Founded in 1907, Japan Society is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization that brings the people of Japan and the United States closer together through understanding, appreciation and cooperation. Society programs in the arts, business, education and public policy offer opportunities to experience Japanese culture; to foster sustained and open dialogue on issues important to the U.S., Japan and East Asia; and to improve access to information on Japan.
I became president of Japan Society on April 7, 2009. In many ways, this was a natural transition, as I have been deeply involved with the Society for some years now, first as a Director of the Society during my various capacities with Mitsubishi International Corporation and then, until the past spring, as Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York. It is an honor and a privilege to be chosen to lead Japan Society at the beginning of its second century.

In these difficult times, the Society’s mission to foster a dynamic and productive mutual understanding between the people of the U.S. and Japan faces new and unprecedented economic challenges. The Society’s endowment has been greatly affected by the September 2008 market crash, and income used to support programming efforts and administrative costs has been reduced proportionally. Corporate and foundation gifts, the cornerstone of our outstanding and ambitious programming, have been reined in as part of the global belt-tightening caused by the recession. Difficult times demand innovative, perhaps even radical solutions. First, we must redouble our efforts at fundraising, from individuals, from corporations and from foundations. It is critical to our future that we maintain a healthy and diverse base of support. At the same time, cost-cutting and “green” energy-saving measures have been implemented, our staff is leaner and we are exploring ways to further streamline our operations.

Japan Society’s current programming enjoys a very good reputation. Our Gallery, Performing Arts, Film Program, Corporate Program, U.S.-Japan Innovators Network, Lectures and Education programs, and Language Center are all outstanding. Future initiatives will broaden our programming to match ongoing societal shifts in Japan, addressing Japan’s profound influence on the food industry, manga and anime, and popular music across the world. Paramount to the Society’s continued success and growth is the need to build younger, more diverse audiences through programs such as the spring 2009 Japan Society Gallery exhibition, KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games and expanded class offerings at the Toyota Language Center that build on contemporary Japanese culture. In April 2010 we’ll take you on a "J-CATION," a weekend open house at the Society where you can experience a vacation in Japan without leaving New York City! We hope to welcome many new visitors and members to our unique facilities—the first Japanese-designed building in New York City, completed by architect Junzo Yoshimura in 1971. For those unable to attend in person, our greatly expanded online presence now offers live, interactive webcasts, archived program videos and web-only interviews covering hot topics in Japan-U.S. relations. Our talented staff and directors are busy planning these important new projects, and many more.

To our Board, foundation, corporate and individual members, friends and staff, we are deeply grateful for your support during this time, and for our future endeavors.

It was with great sadness that Japan Society learned of the passing of James (Jim) S. McDonald on September 13, 2009, at the age of 56. He was Chairman of Japan Society, and President and CEO of Rockefeller & Co., New York.

Jim, who joined our Board of Directors in 2002 and served as Chairman from 2005, was instrumental in guiding Japan Society through our 100th anniversary celebration in 2007–08. During his time as Chairman, Jim led Japan Society through many of our proudest accomplishments, including our centennial gala dinner with former President Bill Clinton in New York in 2007, and our 100th anniversary gala with Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress of Japan in Tokyo in 2008. Jim was an extraordinary leader who contributed greatly to the success of the Japan Society during his tenure on our Board. He will be missed terribly by all who had the privilege to know and work with him over the years.

We extend deep our condolences to Jim’s wife, Karen, and his children at this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Motoatsu Sakurai
Directors & Officers

Directors
Kazushi Ambe
Senior Vice President, Human Resources,
Sony Corporation of America

Steve Bernstein
President, Zenbu Media

Gregory A. Boyko*
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Richard A. Drucker
Partner, Davis Polk & Wardwell

Robert E. Fallon
Adjunct Professor, Columbia Business School

Atsuko Toko Fish
U.S.-Japan Cross Cultural Communication Consultant

Masaaki Fujita
President and CEO, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.

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Senior Advisor, Investment Banking Division, Morgan Stanley

Nobuhiro Ikura
President and CEO, Nippon Steel U.S.A., Inc.

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Professor, International Economic Law & International Affairs, Columbia University

Robert A. Karr
Principal, John Capital, LLC

Shigesuke Kashiwagi
President and CEO, Nomura Holding America Inc.

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Satoru Murase
Partner, Bingham McCutchen Murase

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Ambassador and Consul General of Japan in New York

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Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Mary Griggs Burke
Tatsuro Goto
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William W. Scranton

As of June 30, 2009

*Member of the Executive Committee  **Life Director  ***Honorary Director  †Deceased September 13, 2009
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As of June 30, 2009
Japan Society 2009 Annual Dinner

The 2009 Annual Dinner was held on June 15 at the Grand Hyatt New York. Fujio Mitarai, Chairman, Nippon Keidanren and Chairman and CEO, Canon Inc., delivered the keynote address to over 550 guests. Frederick H. Katayama, anchor, Reuters Television, served as Master of Ceremonies. Sir Deryck Maughan, Member, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., presented the Japan Society Award to The Hon. Peter G. Peterson, Founder and Chairman, Peter G. Peterson Foundation and Chairman Emeritus and Co-Founder, The Blackstone Group. Jake Shimabukuro, the ukulele virtuoso hailing from Hawaii, amazed guests with his performance of both original and classic pieces. The evening concluded as chef and restaurateur Nobu Matsuhisa was presented with the Japan Society Award by Tim and Nina Zagat, Co-Founders and Co-Chairs of the Zagat Survey.
A traditional Japanese lion dancer playfully teases Mr. Yasunori Yokote, President and CEO, Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc., and Mrs. Yokote at the annual New Year’s celebration. © Yoko Suzuki.

Film directors Michel Gondry (left) and Leos Carax (right) at the New York premiere of TOKYO! at Japan Society. © George Hirose.

Friends of Japan Society Gallery gather at the home of collector Dr. John C. Weber to view his collection of Japanese ceramics. © Yoko Suzuki.

Left to right: Akiko Kawamata; Yoshiaki Kawamata, Senior Managing Executive Officer and CEO for the Americas, The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.; Alan Gilbert, Music Director Designate, New York Philharmonic; and Nobuhiko Ikura, President and CEO, Nippon Steel U.S.A., Inc. at a reception honoring Mr. Gilbert. © George Hirose.

Participants in the first-ever Cosplay Party, held in conjunction with the Japan Society Gallery exhibition KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games. © George Hirose.

Left to right: Motoatsu Sakurai, President, Japan Society; Departures director Yojio Takita; Nobuko Sakurai; and Departures lead actor Masahiro Motoki at a reception celebrating the New York premiere of the Academy Award-winning film Departures. © Satoru Ishikawa.

Sen So’oku, Next Grand Tea Master of the Mushakouji Senke School of Tea, demonstrates “Modern Teism” at a tea gathering. © Satoru Ishikawa.
In September 2008, the Corporate Program season launch coincided with political upheaval in Japan. Yasuo Fukuda, who had been brought in fewer than 12 months prior to replace Shinzo Abe, met stiff resistance from opposition parties who stymied his policy initiatives and appointments. In replacing Mr. Fukuda, the hawkish Taro Aso raised speculation of further strain in Japan's relations with its neighbors. Two other significant factors exacerbated uncertainty in U.S.-Japan relations. One was the pending U.S. presidential election. The overarching concern, however, was less political than economic. With recessionary fears already on the rise, global financial markets were thrown into turmoil in mid-September when U.S. authorities decided against rescuing investment bank Lehman Brothers. For the second time in six months, Wall Street saw another of its vaunted investment banks collapse, and yet another, Merrill Lynch, sent into the arms of Bank of America.

Against this backdrop, the Corporate Program examined the root causes and impact of the financial crisis through a series of panel discussions, including one featuring Citi Chief Economist Lewis Alexander and Brad Setser from the Council on Foreign Relations on the effects of the spike and subsequent plunge in world commodity prices. Additionally, we looked at the role of rating agencies in the crisis and the importance of due diligence for hedge fund investors. In search of an upside, we hosted two panels to discuss how swooning share prices in the West presented M&A opportunities for Japanese firms in banking, and most conspicuously, in the health care sector. Japan's Ambassador to the U.S. and the Bank of Japan governor offered their thoughts on ways to remove the burden of toxic assets and on lessons the U.S. could take from Japan's 1990s banking crisis. Stephen Schwarzman, Chairman and CEO of The Blackstone Group, spoke on the global impact of the current crisis, while PIMCO’s Paul McCulley provided thoughts on the road beyond the deleveraged global economy.

As global capital markets scrambled to attract new listings amidst deteriorating economic conditions and increased global competition, we invited the heads of NASDAQ OMX, the Tokyo Stock Exchange and NYSE Euronext to share their views on reevaluating capital markets regulation. In addition, we convened a major conference in Tokyo featuring 11 panelists from Japan, the U.S., Hong Kong, Singapore and the UK representing government, industry and academia to discuss strategies for making Japan’s capital markets more accessible to foreign companies.

Barack Obama’s win in November prompted consideration of his economic and foreign policy initiatives and their effect on U.S.-Japan relations. Chief economists from JPMorgan, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ and Nomura joined two January discussions to explore the effectiveness of Obama’s announced fiscal and monetary policies in mending the U.S. economy, as well as the impact these initiatives would have on Asian markets. Japan’s envoy to the United Nations, Ambassador Yukio Takasu, examined the Japan’s evolving role in the UN and the degree to which the Obama administration would support Japan’s push for an expanded Security Council that more closely reflects the global political and economic order in the 21st century.

Finally, we embarked on a multidisciplinary look at innovative approaches to traditional business. 7-Bank head Takashi Anzai discussed his unorthodox approach to banking solely through ATM networks, showing that there can be success stories even in tough economic times. Creative Commons CEO Joichi Ito moved from propriety-based business models to open-source software collaborations as he stressed the importance of Japan keeping pace with this small company-oriented business environment in order to play a meaningful role in the new economy.

In September 2008, we began offering live and archived webcasts of many of our programs. We will continue to build on this capability in the coming season in addition to offering select web-only content featuring influential business people, academics and policy-makers. Next season’s topics for public programs and web initiatives include the effectiveness of sweeping regulatory reforms in the post-crisis financial industry; the outcome of Japan’s coming general election; and an assessment of regional power shifts marking 50 years since the signing of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security.
2008–09 Programs

Conferences, Panel Discussions, Seminars & Symposiums

Commodities Conundrum: The U.S. & Japan Battle a Byproduct of Emerging Market Growth • 25 SEPTEMBER
With Lewis Alexander, Chief Economist, Citi; Brad Setser, Fellow for Geoconomics, Council on Foreign Relations; and Hiroaki Tariyama, Executive Vice President, Mitsubishi International Corporation. Jennifer Ablan, Senior Investment Correspondent, Reuters, Ltd, moderating.

Outlook for the U.S. Economy: Distilling the Credit Crisis & Lessons from Japan • 2 OCTOBER
With Richard Katz, Editor-in-Chief, The Oriental Economist Report; Christopher Mayer, Senior Vice Dean and Paul Milestein Professor of Real Estate, Finance & Economics Division; Research Director, Paul Milestein Center for Real Estate, Columbia Business School; and Ann Rutledge, Founding Principal, R&R Consulting. Vincent Truglia, Managing Director of Research, NewOak Capital LLC, moderating.

What's Wrong with Japan? Implications for Tokyo's Political Dysfunction • 21 OCTOBER
With Charles Pritchard, President, Korea Economic Institute; Yuki Tatsumi, Senior Associate, Henry L. Stimson Center; and Yoshihiro Tsurumi, Professor of International Business, Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, the City University of New York. Daniel Rosenblum, Vice President, Japan Society, moderating.

Digital Social Responsibility: Search for a Sound, Responsible Information Society • 29 OCTOBER • Sponsored by Institute for International Socio-Economic Studies.
With Charla Gruffy-Brown, Associate Professor of Information Systems, Graziadio School of Business and Management, Pepperdine University; Jun Kurihara, Senior Fellow, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University; and Harriet Pearson, Vice President, Regulatory Policy and Chief Privacy Officer, IBM Corporation. Devin Stewart, Director, Global Policy Innovations, Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, moderating.

