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## The Japan Foundation, Los Angeles Newsletter

November, 2017: Breeze Issue #121

<https://www.jflalc.org/pub-breeze121>



### Greeting From The Director



Greetings! As the fall deepens and the nights get longer, it is the best season to visit us and see how movie subtitles are made or a sumi-e painting being created right in front of your eyes! While you can enjoy a movie on your handheld device or flip through an art book at home, you will never be able to appreciate the amount of time and energy that is put into these works of art unless you see it firsthand.

Speaking of time and energy, it takes so much time and energy for a nation to establish goodwill with other nations, but in this age of fake news and viral videos, it takes only one newsfeed to cast a dark shadow over a good relationship. To be honest, sometimes I feel like we have to start all over again right after I thought we have accomplished something great. I hope one day a new technology will be invented to transmit the blood, sweat and tears shed on a piece of art that you are watching on your smartphone. But until then, it will be our mission to provide you with a deeper understanding of the various cultural aspects of Japan.

For those Japanese language educators who are going to Nashville, TN, for the ACTFL/AATJ conference this month, please visit our booth at the exhibit hall. My colleagues and I would love to have a chat with you!

Sincerely,

Hideki Hara, Director

## Special Events: The Art of Subtitling



**JFLA Lecture Series 43**  
**The Art of Subtitling: Working behind the Scenes**  
**Tuesday, November 7 @7PM ([JFLA Auditorium](#))**  
**Free Admission, [RSVP Required](#)**

With the growing popularity of Japanese movies and animation, the demand for Japanese to English visual media translation is skyrocketing.

For audiences who cannot understand the original language, subtitles play a vital role in making movies entertaining. To translate dialogue into good subtitles requires special techniques to draw out the original meaning as well as the entertainment value of the movie with only a limited number of words.

In talking about how movie translation fulfills an important role behind the scenes, a professional from the industry will introduce the actual process of translating and its enjoyment. During the lecture, we will demonstrate good and bad translations using professional subtitling software and video clips from a couple of Japanese movies. This lecture is co-presented by Japan Visualmedia Translation Academy (JVTA).

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© "THE RAKUGO MOVIE" PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

### Omnibus Film Based on 3 Classic Rakugo Tales

**Rakugo Eiga (らくごえいが) [110mins, 2012]**

**Directed by Mikihiro Endo, Issey Matsui, Yuichiro Sakashita**

**Date: Wednesday, November 8 @7PM ([JFLA Auditorium](#))**

**In Japanese with English subtitles**

**Free Admission, No RSVP Required**

This film features Japan's traditional art, "rakugo" as its theme. It is a modern adaptation of three rakugo tales presented in three short films ("Before After" based on the rakukgo "Nezumii" or "Rat", "Life Rate" based on the rakukgo "Shinigami" or "The Reaper", and "Sarugoke ha Tsuraiyo" based on rakugo "Sarugoke" or "Monkey Widow"). It is quite the challenge to not only turn rakugo into film, but to set such stories in modern society. However, the efforts of graduate school creators from the Tokyo University of the Arts, made it possible.

Traditionally, rakugo starts with a warm-up talk called "makura", before the main story is told. At this screening, we will present recorded English makura and rakugo live film by a famous Japanese rakugo storyteller, Sanshiro Katsura instead.

[Japanese Trailer \(No Subtitles\)](#)



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### A God Incarnate. A City Doomed.

**Shin Godzilla (シン・ゴジラ) [120mins, 2016]**

**Directed by Hideaki Anno**

**Wednesday, November 22 @7PM ([JFLA Auditorium](#))**

**In Japanese with English subtitles**

Make way for the ultimate homage to one of the most enduring legends of the big screen-Godzilla! The King of the Monsters is back in Tokyo for a city-crushing crusade that speaks to the very roots of the world-renowned franchise.

