



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!



Boston: The U.S.-Japan Intersection

Carl Hoffman

Founder & CEO

[BasisTech](#)

How long have you been working in Boston?

I've been working in Boston since moving here from Okinawa in 1976. I spent ten years at MIT as an undergraduate student, graduate student, and researcher before joining the business world. I co-founded BasisTech in 1995 and in 2023 I became a venture capitalist....

What is your favorite thing about Boston?

Boston is a global center for education, science, technology, music, art, architecture, and many other creative and cultural endeavors. It draws students, scholars, researchers, engineers, and investors from all over the world. I'm a firm believer in the strength of Boston's academic and business ecosystem, and its potential for partnership with Japan.



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!

[Website](#)

[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
Coolidge Corner Theatre

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
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](#)

Oûchigohan!
おうちごはん!

Online Cooking Class
via ZOOM

Wakisoba, Takoyaki, & Strawberry Kakigori

SAT
JULY 19
5pm EDT

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

TABLE FOR TWO

USJET™

□□□□□□ 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 □□□□□! OUCHIGOHAN 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.



LIMITED TO MEMBERS
Japan Society
of Boston
Film Club
Monster (2023)

JSB Film Club

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

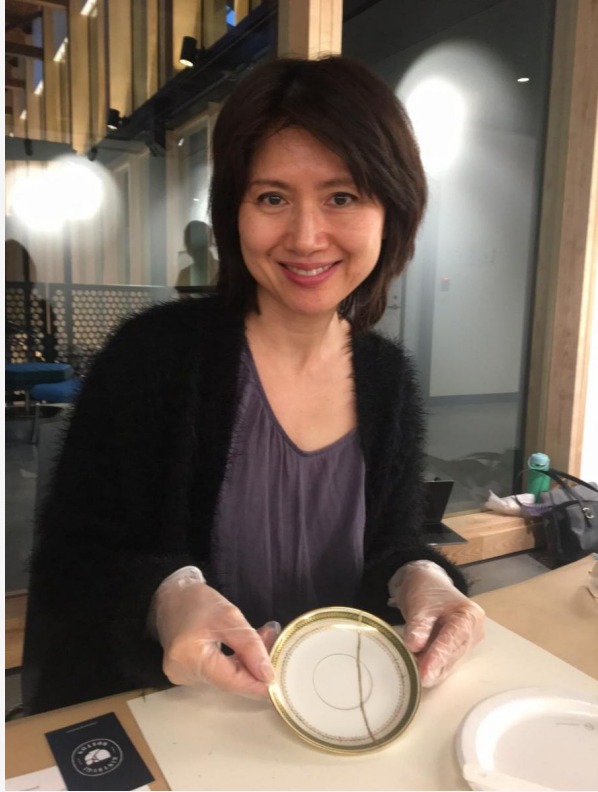
japansocietyboston.org/

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: **Professor Aida Yuen Wong** from [Brandeis University](#)

"I am a champion of aesthetic living and hold the view that every individual possesses unique gifts, even if imperfect. In my spare time, I practice Japanese calligraphy—*kana* and *kanji*—as well as *ikebana* in the



Sogetsu School tradition. These disciplines not only require steady, step-by-step learning, but have also deepened my appreciation for both ability and limitation."

Professor Wong with a plate repaired using *kintsugi* at JSB's Modern Kintsugi Workshop last year

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 **Justin Randall - Hokkaido (2019-2024)**

"Rather than life in Japan, I am entranced by life in Hokkaido, a place which is both familiar and foreign to any conception of what it means to be Japan. Hokkaido and all its abundant nature fill my eyes with pristine sights, my breath with the cleanest of air, and my heart with the warmest of memories to keep me sane throughout the coldest winters."

Article



Famous in Japan

Studying individuals from around the world



who are famous in Japan, both past and present.

This month we are featuring Shigeru Kayano, a prominent figure in the Ainu movement and the first Ainu representative in Japan's legislature, the National Diet.

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

Tickets



Maine Japanese Woodworking Festival 2025

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



Japanese Tea Ceremony & Sano Gofu Exhibit

HOSTED BY THE ART COMPLEX MUSEUM

SPECIAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY EXTENDED TEA CEREMONY ON JULY 27TH

Japanese Tea Ceremony and Sano Gofu Exhibit

July 27 and September 28, 2025 at 2:00PM EDT

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. The tea event is free and all are welcome.

Traditionally, tea 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*.

Visit the tea hut at 2:00pm on Sunday, July 27th, 2025 for a celebratory demonstration of the traditional “Thick” tea. Led by Glenn Sorei Periera of Urasenke Boston, visitors will learn about the traditions of the ceremony, which the museum has hosted for 50 years.

In addition, visitors can observe the preparation of the “Thin” tea, which will be performed at the museum. Each visitor can sample the tea and its accompanying sweet.

To celebrate the anniversary, the museum is also 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*.

[More Info](#)

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

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**](mailto:info@japansocietyboston.org) to help us feature select events.



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

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