



# JASG

THE JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY OF GEORGIA

SUMMER-FALL 2018

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## **The Japan-America Society of Georgia**

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## **JAPANFEST 2018**

Sat Sept 15: 10 am–6 pm; Sun Sept 16: 10 am–5 pm  
Infinite Energy Center, Duluth

In its 32nd year, JapanFest is the largest Japanese festival in the Southeast with over 20,000 attendees each year. It celebrates Japanese culture and the strong bonds between Americans and Japanese in Georgia. This year's theme is "Seasons of Japan."



It features over 25 theater, music, and dance performances and workshops. This year the featured performer is the Nomura Kyogen Group (left photo), master Kyogen performers making their American debut at JapanFest! Another debut for JapanFest is Iwami Kagura from New York City (left photo). Other performers include Yoshi Amao's Samurai Sword Soul, martial artists; Motoko, storyteller; Maturiza, taiko; and Kyle Abbott and Mike Penny, shamisen.

There are also martial arts demonstrations and kimono fashion shows. Over 120 vendors sell original Japanese goods and scrumptious Japanese food. The interactive children's activity area is always a magnet.

We are still seeking volunteers. Tickets are \$10 on-line, \$12 at the door. Children under 6 are free. To buy tickets or to volunteer, go to: [www.japanfest.org](http://www.japanfest.org).

*JapanFest is organized by JapanFest, Inc., the Japan-America Society of Georgia, and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Georgia, with support from the Consulate-General of Japan, Atlanta.*

## Executive Director's Message



On behalf of the Japan-America Society of Georgia staff, please allow me to thank you for your continued support of the Society. Our mission to promote the mutual understanding between the peoples of Japan and Georgia would not be possible without all of your dedication and passion to bring our two countries closer together.

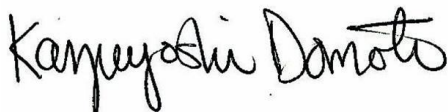
With more than 145 corporate members and 400 individual and family members, our membership is our strength. While we are always eager to welcome new members, our primary goal is to make everything we do more interactive and valuable for both current and new members. We always strive to serve you better and create more benefits for all. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can enhance your membership and make events and programs more enjoyable.

We are proud of our many exhilarating programs throughout the year. Most recently, we partnered with Next Generation Manufacturing for a Savannah Business Tour where we toured a variety of Japanese and U.S. companies located on Georgia's coast. The tour was a huge success as we developed new partnerships with the Savannah Economic Development Authority, World Trade Center Savannah, Gulf Stream, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems, and the Georgia Ports Authority. We capped off our fiscal year with our Annual Dinner Gala at the beautiful Delta Flight Museum where over 250 members and friends gathered under the Delta 777 aircraft to celebrate the Society's 38th Anniversary. The evening highlight was the Takeshi Obayashi Quintet, a Japanese jazz group consisting of piano, trumpet, saxophone, bass, and drums, as they dazzled the audience with their fluid musical performance.

We also recently held a successful Annual Meeting to recap the past year and look ahead to 2019. The meeting reinforced all of the efforts of dedicated Board of Directors, various working committees, staff, and volunteers. We also welcomed three new directors to the Board: Charles Coney, Anna Hunt, and Masae Okura. I look forward to continue working closely with our leadership and entire membership to bring the people of Japan and Georgia even closer together, and make sure the Society serves our community to the best of its ability.

We have an exciting Fall coming up with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation visiting Atlanta for a series of Japan-related programs, JapanFest 2018 celebrating the different seasons in Japan, a Cultural Business Management Luncheon, and a family outing to Washington Farms where U.S. and Japanese families can enjoy autumn activities like corn mazes, pumpkin patches, hay rides and more. Our Obirin students have arrived and are getting acclimated. We encourage you make a difference in their lives by showing them some Southern hospitality.

While the JASG has enjoyed several years of success through a consistent increase in event participation and attendance, strategic partnerships with key companies/organizations, increased sponsorship of our events, and increased volunteerism from members, we will continue building on our strong foundation. To get involved or find out more information about the JASG, please contact me at (404) 842-1400 or email to [Admin@JASGeorgia.org](mailto:Admin@JASGeorgia.org).