It's a peaceful day in Japan when a strange fountain of water erupts in the bay, causing panic to spread among government officials. At first, they suspect only volcanic activity, but one young executive dares to wonder if it may be something different... something alive. His worst nightmare comes to life when a massive, gilled monster emerges from the deep and begins tearing through the city, leaving nothing but destruction in its wake. As the government scrambles to save the citizens, a rag-tag team of volunteers cuts through a web of red tape to uncover the monster's weakness and its mysterious ties to a foreign superpower. But time is not on their side-the greatest catastrophe to ever befall the world is about to evolve right before their very eyes.

[Watch Trailer](#)

## Events



### JFLA Lecture Series

**"Yakuza: Origin and Structure of Japan's Organized Crime Syndicates"**

**Lecturer: Silke Higgins (San Jose State University)**

**Wednesday, November 1 @7pm**

**Free Admission, [RSVP Required](#)**

This lecture is a three-part presentation. Part I takes the form of a historical overview, tracing the origin of the Yakuza from the early days to World War II, emphasizing the political and socio-cultural constructs that propagated the growth and spread of these traditional groups. Part II provides insight into the organizational structure of modern Yakuza crime syndicates, highlighting membership. Part III concludes the presentation with a brief examination of the most prominent laws aimed at controlling the Yakuza in Japan, as well as internationally.

### Yakuza Movie Screening

**"Outrage" (109mins, 2010)**

**Directed by Takeshi Kitano**

**Thursday, November 2 @7pm**

**Free Admission, No RSVP Required**



In a ruthless battle for power, several yakuza clans vie for the favor of their head family in the Japanese underworld. The rival bosses seek to rise through the ranks by scheming and making allegiances sworn over sake. Long-time yakuza Otomo (Takeshi Kitano) has seen his kind go from elaborate body tattoos and severed fingertips to becoming important players on the stock market. There is a never-ending struggle to end up on top, or at least survive, in a corrupt world where there are no heroes, but constant betrayal and vengeance.



**Lecture and Demonstration**  
**The Light in the Shadow: Expression of Sumi Ink**  
**Thursday, November 9, 7PM ([JFLA Auditorium](#))**  
**Free Admission, [RSVP required](#)**

Suibokuga (水墨画), also called sumi-e (墨絵), is a form of art that uses black sumi ink to paint on washi paper. This seemingly simple monochrome art form requires various brush stroke techniques which create and express the subtle nuances of light and shade onto a sheet of paper. Artist Yoshio Ikezaki has been creating contemporary monochrome art works using sumi-e techniques and some of his works are currently on view as part of the "ATMOSPHERE IN JAPANESE PAINTING" exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

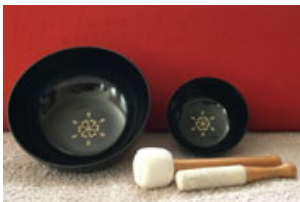
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**Special Lecture Series: Deities in Japanese Art**  
**Session 3: Bodhisattva**  
**in Collaboration with LACMA**  
**Tuesday, November 14, 7PM ([JFLA Auditorium](#))**  
**Free Admission, [RSVP required](#)**

The bodhisattvas are deities who have achieved enlightenment themselves but have delayed their own exit from the cycle of rebirth to guide others to enlightenment. Japanese Buddhism is full of these strange yet wonderfully virtuous attendant deities, from the monk-like bodhisattva of the hells to the horse-headed bodhisattva of compassion.

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**Meditation With Japanese Singing Lin Bowl**  
**Relax With Sound During Lunch**  
**Wednesday, November 15 @12:30/1:00PM ([JFLA Auditorium](#))**  
**Just Show Up!**

Mid-week fatigue is a familiar foe to many of us. Why not maximize your relaxation and join us for a Sound Bath at Lunch Time!

The Singing-Lin Bowl harmoniously combines the healing qualities of the Tibetan singing bowl and its Japanese counterpart, the Lin bowl. Relax and feel your stress dissipate into thin air as the sounds of the singing-Lin bowl lead you into a meditative state.

There will be two 20-minute sessions from 12:30pm and 1:00pm. There is no charge and no reservation required. All are welcome to come, sit, listen, and refresh.

