

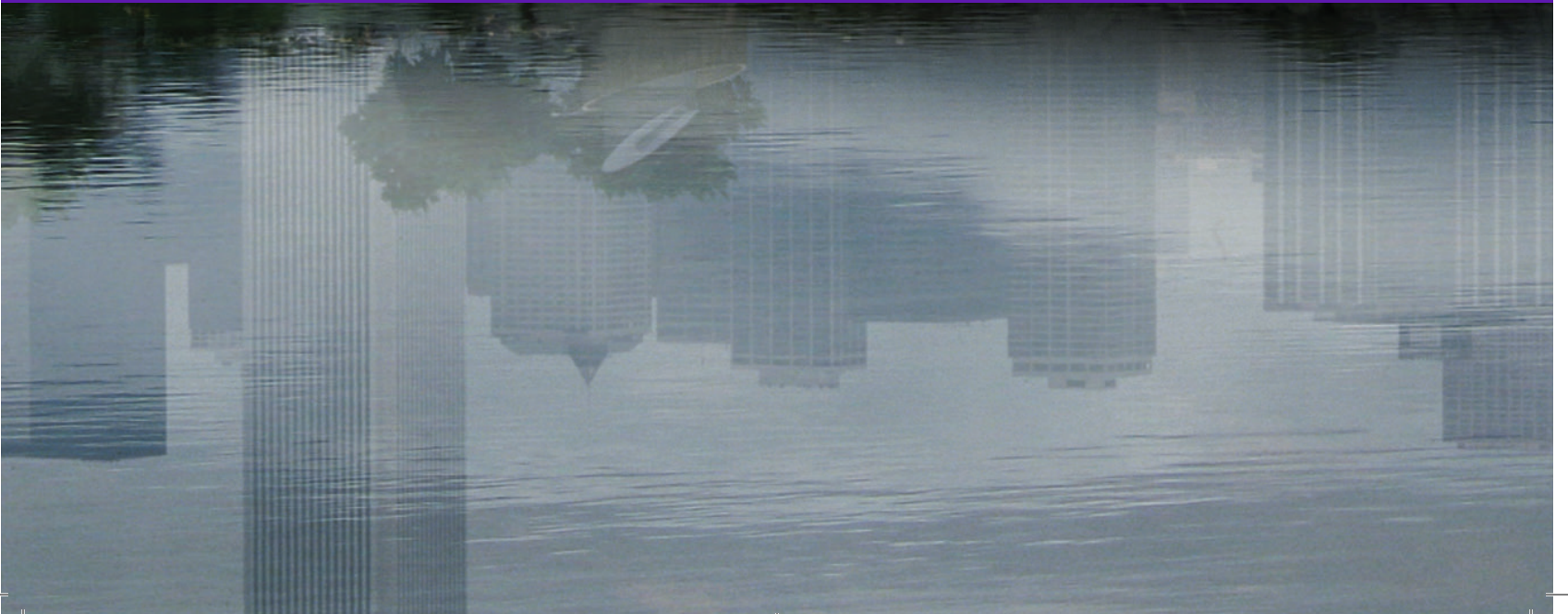


日米協会の  
シカゴ  
The Japan  
America  
Society  
of Chicago

1930-2023  
93<sup>rd</sup>



2023 ANNUAL REPORT





Design provided by Movéo

Cover photo: Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan with reflection of the Chicago skyline



**Our mission is to create and promote Japanese and American friendships. We do this through business, social, educational and cultural activities. We are the only organization in Chicago that touches all of these areas in American and Japanese relationships.**



The Japan America Society of Chicago is a non-profit association made up of individuals and corporations interested in United States-Japan business, cultural, political, and social relations. Founded in 1930 to foster mutual goodwill and friendship between the people of Japan and the United States, the Society enjoys a total membership of over 150 American and Japanese corporations and over 600 individuals throughout Chicago-land and the Midwest. The Society sponsors over 50 public affairs and cultural programs annually, including business luncheons, evening lectures, cultural events and social/networking opportunities. All members receive discounts on program registration and invitations to special member-only events. The Society also has a Young Professionals Committee that organizes various evening lectures and social outings throughout the year for members in their twenties and thirties. In addition, the Society offers over six levels of Japanese and English language courses. For membership information and other inquiries visit [www.jaschicago.org](http://www.jaschicago.org) or contact the Society office.

October 2023

Dear Friends,

I am honored and delighted to be appointed as the Consul-General of Japan in Chicago. I have worked in many countries up to now, but this is my first posting in the United States, and I am happy to have my first appointment be here in the Midwestern region — an area renown for being “Midwest Nice.” I look forward to meeting many people and experiencing everything the Midwest has to offer during my tenure.

On September 28, the Japan America Society of Chicago (JASC) organized and collaborated with the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago and the Chicago Japanese American Council to host a Welcome Reception for me and my wife Norika. I was given the opportunity to meet with members from these essential partner organizations of our Consulate, as well as many Japanese residents, Japanese-Americans, and American friends passionate about Japan. I saw firsthand the close friendships and trusted partnerships these various organizations share with each other, and it was a truly welcoming feeling to be surrounded by their warmth and hospitality. I sincerely appreciate the leadership demonstrated by JASC and every Japan America organization based in Chicago. It is my sincere hope that JASC continues expanding its inclusive network and further deepens bonds with its fellow organizations.

Now more than ever, continuing day-to-day and person-to-person relations at the grassroots level is integral to the ever-growing relationship between our two countries. For over 90 years, JASC’s extensive and multilayered work has appealed to and nurtured grassroots relations between “Japan fans” from all walks of life, no matter their age or experience with Japan.

I wholeheartedly commend JASC for successfully connecting people together in their love for Japan throughout the decades. I would especially like to thank Chairman Potter, President Hamm, Executive Director Baba, and every board member for their thorough guidance and hard work. I am humbled to be involved in an organization with a long succession of achievements accumulated throughout its history. My Consulate and I look forward to continuing working closely with all of you to develop and lead Japan-Midwest relations to even greater heights.

Sincerely Yours,



Jun Yanagi  
Consul-General of Japan in Chicago

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

November 2023

Dear Society Members,

Congratulations to the Japan America Society of Chicago for another tremendous year.

We are pleased to report that our membership has continued to be strong throughout 2023. At a time of increasingly greater geopolitical challenges, the Japan-U.S. relationship has never been more important and, by many accounts, has never been stronger. We want to express our sincere gratitude to our corporate and individual members and sponsors, whose financial support has enabled us to deliver timely and valued programming during these challenging times.


The Board of Directors is strongly committed to our mission, and I thank all directors for their many contributions to our Society. I especially want to thank outgoing directors and welcome our new class of incoming directors. I thank them all for their willingness to serve and share their time and talents in pursuit of our goals.

The Society remains committed to providing our members and the general public with a wide variety of programs and events. With a dedicated and energized board, sound finances, loyal members, an excellent staff and continued support of the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago as well as others, we are pleased to embark on the coming year with continued optimism.

I would like to recognize the extraordinary leadership by president Brad Hamm since he assumed his responsibilities last year. Brad has brought great energy and established very positive engagement with all our constituents. In addition to continuing to execute on our successful programming, he and the Board have been actively developing plans to expand our membership and programs for the years ahead.

Thank you to our members and donors for your generous support and to our directors and governors for your valuable service. I am proud to be associated with the Japan America Society of Chicago, and I look forward to working with all of you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Stephen N. Potter  
Chairman

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

November 2023

Dear Society Members,

As president of the Japan America Society of Chicago, I want to thank each one of you for your role in making our organization stronger. As we celebrate our Bonenkai, in person and in spirit, we are grateful for all that has been accomplished this year and look forward to an exciting new year in 2024.

Since 1930, JASC has fulfilled its mission to foster understanding and create and promote friendships between Japanese and Americans. As we draw nearer to a century of service and fellowship, our history is strong and our future is just as important.