Kazuyoshi "Yoshi" Domoto  
Executive Director

**The JASG is now on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter!!!**





Please join the JASG group on Facebook and LinkedIn,  
and follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/JASGeorgia> today!

Also visit the JASG Blog at [jasgeorgia.wordpress.com](http://jasgeorgia.wordpress.com) for daily updates on Japan-related news.

## Upcoming Events and Programs Related to Japan and Asia



9/05	11:30 am-1:30 pm	Japan & Georgia Growing Together, World Affairs Council, The Commerce Club
9/06	12 pm-2 pm	Investing in Georgia's Workforce: A U.S.-Japan Dialogue at Historic Academic of Medicine
9/15	10 am-6 pm	Japan Fest, Infinite Energy Center, Duluth
9/16	10 am -5 pm	
9/18-20		Japan-America Grassroots Summit, Seattle, WA
9/19	6:30-8:30 pm	English Accent Reduction Workshop 3725 DaVinci Court, Peachtree Corners
9/20	5:30-7:30 pm	International Women's Series: Cyber Security Risks in a World of IoT"
9/29	2:00-4:00 pm	Nihongo/Eigo-Kai Meeting
10/09	7:00-9:00 pm	Kayobi-Kai Dinner (Cho Dang)
10/11	11:00-1:00 pm	US-Japan Business Luncheon
10/15-12/07		JASG Japanese Language Classes
10/18-10/20		Southeast US-Japan Annual Joint Meeting in Tokyo, JAPAN
10/27	2:00-4:00 pm	Nihongo/Eigo-Kai Meeting
10/27		YP Halloween Party
11/7		"Keeping Safe in Atlanta" Presentation, Lunch at NaNa Thai Eatery in Marietta, Tomodachi Club
11/13	7:00-9:00 pm	Kayobi-Kai Dinner (Sushi Mito)
11/24	2:00-4:00 pm	Nihongo/Eigo Kai Meeting
12/13	6:00-9:30 pm	Bonnenkai Holiday Gala
12/15	2:00-4:00 pm	Nihongo/Eigo-Kai Meeting
12/15		YP Holiday Party

For more information on any event or for other events scheduled between now and December, please check the JASG webpage: [www.JASGeorgia.org](http://www.JASGeorgia.org). If you have questions, please check out the webpage or call the JASG office at 404-842-1400.



## ANNUAL DINNER 2018 AT DELTA FLIGHT MUSEUM



As a part of its summer tradition, the JASG celebrated its 38th anniversary at the Annual Dinner Gala & Silent Auction on Wednesday, June 27, 2018. The Annual Dinner provides an enjoyable opportunity for cross-cultural understanding and businesses networking within the Atlanta community as over 250 guests attended the event, including esteemed Japanese business leaders doing business in Georgia, as well as prestigious Georgia companies and business owners investing in Japan.



This year, the Society was delighted to hold its Annual Dinner Gala at the Delta Flight Museum. Since 1995, the Delta Flight Museum has allowed visitors from around the world to explore aviation history, celebrate the story and people of Delta, and discover the future of flight. The Museum was recently renovated into a world-class attraction that offers engaging exhibits and interactive programming for aviation enthusiasts of all ages. Standing in the heart of Delta's Atlanta headquarters, the 68,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art attraction makes a perfect outing for family, friends, school groups and more. With historic glamour and modern amenities, the Museum is a one-of-a-kind venue within a mile of the world's busiest airport.



The JASG would like to express its sincere appreciation to the sponsors of the Annual Dinner: Delta; Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz; Mitsubishi Electric, Tracs Group; Fallon Benefits Group; Griffin-Spalding Development Authority; Sapporo Premium Beer; Alston & Bird; and Murata.