Handyman Needed: Incoming Administration Strategies for a Struggling Economy • 21 JANUARY

America Has Voted: Impact of New U.S. President on Asian Markets • 29 JANUARY • Co-organized by Women’s Bond Club; Center on Japanese Economy and Business, Columbia Business School; and Nomura Holding America Inc.
With Alicia Ogawa, Director, Program on Alternative Investments, Center on Japanese Economy and Business, Columbia Business School; David Resler, Managing Director and Chief Economist, Nomura Securities International, Inc.; and Jeffrey Young, Chief Economist, Platinum Grove Asset Management. Leslie Norton, Foreign Editor, Asia, Barron’s, moderating.

Capital Market Competitiveness: Burning Tokyo’s Image in the Face of Global, Asian Challengers • 12 FEBRUARY • Co-organized by Harvard Law School’s Program on International Financial Systems and The University of Tokyo Graduate School of Economics. In-kind support provided by Mori Building Co. Ltd. Support provided by The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan.
Offsite event in Tokyo, Japan. With Robert Feldman, Director of Economic Research Department and Managing Director, Morgan Stanley Japan Securities Co., Ltd.; Alastair Clark, former Executive Director of Financial Stability, Bank of England; Hideki Ito, Director for Financial Markets Operations, Planning and Coordination Division, Financial Services Agency; Takatoshi Ito, Professor at Graduate School of Economics, University of Tokyo; Anthony Neoh, Former Chairman, Securities and Futures Commission Hong Kong; Barrister-at-Law, Anthony Neoh, SC; Atsushi Saito, President and CEO, Tokyo Stock Exchange Group, Inc.; Heizo Takenaka, Professor and Director, Global Security Research Institute, Keio University; David Shuler, Senior Vice President, Business Development (Asia), NYSE Euronext, Inc.; Paul Speltz, President, Kissing Associates, Inc.; Kotaro Tamura, Member of the House of Councilors; Chairman, House of Councilors Committee on Land Transport; former Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office of Economic and Fiscal Policy; and Frank Wong, Vice Chairman, DBS Group Holdings & DBS Bank, Singapore (retired August 2008). Hal Scott, Nomura Professor of International Financial Systems, Harvard Law School, moderating.

Dining Out: Japan Takes its Appetite for M&A Overseas • 14 APRIL
With Michael Braun, Partner, Partner & Foerster LLP; Richard S. Kelly, Jr., Senior Managing Director, The Bridgeford Group, Inc.; and Nobuhiko Masuto, Managing Director, GCA Savian Advisors, LLC. Herbert Lash, Global Markets Correspondent, Reuters, moderating.

Handling Major Employment Law Challenges Sparked by the Economic Downturn • 21 APRIL • Sponsored by Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.
With Peter Altieri, Member of the Firm, Litigation and Labor and Employment Practice, Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.; John Kosciusko, Vice President, Sales and Marketing, New York Region Employee Benefits Division, Sumitomo Life Insurance Agency America, Inc.; and William Milani, Member of the Firm, Labor and Employment Practice, Epstein Becker & Green, P.C. Michael Levine, Member of the Firm; Head of CSR/Sustainability Practice, Epstein Becker & Green P.C., presenting and moderating.

Tipping the Scales: The Evolution of Shareholder Rights in Japan • 6 MAY
With Kenneth Altman, President, The Altman Group; Sarah Lubman, Director, Brunswick Group LLC; and Marc Goldstein, RiskMetrics Group Governance Research Department. Hajime Matsuura, U.S. Correspondent, NIKKEI, moderating.

Acquisitions of U.S. Pharmaceutical/Health Care Companies: A Health Regulatory Focus • 21 MAY
With Scott Minars, Partner, Merger & Acquisition Services, Deloitte & Touche LLP and Lynn Shapiro Snyder, Member of the Firm; Co-Chair, Health Care Fraud Practice Group; Chair, Third Party Payment Practice Group, Epstein Becker & Green P.C. Michael Levine, Member of the Firm; Head of CSR/Sustainability Practice, Epstein Becker & Green P.C., moderating.

Corporate Lectures

The Meaning of Life: A Message of Encouragement to Face these Difficult Times with Positivity & Bravery • 1 OCTOBER • Co-organized by Seiwojuku New York.
With Kazuo Inamori, founder and Chairman Emeritus, Kyocera Corporation; Honorary Advisor, KDDI Corporation.

The Politics of International Solidarity • 11 NOVEMBER • Co-organized by United Nations Forum.
With Jean-Marc Coicaud, Director, United Nations Forum.

Japan Society Annual Report 2008-09
Lessons Learned: Charting a Way Out of the Current Economic Crisis • 17 NOVEMBER
With His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America. Gregory Boyko, Chairman, Hartford Life Insurance, K.K.; Director, Japan Society, presiding.

Creative Commons & the Sharing Economy • 20 NOVEMBER • Support provided by Creative Commons and Nixon Peabody LLP.
With Joichi Ito, Chief Executive Officer, Creative Commons; Co-Founder and Director, Digital Garage; Founder and CEO, Neoteny Co., Ltd. Laurin Mills, D.C. Office Managing Partner; Member of the firm’s Intellectual Property Department; and Founder and Editor of the firm’s NP 2.0 website, Nixon Peabody LLP, presiding.

Japan’s Bid for Security Council Reform & its Role in the United Nations • 23 JUNE
With His Excellency Yukio Takasu, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. Michael Green, Senior Adviser and Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Associate Professor, Georgetown University, presiding.

Corporate Luncheons

Citi Japan CEO Offers Insights into Japan’s Financial Services Transformation in the Face of Volatile Global Markets • 16 OCTOBER
With Douglas L. Peterson Representative Director and CEO, Citigroup Japan Holdings; Chairman, President and CEO, Nikko Cordial Corporation. James S. McDonald, President and CEO Rockefeller & Co., Inc; Chairman, Japan Society, presiding.

Seven Bank: Amidst Turmoil, a Publicly-Traded Success Story in Banking • 19 NOVEMBER
With Takashi Anzai, President, Seven Bank Ltd. James Reed, President and CEO, Mizuho Securities USA Inc., presiding.

The Future of Global Capital Markets • 2 DECEMBER
With Magnus Bocker, President, NASDAQ OMX. Merit Janow, Professor in the Practice of International Economic Law and International Affairs, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University; Chairwoman, Board of Directors, The NASDAQ Stock Market LLC; Director, Japan Society, presiding.

The Global Impact of the Financial Crisis • 10 MARCH
With Stephen Schwarzman, Chairman and CEO, The Blackstone Group. Jeffrey Shafer, Vice Chairman, Global Banking; Senior Asia Pacific Representative in New York, Citi, presiding.

Lessons Learned: Charting a Way Out of the Current Economic Crisis • 17 NOVEMBER
With His Excellency Ichiro Fujisaki, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America. Gregory Boyko, Chairman, Hartford Life Insurance, K.K.; Director, Japan Society, presiding.

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The Global Impact of the Financial Crisis • 10 MARCH
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Japan Society wishes to thank the following corporations for their generous support of the Corporate Program:

Global Leaders:
- Citigroup Inc.
- Continental Airlines
- Deloitte & Touche, LLP
- Mizuho Securities USA
- Toyota Motor North America, Inc.

Corporate Partners:
- Mitsui & Co. (U.S.A.), Inc.
- WL Ross & Co. LLC

Additional support:
- The American Chamber of Commerce in Japan; Center on Japanese Economy and Business, Columbia Business School; Creative Commons; Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.; First Advantage Investigative Services; Harvard Law School’s Program on International Financial Systems; Institute for International Socio-Economic Studies; The Institute of International Bankers; Mori Building Co. Ltd.; Nixon Peabody LLP; Nomura Holding America Inc.; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP; Seiwaigaku New York; United Nations Forum; The University of Tokyo Graduate School of Economics; Women’s Bond Club.

Japan Society would also like to thank Yoko Makino for her generous support of the Corporate Program.
1 Masaaki Shirakawa (right), Governor, Bank of Japan, shares lunch with Yoshiaki Kawamura, Senior Managing Executive Officer and CEO for the Americas, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd.; Director, Japan Society, prior to the governor’s address on the current global economic crisis and lessons that can be taken from Japan’s recent experience. © Ken Levinson.

2 Heizo Takenaka (center with mic), Professor and Director, Global Security Research Institute, Keio University, is joined by 10 other speakers from the U.S., Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong and the UK to discuss ways to boost the competitiveness of Tokyo’s capital markets at a Socratic dialogue hosted in Tokyo. © Academyhills.

3 Before his luncheon talk on the future of capital markets, Duncan Niederauer (right), Chief Executive Officer and Director, NYSE Euronext is joined by NYSE Euronext Director; Rockefeller & Co., Inc. President and CEO; and Japan Society Chairman James McDonald. © Ken Levinson.

4 Stephen Schwarzman, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, The Blackstone Group, offers his thoughts on the global impact of the financial crisis and the signs he looks for that will point to a recovery. © Ken Levinson.

5 Atsushi Saito (lower left), President and Chief Executive Officer, Tokyo Stock Exchange Group, Inc., engages (clockwise from Mr. Saito) James Reed, President and Chief Executive Officer, Mizuho Securities USA Inc.; Director, Japan Society; David Heleniak, Vice Chairman, Morgan Stanley; Director, Japan Society; and program presider Shigesuke Kashiwagi, President and CEO, Nomura Holding America Inc.; Director, Japan Society, before his address on TSE’s strategy for challenging global competition. © Ken Levinson.

6 His Excellency Yukio Takasu, Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, fields questions following his remarks about United Nations Security Council reform measures. At his right is Michael Green, Senior Adviser and Japan Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Associate Professor, Georgetown University. © Ken Levinson.
Presider Deryck Maughan (right), Partner, Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.; Chairman, KKR Japan; Director, Japan Society, opens the audience Q&A session following remarks by Paul McCulley, Managing Director, Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO), on the deleveraged global economy.

© Ken Levinson.

(L–R) Lewis Alexander, Chief Economist, Citi; Hiroyuki Tarumi, Executive Vice President, Mitsubishi International Corporation; Brad Setser, Fellow for Geoeconomics, Council on Foreign Relations and moderator Jennifer Ablan, Senior Investment Correspondent, Reuters, LLC join in a lively debate on the causes and effects of rapidly fluctuating commodities prices. © Ken Levinson.

(L–R) Michael Braun, Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP; Richard S. Kelly, Jr., Senior Managing Director, The Bridgeford Group, Inc.; Nobuhiko Masuto, Managing Director, GCA Savvian Advisors, LLC; and moderator Herbert Lash, Global Markets Correspondent, Reuters, discuss the phenomenon of increased out-in M&A activity by Japanese firms during the economic downturn. © Ken Levinson.

Presider James Reed (left), President and CEO, Mizuho Securities USA Inc.; Director, Japan Society, enjoys lunch with Takashi Anzai, President, Seven Bank Ltd., before Mr. Anzai’s talk on the success of his firm’s banking model, which relies almost exclusively on thousands of networked ATMs located in convenience stores throughout Japan. © Ken Levinson.

Joichi Ito, Chief Executive Officer, Creative Commons; Co-Founder and Director, Digital Garage; Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Neoteny Co., Ltd., discusses Creative Commons and the business model for the sharing economy. © Ken Levinson.
**Policy Projects**

*The U.S.-Japan Innovators Network (IN), co-organized with The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, is a “place” where creative and innovative people from the U.S. and Japan and cutting-edge ideas come together for thoughtful dialogue, new ways to think about tough problems and collaboration. Through private retreats, public symposia and exchange programs, IN works to connect people and ideas, provides avenues for collaboration and helps catalyze positive change. IN has also expanded its web-related activities, including a blog, Twitter, webcasts, and video on YouTube and the Society’s website.

