



# J A S G

THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA

## FALL/WINTER

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### **ANNUAL BONENKAI GALA TO BE VIRTUAL IN 2020**

On December 17, JASG will host a virtual Bonenkai from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm on Zoom. This year participants will wine and dine from the safety and comfort of their own homes as they listen to special messages from the Consul General of Japan as well business leaders from both Georgia and Japan. There will also be performances by Senri Oe, Bachido Shamisen and Junko Fujiyama, virtual networking breakouts, and holiday trivia and games. And what would a Bonenkai be without a silent auction fundraiser! An exclusive announcement for 2021 will be made so don't miss it.

For Japanese restaurant recommendations from JASG members, please go to: [www.JASGeorgia.org/resources/Programs-Events/JASG%20Restaurant%20Recommendations.pdf](http://www.JASGeorgia.org/resources/Programs-Events/JASG%20Restaurant%20Recommendations.pdf).

Please go to [bit.ly/JASGBonenkai2020](http://bit.ly/JASGBonenkai2020) to register for the Bonenkai.



### **Georgia Announces New Managing Director for Georgia Economic Development Office in Tokyo**



After 31 years as Managing Director of the Georgia Tokyo Office, Yumiko Nakazono will retire at the end of February. Yumiko served under six Georgia governors over 30 years and was instrumental in Japan catapulting to the top foreign investor in Georgia. Japanese affiliates in Georgia employ over 35,000 Georgians and Georgia exports to Japan total \$1.48 billion. In 2007, Yumiko was presented with the George Busbee Award, which recognizes an individual who has contributed toward building strong relationships between Georgia and Japan.

On March 1, GDEcD Senior Project Manager, and JASG Board member, Joseph Huntemann, will take her place in Tokyo. A graduate of Georgia Tech, Joseph has served in the GDEcD's Global Commerce Division for eight years. He previously worked at the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta and is fluent in Japanese. For more, visit [Georgia.org](http://Georgia.org).



## Message from the Chair



**Al Hodge, JASG Chair**

President & CEO  
Hodge Consulting Services

During this time of transition with Prime Minister Suga in Japan and the President-Elect Biden in the U.S., the mutual interests of trade, investment and defense are all in focus. Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Shinsuke Sugiyama has reaffirmed strong relations continues.

Another transition is happening that also affects Japanese and Georgians: the Department of Economic Development has announced that the Managing Director in is retiring. Yumiko Nakazono, our friend for decades, has led efforts on behalf of our state, has professionally marketed our state resulting in dozens of solid decisions to invest in Georgia and for Georgia based businesses to invest in Japan. Her list of accomplishments is very long, including her additional work for the Southeast US- Japan Association. We will miss her but look forward to staying in touch.

We are happy that JASG Board of Directors Member Joseph Huntemann, Senior Project Manager for the Global Commerce Team of GDEcD, has been selected by Commissioner Pat Wilson as the new Director in Tokyo. He will relocate to Japan soon and we wish our friend Joseph every success.

The Society is encouraging ever stronger formal relations between and among the respective nations and Georgia. At the office and for members, our programming has significantly increased this year and is more accessible throughout our state.

If you have already tuned in to the wide range of online programs, thanks – you have seen the good information shared. We invite all to check the titles and view the webinars with demonstrations, panels, and entertainment. We invite you to participate in the virtual Bonenkai and enjoy messages, entertainment and virtual tables during which members can interact with each other. Each of our Board members will be your table hosts during the evening. See friends, make new ones and catch up on everybody's news while connecting with fellow Society members.

We wish you a happy holiday season and a prosperous and safe 2021!



## The JASG Celebrates 40 Years! (Part Three)

Since June of 1980, the JASG has been busy building its membership base and promoting the mutual understanding between the people of Japan and the state of Georgia by offering programs and services in the areas of business, culture, customs, education, commerce, public affairs, and social networking. It has been the place where Japanese citizens come to learn about Americans, and Americans come to learn about the Japanese.

The 1980s were highlighted by an explosion of Japanese investment, particularly from the electronics and automotive industry, not only in Georgia but throughout the U.S. The Society developed a variety of new programs led by Chairs Sam Ayoub (Coca-Cola), former Governor Carl Sanders (Troutman Sanders), Robert Harlin (Powell Goldstein), and John Georgas (Coca-Cola). One of these annual programs was JapanFest, which was started by the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta as Japan Week, and later became JapanFest in 1986 with support from the JASG and Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia (JCCG). JASG also started recognizing outstanding Japanese and Americans through the creation of the "Mike Mansfield Awards." Amongst others, recipients of these awards in the 1980s included Robert Broadwater (Georgia Tech), Fred Chanoki (Murata Erie), former Governor George Busbee, Yoshinori Kitano (YKK), and Yoshio Takei (Emory University Hospital).

...continued on Page 3



*From left: Sara Englade, JASG Executive Director; Mike Mansfield; Sam Ayoub, JASG Chair*



## **The JASG Celebrates 40 Years! (continued from page 2)**

While the 1990s was a challenging period for some Japanese in the U.S. due to trade policy complications, people in Georgia continued to appreciate direct investment from Japan as it created jobs and stimulated the economy. Chairs in the 90s, including Don Sands (Gold Kist), Joseph White (Troutman Sanders), Dan Amos (Aflac) and James Martin (Georgia Power), helped expand the Society's prestige – bestowing the Mike Mansfield Awards to prominent figures like President Jimmy Carter, Ambassadors Kazuo Chiba and Andrew Young, Minister Takayuki Kimura, and others. Furthermore, the visit to Georgia by then Prime Minister Toshihiki Kaifu in 1991 and the Emperor and Empress of Japan in 1994 showed how Georgia-Japan relations had developed so much in such a short period of time.



