

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

July 23 - August 6, 2020



Now open for registration!

[07/24 Virtual Japanese/English Language Exchange \(Participants from US & Japan!\)](#)

[07/29 Discover with JAL: Connecting Boston and Japan](#)

[08/01 Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-Chefs -Part 4- Okonomiyaki](#)

Read more about all our events below!

JSB Staff Pick of the Week

With more time at home, we've asked our staff to pick some of their favorite Japanese movies and books. Here's the staff pick of the week:



[In This Corner of the World](#)

A Japanese animated drama film set in Hiroshima during the 1930s-1940s, depicting the city before and after the atomic bombing. It follows the journey of a young woman who is married off to a man she barely knows and her struggles to survive in Hiroshima.

2016 film co-written and directed by Sunao Katabuchi. Based on the manga of the same name, written and illustrated by Fumiyo Kono.

[IMDb page](#)

Join or Renew Your Membership

The Japan Society of Boston is a community of



Japanese of the week:

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(□□□□□)

"*kikōbun*"
travel writing

Much like the modern travel blogger, Japanese authors of the Genroku Era found themselves retelling their journeys through their writing. Used as a way of consoling travelers who were nervous about leaving home, this genre often centered on a diary-style approach.

This style can be seen most famously in the account given by Bashō, a haiku poet, of his trip to the north, titled *Oku no Hosomichi*. Unable to enjoy the convenience of modern travel methods, Bashō's *kikōbun* is filled with his adventures while traveling on foot.

Interested in traveling and writing your own modern *kikōbun*? Please keep reading to learn more about our upcoming virtual event with Japan Airlines!

Facts about Hokkaido

Honoring the 30th Anniversary of the
Massachusetts - Hokkaido
sister state relationship



Did you know...

bridge makers 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 making!

Join Now

Keep up with JSB on social media!



The shima enaga (しまえなが) is a subspecies of the long-tailed tit that is unique to Hokkaido. All members of this species are very small (13-15 cm long), with their tails making up half their length.

The shima enaga is unique in that its face is completely white, helping them blend in during the island's long winters.

Their adorable appearance has made them popular on social media and a common plush toy in Japan!



Connecting Students Across the Globe

Last week, a few of our interns met online with interns from the America Japan Society in Tokyo! The group had the chance to discuss student life, share their interests and impressions of Japan and America, and share plans for the future.

We hope this will be the first of many meetings and the start of a lasting connection between our organizations!

Online Language Classes Continuing This Fall!

Our Fall online language classes will be open for registration beginning August 3rd! We will be offering 12-week courses at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels starting on September 22nd. Be sure to read our next newsletter for more details!

If you would like lessons before September 22nd, please consider signing up for our **Shukudai Club!**

Learn More

Our Shared Japan! JSB's Original Virtual Japan Trip



One of the many challenges of the current pandemic has been to put travel plans on hold this year.

We at JSB are putting together a virtual trip to bring Japan to our readers, especially to those who had hoped to visit around this time but are unable.

Please join us in the production of this virtual trip by sending us your pictures or videos of your travels in Japan. We welcome content from journeys both recent and long past!

We will string together all of our collected memories into one and present them as a video in our August newsletter!

Send to: info@japansocietyboston.org

Please make sure you include the name of the place where the picture or video was taken as it will help us in the editing process.

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Videos to Bridge Cultures

Celebrating Gion Matsuri

The Gion Festival, or Gion Matsuri (祭), takes place every year in Kyoto and is one of the most famous festivals in Japan! The tradition began over 1100 years ago as a way to pray for deliverance from the plague, but has evolved into a huge celebration of Kyoto's culture.

On July 17th and July 24th, there are two processions of elaborately-decorated parade floats. For three days preceding each of these processions, the city of Kyoto becomes a massive summer block party in which locals and visitors party in the streets!

The video below is of an Omukae Chōchin ("Welcoming Lanterns" or "Lantern Reception") performance. This is one of the first events of Gion Matsuri, taking place on July 10th. It is meant to greet the purified mikoshi (祭籠), or portable shrine.



Salem Returns Messages of Hope to Ota



After receiving a heartwarming video from Ota City in Japan (see our last newsletter if you missed it!), community members in Salem, Massachusetts have sent a video to Ota in kind.

