



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

Annual Program Report 2015 58th Anniversary Year

The Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW) presented a wide variety of programs in 2015 with topics ranging from current events, economics & policy to culture, public affairs and education. In addition to these monthly programs, JASW organized two signature events with a nationwide scope: **The National Japan Bowl**®, a competition for high school students studying Japanese language and culture, and **Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival**, a one-day street festival exhibiting Japanese culture which attracted over **45,000 people in 2015**. During the National Cherry Blossom Festival, JASW introduced a new program highlighting different genres of Japanese cinema, called **CineMatsuri**. Through programs such as these, the Society continues to carry out its mission of promoting US-Japan relations in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

CORPORATE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

January

Japan in 2015: A Look at the Year Ahead

April

American Chamber of Commerce in Japan Morning Meeting
A National Poetry Month Program: Haiku

June

US-Japan Networking Night at Foley & Lardner LLP
Yuki's Journey: A Fundraiser for the
Taylor Anderson Memorial Fund

July

US-Japan Networking Night - Tanabata
Izakaya Pub Quiz Night

September

US-Japan Networking Night with Japan Global Initiative

October

US-Japan Networking Night with JETAA-DC
US-Japan Networking Night - Halloween
Brown Bag Talk: Change the World with Onigiri
TOP New York - Job Seminar

November

Symposium on Improving Women & Men's Work Environment in
Japanese Society - Work-Life Balance in Japan at JICC
Potential Flashpoints for the Northeast Asia Region: Japan, China, and
US Perspectives (JUMP Event)

December

29th Annual Dinner & Silent Auction
with Guest Speaker Congressman Joaquin Castro
US-Japan Networking Night: Bonenkai - End of the Year Party

CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

January

Seijinshiki Photo Shoot

February

Setsubun Networking Night at Zentan Restaurant
Japanese Sweets: Wagashi Making Workshop

March

Hina Matsuri (Girl's Day) Photo Shoot
CineMatsuri - Japanese Film Festival

April

23rd Annual National Japan Bowl
55th Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival

May

Asia Heritage Festival - Fiesta Asia Street Festival (Booth)

June

Japanese Green Tea Class

July

Ekoji Obon Festival (Booth)

September

Cross-Cultural Communication: Japan, China & Kenya
Seasonality in English Haiku
Otsukimi: Moon Viewing at Ekoji Buddhist Temple

November

Cherry Tree Planting at Capitol Heights Elementary School (MD)
Shichigosan Photo Shoot

JASW's Signature Programs

23rd National Japan Bowl®

Created by JASW in 1992, the Japan Bowl is an academic competition that tests the achievements of high school students throughout the United States who are studying the Japanese language. However, Japan Bowl goes beyond language by also testing the student's knowledge of Japanese culture.

23rd National Japan Bowl Facts:

- ☆ **185 students, 67 teams** competed at the National Japan Bowl
- ☆ **Level 4 Champions** visited Japan thanks to the **Mazda Foundation**
- ☆ **21 students** traveled to Japan as part of the **Kakehashi Project**, supported by the Japanese government
- ☆ Japanese performers and artists who joined the National Japan Bowl: **Tamagawa University Dance & Taiko Group**, professional Shogi player **Madoka Kitao**, Kyogi Karuta professional **Mutsumi Stone**, and J-Pop band **HIDEKING project**.



Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy in Tokyo
2015 National Japan Bowl, Kakehashi Project and Mazda Foundation participants meeting with Ambassador Caroline Kennedy



Photo by Alan Jean Philippe

Children's Corner Stage, sponsored by Astellas US LLC at the 55th Annual Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival

55th Annual Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival

First held in 1961, the Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival is now the largest one-day exhibition of Japanese culture in the United States. The Sakura Matsuri is a family-friendly festival. There are over 15 vendors of Japanese food, two beer gardens, 30 exhibitors of Japanese arts and culture, 15 vendors of Japanese products, and over 30 hours of live performances on five stages, including traditional and popular Japanese music and dance and martial arts demonstrations.

2015 Sakura Matsuri Facts:

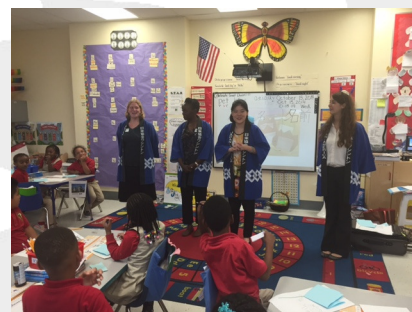
- ☼ Over **45,000** attendees - JASW's largest outreach program!
- ☼ **Celebrity Chef Tatsuo Saito** demonstrated Japanese cooking at the **Culinary Arts Pavilion**
- ☼ **Highlights:** Sakura Science, Doraemon, NHK's Domo-kun, Hakutsuru Sake Tasting, Kirin Beer Gardens, JR Central, Japan WOW! Pavilion, and 6 stages .

Japan-in-a-Suitcase (JiS)

One of the JASW's most important missions is to reach out to the next generation of young Americans and interest them in Japan and the world beyond our shores. We strive to promote this intercultural understanding through our "Japan-in-a-Suitcase" program. **JiS** is a **free program** which packs a little bit of Japan in a suitcase and brings it to area children at schools, libraries and festivals. This program promotes understanding of Japan and Japanese culture to school children in Grades 3 and up through hands-on activities, games and demonstrations.

2015 Japan-in-a-Suitcase Facts:

- 📖 JASW has visited 40 elementary schools, libraries, camps and festivals
- 📖 We have reached out to over 2450 children through JiS in 2015
- 📖 90 JiS volunteers have helped us strengthen the program



JiS Staff and Volunteers visit Temple Reid Christian Academy in fall 2015.



Ohanashikai volunteers and staff celebrating Otsukimi (Moon Viewing) for Ohanashikai children.

Ongoing Programs

JASW strives to bring meaningful programs to the **Greater Washington DC** area. We have many programs that are weekly or monthly.

- ☼ Japanese Language School
- ☼ English Language School
- ☼ Ohanashikai - Japanese Story Time
- ☼ Yoga in Japanese
- ☼ Shodo Classes
- ☼ Tanaka & Green Academic Scholarship
- ☼ Networking Lunch in Japanese
- ☼ Poli-Sci & Economics in Japanese
- ☼ Japanese - English Toastmasters
- ☼ J-Book Club
- ☼ Monthly Kanzashi Workshops
- ☼ Monthly Kimono Workshop
- ☼ Cooking Classes