The JASG would also like to thank those who donated silent auction and door prizes: Actor's Express; Affairs to Remember; Aflac; Alliance Theatre; Anis Café and Bistro; Atlanta Botanical Garden; Atlanta Braves; Atlanta Falcons; Atlanta Hawks; Bigler ESL; Bridgestone Golf; Callaway Resort & Gardens; Carter Center; Center for Puppetry Arts; Chateau Elan Winery & Resort; Coca-Cola; Daikin Applied America; Delta Air Lines; Delta Flight Museum; Egg Harbor

Café; Emory University Michael C. Carlos Museum; Four Seasons Hotel; Georgia Department of Economic Development; The High Museum of Art; Hyatt Regency Atlanta Perimeter at Villa Christina; Japan-America Society of Georgia; Kajima Building and Design Group; Karaoke Melody; Landmark Theatres; Mary Mac's Tea Room; Matchagi; Millennium Gate Museum; Morgan Stanley; Nakato Japanese Restaurant; Park Tavern; Portofino; Regal Cinemas; Regency Fine Arts & Frames; Rome Floyd Chamber; Sachiko Kogure; Sake Story; Shakespeare Tavern; Sheraton Atlanta Perimeter North; Stonewall Creek; Sucheta Rawal; Suno Dessert; Taka Sushi; Takeshi Ohbayashi; The Ritz-Carlton-Atlanta Downtown; Tomo Japanese Restaurant; TOTO USA; Umi Restaurant.

The highlight of the event was a concert during reception by Junko Fujiyama and an after dinner concert by the Takeshi Ohbayashi Quintet. A native of Hiroshima, Japan, Takeshi Ohbayashi was awarded a scholarship to the renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, where he began his studies in 2007. Following this, Ohbayashi was awarded the Best Player Award and the Audience's Favorite Award in the 2009 Yokohama Jazz Competition. Ohbayashi has released 5 records. His most recent release, "Manhattan", received "Jazz Japan 2016 Album of the Year." Also part of the quintet were Takuya Kuroda on trumpet, Tomoaki Baba on saxophone, Chris Smith on bass, and Alon Benjamini on drums.

## JASG SAVANNAH BUSINESS TOUR JUNE 14



On Thursday, June 14, 20 guests affiliated with the Japan-America Society of Georgia and Next Generation Manufacturing toured four prominent businesses located in Savannah, including Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA), Gulfstream, Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems, and Georgia Ports Authority. Along with the Japan-America Society of Georgia and Next Generation Manufacturing, this event was generously sponsored and co-organized by SEDA and the World Trade Center Savannah, with special thanks to Daikin and the Consulate-General of Japan in Atlanta.



After meeting in Savannah, the group began the tour with a visit to SEDA and the World Trade Center Savannah. World Trade Center Savannah, as part of the international World Trade Centers Association, seeks to promote Savannah's unique economic position and potential to foreign markets, as well as to find new investment opportunities for the city of Savannah. As the domestic branch of the

World Trade Center Savannah, SEDA exists to "create, grow, and attract jobs/investment in the Savannah region," and in its information session provided detailed information about Savannah's domestic impact. Besides being the 5<sup>th</sup> largest Georgia city, Savannah remains the top location for the film industry in Georgia—generating \$9.5 billion—even in the face of the massive popularity of Senoia's "The Walking Dead," and the meteoric rise of Fayetteville's Pinewood Studios branch. Further, Savannah and its surrounding areas constitute the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest region in Georgia, and Savannah alone is responsible for roughly \$3.2 billion of income from the manufacturing industry.

