





Mission Statement

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 Chicagoland and the Midwest.

The Society sponsors over 40 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 Community (YPC), which brings together early-career professionals from a wide range of industries for networking receptions, cultural programs, and social events that foster connections and engagement within the U.S.–Japan community in Chicago.

In addition, the Society offers over six levels of Japanese and English language courses.

For membership information and other inquiries, visit www.jaschicago.org or contact the Society office.



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November 2025

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest congratulations to the Japan-America Society of Chicago on the occasion of its 95th anniversary. For nearly a century, JASC has been a steadfast bridge between Japan and the United States, enriching both nations through mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation.

Since my arrival in Chicago this past May, I have been deeply moved by the generosity and kindness shown to me by those who dedicate themselves to strengthening Japan-U.S. relations in Chicago and across the greater Midwest. One of my very first experiences here was the welcome reception so graciously hosted by JASC. That immediate gesture of support was both heartening and inspiring, and it gave me a true sense of belonging as I began my new role.

In the months that have followed, I have had the honor of coming to know Chairman Potter, President Hamm, Executive Director Friebus-Flaman, and many other distinguished members of JASC through the Society's rich variety of programs and community events. These encounters have given me a lasting appreciation for JASC's indispensable role and for the tireless efforts of its members to deepen the ties between Chicago, the Midwest, and Japan.

This year, as we mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, we are reminded of the remarkable journey our two nations have taken together. In just eight decades, Japan and the United States have transformed from adversaries into trusted partners. This extraordinary achievement owes much to organizations such as JASC, which since 1930 has worked with vision, dedication, and sincerity to nurture the friendship between our peoples. Here in Chicago, JASC has long served as a guiding light, illuminating the path toward a bright and prosperous future in Japan-U.S. relations.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to the Japan-America Society of Chicago for its unwavering commitment to advancing our partnership and for its close collaboration with our Consulate. As we look ahead to JASC's centennial celebration just five years from now, I look forward to working hand in hand with all of you to further strengthen the bonds of friendship and partnership between Japan and the United States.

Sincerely,

Masashi Mizobuchi

Consul-General of Japan in Chicago

August 2025

Dear Society Members,

This past year has been one of meaningful connection, growth, and shared purpose for the Japan America Society of Chicago. We strengthened our Sister City relationship with Osaka through programming that reflects both our shared history and the excitement of the Osaka-Kansai Expo 2025. Our partnership with the Osaka Committee of Chicago Sister Cities International grew closer than ever, and we expanded our engagement with organizations in Japan, including the Japan America Society of Osaka and the America Japan Society in Tokyo. A highlight of the year was welcoming the delegation from the Osaka prefectural government in March—their first stop in Chicago was with us, a testament to the bonds we continue to build.

Our cultural programming flourished, from presenting bunraku (a traditional Japanese form of puppetry) performed by the Sasago Oiwake Puppet Theater in collaboration with the Japan America Society of Iowa, to marking the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima through the Tōrō Nagashi Lantern Ceremony. We expanded sponsors' participation in the Illinois Japan Bowl, supporting high school students studying Japanese, and continued to grow our Young Professionals Committee, including providing sponsored, subsidized tickets to make major events more accessible for the next generation of leaders.

These achievements were made possible through strong community partnerships—both locally and internationally—that broadened our cultural, business, and educational outreach. We also took important steps for the future of our organization, securing a new office location at 500 W. Madison, enhancing accessibility and visibility. Our expanded corporate sponsorship base allowed us to host vibrant community gatherings such as the Taste of Japan Happy Hour and Sizzle & Slurp: Chicago Meets Japan.

Together, these accomplishments reflect the dedication, generosity, and shared vision of our members, partners, and friends. It is through this collective effort that the Society continues to thrive and build enduring bridges between Japan and the United States.

In closing, I especially want to recognize President Brad Hamm, Executive Director Marion Friebus-Flaman and the Society's Board of Directors for their outstanding leadership and tireless efforts in support of the Society's Mission.

Sincerely,

Stephen N. Potter

Super A. Poter

Chairman

September 2025

Dear Society Members:

As president of JASC, I want to thank each of you for participating in our events throughout the year and helping in many ways to make our organization stronger as we celebrate the 95th anniversary of our founding.

Since 1930, JASC has fulfilled its mission in Chicago and the region to foster understanding and create and promote friendships across the two countries. Many of us have developed strong ties — cultural, educational, business, personal — over the years

As we near our 100th anniversary in 2030, we will seek to develop new programs and partnerships that will enable JASC to increase its impact. Your help and ideas will be invaluable.

