



THE JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON
A BRIDGE BETWEEN CULTURES

Monthly Newsletter



Nina Yoshida Nelsen

Boston Lyric Opera Artistic Advisor

How long have you been coming to Boston to perform?

I first came to Boston as an 18 year old freshman Violin and Psychology major at Boston University. I moved all the way cross country from Southern California for school. It was a huge shock to my system, especially experiencing winter for the first time! But I loved Boston so much, I stayed at BU after undergrad and completed my master's degree in opera. [...]

I was originally engaged to sing Suzuki in Madama Butterfly in Fall 2020 at Boston Lyric Opera. As we all know, the world shut down, and performance organizations shuttered their doors. BLO decided to reschedule the production for Fall 2021. In the spring of 2021, after the horrific shooting of Asian women in Atlanta and the increased violence against Asians in the U.S., BLO announced that they could not, in good conscience, present the production of Butterfly they had planned on.

We then embarked on a year-long journey we called "The Butterfly Process." We hosted 7 conversations via zoom that centered Madama Butterfly. We talked about the problematic aspects of the production, as well as why it's important to keep the piece in the operatic canon. It was through the Butterfly Process that I started working closely with and eventually became an Artistic Advisor at the company.

Currently, I come to Boston 3-4 times a year for in person meetings, trainings, and performances. I also do a lot of "advising" via zoom and email. I'm proud to be part of a company that does such meaningful work in



the operatic industry.

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

Announcements from JSB

We are pleased to announce that JET Program alumni can now [sign up](#) for JSB membership at 25% off regular price.

*Please note that the JET Alums discount only applies to the "Individual" level.



Japan Airlines Business Tickets Auction

Open for 5 days only!

**Starting TODAY, Friday, August 11th, 2023 - 1:00 PM EDT
Online**

Interested in visiting Japan and supporting the Japan Society of Boston at the same time?

We are partnering with Japan Airlines to auction two round trip business class tickets from Boston to Japan. If you are planning on going to Japan, take advantage of this opportunity to fly business class with one of the highest rated airlines in the world.

Details and restrictions apply. Please visit the charity auction website for more information.

[Details](#)

Submissions due August 31st, 2023



Summer 2023 Design Contest

Calling all artists and designers!

Our Summer 2023 Design Contest is still running through August. A winning design will be printed on T-shirts and Crewnecks available for purchase to fundraise for JSB.

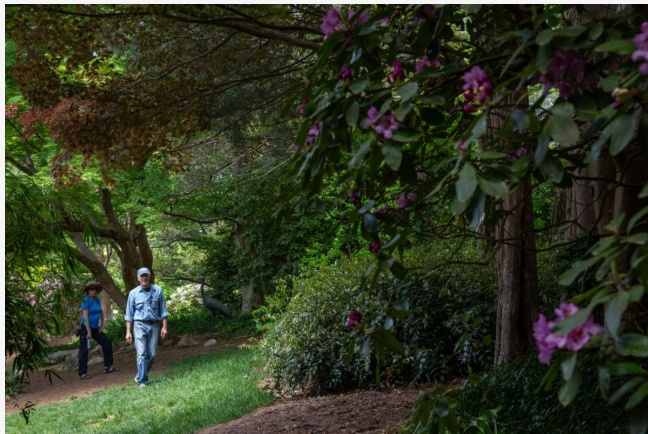
The contest is free and open to all ages, multiple entrees are allowed. The top designs will be nominated by JSB, and then the final design will be chosen by popular vote. The winner of the contest will be featured and receive a free shirt with their design!

Submission deadline: August 31st, 2023

Submit designs to: info@japansocietyboston.org

Questions? Email: joanneha@japansocietyboston.org

Details



[Long Hill](#) estate in Beverly, MA is offering free general admission to JSB members who bring their membership cards. This limited time opportunity runs until the end of their visitor season on **October 29th**. Please note that special programs and events would require additional tickets.

Visit Long Hill to see their vast collection of Japanese native plants and enjoy the beauty of their private gardens surrounded by woodland trails!

JSB Programming



Gion Matsuri

JAPAN'S MOST
BELOVED FESTIVAL

Thursday, August 24th @6PM ET

Gion Matsuri: Japan's Most Beloved Festival **Thursday, August 24th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET** **Online**

Gion Matsuri is the biggest Japanese festival that millions of people all over the world travel to see, braving the heat and humidity of Japan's ancient capital.