## JASG CHEERS ON FALCONS AND BRAVES



*Were the students more into the food or into the game?*

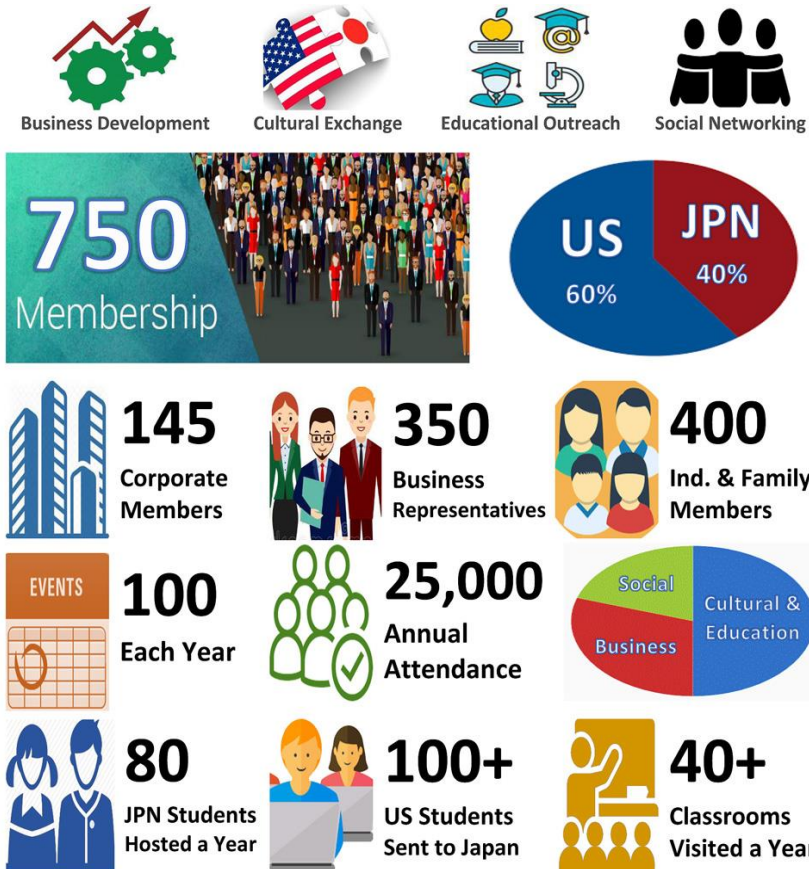
On August 30, 19 JASG members and 13 Japanese college students from Obirin University attended the Braves game against the Chicago Cubs. Both teams are at top of their respective divisions. In spite of the cheers, the Braves unfortunately lost to the Cubs due to a pinch-hit homer. Both groups enjoyed the game, the food, and the new stadium.

The next day 26 JASG members and 13 Japanese college students from Obirin University attended the last Falcons pre-season game. Unfortunately, the Falcons were no luckier than they had been for the other pre-season games, losing 34-7. All the fans hope the Falcons can turn it around for the regular season, and make it to the Super Bowl like they did in 2017.



## JASG ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS AT ANNUAL MEETING 2018

On August 29, 2018, over forty directors and members of the Japan-America Society of Georgia attended the **2018 Annual Membership Meeting** held at the offices of **Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz**.



The meeting served as an opportunity to review the business, cultural, education, social events, and other accomplishments of the previous year, highlighted by the Annual Dinner, Bonnenkai, JapanFest, APCC, and Obirin University study abroad programs. The Society also hosted a series of business seminars covering various topics, and many other activities to bring together the people of Japan and Georgia. The memberships of about 750 people include over 60 American corporations and 50 Japan-related corporations. Family, individual, young professionals and the women's auxiliary Tomodachi Club are also active, participating in JASG's many activities.

Additionally, newly nominated and re-elected Officers and Directors serving two-year terms ending in 2019 were introduced at the meeting. Officers serving the second year of their term are **Chairman William Strang** (TOTO), **Vice Chairman Al Hodge** (Rome Floyd Chamber of Commerce), **Secretary Kiyoaki**

**Kiyoaki Kojima** (Smith Gambrell Russell) and **Treasurer Martin Long** (Long and Associates). Newly inducted Board members for 2018-2020 are: **Charles Coney** (City of Hampton), **Masae Okura** (Taylor English), and **Anna Hunt** (InSpec Group). The current Board of Directors elected for a second terms of two years were: **Robert Banta** (Banta Immigration Law Ltd.), **Liz Bigler** (Bigler ESL), **Steve Blankenship** (TDK Components), **Anne Godsey** (JASG Tomodachi Club), **Sean Gordon** (Greenberg Traurig LLP), **Bernard Greer** (Alston & Bird LLP), **Thomas Harrold** (Miller & Martin PLLC), **Joseph Huntemann** (Georgia Department of Economic Development), **Martin Long** (Long and Associates LLC), **Robert Marsh** (UPS), **Jim Masui** (Murata Electronics N.A., Inc.), **Scott McMurray** (Georgia Department of Economic Development), **Mike Raymer** (Georgia Council on Economic Education), **Jim Reed** (YKK Corporation of America), **Kevin Ruegger** (Daikin Applied Americas), **Kazuhiro Shimizu** (Alston & Bird LLP), **Josh Smith** (Toyota Forklifts of Atlanta), **William Strang** (TOTO). The AFLAC representative on the Board has changed from **Takaya Hiromori** to **Naoko Tramel**.

