JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC'S

36TH US-JAPAN CAPITAL GALA

PROGRAM
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at their 36th U.S.-Japan Capital Gala
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PROGRAM

Thursday, October 13, 6-9:30PM ET

6:00  Silent Auction & Reception Begin

7:00  Call to Dinner

7:30  Opening Remarks
     Mr. Ryan Shaffer, Japan-America Society of Washington DC

    Opening Remarks
    His Excellency Tomita Koji, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
    of Japan to the United States of America

    US-Japan Capital Gala Chair’s Greeting
    Mr. Randy Yoshimura, Sumitomo Corporation of Americas
    Ms. Emma Chanlett Avery, Congressional Research Service

    Opening Toast
    Ms. Wendy Cutler, Asia Society Policy Institute
    Mr. Charles D. Lake II, Aflac Life Insurance Japan Ltd., Aflac International
    Dr. Endo Nobuhiro, NEC, Keidanren

    Dinner Served

    JASWDC Chairman’s Remarks
    Ambassador James P. Zumwalt, Japan-America Society of Washington DC

    Presentation of the John & Hiroko Malott Leadership Award
    Ambassador John Malott, Japan-America Society of Washington DC
    Dr. Yoshiko Mori, MAATJ
    Ms. Kyoko Vaughan, MAATJ
    Ms. Reiko Hirai, D.C. Sake Co, JCAW

    Presentation of the Marshall Green Award
    Ambassador James P. Zumwalt
    The Honorable Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and
    Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs, National Security Council

    Closing Toast
    The Honorable Kurt Campbell
    Ambassador Tomita Koji

9:00  Silent Auction Closes

9:30  Gala Concludes
PARTICIPATING IN THE SILENT AUCTION

Join the Silent Auction tonight for your chance to win some amazing items for your home, fine dining and travel experiences, world-class sake, and more!

The Auction will close at 9:00 PM tonight unless otherwise announced. Scan the QR code below to join.

NEED ANY ASSISTANCE WITH BIDDING? PLEASE ASK A JASWDC TEAM MEMBER!
THE SPIRIT OF JAPAN

Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas) proudly supports the Japan-America Society of Washington DC's US-Japan Capital Gala.

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MCAGP is a social contribution activity aimed at helping to develop the careers of aspiring artists. www.mcagp.com

Thinking of one, of all. Mitsubishi Corporation (Americas)
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the Japan-America Society of Washington DC’s 36th annual US-Japan Capital Gala.

This remarkable event gathers leaders from the National Capital Region’s policy, business, and civil society communities, in celebration of the relationship between the United States and Japan. We are fortunate, this year, to have with us many visiting business leaders from outside of our community. Therefore, we would like to use this year’s Gala to highlight the important role that the private sector plays within the civil society fabric of the US-Japan relationship. Japanese and American businesses provide services, products, and investments that enrich each other’s communities, bring us closer together, and contribute to our two countries’ global leadership for a free and open society. It is a pleasure to welcome these friends and colleagues to join us in the National Capital Region’s annual celebration of the US-Japan relationship.

Until 2020, the Gala had been a normal part of our annual routine. Now that we have all been reminded how precious normal is, we are pleased to share that JASWDC is preparing for a spectacularly normal year ahead. Our 31st National Japan Bowl will convene high school students from around the country—in person for the first time in three years—for America’s national Japanese language championships. With Japan’s borders opening to travelers, our Tanaka and Green Scholarship program is supporting study-abroad opportunities in Japan for seven college students from our region. We are busy planning our fall and winter JASWDC member celebrations, and we are making exciting upgrades to our largest-in-the-region Japanese Language School. Finally, we are actively recruiting community volunteers to help us prepare for the 61st Sakura Matsuri-Japanese Street Festival on April 15-16, 2023—this event is proud to participate in the National Cherry Blossom Festival as a Premier Event, and it is considered one of the most significant Japanese cultural events anywhere outside of Japan.

The US-Japan Capital Gala is essential to JASWDC’s ability to operate these important programs in support of the civil society that serves as the bedrock of the US-Japan relationship. Your presence here tonight, your ticket purchases, and your bids in the silent auction, all directly support these activities, and we are grateful to you for your generosity.