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**2017 ACTFL Annual Convention and World Languages Expo**  
**November 17 - 19 ([Music City Center](#))**  
**in Collaboration with LACMA**

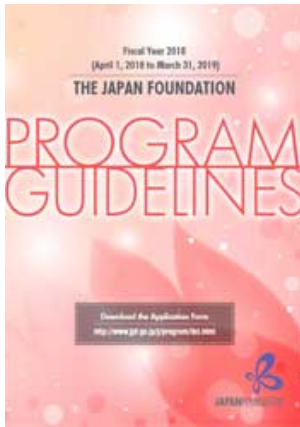
Booth: #231, Part of the Japan Pavilion

Visit our booth to meet our staff as well as select J-LEAP participants, who will be helping us promote SpeakJapan. We will be giving away a wide range of goods so don't miss it!

## Applications

**FY2018-19 Program Guidelines Available NOW!**

**Deadlines: Multiple for Arts and Culture / December 1st for Japanese**



## Language

For information on **Arts and Culture** Programs, please visit:

- [Support Program for Translation and Publication on Japan](#)  
Application Deadline: November 20, 2017
- [Exhibitions Abroad Support Program](#)  
Application Deadline: December 1, 2017

For information on **Japanese Language** Programs, please visit:

- [Training Program for Japanese-Language Teachers](#) at the Japanese Language Institute, Urawa
  - Colleen Laird: [2017 Short-Term Participant Report](#)
- [Program for Specialists in Cultural and Academic Fields](#) at the Japanese Language Institute, Kansai

There are multiple programs including long-term, short-term, training program on a specific theme, project-based training program and graduate program (Master's Course) for teachers and 2-month and 6-month courses for the specialist program. Your application must ARRIVE at JFLA on or before December 1, 2017 for Japanese Language Programs. Please also notify us of your intent to apply in advance.

[Read More](#)



## 2018-2020 J-LEAP: Accepting Applications Deadline: January 10, 2018

Are you interested in inviting a Japanese Assistant Teacher (AT) to your K-12 classroom for up to two consecutive school years? Do you want to give your students an opportunity to learn and hear Japanese from a native speaker or an additional native speakers for some variation? If so, make sure you apply for J-LEAP, which was started in 2011 with the help of the Laurasian Institute (TLI).

[Read More](#)

# News



## Japanese Language Education Update #48: American Association of Teachers of Japanese / Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

The 2015 survey conducted by the Japan Foundation on the state of Japanese language education indicates a 9.7% increase in Japanese language learners in the United States (compared to 2012), however the number of Japanese teachers has decreased by 8.8%. As a result Japanese programs are disappearing as teachers retire and schools cannot find replacements. AATJ and the Japan Foundation are collaborating to encourage the development of new Japanese teachers to meet this need. Starting this year AATJ and JFLA are trying a new outreach model: combining leadership training with local Japanese language teachers' association meetings.

[Read More](#)



## 2017-2018 J-LEAP Reports

For the 2017-2018 school year, we invited eight native assistant teachers (AT) to various schools around the country as part of the Japanese Language Education Assistant Program (J-LEAP). This is the seventh year of this program where schools around the country are given the opportunity to host an AT for up to two years with the goal of strengthening their Japanese language program. This month, we will feature the reports from the following ATs detailing their experiences at American schools.

- [Asako Sakamoto, Robert Service High School \(Anchorage, AK\)](#)
- [Yui Kimura, Cranford High School \(Cranford, NJ\)](#)

## Staff Update



If you have been to our events during the past two weeks, you will most likely have noticed a new face in our office. His name is Shimpei Ishii (left) and he is our new Deputy Director replacing the outgoing Tomoki Sakuta (right), who was recalled back to Tokyo for a new project. Although his time here was short, Tomoki was responsible for renovating our office and upgrading our hall with a new AV system. We wish him the best of luck in Japan and hope you will come out to our next event to meet Shimpei!