

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

December 29 - January 12, 2021



Now Open for Registration!

Japanese Group Lesson Winter 2022
Registration is now Open!

January 11th

POETRY CLUB (□□) - POETIC SENSE: WAKA AND HAIKU OF THE FIVE SENSES

January 21st

The JSB Language Room

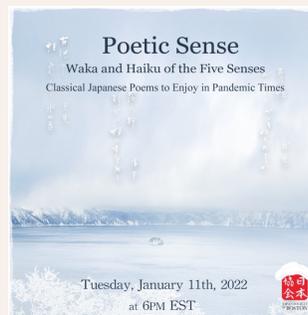
January 26th

JSB Member Book Club

January 27th

JSB Member Shinnenkai

Featured Events & Programs



POETRY CLUB (□□) - POETIC SENSE: WAKA AND HAIKU OF THE FIVE SENSES

Tuesday, January 11, 2022
6:00 PM EST

JSB Meets JET Alumni

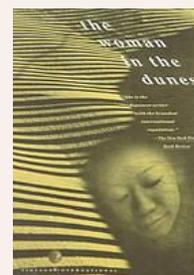


Our interview this week is with JET alum **Stephanie Balakrishnan**, who worked as an ALT in **Kyotanabe!** Check below to read more about her experience as a JET or read the complete version on our [website!](#)

Letters From Tokyo

"Bonenkai Blues"

With Author, Journalist, and Scholar
Roland Kelts



JSB Member Book Club
Wednesday, January 26, 2022
6:00 PM EST



JSB Member Shinnenkai
Thursday, January 27, 2022
7:00 PM EST



the beginnings of things, and harder to see the ends.”

That’s the first line of “Goodbye to All That,” one of the most widely read personal essays by American author Joan Didion, who died this month, two days before Christmas. The sentence is deceptively simple and seductive, like a Zen koan, but it takes on added weight when you actually come to the ends of things—like another year.

Read the rest of the letter [here](#).



Oshogatsu at the Boston Children's Museum

**Sunday, January 23, 2022
9:30 AM EST**

Connect with JSB!



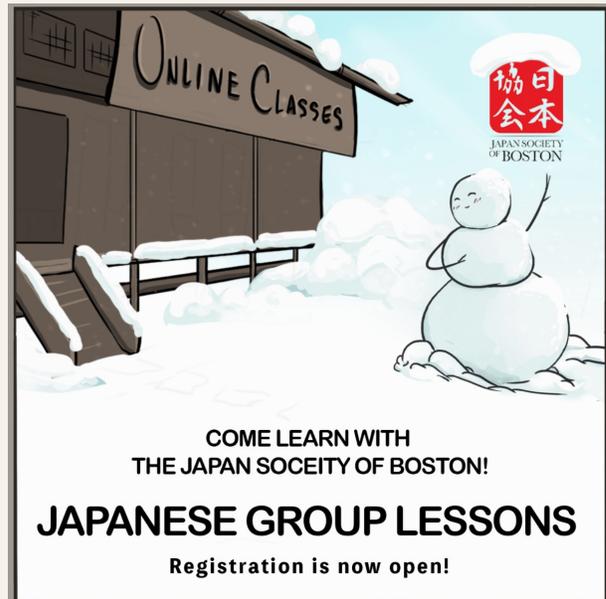
Japan Society of Boston Featured Online Events

WINTER JAPANESE LESSONS Registration OPEN!

Classes begin Monday, January 10, 2022

Our Winter Japanese group lessons are now open for registration! We offer classes from introductory to pre-advanced Japanese.

- Small Class Sizes (never more than 8 students per class)
- Taught by native professional instructors
- Classes are **online** for 10 weeks
- JSB Members enjoy a 15% discount



[Register](#)



JSB Members 2022 Shinnenkai (□□□)

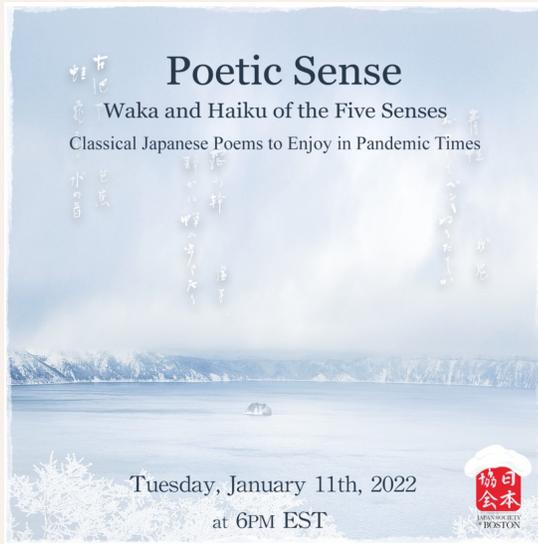
Thursday, January 27, 2022 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM EST

We'll be kicking off the New Year with a *shinnenkai* () for our members! Join us for a New Year Celebration party and meet fellow JSB members, as well as our staff and interns. The evening will include music, games, and a sneak-peek at our 2022 programs!

