



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

**JSB
JAPANESE
LANGUAGE
PROGRAM**

こんにちは

Learn Japanese for travel
or to engage with your
favorite types of media!

Classes begin
September 2026

 **JAPAN SOCIETY
OF BOSTON**

Register for fall Japanese classes today!

This fall, JSB will offer 10-week online Japanese courses for beginner and intermediate learners, taught by professional instructors from local universities.

Our courses cover a standard textbook curriculum, but class time is focused on themed activities that help you achieve your practical goals for learning Japanese.

Our Classes - At a Glance



Start your study of Japanese here!

- **Japanese Foundations I**
→ Meant for absolute beginners



Learn Japanese you can really use while visiting Japan!

- **Beginner Japanese I - Travel**
→ Meant for beginners with some prior knowledge
- **Intermediate Japanese I - Travel**
→ Meant for intermediate learners



Learn Japanese while exploring movies, music, anime, manga, and more!

- **Beginner Japanese I - Media & Pop Culture**
→ Meant for beginners with some prior knowledge
- **Intermediate Japanese I - Media & Pop Culture**
→ Meant for intermediate learners

Registration is open until September 7th (or until classes fill) and JSB Members receive a **15% discount** on tuition!

Have questions? Join our [Open House](#) or email info@japansocietyboston.org.

[More Info](#)



Submit your best shots to our 2026 photo contest! 12 winning photos will be featured in a fundraising calendar (on sale later this year) and on our social media.

The theme is **Shiki (Four Seasons)** – including seasonal scenery and festivities from Japan and New England.

Submitted photos must be:

1. Your original work
2. Landscape orientation (4:3 aspect ratio recommended; may be cropped slightly for calendar)
3. High-resolution .jpg/.jpeg files

To enter, email your photo(s) to info@japansocietyboston.org with the subject line "2026 Photo Contest" by **August 31st**. We can accept up to 3 submissions per person.



JOHN E. THAYER III & KEIKO THAYER AWARD

Nominations for the 2026 Thayer Award are open!

The John E. Thayer III and Keiko Thayer Award recognizes the achievements of individuals, groups, or organizations that have made outstanding contributions to promote understanding and friendship between the people of the United States and Japan in such areas as business, cultural exchange, education, public affairs, and visual and performing arts. It was established in 1991 to commemorate the work and commitment of John E. “Jack” Thayer III and Keiko Thayer, long-time members of the Japan Society of Boston’s board of directors dedicated to furthering relations between Japan and the U.S.

Submissions are due Sunday, September 13th. Please see our website for details.

[More Info](#)

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!



Red Sox Japanese Celebration

Tuesday, September 22, 2026 - 6:45PM 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! Show your support as we honor the rich history, culture, and contributions of the Japanese American community of New England.

The game against the Cleveland Guardians starts at 6:45pm, but arrive early to catch pre-game festivities celebrating the spirit of Japan on Jersey Street!

Buy a ticket in JSB's designated seating section (Infield Grandstand 26) to enjoy the game alongside other members of Boston's Japan-connected community!

These special tickets come with a **Red Sox Japanese Celebration soccer jersey**, and a portion of the proceeds benefit JSB's cultural and educational programming.

Due to popular demand, we have just released additional tickets – get yours before we sell out!

[Tickets](#)



Fashioning the Future of Japan's Textile Traditions

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 - 7:00PM EDT
Online

As Japan's kimono and textile industry experiences major transformation in the 21st century, designers and craftspeople around the world seek to carry traditional textiles and techniques into the future with fresh relevance.

In this virtual discussion with designers **Hiroyuki Murase** of [suzusan](#) and **Sara Sakanaka** of [Considered Objects](#), moderated by Boston-based kimono stylist **Ara Mahar**, we will hear the stories behind two up-and-coming fashion labels and explore how the designers thoughtfully honor generations of tradition through contemporary practices that span Japan, the U.S., and Europe.

Register



[JSB Member Exclusive]

Connect with JSB! - Summer Bash

Friday, August 21, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Venture Café Cambridge

1 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02142

Japan Society of Boston and [CIC Japan Desk](#) invite you to an evening of fun, food, and networking with local Japan-connected professionals. Join us to make new connections and celebrate the end of summer over drinks and refreshments!

This event is open to JSB Members and the CIC Japan Desk community.

Presented with airline sponsor [Japan Airlines](#).