Our members and friends keep this Society vital in Chicago and beyond, and we appreciate your support and involvement. We depend upon our staff team, executive director Mitsukuni Baba and Erika Kono, to maintain the quality and quantity in programs on cultural, economic, business and political affairs.

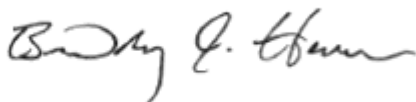
Many corporate and individual members provide direct financial support of JASC, and we are very thankful for your generosity. In recognition, we have listed our annual program sponsors, 90th Anniversary sponsors, individual program sponsors, corporate members and donors in this report. This funding is critical to helping us fulfill our mission.

Our directors and governors guide the Society through work on committees and many other voluntary efforts. We are fortunate to have the insight of our chairman Stephen Potter, chairman emeritus Michael Moscow, and new honorary chairman Jun Yanagi, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago.

We partner with excellent organizations including the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago, the Japan External Trade Organization, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and others.

As we end this year by celebrating at our Bonenkai, we can be thankful for what has been accomplished in 2023 and the future opportunities for JASC to serve our community. Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and wonderful new year.

Sincerely,



Bradley J. Hamm  
President

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Consul-General of Japan in Chicago  
Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago

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DePaul University

**Ralph Inforzato**

Special Advisor  
JETRO Chicago

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Finance, Cost Planning  
Futaba North America Engineering &  
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Corporate Secretary  
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Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago

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Director, Office of Trade & Investment  
Illinois Department of Commerce &  
Economic Opportunity

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Vaughan Nelson Investment Management

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**Wesley Rizal**

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**Travis George**, Molex (Co-Chair, Finance Committee)

**Edward A. Grant**, Arthur Andersen LLP (Retired)

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**Timothy J. Hill**, Omron Management Center of America, Inc. (Secretary)

**David Johnson**, Molex (Retired) (Co-Chair, Development Committee)

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**Steve Kozik**, Nidec Mobility America Inc. (Executive Vice President)

**James A. McClung**, Lismore International Inc. (Chair, Nominating Committee)

**Yoshio Shibazaki**, Plante & Moran PLLC (Co-Chair, Membership Committee)

**Kumiko Watanabe**, Grant Thornton LLP (Treasurer)

**Michael Whelan**, EY (Co-Chair, Finance Committee)

**Mari Yamamoto Regnier**, Barnes & Thornburg LLP (Executive Vice President)



**36th Annual Holiday Fundraiser & Bonenkai  
"U.S.-Japan Relations: Looking Back and Ahead"**

Date: 12/7/22

Speaker: Joel Ehrendreich, Director, Office of Japanese Affairs  
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs

U.S. Department of State



**DX (Digital Transformation) to Society 5.0: Japan's Approach to Digital Transformation**

Date: 7/14/22

Speaker: Noritsugu Uemura, Corporate Executive, Government & External Relations, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation & Senior Executive Advisor, Agekke Corporation

With support from: Mitsubishi Electric Automation, Inc.



**"Biofeedback Medical Device, PARO, for Mental Health"**

Date: 3/6/23

Prof. Takanori Shibata, PhD, Chief Senior Research Scientist, Human Informatics and Interaction Research Institute, National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST)





**93rd Annual Dinner**

Date: 6/8/23

His Excellency Koji Tomita, Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America





**Board of Governors – Prime Minister Abe –  
Tragedy & Triumph**

Date: 7/26/22

Speaker: Arthur I. Cyr, A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen  
Distinguished Professor, Political Economy & World Business  
and Director, Clausen Center for World Business,  
Carthage College

**New Scholarship on Japanese History: Economy,  
Environment, Entanglement**

Date: 4/12/23

Dr. Laura Hein, Harold H. and Virginia Anderson Professor  
of History, Northwestern University

**93rd Annual Dinner**

Date: 6/8/23

His Excellency Koji Tomita, Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America  
Sponsors: Joyce Chelberg; ITA, Inc.; Winston & Strawn LLP; Barnes  
& Thornburg LLP; Embree Financial & J.S. Cole & Associates



**Astellas: Working to advance innovative science into  
proven value for patients**

Date: 3/13/23

Speaker: Mark Reisenauer, President, Astellas Pharma US  
“Restoring Japan’s Leadership in Innovation”  
Speaker: Richard Katz, Publisher, Japan Economy  
Watch and Senior Fellow, Carnegie Council for Ethics in  
International Affairs

This event is part of the NAJAS/KKC Business Speaker  
Series sponsored by the National Association of Japan-  
America Societies and the Keizai Koho Center.



Joyce Chelberg



CULTURAL EVENTS



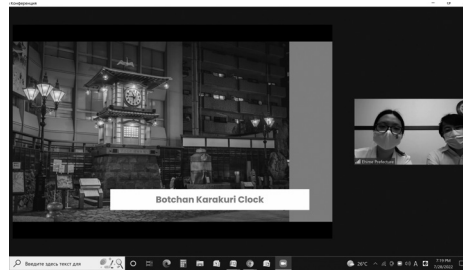
**Journey to Tohoku: Niigata**

Date: 7/21/22

Speaker: Katelyn DePalmer, American Coordinator for International Relations, Niigata Prefectural Government

Sponsor: I.T.A., Inc.

With support from JETAA Chicago

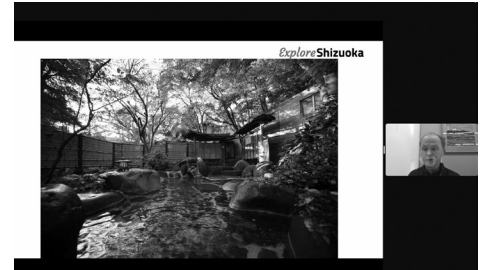


**Journey to Shikoku: Ehime**

Date: 7/28/22

Speaker: Miya Jia, Coordinator for International Relations, Ehime Prefecture Tourism & International Affairs Division

With support from JETAA Chicago

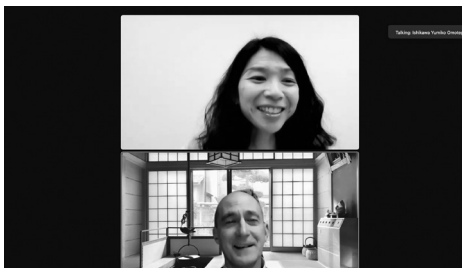


**Journey to Chubu: Shizuoka Prefecture**

Date: 1/19/23

Speaker: Tony Everitt, Strategic Advisor, Tourism Shizuoka

With support from JETAA Chicago

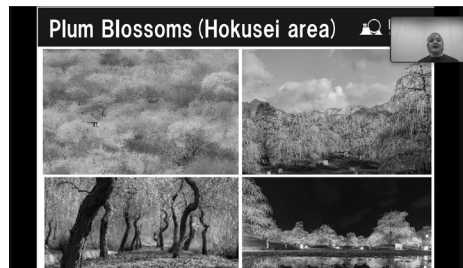


**Journey to Hokuriku: Ishikawa Prefecture**

Date: 1/26/23

Speaker: Yumiko Omoteguchi, Team Leader, Inbound Tourism Division, Ishikawa Prefectural Government

With support from JETAA Chicago



**Journey to Tokai: Mie Prefecture**

Date: 2/9/23

Speaker: Tala Karmy-Jones, American Coordinator for International Relations, Mie Prefectural Government

With support from JETAA Chicago



**Journey to Kyushu: Kagoshima Prefecture**

Date: 2/23/23

Speakers: Wong Yimin, Coordinator of International Relations, Kagoshima Prefectural Government; Joseph Snowden, British Coordinator for International Relations, Kagoshima Prefectural Government; and Naoki Taruno, Tourism Division, Kagoshima Prefectural Government

