Welcome Message

Welcome to the Autumn 2021 Centre for Japanese Studies e-Newsletter. In this issue we are happy to announce the return to in-person events after almost two years of solely digital outreach. However, our online following will not be forgotten as we intend to provide the option of streaming in-person events to get the best of both worlds. Our CJS Research Seminar series will also be staying online in webinar format for the coming semester to bring you speakers from around the world. We continue to have a host of Japan-related displays at the Sainsbury Centre, including a special guest exhibition by Leiko Ikemura which opened on 23rd July – see the review in Apollo. Our Faces of Faith display has also been extended until the end of the year, while those unable to visit in person can enjoy our online display at JapanInNorwich.org. Finally, we have several updates from our CJS colleagues to share with you.

We always welcome feedback and are very happy to pass on Japan-related news of relevance to our readership – so do get in touch.

Stay safe and well,

Simon and Oliver

Editor’s note: Japanese names, barring special exceptions, are given in the Japanese form of family name first i.e. MATSUMOTO Mariko

Forthcoming dates for your diary
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<td><em>Eleven Winters of Discontent</em> (Harvard University Press)</td>
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<td>by Dr Sherzod Muminov (who will be in discussion with Professor Simon Kaner)</td>
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<td>9 December</td>
<td>Translating Mishima Yukio</td>
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<td>with Professor Stephen Dodd</td>
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Last year, the University of East Anglia together with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures launched our new MA programme in Interdisciplinary Japanese Studies. This year we have 7 enthusiastic students joining the programme and we are delighted to welcome them to Norwich. We invite any prospective students to join our blossoming programme from September 2022. Feel free to get in touch with any questions you may have about the course and see our webpage for more information.

Administered through UEA’s Interdisciplinary Institute for the Humanities, home to the Centre for Japanese Studies, this MA course is a collaboration of Japan specialists from both the University and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. Lecturers with academic focus on Japan from several schools of study at UEA, as well as academic staff of the Sainsbury Institute together have developed an innovative interdisciplinary curriculum for students who want to know about Japan, its place in the world, and its transforming cultural identity. For a taste of the diversity amongst our lecturers, watch our new video on YouTube or check our Beyond Japan podcast episodes Series 1, episodes 1-7 for in-depth discussion with the teaching team.
10th anniversary of CJS: looking forward

Professor Simon Kaner, Director of CJS

This autumn we celebrate some significant anniversaries: ten years of degree-level Japanese language and Japanese Studies at UEA, along with the Centre for Japanese Studies; and two decades of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures at our city centre headquarters, 64 The Close. These anniversaries offer an opportunity to reflect on our achievements and to look forward to the future – what will the next ten years bring for Japanese Studies in Norwich? We will be gathering views on this over the coming couple of months and will report more fully in January.

It is also an opportunity to thank our generous supporters, the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, the Ishibashi Foundation, the Japan Foundation, the Toshiba International Foundation and Yakult, who provide the annual Yakult Prize in Japanese language studies.

We have big plans for this anniversary academic year. In November we welcome the President of the Royal Academy, Rebecca Salter, to Norwich to give the Robert Sainsbury Lecture. We are planning to bring the British Association for Japanese Studies and Japan Foundation Postgraduate Workshop in Japanese Studies to Norwich in early 2022. And we are developing plans for our next Summer Programme in Japanese Cultural Studies – watch out for announcements about these and other events.

Other news from the Director

Summer 2021 saw Tokyo host the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, widely regarded as a success even though the pandemic meant no live audiences. Simon took the opportunity to review the archaeology of the Olympic megacity in Current World Archaeology, and to pull together some additional resources available at www.sainsbury-institute.org/project/tokyoarchaeology. He also published a series of articles in the German journal Antike Welt on the current state of Japanese archaeology, which he hopes to publish in English shortly. A further publication was Cultural Flows between Japan and the World, drawing together the themes of the Ishibashi Foundation Lecture Series organised by the Sainsbury Institute in Japan between 2014 and 2019.
The Sainsbury Institute has been busy collaborating with our colleagues across Norwich to host a series of Japan-related exhibits this summer as museums tentatively reopen to the public once more.

**Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts**

**Leiko Ikemura: Usagi in Wonderland**

*18 July – 12 December*

Tickets: £8 or FREE for Members and UEA/NUA Student Members

[Book your tickets here](#)

Japanese-Swiss artist, Ikemura Leiko, presents a selection of paintings, sculptures, drawings and photography in her first UK exhibition. Ikemura has selected 50 works that span three decades of her career. Her art appeals to our imagination with its childlike purity.

The exhibition’s dominant theme is the connectivity of all aspects of nature, be it human, animal, plant or mineral, in an eternal circle of life. Through her fantastical figures and primeval landscapes, Ikemura explores fragility, transience and slow evolutionary change – choosing to address environmental issues from an empathetic, global perspective.

Usagi, meaning ‘rabbit’ in Japanese, is a recurrent mystical motif in Ikemura’s work, representing rebirth, fertility and renewal. Her bronze sculpture, *Usagi Kannon (Rabbit Bodhisattva of Mercy)*, will stand in the Sainsbury Centre Sculpture Park from autumn 2021, providing a place of refuge to visitors wishing to shelter beneath its generous skirt.

The exhibition has been developed in collaboration with the Sainsbury Institute to coincide with the Japan-UK Season of Culture.

**Supported by** The Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Henry Moore Foundation, Japan-UK Season of Culture and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures.