After a short recession from the IT Bubble between 2000 and 2001, the U.S. economy grew until 2007 when the global economic downturn created setbacks for many nonprofits including the JASG. However, the leadership of the Chairs during the start of the new millennium, which included Geoff Kelly (Coca-Cola), John Beane (McGuireWoods), Ben Greer (Alston & Bird), Alex Gregory (YKK), Chuck Ganz (Sutherland), and Sachi Koto (Sachi Koto Communications), helped the Society continue playing an important role in US-Japan relations in Georgia as Japanese investment in Georgia culminated to over \$9 billion by the end of the decade. The 2000s was also marked by Mike Mansfield Awards winners, Tadahiro Yoshida (YKK), Dan Amos (Aflac), and Glen Cornell (Georgia Department of Economic Development), and the JASG joining the annual Asian-Pacific Children Convention with Atlanta and Fukuoka formally starting a Sister City relationship after many of years of being friendship cities.



The 2010s started with a bang as the Society was awarded the renowned Commendation from the Japanese Foreign Minister for its work to promote US-Japan relations in Georgia. The next year, the JASG showed the recognition was not without merit as it helped coordinate a variety of relief programs and reconstruction project support after the Great East Japan Earthquake devastated the country on March 11, 2011. Under the leadership of Mike Mansfield Award winners, Alex Gregory (YKK) and Tom Yamamoto (Murata Electronics), and Chairs, Day Lancaster (NAI/Brannen Goddard), Robert Marsh (UPS), Bob

Johnson (Baker Donelson), Bill Strang (TOTO), and Al Hodge (Hodge Consulting Services), new ways to promote US-Japan relations were launched. The establishment of the Obirin University study abroad programs, Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI), Japan-America Grassroots Summit, and most recently the Grassroots Education Network Japan (GEN-J) program all occurred this past decade. With the new Georgia-Japan Legislative Caucus being formed in 2019 along with many future opportunities still on the horizon, the future of Georgia-Japan relations and the role the JASG continues to be bright.

As we navigate through the challenges of the current pandemic, the JASG thanks all the support from its Chairs, Board of Directors, Committees, members and partners – past, current and future. Previous staff led by former Executive Directors George Waldner, Robert Broadwater, Sara Englade, Mary Earle, Hilda Lockhart, James Foster, Clark Wisenbaker, and Grace Netland have paved the way for the current staff – but one thing has not changed over the years... the Society's efforts to foster the people-people connection and seeking ways to continue improving ways to foster friendships among Japanese and Americans.



## Japanese Ambassador Anticipates Stable Ties During Presidential Transition

Signs point to shift in tone and approach from the Trump administration, but the core tenets of the U.S.-Japan relationship will remain much the same despite the impending U.S. leadership transition in January 2021, Japanese Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama said in a virtual call with the Atlanta World Affairs Council today. To access the full article, please visit [www.globalatlanta.com/region/asia/japan/](http://www.globalatlanta.com/region/asia/japan/).



### Virtual JapanFest 2020 – Wasshoi One World!

Even though it has been a challenging year for all, the 34<sup>th</sup> JapanFest met the challenge by going virtual as JapanFest activities spanned 4 months for the first time. The theme “Wasshoi! One World (WOW)”, reminded us all that we can overcome our challenges if everyone in the world worked together.

From June to the finale in September, JapanFest hosted weekly programming including performances and workshops. These included restaurant and grocery tours, cooking lessons, anime workshops, and introductions to Japanese companies in Georgia. The highlight was the weeklong virtual summer camp for children when featuring daily Japanese language lessons, arts, crafts, storytelling, music, cultural activities, and cooking classes. Kids also took part in virtual Netflix watch-parties together and discussed what they saw.

For the final weekend when a total of 1,700 people participated, festival programs went from 10am to 7pm on September 26 and then 10am to 5pm on September 27. Most participants were from Georgia, but the event even attracted attendees from Brazil, Canada, and Japan. Despite some minor technical issues, the team resolved them quickly. Saturday included a shamisen concert by Kyle Abbott and Ekaki Uta with Junko Fujiyama. Nozomi Morgan presented a workshop “Awakening your Ikigai Within: The Japanese Secret to Waking Up with Joy and Purpose” and a workshop by MomoCon. In addition, there were martial arts demonstrations and lessons. The Sunday finale included webinars on the Japanese economy by Professor James Hoadley and reminiscences about living in Japan by Bob Johnson. In addition, there was storytelling, anime, cooking, a Bon Odori workshop and a samurai workshop. Finally, we had a live drawing and ran a JapanFest store that sold T-shirts, bag, mugs, stickers, and posters. To give back to the community that has given so much to us, we asked for donations that were distributed to Giving Kitchen’s efforts to feed front-line workers and people in need.



The virtual festival became famous as Kazuko Lillie, the Festival Manager was interviewed by TV Japan. Other states sought JapanFest’s advice and asked for opinions about their plans. Kazuko even spoke at a symposium in November with participants from many states and Canada. To succeed, the JapanFest Committee was even more dependent on the JASG than usual. The Committee could not have handled the virtual aspects without the JASG, which was involved in all events, sharing Japanese culture with the community. We are pleased that we could share JapanFest with everyone. We would like to appreciate our sponsors, vendors, and participants for another successful JapanFest. JapanFest would also like to thank the Consulate General of Japan, the Japan-America Society of Georgia, and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Georgia for their support. We look forward to seeing you all next year!



Due to COVID-19, JASG has been focusing on virtual programming: webinars, seminars, cooking lessons, children's programs, and Japanese language classes. We look forward to seeing our friends in person soon.