IN has been active in Japan this year, beginning with a public program featuring Rosanne Haggerty, President of Common Ground Community, who spoke at a well-attended public symposium on social entrepreneurship in September. Aspiring and established young social entrepreneurs attended this sold-out event, which was co-sponsored by Entrepreneurial Training for Innovative Communities (ETIC), Shinsei Bank and the Institute for Strategic Leadership (ISL). In addition to the public symposium, other opportunities were arranged so that young social entrepreneurs could meet with Rosanne in more intimate settings.

In February, IN co-organized an exchange program and public symposium called *Social Design: Design + Community + Social Impact*, with the Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization in Tokyo. Max Schorr, co-founder and Community Director, *GOOD Magazine*; Casey Caplowe, co-founder and Creative Director, *GOOD Magazine*, and Valerie Casey, Leader of the Digital Design Experience at IDEO and Founder, the Designers Accord, traveled to Japan to explore the role of design in sustainability. At a panel discussion held as part of the program’s public symposium, they were joined by Masaaki Ikeda, Creative Director, Tokyo Changemakers and Eco Plaza, as well as Kazufumi Nagai, Art Director, Hakuhodo Design and Soichi Ueda, Producer, Spaceport.

In April, members of a team of professionals and social activists involved in *Learning from Disaster: Miyakejima & New Orleans* finally made it to Tokyo after the exchange program was postponed in September due to Hurricane Gustav. Joining participants from the first exchange that brought eight Japanese to New Orleans a year earlier, participants continued their discussions on the problems they faced, the knowledge, skills, and experiences gained, evacuation and recovery plans, and shared ideas on how to improve response operations. A large and well-attended public symposium was held at Meiji University. A smaller group of four participated in a special trip to Miyakejima organized by the City of Miyake and the mayor, Hiroyasu Hirano, to see first hand the devastation of the 2000 volcano eruption.


Building on a program that took place in Kyoto in November of 2008, IN organized the “Machiya Preservation Project,” which consisted of workshops and a forum in New York for civic organizations we worked with in Kyoto. These civic organizations, led by machiya owner Fusae Kojima, and supported by such luminaries as Kengo Kuma, Architect & Principal, Kengo Kuma Associates, fear that the loss of the machiya, traditional wood row houses, will alter the fabric of Kyoto and end a centuries-old cultural heritage. As part of this project, Ms. Kojima and her group of pioneering Japanese preservationists traveled to New York to learn from the American preservation experience in an effort to deepen and broaden Kyoto’s historic preservation efforts.

Looking ahead into the next year, IN will facilitate an exchange to the U.S. of young Japanese social entrepreneurs from regions outside of Tokyo; continue our exploration of design and community; look for meaningful ways to highlight the work of the members of IN; and much, much more.
Retreats & Site Visits

Machiya Preservation Project Workshops • 3–5 NOVEMBER • Co-organized with Kyoto City Center for Community Collaboration.

With Ruth Abram, Founder, Lower East Side Tenement Museum; Lisa Ackerman, Executive Vice President, World Monuments Fund; Michael Adlerstein, FAIA, Assistant Secretary General, Executive Director, Capital Master Plan, UN; Simeon Bankoff, Executive Director, Historic Districts Council; Adele Chatfield-Taylor, President, the American Academy in Rome; Kazunori Kaneshiro, President, Zero Corporation; Wendy Nicholas, Director, the National Trust Northeast Regional Office; Hiroshi Okubo, Vice Chairman, Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation; Takahiko Otani, Professor, Department of Architecture, Mukogawa Women’s University; President, Kyomachiya Revitalization Study Group; Kenzo Teramoto, Deputy Director, Kyoto Center for Community Collaboration; Frank E. Sanchis, Senior Vice President, The Municipal Art Society of New York; and Anne H. Van Ingen, Director, Architecture, Planning and Design Program and Capital Projects, New York State Council on the Arts.

Exchange Programs

Tokyo Exchange: Design & Sustainability • 5–9 FEBRUARY • Co-organized with The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization (JIDPO).

Offsite event in Tokyo, Japan. With Max Schorr, Co-Founder and Community Director, GOOD Magazine; Casey Caplowe, Co-Founder and Creative Director, GOOD Magazine; and Valerie Casey, Leader of the Digital Design Experience, IDEO and the Founder of The Designers Accord.

New York Exchange: Design & Sustainability • 9–13 MARCH • Co-organized with The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

With Shiji Yajima, Director, Program Development, Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization (JIDPO).

Learning from Disaster: Miyakejima & New Orleans, Part 2 • 15–22 APRIL • Co-organized with Institute for Urban Governance, Meiji University.

Offsite event in Tokyo, Japan. With Yasushi Aoyama, Professor, Graduate School of Governance Studies, Meiji University and former Vice Governor of Tokyo; Hiroshi Amemiya, Founder and CEO, Corporate Citizenship Japan Limited; Edward Blakely, Executive Director, Office of Development and Recovery Administration, City of New Orleans; Yukio Endo, Chairperson, Japan Trade Union Confederation, Tokyo Local (Rengo Tokyo); Shawn Escoffery, Deputy Director, New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative; Rosanne Haggerty, Founder and CEO, Common Ground Community; Sukeyasu Hirano, Mayor, Miyake Village; Jozo Inose, Managing Director, Tokyo Consumer’s Co-Operative Union; Martha J. Kegel, Executive Director, UNITY; Vien The Nguyen, Pastor, Mary Queen of Viet Nam Church; M. von Nakos, Loaned Executive, Office of Recovery & Development Administration, City of New Orleans; Richard McCarthy, Founder and Executive Director, marketumbella.org; Kathy Riedlinger, CEO, Lusher Charter School; Kouichiro Sakae, Director, Miyakejima Volunteer Center; Kazuyuki Sasaki, Research Fellow, Research Center for Crisis and Contingency Management, Meiji University; and Yasuo Uehara, Director General, Tokyo Volunteer Network for Disaster Relief.

Public Programs

Lessons from a Social Entrepreneur—Using Business Methods to Solve Homelessness & Revitalize Communities • 12 SEPTEMBER • Co-organized with Shinseik Bank, Institute for Strategic Leadership (ISL) and Entrepreneurial Training for Innovative Communities (ETIC).

Offsite event in Tokyo, Japan. With Rosanne Haggerty, Founder and President of Common Ground Community.

A City Under Siege: Saving Kyoto’s Machiya from Destruction • 5 NOVEMBER • Co-organized with Kyoto City Center for Community Collaboration.

With Ruth Abram, Founder, Lower Eastside Tenement Museum; Fusae Kojima, machiya owner, President and Executive Director, Kyomachiya Revitalization Study Group; Kengo Kuma, Architect and Principal, Kengo Kuma Associates; Limbon, Professor, Ritsumeikan University; and Hiroshi Mimura, President, Kyoto City Center for Community Collaboration.

Social Design + Community + Social Impact. The Latest from GOOD Magazine & IDEO • 8 FEBRUARY • Co-organized with The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the Japan Industrial Design Promotion Organization (JIDPO).

Offsite event in Tokyo, Japan. With Max Schorr, Co-Founder and Community Director, GOOD Magazine; Casey Caplowe, Co-Founder and Creative Director, GOOD Magazine; Valerie Casey, Leader, Digital Design Experience, IDEO and Founder of The Designers Accord; Masaaki Ikeda, Creative Director, Tokyo Changemaker and Eco Plaza; Soichi Ueda, Producer, Spaceport; and Kazufumi Nagai, Art Director, HAKUHODO DESIGN.

Learning from Disaster: Miyakejima & New Orleans • 18 APRIL • Co-organized with Institute for Urban Governance, Meiji University.

Offsite event in Tokyo, Japan. With Yasushi Aoyama, Professor, Graduate School of Governance Studies, Meiji University and former Vice Governor of Tokyo; Edward Blakely, Executive Director, Office of Development and Recovery Administration, City of New Orleans; Shawn Escoffery, Deputy Director, New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative; Rosanne Haggerty, Founder and CEO, Common Ground Community; Martha J. Kegel, Executive Director, UNITY; Vien The Nguyen, Pastor, Mary Queen of Viet Nam Church; M. von Nakos, Loaned Executive, Office of Recovery & Development Administration, City of New Orleans; Richard McCarthy, Founder and Executive Director, marketumbella.org; and Kathy Riedlinger, CEO, Lusher Charter School.


The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World • 12 MAY

With Jacqueline Novogratz, CEO, the Acumen Fund and author of The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World. Justin Rockefeller, Co-Founder, GenerationEngage; Director, Japan Society, moderating.

The U.S.-Japan Innovators Network was co-organized and generously supported by The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

Additional support was provided by Jack and Susy Wadsworth, R&R Consulting, Inc., and Justin A. Rockefeller.

International transportation was supported by Continental Airlines and All Nippon Airways, Ltd.

The Network was also made possible in part by Japan Society’s endowment for policy projects.

Learning from Disaster: Miyakejima & New Orleans was generously funded by The Ford Foundation.

Additional support was provided by Japan Trade Union Confederation, Tokyo Local (Rengo Tokyo), Tokyo Consumers’ Co-operative Union, and Meiji University, Research Center for Crisis and Contingency Management.
1 Alan Webber, co-founder of Fast Company Magazine and author of Rules of Thumb: 52 Truths for Winning at Business without Losing Yourself, at the book signing following his lecture. © Satoru Ishikawa.

2 Jacqueline Novogratz, CEO of the Acumen Fund and author of The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World, reacts to a question from the audience. To her right is moderator Justin Rockefeller, Co-Founder, GenerationEngage and Japan Society Board member. © George Hirose.

3 Casey Caplowe, Co-founder and Creative Director, GOOD Magazine; and Max Schorr, Co-founder and Community Director, GOOD Magazine, participate in a panel discussion about the designer’s mission today at Social Design, Design + Community + Social Impact: The Latest from GOOD Magazine & IDEO, an IN event in Tokyo.

4 At the IN conference A City Under Siege: Saving Kyoto’s Machiya from Destruction, Fusae Kojima, machiya owner, President and Executive Director of Kyomachiya Revitalization Study Group, responds to a question from the audience as Hiroshi Mimura (center), President, Kyoto City Center for Community Collaboration and Kengo Kuma (right), Architect and Principal, Kengo Kuma Associates look on. © Satoru Ishikawa.

5 Participants in Learning from Disaster: Miyakejima & New Orleans meet with staff and members of Kaze no Uie (House of Wind), the Miyake Village mayor and other municipal officials during a trip to Miyakejima. © Kazuyuki Sasaki.
Valerie Casey, Leader of the Digital Design Experience, IDEO and the Founder of The Designers Accord, speaks about design thinking at Social Design Design + Community + Social Impact: The Latest from GOOD Magazine & IDEO.

Yasushi Aoyama, Professor, Graduate School of Governance Studies, Meiji University and former Vice Governor of Tokyo, leads a group from New Orleans on a site visit in Sumida Ward, Tokyo.

Fellowships & Exchanges

The U.S.-Japan Media Fellows Program is in its 11th year of sending established American journalists to Japan. Working closely with the Foreign Press Center and Japan Society, our Fellows play a key role in developing their own individually tailored six-week programs. The fellowship enables journalists to research a topic of their choice in an effort to help them better understand the U.S.-Japan relationship. During the 2008–09 fiscal year, two Fellows completed their fellowships and an alternate, Liza Mundy, Staff Writer, Washington Post Magazine, was selected.

Barry Lynn, freelance journalist and Senior Fellow, New America Foundation, went to Japan from July 1–August 12, where he researched Japan’s industrial security policy in light of the changing global market economy climate, with a focus on the automobile industry and food quality and safety. His time in Japan was used to research material for a chapter on Japan in his book, The Illusion of Choice. He met with many government officials, corporate executives, think tank scholars and journalists, and visited sites including an auto part factory in Niigata and a quarantine station in Yokohama.