I especially want to highlight the outstanding work of our team over the past year: Our new executive director, Dr. Marion Friebus-Flaman; our longtime director of operations and membership support, Erika Kono; and our invaluable assistant, Hiroko Suzuki. They created and staffed by far the largest number of in-person events over the past five years, involving more than 1,000 participants in our programs and hundreds of others in events that we now co-sponsor with local Japanese and Japanese American groups.

It was an extraordinary effort, culminating with the successful planning of our 95th anniversary celebration, which was made even more vital given that Covid prevented our group from gathering in March 2020 for the 90th anniversary.

Our members and friends are essential to the success of JASC. Our directors and governors guide the society admirably. We are fortunate for the insight and support by our chairman Stephen Potter, chairman emeritus Michael Moskow, and honorary chairman Masashi Mizobuchi, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago.

Many corporate and individual members provide direct financial support, and we are grateful for your generosity. Our donors are listed in this report. This funding is essential for us to fulfill our mission.

The past year for JASC was transformative in many ways. We can build on those accomplishments to create more ways to serve our community and fulfill our goals in friendships and greater understanding.

Sincerely,

Bradley J. Hamm

Body &. Hom

President

Statement of Appreciation

The Japan America Society of Chicago extends its deepest gratitude to our officers and directors for their unwavering dedication, leadership, and vision. Each of you plays an integral role in advancing our mission to foster meaningful connections and understanding between Japan and the United States.

Your commitment to guiding our organization, shaping our programs, and championing our initiatives is the cornerstone of our success. Together, you help us strengthen cultural ties, inspire collaboration, and build a thriving community that bridges our two nations.

Thank you for your exceptional service and steadfast support. It is an honor to work alongside such a passionate and accomplished group of leaders.



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(until March 2025)

The Honorable Masashi Mizobuchi

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38th Annual Holiday Fundraiser & Bonenkai "The Charm of Osaka"

ne Charm of Osaka" Date: 12/4/24

Speaker: Dr. Hiroyuki Fujita, Ph.D. Founder and CEO Quality Electrodynamics

Chairman, Canon Healthcare USA

JCCC/JASC Networking Event

Date: 11/15/24



Terral Childs leads JASC members and guests in an Industrial Robotics tour of Mitsubishi Electric Automation 1/21/25

"Industrial Robotics From Jurassic Park to the Present"

Date: 1/21/25
Featuring: Terral Childs,
Mechatronics Lab Manager,
Mitsubishi Electric Automation Inc.
Venue Sponsor: Mitsubishi Electric
Automation Inc.

38th Annual Holiday Fundraiser & Bonenkai

Date: 12/4/24

Featuring Dr. Hiroyuki Fujita, Ph.D.

Founder and CEO,

Quality Electrodynamics | Chairman,

Canon Healthcare USA



Marion Friebus-Flaman leads a fireside chat, highlighting the importance of the Japan-American partnership with Dr. Hiroyuki Fujita at the 38th Annual Holiday Fundraiser 12/4/24

Sizzle & Slurp: Chicago Meets Japan

Date: 4/24/25

Featuring Robert W. Kumaki, Managing Principal, The Ronin Group (Moderator); Kenshiro Uki, President, Sun Noodle; Chef Paul Virant, Gaijin and Kenta Ikehata, Owner, Chicago

Ramen

Sponsors: Sun Noodle, Ito En, Gaijin Chicago, Chicago Ramen, Kimino &

Hakutsuru Sake

















JASC Board Members Lunch with Ambassador Yamada and CG Yanagi

Date: 8/22/24

An Update on the Osaka-Kansai Expo From Heritage to Hope: Uniting Osaka, Chicago, and Maui Through Culture and Recovery

Date: 2/20/25

Featuring: Sachiko Yoshimura, Director General of Public Relations & Promotion Bureau, Japan Association for the 2025 World Exhibition; Anna Ninoyu, Founder & Principal Architect, METIS Design & Yoh Kawanami, Director, Hawaiian

