



THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC

Annual Program Report 2017 *60th Anniversary Year*

The Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASWDC) presented a wide variety of programs in 2017 with topics ranging from current events, economics & policy to culture, public affairs and education. In addition to these monthly programs, JASWDC 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 that attracted over **25,000 people in 2017**. During the National Cherry Blossom Festival, JASWDC once again highlighted different genres of Japanese cinema by holding **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 2017: A Look at the Year Ahead

March

Political Science & Economics in Japanese

June

Living in the USA: ワークショップ第一回 (Taxes)

Networking Night in Tokyo

Living in the USA: ワークショップ第二回 (Cherry Blossom History)

July

US-Japan Networking Night - Tanabata

August

Japan 360°: Intersecting Money & Space: Japanese Space Cooperation from Commercial Perspective

September

US-Japan Networking Night with Japan Global Initiative (JGI)

DC Roundtable with Japan Global Initiative (JGI) Program

Living in the USA: 第三回 アメリカの教育制度 (The American Educational System)

October

JASWDC - JETAADC Networking Night

November

60th Anniversary Celebration Dinner & Silent Auction

Potential Flashpoints for the Northeast Asia Region: Japan, China, The Korean Peninsula, and US Perspectives (*JUMP* Event)

Living in the USA: ワークショップ第三回 (US Visas)

CULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

January

Seijinshiki Photo Shoot
Shougatsu-kazari Making Workshop

February

Japan 360°: Matsukawayaya Sweets
JASWDC 60th Anniversary Celebration
JASWDC @ Katsucon

March

Tidal Basin Cleanup
CineMatsuri - Japanese Film Festival
Meet Netsuke! Storytellers of Japan @ JICC

April

25th Annual National Japan Bowl
57th Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival
Meet Netsuke! JASWDC Member's Tour @ JICC

May

Cherry Tree Planting @ Amidon Bowen Elementary School
Inventing Utamaro: JASWDC Member's Tour @ Sackler
Azalea Planting with JIS @ National Presbyterian School

July

Ekoji Obon Festival (Booth)
Izakaya Pub Quiz Night
Tanabata: Japanese Star Festival @ Hillwood Museum

August

JASWDC @ Otakon
US-Japan Baseball Night @ Nationals Park

September

Japan 360°: A Discussion with Author Karin Tanabe on The Diplomat's Daughter

October

JASWDC @ IlluminAsia at Freer | Sackler

JASWDC's Signature Programs Highlights

25th National Japan Bowl®

Created by JASWDC in 1992, the Japan Bowl is an academic competition that tests 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.

25th National Japan Bowl Facts:

- ☆ **170 students, 57 teams, and 28 schools** competed at the National Japan Bowl
- ☆ **Level 4 Champions** visited Japan thanks to the **Mazda Foundation**
- ☆ **24 students** traveled to Japan as part of the **Kakehashi Project**, supported by the Japanese government
- ☆ Champions from the 2016 Mexico Japan Bowl who attend Liceo Mexicano Japonés, A.C.
- ☆ Japanese performers and artists who joined the National Japan Bowl: **Tamagawa University Dance & Taiko Group**, wagashi demonstration by **Matsukawaya**,



2017 National Japan Bowl Final Round



57th Annual Sakura Matsuri

57th 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 multiple stages, including traditional and popular Japanese music and dance and martial arts demonstrations.

2017 Sakura Matsuri Facts:

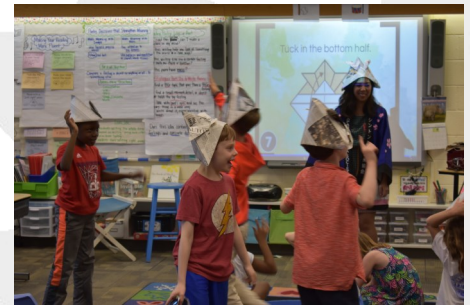
- ☼ Over **25,000** attendees at the **new Capitol Riverfront location** - JASWDC's largest outreach program!
- ☼ Performances by **Jr. EXILE**, **Mizmo**, and **Kana Uemura**, famous for her *Toire no Kamisama* hit

Japan-in-a-Suitcase (JiS)

One of the JASWDC'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 DC-area children at schools, libraries and festivals. This program promotes an understanding of Japan and Japanese culture to school children in Grades 3 and up through hands-on activities, games and demonstrations.

2017 Japan-in-a-Suitcase Facts:

- 📖 JASWDC visited 27 elementary schools, libraries, camps and festivals
- 📖 We reached out to over 900 children through JiS in 2017



JiS Visit



Ohanashikai volunteers and staff celebrating Halloween.

Ongoing Programs

JASWDC 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 Scholarships
- ☞ Networking Lunch in Japanese
- ☞ Poli-Sci & Economics in Japanese
- ☞ Japanese-English Toastmasters
- ☞ J-Book Club
- ☞ Monthly Kimono Workshop
- ☞ Cooking Classes