We look forward to eating, drinking, and conversing with you tonight, during what we hope is a spectacular, and spectacularly normal, evening. Thanks, as always, to our community for your support, your collaboration, and your shared advocacy and enthusiasm for the relationship between the United States and Japan.

MARIE KISSEL
VP, GLOBAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
ABBOTT

RANDY YOSHIMURA
SVP & WASHINGTON OFFICE GENERAL MANAGER
SUMITOMO CORPORATION OF AMERICAS
Most recently, he served as Japan’s Ambassador to Korea, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Personal Representative for the G20 Summit in Osaka, and Ambassador to Israel. His other overseas postings have included London and Paris.

Apart from his overseas duties, his primary professional focus has been on security policy, having been actively involved in the policy and legislative reviews that the Japanese Government undertook in the area in recent years, including Japan’s Legislation for Peace and Security, which has increased Japan’s deterrence.

His relationship with the United States began when he studied in North Carolina for a year in college. Since he entered MOFA, he has also held leadership positions in US-Japan relations, including Director-General of MOFA’s North American Affairs Bureau and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC. In these capacities, he led the Japanese efforts to strengthen the Japan-US alliance and to promote mutual understanding between the two nations. He was also responsible for preparing Prime Minister Abe’s highly successful official visit to the United States in 2015.

Ambassador Tomita writes in his spare time and has published two books (in Japanese): Churchill: Leadership in Crisis and Margaret Thatcher: Iron Lady Who Changed Politics. The latter won the Yamamoto Shichihei Award.

Ambassador Tomita graduated from the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Law and joined Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1981. He is married to Noriko, and they have two daughters and a son.
Ryan Shaffer serves as President of Japan America Society of Washington DC, where he oversees a series of national and local programs in support of US-Japan civil society ties. He previously served as Director of Programs and Development at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation, where he was the founding director of the U.S.-Japan Space Forum and the U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group, among other US-Asia policy projects.

Mr. Shaffer has an MSc in Asian politics from the University of London’s School of Oriental and African Studies and a BS in environmental policy from Bates College. Mr. Shaffer, who splits his time between Portland, Maine and the District of Columbia, serves on the Boards of Directors of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the Western Pacific Fellowship Project.

Since joining Sumitomo in 1987, Ryota Yoshimura worked in the aerospace & defense business area for the first twenty years of his professional career. During this time, he was responsible for marketing, business development, project management, and contracting with Japan’s Ministry of Defense and the defense industry. He was posted at SCOA’s New York Office from 1994 to 2000 in this capacity.

On April 1, 2020, Mr. Yoshimura was appointed SVP & GM of Sumitomo Corporation of Americas (SCOA) Washington Office for the second time.

Mr. Yoshimura is a graduate of University of Tokyo, with a BA in liberal arts, majoring in human geography and sub-majoring in American studies. During his childhood, he lived in New York (1968-1971) as well as in Washington DC (1974-1977) with his family.
Emma Chanlett-Avery is a Specialist in Asian Affairs at the Congressional Research Service. She focuses on U.S. relations with Japan, the Korean Peninsula, Thailand, and Singapore, with an emphasis on security issues and alliances. Ms. Chanlett-Avery joined CRS in 2003 through the Presidential Management Fellowship, with rotations in the State Department on the Korea Desk and at the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group in Bangkok, Thailand.

She also worked in the Office of Policy Planning as a Harold Rosenthal Fellow. She is Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the National Association of Japan America Societies, a member of the Mansfield Foundation U.S.-Japan Network for the Future, a Mansfield-Luce Asia Network Scholar, Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Japan America Society of Washington, and the 2016 recipient of the Kato Prize. Ms. Chanlett-Avery received an MA in international security policy from the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University and her BA in Russian studies from Amherst College.
CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVE DIRECTOR, AFLAC LIFE INSURANCE JAPAN LTD.  
PRESIDENT, AFLAC INTERNATIONAL

Charles Lake is Chairman and Representative Director of Aflac Life Insurance Japan Ltd. and President of Aflac International. As Chairman of Aflac Japan’s Board of Directors, Lake is responsible for global group governance oversight of Aflac’s business operations in Japan. In 2021, Aflac Japan generated approximately $15 billion in total revenue with over 23 million policies in force and approximately $129 billion in total assets.