The two cities have maintained a partnership for almost 30 years, the strength of which has been demonstrated by their solidarity in this time of crisis. Each of these communities has gone above and beyond to send positive thoughts and words of encouragement to the other in their efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

We share these videos in the hope that everyone can find strength and a sense of community from them. As always, we hope everyone is staying safe and well, and we will continue doing our best to provide positive community resources.

Japan Society of Boston Online Events

Beyond Baseball: The Spirit Behind Japan's Favorite Pastime

Discussion panel between Mikio Yoshimura and Yoshinobu Sawai

Coming up in August

Baseball, or *yakyū* (野球), has become Japan's most popular sport, and the summer *Kōshien* (national high school baseball championship tournament) is an important summer tradition for many Japanese, just like the famous Gion Festival in Kyoto.



Speakers Mikio Yoshimura, Development Specialist at Fenway Sports Management, and Yoshinobu Sawai, Representative Director of Sportsbucks, a Japanese athlete management agency, will discuss *Kōshien*'s significance to Japan. Learn from Sawai, himself a runner-up in *Kōshien* in the summer of 1988 and Kansai Student League Best Nine at his university baseball club, why baseball is more than a simple sport for him but a way of life.

Baseball was introduced to Japan in the Meiji period and promoted by American soldiers occupying Japan after WWII. It took off in popularity and has become deeply entrenched in Japanese culture. The sport relies heavily on teamwork, perseverance, and discipline, qualities highly valued in Japanese work ethic. In Japan, winning is second to one's character and honor, and the process of training is more valued than the final result. Some even refer to the Japanese approach to baseball as "Samurai baseball," given its focus on rigorous training, self-sacrifice and submergence of ego, and development of inner strength, principles adopted from the samurai warrior code of *bushidō* (武士道).

These philosophies extend not only to professional athletes, but to high school players as well. High school baseball in Japan, or *kōkōyakyū* (高校野球), is highly revered by the nation as a representation of Japan's values, not just a popular event. When the summer *Kōshien* (national high school baseball championship tournament) was cancelled this year due to the pandemic, all of Japan felt the disappointment.

We hope to pay tribute to the *kōkōyakyū* players who were unable to compete this year, and honor their dedication to their sport, their teams, and their development of spirit. This will be an enlightening topic for those interested in Japanese culture and sports fans alike.

More details about date and time will follow in our next newsletter!



JAPAN AIRLINES

[Discover with JAL: Connecting Boston and Japan](#)

An event by Japan Airlines and the Japan Society of Boston

**Wednesday, July 29
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM EDT**

Please join us for two hours of conversation, where you will be grouped based on your proficiency level. This week's theme will be music!

[Register Here](#)



[Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-Chefs! -Part 4-](#)

**Saturday, August 1st
5:00 - 6:30 PM EDT**

**Hosted online via Zoom
(you will be sent the ingredient list a few days before the event)**

Okonomiyaki (お好み焼き) is a savory pancake and an iconic Japanese street food. It is made primarily of shredded cabbage, flour, eggs, and water, and is sometimes referred to as Japanese pizza!

Feel free to get creative with the toppings, as there are many variations of the recipe. "*Okonomi*" means "choice" or "preference" and "*yaki*" refers to cooking. The batter and toppings differ between regions, but the three main styles are Tokyo, Hiroshima, and Kansai (or Osaka). We'd love to hear your favorites!

Please join us as one of our newest interns, Emily Knick, teaches her favorite okonomiyaki recipe! Emily is currently a student at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, majoring in Linguistics and Japanese.

Be sure to bring your appetites for this next installment of our Easy Japanese Home Cooking series! We look forward to seeing you there!

[Register Here](#)

What's up next?

We'd love to hear which recipe you'd like to learn next!

Send us your choice out of the following:

- Tonkatsu
- Japanese Curry Rice
- Oyakodon

Please send your vote to



Online activities from other Japan Societies across the US



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC



JASWDC Tea Ceremony Workshop

Friday, July 24, 6:00 - 7:00 PM EDT

Experience and learn about Japanese tea ceremony with Jennifer Swanson!

The workshop will include a brief history of tea ceremony, a demonstration, as well as lessons on the culture and traditions associated with tea. You will also learn how to whisk your own bowl and how to “be a guest” at a tea ceremony.

