



National Association of Japan-America Societies

Your Bi-Weekly News, Grounded in the Grassroots

Wishes for a prosperous new year across the NAJAS family! Please be sure to help us extend our “family,” by casting your vote on a new accession.

And please inform yourselves and your membership for a year of change and challenge, by drawing upon a flurry of references and on-line briefings outlined below, starting with an excellent look ahead at U.S.-Japan relations with our partners at I-House and the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI).

— Andy

REMINDER: VOTE ON NEW MEMBER BEFORE CLOSE OF POLLS!

Deadline extended: Voting representatives should cast their vote no later than **COB Tues, January 21st.**

The 15-year-old [Japanese Culture Club of Arizona](#) (JCCA) has applied to join NAJAS as our 40th member society. Phoenix is one of the last of the top dozen metro areas in the U.S. without a NAJAS member organization.

We have an upcoming [Outreach event hosted by JCCA](#) on Feb 21 at the Japanese Friendship Garden of Phoenix, featuring Japan's Consul General in Los Angeles, Kenko Sone.

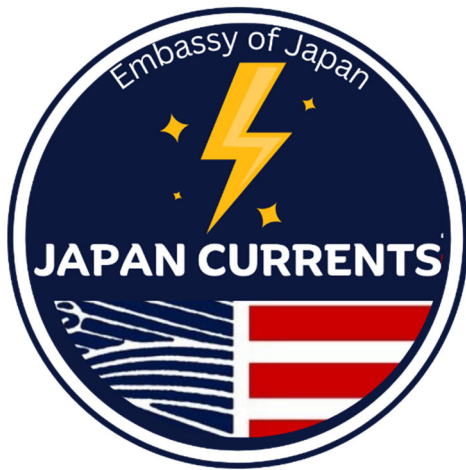
Applications require approval by a majority of the NAJAS Board of Directors. So far 17 societies and Board members have cast their ballots – thank you! For societies yet to vote, we have emailed a reminder with the online ballot to

your society's voting representative. The ballot includes the application and supporting documents, which are also available here:

[View JCCA's Application & Ballot >](#)

Trouble logging in? Didn't receive your ballot directly?

Please contact Misha at misha@us-japan.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Here's a look ahead at NAJAS grant-funded programs:

This year's [Japan Currents](#) events have been directed by our sponsors at the Embassy of Japan toward business and economic themes:

- **Japan-America Society of Colorado (JASC)**, Feb 13: Colorado Key Industry Exploration: Aerospace
- **Japan-America Society of Houston (JASH)**, Feb 21: Fueling Japan's Hydrogen Economy from Houston

- **Japan-America Society of Miami / Southwest Florida (JASMSWFL)**, March TBD: Florida-Japan Currents Sky and Sea Conference
- **Japan Society of North California (JSNC)**, March TBD: Sunrise in Japan? The future of the Japanese economy and implications for America
- **Japan-America Society of Southern California (JASSoCal)**, March 20: Artificial Intelligence - Trends & Regulation in the U.S. and Japan

This year we will offer three Keizai Koho Center [Business Speaker Series](#) talks, with JASA having launched us with a strong automotive sector program. Upcoming:

- **Japan-America Society of North Carolina (JASNC)**, March 19: From Innovation to Expansion: The Power of Biotech and Global Investment
- **Japan-America Society of Dallas-Fort Worth (JASDFW)**, March 25: Geoeconomics of U.S.-Japan Policy Coordination with the New Administrations

REMINDER: KKC TEACHER FELLOWSHIP

KKC Study Tour to Japan 2025 -- Applications are due Feb. 28 for the [Summer 2025 application](#) cycle for U.S. and Canadian social studies teachers. Please inform schools in your area.



The **Keizai Koho Center (KKC)**, in cooperation with NAJAS, invites applications from US and Canadian secondary social studies teachers for this fully funded, summer study program in Japan. The program is mainly focused on Tokyo and includes visits to Japanese schools; meetings with scholars and experts on Japanese society and its education system; visits to major Japanese companies; and cultural and fun events. Fellowship recipients are

required to develop a curricular project based on their experience, to submit a final report, and disseminate information about the visit within their local schools and communities.



NAJAS leaders enjoy company of Japan Society, including Board Member Akira Yamamoto, recent Japanese American Leadership Delegation awardee, at far right

SOCIETY PAGES

The Asia Society Policy Institute, co-led and co-inspired by NAJAS' Emma Chanlett-Avery, released a series of recommendations for the incoming Administration. [Read the entire briefing](#), spanning trade and technology, security and diplomacy, and climate and clean energy recommendations.

NAJAS Annual Conference Ramp-up: Over January 14-15, courtesy of dove-tailed invitations from The Asia Society / Japan Society, the Japan-America Society of Indiana (JASI), the Japan America Society of Kentucky (JASK) and NAJAS enjoyed ringing in the year of the snake (celebration and commitment to resilience) in New York.

We were treated to tours of exhibitions on anime art (Bright) and Bunraku (National Theater) at the Junzo Yoshimura-designed Japan House. It was wonderful to reconvene with David Carpenter, Theresa Kulczak, and new friends and allies like David Janes, International House, and MUFG America's Executive Director Masatoshi Komoriya, who also serves as Japan Society's prolific Vice Chair.