With support from: Chicago Osaka Sister Cities

Venue Sponsor: CBRE

Electric Company

Sponsors: ICHI by Torino, Otafuku & Kimino

Cool Japan Vibes

Date: 3/6/25

Featuring: Benjamin Boas, Cool Japan Producer, Japanese

Government's Cabinet Office

Chicago Osaka Sister Cities Lunch Reception for Osaka Delegation

Date: 3/26/25

Connected Economies: The US-Japan Economic Relationship Through Higher Education

Date: 4/2/25

Featuring: Matt Wilson, Dean, Temple University, Japan

Venue Sponsor: Plante Moran Reception Sponsor: Masuda Funai

Welcome Reception for the Honorable Masashi Mizobuchi, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago

Date: 5/19/25

95th Annual Meeting & Awards Reception

Date: 6/12/25

Sponsors: EY and Jean & Jim McClung

Toast Sponsor: Uka Sake



Hon. Masashi Mizobuchi, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago gives remarks at a Welcome Reception at the Society's co-share office 5/19/25



Metea Valley High School students receive the Nambu Award at the 95th Annual Awards Reception 6/12/25













Jean & Jim McClung







CULTURAL EVENTS

Japanese Arts Foundation Toro Nagashi Lantern Festival

Date: 8/6/24

Akira Ifukube 110 Concert

Date: 9/14/24

Featuring: Reiko Yamada, Pianist & Patrick

Godon, Pianist

Special thanks to Kiwami Ifukube and Toho

Music

Special thanks to Kyle Gilmore for the flyer

design

Japan's Commercial Monsters: Kaijū, Character Goods, and Pokémon in the World of Yōkai

Date: 10/23/24

Featuring: Dr. William M. Tsutsui, Chancellor and Professor of History, Ottawa University



Prof. Gunji poses with group learning about the Anderson Japanese Gardens for Beauty of Japan presentation & tour 11/9/2024

Beauty of Japan From Bento to Gardens: Japanese Dining Etiquette & Private Anderson Japanese Gardens Tour

Date: 11/9/24

Featuring: Kimiko Gunji, Professor Emeritus of Japanese Arts & Culture and Founder, Japan House at University of Illinois, Urbana-

Champaign

Sponsor: Anderson Japanese Gardens

Kore Ikeru - Ikebana and Sake Tasting

Date: 1/16/25

Featuring: Reiko Takahashi, Ikenobo certified Ikebana Instructor & Owner and Lead Designer, Floral Ashirai & Sayuri Daley, International Kikisake-shi & Owner, Sake Flight LLC

The Beautiful World of Mizuhiki (Ancient Japanese artform of knot-tying)

Date: 2/18/25

Featuring: Kimusubi, Mizuhiki Artist

Taste of Japan at Industrious

Date: 3/13/25

Reception Sponsors: Chicago Osaka Sister Cities, Gaijin, Katsu Shack, Kimino & Summertime Izakaya/Karaoke



JASC co-share partners and guests enjoy A Taste of Japan social highlighting local Japanese cuisine 3/13/25





















Toho Music

Taste the Tradition: Bento Box Workshop

Date: 4/13/25

Featuring: Tomoko Florida, Owner, Torino

Ramen

Kore Ikeru - Ikebana and Sake Tasting

Date: 5/7/25

Featuring: Reiko Takahashi, Ikenobo certified Ikebana Instructor & Owner and Lead Designer, Floral Ashirai & Sayuri Daley, International Kikisake-shi & Owner, Sake Flight LLC

Sasago Oiwake Japanese Puppet Theater (Burr Elementary)

Date: 5/17/25

This program was made possible with collaboration from: Japan America Society of Iowa Special thanks to our supporters: Jonathan Burr Elementary School, Art Institute of Chicago & Kamehachi

Sasago Oiwake Japanese Puppet Theater (AIRMW)

Date: 5/17/25

This program was made possible with collaboration from: Japan America Society of

Ιοwα

Special thanks to our supporter: Asian Improv

aRts Midwest



Puppeteers put on an impressive show at the Sasago Oiwake Puppet Theater 5/17/25



Guests create their own ikebana arrangements at the Society's Kore Ikeru - Ikebana and Sake Tatsing 5/7/25











SOCIAL EVENTS

Young Professionals Committee of the Japan America Society of Chicago & AAAYA Day of Service with Shedd Action Day

Date: 7/13/24

Chicago Japanese American Council Japanese Community Picnic

Date: 8/2/24

Robata Dinner @ Itoko with Presentation by Chef Gene

Date: 9/24/24

Featuring: Chef Gene Kato, Chef/Partner

@ Momotaro & Itoko

JETAA/YPC Anime & Art
Appreciation Society – Delicious in
Dungeon Episode 1

Date: 10/8/24

Tohoku Flights & Bites

Date: 11/6/24

Featuring: Jun-Jun Vichaikul, Certified Sake Professional, Konbini & Kanpai and Eric Hattori, Chef, Konbini & Kanpai



Members of the Society's Pechakucha Club enjoy a fun morning conversing in Japanese with newfound friends 4/11/25

JETAA/YPC Anime & Art Appreciation Society January Choice – Dandadan!