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In 2018, Lake was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by the Emperor of Japan for his contributions to development of Japan’s insurance and financial services industries and strengthening U.S.-Japan economic relations.

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SPEAKER  
WENDY CUTLER

Wendy Cutler is Vice President at the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) and the managing director of the Washington, D.C. office. In these roles, she focuses on leading initiatives that address challenges related to trade, investment, and innovation, as well as women’s empowerment in Asia. She joined ASPI following an illustrious career of nearly three decades as a diplomat and negotiator in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), where she also served as Acting Deputy U.S. Trade Representative.

During her USTR career, she worked on a range of bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade negotiations and initiatives, including the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, U.S.-China negotiations, and the WTO Financial Services negotiations. She has published a series of ASPI papers on the Asian trade landscape and serves as a regular media commentator on trade and investment developments in Asia and the world.

SPEAKER  
CHARLES D. LAKE II

Charles Lake is Chairman and Representative Director of Aflac Life Insurance Japan Ltd. and President of Aflac International. As Chairman of Aflac Japan’s Board of Directors, Lake is responsible for global group governance oversight of Aflac’s business operations in Japan. In 2021, Aflac Japan generated approximately $15 billion in total revenue with over 23 million policies in force and approximately $129 billion in total assets.

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In 2018, Lake was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by the Emperor of Japan for his contributions to development of Japan’s insurance and financial services industries and strengthening U.S.-Japan economic relations.
Over the next two decades, he engaged in the development of wireless Communication systems for satellite communication systems and mobile phone base stations. In 2003, Dr. Endo played a leading role in the "PASOLINK" business, which eventually captured the NO.1 global market share* for ultra-compact microwave communications systems, by leveraging growth in emerging countries.

Throughout his career, Dr. Endo has focused on driving innovation through advanced technologies for customers worldwide and building strong relationships with a diverse range of customers both in and outside Japan. Dr. Endo is known for his broad international perspectives gained through extensive experience in the global market and time spent living abroad.

In February 2019, Dr. Endo was appointed by Prime Minister Abe as one of three business people to represent Japan on the Asia Business Advisory council (ABAC), an adjunct to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

In June 2022, Keidanren (Japan Business Federation) appointed Dr. Endo as a Vice-Chair.

* sky light Research/ 2007-2009

Japan-America Society of Washington DC thanks the Embassy of Japan in Washington DC for its continued support
TOYOTA CELEBRATES
The 36th US•Japan Capital Gala

TOYOTA
Honors the 2022 Marshall Green Award recipient,

**The Honorable Kurt Campbell**

the John & Hiroko Malott Leadership Award recipients,

**Ms. Reiko Hirai** and **MAATJ**,  
this year's special guests,  
**H.E. Tomita Koji, Dr. Endo Nobuhiro**, and **Mr. Charles Lake**,  
and congratulates the Japan-America Society of Washington DC  
on the 36th US-Japan Capital Gala

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**Building a Better Tomorrow**

The Marubeni Group aims to be a corporate group that contributes to economic and social development, as well as to the conservation of the global environment, by providing proactive solutions that anticipate the needs of the environment and society.
Ambassador James Zumwalt serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. Previously, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA from February 2017 until his retirement from the position in August of 2019. Prior to that role, Ambassador Zumwalt was the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal and the Republic of Guinea Bissau from 2015 to January 2017.

Previously he was responsible for policy toward Japan and Korea as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of East Asia Affairs.

When the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami struck Japan in 2011, Ambassador Zumwalt was serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, where he coordinated the United States’ support for the Japanese Government’s response to that crisis.

During his 36-year Foreign Service career, Ambassador Zumwalt has served in a variety of assignments with a focus on Asia and international economics in Washington, Tokyo, Beijing, Kinshasa, Dakar, and Bissau. In Washington, D.C., Ambassador Zumwalt worked in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs and also at the United States Trade Representative’s Office. He also worked in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Japan, Korea, and Philippine desks. Jim speaks Japanese and French and some Chinese.