## FALL BUSINESS AND CORPORATE PROGRAMS

You can view these webinars via the JASG YouTube channel at: [www.youtube.com/user/jasg1980](https://www.youtube.com/user/jasg1980).

### December 3      Virtual Tour of YKK's Passive Town – A Model for Sustainable Living



On December 3, Jessica Cork, Vice-President for Community Engagement and Corporate Communication at YKK Corporation of America, took us on a behind-the-scenes tour of Passive Town, the eco-friendly residential complex YKK is developing in Kurobe, Japan. The complex makes use of solar light and heat, underground water, seasonal winds and trees in an attempt to cut back on energy consumption by 50%-60% compared to regular Houses in the area. Passive Town was the first residential development in Japan to be named a winner of the LEED Homes Awards. To view the presentation, please visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItcPxZXStbY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ItcPxZXStbY).

### November 10      Webinar: Exploring Japanese Company Attraction in Georgia

With over 600 Japanese affiliated companies employing about 35,000 Georgians, Japan is the number one foreign investor in Georgia. This webinar discussed: Georgia's engagement with Japanese companies in Japan and in Georgia; attributes focused on when engaging Japanese companies; attraction strategies and policies to consider when working with the Japanese ; concerns, key issues, considerations to support Japanese companies. To view the webinar, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExPcR3-21Sk&t=1247s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ExPcR3-21Sk&t=1247s).

Presenters (from left): Shelly Carmichael and Tom Croteau, Maxis Advisors; Yumiko Nakazono, Ga Dept of Economic Development; Charles Stallworth, Georgia Power.



### November 6      Webinar: Economic Outlook after the 2020 Elections

The U.S. election underlines a variety of crucial issues including the fight against COVID-19, economic stimulus, U.S. foreign policy, and racial inequality, all of which are likely to have enormous impacts on the economy in 2021 and beyond. This webinar highlights the impact of the election on business operations and consumer spending; job retention, productivity and industrial output; 2021 economic outlook, and future fiscal policy; and effects of the election on GDP and financial markets. To view the webinar, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=HH5llygS1Tw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HH5llygS1Tw).



## FALL BUSINESS AND CORPORATE PROGRAMS (cont'd)

### **October 29 Webinar: Impact of 2020 Elections on Immigration & Insurance Claims**

This webinar discusses how the insurance industry has 'circled the wagons' and is steadfastly opposing pandemic-related insurance claims. Businesses are struggling and need the insurance they paid for. It also discussed changes in immigration rules which may impact foreign national employees working in the U.S.

To view, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqLyHDR6BAw&t=2990s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqLyHDR6BAw&t=2990s).



### **September 30 Webinar: Cyber Attack Preparation & Prevention**

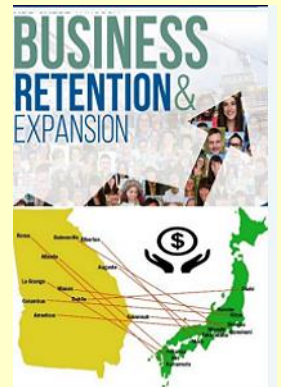
This webinar discussed the secrets to Cybersecurity preparation and prevention tips. No industry is safe and manufacturing cyber attacks are on the rise. Industry statistics show manufacturing saw a 156% increase in cyber security breaches in the first quarter of 2020. Topics included: what cyber hackers are looking for; how they attempt to breach operations; what to do to prepare and prevent attacks; what to do if your company has experienced a breach.



### **September 24 Webinar: Exploring Japanese Company Retention in Georgia**

With over 600 Japanese affiliated companies employing about 35,000 Georgians, Japan is the number one foreign investor in Georgia. This JASG and Georgia-Japan Legislative Caucus webinar featured experts discussing what attributes to focus on when engaging Japanese companies; how to engage with Japanese companies already in your community; retention strategies and policies to consider when working with Japanese companies; concerns, key issues, considerations to support Japanese companies. Panelists were: Daraka Satcher, Taylor English Decisions (GA-JPN Legislative Caucus); Mamoru Fukunaga, Consulate General of Japan; Joseph Huntemann, Georgia Dept of Economic Development; Melinda Lemmon, Bartow County Dept of Economic Development; Takuya Takahashi, JETRO Atlanta. To view, visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVXuSgcosx4&t=3311s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVXuSgcosx4&t=3311s).



### **September 16 Sustainability & Manufacturing**

This virtual discussion discussed the strategy and approach of international manufacturers toward implementing sustainability goals. The presenters were Sara Irvani, CEO of Okabashi Brands; Jim Reed, President of YKK Corporation of America; Nicolas Cudre-Mauroux, Group Manager for Research & Innovation of Solvay; and Andy Brehm, Site Director, Gainesville Bio Operations of Boehringer Ingelheim. To view, visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5ll3zNizcg&t=3011s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c5ll3zNizcg&t=3011s)

### **September 16 JP Morgan Global Economic & Market Outlook Webinar**

The JASG was a promotional partner on this webinar series featuring Japanese economist Toru Sasaki from JP Morgan Tokyo.



## FALL BUSINESS AND CORPORATE PROGRAMS (cont'd)

### September 10 International Women's Series Entrepreneurship

As part of the International Women's Series, panelists discuss how to support female entrepreneurship, drive partnerships, and how to take your business global.