With support from JETAA Chicago

CULTURAL EVENTS



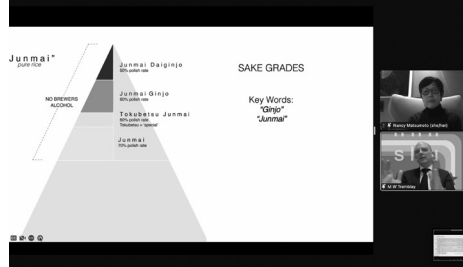
Oita, Japan

**Journey to Kyushu: OITA**

Date: 4/20/23

Koichiro Mizobe, Inbound Manager  
Strategic Tourism & Promotion, Oita  
Prefectural Government

With support from JETAA Chicago



**“Exploring the World of Japanese Craft Sake”**

Date: 2/16/23

Speakers: Nancy Matsumoto, Award-winning writer & editor; and Michael Tremblay, Beverage Director, Ki Modern Japanese + Bar (Toronto)



**Beauty of Japan: From Tea Ceremony to Gardens**

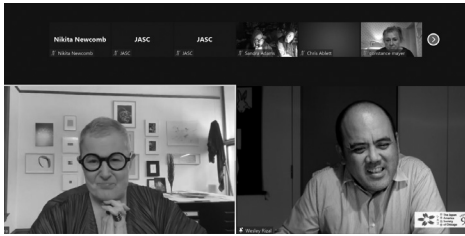
Date: 8/27/23

Kimiko Gunji, Professor Emeritus of Japanese Arts & Culture in the School of Art & Design, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the founder of the new Japan House at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

With support from: Anderson Japanese Gardens



CULTURAL EVENTS



**Issey Miyake: Poems of Cloth + Stone**

Date: 10/20/22

Speaker: Gillion Carrara, Professor Adjunct – SAIC Department of Art History, Theory and Criticism

**The Flavors of Japan to Your Table**

Date: 8/25/22

Speaker: Moe, Host of the “Kimono Mom’s Kitchen” channel, Former Geisha, Founder of Kimono Mom

**“Virtual Stroll in Asakusa (Tokyo) With a Local Expert!”**

Date: 8/30/22

Speaker: Lauren Shannon, GM & Partner, Arigato Travel  
With support from Arigato Japan Food Tours

**Gold and Silver Leaves in Japanese Painting (Nihonga)**

Date: 11/10/22

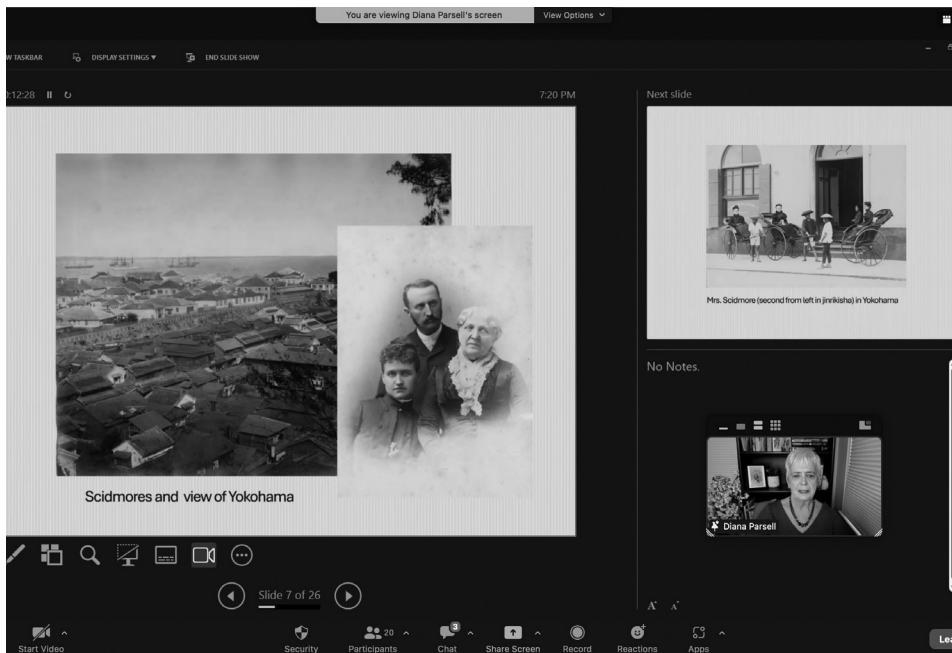
Speaker: Mami Takahashi, Japanese Multidisciplinary Artist

Co-organizer: Japanese Culture Center

**Yayoi Kusama: To Infinity and Back Again**

Date: 3/21/23

Mary Ellen Murphy, Volunteer Docent, Museum of Contemporary Art



**Eliza Scidmore: Washington’s Cherry Tree Visionary and Early U.S. “Friend to Japan”**

Date: 5/11/23

Diana Parsell, Writer, Editor and Former Journalist

CULTURAL EVENTS

**Material Culture of Royal Childbirth in Medieval Japan**

Date: 3/23/23

Naoko Gunji, Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

**Michiko Itatani: Connecting to the Cosmos**

Date: 8/31/23

Mary Ellen Murphy, Volunteer Docent, Museum of Contemporary Art

**Pilgrim Stamp Hunting**

Date: 11/16/23

Dr. Laura Miller, Ei'ichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Endowed Professor of Japanese Studies and Professor of History, University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Kofun Mania**

Date: 7/27/23

Dr. Laura Miller, Ei'ichi Shibusawa-Seigo Arai Endowed Professor of Japanese Studies and Professor of History, University of Missouri-St. Louis

**Ikebana for Every Season Lecture**

Date: 10/5/23

Margot Wang, President, Ikebana International Chicago Chapter



Arigato Japan Food Tours



S O C I A L   E V E N T S



**36th Annual Holiday Fundraiser & Bonenkai "U.S.-Japan Relations: Looking Back and Ahead"**

Date: 12/7/22

Speaker: Joel Ehrendreich, Director, Office of Japanese Affairs, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs  
U.S. Department of State



**93rd Annual Dinner**

Date: 6/8/23

His Excellency Koji Tomita, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America  
Sponsors: Joyce Chelberg; ITA, Inc.; Winston & Strawn LLP; Barnes & Thornburg LLP; Embree Financial & J.S. Cole & Associates

**JETAA and Young Professionals Committee of the Japan America Society of Chicago Book Club – "Diary of a Void" by Emi Yagi**

Date: 7/26/23

Co-organizer: JETAA

**JETAA and Young Professionals Committee of the Japan America Society of Chicago Book Club – "Confessions" by Kanae Minato**

Date: 10/26/23

Co-organizer: JETAA

**JETAA and Young Professionals Committee of the Japan America Society of Chicago Book Club – "Idol, Burning" by Rin Usami**

Date: 12/12/23

Co-organizer: JETAA



**Welcome Reception for The Honorable Jun Yanagi, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago**

Date: 9/28/23

Co-organizers: Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago & Chicago Japanese American Council



**Japanese-Style Breakfast and presentation by Michelin Star Executive Chef Mari Katamura, Cherry Circle Room**

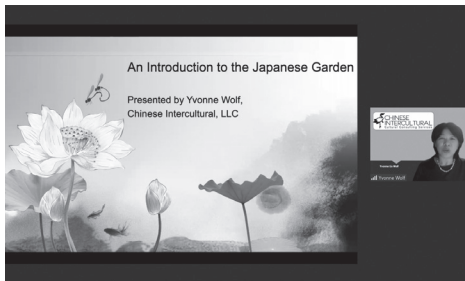
Date: 10/14/23



CHICAGO JAPANESE AMERICAN COUNCIL



EDUCATIONAL EVENTS



**An Introduction to the Japanese Garden**

Date: 8/18/22

Speaker: Yvonne Wolf, Intercultural Consultant and Founder of Chinese Intercultural, LLC



**2023 Illinois Japan Bowl**

Date: 2/26/23

In cooperation with the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago

This program is made possible with support from the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago

Venue sponsor: North Central College

T-shirt sponsor: Temple University Japan Campus

Sponsors: Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago, KPMG LLP; NBC Meshtec Americas & Omron Management Center of America