While in Japan from September 10–October 22, Dana Goodyear, a Staff Writer for The New Yorker magazine, interviewed writers and publishers of cell phone novels, as well as academics and others who follow the genre. Her research led to an article on cell phone novels called I ♥ Novels, published in the December 22 & 29, 2008 issue of The New Yorker. While in Japan, she visited the city of Obama, which was celebrating its connection to the yet to be American president and the company that produced the eyeglasses that vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin wore during her campaign. This resulted in a New Yorker “Talk of the Town” piece in the October 20, 2008 issue. More on her time in Japan is also available on her blog.

The past year saw the participation of several Fellows in other Japan Society programs. Most recently, Dana Goodyear participated in a public panel discussion on May 5, 2009 entitled “Lovesick Japan: Stories of Intimacy from Courts to Keitai (Cell Phone) Novels,” which enabled her to speak about the research she conducted on cell phone novels during her fellowship. Two former Japan Society Fellows, Alan Webber, co-founder of Fast Company Magazine, and Daniel Pink, author of The Adventures of Johnny Bunko: the Last Career Guide You’ll Ever Need, spoke about their new books as part of programs organized through the Society’s U.S.-Japan Innovators Network, in April 2009 and October 2008 respectively. Rosanne Haggerty, founder and President, Common Ground Community, participated in the second exchange program, Learning from Disaster: Miyakejima & New Orleans, which took place in Tokyo in April 2009. On February 4, Mark Halperin, Editor-at-Large, Time Magazine, participated in a panel discussion titled “The U.S. & East Asia Under the Obama Administration.”
2008–09 Programs

Fellowship Residency: 2007–08 United States-Japan Foundation Media Fellows Program
1 JULY–12 AUGUST
Barry Lynn, freelance journalist and Senior Fellow, New America Foundation.

Fellowship Residency: 2007–08 United States-Japan Foundation Media Fellows Program
10 SEPTEMBER–22 OCTOBER
Dana Goodyear, Staff Writer, The New Yorker.

The United States-Japan Media Fellows Program was generously supported by the United States-Japan Foundation. Additional assistance was provided by the Foreign Press Center Japan. Transportation assistance was provided by Japan Airlines.

1 Dana Goodyear visited Obama City in Fukui Prefecture and wrote a piece for The New Yorker’s “Talk of the Town.” Photo courtesy of Dana Goodyear.


3 Barry Lynn, 2007–08 U.S.-Japan Media Fellow, with his wife and two sons at Kinkakuji in Kyoto. Photo courtesy of Barry Lynn.
Undaunted by a 40 percent budget reduction, last season Japan Society Gallery presented not two but three shows, starting with the first in a series of summer exhibits looking at unexpected subjects and non-traditional media. Tapestry in Architecture: Creating Human Spaces (July 10–August 14, 2008), co-organized with the National Association of Japan-American Societies, featured textile artist Mitsuko Asakura’s intricately woven works designed to complement architectural interiors.

New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters (October 4, 2008–January 11, 2009), was the first-ever show focusing on the use of bamboo as a sculptural medium, with 93 works by 23 innovators ranging in age from 32 to 78. “It’s hard not to feel a deep reverence for the sheer genius and dedication behind the work,” wrote Christine Kaminsky in American Craft, while the Associated Press’s Ann Levin praised the artists’ “...impressive...technical accomplishment, invention, and genius.” The exhibition drew nearly 9,000 visitors and enjoyed significant financial support from American collectors who play a vital role in sustaining Japanese artists working in bamboo. Despite a very difficult economic environment, membership of the Friends of the Gallery—a key group of benefactors—actually increased from 2008 to 2009.

With nearly 17,000 visitors, our spring 2009 exhibition KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games (March 13–June 14, 2009) was the second most successful in Japan Society’s history, contributing to a 60 percent year-on-year increase in Gallery attendance. Thanks to its unusual selection and the dynamic installation by hot Tokyo architects Atelier Bow-Wow, KRAZY!, originally organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery, attracted an almost universally positive critical reaction which continued until the exhibition’s closing fortnight. “Aficionados may have seen it all before, but for newbs, the exhibit is likely to dazzle,” enthused The Village Voice, and Evan Minto of about.com typified web comment when he wrote of “…an astounding variety of works [that] provided a nice balance between the fun, irreverent style of pop culture and the more literate, serious tone of art criticism.” Boosted by a sell-out Cosplay Contest enjoyed by over 400 participants, KRAZY! broadened the appeal of the Gallery and brought an entirely new demographic into Japan Society for the very first time.

In addition to the exhibitions, the Gallery co-organized, with the Japan Foundation, a symposium entitled Japanese Art in America: Building the Next Generation. Held at Japan Society on March 16, the one-day event gathered leading curators, academics, dealers and collectors from all over the U.S., along with senior officials from Japan, for an in-depth discussion on ways of working together to ensure that Japanese art makes a greater contribution to American culture.

Our program for 2009–10 has already kicked off with Buriki: Japanese Tin Toys from the Golden Age of the American Automobile (July 9–August 16, 2009), an exhibit of 1950s miniature vehicles from the Yoku Tanaka collection, hailed as “terrific retro fun” (Time Out New York Kids), “an utterly fascinating exhibition” (artnet.com), and “a delightful exhibition” (Wall Street Journal). With the aim of providing a mix of shows that both appeals to our traditional support base and underlines connections between earlier Japanese art and the present day, we continue in the fall with Serizawa: Master of Japanese Textile Design, celebrating a great 20th-century artist-craftsman, and next year we present Graphic Heroes, Mythic Monsters: Japanese Prints by Utagawa Kuniyoshi from the Arthur R. Miller Collection. The show was last season’s surprise hit at London’s Royal Academy, with local critics pointing out the resonances between the 19th-century artist’s frenziedly energetic designs and today’s manga. We feel confident that it will do just as well in New York next spring.
Tapestry in Architecture: Creating Human Spaces

Organized in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS).

This exhibition was made possible by Canon Inc. This exhibition was also supported by The Tokyo Club.

Additional funding was provided by Kauffman Corporation, Takenaka Corporation, and Shinichi Corporation. Media sponsorship was provided by WNYC and Louise Blouin Media. Transportation assistance at Japan Society was provided by Japan Airlines.

Exhibitions at Japan Society are also made possible in part by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund and the Friends of the Gallery. Installations at Japan Society Gallery are supported by a generous gift from Henry Cornell. Japan Society also wishes to thank The W.L.S. Spencer Foundation for its catalogue support.

Opening Night Preview & Reception
9 JULY

Exhibition
10 JULY-14 AUGUST

An exhibition featuring the work of textile artist Mitsuko Asakura, showcasing 12 large-scale hanging pieces as well as photographs of installed tapestries and a video essay depicting the creation process. Several pieces were originally commissioned for specific locations in Japan, including Hie Shrine in Tokyo, Pfizer Global Research and Development in Nagoya, and Resona Bank in Osaka. Because these pieces are integral components of the buildings where they now hang, Asakura painstakingly created exact copies for the exhibition, which premiered at Japan Society before traveling to Harvard University’s Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Cambridge, Mass. (September 15–November 14, 2008), the Morikami Museum and Gardens, Delray Beach, Fla. (December 16, 2008–February 22, 2009), and the American Institute of Architects Headquarters Gallery, Washington, D.C. (March 12–June 26, 2009).

The daughter of an artist and dyer, Mitsuko Asakura was born and raised in Kyoto, the former capital of Japan. Growing up helping her father in his dyeing workshop and surrounded by the traditional craft artists of Kyoto, Asakura developed a passion for weaving. Deeply immersed in the traditional textile culture of Japan, she created her own original style of textile art by mixing traditional fiber dyeing with experimental shapes. Asakura’s tapestries are notable for their sensitive use of color and unusual forms. All of her dyes are handmade, often featuring a combination of natural ingredients sourced in the nature surrounding Kyoto, along with cutting-edge chemical substances. The interplay of the natural and man-made materials in the dye creates vibrant and subtle colors that distinguish her work.

New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters

This exhibition was supported by the Mary Livingston Griggs and Mary Griggs Burke Foundation, Diane and Arthur Abbey, the Arete Foundation, the Cotsen Foundation for Academic Research, Edward and Anne Studzinski, Chris A. Wochenheim, The Japan Foundation, TAI Gallery, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, Inc., and the Leadership Committee for New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters.

Additional support was provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Media sponsorship was provided by WNYC and Louise Blouin Media. Transportation assistance was provided by Japan Airlines.

Exhibitions at Japan Society are also made possible in part by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund and the Friends of the Gallery. Installations at Japan Society Gallery are supported by a generous gift from Henry Cornell. Japan Society also wishes to thank The W.L.S. Spencer Foundation for its catalogue support.

Opening Night Preview
1 OCTOBER

Members’ Opening
3 OCTOBER

Exhibition
4 OCTOBER-11 JANUARY

This was the first ever exhibition, inside or outside Japan, to focus exclusively on non-functional bamboo works of art, featuring 23 innovators who fully exploit the tension between traditional skills and new forms of expression. Ranging from ethereal, computer-designed filigrees, through dramatic wall pieces to angry-looking, dirt-encrusted tangles and anthropomorphic, sexually charged sculptures, the 93 works on display demonstrated awesome technique, meticulous attention to detail and extraordinary creativity. In contrast to other recent bamboo exhibitions in the United States, New Bamboo was devoted to living artists and sculptural work, and celebrated Japanese bamboo’s emergence as an international phenomenon. Offering a comprehensive overview of a new wave of artists, it showed how they have reached beyond the established boundaries of their chosen medium, abandoning traditional functionality in favor of a purely sculptural approach while creating masterpieces that are frequently even more technically accomplished than works of the previous generation. In their conscious creation of a novel sense of “Japan-ness,” often informed by an awareness of international trends in sculpture and installation art, the works exhibited offered not only aesthetic delight but also a new expression of the Japanese experience of hybridized modernity.

Featured Artists

Fujitsuka Shōsei (b. 1949) Ōsa, Kanagawa Prefecture
Honda Shōryū (b. 1951) Beppu, Ōita Prefecture
Honma Hideaki (b. 1959) Sado Island, Niigata Prefecture
Honma Kazuaki (b. 1930) Niigata, Niigata Prefecture
Ikeda Iwa (b. 1940) Musashino, Tokyo Metropolis
Kawana Tetsunori (b. 1945) Tokyo Metropolis and Union City, New Jersey
Kawashima Shigeo (b. 1958) Sagamigahara, Kanagawa Prefecture
Matsumoto Hafū (b. 1952) Tateyama, Chiba Prefecture
Mimura Chikuhō (b. 1973) Beppu, Ōita Prefecture
Morigami Jinn (b. 1955) Beppu, Ōita Prefecture
Nagakura Ken’ichi (b. 1952) Shizuoka, Shizuoka Prefecture
Nakatomi Hajime (b. 1974) Beppu, Ōita Prefecture
Ōki Toshie (b. 1976) Totebouyashi, Gunma Prefecture
Shōno Tokuzō (b. 1942) Ōita, Ōita Prefecture
Stephen Talasnik (b. 1954) New York City, New York
Tanabe Mitsuko (b. 1944) Sakai, Osaka Prefecture
Torii Isshū (b. 1930) Nishio, Aichi Prefecture
Uematsu Chikuyō (b. 1947) Atsugi, Kanagawa Prefecture
Ueno Masao (b. 1949) Kamogawa, Chiba Prefecture
Yako Hōdo (b. 1940) Fukaya, Saitama Prefecture
Yonezawa Jirō (b. 1956) Sado Island, Niigata Prefecture

Exhibition-Related Events

Gagaku Revolution: New Sounds of Ancient Bamboo
10 OCTOBER
See p. 23 for complete program details.

Konnochiwa Friends Family Tours
New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters
11 OCTOBER, 15 NOVEMBER, 13 DECEMBER & 10 JANUARY
See p. 33 for complete program details.