Join the Japan Society of Boston as we continue our exploration of Japanese festivals with the most famous and beloved one of all. Started in the 9th century to drive out plague, every summer Kyoto's Gion district holds this festival during the entire month of July.

This is a free, hour-long presentation with Q&A hosted on Zoom.

[Register](#)

See

Yoko Miwa

with JSB

Friday, September 29th | 7PM
Scullers Jazz Club

JSB members \$33 tickets
Non-members \$35 tickets



See Yoko Miwa with JSB **Friday, September 29th, 2023 - 7:00 PM ET** **Scullers Jazz Club** **400 Soldiers Field Road, Boston, MA 02134**

See Yoko Miwa's jazz trio perform for a discounted price, with fellow members of the Japan Society of Boston community!

Regular seated tickets for this event are \$38, which includes all processing fees. JSB members get a discount for \$33 tickets, \$35 for non-members.

By purchasing your tickets with JSB, you will be able to take advantage of the discount, and also enjoy the show with other members of the JSB community.

Register



BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

 **JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON**

 **JOHN F. KENNEDY**
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

OUR STORY:
Cultural Legacies of
Japanese American Incarceration

Our Story: Cultural Legacies of Japanese American Incarceration
September 11 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm EDT

Our Story: Cultural Legacies of Japanese American Incarceration
Monday, September 11th, 2023 - 6:00pm ET

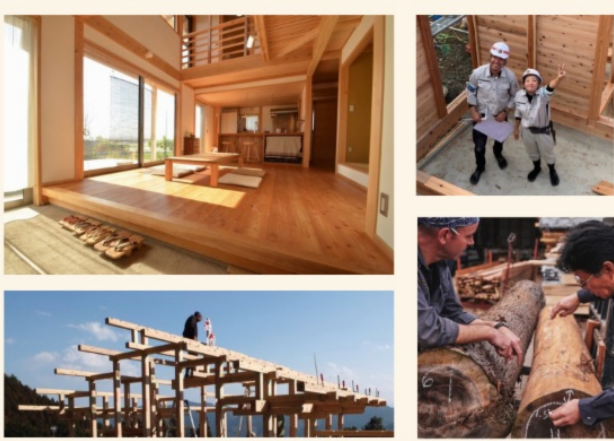
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum: Smith Hall

Join Japanese American artists, scholars, and advocates for a discussion about the lasting cultural legacy of the United States' forced mass removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The evening will include a short program of contemporary musical performances that are in dialogue with this history, followed by Q&A. See registration page for more details.

This program complements the Kennedy Library's new special exhibit *Service and Sacrifice: World War II - A Shared Experience*. The exhibit will be open free of charge from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m for event attendants.

The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are strongly recommended. Food and drink options will be available for purchase.

Register



INSIDE THE JAPANESE HOUSE: PART I

with Adam Zgola

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH @6PM ET

Inside the Japanese House: Part I Tuesday, September 12th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET Online

The Japan Society of Boston is proud to present *Inside the Japanese House*, a three-part series exploring traditional Japanese homes through the lens of Architecture, Culture, and Handcraft. The series will be hosted by Adam Zgola, a carpenter who specializes in traditional Japanese wooden construction with over two decades of experience in Japan.

Part I will delve into Adam's early experiences as an apprentice craftsman in Japan. We will discuss the opportunities and challenges of a Japanese apprenticeship, a process that results in a unique insight in the importance of tradition in handcraft and the responsibilities of craftsmen in the context of culture and society.

Please join us for this very special one-of-a-kind seminar series. This is a free, hour-long presentation with Q&A hosted on Zoom.

Register

Ouchigohan!
おうちごはん!

Online Cooking Class
via ZOOM



SUN
SEP 10
6:30pm EDT

\$10 | JSB Members
\$15 | Non-members



□□□□□! Ouchigohan Sanshoku Gohan
Sunday, September 10th, 2023 - 6:30 PM ET
Online

Sanshoku Gohan (□□□□) is a meal in a bowl. It also makes a perfect bento box

lunch! Three (san) different color toppings: seasoned meat (or tofu), scrambled egg, and a green veggie are set on top of hot rice (gohan) for a blend of classic Japanese flavors.

Traditionally made with ground chicken you can substitute ground beef, pork, or tofu. This is very easy to make and the slightly sweetened meat makes it a favorite with kids. We round the meal out with a simple miso soup. And for a special treat we celebrate the fall fruit, apples, by learning how to make an apple bunny – essential fare for every kid’s bento box.