Date: 1/14/25

Baseball Behind Barbed Wire

Date: 2/13/25

Featuring: Kerry Yo Nakagawa, Author, Filmmaker, Historian and President, Nisei Baseball Research Project and Bill Staples, Author, Historian and Director, Nisei Baseball Research Project

Hinamatsuri: Girls' Day Celebration

Date: 3/2/25

Co-organizer: Japanese Culture Center

ぺちゃくちゃ (Pecha Kucha) Club

Date: 4/11/25

第2回ぺちゃくちゃ (Dainikai Pecha Kucha) Club

Date: 5/9/25

Gaijin Matsuri

Date: 5/18/25

AAPI Cubs vs. Rockies Baseball Game

Date: 5/28/25

第3回ぺちゃくちゃ Daisankai Pecha Kucha) Club

Date: 6/27/25



The JASC crew enjoys the AAPI Cubs win against the Colorado Rockies. Go Cubbies! 5/28/25



A mother and daughter celebrate Hinamatsuri, where families celebrate the health of their daughters, by creating ikebana 3/2/25









JETAA & YPC Virtual Book Club - "Snow Country " by Yasunari Kawabata

Date: 9/19/24

JETAA & YPC Virtual Book Club - "Real World "by Natsuo Kirino

Date: 10/30/24

Young Professionals Community & AAAYA Candid Conversations Series: Making Strides with Rosa Kwon Easton

Date: 1/28/25

JETAA & YPC Virtual Book Club - "We'll Prescribe You a Cat " by You Ishida

Date: 2/19/25



Group picture with Rosa Kwon Easton at the Candid Conversations Event 1/28/25

2025 Illinois Japan Bowl

Date: 3/1/25

This program is made possible with support from: Japanese Chamber of Commerce &

Industry of Chicago

In cooperation with: The Consulate-Geenral

of Japan in Chicago

Venue Sponsor: North Central College T-Shirt Sponsor: Temple University Sponsors: KPMG, Molex, Omron, TDK, MUFG

& Japanese American Mutual Aid

JETAA & YPC Virtual Book Club - "The City and Its Uncertain Walls " by Haruki Murakami

Date: 4/30/25



Stude

























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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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Audited financial statements will be made available to members upon request.

Very special recognition, honor and gratitude is due to the Society's 95th Annual Program Sponsors & Underwriters. They are listed below. These fine member organizations have stepped forward and up as sponsors for our entire 95th 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

MAYER BROWN

Joyce Chelberg

Bradley J. Hamm

David D. Johnson

KIRKLAND & ELLIS

Jean and Jim McClung



Suzanne & Michael Moskow Ann & Stephen Potter



LEGACY SOCIETY

PLANNING YOUR ESTATE AND SUPPORTING THE JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO

In increasing numbers, members and friends of the Society are choosing to create lasting legacies through planned gifts made during their lifetimes or through their estates. Planned giving allows donors to integrate their charitable goals with their overall financial, tax, and estate planning—maximizing benefits for both the donor and the Society.

Examples of planned gifts include bequests, life-income gifts, gifts of real estate, and gifts of retirement plan assets. The Society is honored to have been named in a number of planned gifts, which will provide essential support for the Society's long-term vitality and sustainability.

Anonymous Jack D. Beem William L. Florida Edward A. Grant David D. Johnson

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 SPRINGMasaru FunaiThe 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 FALLClyde O. Bowles, Jr.The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon



2005 FALLAkiko Sugano
The Order of the Rising Sun, Silver Rays



2010 SPRINGClyde 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 FALLLeo MelamedThe 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 SPRINGRalph A. InforzatoThe Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays



2023 FALL
David D. Johnson
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette

FOREIGN MINISTER AWARD RECIPIENTS

2010: Japan America Society of Chicago

2014: Yoko Noge Dean, Board of Directors, Japan American Soceity 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

June 2025: Mari Yamamoto Regnier

CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

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

2024: Saira Chambers, Director, Japanese Culture Center/ Executive Director, Japanese Arts Foundation