Special thanks to Seiun Baba for the T-shirt design

**"Oishisou!!" Anime Sweets Book Talk & Demo**

Date: 11/17/22

Speakers: Hadley Sui, Food Stylist, Pastry Chef and Recipe Developer; and Monique "Mo" Narboneta Zosa, Graphic Designer and Illustrator

**Corporate Social Responsibility From Japan to the U.S.**

Date: 4/6/23

Tara Havlicek, Program Manager, Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation  
With support from: Mitsubishi Electric Automation, Inc. and Mitsubishi Electric Foundation

**Japanese Culture Center and Young Professionals Committee of the Japan America Society of Chicago**

**Advanced Origami Workshop**

Date: 7/18/23

Ty Yamamoto, Filmmaker, Photographer and Japanese Teacher

**Ikebana for Every Season Workshop**

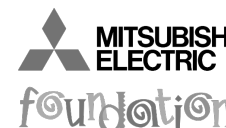
Date: 10/15/23

Margot Wang, President, Ikebana International Chicago Chapter

Seiun Baba



KPMG LLP



**Corporate Platinum Members  
(\$10,000)****Corporate Gold Members (\$5,000)****Corporate Silver Members (\$2,000)****Corporate Bronze Members (\$700)**

Ajinomoto Health & Nutrition North  
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**The Japan America Society of Chicago would like to thank the below organizations for their support:**

Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Chicago  
Japanese Culture Center  
JETRO Chicago  
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs  
The Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago

**The Japan America Society of Chicago would like to thank the below companies for their ongoing support:**

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Comfort Inn Arlington Heights  
Masuda, Funai, Eifert & Mitchell, Ltd.  
Moveo Integrated Branding  
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.....  
*Audited financial statements will be made available to members upon request.*

*The Japan America Society of Chicago would like to thank Moveo Integrated Branding for their design of this annual report. The support of Moveo is greatly appreciated.*

.....

90TH ANNIVERSARY SPONSORS

The Japan America Society of Chicago would like to give special thanks to the below 90th Anniversary sponsors:

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Terri and Ed Grant

Jane and Dave Johnson

Suzanne and Michael Moskow Ann and Stephen Potter

**SILVER (\$5,000)**



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93rd ANNUAL PROGRAM SPONSORS & UNDERWRITERS

Very special recognition, honor and gratitude is due to the Society's 93rd Annual Program Sponsors & Underwriters. They are listed below. These fine member organizations have stepped forward and up as sponsors for our entire 93rd Program Year. It is as a result of their generosity and belief in our mission and programming that the Society is able to continue to provide the robust and vital programs that our members value highly and have come to expect. We thank each of these companies and individuals very deeply for their support and faith in our programming and in our purpose.

**molex**

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*Changes for the Better*

Suzanne & Michael  
Moskow

Ann & Stephen  
Potter

 **TDK**

LEGACY SOCIETY

**PLANNING YOUR ESTATE AND SUPPORTING THE JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO**

In increasing numbers, members and friends of the Society are creating legacies with us through planned gifts made during their lifetimes and through their estates. Gift planning integrates charitable giving into a donor's overall financial, tax, and estate planning to maximize benefits both for the donor and for the Society. Examples of planned gifts include bequests, life-income gifts, gifts of real estate, and gifts of retirement plan assets. The Society has been named in a number of planned gifts and this will provide crucial support toward the future health and well-being of the Society.

Anonymous

Jack D. Beem

William L. Florida

Edward A. Grant

**THE ORDER OF THE SACRED TREASURE AND THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN AWARDS**

The Japan America Society of Chicago would like to congratulate the below Society members who have received the prestigious The Order of the Sacred Treasure and The Order of the Rising Sun awards from the Japanese Government:



**1981 FALL**

Thomas Masuda

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette

---



**1987 FALL**

Takeo Sugano

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays

---



**1993 FALL**

Ralph Fujimoto

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette

---



**1994 FALL**

The Honorable Adlai Stevenson

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star

---

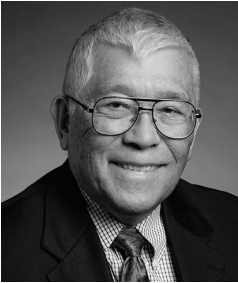


**1997 FALL**

Richard P. Soter

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon

*THE ORDER OF THE SACRED TREASURE AND THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN AWARDS (Continued)*



**2001 SPRING**

Masaru Funai

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette

---



**2002 SPRING**

Jack D. Beem

The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette

---



**2003 FALL**

Clyde O. Bowles, Jr.

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon

---



**2005 FALL**

Akiko Sugano

The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays

---



**2010 SPRING**

Clyde Dickey

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

*THE ORDER OF THE SACRED TREASURE AND THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN AWARDS (Continued)*



**2010 FALL**

Shunichiro Kishioka

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

---



**2014 SPRING**

Governor James R. Thompson

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

---



**2015 FALL**

Edward A. Grant

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

---



**2017 FALL**

Leo Melamed

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

---



**2018 SPRING**

Dr. Phyllis I. Lyons

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

*THE ORDER OF THE SACRED TREASURE AND THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN AWARDS (Continued)*



**2019 SPRING**

Hon. Michael H. Moskow

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star

---



**2020 SPRING**

James A. McClung

The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays

---



**2023 SPRING**

Ralph A. Inforzato

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

---



**2023 FALL**

David D. Johnson

The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

## A W A R D S

### *FOREIGN MINISTER AWARD RECIPIENTS*

**2010:** Japan America Society of Chicago

**2014:** Yoko Noge Dean, Board of Directors, Japan American Society of Chicago

**2015:** Foreign Minister's Commendations in Honor of the 70th Anniversary of the End of the War: Mitsukuni Baba, Executive Director, Japan America Society of Chicago

**2022:** Japan Foreign Minister's Commendation: David D. Johnson

**2022:** Japan Foreign Minister's Commendation: Ralph Inforzato

### *CONSUL-GENERAL OF JAPAN IN CHICAGO COMMENDATION RECIPIENTS*

**2016:** Kimiko Nakamura, Japanese Language Instructor, Japan America Society of Chicago

**2017:** Erika V. Kono, Director of Administration & Logistics, Japan America Society of Chicago

### *ADLAI E. STEVENSON LIFETIME SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS*

The purpose of the Lifetime Service & Achievement Award is to recognize individuals that have had a long history of devoted and distinguished service to the Japan America Society of Chicago.

**June 2015:** Joyce Chelberg

**June 2016:** Kimiko Nakamura

**June 2019:** Honorable Michael H. Moskow

**June 2015:** Ralph Fujimoto

**June 2017:** Shunichiro Kishioka

**June 2020:** Jack D. Beem

**June 2015:** Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson

**June 2018:** Clyde O. Bowles, Jr.

**June 2022:** Edward A. Grant

## C U L T U R A L A C H I E V E M E N T

### *CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS*

The Japan America Society of Chicago Cultural Achievement Award is conferred upon individuals who have made significant contributions to the understanding of the history, culture, and arts of Japan.