For a complete list of Board members, please check our out webpage: [www.jasgeorgia.org](http://www.jasgeorgia.org).

The JASG will elect new Board members and re-elect about half of its Board at next year's Annual Meeting in the summer of 2018. Please contact the JASG at 404-842-1400 or [admin@jasgeorgia.org](mailto:admin@jasgeorgia.org) if you are interested in a Board position of serving on one of our committees (Education, Marketing, Membership, Programs, Tomodachi Club, and Young Professionals) in the future.

## Four Junior Peace Ambassadors Represent Georgia at Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC) in Sister City Fukuoka

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual **Asian-Pacific Children's Convention (APCC)** invited another select group of four elementary school students (2 boys and 2 girls aged 10-11) from Georgia to be Junior Peace Ambassadors (JPA's). They traveled to Fukuoka, Atlanta's Sister City in Japan, for a two-week cultural exchange program from July 11 to July 23. As in previous years, the Japan-America Society of Georgia acted as the official liaison among the APCC, Fukuoka, and Atlanta's APCC delegation, and managed all pre-departure preparations.

This year JASG's APCC Education Committee selected Ryan Rodgers (Macon), Conner Smith (Stone Mountain), Haven Vail (Roswell), and Anne Weiss (Atlanta) to represent the U.S., the state of Georgia, and the City of Atlanta. The chaperone was Jennifer Hickman-Ronquillo (Roswell). This year, Alice Barbe (Dunwoody), 2012 participant and president of the Bridge Club, went with the group. Maki Murahashi, JASG Office Administrator, participate in APCC's program review plan for the future.

This year the JPA's joined more than 300 children from over 50 countries, participating in many activities designed to promote peace and cultural understanding. After arriving in Fukuoka, the children enjoyed an Exchange Camp where they interacted with other JPA's in fun team-building activities. Then they met their homestay families for the duration of the program.

Conner Smith wrote that he will never forget his family: "Every day I would go to school with my host brother Mizuki and we would have a great day. The last weekend ... we went to the train station and rode a bullet train for two hours. We were at an ancient place with many artifacts that were really cool! The best part about the trip ... was that we got to pet deer for free!!! And we fed really big fish too... I am 100,000% sure that we will never forget our amazing experience."

The APCC has been held annually since 1989 with the objectives of: 1) generating appreciation for the cultures of other nations and regions; 2) promoting mutual understanding and friendship; and 3) nurturing international awareness through young people. The conference theme is: "We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world."

For more information or if you know of any elementary students who want to apply in the future years, please contact the JASG at [Admin@JASGeorgia.org](mailto:Admin@JASGeorgia.org) or 404-842-1400. For more information about the APCC, please visit [www.apcc.gr.jp](http://www.apcc.gr.jp).

## JASG Welcomes New Interns

JASG could not function without its loyal, hard-working interns. This fall our interns include: Sarah Baugh (Oglethorpe graduate), Theo Bergquist (Kennesaw junior), Zsarina De Luna (Georgia State senior), Robert Jones (Georgia State junior), Zoey Robinson (Georgia State junior), and Justin Vo (Vassar graduate). We will miss Justin when he leaves for a job teaching English in Japan in November.

*Zsarina and Robert hard at work.*





## JASG WELCOMES 40 OBIRIN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS



During the second and third weeks of August, 28 sophomores from Obirin University in Tokyo arrived in Atlanta for their semester of study. Obirin students have been participating in the Obirin College of Business Management Global Outreach Program since the fall of 2013.

Students study English at the Georgia Tech Intensive English Program (top photo) and the Mercer University English Language Institute (middle photo) for fall semester. During their last eight weeks they also participate in the JASG International Business Practicum that introduces students to best global business practices as students visit major Georgia companies and Japanese transplants. Their capstone project is creating their own company. They present their capstone first here before they leave in December and then again in Japan for the College of Business Management faculty in January. Students at Georgia Tech live with host families, while those at Mercer live in Mercer dorms but



interact with friendship families throughout their stay. They are also required to do 15 hours of community service. This semester their service will be volunteering at JapanFest.