### August 25 Air Travel: Today and Tomorrow

Since the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, domestic air travel has slumped, international passenger traffic has decreased by 95% in some markets, and losses amount in the billion of dollars. As the airline industry grapples with uncertain revenue streams and government stimulus packages, it must also adopt new measures to ensure health and safety on aircraft and in airports. Leaders from international airlines and one of the busiest airports in the world discuss the short-term impact and long-term implications for air travel. To view the webinar, please see: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6004pojr-A&t=3s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6004pojr-A&t=3s).



## JASG REVIEWS THE PAT YEAR AND LOOKS AHEAD TO 2021 AT ANNUAL MEETING

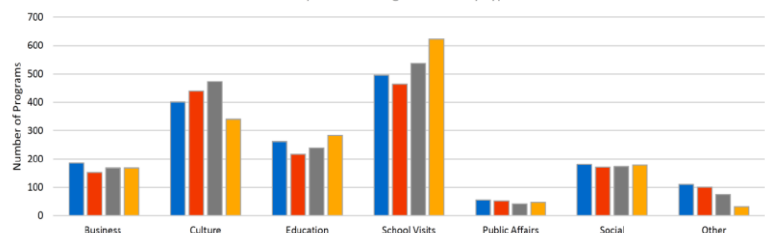
Over 50 Board of Directors and general members of the Japan-American Society of Georgia tuned in for the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting held virtually via Zoom. The meeting served as a chance for members to recap the previous year and a look ahead to 2021. While membership retention and renewals are slower with the pandemic, the JASG has continued to keep its membership of about 750 people (400 representatives from over 150 Japanese and U.S. corporate members and about 350 individuals) currently engaged through a variety of virtual and online activities. Although all in-person events have stopped, the Society has been busier than ever hosting a record number of events this year – 131 compared to 113 last year. A well balanced number of business, community cultural, educational, public affairs, and social events highlighted by the Annual Dinner, Bonenkai, JapanFest, APCC and Obirin University study abroad programs, Federal Reserve Bank luncheon, and much more, shows the JASG offers a little bit of everything to people of all ages and interests. More recently the Society has hosted webinars and a online programming almost on a weekly basis.

Program Type	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2018
Business	23	16	16
Cultural	12	5	7
Educational	31	24	20
School/Community	34	39	29
Public Affairs	7	6	6
Social	24	23	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>98</b>

(FY2017: 106 | FY2016: 100 Programs | FY 2015: 72 Programs)

National Association of Japan-America Societies Programs Overview

JAS: Comparison of Program Totals by Type



Additionally, Officers and Directors serving 2 year terms ending in 2022 were re-elected at the meeting: Robert Banta (Banta Immigration Law), Liz Bigler (Bigler ESL), Steve Blankenship (TDK Components USA), Michael Eckert (Daikin Applied Americas), Anne Godsey (JASG Tomodachi Club), Sean Gordon (Thompson Hines), Bernard Greer (Alston & Bird), Thomas Harrold (Miller & Martin), Joseph Huntemann (Georgia Dept. of Economic Development), Martin Long (Long and Associates), Jim Masui (Murata Electronics N.A.), Scott McMurray (Georgia Dept. of Economic Development), Masae Okura (Taylor English), Mike Raymer (Georgia Council on Economic Education), Jim Reed (YKK Corporation of America), Kazuhiro Shimizu (Alston & Bird), Josh Smith (Toyota Forklifts of Atlanta), and William Strang (TOTO USA). For a complete list of Board of Directors including those currently serving the 2019-2021 term, visit [www.jasgeorgia.org/page-18140](http://www.jasgeorgia.org/page-18140).

## FALL CULTURE AND SOCIAL EVENTS

### **December 8 International Women's Series: Giving Back with the Atlanta Food Bank**

International women celebrated Giving Tuesday at the Community Food Bank. The Food Bank's Education and Outreach Team shared their new Digital Community Food Experience. The program brought to life major barriers to food security, the relationship between poverty and hunger, and the impact food insecurity has on health. There was also an overview of the Food Bank and explanation of how COVID-19 has impacted the Food Bank and the communities they serve.



### **December 4 Art in the US-Japan Relationship: A Curator's Perspective with Monika Binsik from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York**

Through the Richard J. Wood Art Curator Series offered by the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS) and the Japan-United States Friendship Commission (JUSF), The Japan-America Society of Georgia (JASG) presented this special lecture event. This event highlighted the unique aspects of Japanese art and its role in the grassroots relationship between the United States and Japan. Monika Binsik, Associate Curator of Japanese Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York presented the intricacies of the renowned Bamboo Art from The Abbey Collection. To enjoy the presentation, visit:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgXHzJ7dSYM&t=1891s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgXHzJ7dSYM&t=1891s)



### **November 28 Nihongo Eigo Kai: Virtual Meet-Up**

**October 31**  
**August 29** The Nihongo Eigo-Kai is a friendly social gathering for anyone looking for an opportunity to chat in, practice, and improve their Japanese and English conversation skills – speaking, listening, pronunciation, accent reduction, etc. This was a virtual meet-up to practice social distancing in accordance with healthcare recommendations.

### **November 10 Kayobi-Kai Virtual Dinner**

**October 13**  
**September 8** Kayobi-Kai dinners meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at restaurants in the metro Atlanta area to promote friendship and social networking. All are welcome. As we practiced social distancing in accordance with recommendations by healthcare professionals, this month's Kayobi-Kai was virtual. Participants ordered take-out or delivery and joined a Zoom meeting to promote friendship and social exchange.

### **October 8 Virtual US-Japan Networking Night**

JASG members met for a casual networking event to mingle with others interested in Japanese culture and the U.S.-Japan relationship. The program connected participants in the Grassroots Exchange Network Japan (GEN-J) Program from Atlanta, Chicago, Cincinnati, Dallas/Fort Worth, Detroit, Lexington, Houston, and Indianapolis. Break-out sessions allowed all to participate in a relaxed environment.