**2003:** Dr. Shozo Sato, Kabuki Master

**2006:** Lee Gurga, American Haiku Author

**2007:** John R. Anderson, Anderson Gardens

**2008:** Lucien Stryk, Translator and Writer of Zen Poetry

**2009:** Dr. Janice A. Katz, The Art Institute of Chicago

**2010:** Tatsu Aoki, Asian aRts Improv Midwest

**2011:** Fujima Shunojo, Japanese Classical Dancer

**2012:** Kimiko Gunji, Japan House, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

**2013:** Joyce Sosho Kubose, Urasenke Tradition of Chado the Way of Tea

**2014:** Yoko Schmadeke, Oak Park River Forest High School

**2015:** Ivan Watters, Yasukunai Bonsai

**2016:** Charles O. Harris, Ikenobo Ikebana Society

**2017:** Omar Francis, Urasenke Chicago Association of Chado Urasenke Takokai

**2018:** Hekiun Oda, Shodo Shihan

**2019:** Lidia Rozmus, sumi-e painter and haiku writer

**2020:** The Katsumura Family, Japanese Culinary Artists

**2021:** Tokiko Kimura, Koto

**2022:** Karen Szyjka, Japanese Garden Curator

**2023:** Naomi Negi, JASC's Tampopo-kai Program

**MARY KOGA & DICK SOTER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS**

- 2006:** Reina Williams, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2007:** Adam Janusz, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2008:** Kathleen Lynee Kutsche, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2009:** Elgin Bokari T. Smith, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2010:** Michael Chlebowski, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2011:** Cheryl-Ann Fakes, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2012:** Emma Bottari, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2013:** Gan Kanji Uyeda, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2014:** Monica Moki Tantoco, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2015:** Jessica Barrett Sattell, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2016:** Keith Spencer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2017:** Rebecca Nakaba, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2018:** Tri Ngo, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2019:** Caroline Wood, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2020:** Olivia Gough, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2021:** Anko Chang, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2022:** Parker Yamasaki, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- 2023:** Morgan Turner, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

## N A M B U A W A R D S

**NAMBU AWARDS**

The Nambu Award was established in commemoration of Dr. Yoichiro Nambu, Professor at the University of Chicago who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2008. The purpose of the award is to acknowledge American students living in Illinois, who excel in the area of Science. The Society works closely with the Illinois Science Olympiad, and the Nambu Committee, to choose winning teams in different categories each year.

- 2012:** New Trier High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place Overall, High School Division)
- 2012:** Adlai E. Stevenson High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad Second Place Overall, High School Division)
- 2013:** Niles North High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place Category Gravity Vehicle)
- 2013:** Rockford Auburn High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place Category Problem Solving)
- 2014:** Loyola Academy  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place MAGLEV)
- 2014:** Harry D. Jacobs High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad Second Place Circuit Lab)
- 2015:** Adlai E. Stevenson High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place-Scrambler [Group AA])
- 2015:** Farmington Central High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place-Scrambler [Group A])
- 2016:** New Trier High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad Bridge Building [Group AA])
- 2016:** Rockford Christian High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place-Bridge Building [Group A])
- 2017:** Adlai E. Stevenson High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place Remote Sensing [Group AA])
- 2017:** Beacon Academy  
(Illinois Science Olympiad First Place Remote Sensing [Group A])
- 2018:** Neuqua Valley High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad Remote Sensing [Group AA])
- 2018:** Edwardsville High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad Remote Sensing [Group A])
- 2019:** New Trier High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad Mission Possible – [Group AA])
- 2019:** Duran High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad Mission Possible – [Group A])

**2020: Due to pandemic awards were not presented in 2020**

**2021:** Niles North High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad 1st Place Dynamic Planet – Group AA)

**2021:** Niles North High School  
(Illinois Science Olympiad 1st Place Dynamic Planet – Group AA)

**2022:** Winning school teams will be finalized soon

**2023:** Winning school teams will be finalized soon

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**Special thanks to Illinois Science Olympiad for coordination in the team selection process**



**Nambu Award Sponsor Luncheon with Illinois Science Olympiad**  
November 26, 2018



**87th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner**  
June 8, 2017  
(Middle: Dr. Ei-Ichi Negishi, Herbert C. Brown Distinguished Professor Dept. of Chemistry, Purdue University; Ursula Ahern, Illinois Science Olympiad; representatives of the Illinois Science Olympiad and recipients of the Nambu Award.)





## Message to the recipients of the Award:

I take my pride in having been a resident of the land of Abe Lincoln and the birthplace of atomic energy. It is gratifying that I am now able to return a little bit to the place which made me happy.

In my early childhood, I learned the pleasure of playing with gadgets. Thomas Edison was my hero.

As I grew up, I got into the habit of trying to figure things out by myself. One little success added to my self-confidence, and soon it led to another.

You should consider the award you got just as a beginning. Be ambitious. Better things will follow if you keep trying.

**Yoichiro Nambu**  
**June 14, 2012**



**ILLINOIS JAPAN BOWL— WINNING TEAMS**

The Illinois Japan Bowl is an academic competition which covers a wide range of topics that tests high school students who are studying the Japanese language across the state of Illinois. The competition tests not only their knowledge of the language, but also their understanding of traditional and modern Japan.

**2015 Level 3 First Place:**

New Trier High School

**2016 Level 3 First Place:**

Whitney Young Magnet High School

**2016 Level 3 Second Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2016 Level 4 First Place:**

New Trier High School

**2016 Level 4 Second Place:**

Glenbrook South High School

**2017 Level 3 First Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2017 Level 3 Second Place:**

University High School at UIUC

**2017 Level 3 Third Place:**

New Trier High School &amp; University High School at UIUC

**2017 Level 4 First Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2017 Level 4 Second Place:**

Whitney Young Magnet High School

**2017 Level 4 Third Place:**

Lane Tech College Prep High School

**2018 Level 2 First Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2018 Level 2 Second Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2018 Level 2 Third Place:**

Whitney Young Magnet High School &amp; Northside College Prep High School

**2018 Level 3 First Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2018 Level 3 Second Place:**

Lane Tech College Prep High School

**2018 Level 3 Third Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2018 Level 4 First Place:**

New Trier High School

**2018 Level 4 Second Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2018 Level 4 Third Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2019 Level 2 First Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2019 Level 2 Second Place:**

New Trier High School

**2019 Level 2 Third Place:**

Whitney Young Magnet High School

**2019 Level 3 First Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2019 Level 3 Second Place:**

Whitney Young Magnet High School &amp; Northside College Prep High School

**2019 Level 3 Third Place:**

Lane Tech College Prep High School &amp; Lane Tech College Prep High School

**2019 Level 4 First Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2019 Level 4 Second Place:**

Northside College Prep High School &amp; Evanston Township High School

**2019 Level 4 Third Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2020 Level 2 First Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2020 Level 2 Second Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2020 Level 2 Third Place:**

Amundsen High School

**2020 Level 3 First Place:**

Lane Tech College Prep High School

**2020 Level 3 Second Place:**

New Trier High School

**2020 Level 3 Third Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2020 Level 4 First Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2020 Level 4 Second Place:**

New Trier High School

**2020 Level 4 Third Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

Due to the pandemic, the 2021 Illinois Japan Bowl was held as a virtual Kahoot competition.

**2021 Level 2 First Place:**

New Trier High School

**2021 Level 2 Second Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2021 Level 2 Third Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2021 Level 3 First Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2021 Level 3 Second Place:**

Amundsen High School

**2021 Level 3 Third Place:**

New Trier High School

**2021 Level 4 First Place:**

Whitney Young Magnet High School

**2021 Level 4 Second Place:**

New Trier High School

**2021 Level 4 Third Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2022 Level 2 First Place:**

Glenbrook South High School

**2022 Level 2 Second Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2022 Level 2 Third Place:**

New Trier High School

**2022 Level 3 First Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2022 Level 3 Second Place:**

Evanston Township High School

**2022 Level 3 Third Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2022 Level 4 First Place:**

Evanston Township High School

**2022 Level 4 Second Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2022 Level 4 Third Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2023 Level 2 First Place:**

Whitney Young Magnet High School

**2023 Level 2 Second Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2023 Level 2 Third Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2023 Level 3 First Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2023 Level 3 Second Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2023 Level 3 Third Place:**

New Trier High School

**2023 Level 4 First Place:**

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

**2023 Level 4 Second Place:**

Northside College Prep High School

**2023 Level 4 Third Place:**

Northside College Prep High School



Special thanks to Seiun Baba for the t-shirt design. T-shirt (back): Uka Tensei or "Nice day after the rain"

**CHAIRMEN OF THE JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO:**

**1988-2003:** **Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson**, Chairman,  
SC&M Investment  
Management Corp.

