

# Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania

*July 2020 NEWSLETTER*

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At Home Educational Resources

**July 7 月 or 文月**



July in Japan is the beginning of summer. After the rainy season, it gets hot. Japanese school does not start summer vacation until July 22, Marine Day, which is the day the beaches open. The old name of the month is *fuzuki* or *fumizuki*, which means the month of literacy.

## Tanabata 七夕 Star Festival

The seventh day of the seventh month is the Tanabata festival, also called the star festival. Tanabata is the biggest festival in July.

The festival originated in China, where women wished that their weaving and sewing skills would improve with needles with five color strings.

In Japan, it was combined with the original Japanese custom, and became an official court event in the Heian Period. By the Edo period, ordinary people started celebrating the festival by putting bamboo trees on the roof with paper decorations.

Nowadays, people write a wish on long pieces of paper and hang them on to the bamboo branches along with other paper decorations. Some cities like Sendai are famous for celebrating this festival with elaborate decorations.

The story of the two stars is a love story. Orihime, a weaver (Vega) who is a daughter of the emperor of the sky, and Hikoboshi, a cow herder (Altair), were in love and got married, but they were so happy together, they forgot about their work. The emperor became enraged and separated them on each side of the milky way. They were only allowed to meet once in a year on the seventh night of the seventh month. [Watch the Tanabata story video.](#)

How to make Tanabata decorations:



[Fish net](#)



[Chain](#)



[Lantern](#)



*Tanzaku*

Cut origami or construction colored paper in a rectangle big enough to write your wish. Punch a hole on top and use string to tie them on bamboo branches.

## **Summer Vacation (夏休み, *natsu yasumi*)**

The Japanese school year starts in April and ends in March. The summer vacation is usually from July 21 until August 31. Because it is in the middle of the school year, children get homework and projects they have to work on during the vacation.

Here is an easy project often given to elementary school students. Grow a plant from a seed, like a sunflower or morning glory, and keep a plant journal to see how the plant grows every day.

### **Things you need:**

- Flower seeds
- Growing container (like a paper cup, empty can, or plastic berry container)
- Potting soil

Put soil in your container, plant a seed, water and watch it grow. If you want to try something different, cut a cherry tomato in half and plant it.

Enjoy Your Summer!



Virtually visit Pittsburgh at 9:00 a.m. EDT on Thursday, July 9 as part of the SelectUSA Virtual Tour events. Meet some of our most compelling pioneers and innovators and get a behind-the-scenes look at our burgeoning robotics and deep tech scene. Presentations include speakers from the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, the economic development affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Pittsburgh Robotics Network, and the Bosch Research and Technology Center.

[Register](#)



## **Japan and the US: Beyond the Crisis: A Discussion with Ambassador Sugiyama**

Tuesday, July 7, 5-6 PM

Join JAS NC and the NC Japan Center for an online webinar with the Ambassador of Japan, Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama, who will be speaking about the topics of COVID-19 and U.S.-JAPAN relations, and how our best pathway to a brighter future is together. English translation services will be provided for English speakers.

[\*\*Register\*\*](#)

## **UPCOMING WEBINARS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETIES NETWORK**

### **July 1, 6 PM:**

[Columbia Sportswear and the Global Pandemic](#) (JAS Oregon)

### **July 2, 8 PM:**

["Bridging the East and the West" Series, TOKI and the Art of Blending](#) (JAS Southern California)

### **July 8, 4 PM:**

[How to Start Selling Consumer Goods in Japan](#) (JAS Oregon)

### **July 9, 8 PM:**

[Virtual Sake Tasting and Lecture with John Gauntner](#) (JAS Dallas)

[Reopening for Business: Considerations as You Plan for the Transition](#) (JAS Canada)

### **July 18, 7 PM:**

[Japanese Bathhouses and Hot Springs: How to Soak Up at Home](#) (Japan Foundation New York)

**9 PM:**

[JASO Virtual Beer Garden Tour](#) (JAS Oregon)

**July 23, 8 PM:**

["Bridging the East and the West" Series, ROKU and Seasonality](#) (JAS Southern California)

**August 13, 8 PM:**

["Bridging the East and the West" Series, HAKU and Design](#) (JAS Southern California)

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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, July 11, 5:00-6:30 PM
- Saturday, July 18, 5:00-6:30 PM
- Saturday, August 1, 5:00-6:30 PM
- Saturday, August 15, 5:00-6:30 PM

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

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



# THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

We would like to thank our Platinum Members



We would like to thank our Gold Members



MEYER UNKOVIC SCOTT  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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.*

Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania

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