## FALL CULTURE AND SOCIAL EVENTS (cont'd)

### **September 30 Dinner & A Movie: Shoplifters**

Participants enjoyed dinner at home while Professor Hoadley introduced the film *Shoplifters*, a 2018 Japanese drama directed, written and edited by Hirokazu Kore-eda. Starring Lily Franky and Sakura Ando, it is about a 'family' that relies on shoplifting to cope with a life of poverty. Kore-eda wrote the screenplay contemplating what makes a family, and inspired by reports on poverty and shoplifting in Japan. The film premiered on May 13, 2018 at the Cannes Film Festival and released in Japan on June 8, 2018. It has received many awards internationally. The movie was followed by a lively discussion.



### **September 9 Virtual Tsukimi Moon Viewing Zoom Gala**

Participants wine and dine from the safety and comfort of their homes while enjoying music and cultural performances by Yoshi, Junko, Miyabiya, Bachido, and Madoka. There were special messages from the Consul General Japan and representatives from the state of Georgia and city of Atlanta. There were also virtual networking. To watch, visit



[www.youtu.be/WLvb7CTusBg](http://www.youtu.be/WLvb7CTusBg)

### **September 5 Webinar: Inside Japanese Pop Music with Dr. Capital**

The Japanese music industry, the second largest in the world, has hundreds of groundbreaking Japanese artists putting out thousands of songs that move the hearts of millions of listeners. Dr. Capital, at the University of North Texas College of Music, introduced popular artists, explained the unique features of J-Pop, and uncovered the masterful musical devices that make these hits so catchy. To enjoy this webinar, please visit



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9JRNC5Kp9g&t=1572s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y9JRNC5Kp9g&t=1572s)

### **August 25 Dinner and a Movie: After the Storm**

JASG members ordered in their favorite Japanese food while they watched the movie 'After the Storm.' After the movie there was a lively discussion.



## **TOMODACHI CLUB**

The Tomodachi Club is a daytime women's cultural exchange group established in 1981 to promote friendship, cultural exchange and understanding among Japanese and American women. General meetings and small group meetings alternate monthly from September to May. Often general events include a luncheon together with an interesting field trip or a special event. Small group meetings, usually at members' homes, include a coffee or luncheon with an activity of interest to the group, a program, demonstration or discussion. To join, go to: [www.jasgeorgia.org/Tomodachi-Club](http://www.jasgeorgia.org/Tomodachi-Club).

**November 18 Virtual Tomodachi Club Luncheon**

Tomodachi Club member, Utako Tanigawa presents a classical music program on the piano via Zoom for a virtual meeting and concert.

**September 9 Virtual Tomodachi Club Luncheon**

The JASG's Tomodachi Club gathered virtually via Zoom for "Orchards: Divas of the Design World", by orchid specialist Terry Furuta.

### **YOUNG PROFESSIONALS**

The JASG Young Professionals (YP) was established in 1996. YP is dedicated to creating a friendly, stimulating environment in which young professionals with an interest in international business and U.S.-Japan relations can gather and learn from local experts and from one another. Informal, informative and interactive YP programs enhance member knowledge of Japan and U.S.-Japan relations. The YP meetings are also about having fun. Members are encouraged to get to know one another socially. Young Professionals are friendly, supportive, and excellent sources of information on a variety of subjects. Please consider joining them in the New Year. To join, go to: [www.jasgeorgia.org/Young-Professionals](http://www.jasgeorgia.org/Young-Professionals).

**November 14 YP Koyo Autumn Leaf Viewing and Hiking**

Following the Japanese and American traditions of viewing the changing colors of the autumn leaves, the YP group embarked on a friends and family hiking trip to Georgia's Arabia Mountain near Lithonia. The event is limited to 10 participants. Other health guideline requirements: masks, social distancing, clean hygiene and sanitation practices, and liability waiver.


**October 30 Halloween Dinner & A Movie**

YPers ordered in their favorite Japanese food and enjoyed "Ghostroads" together. "Ghostroads" is a Hard Day's Night in Japan with a Faustian twist. The Screamin' Telstars are a Japanese retro rock band with Tony as lead vocalist and lead guitar. They have struggled together for years but have never met with any real commercial success. One day, Tony's amp burns up and he goes to buy a new one at a guitar shop with a curious owner. Tony winds up with an amp that has a history. From the amp comes a ghost who promises Tony fame and immortality in return for a favor: disbanding his band, forever. The ghost also promises Tony greater fame than his old rival from his student days, but . . . The YPers discussed the movie, bringing the evening to an end.





## **October 10**    **Mixology & Networking Night**

The YPers met virtually for a fun evening of virtual networking while learning the versatility of Shiso Juice as a great cocktail mix or its delicious flavor on its own. After a brief Mixology Demo by Nakato Japanese Restaurant, participants received a free bottle of shiso cocktail mix to enjoy at home with any online restaurant purchase of \$20 or more.



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## **Farewell from Mariko**

Konnichiwa, everyone. My name is Mariko Shimoda. I joined the JASG in October 2018. I was a member of the first cohort of the Japan Foundation's GEN-J Program dedicated to deepening the understanding of Japanese culture and language in the Midwest and South. The main purpose of this program is to strengthen the collaboration between Japanese companies operating in the U.S. and local communities. My two years have come to an end, so it is with a heavy heart that I have returned to Japan. I'd like to thank all of you for having supported my work here.

In these two years, I visited many schools and companies to promote Japanese culture, business, and language. Also, I taught Japanese to many learners. From those experiences, I could meet many wonderful people here.