Ambassador Zumwalt received a master’s degree in International Security Studies from the National War College in 1998 and a Bachelor of Arts in American History and also in Japanese Language from the University of California at Berkeley in 1979. He is from El Cajon, California and is married to Ann Kambara, a retired Foreign Service Officer who is now pursuing a second career in Social Work.
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Marshall Green was one of America’s most distinguished diplomats. His adventurous diplomatic career began as private secretary to Ambassador Joseph Grew in Tokyo 1939-41. During World War II he trained as a US Navy Japanese language officer. His career included service as Special Assistant to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles; Charge d’Affaires in Seoul during the 1960 uprising against President Sygman Rhee; and Ambassador in Indonesia during the 1965 overthrow of Sukarno. He was Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian Affairs during the Nixon Administration, a historic and tumultuous time that included the Vietnam War, the opening to China, and the reversion of Okinawa to Japan.

Marshall Green was one of the founders of JASWDC in 1957; in fact, it is his signature on the Articles of Incorporation. In 1983, he became the Society’s President and later its Chairman, leading its transformation from an all-volunteer to a professional organization. He was a passionate believer in educational outreach to local schools. He and his wife Lispenard endowed the Society’s educational fund, which over the past three decades has introduced new generations of Americans to Japan and the world.
Each year the Japan-America Society of Washington DC celebrates an individual or a group that has made a sustained and significant contribution to strengthening relations between the United States and Japan and to increasing understanding between the American and Japanese peoples. The Japan-America Society of Washington DC is honored to present the 2022 Marshall Green Award to Dr. Kurt Campbell.

Dr. Campbell has been and continues to be one of our country’s most effective champions of strengthening the United States-Japan relationship. In fact, it is difficult to find any other individual today who has played a larger role in shaping our partnership with Japan. Since 2021, Dr. Campbell has served as Coordinator for Indo-Pacific Affairs in the National Security Council (NSC), where he advises President Biden on formulation and implementation of United States policy in Asia. Dr. Campbell is the architect of the Biden Administration’s policy of strengthening America’s security alliances in Asia; elevating and enhancing policy coordination among the Quad grouping of Indo-Pacific democracies; promoting deeper cooperation among like-minded partners in the Pacific Islands region, and launching the historic AUKUS partnership with Australia and the United Kingdom.

Previously Dr. Campbell served in senior leadership positions in the State and Defense Departments. As Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific, he was an effective steward of the U.S.-Japan alliance at a challenging time and worked to deepen our cooperation during a period of increasing tension with China in the East China Sea. Dr. Campbell is the author or editor of ten books, which have influenced and guided the thinking of many guests of tonight’s dinner.

Finally, Dr. Campbell’s willingness to share his time and expertise with organizations such as the Japan-America Society of Washington DC truly amplifies the effectiveness of our Society’s efforts to promote U.S.-Japan ties across the country. This year the Japan America Society of Washington DC is honored to recognize Kurt Campbell for his lifetime contributions to the United States-Japan relationship.
JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON DC PRESENTS

SAKURA MATSURI
JAPANESE STREET FESTIVAL

APRIL 15-16 2023
The John and Hiroko Malott Leadership Award is presented annually by the Japan-America Society of Washington DC to an individual or a group that is making a significant contribution to the future of US-Japan relations by increasing mutual understanding and cooperation between the next generation of Americans and Japanese. The Society is honored to recognize the recipients and is confident that their efforts will continue to enhance our relationship in the years to come.

Ambassador John R. Malott’s career in the US Foreign Service focused on Asia. He served as Ambassador to Malaysia; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia; and Consul General in Osaka, among other positions. He later served for twelve years as President of the Japan-America Society of Washington DC. In 2017 the Emperor of Japan awarded Amb. Malott the Order of the Rising Sun for his many contributions to US-Japan relations for almost five decades. Hiroko Iwami Malott, who passed away in 2012, was passionate about encouraging and supporting younger Japanese women to achieve what her generation could not. Together, John and Hiroko worked to encourage the “next generation” of Americans and Japanese to treasure and advance the relationship between our two great countries, just as they had.
The Mid-Atlantic Association of Teachers of Japanese (MAATJ) is one of the most active organizations for Japanese language teachers in the United States. Its over 100 members teach Japanese at all levels, from elementary school through university in Washington, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and the Carolinas. It works actively to help teachers in our region share their experience and best practices with each other to strengthen the teaching of Japanese language and culture for the next generation.