On August 22, 12 students from the School of Business Management at Obirin University arrived in Atlanta for the annual short-term Sports Business Program. JASG has been providing this program to Obirin since August 2013. This year we welcomed a new chaperone, Dr. Yasushi Shimojima, professor of hospitality at Obirin. After an overview of sports in the United States, students participating in this program learn about major and minor league sports, college sports, high school sports, and stadium management. They also enjoy Atlanta Braves, Gwinnett Stripers, Rome Braves, Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Dream, and Atlanta United games. They even went to the Atlanta Speedway to learn about NASCAR. In Hampton, they received a plaque from the mayor that announced August 31 Obirin University Day.



JASG thanks its interns and volunteers for welcoming the students and interacting with them while in Atlanta.



## JASG Volunteers Introduce Japanese Culture at Atlanta Zoo

On July 28 and July 29, JASG volunteers introduced Japanese culture at the Atlanta Zoo's annual International Weekend. Volunteers taught visitors how to write their names in Japanese as well as how to make various origami animals. It was a fun time for all with the JASG booth near the pandas! JASG thanks its interns and volunteers for pitching in.





## TOMODACHI CLUB PLANS ANNUAL EVENTS

The Tomodachi Club, the Women's Friendship and Culture Group of JASG, kicked off its 2018-2019 season on Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> with a wonderful program by Junco Sato Pollack at the Swan Coach House Art Gallery. Junco-san, a long-time Tomodachi Club member, discussed her solo fabric art exhibition, titled "Meditation in Space and Time," that will remain at the Swan Coach House Art Gallery until September 21<sup>st</sup>. In her presentation, Junco-san explained the Zen spiritual practices and motivational events of her life that inspired her work for this collection. Due to the textile nature of the exhibit and program, the Tomodachi Club invited members of the Textile Appreciation Society of Atlanta (TASA) to join them. Following the program, both Tomodachi Club and TASA members enjoyed a delicious luncheon. (See photos)



The four co-chairs of the Tomodachi Club have organized four other general meetings and invite women members of JASG to join them. Our programs for the remainder of the 2018-2019 Tomodachi year are:

**November 7, 2018** (First Wednesday): "Keeping Safe in Atlanta"  
Program: Self-defense lesson presented by Emily Thoreson  
Program and Lunch: NaNa Thai Eatery in Marietta

**January 9, 2019** (Second Wednesday): "Yayoi Kusama, Infinity Mirrors"  
Program: Presentation by Karen Johnson, producer of the documentary film, "Kusama-Infinity"  
Venue: TBD

**March 6, 2019** (First Wednesday): "Play Ball"  
Program: Guided tour of SunTrust Park, new home of the Atlanta Braves Baseball team  
Lunch: Yard House Restaurant at The Battery, Atlanta

**May 1, 2019** (First Wednesday): "The Beauty of Koto Music"  
Program: Musical presentation of Koto music by Ms. Makoka Ito  
Program & Lunch: Nakato Restaurant




Although all members of the Tomodachi Club are invited to participate in the five General Meetings each year, some members also join one of the two small groups, which will hold their meetings on October 3, 2018 and February 6, 2019. The small group activities are arranged by the two small group leaders and members.

The Tomodachi Club was established in October 1981 under the sponsorship of JASG to promote friendship, cultural exchange, and understanding among Japanese and American women. Membership ranges between 55-60 women. To become a member of our Tomodachi Club or for additional information, please contact Ms. Maki Murahashi at the JASG office, Tel. 404-842-1400 or email [jasg@mindspring.com](mailto:jasg@mindspring.com).

## English Corner with Liz Bigler

**BE UNDERSTOOD...THE FIRST TIME**  
**INTENSIVE ACCENT REDUCTION COURSE**  
 Tired of repeating yourself? Achieve clearer English in 4 weeks! We specialize in Japanese speakers of English.



Fall 2018 Course Dates:  
 10/1-10/24 (M, W) 7:00-8:30PM  
 \$350 or \$325 for JASG members.  
 Space is limited. Register today at  
[www.JASGeorgia.org](http://www.JASGeorgia.org) or [www.BiglerESL.com](http://www.BiglerESL.com).  
 Questions? Contact Liz Bigler:  
[Liz@BiglerESL.com](mailto:Liz@BiglerESL.com)

Sometimes, even people who know English very well can be hard to understand because of their accents. A lot of Japanese people who get sent overseas assume they'll be able to function very well in the US, but when they arrive they are surprised! Even though they got good marks in English class at university, they have a hard time understanding Americans, and Americans have a hard time understanding THEM. It can be very frustrating!