Art Cart: New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters
19 OCTOBER
See p. 32 for complete program details.
Robert Coffland on Collecting Bamboo Art in America
28 OCTOBER
See p. 29 for complete program details.

Contemporary Art, Ancient Materials: A Conversation with Tanabe Shōchiku
6 NOVEMBER
See p. 29 for complete program details.

Japanese Bamboo in the Art Classroom: A Hands-On Workshop
9 NOVEMBER
See p. 32 for complete program details.

Responding to New Bamboo: Japanese Contemporary Masters
14 NOVEMBER
See p. 33 for complete program details.

Lecture programs for New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters were assisted by The Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies.

KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games

This exhibition was organized by the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Transportation assistance was provided by Japan Airlines. Media sponsorship was provided by WNYC and Louise Blouin Media. English-language manga for the Manga Pod were supplied by VIZ Media.

Exhibitions at Japan Society are also made possible in part by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund and the Friends of the Gallery. Installations at Japan Society Gallery are supported by a generous gift from Henry Cornell. Japan Society also wishes to thank The W.L.S. Spencer Foundation for its catalogue support.

Opening Night Preview
11 MARCH

Members’ Opening
12 MARCH

Exhibition
13 MARCH–14 JUNE
Curator: Bruce Grenville, Senior Curator, Vancouver Art Gallery
Co-Curators: Kiyoshi Kusumi and Toshiya Ueno (Anime and Manga); Will Wright (Video Games)
Exhibition Design: Atelier Bow-Wow

KRAZY! celebrated Japan’s extraordinary contributions to contemporary popular culture—manga, anime and video games steeped in arresting imagery which is understood and appreciated with unmatched sophistication and passion. Originally conceived by Vancouver Art Gallery as an international overview, KRAZY! was presented at Japan Society in a specially edited version focused on Japan’s unique role as a purveyor of new forms of creativity that, for many younger Americans, define their idea of what “Japan” is.

Deliberately omitting world-famous founding fathers and superstars such as Osamu Tezuka and Hayao Miyazaki, the curators of KRAZY!’s Japanese component concentrated on developments from the late 1980s onwards, opening the door to a younger generation of artists who intentionally work across a wide variety of fields—manga, anime, illustration, music—and offering an insight into the shared purpose and interdependence of these diverse forms. To tell this story they gathered together original sketches, concept drawings, production drawings, digital images, models, sculptures, books, films and video games that revealed an extraordinary history of production, one that is poised to redefine the scope of visual culture in the 21st century.

Featured Artists & Works

Manga
Hisashi Eguchi, Stop!! Hibari-kun! 1981–83
Mamoru Nagano, The Five Star Stories, 1986–
Taiyo Matsumoto, Tekkō Kinkōto (Black and White), 1993–94
Junko Mizuno, Pure Trance, 1996–98
Takashi Okazaki, Afro Samurai, 1994–2008
Moyoco Anno, Sakurasu, 2001–03

Video Games
Toru Iwatani, Pac-Man, 1980
Shigeru Miyamoto, Super Mario World, 1990
Shigeru Miyamoto, The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker, 2002

Anime
Ichiro Itano, Super Dimension Fortress Macross, 1982–83
Katsuhiro Otomo, Akira, 1988
Mamoru Oshii, Patlabor 2: The Movie, 1993
Masaaki Yuasa, Mind Game, 2004
Makoto Shinkai, The Place Promised in Our Early Days, 2004
Satoshi Kon, Paprika, 2006

Soundtracks
Yoko Kanno, Cowboy Bebop, 1998; Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex, 2002; and Wolf’s Rain, 2003

Anime Film Screenings
The anime films featured in KRAZY! were shown full-length in the Japan Society auditorium on most Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout the run of the exhibition. The films shown were: Katsuhiro Otomo, Akira (1988); Masaaki Yuasa, Mind Game (2004); Satoshi Kon, Paprika (2006); Mamoru Oshii, Patlabor 2: The Movie (1993); Makoto Shinkai, The Place Promised in Our Early Days (2004); and Ichiro Itano, Super Dimension Fortress Macross: Episodes 9 and 27 (1982–83).

Exhibition-Related Events

Talking KRAZY! Japan’s Evolving Pop Culture
12 MARCH
See p. 29 for complete program details.

Konnichiwa Friends Family Tours KRAZY!
14 MARCH, 11 APRIL 11, 9 MAY & 13 JUNE
See p. 33 for complete program details.

KRAZY! Cosplay Party
28 MARCH
In conjunction with KRAZY!, Japan Society held its first-ever cosplay event for local anime and manga fans with classic film screenings, competitions and genre-related prizes. This sell-out event was attended by more than 400 fans and the main competition was won by Scout Isensee in the role of Ciel Phantomhive from Kuroshitsuji.

Art Cart: KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games
29 MARCH
See p. 33 for complete program details.

Get KRAZY!
15 APRIL
See p. 32 for complete program details.

Responding to KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games
19 MAY
See p. 33 for complete program details.

2 Opening reception for preview and installation view, KRAZY! The Video Game room, with Toru Iwatani, Pac-Man (1980); Shigeru Miyamoto, Super Mario World (1990); Pac-Man chairs designed by exhibition architects Atelier Bow-Wow. © Alan Klein.


5 Installation view, KRAZY! Inside the Manga Pod, designed by exhibition architects Atelier Bow-Wow. © Alan Klein.

6 Installation view, New Bamboo. Works by Honda Shōryū (foreground platform); Ōki Toshie (right background); Nagakura Ken’ichi (left background). © Richard P. Goodbody.

7 Installation view, New Bamboo. Works by Yako Hōdō (right and center foreground); Torii Ippō (left foreground); Homma Hideaki (far room, center and left); Homma Kazuaki (back wall). © Richard P. Goodbody.


Performing Arts

Japan Society’s Performing Arts Program hailed innovation and experimentation in the arts with the year-long season theme Beyond Boundaries: Genre-Bending Mavericks. Whether melding new technologies with age-old performance techniques, marrying the classical with the ultra-modern, or weaving text into dance and the fabric of space itself, there is much to discover beyond boundaries. This year marked a celebration of the Japanese artists whose works have reached beyond conventional categorizations to blur the boundaries of genre and define parameters on their own terms, offering unparalleled surprises as well as true artistry.

Performances included the U.S. debut of ARICA Performance Company’s poignant piece on labor, Kiosk; Gagaku Revolution: New Sounds of Ancient Bamboo, featuring world premiere performances of Japan Society-commissioned compositions from trailblazing American composers—Ken Ueno, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez and Gene Coleman—written for and performed by traditional Japanese bamboo instrumentalists; true, the high-technology dance performance from Takayuki Fujimoto and Takao Kawaguchi of dumbtype with dancer/choreographer Tsuyoshi Shirai; and as the fourth installment of the Tzadik Music Label Series curated by John Zorn, Tribute to Teiji Ito, honoring one of the fathers of New York’s downtown experimental music scene, featuring Guy Klucevsek and Steve Gorn.

Following the 12th Annual Contemporary Dance Showcase, which featured a world premiere from butoh great Ko Murobushi for his company Ko & Edge Co., a solo from Yoko Higashino with improv-composer Toshio Kajiwara, and the award-winning duet Air Conditioner from chelfitsch Theater Company as well as Jang Eun Jung Dance Company from Korea and Taiwan’s Wind Dance Theatre, Japan Society organized and produced two ambitious seven-city North American tours. The first was the U.S. debut tour for the internationally acclaimed chelfitsch Theater Company and its award-winning production of Five Days in March, and the second, Awaji Puppet Theater Company—the company’s first appearance in the U.S. in 12 years. The season culminated with Hiroaki Umeda, a solo dance performer who designs his own lights, sound and video for his performances. In conjunction with these performances, the Society also presented an Evening with Basil Twist, the award-winning puppet artist, who discussed the influence of Japanese puppetry on his work; and Gagaku Workshops for Composers, hands-on opportunities for music professionals to work with three unique bamboo instruments used in traditional Japanese music.

For the fall 2009 season Japan Society will take a European twist with Japan Transatlantic: Tokio-Berlin. This season will focus on Japan-themed performances that were developed outside of Japan by artists based in Berlin. From post-butoh dance, a multi-sensory theater piece tracking the story of Sony, to a world premiere dance-visual art work inspired by kawaii culture, the resulting works are truly an international hybrid, with unique reflection on their Japanese roots.
and the Society’s world premiere commissions from three American composers: Ken Ueno, Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez and Gene Coleman.

true
Takayuki Fujimoto (dumb type) × Takao Kawaguchi (dumb type) × Tsuyoshi Shirai
13–15 NOVEMBER
These performances were supported by the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo, Toyota Motor Corporation, and the Asahi Beer Arts Foundation. This spectacular collision of dance and technology was created by an extraordinary collaboration between three remarkable artists: lighting designer Takayuki Fujimoto; performer Takao Kawaguchi from the internationally acclaimed multimedia performance company dumb type; and Tsuyoshi Shirai, choreographer/dancer/video artist and winner at the 2006 Toyota Choreography Awards.

Tzadik Music Label Series IV: Tribute to Teiji Ito
Featuring Guy Klucevsek & Steve Gorn
12 DECEMBER
This program was presented in association with Tzadik.

The late Japanese American composer Teiji Ito (1935–82) was known as the founding composer of the experimental new music scene and for his scores for the avant-garde films by his former wife, Maya Deren. The fourth in the Tzadik Music Label series curated by John Zorn, this was the first ever large-scale tribute to the music of Ito, in an evening honoring his music for theater, film and dance, studied, arranged and performed by Guy Klucevsek and Steve Gorn and their ensembles.

12th Annual Contemporary Dance Showcase
Phase 2: Japan + East Asia
9–10 JANUARY
These performances were supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Republic of Korea; Korea Arts Management Service; Korean Cultural Service, NY; Council for Cultural Affairs, ROC Taiwan; and the Taipei Cultural Center of TECO in New York. This annual favorite displayed the most cutting-edge dance from Japan, Taiwan and Korea. Highlights included a world premiere from butoh great Ko Murobushi for his company Ko & Edge Co.; chelfitsch Theater Company’s dance-theater duet Air Conditioner; and the violent and striking solo by Yoko Higashino with electric guitar improviser Toshio Kajiwara. The evening also featured Jang Eun Jung Dance Company from Korea with their subtle yet provocative Several Questions and Taiwan’s Wind Dance Theatre, led by former principal dancer and rehearsal director of Cloud Gate Dance Theatre, Wu I-Fang.

U.S. DEBUT
chelfitsch theater company
Five Days in March
Written & directed by Toshiki Okada
5–7 FEBRUARY
The seven-city North American tour of chelfitsch Theater Company was organized and produced by Japan Society and was supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan; The Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN Program; and The Saison Foundation for the Japan Society’s Japanese Theater NOW initiative. Characterized by seemingly insubstantial narrative accompanied by exaggerated fidgeting gestures-turned-choreography, the ground-breaking and modern works of chelfitsch Theater Company have made them the most talked-about company in Japan, recognized as the voice of generation Y. The North American tour gave touring partners nationwide to present their audiences a window into youth culture in Japan. This Kishida Kunio Drama Award-winning play by Toshiki Okada takes place in the days before the U.S. began its war against Iraq in March 2003, when two Japanese urban hipsters meet at a post-rock show and get swept up into a five-night stand.
Awaji Puppet Theater Company
With live chanting & shamisen music accompaniment
5 – 7 MARCH
The seven-city North American tour of Awaji Puppet Theater Company was organized and produced by Japan Society, New York, in partnership with the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, and was supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan; The Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN program; The Jim Henson Foundation; and Awaji Ningyo Shibai Support Group.
For the first time in 12 years, Awaji Puppet Theater Company, designated an Intangible Folk Asset by the Japanese government, returned to New York with a stunning all-traditional program including Ebisu-Mai, Hidaka-gawa Inazakura, based on the famous folktale of a lovelorn woman and her transformation into a serpent, and an episode from the traditional drama Tsubosaka Reigen-ki about the double suicide of a blind masseuse and his wife. All 15 performances in seven venues of the tour were sold out, reaching over 3,000 theatergoers nationwide.