**2004-2005:** **Keikichi Honda**, Chairman, NCR Japan &  
**Glenn Tilton**, Chairman & CEO, United Airlines

**2006-2007:** **Glenn Tilton**, Chairman and CEO, United Airlines

**2008-2019:** **Michael H. Moskow**, Vice Chairman & Senior  
Fellow on the Global Economy, The Chicago  
Council on Global Affairs

**2019-Present:** **Stephen N. Potter**, Vice Chairman, Northern  
Trust (Retired)

**PRESIDENTS OF THE JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY  
OF CHICAGO:**

**1930-1937:** **Charles H. Chandler**, Professor, University  
of Chicago

**1937-1939:** **Russell Tyson**

**1939-1962:** **John H. Weddell**

**1962-1963:** **Raymond J. Graham**

**1963-1964:** **Galen E. Russell**, Former Pastor of the Tokyo  
Union Church

**1964-1966:** **Lafeton Whitney**, Executive Director of the  
Wiebolt Foundation; General in U.S. Air Force;  
Savings and Promotions, Harris Trust and  
Savings Bank

**1966-1973:** **Harry A. Olsen**, Partner, Arthur Andersen & Co.

**1973-1975:** **A. Robert Abboud**, Chairman, The First National  
Bank of Chicago; President, Occidental  
Petroleum Corp.

**1975:** **Russell Baker**, Senior Partner, Baker & McKenzie

**1975-1977:** **James H. Ingersoll**, Vice President, External Affairs,  
Borg-Warner Corporation

**1977-1979:** **Donald Eriksen**, Senior Partner, Arthur Andersen  
& Co.

**1979-1981:** **Alfred F. Miossi**, Executive Vice President and  
Director of International Affairs, Continental  
Illinois National Bank and Trust Company  
of Chicago

**1981-1984:** **Thomas H. Hague**, Assistant to Chairman and  
Area Director — Asia, Borg-Warner Corporation

**1984-1985:** **Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson**, SC&M Investment  
Management Corp.

**1985-1988:** **Thomas Coulter**, CEO, Chicago Association of  
Commerce and Industry; Executive Vice President,  
Lester B. Knight & Associates, Inc.; Director,  
Chicago-Tokyo Bank

**1988-1992:** **Jack D. Beem**, Partner, Baker & McKenzie

**1993-1995:** **Clyde Dickey**, Partner and Director of International  
Business, Arthur Andersen & Co.

**1996:** **Dennis Britton**, Executive Vice President and  
Editor, Chicago  
Sun-Times

**1996-1999:** **Clyde O. Bowles, Jr.**, President, Burditt, Bowles &  
Radzius, Chtd.; Principal, Bowles, Keating, Hering,  
Matuszewich & Fiordalisi; Rooks Pitts

**2000-2005:** **Thomas McMenamin**, Vice President, Principal,  
Masuda, Funai, Eifert & Mitchell, Ltd.

**2006-2007:** **John A. Challenger**, President, Challenger,  
Gray & Christmas, Inc.

**2007-2008:** **Edward A. Grant**, Principal, Arthur  
Andersen LLP

**Sam Cremin**, Director of Marketing  
Communications, Molex Inc.

**Shunichiro Kishioka**, Chairman, I.T.A., Inc.

**2008-2012:** **Edward A. Grant**, Principal, Arthur Andersen LLP

**2012-2014:** **Hon. J.D. Bindenagel**, Special Advisor to the  
President for International and Global Chicago  
Affairs, DePaul University

**2014-2015:** **Edward A. Grant**, Principal, Arthur Andersen  
LLP (Retired)

**2015-2016:** **Nigel C. Blakeway**, Chairman, President & CEO,  
Omron Management Center of America, Inc.

**David D. Johnson**, Executive Vice President,  
Treasurer & CFO, Molex Inc.

**Akira "Kevin" Koyasu**, President & CEO,  
Nippon Sharyo USA, Inc.

**2016-2022:** **David D. Johnson**, Executive Vice President,  
Treasurer & CFO, Molex Inc. (Retired)

**2022-Present:** **Dr. Bradley J. Hamm**, PhD, Professor, Medill School  
of Journalism, Northwestern University

**HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP RECIPIENTS:**

**June 4, 2009**

**Dr. Kazuo Kawasaki**, Design Director, Doctor of Medical Science,  
Professor of Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University &  
Professor Emeritus at Nagoya City University

**April 14, 2010**

**Beate Sirota Gordon**, worked at U.S. Army General Douglas  
MacArthur's headquarters on a team charged with writing a new  
constitution for Japan

**September 16, 2010**

**Dr. Yoichiro Nambu**, The Harry Platt Judson Professor Emeritus, The University of Chicago and Recipient of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Physics

**June 9, 2011**

**Ambassador Robert M. Orr**, Executive Director, Asian Development Bank

**September 27, 2011**

**Leo Melamed**, Former Chairman of the Mercantile Exchange and Chairman Emeritus of the CME Group, Inc.

**December 15, 2011**

**Dr. Ei-Ichi Negishi**, Herbert C. Brown Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Purdue University and Recipient of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

**June 14, 2012**

**Ambassador Rust M. Deming**, Adjunct Professor, Japan Studies, Johns Hopkins University and Former Director of the Office of Japanese Affairs

**March 14, 2013**

**Takeo Aoyama**, Executive Vice President and General Manager, Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal USA, Inc.

**June 13, 2013**

**Kulapat Yantrasast**, Architect, Co-founder and Principal, wHY Architecture

**June 12, 2014**

**Dr. Yusuke Nakamura**, Professor of Medicine, Section of Hematology/Oncology; Professor of Surgery & Deputy Director, Center for Personalized Therapeutics, The University of Chicago

**June 11, 2015**

**Ambassador Ira Shapiro**, Chairman of the Board, National Association of Japan America Societies; former General Counsel for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in the Clinton Administration and Chief U.S. Trade Negotiator with Japan and Canada

**June 9, 2016**

**Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer**, U.S. Ambassador to Japan (2005-2009)

**June 8, 2017**

**Dr. Ei-Ichi Negishi**, Herbert C. Brown Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Purdue University, and recipient of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

**June 14, 2018**

**Peter Kelley**, President, National Association of Japan-America Societies

**June 13, 2019**

**Marc Knapper**, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Korea and Japan and member of the Senior Foreign Service, U.S. Department of State

**June 25, 2020**

**Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama**, Japan Ambassador to the United States

**June 8, 2023**

His Excellency Koji Tomita, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

**1969:** Mr. Kayoshi Togasaki, President of Rotary International

**1971:** Mr. Shiro Kashiwa, Assistant Attorney General of the United States

**1972:** Mr. Oliver Statler, Author-lecturer

**1974:** Robert S. Ingersoll, Deputy Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State

**1975:** Robert S. Ingersoll, Former Ambassador of U.S. to Japan, Deputy Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State

**1976:** Frank Gibney, "1776-1868: Two Revolutions and Their Descendants"

**1977:** The Honorable James D. Hodgson, Former U.S. Ambassador to Japan

**1978:** His Excellency Fumihiko Togo, Japanese Ambassador to U.S.

**1979:** The Honorable James R. Thompson, Governor of the State of Illinois

**1980:** Yoshio Okawara, Ambassador of Japan to the United States

**1981:** Ambassador Robert S. Ingersoll, Recipient of The First Class Order of the Rising Sun

**1982:** The Honorable Michio Mizoguchi

**1983:** The Honorable Charles H. Percy

**1984:** Honorable Moriyuki Motono

**1985:** Professor Ezra F. Vogel, Harvard University

**1986:** Mr. James D. Robinson III, Chairman and CEO, American Express Co.

**1987:** Akio Morita, Chairman and CEO of Sony Corporation

**1988:** Mr. Stephen Wolf of UAL Corporation United Airlines, "Important Role of Corporate Citizenship in Enhancing and Stabilizing US-Japan Bilateral Relations"