MAATJ representatives participate regularly in roundtable discussions with the Embassy of Japan, providing the Japanese Government with a practical and experienced voice to understand and appreciate the situation of Japanese language education in America. To date, it has produced two key reports: a guide to becoming a Japanese language teacher in DC, Maryland, and Virginia; and a survey of career opportunities for young people who speak Japanese.

MAATJ is the leading support base for the Junior Japan Bowl, which in just five years has become a national competition for elementary and middle school students, attracting over 300 students from coast to coast. Its members also are key supporters of the National Japan Bowl; J-LIVE Talk, the university-level speech competition held each year at George Washington University; J-LEARN, a Japanese language advocacy organization; and Kizuna Across Cultures, the virtual high student exchange program that was the recipient of the first John and Hiroko Malott Leadership Award.
Born in Kyoto, Reiko Hirai has been an active and key player in bringing the younger generation of Americans and Japanese together for over two decades. No matter where you look, Ms. Hirai has been there. She has been the Director of JASWDC’s Sakura Matsuri and the Japan Commerce Association’s annual New Year’s Festival. She has promoted greater understanding and communication between the National Cherry Blossom Festival and the Japanese business community. She has introduced Japanese cuisine to the Washington area through her work with the Japanese Embassy and now through her own company, DC Sake co.

She has served as administrative director for the Japan Commerce Association and its Foundation, which have provided important support for Japanese language education in our area. She has numerous special connections to Japanese performers, musicians, and artists. She seems to know everyone, from the Japanese ballerinas in the Washington Ballet Company to the cheerleaders for the Washington Redskins and Commanders. Reiko Hirai is a great and very creative “connector,” who joyfully shares her connections and cross-cultural knowledge and advice with everyone.

THE MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD FOUNDATION

Honors the 2022 Marshall Green Award recipient, The Honorable Kurt Campbell
the John & Hiroko Malott Leadership Award recipients, Ms. Reiko Hirai and MAATJ,
this year's special guests, H.E. Tomita Koji, Dr. Endo Nobuhiro, and Mr. Charles Lake,
and congratulates the Japan-America Society of Washington DC on the 36th US-Japan Capital Gala
Japan-America Society of Washington DC mourns the passing of our dear friend and the man who served as our Honorary Chairman since 2008, The Honorable Norman Yoshio Mineta. He left us on Tuesday, May 3 at the age of 90.

Everyone who knew him called him “Norm,” because he was one of the kindest and most approachable political leaders anyone could know. Norm was a pioneer, not only for the Japanese-American community in our Nation, but for all Asian-Americans.

After World War II began, Norm was taken away from his childhood home in San Jose, California — at the age of ten — and placed behind barbed wire in an internment camp in Wyoming. His beloved baseball bat was confiscated by the US Army, which said it could be used as a weapon.

Yet Norm never lost faith in his country. After graduating from college at UC Berkeley, he served in the United States Army in both Japan and Korea. In 1971 he defeated 14 other candidates to become the Mayor of San Jose, the first Asian-American ever chosen as the mayor of a major city in Mainland America. He repeated that feat three years later when he became the first US Congressman elected from the continental US. He set even more “first’s” years later when President Bill Clinton named him Secretary of Commerce, and President George W Bush named him Secretary of Transportation. He was the first Asian-American to serve in a President’s Cabinet. As Secretary of Transportation, he ordered all civilian aircraft grounded after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. He would become a primary architect of the Transportation Security Administration before the TSA was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security.

Norm was a strong and devoted supporter of Japan-America Society of Washington DC, and a regular participant in our activities. The man whose baseball bat was taken from him as a child got a special kick out of calling “Play Ball!” before our annual outing at Nationals Park. He regaled young students at our National Japan Bowl with tales of his own effort to learn Japanese at “Saturday school.” But most of all, he loved coming to our annual gala dinners with his wonderful wife Deni and saying hello to everyone, and offering the “kampai.”

Norm, we will miss you. We appreciate your support of our Society these many years, but most of all we will miss your presence and the warmth and friendship you showed to all our members. We extend our love and sympathy to your wife Deni and the members of your family.
Japan-America Society of Washington DC mourns the passing of Kunihiko Saito, Japan’s ambassador to the United States from 1995-1999. Ambassador Saito was a soft-spoken but strong supporter of the U.S.-Japan alliance, and he worked diligently in support of it. He was also a strong and early supporter of the Society’s National Japan Bowl Japanese language competition, which has become an important tool for motivating Japanese language study at the high school level across our country.

