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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

<u>The Japanese Culture Club of Arizona (JCCA)</u> has been accepted as the 40th Member of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS), and celebrates by bringing the Japan-connected community in Greater Phoenix together for an evening of networking and entertainment.

The Japanese Culture Club of Arizona (JCCA), an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to fostering cultural exchange and community connections between Japan and Arizona, is excited to announce its acceptance as the 40th member of the <u>National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS)</u>. NAJAS is the largest nonprofit alliance supporting bilateral US-Japan relations across culture, diplomacy, business, academia, and other spheres.

JCCA operates the <u>Japanese Film Festival Arizona (JFFA)</u> and brings to life Japanese-related events throughout the year to support grassroots communication between Arizona and Japan.

JCCA collaborates with local partners, including the Arizona Matsuri, the Phoenix Art Museum, and the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM), offering various workshops and events such as *Kimono Evolution*, film screenings, and tours of the Samurai Yoroi Exhibition. JCCA has also made a point of showcasing Japanese artists in select studios. JCCA is exploring Sister Cities opportunities in Japan for the City of Scottsdale.

Membership in NAJAS bolsters JCCA's efforts to expand its collaborative work and pursue new projects. Backed by funding partners and the combined strength of its 40 members, NAJAS provides JCCA with an unmatched platform to introduce grant-supported programming and learn from and grow with fellow member societies. With this membership, JCCA aims to amplify its impact, reach a wider audience, and promote deeper cooperation and understanding between the US and Japan in innovative and exciting ways.

To become a member of JCCA, visit <u>www.japanesecultureclubofaz.org</u>. For further information or inquiries, please contact Harumi Maejima at harumimaejima@mac.com.

About the National Association of Japan-America Societies:

The National Association of Japan-America Societies, Inc. (NAJAS) is a private, nonprofit, non-partisan membership organization consisting of 40 independent Japan-America Societies located in the United States and Canada. NAJAS offers public affairs, business, cultural and educational programs about Japan and U.S.-Japan relations to the public through our member Japan and Japan-America Societies. With a membership that cuts across usual group boundaries (business, diplomacy, political, academic, security, cultural) and includes Americans and Japanese, NAJAS incorporates a variety of perspectives on U.S.-

Japan relations and forms the largest private network supporting a bilateral relationship in the United States.

Learn more: https://www.us-japan.org

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About the Japanese Culture Club of Arizona. Learn more: https://www.japanesecultureclubofaz.org

The Japanese Culture Club of Arizona (JCCA) is a nonprofit organization with a mission of educating the public regarding Japanese culture and economic ties through goodwill. We organize events and social gatherings that promote Japanese culture and business. Examples include food and cooking workshops, business networking, traditional ceremonies, handicrafts, calligraphy, ikebana, music, film, Japanese baseball, and other arts unique to Japan. We aim to serve as a bridge across cultures, leading our members toward a deeper appreciation and understanding of Japanese culture through our club activities.