**1989:** Mr. Scott E. Pardee, Chairman of Yamaichi International (America) Inc.

- 1990:** Mr. Toshiaki Ogasawara, Chairman and Publisher of the Japan Times, Japan's Leading English Language Daily, "The United States and Japan: The Relationship in the Nineties"
- 1991:** The Honorable Takako Doi, Member of the Diet, Chairperson, Social Democratic Party of Japan, "Japan's Role in the International Community"
- 1992:** Takashi Oka, Senior Correspondent, Christian Science Monitor, "Japan and the United States: Non-Military Power in the Post-Cold War Era"
- 1993:** The Honorable Yoshio Hatano, Ambassador of Japan to UN, "Japan in the New United Nations"
- 1994:** Dr. Koji Taira, Professor of Economics and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, "Will the Rising Sun Set?"
- 1995:** Ambassador Nicholas Platt, President, The Asia Society, "The United States and Japan in Asia"
- 1996:** Mr. Noboru Hatakeyama, President of JETRO, "Friendly Advice to America from an Old Friend"
- 1997:** Honorable Yoshio Okawara Former Ambassador of Japan to U.S. (1981-1985), "The Changing Context of US-Japan Relations"
- 1998:** His Excellency Kunihiro Saito, Ambassador of Japan to the United States, "The Status of US-Japan Relations"
- 1999:** The Honorable Akiko Yamanaka, Member of Japanese Diet, "The Role of Women in Japanese Society"
- 2000:** The Honorable Shunji Yanai, Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.
- 2001:** James Cantalupo, Vice Chairman and President of McDonald's Corporation, "McDonald's in Japan: Perspective on a Thirty Year Relationship"
- 2002:** The Honorable Ryozi Kato, Ambassador of Japan to the U.S., "Where Did Japan Go?"
- 2003:** A Special Performance by Yukiko Ogura, Viola, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and an Instrumental Medley by Yoko Noge & Jazz Me Blues
- 2004:** Mutsuyoshi Nishimura, Ambassador of Japan to Mexico, former Consul General of Japan at Chicago, "My Views on America"
- 2005:** Guest Chefs from United Airlines/Signature Room
- 2006:** Dr. Lee Gurga, award-winning haiku poet and former editor of Modern Haiku, the oldest and most respected journal of haiku and haiku studies outside Japan. He is a past president of the Haiku Society of America.
- 2007:** David W. Grzelak, Chairman and CEO, Komatsu America Corp. "Komatsu: Managing a Japanese Company in North America"
- 2008:** Michael R. Lufrano, Senior Vice President, Community Affairs and General Counsel, Chicago Cubs. "The International Past Time: Traditions and Connections Between Baseball, Japan and Wrigley Field"
- 2009:** Dr. Kazuo Kawasaki, Design Director, Doctor of Medical Science, Professor of Graduate School of Engineering, Osaka University, Professor Emeritus at Nagoya City University. "Japanese Designs - From Eyeglasses to Artificial Organ Technology"
- 2010:** Professor Theodore C. Bestor, Chair of the Department of Anthropology, Social Anthropology Program, Harvard University
- 2011:** Ambassador Robert M. Orr, U.S. Executive Director to the Asian Development Bank, "The U.S.-Japan Relationship at the Asian Development Bank"
- 2012:** Ambassador Rust M. Deming, Adjunct Professor, Japan Studies, Johns Hopkins University and Former Director of the Office of Japanese Affairs, "The Impact of March 11 on U.S.-Japan Relations and the Challenges Ahead"
- 2013:** Kulapat Yantrasast, Architect, Co-founder and Principal, WHY Architecture, "Learning from the Past to Create Japan's Future in Jackson Park, Chicago"
- 2014:** Dr. Yusuke Nakamura, Professor of Medicine, Section of Hematology/Oncology; Professor of Surgery & Deputy Director, Center for Personalized Therapeutics, The University of Chicago, "Hope to Fight Against Cancer: Why I Moved to Chicago From Japan"
- 2015:** Ambassador Ira Shapiro, Chairman of the Board-National Association of Japan America Societies, Former Clinton Administration official at USTR: General Counsel, Ambassador and Chief trade negotiator with Japan and Canada, "The TTP Agreement: A Defining Moment in U.S.-Japan Relations and American Politics"
- 2016:** Ambassador J. Thomas Schieffer, Ambassador to Japan (2005-2009), "The Case for Trade Between the United States and Japan"
- 2017:** Dr. Ei-Ichi Negishi, Herbert C. Brown Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, Purdue University and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, "Pursuit of my Dreams for Half-a-Century"
- 2018:** Peter Kelley, President, National Association of Japan-America Societies. "Japan America Societies: A Unique Role in the Bilateral Relationship"
- 2019:** Marc Knapper, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Korea and Japan and member of the Senior Foreign Service, U.S. Department of State. "U.S. - Japan Relations in 2019"
- 2020:** Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama, Japan Ambassador to the United States
- 2023:** His Excellency Koji Tomita, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America

Special thanks to our student interns for 2022-2023. We greatly appreciate all of their hard work and contributions to the Society:

Anna Alvarez, Loyola University

Amelia Capretta, Brywn Mawr College

Ysabel Claudio, Loyola University

Joshua Cormack, North Central College

Tammy Dang, Loyola University

Aaron Freedman, Loyola University

Erica Cano-Garcia, Northern Illinois University

Kailey Garcia, Washington University

Maria Garcia

Noah Grethen, University of Chicago

Constance Jones, Loyola University

Andrea Kronic, Loyola University

Sabiha Master, Loyola University

Rio Miyai, DePaul University/Ritsumeikan University

Akira Miyazaki, Tokyo University

Nikita Newcomb

Nadia Purdue, Washington University

Jeanette Ringer, Loyola University

Shirin Smatova, Loyola University

Lily Tilden, Loyola University

Diana Vargas, Loyola University

Nicole Wee, New Trier High School

Whitney Wisniewski, St. Olaff College



**AL & MARY KOGA**  
**JAPANESE AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER/ARTIST**

The Japan America Society of Chicago would like to acknowledge and deeply thank the Al & Mary Koga trust fund for their generous contribution. The Koga's legacy is a tribute to the continued friendship between the U.S. and Japan.

Mary's interests and intellectual curiosity were legion. Her greatest love, and requited at that, was her service with the Japan America Society of Chicago. Her unlawful imprisonment in a detention camp for the Japanese Americans during World War II resulted in a leadership role in re-susciting in the post-World War II era the Society, a membership association which fosters mutual friendship and understanding between the peoples of Japan and the United States. The Society was established in 1930 to foster the good-will mission, but disbanded early in 1942 with the outbreak of the war between Japan and the U.S. in 1941. However, the Society retained its legal entity, and the likes of Mary and Al Koga, her devoted husband, in concert with others, revived the Society in 1958. This achievement was crowned by a 1962 visit to Chicago by Crown Prince Akihito and the Crown Princess, affectionately referred to at the time, as Michiko-san.

The ensuing 45-year history of the Japan America Society of Chicago after its restoration in 1958 can be characterized as the Mary Koga era. She held a seat on the Board of the Society and participated in the formulation of policy to ensure membership growth. Above all, she provided leadership for a nascent Women's Board, whose mission was to bring together the spouses of Japanese and American executives in a mutually productive and fruitful relationship.

Wherever you may be, Mary and Al Koga, your progeny in the Society hail you. We will never forget your dedication and kindness.



**Mary Koga**  
 American, 1920 – 2001  
 Tulip, Orange and Green #25, from the series Floral Forms, 1991  
 chromogenic print  
 9" x 13"



**Mary Koga**  
 American, 1920 – 2001  
 Untitled, from the series Floral Forms, 1991  
 chromogenic print  
 9" x 13"



*Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Tokyo, Japan*



Message by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu  
on the Occasion of Ninetieth Anniversary of the Establishment  
of the Japan America Society of Chicago

March 13th, 2020

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Japan America Society of Chicago on the 90th anniversary of its establishment.

