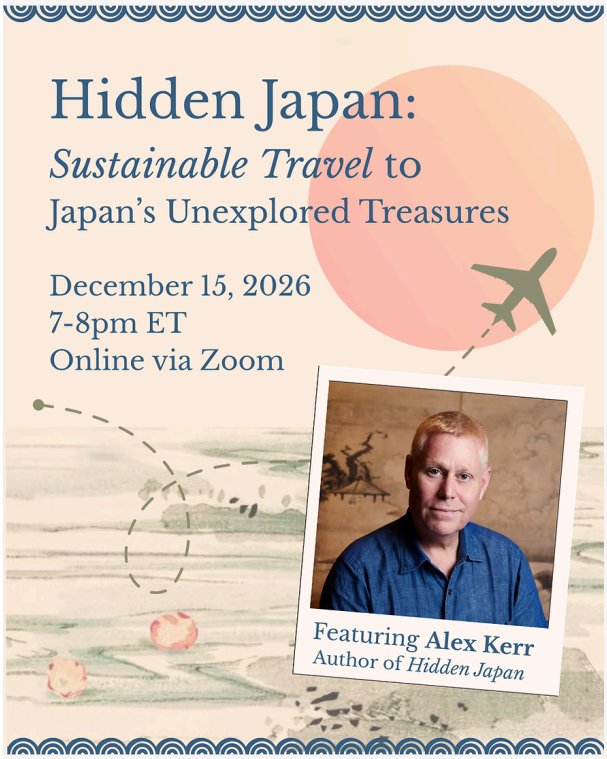
JSB members receive **10% off online purchases**.

See our website for all discount partners and membership information.

Discount Partners

JSB Programming

Some events 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!



Hidden Japan: Sustainable Travel to Japan's Unexplored Treasures

Featuring author Alex Kerr

Tuesday, Dec 15, 2026 - 7:00PM EST
Online

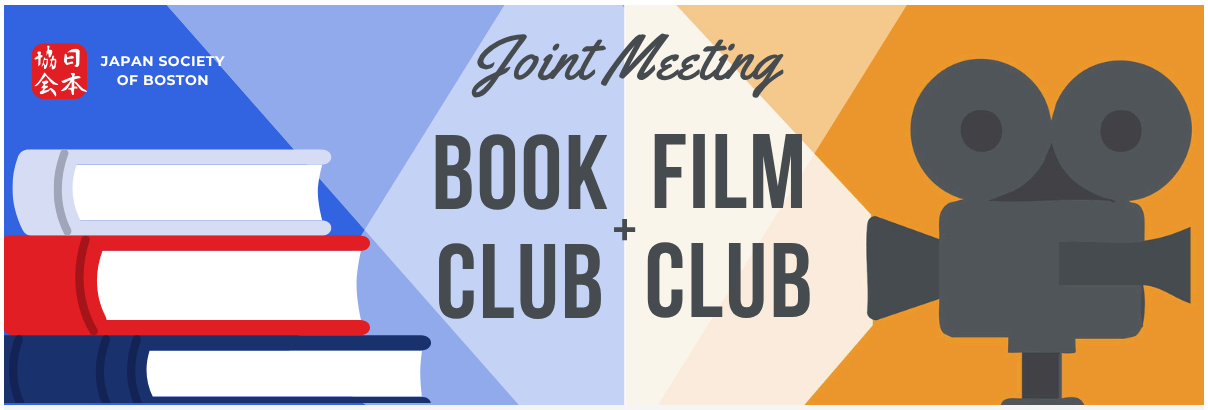
Register

Discover Japan's hidden treasures with acclaimed author, environmentalist, and restorationist Alex Kerr. In this talk inspired by Kerr's book, *Hidden Japan*—the Japan Society of Boston's 2026 Book of the Year—he will offer a deeper look at some of the remarkable regions featured in his writing and provide practical insights for travelers on how to thoughtfully explore Japan's less-visited locales.

Born in the U.S. and based near Kyoto since 1977, Kerr has devoted his career to restoring Japanese historic homes and advocating for responsible and sustainable tourism. Drawing from his decades of experience, he will speak about how the preservation of historic and local communities intersects with Japan's rapidly growing inbound tourism. In conversation with moderator Jenn Haggerty, he will also highlight concealed pockets of traditional arts, cuisine, and architecture across the country, with honest advice for travelers who consider venturing to Japan's more remote corners.

Whether you have been reading *Hidden Japan* along with our community this year or are gathering insights for your next trip to Japan, we invite you to bring your curiosity and take advantage of this special opportunity to hear firsthand from Alex Kerr.

All JSB Members receive a copy of Hidden Japan upon sign-up or renewal in 2026. Join JSB today to get yours!



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Joint Book & Film Club

Wednesday, December 9th, 2026 - 6:00PM EST
Online

Join us for a special collaborative Book & Film Club meeting to celebrate the end of the year! We will be reading Akutagawa's short story "In a Grove" and watching the film adaptation, *Rashomon*.

"In a Grove," a short story by Ryunosuke Akutagawa, is a compelling exploration of truth and perspective centered around a murder mystery in a secluded grove. The narrative unfolds through the testimonies of seven characters, each character providing a conflicting account of the events leading to a samurai's death. (Lou Thompson)

Rashomon is a riveting psychological thriller that investigates the nature of truth and the meaning of justice and is widely considered one of the greatest films ever made. Four people give different accounts of a man's murder and the rape of his wife, which director Akira Kurosawa presents with striking imagery and an ingenious use of flashbacks. (Janus Films)

Find a copy of the book here or at your local library and the film available to stream online.