Ambassador Saito and his wife Akiko were patrons of classical music, and Ambassador Saito was himself an accomplished pianist. We fondly recall classical music performances at the Ambassador’s residence in Washington, during which Ambassador Saito would sit in and perform alongside the professional artists.

He was a good friend, and he will be missed.
HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP Fundraiser

Since 2014, JASWDC has been proud to award its Tanaka & Green scholarships to support academic study in Japan for college level students from our region. In 2021, we inaugurated a new scholarship that is designed to send a high school student from our community to Japan for up to a full-year of academic study. This scholarship, targeted at a student who helps exemplify the rich diversity of our country, aims to open a door to a young member of our community that will change their life forever.

We are grateful to several generous donors who have provided seed money to inaugurate this scholarship, and we look forward to working with our community to sustain the effort into the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A DONATION
Email Elece Smith
esmith@jaswdc.org

2022-2023 TANAKA & GREEN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In 2014 JASWDC established the Tanaka and Green Academic Scholarships to support short-term academic study (one semester or one academic year) at colleges and universities in Japan. The scholarships are made possible thanks to the Society’s H. William and Lily Tanaka Scholarship Endowment and the Marshal and Lispenard Green Educational Endowment.

Congratulations to our 2022-23 T&G Scholarship recipients!

Mariana Salas – American University (Ritsumeikan University)
Adriel Perez – Georgetown University (Keio University)
Kai Thompson – Drexel University (Sophia University)
Rebekah Blume – University of Maryland (Waseda University)
Benjamin Wolstein – Columbia University (Doshisha University)
Charity McLaughlin – Temple University (Temple Japan)
Kaitlyn Yuan – George Washington University (Akita International University)
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The Japan-America Society of Washington DC is proud to partner with the following community partners to present this year's JASWDC US-Japan Capital Gala

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ABOUT JASWDC

From our local schools to our top political leaders, we support the US-Japan relationship through programs and partnerships that unite Americans around a shared interest in Japan’s vibrant culture.

**Government Affairs**
The Society's Corporate Membership Program and many annual networking events connect our members to senior officials of the US and Japanese Governments and leaders of top American and Japanese businesses.

**Sakura Matsuri**
The Society's Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival is the largest celebration of Japanese culture in the nation. Held each April as a premier event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, it stretches for six blocks through downtown Washington.

**JASWDC's US-Japan Capital Gala**
Our annual Gala serves as the foremost celebration of the US-Japan relationship in the Nation's Capital Region, bringing together over 200 of the region's top political, business, and academic leaders.

**Japan Bowl®**
Our National Japan Bowl is America's premier Japanese-language competition, generating excitement for Japanese language study among students and teachers alike. It is a critical piece of America's "pipeline" for future Japan talent.

**Cultural Affairs**
The Society brings all forms of Japanese culture to Washington DC audiences. Our programs bring a range of cultural activities-- from traditions such as haiku, samurai films, sake brewing, and otsukimi (moon viewing), to manga, cosplay, architecture, and contemporary culinary arts.

**Educational Outreach**
One of the Society’s most vital tasks is to engage the next generation of Americans by introducing them to Japanese language & culture. In addition to the Society’s academic scholarships and our celebrated Japanese Language School, the Japan-in-a-Suitcase program introduces local students to life in Japan through hands on activities and presentations.
SAFETY CHECKLIST

- Staff
  - Ryan Shaffer, President
  - Saori Kobayashi, Director of Programs & Language School
  - Olivia Kent, Communications Director
  - Mari Fromel, Administrative & Program Manager
  - Elece Smith, Japan Bowl & Scholarships Director
  - Jessica Webster, Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival Director
  - Emily Johnson, Program Assistant
  - Colette Fozard, Sakura Matsuri Festival Operations Manager

- Volunteers

  The Japan-America Society of Washington DC relies on the generous support of over 700 volunteers to run its programs and events each year.

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Thank you for joining us in this year's celebration.

US-Japan Capital Gala Director
Olivia Kent

Silent Auction Director
Jessica Webster

www.jaswdc.org