JSB members get discounted tickets!

Register



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, August 18th, 2023 6:00 to 8:00 PM ET

□□□□□□□□8□19□□□□□□□□7□□9□□

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.

Register

Programs for JSB Members

Between the Lines

A Monthly Discussion on **Medieval Japanese Women's Literature** for JSB Members every first Thursday of the month.

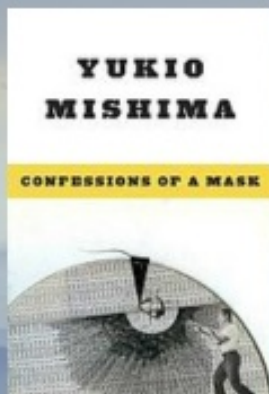
Between the Lines

Thursday, September 7th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET
Online

Join us to discuss some of the greatest classics of medieval Japanese literature, written by women authors! In this session, we will continue our discussion of *The Pillow Book* by Sei Shonagon by looking at an article on the writing of *The Pillow Book* and the scholarship surrounding it.

The club is limited to Japan Society of Boston Members.
Consider becoming a [Member](#) today!

Register



JAPAN SOCIETY OF BOSTON MEMBER

BOOK CLUB

CONFESSION OF A MASK
BY YUKIO MISHIMA

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, September 27th, 2023 - 6:00 PM ET
Online

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *Confessions of a Mask* by Yukio Mishima, a must-read classic of modern Japanese fiction. In this month's book, our semi-autobiographical protagonist struggles with his sexuality behind a mask of propriety in post-war Japan.

The JSB Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of every other month to discuss great modern Japanese novels. The purpose of our club is to strengthen the Boston

community of Japan enthusiasts by creating a space for thoughtful and sociable discussion.

The club is limited to Japan Society of Boston Members.
Consider becoming a [Member](#) today!

Find a copy of *Confessions of a Mask* [here](#).

Register

More Content from JSB



#MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Japan Society of Boston

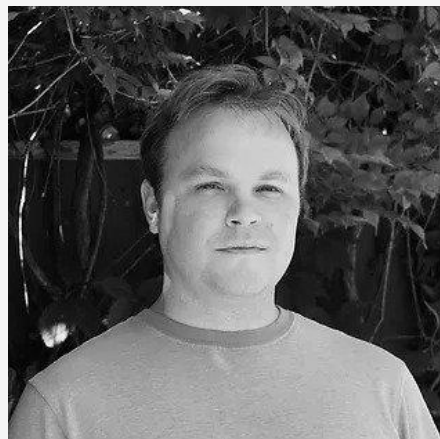
japansocietyboston.org/

Member Highlight

The Japan Society of Boston is pleased to introduce you to the wonderful members of our community through this new blog series.

Each month, we will feature a JSB Member and ask them to share with us their Japan Story.

This Month: [Spencer Thurlow](#)



Full 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 [Zachary Piper](#) - Kochi (2001-2004).



[Read the Blog](#)

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, read about [Mitsuko Coudenhove-Kalergi](#), one of the first Japanese people to immigrate to Europe.

[Read the Blog](#)



JOHN E. THAYER III AWARD

The John E. Thayer, III Award was established in 1991 to commemorate the work and commitment of John E. “Jack” Thayer, III, a longtime 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 that have made outstanding contributions to the progress of the understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan.

[Apply for the Thayer Award](#)

Other Japan-Related Events

**MADAMA
BUTTERFLY**

MUSIC BY
GIACOMO PUCCINI
LIBRETTO BY
LUIGI ILLICA AND
GIUSEPPE GIACOSA
*Sung in Italian with
English surtitles*

A NEW BLO
PRODUCTION
EMERSON COLONIAL THEATRE
THU SEP 14 &
FRI SEP 22 | 7:30PM
SUN SEP 17 &
SUN SEP 24 | 3PM

BLO.org

BLO
BOSTON LYRIC OPERA

Boston Lyric Opera presents Madama Butterfly
September 14 & 22 - 7pm, September 17 & 24 - 3pm
Emerson Colonial Theatre
106 Boylston Street, Boston MA 02116

In a brand-new production from Boston Lyric Opera, wander through the nightlife of San Francisco on the eve of Pearl Harbor through the story of Butterfly, a nightclub performer contributing to the war effort, and Pinkerton, a young soldier, on the eve of his deployment.