When I ask my accent reduction clients what areas they want to improve, most of them say individual sounds, like the difference between "L" sound and "R" sound. Or the "S" vs. "TH" sound. It makes sense that people want to improve their pronunciation of these sounds, since in Japanese, there is no difference between words like "lead" and "read," or "mouse" and "mouth," whereas in English, these are completely different sounding words because of the one little sound difference.

But a lot of people don't realize that much of our understanding is not at the small level of individual sounds. It has to do with the STRESS of words. Syllables are the parts, or beats, of a word.

American English speakers ALWAYS stress one syllable more than the others in a word, and even in sentences, they stress the important words more than the other ones.

Stressing syllables means saying them longer, louder, and more clearly than the other words. For example, the word "society" has 4 syllables. so-ci-e-ty. When American speakers say this word, they don't pronounce each syllable clearly and evenly. The stressed syllable is the second one; so the word sounds like "su-SI-u-dee." In fact, if you pronounce this word so carefully, with a clear stress on each syllable, it actually makes it HARDER to understand.

It's complicated, but it can be learned. And learning these secrets about stress not only helps your accent, it also helps you know what to focus on when you are trying to understand Americans talking. If you are interested in learning more about syllables and stress, here are a few suggestions:

There are some good YouTube channels out there for improving your pronunciation, and some of them touch on stress in speaking. I recommend "Sounds American," and "Rachel's English."

Come to the Japan America Society of Georgia's upcoming Accent Reduction Workshop on September 19 at Bigler ESL offices in Peachtree Corners. The workshop is from 6:30 to 8:30 and is FREE for JASG members! Register at the JASG website. [www.jasgeorgia.org/event-3027514](http://www.jasgeorgia.org/event-3027514)

If you REALLY want to improve your ability to understand and be understood, register for the upcoming intensive accent reduction course offered through the JASG and Bigler ESL October 1-24. I'll be your teacher, and we will go into all these concepts and more...in detail. We'll ONLY study the sounds and concepts that are difficult for Japanese speakers, and the enrollment is limited to 6, so you will get LOTS of individual instruction...and practice. Find more at [www.bigleresl.com/Documents/IntensiveAccent.pdf](http://www.bigleresl.com/Documents/IntensiveAccent.pdf)

Come into Bigler ESL for a free consultation. I'll give you a short needs assessment so you'll know what you need to work on with your accent, and with other English needs. Stop by Bigler ESL's booth at JapanFest. We'll have activities that touch on stressing syllables, plus a contest where you can win different kinds of free lessons, and if you mention this article, you get a free pen or a chapstick!

Thanks for reading! If you have questions about English, or you want to get on Bigler ESL's monthly newsletter list, send me an email at [Liz@BiglerESL.com](mailto:Liz@BiglerESL.com)



## Young Professionals Learn, Network, and Have Fun



Established in 1996, the JASG Young Professionals (YP) group is dedicated to creating a friendly, stimulating environment in which young professionals with an interest in international business and U.S.-Japan relations gather and learn from local experts and one another. Meetings are informal, informative and interactive. The JASG Young Professionals organize a variety of interesting, practical programs to enhance member knowledge of Japan and U.S.-Japan relations.

YP is also about having fun. Meetings are held every month to six weeks. Members are encouraged to get to know one another and Young Professionals' events always have time for socializing. This year, the Young Professionals, working from questionnaires sent out at the beginning of the year, have had both social and career development/networking events. Social events include taking part in the Macon Cherry Blossom festival parade, Red Brick Brewing tasting and trivia, and an attempt to go ice skating that was rained out and turned into dinner. On the career development/networking side, the Young Professionals have been invited on three company tours, had a STEM mentoring dinner, and enjoyed a well-received Networking 101 dinner. Upcoming events include the annual Halloween and Holiday parties. Feel free to come by an event to see if it is for you, or contact the office with ideas for a Young Professionals event.