Before I arrived, we were told that we were going to regions with limited opportunities for cultural exchange with Japan. However, Georgia was different. Many Japanese companies, a thriving Japanese community, Japanese organizations, and of course, JASG have been committed to strengthening the Japan-US relationship for many years. As a result I was kept busy doing much and meeting many. I was able to serve 4600 people in my first year and 2600 people in my second year. During the pandemic, it has been difficult doing outreach since March, but I tried to make up for that with virtual programs. That was a great experience as well.

After I moved here, I missed only one thing about Japan. It was 'onsen,' Japanese hot spring resorts. Apparently, in the US, there are over 1600 hot springs. I tried one, but it was totally different from *onsen* in Japan. A trip to an *onsen* is top on my list of things to do in Japan. There were so many good Japanese restaurants I enjoyed at Kayoubi-kai or YP events. On the other hand, I will miss BBQ, Southern food, Mexican food, and eggnog! Authentic tastes are not in Japan. I should have learned how to make them... Anyway, when I go back to Japan, I'll share my experiences there. I plan to continue as a Japanese language instructor somewhere in the world. I will build on these two years as I pursue my career. Thank you so much for everything. I wish you all continued success and health. Arigatou gozaimashita.



# We are the BRIDGE

## 2021 APCC Program in Fukuoka

by Debra Owen

We have some great news to report! The Asian-Pacific Children's Convention is moving forward with an in-



person event in July 2021. And even better yet, the 2020 Junior Ambassadors have been invited to represent Atlanta in 2021! All four 2020 JAs have committed to going to Fukuoka next year. Although we do not yet know precisely how the convention will look, we know that the APCC takes the participants' health very seriously. The APCC will follow the most stringent COVID-19 protocols, such as prior PCR testing and quarantine. We held a Zoom meeting to let the kids know that they can go to Japan next year. Their excitement was precious—what a lovely way to end such a challenging year! As I've mentioned before, this is an excellent group of Junior Ambassadors. There are many advantages to having this group go next year, including the fact that they have already bonded as a group. Going to Japan together will make them even closer. In addition to the four JAs

and one chaperone, we have the opportunity to submit two applications for Peace Ambassadors in February. We have an engaged group of Bridge Club members, and I'm sure that the APCC will accept one of their applications.

### Bridge Club Atlanta News

Our Bridge Club activities continue to be remote because of the global pandemic. In August, we participated in an activity called "Pass the Mask," where global Bridge Club participants caught and threw their face masks to make a world-wide chain video. In September, we had another Zoom based "Friendship Circle" meeting, with well over 200 participants from around the Asia-Pacific Rim. The most recent Bridge Club International movement is the APCC Smile Streaming Concert. This virtual concert will feature world-class musicians from the APCC network. It can be viewed via a YouTube live stream on December 26, 2020, at 8 pm JST. All proceeds from the event will support the APCC Smile Support project. Subscribe to the APCC Office YouTube Channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/APCCOffice>. If you watch closely, you may get a glimpse of a couple of Atlanta participants!



**JASG Obirin Study-Abroad Programs:** 2020 & 2021 has a new look and feel for JASG students from Japan as they join JASG faculty, staff, and business/community speakers representing a variety of industries in Atlanta/Georgia for a wide range of fascinating online courses, presentations, and company tours. Learn what makes global companies successful while working in groups with American students on a final project of launching a start-up company of their own! The JASG thanks Aflac, American Yazaki, Coca-Cola, Delta Air Lines, Dexerials, Ga Council for Economic Education, Honda Precision Parts, JP Morgan, Kubota, Marsh USA, Pasona, Taylor English, TOTO, YKK and everyone who made this program possible.



## Meet Kubota, one the largest Japanese companies in Georgia!



**For Earth, For Life**  
Kubota

Former JASG intern, Tsehay Wright, now Human Resources Recruiter at Kubota Manufacturing of America, virtually presented to a group of students from Japan what makes Kubota so unique. Here are some and fun facts...

- Founded in 1890, marking 2020 as its 130-year anniversary
- Employs 40,202+ people worldwide. It has 18 production sites outside of Japan & 27 overseas affiliates, and presence in 110 countries
- In 2020, Forbes Magazine ranked Kubota as #89 most innovative Global Company & #72 Top Regarded Company
- High Quality products manufactured in Georgia include: Residential & Commercial Lawn Mowers, Tractors, Rough Terrain Vehicles (RTVs), Skid Steer Loaders, and much more
- Kubota has career opportunities for all levels through work based learning program, technical college apprenticeship program, internship program, Co-Op program & direct hire positions. more at [www.Kubota-KMA.com](http://www.Kubota-KMA.com).

### MEET CONSUL GENERAL TAKEUCHI & JASG CHAIR AL HODGE



Did you know that Consul General Takeuchi likes playing golf and Chair Al Hodge's interest in Japan started in elementary school in Savannah? Learn more at [www.youtu.be/7XDK\\_lbXDvI](http://www.youtu.be/7XDK_lbXDvI).

### MEET JIM HOADLEY & NOZOMI MORGAN



Did you know Jim Hoadley taught English in Tokushima, Japan on the JET program & Nozomi Morgan grew up as a fan of Beverly Hills 90210? More at [www.youtu.be/N4FvavBJ2MM](http://www.youtu.be/N4FvavBJ2MM)

### MEET BRETT HERRICK & NITTO DENKO



Did you know that Brett Herrick coached baseball while teaching in Japan on the JET program? His company Nitto supports the production of PPE. Learn more at [www.youtu.be/FprbOt1EoCo](http://www.youtu.be/FprbOt1EoCo).

