

APRIL 2023



EVENT RECAP

New York Region kicks off the new year with Setsubun Soirée at Japan Society

The New York region kicked off its first in-person event of 2023 with high energy and good spirits in celebration of Setsubun, a Japanese festival held on the day before the beginning of spring according to the Japanese lunar calendar.

Setsubun Soirée was held at [Japan Society](#) in midtown, inviting guests to “drive out demons and welcome good fortune.” Members, sponsors, and friends were also joined by special guest Dr. Joshua Walker (President & CEO, Japan Society) and Consul Mori Kazuya (Consulate General of Japan in New York) who delivered opening remarks on the tradition of Setsubun.

USJC Board Member [Terry Suzuki](#) got into

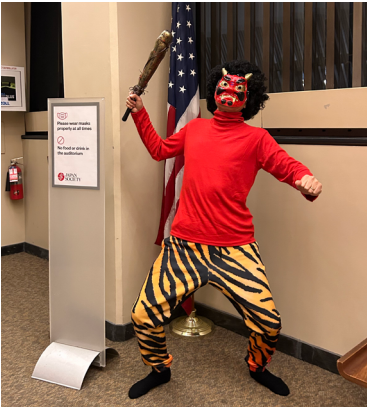
character by dressing up as an oni (Japanese demon) and performed the traditional “oni wa soto” and “fuku wa uchi” ritual. Many of the new members threw beans at the oni to bring good luck into the new year. (Cont. p2)





Special thanks to event organizers Council Leader **Julie Azuma** (Different Roads to Learning, Inc., JALD '13), Council Leader **Susan McCormac** (JapanCulture-NYC) and Associate **Mari Iwahara** (Sibling, ELP '21). We are also grateful for the personal support of **Terry Suzuki**, **Rona Tison** (ITO EN North America INC.), Council Leaders **Julie Azuma** and **Gary Moriwaki** (Windels Marx, JALD '11).

Thanks to those who attended! For those who missed it, USJC Development Manager **Miki Sankary** hosted an Instagram Takeover to record the experience, which you can still [watch here](#).





EVENT

USJC hosts a panel for Go For Gold Sports Leadership Program in New York

From March 6 to March 10, student participants of the TOMODACHI-U.S. Embassy Go for Gold Leadership Program visited New York City on the last leg of their trip to the U.S.

The aim of the program is to increase the understanding and knowledge of the sports industry in the United States, with a focus on facility management, community engagement, and business of sports management among Japanese youth. The program consisted of three components: a virtual program, a two-week trip to the United States, and a final presentation taking place in Tokyo, Japan.

After a week-long tour in New York of visiting sports facilities and offices, students attended a panel discussion and reception held at the Japan Society in collaboration with USJC. The panel was moderated by **Gary S. Moriwaki** (USJC Legacy Council), featuring a panel of women who work in the sports industry– Barbara Paddock, Mika Hayashi, Jirina Ribbens, and Eve Aronoff Trivella.

The panelists discussed ways in which the industry has evolved during their career and shared words of encouragement with the program participants in pursuing a career in sports.



Upcoming Events

Emerging Japanese Businesses in Greenpoint: A Walking Tour

Tuesday, April 11th, 5:00-8:30pm

Greenpoint is becoming a hub for emerging Japanese businesses, so much so that it is earning 'Little Tokyo' status in Brooklyn. Join us on a tour to visit and hear their stories!

Walking Tour (5:00~7:00 PM)

- Custom dashi making with **Dashi Okume**
- Shop Japanese art at **Cibone**
- Taste sake at **Bin Bin Sake**
- Peek into the creative minds of **Takram** and **Monopo**
- Hear from **Aki Miyazono**, the architect driving the neighborhood community.

Networking (7:00~8:30 PM)

- Network at **The Parlor***, a boutique coworking space
- Food by **Towari Soba** and **123 Dough**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

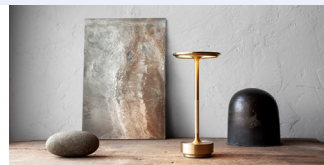
***Accessibility:** The Parlor is only accessible by stairs (no elevator), and requires taking shoes off upon arrival.