Hiroaki Umeda: Solo Dance, Light, Sound & Video
14 – 16 MAY
In a program consisting of a New York premiere and a U.S. premiere, Umeda’s extraordinary butoh/street dance–inspired choreography appeared within an environment of dramatic lighting, flashing cyber–imagery, electronic beats and crackling digital soundscapes that he designed himself.

Workshops, Lectures & Related Events
Gagaku Workshop for Composers
8 OCTOBER

Gagaku Salon Concert
8 OCTOBER
Presented in conjunction with the Japan Society Gallery exhibition New Bamboo: Contemporary Masters.

An Evening with Conductor Alan Gilbert
27 OCTOBER
Presented in conjunction with the Metropolitan Opera’s new production, Dr. Atomic.
See p. 29 for complete program details.

Frank L. Ellsworth Performing Arts Lecture Series
Inside the Mind of Basil Twist
3 MARCH
Presented as a related event of Awaji Puppet Theater Company.

Major support for Japan Society 2008–09 Performing Arts Programs was provided by the Lila Wallace–Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund; The Starr Foundation; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; and the Endowment for the Performing Arts, established with leadership gifts from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Globus Family, Kyocera Corporation, The Starr Foundation, and Toyota Motor Corporation.

Additional support was provided by The Globus Family, Dr. John K. Gillespie, The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc., The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Transportation assistance was provided by All Nippon Airways, Ltd.

Plasma display was provided by Pioneer Electronics (USA) Inc.


6 chelfitsch Theater Company in the award-winning production Five Days in March, written and directed by Toshiki Okada. © Tom DiMauro.
Throughout 2008–09 the Film Program screened a wide range of films from Japan, from long-time favorites through independent film milestones to current blockbusters and art-house hits. More than a dozen films were presented with live subtitle projections, in an ongoing effort to present rare yet important films and to use the best prints available.

Commemorating 40 years of Tora-san, the world’s longest running film series, director Yoji Yamada hand-selected eight of the best episodes for our Monthly Classics series Best of Tora-San. The launch screening of Best of Tora-San in October was followed by a special live Q&A with Yoji Yamada in Tokyo at the studio of Keio University’s Research Institute for Digital Media and Content, presented at Japan Society via high-speed digital network.

In February, the Globus Film Series introduced the Art Theatre Guild, Japan’s independent filmmaking phenomenon, by highlighting 12 art house films from the 1960s and early ’70s. Titled Shinjuku Ecstasy: Independent Films from the Art Theatre Guild of Japan, the series was curated by eminent Japanese film scholar Roland Domenig, based in Vienna and film historian Go Hirasawa, based in Tokyo.

For the third consecutive summer, JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film brought a sizable slice of Japan’s contemporary film scene to New York City. JAPAN CUTS featured 27 screenings of 18 feature films, one panel discussion and 10 guest filmmakers. Nearly 4,000 people visited Japan Society to attend JAPAN CUTS over the course of 12 days.

The Film Program also presented special events with internationally acclaimed directors, including Michel Gondry and Leos Carax in the NY premiere of the omnibus film Tokyo! and Takashi Miike, who gave a lecture on his filmmaking career. In celebration of the NY premieres at Tribeca Film Festival, the Society hosted a reception for director Yojiro Takita (Academy Award-winning Departures), director Hirokazu Kore-eda (Still Walking), and actor Masahiro Motoki (Departures), generously underwritten by The Globus Family.
2008–09 Programs

Film Series

MONTHLY CLASSICS

Best of Tora-san

17 OCTOBER–22 MAY

This series was supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first Tora-san film, Tora-san writer/director Yoji Yamada hand-picked the top eight films for this long-lasting, popular series chronicling the life of an unruly salesman traveling through Japan.

Tora-san, Our Lovable Tramp (Episode 1, 1969)
Tora-san’s Love Call (Episode 8, 1971)
Tora-san’s Dear Old Home (Episode 9, 1972)
Tora-san’s Dream-Come-True (Episode 10, 1972)
Tora-san Meets the Songstress Again (Episode 15, 1975)
Hearts and Flowers for Tora-san (Episode 29, 1982)
Tora-san Goes Religious? (Episode 32, 1983)
Tora-san, My Uncle (Episode 42, 1989)

JAPAN CUTS:
Festival of New Japanese Film

30 JUNE–12 JULY

This series was funded by grants from The Japan Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency. Additional support was provided by Sapporo USA, Inc. and UNIQLO, USA, Inc. Media sponsorship was provided by WNYC.

Media support was provided by The Village Voice. Transportation assistance was provided by Japan Airlines. In-kind support was courtesy of Sapporo USA, Inc., Sakagura and Pacific International Liquor, Inc.

For the third consecutive summer, the only large-scale annual Japanese film festival in North America brought 18 feature film premieres from Japan’s contemporary film scene to New York City, presenting New Yorkers with a first look at Japan’s blockbusters and cinematic landmarks from cutting-edge independents to highly innovative animations. Starred (*) films were co-presented with the New York Asian Film Festival from July 1–5.

20th Century Boys: Chapter One* (Yukihiko Tsutsumi, 2008) NY Premiere
20th Century Boys: Chapter Two—The Last Hope* (Yukihiko Tsutsumi, 2008) NY Premiere
Achilles and the Tortoise (Takeshi Kitano, 2008) NY Premiere
Ain’t No Tomorrows (Yuki Tanada, 2008) NY Premiere
All Around Us* (Ryosuke Hashiguchi, 2008) NY Premiere
Be Sure to Share* (Sion Sono, 2009) World Premiere
Bu d a Suit (Jun Ichikawa, 2008) U.S. Premiere
Confessions of a Dog (Gen Takahashi, 2008) International Premiere
Crime or Punishment?? (Keralino Sandorovich, 2008) International Premiere
Cyborg She (Kwak Jae Yoon, 2008) NY Premiere
Fish Story* (Yoshihiro Nakamura, 2009) North American Premiere
Halfway (Enko Kitagawa, 2009) International Premiere
Love Exposure* (Sion Sono, 2008) NY Premiere
The Magic Hour* (Koki Mitani, 2008) NY Premiere
Non-ko (Kazuyoshi Kumakiri, 2008) NY Premiere
Pride* (Shusuke Kaneko, 2009) North American Premiere
UrumaDelvi Collected Shorts (UrumaDelvi) International Premiere
Vacation* (Hajime Kadoi, 2008) NY Premiere

Panel Discussion

How to Make a Film in Japan & Beyond

9 JULY

Special Screenings & Events

Sneak Preview
Cherry Blossoms
13 JANUARY
Co-presented with the Goethe-Institut New York and Strand Releasing.

Lecture
From Gore to Westerns: An Incisive Afternoon with Director Takashi Miike
7 FEBRUARY
Presented in association with Subway Cinema.

Hotel accommodations were provided by The Kitano New York.

Sneak Preview
TOKYO!
2 MARCH
Co-presented with Liberation Entertainment.

Sneak Preview
Tokyo Sonata
10 MARCH
Co-presented with Regent Releasing.

Reception celebrating the NY premieres of Departures and Still Walking
29 APRIL
Co-presented with The Globus Family in association with Regent Releasing/Here Media and IFC Films.

Japan Society 2008–09 Film Programs were generously supported by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund. Additional support was provided by The Globus Family, Yoshiko and Tim Schilt, David S. Howe, Dr. Tatsuji Namba, Joshua S. Levine and Nozomi Terao.

GLOBUS FILM SERIES

Shinjuku Ecstasy: Independent Films from the Art Theatre Guild of Japan

18 FEBRUARY–1 MARCH

This series was supported by The Globus Family. Additional support was provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Founded in 1961, the Art Theater Guild (ATG) played a decisive role in the development of art-house films in Japan as a film distributor and production company. This 12-film series curated art-house films in Japan as a film distributor and played a decisive role in the development of the State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Additional support was provided by the New York State Council on the Arts, a State agency.

Tim Schilt, David S. Howe, Dr. Tatsuji Namba, Yoshiko and The Globus Family, were provided by The Globus Family, Yoshiko and Tim Schilt, David S. Howe, Dr. Tatsuji Namba, Yoshiko and The Globus Family, Yoshiko and Tim Schilt, David S. Howe, Dr. Tatsuji Namba.

Japanese films are generously supported by the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Endowment Fund. Additional support was provided by The Globus Family, Yoshiko and Tim Schilt, David S. Howe, Dr. Tatsuji Namba, Yoshiko and Tim Schilt, David S. Howe, Dr. Tatsuji Namba.

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1 Tora-san, Our Lovable Tramp, part of Monthly Classics: Best of Tora-san. © Shochiku Co., Ltd.

2 Crime or Punishment?!, part of JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film. © 2008 “Crime or Punishment?!” Production Committee.

3 Guests at the Exposure Party following the screening of Love Exposure, part of JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film. © David Hou.

4 Love Exposure, part of JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film. © 2008 “Love Exposure” Film Partners.

5 Director Kazuyoshi Kumakiri (left) and producer Keiko Kusakabe (right) at the Q&A after the screening of Non-ko, part of JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film. © Mike Nogami.
Lecture Programs

From the latest trends in Japanese puzzlemaking to an analysis of the Obama administration’s impact on East Asia, our 2008–09 season presented lectures and panel discussions on the most vital issues and trends in Japanese culture and society. We continue to offer podcasts and webcasts of select programs, providing access to an international audience. Particularly popular were events where we brought influential Japanese and Americans together for an exchange of ideas, including a discussion between Pulitzer Prize-winner Steve Reich and Japanese composer Nobukazu Takemura, who spoke about the intersections between their music, illustrating the truly global nature of 21st-century arts. Within the field of classical music, Alan Gilbert, Music Director Designate of the New York Philharmonic and half-Japanese himself, discussed his life, music and role conducting Doctor Atomic, the opera about the creation of the atomic bomb.

Moving from the high arts to mass culture, Maki Kaji, the godfather of Sudoku, and Will Shortz, crossword puzzle editor for The New York Times, offered an entertaining and informative discussion of the trends and themes driving the popularity of puzzlemaking around the world today. Addressing the key role that Japanese arts and ideas play on the global stage, the Society hosted some of the most significant artists in contemporary Japan—director Takashi Miike spoke about his films to a sold-out audience and visual artist Tadanori Yokoo, whose creations include some of the most iconic art of recent years, talked about his art as well as his interactions with some of the most influential artists of the late 20th century. Kazuko Shiraishi, who has been described as the Allen Ginsberg of Japan, captivated her audience with a dynamic poetry reading in collaboration with jazz trumpeter Itaru Oki.

Continuing the Society’s tradition of dynamic programming related to architecture, internationally renowned architects César Pelli and Paul Tange came together to consider what is causing the transition from the modernist mantra of “form follows function” to the fanciful forms of architecture today. Our longstanding Authors on Asia series presented audiences with the latest scholarship about Japan, from Ian Buruma’s discussion of the life of Shirley Yamaguchi to Reiko Kinoshita’s exploration of the globalization of the Kumon Method of teaching. A series of lectures related to each Japan Society Gallery exhibition addressed key intellectual themes and explored issues raised by the art beyond the context of the exhibitions themselves. Among the highlights was a discussion between Tanabe Shochiku III and Stephen Talasnik on using ancient materials to create contemporary art, followed by a live demonstration of creating bamboo art by Tanabe Shochiku III.

Lecture Programs also hosted events that addressed important changes in the world of Japanese policy and society. Leading journalists Mark Halperin, John Bussey and Howard French analyzed the likely impact of the Obama administration on East Asia. University of Michigan Law Professor Mark West and New Yorker Staff Writer and Japan Society Media Fellow Dana Goodyear considered the intersection of love, law and technology in Japan in their discussion of “Lovesick Japan: Stories of Intimacy from Courts to Keitai (Cell Phone) Novels.”