2025: Dr. Yasuo Ito, Fuko Kyudojo and Buddhist Temple of Chicago Iaidojo

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

NAMBU AWARDS

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)

2014: Moki Tantoco, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

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)

2024: Dasia Yoo, School of the Art Institute of Chicago

2017: Beacon Academy (Illinois Science Olympiad First Place - Remote Sensing (Group A)

2017: Adlai E. Stevenson High School (Illinois Science Olympiad First Place - Remote Sensing (Group AA)

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) **2024:** (Illinois Science Olympiad -A)
Rockford Christian High school

2024: University of Chicago Laboratory Schools (Illinois Science Olympiad Mission Possible – [Group A])

2025: Metea Valley High School (Illinois Science Olympiad - Electric Vehicle)

2025: Rockford Christian High School (Illinois Science Olympiad - Electric Vehicle)

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Omron Management Center of America, Inc.

Sumitomo Corporation of Americas

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





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 & 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 S cho ol

2018 Level 2 Third Place:

Whitney Young Magnet High School & 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 S cho ol

2019 Level 3 Second Place:

Whitney Young Magnet High School & Northside College Prep High School

2019 Level 3 Third Place:

Lane Tech College Prep High School & 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 & 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 S cho ol

2021 Level 2 Third Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2021 Level 3 First Place:

University of Illinois Laboratory High S cho ol

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 S cho ol

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

2024 Level 2 First Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2024 Level 2 Second Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2024 Level 2 Third Place:

Evanston Township High School

2024 Level 3 First Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2024 Level 3 Second Place:

Northside College Prep High School Whitney Young Magnet High School

2024 Level 3 Third Place:

University of Illinois Laboratory High School

2024 Level 4 First Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2024 Level 4 Second Place:

University of Illinois Laboratory High S cho ol

2024 Level 4 Third Place:

Evanston Township High School Northside College Prep High School

2025 Level 2 First Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2025 Level 2 Second Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2025 Level 2 Third Place:

University Laboratory High School

2025 Level 3 First Place:

Evanston Township High School

2025 Level 3 Second Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2025 Level 3 Third Place:

Northside College Prep High School / Northside College Prep High School

2025 Level 4 First Place:

Northside College Prep High School

2025 Level 4 Second Place:

Evanston Township High School

2025 Level 4 Third Place:

University Laboratory High School / University Laboratory High School

| CHAIRMEN OF THE JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO: 1988-2003: Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, Chairman, 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 | |
|---|--|--|
| 2004-2005: Keikichi Honda, Chairman, NCR Japan & | 1988-1992: Jack D. Beem, Partner, Baker & McKenzie | |
| Glenn Tilton, Chairman & CEO, United Airlines 2006-2007: Glenn Tilton, Chairman & CEO, United Airlines | 1993-1995: Clyde Dickey, Partner and Director of International Business, Arthur Andersen & Co. | |
| 2008-2019: Michael H. Moskow, Vice Chairman & Senior Fellow on the Global Economy, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs | 1996: Dennis Britton, Executive Vice President and | |
| | Editor, Chicago Sun-Times | |
| 2019-Present: Stephen N. Potter , Vice Chairman, Northern Trust (Retired) | 1996-1999: Clyde O. Bowles, Jr. , President, Burditt, Bowles & Radzius, Chtd.; Principal, Bowles, Keating, Hering, Matuszewich & Fiordalisi; Rooks Pitts | |
| PRESIDENTS OF THE JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF CHICAGO: | 2000-2005: Thomas McMenamin , Vice President, Principal, Masuda, Funai, Eifert & Mitchell, Ltd. | |
| 1930-1937: Charles H. Chandler Professor, University of Chicago | 2006-2007: John A. Challenger , President, Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc. | |
| 1937-1939: Russell Tyson | 2007-2008: Edward A. Grant, Principal, Arthur Andersen LLP | |
| 1939-1962: John H. Weddell | Sam Cremin , Director of Marketing | |
| 1962-1963: Raymond J. Graham | Communications, Molex Inc. | |
| 1963-1964: Galen E. Russell, Former Pastor of the Tokyo | Shunichiro Kishioka, Chairman, I.T.A., Inc. | |
| Union Church | 2008-2012: Edward A. Grant, Principal, Arthur Andersen LLP | |
| 1964-1966: Lafeton Whitney , Executive Director of the Wiebolt Foundation; General in U.S. Air Force; Savings and Promotions, Harris Trust and Savings Bank | 2012-2014: Hon. J.D. Bindenagel, Special Advisor to the President for International and Global Chicago Affairs, DePaul University | |
| 1966-1973: Harry A. Olsen, Partner, Arthur Andersen & Co. | 2014-2015: Edward A. Grant , Principal, Arthur Andersen LLP (Retired) | |
| 1973-1975: A. Robert Abboud , Chairman, The First National Bank of Chicago; President, Occidental Petroleum Corp. | 2015-2016: Nigel C. Blakeway , Chairman , President & CEO , Omron Management Center of America , Inc. , David D. Johnson Executive Vice President , | |
| 1975: Russell Baker, Senior Partner, Baker & McKenzie | Treasurer & CFO, Molex Inc. Akira "Kevin" Koyasų President & CEO, | |
| 1975-1977: James H. Ingersoll , Vice President, External Affairs, | Nippon Sharyo USA, Inc. | |
| Borg-Warner Corporation 1977-1979: Donald Eriksen, Senior Partner, Arthur Andersen | 2016-2022: David D. Johnson , Executive Vice President, Treasurer & CFO, Molex Inc. (Retired) | |
| & Co. 1979-1981: Alfred F. Miossi, Executive Vice President and | 2022-Present: Dr. Bradley J. Hamm, PhD, Professor, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University | |
| Director of International Affairs, Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company | HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP RECIPIENTS: | |
| of Chicago | 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 | |
| 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. | April 14, 2010 Beate Sirota Gordon worked at U.S. Army General Douglas | |