Register



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Book & Film Clubs Morning Meetup

Saturday, December 12th, 2026 - 6:00PM EST
CanalSide Food & Drink
CambridgeSide, 100 Cambridgeside Pl, Cambridge, MA 02141

Join us for a special in-person meetup of the JSB Book & Film Clubs! There's no assigned book or film this time – just a casual opportunity to get to know each other better and chat about the books and films we're enjoying lately.

This friendly gathering is open to current JSB Members, whether you're a regular participant in the Book and Film Clubs or you're interested in getting involved for the first time.

Register



おうちごはん！(Ouchigohan)
Nabeyaki Udon and Japanese-Style Rare Cheesecake

Saturday, November 21st, 2026 - 5:00PM EST
Online

Join hosts Table for Two and Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia for a fun and educational online cooking class! Cook along or just watch from your own kitchen!

We start off this month's Ouchigohan with **Nabeyaki Udon**. With thick udon noodles simmered in a savory dashi soup and a variety of colorful toppings, it is a popular way to warm up as the weather turns cold. For dessert we will make a **Japanese-Style Rare Cheesecake**, which means no-bake.

Advance ticket purchase required (only one registration per household needed). JSB members can visit the JSB Member Portal for the discount code.

Register



おうちごはん！(Ouchigohan) Okonomiyaki
with Homemade Pickled Ginger

Fri, Dec 18, 2026 - 6:00PM EST
Online

Table for Two and the Japan Society of Boston host December's edition of this interactive online cooking class. Cook along or just watch from your own kitchen!

Led by local Boston food educator Debra Samuels, we will learn to make **okonomiyaki** stuffed with your favorite fillings, paired with homemade **pickled ginger** (beni shōga) that you can use as a topping or side.

More Info

Signature Content from JSB

FAMOUS IN JAPAN

Introducing noteworthy figures, events, and concepts from Japanese culture and history



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Tetsuko Kuroyanagi

In this month's edition of Famous in Japan, learn about Tetsuko Kuroyanagi, the Japanese actress, television host, writer, and activist!

Kuroyanagi is best known for her talk show *Tetsuko's Room*, the first ever on Japanese television and now one of the longest-running talk shows in history, her autobiographical novels *Totto-Chan*, and her charitable works and efforts, particularly as a UNICEF ambassador. To this day, Kuroyanagi continues her pursuit in raising awareness for children in need all over the world.

Full Article

From Our Friends

Below are just a few featured events and opportunities from other local organizations. Check our website for many more!



Discover Japan by Sea:
PONANT Chartered by Hankyu Travel

Next spring, see Japan the way few travelers ever do. In March and April 2027, PONANT's elegant small ships set sail on exclusive voyages chartered by Hankyu Travel, one of Japan's most trusted travel companies. Because the ships are small, they can reach quiet harbors and island communities that large cruise ships can't. Guests enjoy French-inspired luxury on board, warm Japanese hospitality, and guided cultural experiences ashore. Half-voyage options are also available.

Special discounted rates are available for JSB newsletter subscribers (20% off for JSB members, 15% off for non-members). Mention "Japan Society of Boston" when booking.

Brochure & prices:
www.hankyu-travel.com/english/e-book/pdf/en_Brochure.pdf

Contact: Yoshimi Nagase (US Team), luxury-hankyu@hei.hankyu.co.jp

Salem-Ota Sister City 35th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, November 14th, 2026 - 11:00AM EST
The Courtyard of the National Park Visitor Center and the flagpoles of the Peabody Essex Museum
Salem, MA

You are cordially invited to a flag raising, musical performances, and ceremony to celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Salem, MA and Ota City, Tokyo Sister City relationship.

Special guests include the Consul General of Japan, elected officials and staff from both cities, Peabody Essex Museum dignitaries, residents from Ota with their homestay families, Salem-Ota Cultural Exchange Members, and so much more!

Noguchi and Japanese American Internment During World War II

Saturday, November 14th, 2026 - 1:00PM EST
Peabody Essex Museum
161 Essex St, Salem, MA 01970

Join curator and scholar Christina Hiromi Hobbs for a talk examining Isamu Noguchi's voluntary incarceration at the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona during World War II. Hobbs will discuss Noguchi's complex motivations for entering the camp, discuss its impact on his life and work and examine the historical context of art making during Japanese American incarceration.

More Info

Celebrate MUJI Harvard Square 1 Year Anniversary

Come celebrate the first anniversary of MUJI Harvard Square on Friday, November 20th. To thank our community for an incredible first year, the first 100 customers at 10AM will receive a complimentary gift bag, no purchase necessary. The first 100 customers who make any purchase will also receive a $10 coffee voucher to enjoy at the café inside Lovestruck Books.

The celebration continues from 1PM–3PM with complimentary Blackbird Donuts, featuring a special MUJI-exclusive flavor available to MUJI Members (simply follow MUJI on Instagram or subscribe to MUJI Mail to redeem). Plus, receive a limited-edition MUJI Harvard Square Celebration My Bag with any $50 purchase, while supplies last. Quantities are limited, so arrive early.

Don't forget, JSB Members always receive 10% off at MUJI Harvard Square by showing their JSB Membership Card at the register!

Boston Japan Film Festival 2026

Sunday, November 29th, 2026 - 11:00AM EST
MIT Stata Center
32 Vassar Street, Cambridge, MA 02139

Under this year's theme, "SPACE — From Sci-Fi to Reality," the festival presents Japanese films, anime, live music, solar science, a space-food experience, space-industry presentations, and a panel discussion with guests from JAXA, and space industry. Admission is free with advance registration, and an optional $15 contribution is encouraged. Join us for a journey where imagination meets innovation, and science fiction inspires the future of space exploration.

More Info

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

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