### MEET NAOMY HUAMAN & EBONI GOAR



Did you know that Naomi Human's interest in Japan started in Peru where she grew up and Eboni first got connected at JapanFest in SMP? Learn more at [www.youtu.be/22lKsxn6glc](http://www.youtu.be/22lKsxn6glc)

## Culinary Corner

**Chawanmushi Family Recipe**

From Sachiyo Nakato Takahara

**Ingredients**

"Dashi" stock (see below)	280g (9.46 oz)	Light soy sauce	14g (.493 oz)
Egg	2	Mirin	14 g (.493 oz)
Pinch of Salt			

**Ingredients of choice:**

- Chicken
- Ginko nuts
- Shrimp
- Edamame
- Kanikama
- Crabstick
- Shiitake mushroom
- Yuzu
- Mitsuha leaf as topping

**Directions:**

- Start by gently beating the eggs in a medium bowl
- Do not aerate the eggs too much
- Add 'dashi' stock, light soy sauce, mirin, salt
- Use a strainer and strain the egg mixture to achieve silky texture
- Get 3-4 ramekins with a lid and fill up each ramekin up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  height with ingredients. If you do not have a ramekin, use small mug cups or small bowl with a thicker wall
- Slowly add the egg mixture to cover  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the cup without air bubbles. If air bubbles appear, pop them with a toothpick or gently scoop out with a small spoon
- Cover the ramekin (bowl or mug) with a lid or aluminum foil; put in a steamer to steam at high heat. We recommend about 1.5 inch of water.
- Steam for 10-16 minutes. Check for readiness by poking the egg mixture. If clear broth seeps through, it is ready.

**To make 'dashi' stock:**

- clean a 2 in piece of 'konbu' dried kelp by gently wiping it with a damp cloth
- warm 2 cups of water and konbu over medium heat
- remove the konbu right before the water comes to a full boil to prevent stock from becoming bitter and remove pan from heat and add bonito to steep in broth for 5 minutes
- strain bonito flakes from broth; add additional water, pouring thru strained bonito to make 2 cups
- use or store broth - broth can be used immediately, refrigerated for up to a week, or frozen for up to 3 months

For ingredients, the Nakato family suggests the Buford Highway Farmers Market at 5600 Buford Hwy NE, Atlanta. You should be able to find Japanese ingredients on Isle 24.





## New Corporate Members

FLUIDDA  
HAIRCLUB  
International Charter Academy of Georgia

Schooly Mitchell  
Takeuchi USA

## New Individual Members

Gallau Aristil  
Kimberly Clark  
Alex Gregory  
Frank Hunt  
Tyler Mullinax  
Kimberly Premoli  
Michelle Sewell  
Mio Yanagisawa

Frank Banich  
Harrison Davis  
Jennifer Gutierrez  
Robert Knapp  
Mark Pierson  
Eri Saikawa  
Jessica Shelton  
Shoko Yoshida

Albert Chang  
Charles Driskell  
Michael Hearn  
Zach Layman  
Random Porter  
Hiroyasu Sato  
Roy Wilkinson

### Japan-America Society of Georgia

#### Newsletter Articles:

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Yoshi Domoto  
Albert Hodge  
Kazuko Lillie  
Maki Murahashi  
Debra Owen  
Sachiyo Nakato Ta  
Mariko Shimoda

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[Admin@JASGeorgia.org](mailto:Admin@JASGeorgia.org)  
[www.JASGeorgia.org](http://www.JASGeorgia.org)

## Requests for End of the Year Donations

As we near the close of a challenging 2020, we can look back with pride upon the significant accomplishments of the Japan-America Society of Georgia even through difficult times. We have held a record-number of programs this year and hope that you share our view that the activities of the Society have helped to (virtually) foster mutual respect and understanding between the Japanese and Americans and have benefited the Atlanta and Georgia communities significantly.

In order to enable the Society to continue to accomplish its mission, we ask that, in the holiday spirit of peace, joy and charity, you please consider making a year-end contribution to the Society. No contribution is too small, and we can assure you that your tax-deductible donation will be put to good use in the coming year and beyond. You may wish to check to see if your employer matches your contributions to charitable organizations such as the Society.

Further, if you would like to designate a gift in honor of a friend, client or family member, we would be happy to acknowledge your gift in our Society's newsletter and, if you like, advise the person honored of your kindness.

For all donations made over \$50, the Society will present a JASG T-shirt, water bottle, beanie hat, and/or other Japan-related accessories as special thank you gift. Please make checks payable to the Japan-America Society of Georgia. Should you wish to make a pledge via credit card, please contact the Japan-America Society at (404) 842-1400 or visit the donation page on the Society's website at [www.JASGeorgia.org/Donations-Payments](http://www.JASGeorgia.org/Donations-Payments).

On behalf of the Society, please accept our sincere thanks for your friendship and support. We wish you and your family a safe, peaceful, joyous, healthy and happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.

