



The Japan-America Society of Georgia



2010 Programs Calendar

Listed below are key programs and meetings presented by the JASG for the 2009 calendar year. For additional information, please visit the JASG website at www.jasgeorgia.org.

- January 15** **Hogaku: New Sounds of Japan 2010:** Presented by The Japan Foundation, the University of Georgia Center for Asian Studies, and the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta this special event is a trio of performances featuring the best of traditional Japanese music. Each showcase performance features a different instrument (koto, shamisen, taiko drums), performed by Japan's top young talent in Japanese traditional performing arts. Pre-concert lecture on Japanese music will be held before the performance, starting at 7:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public.
- January 21** **2010 Kick-Off Reception:** Mr. Takuji Hanatani, The Consul General of Japan, graciously hosts a cocktail party at his official residence to kick off 2009 and to celebrate the year of the Cow for all current and future members of the JASG. The event will be an informal opportunity to interact and strengthen the ties of friendship in Georgia between Japan and the State of Georgia.
- February 23** **Japanese Foreign Policy Lecture:** Guest Lecturer Professor Ryo Sahashi presents a special lecture entitled, "Whither Japan? Japanese Foreign Policy in the Asian Century and the Future of US-Japan Relations." Dr. Sahashi specializes in International Politics and his current research focuses on regional security architecture in Asia and Japanese security policy. His doctoral dissertation was on American foreign policy towards China and Taiwan during the Cold War.
- February 25** **Okuribito (Departures) Japanese Film Screening:** JASG partners with Agnes Scott College to bring the 2009 Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Films, *Okuribito* (Departures). Directed by Yojiro Takita, the film is a blend of comic whimsy and melodramatic pathos, and is carried by beautiful cello and piano pieces throughout. Event starts at 7pm and a Q&A session will follow the end of the film.
- February – April** **Winter/Spring JASG Business Japanese Classes:** A variety of levels of Japanese language classes are offered. Classes meet for two hours, one evening per week, for a total of eight weeks.
- March 4** **Anime, Manga and More:** Kennesaw State University presents a special lecture by popular author, Roland Kelts, who speaks on Japanese Pop Culture: its origins, its Japanese and American Character, and why it defines 'Cool' in the 21st Century.
- March 13** **YP Roller Derby Night:** JASG's Young Professionals group goes to an Atlanta Rollergirls Roller Derby game. Special discounted tickets are available for all members.
- March 23** **Kubota Plant Tour:** JASG members and guests gather at Kubota Manufacturing of America (KMA) in Gainesville, Georgia for a private tour of its facilities. Recently, Kubota Manufacturing of America acquired a 480,000 square foot cross-docking operation adjoining the existing manufacturing operations. This new addition will be incorporated to create Kubota's largest manufacturing campus outside Japan. Kubota received the 2010 Employer Recognition Award at the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce's recent Industry of the Year Celebration. Kubota employs more than 750 in Gainesville-Hall County.
- March 19 – March 28** **Macon Sakura/Cherry Blossom Festival:** This annual festival in Macon, Georgia celebrates the blooming of the city's 300,000 Yoshino Cherry Trees to welcome in the spring season. JASG has arranged Japanese martial art group, Katori Shinto-Ryu, to demonstrate at the festival. The Society will also have a booth promoting Japan to festival attendees.
- March 27** **Japan Academic Challenge and Speech Contest:** Georgia high school students compete in the Japan Academic Challenge, a quiz show-style contest to test students' knowledge of Japanese language and culture. In the Japanese Speech Contest, college and high school students deliver memorized speeches demonstrating their Japanese language. This year's competitions are held at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia starting at 1 pm. A networking reception is held after the awards ceremony.
- April 16** **Midori Goto Concert:** Renowned Japanese violinist Midori Goto comes to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra to play a Shostakovich concerto. A post concert meet & greet reception will be held by the JASG. Discounted tickets are available for all Society members.

- April / May** **JASG Family Cook-Out:** To follow the Japanese tradition of viewing cherry blossoms in the spring, the JASG members and friends gather at the Chattahoochee River Park for a family-style barbecue cook-out by the banks of the Chattahoochee River. Festivities start at 12 p.m.
- June – August** **Summer Business Japanese Language Classes:** A variety of levels of Japanese language classes are offered. Classes meet for two hours, one evening per week, for a total of eight weeks.
- June 8** **30th Anniversary Dinner:** The Society will celebrate its 30th Anniversary at this ever-enjoyable gala event at the Piedmont Driving Club. Please make plans to join fellow members and special guests as the event features a special keynote speaker to discuss the importance of the U.S. - Japan relationship. In conjunction with the dinner, the JASG hosts the ever-popular Silent Auction highlighted by Delta Air Lines tickets, hotel/restaurant certificates, and other exciting items.
- June 25** **JASG Braves Night Out:** Society members and friends gather for a Major League Baseball game between the hometown Atlanta Braves and the visiting Detroit Tigers. Consul General Hanatani is scheduled to be the Braves' Honorary Captain. In conjunction with the event, the JASG also hosts a pre-game networking reception 2 hours before the start of the game.
- July** **Sake/Shochu Tasting:** Join JASG members and friends for an opportunity to learn more about and taste Japanese beverages and food from experts. The event also features a special menu inspired by popular home-cooked summer dishes.
- July** **Lake Lanier Boating Trip:** Join the Young Professionals for a day of fun on Lake Lanier and enjoy various water-sports including: riding jet skis, water-skiing, knee-boarding, and much more.
- July 13** **Annual Membership Meeting:** JASG members gather together for a recap of the Society's activities over the past year and a look ahead at the year to come. New officers and board of directors is also voted in at the meeting. A networking reception follows the meeting for all members in attendance.
- September - November** **Fall Business Japanese Classes:** A variety of levels of Japanese language classes are offered. Classes meet for two hours, one evening per week, for a total of eight weeks.
- September 18-19** **JapanFest 2010:** Held again this year at the Gwinnett Convention Center in Duluth, this annual festival has continued to grow in size and popularity, reaching over 20,000 attendees. JapanFest is two days of immersing yourself in everything Japan: dance and taiko (drum) performances; learning the intricate maneuvers of Japanese martial arts; tasting various Japanese foods; visiting the many different cultural exhibitions; and appreciating different expositions from Japanese companies in Georgia who employ over 34,000 Americans. Tickets are \$8 and free for children 6 and under.
- September** **YP White Water Rafting Trip:** Join the YP group for this annual trip as members and friends fight the rapids of Tennessee's Ocoee River, the same river used during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. Lunch and/or an afternoon snack is provided after the rafting portion of the trip.
- October 29 / 30** **YP Halloween Party:** The Young Professionals host a Halloween Party for all members and friends of the Society. Costumes are encouraged but not required.
- December** **Bonenkai Holiday Dinner:** As a part of the Society's winter tradition, the JASG celebrates its 30th Bonenkai Holiday Dinner. The Bonenkai Dinner is one of those rare occasions when a diverse representation of members of the community, including many top Japanese and American business leaders, are gathered together in one place for a time of celebration and enjoyment. In conjunction with the dinner, the JASG hosts the ever-popular Silent Auction highlighted by Delta Air Lines tickets, hotel/restaurant certificates, and other exciting items.