

# Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania

*August 2020 Newsletter*

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Your donation plays a key role in sustaining our Society and programs!

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## **JASP Late Summer Lecture Series**

Join the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania for a series of webinars touching on various aspects of Japanese culture. **[Registration is required.](#)** Links will be sent to registrants in advance of the event.

## **[The Influence of Japanese Ceramics](#)**

**Wednesday, August 19, 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Why have western ceramic artists continuously looked to Japan for inspiration over the past century? How has the American craft revival been influenced by traditional Japanese aesthetics and ethos? Join ceramic artist and educator Jeff Guerrero for a journey through the history of Japanese ceramics and its influences on Western art.

## **[Sake: Beyond the Basics](#)**

**Wednesday, August 26, 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Dive into the world of sake with this lecture and go beyond the basic distinction of junmai and honjozo. Deb Mortillaro, certified sake sommelier, will guide us through how five elements - the rice, the region, the water, the yeast, and the brewer - combine to create unique flavors, even within the same grade of sake. We will learn how those elements are reflected in the labels so you can become a more confident sake connoisseur. This class is a practical tasting, covering Ishioka, Mighty Peak Tokubetsu Junmai; Housui, Fragrant Water Tokubetsu Junmai; Echigo Ikarashi-Gawa, Blue River Ginjo; and Hakuyou, White Sun Junmai Ginjo.

## **[Drinking Tea in Japan](#)**

**Wednesday, September 2, 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Japanese tea drinking has been a part of Japanese culture and tradition for hundreds of years. The influence of Japanese tea has not only expanded across the globe, but it also developed into a practice with its own types of aesthetics. Join Katsuko Shellhammer for a presentation on the history and types of tea in Japan. We will also explore modern ways to drink tea and what snacks to pair with your tea time. Finally, follow along at home and learn how to make dorayaki pancakes!

This series is supported by the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia University of Pittsburgh Coordinating site.

**[Register now!](#)**

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# **August Educational Resources**



## 8月、葉月

August is the hottest month of summer in Japan, but in the old calendar, which is about a month ahead of the Gregorian calendar adopted in the Meiji era, it was already autumn. The old name for August is *hazuki*. "Ha" means leaves. It meant the month when the leaves change colors and fall off the trees.

[Obon](#)

[Yukata and Jimbei](#)

[Summer Foods](#)

[Origami: Paper Cranes](#)

[Senbazuru: Thousand Paper Cranes](#)

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# The JASP Welcomes New Members!

# ようこそ！

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**Family Members:**

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- Brent Earlwine, Missy Earlewine, & Ethan Earlewine

**Individual Members:**

- Mr. Chris Cirillo
- Mr. Dwain Pegues

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## Upcoming Webinars from the National Association of Japan-America Societies Network

**August 5, 1 PM:**

[Up-Close and Personal: Curators' Treasures](#) (The Japan Foundation of London)

**August 6, 2 PM:**

[Responses to the US COVID-19 Pandemic and Business Outlook](#) (JETRO Chicago)

**August 10, 6 PM:**

[Baseball in Japan and the US During Covid-19](#) (JAS Dallas)

**September 16, 1 PM:**

[Sustainability and Manufacturing Virtual Discussion](#) (JAS Georgia)

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## Online Resources



[Taiko Lesson: Learn Obon Festival Drumming](#)

Have you ever wanted to learn how to play *Bon Daiko* (Japanese *Obon* festival drumming)? **Isaku Kageyama**, a taiko instructor at the Los Angeles Taiko Institute, offers free *Bon Daiko* lessons on [his website](#). The first few lessons will focus on fundamentals and basic patterns, and will progress from there. You can also download music files and sheet music, and use these recordings for free at your local festival.

JETRO Resources:

[JETRO Activities Beyond COVID-19](#)

[JETRO New York Newsletter Snapshots: Summer 2020](#)

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## Virtual Japanese-English Reading Circle

The Japanese-English Reading Circle is held on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Members discuss Japanese- and English- language readings with each other as well as play vocabulary games in their second language.



### Upcoming Dates

- Saturday, August 15, 5:00-6:30 PM
- Saturday, September 5, 5:00-6:30 PM
- Saturday, September 19, 5:00-6:30 PM
- Saturday, October 3, 5:00-6:30 PM
- Saturday, October 17, 5:00-6:30 PM

Visit the [Facebook](#) group for more information.

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### Your Amazon purchases can support the JASP!

If you make an eligible purchase through [Amazon Smile](#), .05% of your purchase is donated directly to us!



The [World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh](#), a local non-profit that connects the Pittsburgh region to the rest of the world through programming for students, teachers, and the general public, wants to hear from educators and young adults (18-24) about their interests and motivations in order to inform future programming decisions. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts with the Council to help build a more globally-minded Pittsburgh, fill out this [short questionnaire](#) and you will be contacted if you are selected to participate. Selected participants will be compensated for their time with a \$25 Visa gift card. The questionnaire should last only 30-40 minutes, and the responses will remain confidential with the Third Plateau team--The Council will also never see participants' individual responses.

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## See what's trending at the JASP!

Join 1,014 people who follow the JASP on Facebook by [liking our page](#) today! Get updates on events, news, and more!

Did you know we're also [on Twitter](#)? Connect with us and stay on top of JASP news and events as they happen!

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We would like to thank our Platinum Members



**Deloitte.**



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We would like to thank our Gold Members



We would like to thank our Silver Members

Mitsubishi Electric US, Oriden, University of Pittsburgh, and Wheeling-Nippon Steel

*The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (JASP), established in 1986, is an association of individuals and corporations actively engaged in bringing the peoples of Japan and America together in understanding, appreciation and cooperation in order to promote a better relationship between the countries.*

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Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania

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