## JASG MEMBERS ENJOY KAYOBI-KAI DINNERS

Kayobi-Kai is an on-going dinner outing event that meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at different restaurants in the metro-Atlanta area. Kayobi-Kai dinners are informal. Anyone who wants to come to make new friends and re-connect with old friends is welcome. All Kayobi-Kai meetings begin at 7:00p.m. Everyone is responsible for their own check at the end of the evening. Approximately 20 people attend Kayobi-Kai dinners, so please feel free to bring all of your friends, family, and acquaintances!

This fall get-togethers are scheduled as follows:

- Sept 15: JapanFest Nijikai at Haru Ichiban
- October 9: Cho Dang Tofu House
- November 13: Sushi Mito
- December 16: TBD (together with YP)

Please let us know if you will attend, so we can reserve your seat at the restaurant. If you have suggestions or requests about restaurants for Kayobi-Kai meetings, please do not hesitate to contact the JASG office and let us know your recommendations.



## Nihongo-Eigo Kai Improves their Language Skills

The JASG Nihongo/Eigo-Kai is a friendly social gathering for anyone looking for an opportunity to practice or just chat in Japanese or English to improve their conversation skills. The meetings are held at coffee shops, meeting rooms, and other venues in Metro Atlanta on the last weekend of each month. The group discusses a topic in English for an hour and then in Japanese for one hour. The topic changes from month to month. Attendance varies from month to month but ranges between 8 and 22 people.





## New Members in 2018

### New Corporate Members

#### The Japan-America Society of Georgia

##### Newsletter Staff:

Zsarina De Luna  
Yoshi Domoto  
Maria Domoto  
Anne Godsey  
Stephen Haverfield  
Robert Jones  
Maki Murahashi  
Conner Smith

##### Photography:

Maria Domoto  
Miyuki Morooka  
Amanda Turner

*If you would like to advertise in future newsletters, please contact:*  
[admin@jasgeorgia.org](mailto:admin@jasgeorgia.org)

*This will be the last pdf version of the newsletter. From the next edition, the newsletter will be in a digital format.*

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JapanCafe  
Pivot Global Partners  
Wine of Japan Import, Inc

#### Regular Members

American Tombow Inc.  
American Yazaki Corporation  
Dexerials America Corporation  
Wagaya Japanese Restaurant

#### Institutional

City of Hampton  
Georgia State University

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Ann Qualls  
Chieko Rogers  
Linda Rubin  
Alice Schenck  
Miyuki Sheppard  
Masa Tamura

#### Tomodachi

Rima Richardson  
Chieko Rogers  
Karen Takada

#### Family

Dwane Bacak  
Bob Baddy  
Patricia Hanrahan  
Jenny Hickman-Ronquillo  
Drew Himmelreich  
James Hoadley  
Lourie & Royal Law  
Kazuko Lillie  
Carol Robinson

#### Student

Paul Moustoukas

#### Individual

Nicole Allen  
Glen Blankenship  
Chris Cannon  
Stephen Carpenter  
Maria Domoto  
Danielle Fackenthal  
Greg Fiorella  
Christine Follett  
Matthew Jadlocki  
Shintaro Kawaguchi  
Omari Leggett  
Pamela Smith  
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### Young Professionals

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Charleata Battle  
Jenna Bedingfield  
Amanda Blasco  
Lanta Blue  
Kyra Bond  
Adrian Boss  
Charles Bowen  
Jordan Brock  
Yonnie Chan  
Tim Clarke  
Michael Crooks  
Tiana Farmer  
Bryan Fomuteh  
Tyrica Foster  
Drew Gagnon  
Eliza Gicquel

Sam Hekman  
Caitlin Hollander  
Adam Johnson  
Taneca Joseph  
Susumu Komatsu  
Leonardo Koomen  
Anna Lam  
Rishia Lee  
Myles Lefkovitz  
Caitlin McClung  
Scott McLellan  
Kevin Miller  
William Miller  
Laura Nguyen  
Saki Niida  
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James Patterson  
Loscarr Perez  
Travis Preston  
Monique Reese  
Hanna Rewis  
Branden Rivera  
Edger Rodriguez  
Jennie Hickman-Ronquillo  
Ahsan Shah  
Sheida Shirazi  
Lizzie Spies  
Fianna Thacker  
Furetha Thacker  
Robert Thackston  
Carolina Vergas  
Yvonne Wagner  
Cathy Webber