[Register](#)



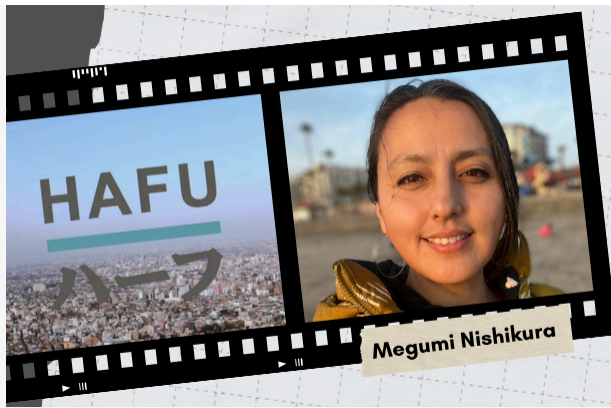
Japanese Language Program Open House

**Monday, August 24, 2026 -
6:00PM EDT
Online**

Interested in learning Japanese with JSB? Join this virtual open house to learn more about our classes, ask questions, and meet other prospective students. The session will be fully Q&A format (no presentation), so feel free to drop in or out any time during the hour. *Advance registration is required.*

Find out more about our Fall 2026 Japanese classes [here](#).

Register



Between Worlds:

A Conversation with Filmmaker Megumi Nishikura on Mixed-Race Identity and Dual Citizenship in Japan

Tuesday, September 15th

@ 7:00pm EDT

 **Virtual** on Zoom

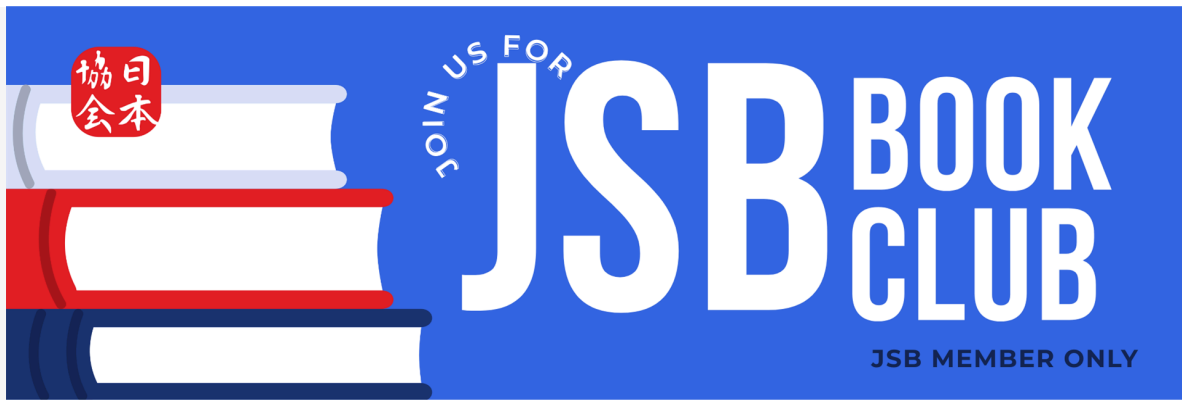
Between Worlds: A Conversation with Filmmaker Megumi Nishikura on Mixed-Race Identity and Dual Citizenship in Japan

**Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 - 7:00PM EDT
Online**

Join us for a conversation on mixed-race identity and belonging featuring acclaimed filmmaker Megumi Nishikura and moderated by Yuga Cohler.

Megumi Nishikura will share her personal experience as a mixed-race individual and her commitment to the power of storytelling, including with her celebrated documentary *HAFU: The Mixed Race Experience in Japan*. The film highlighted the stories of mixed-race people navigating life in Japan. Megumi will also discuss her current film project, which focuses on the impacts caused by Japan's nationality law, which does not recognize dual citizenship. Whether you are mixed, multilingual, multicultural, or just curious about mixed race identity, we hope you will join us for this conversation with Megumi Nishikura!

[Register](#)



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Book Club

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online

The JSB Book Club will meet in April to discuss ***The Temple of Dawn*** by **Yukio Mishima**, the third novel in *The Sea of Fertility* tetralogy.