A culmination of BLO's three-year exploration of authentic storytelling through [The Butterfly Process](#), this production examines the experience of Japanese Americans during a critical moment in U.S. history. The creative team and cast is full of talented artistic Asian Americans previously underrepresented in the operatic world.

JSB members visit the [Member Only](#) portal for \$25 tickets plus \$9 fee. These tickets are usually valued between \$50-95 each, before fees. Code is only valid through September 1st, and they're selling fast!

Tickets



Music Worcester presents

MIDORI

with **FESTIVAL STRINGS LUCERNE**

November 3 @ 8PM | Mechanics Hall

Midori with Festival Strings Lucerne
Friday, November 3rd, 2023 - 8:00 PM ET
Mechanics Hall
321 Main St, Worcester MA 01608

Internationally renowned violin soloist Midori joins The Festival Strings Lucerne, an established string orchestra featuring Swiss conductor and violinist Rudolf Baumgartner.

Currently led by the violinist Daniel Dodds, who was appointed artistic director in 2012 and has particularly extended the scope of the ensemble, the orchestra is led from the concertmaster's chair.

JSB members, see the [Member Portal](#) for 20% off adult ticket prices!

Tickets

[Crane & Turtle](#) is hosting Bento Packing and Mizuhiki bookmark workshops throughout August!

In the Mizuhiki workshop, learn how to make a bookmark from decorative cords

made of brightly colored paper or silk.
See image for bento workshop details.

Members visit the [Member Portal](#) to find a discount code for 10% off classes, and show your membership card to receive 15% off in-store purchases.

Register

Learn the Japanese Art of Bento Box Food Presentation

BENTO PACKING WORKSHOP

8/26 (sat) 1:00-3:00pm / 5:00-7:00pm



Ticket: \$120

Your choice of menu
(KARAAGE or EGGPLANT)
A Bento box in your favorite color
Furoshiki - Japanese wrapping cloth for Bento Wrapping
Green tea and matcha
Japanese Sake tasting



Obon Festival at Showa Boston
Thursday, August 17th, 2023 - 5:00 PM ET
Showa Boston Institute
420 Pond St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Showa Boston presents their annual Obon festival celebration. Bring a chair, picnic dinner, snacks, friends and family to enjoy this outdoor cultural event.

The event will include: music, dancing, popcorn, snow cones, Japanese games and, of course, opportunities to chat with Showa Boston students.

Info

JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF RHODE ISLAND

BLACK SHIPS FESTIVAL

BRISTOL & NEWPORT | RHODE ISLAND

AUGUST 11-13, 2023



Black Ships Festival August 11-13, 2023 Bristol & Newport, Rhode Island

Celebrate Japanese culture at the 40th annual Black Ships Festival, a family-friendly three-day festival held in Bristol and Newport, Rhode Island.

This year's Black Ships Festival is bigger and better than ever, with three full days of activities and entertainment for the whole family. Immerse yourself in Japanese culture at the free Cultural Marketplace Fair with traditional demonstrations and fun activities.

[Info](#)

OZU 120: THE COMPLETE OZU YASUJIRO

The Harvard Film Archive

June 9 - August 13



OZU 120: The Complete Ozu Yasujiro June 9th - August 13th, 2023 The Harvard Film Archive 24 Quincy St, Cambridge, MA 02138

OZU 120, a complete retrospective of the Japanese director and screenwriter's extant work commemorating both the 120th anniversary of his birth and 60th anniversary of his death, will run at the Harvard Film Archive from June 9th through August 13th.

Presented by the Harvard Film Archive and Shochiku, in partnership with the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies and the Japan Foundation, this complete Ozu

Yasujiro retrospective offers the rare opportunity to see all of Ozu's extant films screened on 35mm film. Select screenings will feature live musical accompaniment.

Tickets



Japanese Tea Ceremony
Sunday, Sep 24th, 2023 - 2:00 PM ET
Art Complex Museum
189 Alden Street, Duxbury, MA 02331

The Art Complex Museum's tea ceremony is performed by tea masters from Urasenke Boston and a narrator will explain the ceremony as it unfolds in the tea hut. Audience members are encouraged to ask questions and will receive a cup of tea at the end of the ceremony, which typically lasts for an hour and a half.

Admission is free. All are welcome on a first-come, first-served basis.

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]

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