



THE JAPAN-AMERICA
SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

25th Anniversary

Greetings {FIRST_NAME|Member},

The JASP Celebrates 25 years of serving you.

2011 marks the JASP 25th Anniversary. Watch the JASP e-newsletter, website at www.us-japan.org/jasp and like our page on Facebook to learn about special events and activities throughout this anniversary year. A history of the JASP can be found on our website.

We would like to thank our 25th Anniversary Platinum Sponsors:



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Eric Shiner Joins the JASP Board of Directors

Eric C. Shiner, acting director of Pittsburgh's The Andy Warhol Museum, joins the JASP Board of Directors. Mr. Shiner's history with the JASP began in 1995 when he worked with former JASP executive director Elise Moersch. Since that time, his interest in Japan continued.



A native of New Castle and former curatorial assistant intern at the Warhol, Shiner was previously an adjunct professor of East Asian Contemporary Art at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art, Stony Brook University and Pace University. His scholarly focus is on the concept of bodily transformation in postwar Japanese photography, painting and performance art. [Back to top](#)

Save the Date! Golf Outing May 9, 2011

The Paul J. Wilhelm Memorial Golf Outing will be held Monday, May 9, 2011 at Valley Brook Country Club in McMurray, PA. Watch for your invitation in the mail in late March. [Back to top](#)

Japanese Speech Contest March 4, 2011

The 2011 High School Japanese Speech Contest will take place on Friday, March 4, 2011 at the William Pitt Union on the University of Pittsburgh Oakland Campus. Japanese language students of all levels are able to compete against other area students. Each year over 80 students participate. Students are required to write a speech on the chosen topic for the contest. Winners receive prizes and trophies!



[Click here](#) for more information and to register. [Back to top](#)

Corporate Spotlight - Sumitomo Corporation of America

Since 1989, Sumitomo Corporation of America (SCOA) has been an important corporate supporter of the JASP. Toshiaki Murai, President of the JASP Board of Directors, is the Sr. VP and General Manager of the Mineral Resources & Energy Group and the General Manager of the Pittsburgh office of SCOA. SCOA brings a global perspective to today's business opportunities as the largest subsidiary of Sumitomo Corporation (SC), one of Japan's major integrated trading and investment business enterprises. (Soga Shosha) Established in 1952 and headquartered in New York City, SCOA has offices throughout the United States, and North and South America, and is an



investor and business partner in more than 80 subsidiary and affiliate companies. [Read More.](#) [Back to top](#)

EITC at the JASP

If given a choice of either sending a check to Harrisburg to pay for taxes on your business earnings OR making a donation to the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania to support students receiving Japan-centered educational programs in area schools, which would you choose? **You have such a choice through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit program (EITC)!** Talk to your employer about receiving state tax credits for contributions to the JASP supporting our Japan in the Schools program. [Click here](#) for more info. [Back to top](#)

Volunteer Spotlight

The first volunteer spotlight of 2011 is one of long time volunteer, Martha Yoko Nakajima. The JASP is grateful for her many years of enthusiastic and dependable service to our organization. When she first arrived in Pittsburgh, Martha missed Japan and Japanese people, so she joined the JASP. She started to volunteer because she wanted to work together with fellow Japanese to introduce Japanese culture to the area. Martha is originally from Iwakuni, Yamaguchi prefecture in western Honshu. She graduated Seishin (Sacred Heart) Women's University in Tokyo. She studied comparative religion and psychology. Then she proceeded to Tokyo Orthodox Theological Seminary to further her study in theology and philosophy. [Read More.](#) [Back to top](#)



The JASP's Pittsburgh Sushi Experience

Experience Pittsburgh sushi with the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania! In 2011, we will visit 4 sushi restaurants to experience Pittsburgh expressions of the popular Japanese cuisine. The evening will include a sampler plate handpicked from the restaurant's menu and green tea. It's a great opportunity to try a new sushi place and network with other JASP members. Don't forget to bring your business cards, because we will hold a drawing for a gift card to each restaurant! **Our first event at the Penn Avenue Fish Company is sold out.** Follow us on facebook to find out about our next event in April. [Back to top](#)



Interns View

After graduating from Duquesne University in 2008, I went to Japan on the JET Program to teach English for 2 years. That's a story for another newsletter, but upon returning to the US, I wanted to share my experiences and connect to the Japanese community in Pittsburgh. A newly-minted job seeker with time to burn in this strange country with more cheese but less karaoke, I started volunteering at the JASP. I was quickly put to work on a number of projects, including promotional materials for the Kenny Endo Taiko concert, organizing the Silent Auction items, and coordinating the Pittsburgh Sushi Experience. I

enjoyed getting an insider's view of the workings of the JASP, from event planning to grant management to working with Japanese companies in Pittsburgh. The highlight of my time was getting to meet Ambassador Fujisaki at the Annual Dinner. [Read More](#). [Back to top](#)

The JASP on WQED

The JASP recently aired on WQED's program, Horizons. Horizons is an informative and entertaining weekly series which explores the rich ethnic and cultural diversity of Pittsburgh and the surrounding region. If you missed it, [click here](#) to watch the show. You might see yourself! [Back to top](#)



The JASP 2010 Annual Dinner

Thank you to those who attended and volunteered on the fantastic event. [Click here](#) to view and order pictures from the 2010 Annual Dinner. Enter jasp for the password. A special thank you goes to The Image Zone for taking such great pictures. [Back to top](#)



21st America-Japan Grassroots Summit

The 21st America-Japan Grassroots Summit will be held June 27-July 4 in Kochi Pref. in Japan. The trip is open to all and has four features you do not normally find on trips to Japan:

1. Interesting, rarely visited location; Kochi Prefecture on Shikoku, with locally organized events
2. Home stays for 3 nights arranged by the summit organizers with local families
3. Great price- \$2200 (depending on departure city) including airfare, 6 nights stay, most meals
4. A chance to participate in the 5-day grassroots summit activities

NAJAS is a partner of the Center for International Exchange, the organizer of these summits for 20 years, and Japan-America Society of Kentucky and the Japan Society of Boston have hosted summits in the US in recent years. A great tradition of grassroots contact and a terrific opportunity to see Japan reasonably, you can find the electronic brochure on their website: <http://www.us-japan.org/>.

Any questions, call NAJAS office at 202-429-5545 and please see all the details of schedule, location and pricing at: <http://www.manjiro.or.jp/eng/summit/kochi/index.html> [Back to top](#)

The Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania (JASP), established in 1986, is an association of individuals and corporations actively engaged in bringing the peoples of Japan and America together in understanding, appreciation and cooperation in order to promote a better relationship between the countries.

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Japan-America Society of PA
600 Grant St.
Suite 444
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219
US



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