Our upcoming season will continue to present a balance of lecture programs on both Japanese culture and Japanese social policy. Highlights include a series on Green Japan, an analysis of the major nations’ positions on climate change, a discussion forum for leading artists and thinkers, and a look at the next generation of green automobiles. We’ll also feature programs on topics from Japanese food to a demonstration of Japanese swordsmanship in what is sure to be an innovative and exciting year.

So’oku Sen, Mushakoji Senke’s next grand tea master, demonstrates the tea ceremony to moderator Ellis Avery (left) at a program titled “Sen So’oku: Tea Life.” © George Hirose.
2008–09 Programs

Lecture Series

Authors on Asia

The China Lover: The Life of Shirley Yamaguchi/Ri Koran
16 OCTOBER
With Ian Buruma, Henry R. Luce Professor of Democracy, Human Rights and Journalism, Bard College. Tom Vick, Film Programmer, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution, moderating.

My Floating Mother, City: An Evening with Kazuko Shiraishi
30 JANUARY
With Karuko Shiraishi, poet and Itaru Oki, jazz trumpeter. Forrest Gander, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Brown University, moderating.

New Yorker/Nihonjin: Contemporary Cross-Cultural Dialogue Series

Steve Reich & Nobukazu Takemura
19 MARCH
With Steve Reich, composer and Nobukazu Takemura, musician. John Schafer, host and producer, WNYC’s New Sounds, moderating.

Architects Forum

Form Follows Fancy in New Architecture
23 APRIL
With César Pelli, Senior Principal, Pelli Clark Pelli Architects and Paul Noritaka Tange, President, Tange Associates. Geeta Mehta, Associate Producer, WNYC’s New Sounds; John Bussey, Associate Professor of Architecture, Temple University, moderating.

General Lectures

Revolutionize the Maestro: New Ways of Craftsmanship
11 SEPTEMBER
Co-sponsored by the Kyoto Institute of Technology.
With Makiko Tada, kunshimo artist; Hiroyuki Hamada, Professor of Advanced Fibro-Science, Kyoto Institute of Technology. Joe Earle, Vice President and Director, Japan Society Gallery, moderating.

An Evening with Tadanori Yokoo
12 SEPTEMBER
Supported by Friedman Benda Gallery.

Japan’s About-Face
24 SEPTEMBER
With Micah Fink, founder, Common Good Productions and Richard J. Samuels, Ford International Professor of Political Science and Director, Center for International Studies, MIT.

Puzzling the World: Sudoku & Crosswords
23 OCTOBER

An Evening with Conductor Alan Gilbert
27 OCTOBER
With Alan Gilbert, Music Director designate, the New York Philharmonic and Eric Owens, opera singer. W. Anthony Sheppard, Professor of Music, Williams College, moderating.

Robert Coffland on Collecting Bamboo Art in America
28 OCTOBER
With Robert Coffland, Japanese bamboo art dealer and Joe Earle, Vice President and Director, Japan Society Gallery, moderating.

Contemporary Art, Ancient Materials: A Conversation with Tanabe Shochiku III
6 NOVEMBER
With Tanabe Shochiku III, artist and Stephen Talasnik, artist. Joe Earle, Vice President and Director, Japan Society Gallery, moderating.

The U.S. & East Asia Under the Obama Administration
4 FEBRUARY
With Mark Halperin, Editor-at-Large and Senior Policy Analyst, Time Magazine; John Bussey, Washington Bureau Chief, The Wall Street Journal; and Howard French, Associate Professor of Journalism, Columbia University. Aaron L. Friedberg, Professor of Politics, Princeton University, moderating.

From Gore to Westerns: An Incisive Afternoon with Director Takashi Miike
FEBRUARY
With Takashi Miike, film director. Marc Walkow, member, Subway Cinema and Co-Director, New York Asian Film Festival, moderating.

Sen So’oku: Tea Life
10 FEBRUARY
With Sen So’oku, 14th grand tea master, Mushakoji Senke School of Tea. Ellis Avery, author of The Teahouse Fire, moderating.

Learning for Life: The Kumon Way
26 FEBRUARY
Co-sponsored by the International House of Japan.
With Reiko Kinoshita, author. Robert Fish, Director, Education and Lecture Programs, Japan Society, moderating.

Talking KRAZY! Japan’s Evolving Pop Culture
12 MARCH
With Bruce Grenville, Senior Curator, Vancouver Art Gallery; Toshiya Ueno, Professor of Sociology, Wako University; and Roland Kelts, Lecturer, University of Tokyo. Joe Earle, Vice President and Director, Japan Society Gallery, moderating.

Japanese Art in America: Building the Next Generation
16 MARCH
Co-sponsored by The Japan Foundation.
With Hideki Hayashida, Director, the National Art Center, Tokyo and former Commissioner for Cultural Affairs, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan; Joe Earle, Vice President and Director, Japan Society Gallery; Yukio Lippit, Harris K. Weston Associate Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University; and Willard Clark, Founder, Clark Center for Japanese Art and Culture. Richard J. Wood, President, Japan Society, moderating.

KRAZY! Ciptune Music
4 MAY
With Marcin Ramocki, filmmaker and Jeremiah Johnson, ciptune musician. Ed Halter, art critic and curator, moderating.

Lovesick Japan: Stories of Intimacy from Courts to Keitai (Cell Phone) Novels
5 MAY

Historical and Natural Tourism: Rediscovering Lost Japan
11 MAY
With Alex Kerr, author. Robert Fish, Director, Education and Lecture Programs, Japan Society, moderating.

Annual Sake Tasting: Without Koji, There is No Sake
19 MAY
Co-sponsored by the Sake Export Association.
With John Gauntner, sake expert and a founding member of the Sake Export Association.

Arts and Culture Lecture Programs were made possible by funding from the Lila Wallace-Readers’s Digest Endowment Fund.

Additional support was provided by Chris A. Wachenheim, the Sandy Heck Lecture Fund, and Ms. Hiroko Onoyama.

Japan Society
Annual Report 2008-09
1 Architects César Pelli and Paul Tange discuss the current state of “Form Follows Function” and what its future holds. © Satoru Ishikawa.

2 2009 Pulitzer Prize winner Steve Reich and Nobukazu Takemura discuss emerging trends in contemporary classical music as part of a panel with John Schaefer. © George Hirose.

3 Sudoku godfather Maki Kaji (left), New York Times puzzle editor Will Shortz (middle) and Liane Hansen, Host, Weekend Edition Sunday, NPR (right) talk about the popularity of puzzles throughout the world. © Ryohei Yamamoto.


5 Director Takashi Miike answers questions from the audience about what inspires his film making. © George Hirose.
Education Programs

Education Programs bring Japan to American classrooms and children. During 2008-09, teachers and students enhanced their knowledge about Japan through a variety of programs, including a three-week study tour to Japan, a series of professional development workshops, weekend programs for children, and the rapid growth of our interactive website for educators, About Japan: A Teacher’s Resource.

The year began with the 2008 Educators Study Tour to Japan, as 10 New York area educators enhanced their ability to teach about Japan through a behind-the-scenes journey to Japan. Highlights included site visits to multiple schools, a homestay in Obu City, Aichi-Prefecture, a meeting with Sasaki Masahiro in Hiroshima, as well as visits to numerous cultural and historic sites. Upon returning to the United States, each educator created a teaching unit, many of which are being shared with a wider audience on About Japan.

As a direct outcome of the Study Tour, Japan Society formed a School Partner Alliance with The New York City Museum School and The Manhattan East School for Arts and Academics. In the upcoming year, we are excited to work with Manhattan East faculty as they create new lessons about Japan in the sixth grade curriculum. 2009-10 looks to be a very Japan-centered year at The NYC Museum School, as they initiate an electronic exchange program with the Keio Girls Senior High School in Tokyo.

About Japan: A Teachers Resource (aboutjapan.japansociety.org) represents Japan Society’s effort to reach schools nationwide with resources ranging from lesson plans about utilizing popular culture to teach about postwar Japan to videos in which leading experts explain the impact of the global economic crisis on Japan. Over 175,000 people visited the site this past year.

Our professional development workshops help improve teaching about Japan in K-12 schools as well as creating new teaching materials. Thirty-hour workshops included Using Popular Culture to Teach about Japan, which attracted participants from as far-away as Philadelphia. A series of shorter workshops included a practicum on using bamboo art in the classroom by leading Japanese bamboo artist Tanabe Shochiku III. 2009-10 courses will include From Terrorism to the Death Penalty: Using Japan to teach about Hot Button Issues, along with presentations by leading policy makers such as Satoru Shinomiya, an architect of Japan’s newly implemented jury system.

In cooperation with The Gohan Society and The Astor Center, NYC high school students worked with leading chefs in the New York area to learn about Japan and its cuisine in our two-week summer immersion program, Washoku 101, led by Noriyuki Kobayashi, which concluded with a celebratory banquet. Numerous one-day programs were offered throughout the school year, including a hands-on gagaku workshop with the renowned company Reigaku-sha, presented in cooperation with Midori & Friends.

Working in consort with all of Japan Society’s programs, Education Programs play an important role in helping the many exciting activities at the Society reach a younger and broader audience. The Corporate Program, Digital Media and Education Programs all worked together to produce high quality, annotated excerpts of videos of Corporate programs on About Japan and to bring leading thinkers about policy and economics to American students. We look forward to a significant expansion of this program in 2009-10.

2008-09 featured a rich array of Gallery-related educational programming, highlighted by Tanabe Shochiku III, who led a workshop for students in the Responding to New Bamboo: Contemporary Masters program. KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games featured extensive programming for young audiences, including Get KRAZY! for teens, a guided discussion of the exhibition followed by an animation workshop held at Sony Wonder Technology Lab.

Throughout the year, Education Programs ran public programs for children and families that allowed children to learn about and experience Japanese culture. Family program highlights included an interactive theater performance celebrating Children’s Day, led by Theatre Arts Japan-KIDS-, and two story-telling events, co-hosted by Kinokuniya Bookstore in New York, as well as Art Cart programs, in which small groups of children received an intimate, hands-on introduction to the Japanese arts. The 2009-10 season looks to be equally exciting on all fronts.
2008–09 Programs

Programs For Educators

Educators' Study Tour
2008 Educators’ Study Tour to Japan for Middle and High School Educators & School Administrators
29 JUNE-19 JULY
With Robert Fish, Director, Education & Lectures Programs, Japan Society and Kazuko Minamoto, Deputy Director, Education & Family Programs, Japan Society.

30-Hour In-House Courses for Educators

From Anime to Pokémon: Using Pop Culture to Teach About Japan
18–22 AUGUST
In cooperation with the New York City Department of Education.
With Antonia Levi, Portland State University; E. Taylor Atkins, Northern Illinois University; and Aaron Gerow, Yale University.

Karate to Tea: A Hands-On Approach to Teaching Japan
17–21 FEBRUARY
In cooperation with the New York City Department of Education.
With Robert Fish, Japan Society; Tara McGowan; H. Paul Varley, University of Hawaii, Emeritus; Yoshiro Terazono, Urasenke Chanoyu Center; George Solt, New York University; Noriyuki Kobayashi, MEGU Midtown; Kazuko Minamoto, Japan Society; Gay Merrill Gross; William Kelly, Yale University; and Joseph Suozzi, University of Bridgeport.

Early Japanese History: From Ethnogenesis through Medieval Times
15 & 22 MARCH, 5 & 26 APRIL, 31 MAY
With Michael Como, Columbia University; H. Paul Varley, University of Hawaii, Emeritus; Masako Inkyo, calligrapher; Thomas Hare, Princeton University; and Nicole Fabricand-Person, Lafayette College.

One-Day Programs for Educators

From Romance to Robots: Using Japanese Short Stories in the Classroom
20 & 27 OCTOBER
With Christopher Hill, Yale University.