On my first visit to the House – our House, reflecting on NAJAS' legacy – I was bowled over by the stellar facility, the Murase Room, the galleries and art treasures including Nakashima handiwork, a Kusama first and a Munakata Shiko self-portrait on the Hudson which adorn the front office and “room of the spirits.”

At two blue-ribbon panels orchestrated by Emma and we joined an audience of ASPI Emerging Leaders in a recap of profound accomplishments for the U.S.-Japan bilateral and global partnership... as well as a look ahead at cross, tail and headwinds that likely await with the policies of the Trump Administration.

Thank you Emma and Joshua!



Registration for the 33rd National Japan Bowl ends Jan. 31 The Japan-America Society of Washington, DC (JASWDC) will host the Japan Bowl on April 4-5, 2025. [Access the competition guide and register teams >](#)

If you plan to send a winning team for a regional competition to Nationals and have not reached out to the Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASWDC) yet, please contact japanbowl@jaswdc.org. As well, JASWDC is happy to spread the word about your competitions on the [Japan Bowl website](#) and in their newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

- Feb 15: [Ohio Regional Japan Bowl](#)
- Feb 28: [Pittsburgh Speech Contest](#)
- Mar 1: [Illinois Regional Japan Bowl](#)
- March 15: [Oregon Regional Japan Bowl](#)
- March 15: [Greater Philadelphia Nihongo PhilaCon](#)
- Apr 5: [Colorado Japan Cup](#)

NAJAS MEMBER BENEFITS

Social Fitness Benefits through Grouper NAJAS members can take advantage of [our partnership with Grouper](#) to expand your membership benefits. This collaboration is designed to reward eligible participants for staying active in Society activities, ensuring they remain healthy and socially connected. Through this program, eligible participants aged 65+, enrolled in Medicare Advantage and Supplemental plans, can get paid for engaging in your Society's activities.

JASNC [has launched Grouper benefits](#) for their members.

[Member Benefits >](#)

Trouble logging in? Please contact Misha at misha@us-japan.org.



BEYOND NAJAS

Virtual Events from I-House Join the American Friends of the International House of Japan (AFIHJ) for these upcoming [online events](#)

Political Change and the Future of U.S.-Japan Relations

Thurs 1/16 @ 7:00pm EST **TODAY!**

A virtual live discussion on the future of U.S.-Japan relations during changing political situations in both countries, featuring experts from International House of Japan, the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, the Centre for the Study of Global Japan at the University of Toronto, and Stanford University. [Learn more and register >](#)

Reflections of the Founding of the International House of Japan: Insights from Rockefeller & Matsumoto for the Future

Thurs 2/6 @ 7:00pm EST

At the outset of the 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII, this discussion will focus on the documentary film *John and Shige: The Quiet Builders* (all participants will receive a link to watch the film if they wish) about the founding of the International House of Japan (IHJ) and friendship between John D. Rockefeller 3rd and Shigeharu Matsumoto. The discussion will aim to discern lessons for the future by looking into the past of these individuals and the formation of IHJ. [Learn more and register >](#)

[Learn more about AFIHJ events.](#)

Webinar - Financial Reports Challenge: Test Your Knowledge! Wed. 1/22

@ 12pm EST Join non-profit financial specialists Your Part-Time Controller to blend learning and fun in a dynamic quiz game. The game will challenge your

knowledge of nonprofit accounting principles and best practices, and provide insights and practical knowledge to supporting your reporting. Recommended for both seasoned nonprofit professionals and those newer to the space, and open to staff and Board. [Learn more and register >](#)

Applications open until Jan 19 for the U.S.-ROK-Japan Young Trilateral Leaders Summit The YTL Summit will convene 50 youth participants (age 18-35) from the three countries and the Indo-Pacific region to develop their leadership expertise. The U.S. Department of State, through the U.S. Embassies in Japan and Korea, have partnered with Temple University, Japan Campus, to host the second **summit** in Osaka, Japan in the summer of 2025. [Spread the word >](#)

For more on Trilateral Summitry, follow the [LinkedIn postings](#) of our Fellow, Yejun Bang, who joined ISC's 9th Seminar.

Save the Date: The International Symposium at Fukuoka Oct. 22-24 Our friends at the National Association of America-Japan Societies (NAAJS) will meet in Fukuoka. We were pleased to have a large contingent join us in Portland, Oregon at last year's Annual Meeting & International Symposium, including Amb. Ichiro Fujisaki.

ON THE HORIZON:

Feb 13 JASC hosts Colorado Key Industry Exploration: Aerospace (through NAJAS Japan Currents series)

Feb 15 JAS Central Ohio holds the annual Ohio Japan Bowl

Feb 21 JAS Houston presents Fueling Japan's Hydrogen Economy from Houston (through NAJAS Japan Currents series)

Feb 21 JCCA hosts Outreach event in Phoenix (through NAJAS Japan Currents series)

SAVE THE DATE:

June 3-9, 2025 JSNC hosts CIE/Manjiro Grassroots Summit in 6 Bay Area communities, during 165th Anniversary year of docking at SF Port of *The Kanrin Maru*

August 21-22, 2025 JAS Kentucky and HonCon Carpenter warmly invite NAJAS members to the **2025 NAJAS Annual Conference**

Add your events: Contact misha@us-japan.org

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