**Visit JASG on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Also visit the JASG Blog at [jasgeorgia.wordpress.com](http://jasgeorgia.wordpress.com) for daily updates on Japan-related news.**

## **JASG Members, Don't Forget About Special Offers and Discounts in Atlanta and also in Japan!**

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Tombow</b> 20% Off Office, School, Arts &amp; Crafts Supplies! Use Checkout Code: JASG</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Support Japan-American Society of Georgia Inc. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates. Go to smile.amazon.com amazon smile Click Here for Easy Setup</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>beard papa's</b> fresh and natural cream puffs 15% Off at Peachtree Corners Store Just Mention JASG!</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>ZOO ATLANTA</b> 20% Off Tickets Checkout Code: CJASG</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>VONAGE</b> Free First Month of Service for JASG Members</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Special Savings for Members</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Braves</b> COMING SOON!</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Save up to 30% on Tickets USE PROMO CODE JASG2016</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>STAYBRIDGE SUITES</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>hotel INDIGO</b> Atlanta - Vinings VALOR HOSPITALITY PARTNERS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>QUALITY HOTEL &amp; SUITES</b></p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>IMPERIAL HOTEL TOKYO</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>IMPERIAL HOTEL OSAKA</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>The New Otani</i> Hotel Okura TOKYO</p> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>kokoro</b> CARE PACKAGES 10% OFF - Use Promo Code - JASGA_10</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Hertz</b></p> </div> </div>
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**Learn More at**  
[www.jasgeorgia.org/Special-Offer-for-Members](http://www.jasgeorgia.org/Special-Offer-for-Members)

## **JASG Japan-Related Job Bank - [www.jasgeorgia.org/page-18297](http://www.jasgeorgia.org/page-18297)**

<p><b><u>CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN IN ATLANTA</u></b></p> <p><b>Job:</b> Culture and Information Section</p> <p><b>Requirements:</b> Candidate must be a U.S. citizen or a U.S. green card holder, must be fluent in Japanese and English, and possess computer skills (Microsoft Word and Excel preferred).</p> <p>To apply for this position, please send your resume to <a href="mailto:ayako.yasuda@mofa.go.jp">ayako.yasuda@mofa.go.jp</a> by December 16, 2020.</p> <p>広報文化班現地職員募集</p> <p>米国籍または米国永住権を有し、英語による読解・文書作成ができ、パソコン(特にホームページ作成・編集、マイクロソフト社ワード・エクセル等必須)使用可能な方。日本語ができることが望ましい。ご関心のある方は、履歴書を添付の上、<a href="mailto:ayako.yasuda@mofa.go.jp">ayako.yasuda@mofa.go.jp</a> までご連絡下さい。(提出期限:2020年12月16日)</p> <p>業務内容:1 広報文化業務 2 報道関連業務 勤務場所:在アトランタ日本国総領事館(3438 Peachtree Road Suite 850, Atlanta, GA 30326) 勤務時間:月曜日~金曜日(休館日を除く)9:00~17:00、昼休み 12:30~13:30 採用日:2021年1月4日(予定)</p>	<p><b><u>OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY</u></b></p> <p><b>Job:</b> Japanese Language Instructor</p> <p><b>Job Location:</b> Atlanta, GA</p> <p><b>Overview:</b> Oglethorpe is seeking an instructor for second semester Japanese language courses to be taught over Zoom from February 8 thru May 10. Final exams will take place May 14-18. Final grades are due May 26.</p> <p><b>Classes:</b> <u>Japanese 102:</u> Elementary Japanese II (MWF 10-30 am - 11:30 am). <u>Japanese 202:</u> Intermediate Japanese II (MWF 9:15-10:15 am). <u>Japanese 290:</u> Japanese Pop Culture in the <u>Global Age</u> (T TH 4:00-5:30).</p> <p><b>Requirements:</b> Minimum of Master's degree in Japanese and a number of years of teaching.</p> <p>If interested, please send an up-to-date CV to Dr. Viviana Plotnik at <a href="mailto:vplotnik@Oglethorpe.edu">vplotnik@Oglethorpe.edu</a>.</p>	<p><b><u>KUBOTA MANUFACTURING OF AMERICA</u></b></p> <p><b>Overview:</b> Kubota Manufacturing of America established its U.S. headquarters in Gainesville in 1988. Since then Kubota has opened four other manufacturing facilities. It explores tractors, lawn mowers, and utility vehicles. It exports throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Japan. Kubota is strengthening the operations at our production facilities with the aim of continuing to produce high-quality products our customers have come to expect and depend on.</p> <p>Kubota is an equal opportunity employer with the following benefits: Affordable Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance, Paid Time Off, 10 Company paid holidays, 401k matching and profit sharing, Accidental death and dismemberment, Short Term Disability, Long Term Disability, Company paid uniforms</p> <p>Job Opportunities include Hourly Careers and Salary Careers</p> <p>For more information, see: <a href="http://www.kubota-kma.com/fulltime-opportunities.html" style="color: blue; text-decoration: underline;">www.kubota-kma.com/fulltime-opportunities.html</a></p>
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The Japan-America Society of Georgia  
ジョージア日米協会

# **NEW MEMBER SPECIAL** **入会スペシャル** **UP TO 90% OFF!**

**Black Friday Deal Now**  
**through the End of the Year!**



JASG offers an introductory membership rate of only **\$10 for the 1st year** (renewal at regular price thereafter)  
ブラックフライデー・ディールが年末まで延期! 年末までに入会  
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**DEADLINE: 12/31/2020**  
**締め切り: 2020年12月31日**  
**REGISTER 申し込み**  
**BIT.LY/JASGMEMBER2020**

The Japan-America Society of Georgia is the place where Japanese & Americans build friendship and come together for business, cultural, educational and social exchange. Benefits include free & discounted to events, language classes, member products/services, access to event video & more! ジョージア日米協会は日本人とアメリカ人の皆様にビジネス、文化、教育、社会的交流等を通して友情を築く機会を提供します。会員の特典として数々のイベント、授業、製品サービス、やイベントビデオなどに無料又は割引料金で参加することができます。

## **Memberships are Perfect for:**

- **Students & families in international schools and/or Japanese programs & community organizations**
- **JET program participants & alumni**
- **Veterans & families who were stationed in Japan**
- **Anyone interested friendship between US & Japan**