Japanese Bamboo in the Art Classroom: A Hands-On Workshop
9 NOVEMBER
With Tanabe Shochiku III, bamboo artist and David Morss, Dean of Students, Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School.

Programs For Students

Summer Immersion Workshop for High School Students
Japanese Cuisine 101: Washoku
4–8 & 11–16 AUGUST
Co-sponsored with The Gohan Society and in cooperation with The Astor Center, New York City.
With Satori Kawano, Founder and President, The Gohan Society; Noriyuki Kobayashi, Chef, MEGU Midtown; Tadashi Ono, Executive Chef, Matsu; Reverend Nobuyo Otagaki, International Shinto Foundation; Hatsuko Otsuka and Miki Takahashi, dessert chefs; Yukari Pratt, Chef and Administrative Coordinator, Uoriki Fresh; Stephen Ramirez, Tea Dealers; Pablo Sandoval, Chief Soba Chef, SOBAYA; Taeko Takigami, Executive Director, The Gohan Society; Yoshihiro Terazono, Urasenke Chanoyu Center; and Makoto Yamauchi, Director, Agriculture and Fisheries, JETRO.

Gagaku Musical Instrument Workshop for Invited Music Students
8 OCTOBER
Offered in collaboration with Midori and Friends. With Reigaku-sha.

Tea Demonstration for Students with Tea Master Sen So’oku
9 DECEMBER
With Sen So’oku, tea master, Mushakoji-Senke.

Awaji Puppet Theater Workshop for Students
6 MARCH
With Awaji Puppet Theater Troupe.

Get KRAZY!
15 APRIL
With Sony Wonder Technology Lab.
With Suzanne de Vegh, Program Officer, Education & Lecture Programs, Japan Society.

Programs For Families

Japan’s Annual Festivities

Japan’s Star Festival—Legend & Customs: Tanabata
6 JULY
With Theatre Arts Japan-KIDS-, dir. Eriko Ogawa.

Celebratory Rituals for Children: Shichigosan (7-5-3) Ceremony
25 & 26 OCTOBER
In cooperation with the International Shinto Foundation.
With members of the International Shinto Foundation.

Meet Japan’s Mystical Folktales Creatures & Ghosts through Kamishibai Storytelling
1 NOVEMBER
In cooperation with Kinokuniya Bookstore.

New Year’s Day Celebration: Oshogatsu
25 JANUARY
Featuring booths led by over 40 performers, artists, specialists, educators and volunteer students from Keio Academy of New York and Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School.

Doll Festival (Girls’ Day): Hinamatsuri
1 MARCH
With Masayo Ishigure, koto performer and Keiko Sawaguchi, educator, NYC Public School.

Celebrating Japan’s Children’s Day through Performance & Crafts-Making: Kodomo no hi
3 MAY
With Theatre Arts Japan-KIDS-, dir. Eriko Ogawa.

Art Cart Programs

Art Cart: New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters
19 OCTOBER
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery.
With Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society; and arts educators Petra Pankow and Peter Sebeckis.

Art Cart: Flowers & Festivities in Japanese Culture
16 NOVEMBER
In collaboration with New York Botanical Garden.
With Peter Sebeckis, arts educator.
Art Cart: KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games
29 MARCH
With Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society.

Art Cart: Tea Ceremony for Children
17 MAY
With Sen So’Oku, tea master, Mushakoji-Senke; and Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society.

Special Family Programs
Sadako & 1,000 Cranes Storytelling & Origami Crane Making
10 AUGUST
In cooperation with Kinokuniya Bookstore. Offsite event at Kinokuniya Bookstore. With Fumiko & Friends, NY Children Cultural Association; and Teri Gindi, Professional Performing Arts School.

Art Cart: Tea Ceremony for Children
17 MAY
With Sen So’Oku, tea master, Mushakoji-Senke; and Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society.

Special Family Programs
Sadako & 1,000 Cranes Storytelling & Origami Crane Making
10 AUGUST
In cooperation with Kinokuniya Bookstore. Offsite event at Kinokuniya Bookstore. With Fumiko & Friends, NY Children Cultural Association; and Teri Gindi, Professional Performing Arts School.

Film Screening & Anime Antics Family Program
14 JUNE
With Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society.

Gallery Lessons & Gallery-Related Programs
Docent Tours for Gallery Visitors
New Bamboo: Japanese Contemporary Masters
4 OCTOBER–1 JANUARY
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With members of the Japan Society Docent Corps.

KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games
13 MARCH–14 JUNE
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With members of the Japan Society Docent Corps.

Adult & University Group Tours
Tapestry in Architecture: Creating Human Spaces
10 JULY–14 AUGUST
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society.

Open House New York Kids! at Japan Society
4 & 5 OCTOBER
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery.

Art Cart: Tea Ceremony for Children
17 MAY
With Sen So’Oku, tea master, Mushakoji-Senke; and Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society.

Special Family Programs
Sadako & 1,000 Cranes Storytelling & Origami Crane Making
10 AUGUST
In cooperation with Kinokuniya Bookstore. Offsite event at Kinokuniya Bookstore. With Fumiko & Friends, NY Children Cultural Association; and Teri Gindi, Professional Performing Arts School.

Awaji Puppet Theater Family Matinee
7 MARCH
With Awaji Puppet Theater Troupe.

Film Screening & Anime Antics Family Program
14 JUNE
With Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society.

Gallery Lessons & Gallery-Related Programs
Docent Tours for Gallery Visitors
New Bamboo: Japanese Contemporary Masters
4 OCTOBER–1 JANUARY
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With members of the Japan Society Docent Corps.

KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games
13 MARCH–14 JUNE
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With members of the Japan Society Docent Corps.

KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games
14 MARCH, 11 APRIL, 9 MAY & 13 JUNE
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With Petra Pankow and Yoko Ohashi, arts educators.

Responding To... Series
Responding to New Bamboo: Japanese Contemporary Masters
14 NOVEMBER
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With Tanabe Shochiku III, bamboo master.

Responding to KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games
MAY 19
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With Suzanne de Vegh, Japan Society and Sony Wonder Technology Lab.

Konnichiwa Friends Family Tours
New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters
11 OCTOBER, 15 NOVEMBER, 13 DECEMBER & 10 JANUARY
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With Petra Pankow, arts educator.

KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games
14 MARCH, 11 APRIL, 9 MAY & 13 JUNE
In cooperation with Japan Society Gallery. With Petra Pankow and Yoko Ohashi, arts educators.

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About Japan: A Teachers’ Resource was supported by The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership.

Transportation assistance for the 2008 Educators’ Study Tour to Japan was provided by Japan Airlines.

The Art Carts for New Bamboo: Contemporary Japanese Masters and KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Manga + Video Games were supported by the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation.
1 K–12 educators learn ways to use bamboo in the art classroom in this one-day workshop led by bamboo artist Tanabe Shochiku III. © George Hirose.

2 A family celebrates Shichigosan (7-5-3), a Shinto ritual to ensure the health and happiness of children ages 3, 5 and 7. © George Hirose.

3 Study Tour educators participate in a geometry class in Kyocho Elementary School in Obo-city, Japan. © Japan Society staff.

4 Noriyuki Kobayashi, a chef at Megu Restaurant, leads hands-on sessions about Japanese cuisine in the student Summer Immersion Workshop. © Japan Society staff.

5 Children enjoy kamishibai storytelling, songs and dances in this program introducing mythical Japanese folktales creatures and ghosts held at Kinokuniya Bookstore in New York. © George Hirose.
6 Educators’ Study Tour participants have lunch with kindergarten children at Araike Nursery School in Obu-city, Japan. © JS staff.

7 K–6 educators learn about and participate in activities ranging from tea ceremony to martial arts to Japanese cooking in a 30-hour professional development course. © Satoru Ishikawa.

8 Educators’ Study Tour participants interact with high school students during their visit to Japan. © JS staff.

9 Students from School Partner Alliance schools participate in a hands-on workshop with the Awaji Puppet Theater troupe. © George Hirose.

10 Children and student booth-leaders from Keio Academy and Columbia Grammar and Preparatory School enjoy traditional New Year’s activities including fukuwarai (funny face game) at Oshogatsu, Japan’s New Year’s Day Celebration. © George Hirose.

11 Families pose after participating in Shichigosan (7-5-3) Ceremony. © George Hirose.
Toyota Language Center

The Society’s Japanese language education program, which began in 1972 with just a single class, has grown into one of the largest and most respected in the nation. Today, the Toyota Language Center offers 12 comprehensive levels of Japanese, as well as a variety of specialized courses and workshops including shodo (Japanese calligraphy), ensuring that there is a class for any level of Japanese student. In addition, the Center caters to native Japanese speakers by providing three levels of English conversation (ESL) classes and a Japanese Language Teacher Training Program at the beginning and intermediate levels.

C.V. Starr Library

The C.V. Starr Library houses approximately 14,000 volumes, in addition to a language library and an impressive rare book collection. Its holdings include a comprehensive collection of books (primarily in English) on Japanese art, history, culture, society, politics, economics, religion and many other subjects. An ideal place for research on Japan and Japan-U.S. relations, the library has also become one of the favorite attractions of Japan Society visitors.

2008–09 Language Classes

Mini-Workshops: Learn to Read Hiragana & Katakana
25, 26 SEPTEMBER
21, 22 JANUARY
28, 29 MAY
Enables beginning students to master efficiently the reading of hiragana and katakana.

Japanese Language Courses
29 SEPTEMBER–12 DECEMBER
26 JANUARY–3 APRIL
1 JUNE–14 AUGUST
Twelve levels of Japanese, from beginning to advanced.

English Conversation Courses
2 OCTOBER–9 DECEMBER
3 FEBRUARY–7 APRIL
5 MAY–23 JUNE
9 JULY–27 AUGUST
Three levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) in 30- or 38-hour sessions.

Kanji I, II, III
29 SEPTEMBER–12 DECEMBER
26 JANUARY–3 APRIL
1 JUNE–14 AUGUST
Designed to enable those proficient in Japanese to read Japanese newspapers with ease.

Economics & Business: Advanced Reading Course I
30 SEPTEMBER–9 DECEMBER
27 JANUARY–31 MARCH
2 JUNE–11 AUGUST
Guides advanced language students in reading the Nihon Keizai Shim bun and the Japanese versions of Newsweek and Forbes, and also covers important business customs.

Intensive Japanese Weekend Courses
8, 9, 15 & 16 NOVEMBER
7, 8, 14 & 15 MARCH
13, 14, 20 & 21 JUNE
Total immersion for people who plan to travel or move to Japan or for students unable to attend regular weekday classes.

Intensive Practical Japanese: Business & Culture
27 APRIL–27 MAY
Helps students master the fundamentals of Japanese conversation, with special emphasis on business and social occasions.

Japanese Language Teacher Training Follow-Up Program
7 OCTOBER–9 DECEMBER
A continuation of the teacher training program, providing the skills necessary to teach Japanese at the intermediate level.

Shodo Workshops I, II, III, IV & Advanced Course
29 SEPTEMBER–12 DECEMBER
26 JANUARY–6 APRIL
20 APRIL–29 JUNE
13 JULY–21 SEPTEMBER
A hands-on workshop on the techniques of shodo, a calligraphic art form that uses a brush and charcoal ink on paper, wood plaques and fabric.

Weekend Shodo
5 OCTOBER–2 NOVEMBER
29 MARCH–26 APRIL
10 MAY–7 JUNE
19 JULY–16 AUGUST
A hands-on workshop on the techniques of shodo on Sundays, offered because of the demand for these popular courses.
1 Instructor Yuko Aizawa and her students. © Satoru Ishikawa.

2 Level 5 Japanese students at the Toyota Language Center. © Satoru Ishikawa.

3 Instructor Masako Inkyo works one-on-one with a Shodo II student. © Satoru Ishikawa.

4 Instructor Mami Miyashita. © Satoru Ishikawa.

5 Japanese level 7 students. © Satoru Ishikawa.