[Learn More](#)

Women Who Lead: Resilience Through Crisis

Virtual Talk-Story with Bella Hughes &
Amanda Corby-Noguchi

**Tuesday, July 28, 8:00 - 9:00 PM EDT
(2:00 - 3:00 PM HST)**

Join us as we share the stories of two extraordinary women who are successfully leading their companies through the COVID-19 crisis. Learn how they are managing to persevere and rise above challenges that many of us are all facing today. Don't miss out on this inspiring webinar!



JAPAN-AMERICA
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



[Learn More](#)

Japan Cuts 2020: Festival of New Japanese Film



JAPAN CUTS, North America's largest festival of contemporary Japanese cinema, returns for its unprecedented 14th edition as an entirely online experience. Featuring a diverse slate of 30 feature films and 12 shorts—including studio blockbusters, independent productions, documentaries, restored classics, animation and avant-garde works—

JAPAN CUTS 2020 offers unique access to the best new films from Japan with filmmaker video introductions, live virtual Q&As and panel discussions.

[Learn More](#)

Hanaiku Workshop: Celebrating the Beauty of Flowers

Friday, July 31, 12:00 - 1:00 PM EDT
(11:00 AM - 12:00 PM CDT)

Hanaiku (花育) is Japanese education for kids to foster a sense of beauty and appreciation of life through experiences with plants and flowers. All you need is your favorite flowers, empty plastic bottles, and scissors!

Motoko Ishihara, Japanese Culture Consultant at Motoko Japan LLC, will teach us the beauty of flowers and show us how to enjoy simple flower arrangements at home. This is a perfect event for K-12 students to attend with their parents.



[Learn More](#)

Non-JSB Online Activities

Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Memorial 2020

by Actors Refuge Repertory Theatre

Thursday, August 6 - Sunday, August 9
7:30 - 9:00 PM EDT

The 4th annual Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Memorial in Boston 2020 will be held virtually on the event's YouTube Channel. This year makes the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and is the year that, more than ever, we believe in



Nagasaki Peace Monument

building a peaceful world together. The program features the visual art, theater, dance, and music as well as the Hibakusha Testimony -- peace messages from the mayors of Hiroshima & Nagasaki. We hope you can join us!

[Learn More](#)

Tsuru for Solidarity: Community Conversations -Session 1-

Saturday, July 25, 1:00 - 3:00 PM EDT
(10:00 AM -12:00 PM PDT)

Tsuru for Solidarity will be offering a series of Community Conversations beginning July 25.

The first session will be on Japanese American Identity and will feature Dr. Donna Nagata, psychologist and Professor at the University of Michigan; Dr. Satuski Ina, co-organizer Tsuru for Solidarity; and moderated by Brian Niiya, Content Director, Densho.

Registration opens on Wednesday, July 15 at 9 am (EDT). Registration will be limited.



[Learn More](#)

U.S.- Japan Relations in the COVID-19 Era

Alumni Panel Webinar by the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs



Weatherhead Center
FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Thursday, July 30, 8:00 - 9:15 AM EDT

Alumni panel including Hiroyuki Akita (2006-07), Foreign Affairs and National Security Commentator, Nihon Keizai Shimbun; Mireya Solis (2000-01), Director, Center for

East Asia Policy Studies and Phillip Knight Chair in Japan Studies, Brookings Institution; Yoshihisa Masaki (2005-06), Director, Social Communications Bureau, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation); Noriyuki Shikata (2019-20) Assistant Minister/ Director-General, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA). Moderated by Christina Davis (2001-02), Director, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations; Professor of Government; and Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University.

[Learn More](#)

Leaders from JWLI: Session 5

Hosted by Venture Cafe Tokyo, featuring the Japanese Women's Leadership Initiative (JWLI)



Thursday, July 30, 7:00 - 8:00 AM EDT

(8:00 - 9:00 PM JST)

****THIS SESSION WILL BE HELD IN JAPANESE ONLY****



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[Google Arts & Culture](#)

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

[Tokyo National Museum](#)

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

[Kyoto National Museum](#)

[Fukuoka Asia Art Museum](#)

[Yamatane Museum of Art](#)

[Adachi Museum of Art](#)



[Japanese study resources](#)

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

[Aozora Bunko](#) (in Japanese)

[Learn Japanese with Erin](#)

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

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

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

[NHK-World Japan: News Web Easy](#)

[How to Read and Write Hiragana](#)

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