Not a member yet? [Join us now!](#)

Register

Japan Society of Boston Recurring Online Events



[POETRY CLUB \(俳句\) - POETIC SENSE: WAKA AND HAIKU OF THE FIVE SENSES](#)

Tuesday, January 11, 2022 | 6PM EST

Hosted online via Zoom

(Zoom link sent to email upon registering)

Emily Dickinson once wrote, "If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry." When poetry moves us in this way, the impact can be so powerful it becomes a physical presence, traveling magically from the page to manifest in our five senses. Sensory experience has

also been the origin point for countless poems from the ancient past to this very moment. For our January poetry club, we will explore examples of waka and haiku which depict the world through sight, scent, taste, touch, and sound, as well as share our own poetic sense(s) with original poetry--you're welcome to compose your own poems in advance! Poems in any language are welcome.

About the Speaker: Michelle Kyoko Crowson is an award-winning writer-translator and scholar of Japanese literature. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Oregon and an MFA from Vermont College. She is currently translating the collected works of the 18th century haikai poetess, Kaga no Chiyo.

Register

[The JSB Language Room](#)

[Virtual Language Exchange](#)

Friday, January 21, 2022 | 6:00 to 8:00 PM EST

1 22 8 10



Hosted online via Zoom

(you will be sent the meeting code upon registering)

The theme for this exchange:
New Year's Resolution and Reflection on the Past Year

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

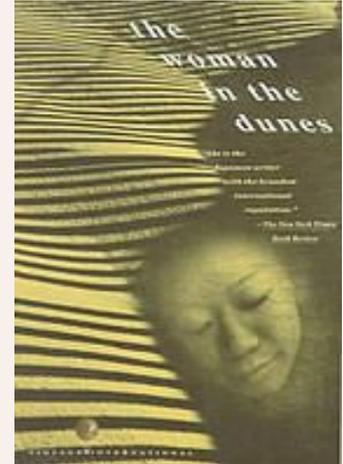
JSB Book Club

Wednesday, January 26, 2022 | 6PM EST

Hosted online via Zoom

(Zoom link will be sent before the event)

Do you love Japanese literature? The JSB Book Club will be meeting to discuss *The Woman in the Dunes* by Kobo Abe. The purpose of the JSB Book Club is to strengthen the Boston community of Japan enthusiasts by coming together to discuss Japanese literature.



The club is 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! If you are already a Member and interested in the group, please ***contact us*** to have your name added to the club mailing list.

Register

Notes from JSB

Letters From Tokyo

"Bonenkai Blues"

With Author, Journalist, and Scholar Roland Kelts

"It is easier to see the beginnings of things, and harder to see the ends."

That's the first line of "Goodbye to All That," one of the most widely read personal essays by American author Joan Didion, who died this month, two days before Christmas. The sentence is deceptively simple and seductive, like a Zen koan, but it takes on added weight when you actually come to the ends of things—like another year.





In Tokyo, the year usually starts ending in November, with elaborate light displays cropping up in the city's shopping and strolling centers, prerecorded Christmas songs piped into every department, grocery and convenience store, and a winter flurry of appointments, meetings, deadlines and ... drinking parties.

Yes, drinking parties.

[READ THE FULL LETTER](#)

[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 24: **Kyoto***

*Interview with Stephanie Balakrishnan
(Kyotanabe, Kyoto, 2015-2017)*



Where were you in Japan as a JET and when?

I was placed as an ALT in Kyotanabe, Kyoto Prefecture, from 2015-2017. I was very fortunate to have been placed in Kyoto, with its rich history and culture. Kyotanabe is located to the south of Kyoto, about 20 minutes away from the city by express train.

What sparked your interest in applying for the JET program?

After visiting my grandmother's house in Iwate during the summer following my second year of college, I was drawn to the serenity of the countryside, the beauty of nature, and the kindness of the people around me. At that point, I had studied Japanese for a few years, and I was able to have conversations with my relatives, making me realize how much I had improved in my speaking ability. This experience was influential in my applying for the JET Program.

[Read the rest of Stephanie's Interview!](#)

JSB Staff Song of the Week

[Time](#)

by Utada Hikaru

By the end of the 2000s, Utada was deemed "the most influential artist of the decade" in the Japanese music landscape by *The Japan Times*.

Commercial success has made her one of Japan's top-selling recording artists of all time with over 50 million records sold since launching her career in the late 1990s.



Additional Resources

[Japanese study resources](#)

[Tofugu: Learn Hiragana](#)

[Tofugu: Learn Katakana](#)

[WaniKani](#)

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

[Learn Japanese with Erin](#)

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

[How to Read and Write Hiragana](#)

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

[Tokyo National Museum](#)

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

[Kyoto National Museum](#)

[Fukuoka Asian Art Museum](#)

[Yamatane Museum of Art](#)

[Adachi Museum of Art](#)



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