Today, Japan and the U.S. have become allies strongly united by the bonds of universal values such as freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. As such, both countries are the best partners in the Indo-Pacific region. Friendship, goodwill, and mutual understanding between the people of our two countries are the cornerstone of this unwavering Japan-U.S. Alliance.

Since its establishment in 1930, the Japan America Society of Chicago has played a vital role in deepening mutual understanding and connecting the hearts of the people of our two countries through a wide range of activities, including seminars, symposiums, lectures, and Japanese language classes. I would like to express my sincere respect and gratitude for the daily efforts of each member of the Japan America Society of Chicago.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the Japan America Society of Chicago's establishment, and it is also the 60th anniversary of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. In addition, the Japan-U.S. Trade Agreement and the Japan-U.S. Digital Trade Agreement entered into force in January this year.

These agreements will further expand our bilateral trade. We would like to utilize this momentum, together with you, to further strengthen the Japan-U.S. Alliance, and play a leading role in ensuring peace and prosperity of the Indo-Pacific region and around the world based on our robust Alliance.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to once again congratulate the Japan America Society of Chicago for its 90th anniversary, and wish the Society great and continued prosperity, looking ahead to its 100th anniversary.



MOTEGI Toshimitsu  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan



*Ambassador of Japan  
Washington, D. C.*

March 13, 2020

On behalf of the Government and the people of Japan, I would like to express my heartfelt congratulations to the Japan America Society of Chicago on the ninetieth anniversary of the founding of this esteemed and historic institution.

Since it was established in 1930, the Society has served to build and strengthen the pillars of the Japan-U.S. relationship, adhering to its original Charter which stipulates the Society's mission to create better understanding between our two countries through cultural and business activities. They have made great achievements even during the most difficult times and amidst transformational periods in history.

The Society has witnessed firsthand the development of the Japan-U.S. relationship in the past nine decades. Even when they were compelled to suspend activities in 1942, these foundational principles endured, leading to the Society's reinstatement in 1958. In the mid-1990s, the recession in Japan took a toll on the Society's membership and finances, but thanks to the passionate efforts of your dedicated members, it is strong and growing again. I have the deepest appreciation and utmost respect for all the Society has done over the past years to overcome these trials and bring us all together in mutual understanding.

Now, Japan and the United States have grown to become very close allies sharing common values. I pay tribute to the Society for its leading role in the cultivation of relationships and mutual understanding, which are essential foundations of the bridge between our two countries. Thanks to you, the Japan-U.S. alliance is steadfast — bound by trust and friendship. While traveling throughout the United States as a Japanese envoy, including in the Midwest, I have found that efforts to build this relationship must begin with a strong foundation built on grassroots exchange and personal connections like the ones fostered by the Society. Without you, the Japan-U.S. friendship would not be where it is today.

The Japan America Society of Chicago has tirelessly endeavored to deepen ties between Japan and the United States through a variety of extraordinary initiatives. Through programs like the Illinois Japan Bowl and the Nambu Award, the Society has continuously planted the seeds of friendship in local communities. Your many efforts bring young people together to share their passion for Japan, and have helped cultivate a new generation of leaders in Japan-U.S. relations.

Having reached such a remarkable milestone, allow me to thank you for all the hard work and effort that has gone into making this unique organization thrive. I am truly grateful for your continued efforts, and look forward to working together in the years and decades to come to build on the Society's incredible legacy of strengthening the Japan-U.S. friendship.

SUGIYAMA, Shinsuke J.  
Ambassador of Japan



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TOKYO

January 9, 2020

The Japan America Society of Chicago  
One North LaSalle Street, Suite 2475  
Chicago, IL 60602

Congratulations to the Japan America Society of Chicago on your 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. For nearly a century, the Society has fostered friendship and cooperation between the United States and Japan, deepening our countries' bonds and bringing our people closer together. Without your tireless efforts, our relationship would not enjoy the strength that it does today.

2019 was a landmark year for the United States and Japan, one in which our enduring partnership reached new heights. We are very fortunate to have the dedicated members of Japan America Societies organizing business, educational, and cultural programs to promote mutual understanding and camaraderie between our citizens. Warm, personal bonds form the foundation of our Alliance and ensure that it will only grow more vibrant for generations to come.

On behalf of the United States government, I thank you for your unwavering support of the U.S.-Japan Alliance. May your organization continue to deepen our bilateral partnership for another 90 years and promote a more prosperous future for both our nations.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph M. Young".

Joseph M. Young  
Chargé d' Affaires a.i.

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF JAPAN  
OLYMPIA CENTRE, SUITE 1100  
737 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611  
PHONE: (312) 280-0400  
FAX: (312) 280-9568

March 13, 2020

Congratulations to the Japan America Society of Chicago on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment.

Since my arrival in October, I have been amazed by the work that the Japan America Society of Chicago does here in this fine city. The Society has been integral in forming the Japan-Chicago relationship what it is today. Having an organization such as this one provides the foundation on which the Japan-Chicago relationship stands. Through the ups and downs that come with international relations, the Japan America Society of Chicago has stayed true to its mission, to the great benefit of both Japan and Chicago.

The many events that the Japan America Society of Chicago sponsors, hosts, and co-organizes with other organizations help to represent the vibrant Japanese-American community here in Chicago, as well as highlight the Japan-Chicago relationship. These events are essential for our community, helping to develop grassroots exchanges that are key to the Japan-U.S. relationship. The Illinois Japan Bowl is a prime example for fostering a keen interest in Japan among the next generation in the community. It is encouraging to know that some of the best and brightest minds of the next generations are interested and invested in Japan-U.S. relations.

The relationship that Japan and the United States share reminds me of the new Japanese era, Reiwa. Reiwa means "beautiful harmony", and the harmony that our two countries share now would not be possible without organizations such as the Japan America Society of Chicago. I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to you for all of your hard work the past 90 years and hope the next 90 years as an organization will be even more productive and relevant for Japan-U.S. relations. I look forward to working with you to make it a reality.

The Japan-U.S. alliance has never been stronger. The alliance has also never been more essential to maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Sincerely,



Kenichi Okada  
Consul-General of Japan in Chicago



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

**JB PRITZKER**  
GOVERNOR

Greetings!

I am pleased to welcome everyone to the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Japan America Society of Chicago.

For over 90 years, the Japan America Society of Chicago has been essential in the promotion of Japanese culture in Illinois and across the Midwest. Throughout the years, JASC has helped to foster an enduring friendship between the United States and Japan through business, social, educational, and cultural activities. Illinoisans have cultural roots that can be traced to every corner of the earth, and I'm proud that our state can celebrate such diversity.

I commend the Japan America Society of Chicago for their continued efforts in pursuing cross-cultural exchange and mutual understanding in our communities. Ninety years of service is a significant milestone for any organization, and JASC's longevity is truly a testament to the relationships it has developed through the years. I have no doubt that JASC will continue to flourish for years to come.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I wish everyone an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker".



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

LORI E. LIGHTFOOT  
MAYOR

March 13, 2020

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the City of Chicago, I am honored to welcome all those gathered for The Japan America Society of Chicago's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and offer sincere congratulations on 90 years of service.

Since its founding in 1930, the Japan America Society of Chicago (JASC) has worked to foster understanding between our two cultures and the exchange of ideas and information by promoting dialogue, social interaction, cooperation and friendship among its members. In addition, JASC sponsors programs that serve 1400 American and Japanese nationals with interests in business and cultural issues. This year's event presents the opportunity to come together to recognize the accomplishments of the past year while celebrating 90 years of work. I would also like to recognize this year's keynote speaker, Professor Ezra Vogel and I commend the Japan America Society of Chicago for their ongoing efforts to strengthen the ties between Japan and Chicago.

I hope your event is memorable and enjoyable. Best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori E. Lightfoot". Below the signature, the word "Mayor" is printed in a smaller font.

Mayor



## 2 0 2 3   A N N U A L   R E P O R T

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