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. Or, 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 Schieffet 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

June 13, 2024

Ambassador David B. Shear, Senior Advisor, Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies and Adjunct Professor, Japan Studies at Johns Hopkins SAIS

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 Descendents"

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 Kunihiko 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 Ryozo Kato, Ambassador of Japan to the U.S., "Where Did Japan Go?"
- **2003:** ASpecial 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 Developement 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 11on 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 Associaiton of Japan-America Societies, "Japan America Societie: A Unique Role in ' the Bilaeral 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
- **2024:** Ambassador David B. Shear, Senior Advisor, Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies and Adjunct Professor, Japan Studies at Johns Hopkins SAIS

Special thanks to our student interns for 2024-2025. We greatly appreciate all of their hard work and contributions to the Society.

Museerah Ali, Loyola University
Nicolas Bird, George Washington University
Rhys Darr, Loyola University
Aditaya Gaur, Northside College Prep High School
Noah Grethen, Loyola University
Naomi Kolawole, Loyola University
Joe Lewis, Loyola University
Ellin Liu, Loyola University
Olivia Mauldin, Loyola University
Bridget McCarthy, Kenyon College
Astrid Palardy, Loyola University
William Quinn, Loyola University
Diana Sakander, Loyola University
Rook Setzer, Loyola University



AL & MARY KOGA

JAPANESE AMERICAN PHOTOGRAPHER/ARTIST

The Japan America Society of Chicago is honored to acknowledge the Al & Mary Koga Trust Fund for their generous contribution, which will greatly enhance our cultural programs and support our mission. Mary Koga's legacy is a testament to the enduring friendship between the U.S. and Japan. Known for her passionate dedication to community and cultural understanding, Mary's connection with the Society was profound and deeply meaningful. Her service, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to fostering goodwill continue to inspire us.

Mary Koga's life journey included surviving the hardship of unjust imprisonment in a Japanese American internment camp during World War II. This experience strengthened her resolve to revive and lead the Japan America Society of Chicago, which had been established in 1930 but temporarily disbanded in 1942 during the war. Alongside her devoted husband, Al Koga, and other like-minded individuals, Mary helped reestablish the Society in 1958. This new chapter was highlighted by the historic 1962 visit of Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko to Chicago, marking a moment of renewed friendship between our countries.

Mary's leadership extended over the next 45 years, which many of us fondly consider the 'Mary Koga era.' She held a seat on the Society's Board, playing a vital role in shaping policy and fostering membership growth. She was instrumental in forming a Women's Board to bring together the spouses of Japanese and American executives, building bonds that enriched our community.

Today, we honor Mary and Al Koga's memory and legacy. Their dedication and kindness live on in the Japan America Society of Chicago, and we are forever grateful for their contributions. Mary and Al, wherever you may be, your legacy remains an inspiration for us all.



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"



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