尾条
DASHI OKUME
The Natural Broth Shop
Est. 1871



CIBONE



BIN BIN **SAKE**



Takram



towari



123DOUGH



Upcoming Events (cont.)

Japanese Heritage Night at Citi Field (Flushing, Queens)

Friday, August 25, 7:10 pm

Celebrate Japanese Heritage Night at Citi Field as the New York Mets host the Los Angeles Angels!

Pitcher Kodai Senga, a five-time Japan Series champion with the SoftBank Hawks of Nippon Professional Baseball, signed a five-year, \$75 million contract with the Mets last December. His fabled “ghost forkball” was on

display in his MLB debut on April 2, when he struck out eight Miami Marlins for the win.

On Japanese Heritage Night, we’re hoping for a matchup between Senga and Shohei Ohtani, the über-talented two-way star who won the American League MVP in 2021 and the 2023 World Baseball Classic championship. This game could be the highlight of the MLB season, so you don’t want to miss it!

USJC NY Region is joining forces with JAA, JCCI, Japan Society, and the Consulate General of Japan in New York to create a special night for the entire community. Stay tuned for ticket packages and more details!



Announcements

Reminder: Applications for the 2023 Emerging Leaders Program open in a few months!

Are you a young professional (or know of one) who may be interested in applying for U.S.-Japan Council's Emerging Leaders Program (ELP)?

The ELP identifies, cultivates, and empowers a new generation of Japanese American leaders. A new cohort aged 24-35 is selected annually to attend the Annual Conference, become USJC Associates, and join program alumni in bridging the future of the U.S.-Japan relationship. By providing access to members and education on relevant topics, the program aims to motivate participants to promote strong U.S.-Japan relations in their personal and professional lives.

Look out for applications opening in early summer– the submission window isn't long, so we encourage prospective applicants to begin prepping in advance!



Regional ELP Voices:



Erina Aoyama
ELP 2022

Internal Communications
Lead, Market Intelligence,
S&P Global

"Participating in the 2022 U.S.-Japan Council Emerging Leaders Program has been an immense honor and the experience of a lifetime. Attending my first Annual Conference and seeing the packed ballroom at the Cerulean Hotel in Tokyo was a testament to the rich and engaged community that supports the USJC mission – and one that I am humbled to join.

At the center of my experience is the 2022 ELP cohort, with whom I spent time in serious and lighthearted discussions and from whom I gained valuable insights. Beyond our time at the Annual Conference, we have continued to participate in virtual programming each month, with sessions dedicated to learning about each other's careers, discussions on identity led by ELP alum Niki Robins, and learning from USJC Board Members and ELP alums David Kenji Chang and Joshua Morey.

Since returning from Tokyo, I've had the opportunity to participate in several USJC events in the New York region and appreciate the warm welcome I have received. I look forward to continuing to be an active member of our regional community. Yoroshiku onegaishimasu!"

Member News



Yu and Me Books

44 Mulberry Street (Chinatown)
New York, NY 10013

This event is not hosted by the USJC;
it is open to the public. Registration
not required.

Book Signing Event with Maia & Alex Shibutani Tuesday, April 18th 5:30-7:00pm

Olympic medalist siblings **Maia & Alex Shibutani** invite the USJC community to join their book signing event celebrating the release of their upcoming picture book *Amazing*. *Amazing* highlights the achievements of many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have made invaluable contributions to the world.

"[*Amazing* is] A thoughtful and comprehensive survey of the ways in which Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have shaped, and will continue to shape, the United States. Throughout, the prose is clear, concise, and well crafted, incorporating details that will enthrall young readers." —Kirkus Reviews

[VIEW EVENT INFO HERE >](#)

Do you have news, announcements, or stories that you'd like to share with the community?

Please email Susan McCormac (susan@japanculture-nyc.com) and Mari Iwahara (mari@sibling.info) with details so that we may include it in our next Regional Newsletter (coming in July).