Shigekuni Honda continues his pursuit of the successive reincarnations of Kiyoaki Matsugae, his childhood friend. Traveling in Thailand in the early 1940s, Shigekuni Honda, now a brilliant lawyer, is granted an audience with a young Thai princess—an encounter that radically alters the course of his life. In spite of all reason, he is convinced she is the reincarnated spirit of his friend Kiyoaki. As Honda goes to great lengths to discover for certain if his theory is correct, *The Temple of Dawn* becomes the story of one man's obsessive pursuit of a beautiful woman and his equally passionate search for enlightenment. (From the publisher's description)

Find a copy [here](#) or at your local [library](#). The discussion will be in English, but you are welcome to read the novel in any language.

Register



[JSB Member Exclusive]

JSB Film Club

**Wednesday, September 30, 2026 - 6:00PM EDT
Online**

In July, the JSB Film Club will discuss ***Moving*** (1993), a poignant family drama from director Shinji Sōmai.

When her parents split and her father Kenichi moves out of their family home, Renko (Tomoko Tabata), a bright and energetic 6th grade girl, is left alone with her mother, Nazuna, in Kyoto. As Nazuna sets out new rules for their life together, Renko makes plans of her own, and sees to it that any changes happening in her family happen on her terms. Since its premiere at Cannes in Un Certain Regard in 1993, *Moving* has been one Shinji Somai's most beloved films. In this poignant family drama, Somai transcends the tropes of stories of children dealing with divorce to bring us a film filled with indelible images about an unforgettable teenage girl who encounters the unknown and refuses to succumb to it.

(Synopsis from Cinema Guild)

Watch the trailer [here](#). Films should be viewed independently in advance of our meetings. Find the film [available to stream online](#) or check out your local library.

Register



 **SAKE DAY EAST**
Saturday October 3, 2026

Sake Day East

Saturday, October 3, 2026 - 3:30-6:30PM EDT

Julio's Liquors

140 Turnpike Road, Westborough, MA 01581

Sake Day East 2026 is an opportunity to taste nearly **100 exceptional sake!** Explore sake from Japanese brewers or enjoy a more local taste from American brewers. Learn from sake experts, take home a commemorative glass, enjoy delicious food, and more.

In addition to General Admission tickets, a limited number of **VIP tickets** include early entry and other perks, and **guided tastings** take you deeper into the world of sake under the guidance of experts.

JSB Members receive \$10 off **VIP** and **General Admission** tickets using the discount code in the [JSB Member Portal](#).

[Tickets](#)

Signature Content from JSB



MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Showcasing stories from our vibrant community



Dawn Lucovich

"When I moved to Boston I wanted to ensure that I was able to remain connected to Japan while living so far away. I was especially pleased because Boston and Kyoto are sister cities, and Kyoto remains one of my favorite places to visit and to buy kimono. Also, I love travel, so I have been to nearly all 47 prefectures by train, bike, plane, or hiking. One of my most memorable summer trips was traveling completely overland from my house in Roppongi to Wakkanai in Hokkaido (Massachusetts' sister state), then onwards through Russia and Mongolia."

[Full Article](#)

From Our Friends

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

The Samurai and the Prisoner

Throughout August
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St, Brookline, MA 02446

A film by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, based on Honobu Yonezawa's novel.

When Lord Murashige rises up against the tyrannical Oda, he finds himself besieged within the walls of his own castle. Isolated, he is confronted with a series of mysterious crimes that shatter the fragile order of his court, plunging the fortress into fear and suspicion. With Oda's army closing in and a traitor hiding among his ranks, Murashige is forced into an uneasy alliance with Kanbei, a brilliant and dangerous strategist held prisoner in the dungeon, as he must outwit his enemies and uncover the truth before time runs out.

JSB Members get \$3 off tickets! Visit the [Member Portal](#) for the code.

[More Info](#)

Odaiko New England – Introductory Taiko Workshops

August 23 and August 30, 2026 - 9:00-10:30AM EDT
New England Movement Arts
123 Muller Rd, Burlington, MA 01803

These beginner-friendly workshops offer a chance to experience the excitement of Japanese ensemble drumming. Meet new people, make some noise, and discover the joy of creating music together. By the end of the workshop, you'll be playing a taiko song. No experience necessary!

[More Info](#)

JET Application Workshop: Putting Your Best Foot Forward

August 25, 2026 - 7:30-9:00PM EDT
Online

If you are applying for the JET Program (or any program!) for the first time or maybe second, third or fourth time, you know that a strong application starts with understanding your personal experiences, motivations, and articulating what makes you stand out as a candidate.

Join USJETAA for a workshop focused on putting together a strong JET application.

[More Info](#)

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