**Image Credit:** *Trees out of Head*, Leiko Ikemura, 2015/20 © Leiko Ikemura and VG Bild-Kunst 2021
Faces of Faith: Early Japanese Religious Statuary at the Sainsbury Centre
18 June – 31 December

Description by Oliver Moxham

As part of my MA course in Museum and Heritage Studies, I took part in a three-week internship with the Sainsbury Centre to design an exhibit to join museums in Japan celebrating the 1,400th anniversary of the death of Prince Shōtoku Taishi, the regent who brought Buddhism to Japan. Faces of Faith is centred around the rare 13th century wooden statue typically on display in the Living Area, “Female Shinto Deity” (right), and seeks to put into context the significance and value of such religious artefacts in Japan as well as the dynamic history of East Asia Prince Shōtoku represents.

Of course, dealing with a semi-legendary figure from the 7th century poses many questions. Who was Prince Shōtoku? Did he really fly up to Mt. Fuji on horseback? Why was Buddhism so significant and where does Shinto fit into it? The exhibit breaks down these questions into three themes, looking at the historical, political and religious context of Japan in the 7th century. To nourish any inquisitive minds whose curiosity has been piqued by the exhibit, a dedicated “Shōtoku miniseries” has been produced by Beyond Japan with an episode dedicated to each theme.

Kobo A-B Workshop at the Sainsbury Institute: An Introduction to Boro

Sunday 7 November 2021 | 10:00-16:00
Sunday 5 December 2021 | 10:00-16:00
Available to attend in person at the Sainsbury Institute (64 The Close, NR1 4DH)
£90 per ticket
Book via the Kobo A-B website

Boro –ぼろ or Ranru らんる are both terms in Japanese which translate as old and tattered. The term is now commonly used about all Japanese textiles that are patched or repaired garments or bedding which have been mended, using fragments or oddments of cloth. Boro textiles originate from the Edo period through to the beginning of the Showa period in Japanese history. These items were often handed down from generation to generation, usually within a family, and have become prized and treasured pieces of textile art for the beauty inherent within each piece.

An introduction to BORO, looking and creating textile work and pieces that emulate and are in sympathy with the repair approaches found within the world and creation of Boro/Ranru pieces.
Beyond Japan Podcast

Beyond Japan has entered its second series. You can find Beyond Japan on Spotify, Apple, Google, Anchor and many other servers. Alternatively, you can subscribe to our YouTube channel for the latest episodes.

Oliver recently wrote a report on Beyond Japan’s first year, noting its far-reaching listeners from all ages and across the world. The report also features glowing comments from former interviewees on how the podcast makes their research more accessible and episodes feature on curricula at several prestigious universities. The full report will be published in 2022 on JapanInNorwich.org.

New episodes come out every Thursday. More information is available here. In case you missed them, the first 6 episodes of the second season can be found below:
RITUALISING SCANDAL
WITH DR IGOR PRUSA

REMEMBERING KAMIKAZE:
AFFECT & WAR MEMORY
WITH DR RUMI SAKAMOTO

BEYOND JAPAN

Centre for Japanese Studies
University of East Anglia

Sainsbury Institute for Japanese Studies
CJS Colleague Updates

We bid farewell to two colleagues who have helped shape CJS during its first decade: Dr Rayna Denison left the University in September to take up a new Professorship in Animation Studies at the University of Bristol. And Dr Chris Hayes who masterminded our hugely successful Online Summer Programmes in Japanese Cultural Studies and much more besides takes up a Lectureship in Tourism Studies at the University of Teesside. We congratulate them both and wish them every success in their new ventures.

Upcoming publications

Our colleague Dr Ra Mason, Sasakawa Associate Professor of International Relations and Japanese Foreign Policy, shares with us his roster of upcoming publications due out over the coming year:

*Handbook of Disaster Studies in Japan* ("Okinawa as a site of vulnerability and resilience", Ed. Vol. chapter)

This chapter draws on a synthesis of historical literature and International Relations theory to challenge contemporary framings of Okinawa through the case study of disasters that have struck the prefecture’s formerly primary site of sovereign power, Shuri Castle. In so doing, it adopts a decolonised, discursive interpretive approach to analysis of Shuri’s historical legacy as the centre of Okinawan political, economic and social identity, before focusing discussion upon the two most recent destructions of the Castle’s physical structure, in 1945 and 2019, respectively. In particular, the chapter critically assesses the responses to these incidents in terms of how, as a function of both great power rivalry and liminal resistance to colonial conquest and military occupation, Okinawa has remained vulnerable yet at the same time resilient throughout the intervening period, and looks set to continue that way (Darder 2018; Schwartz-Shea and Yanow 2011).

*Japan’s Security Policy* ("Layered Security on Okinawa", Ed Vol. chapter)

Lying between Tokyo, Beijing and Taipei and hosting more than 74% of American military bases in Japan, Okinawa has often been referred to as the ‘Keystone of the Pacific’ within regional security narratives. This is primarily because of its geo-strategically pivotal position along the so-called ‘First Island Chain’, separating the Western Pacific and East China Sea, and its historically contested political status as a former tributary of China, colony of Japan and protectorate of the United States (US). Amid this checkered history, the chapter below examines the case of Okinawa-related security issues from a layered perspective. In so doing, it critically interrogates how Okinawa has been understood, (re)constructed, and (re)framed across international, national and sub-national (local) contexts as a means to shape respective policies under the reasoning or pretext of security, be that in geo-military, socio-economic, environmental or other terms. By making use of critical discourse analysis (CDA) and risk-based theories of International Relations the discussion reveals how the intersections between key actors, such as ministers of state, political parties, mass media, commercial interests (private-sector businesses), local government and a diverse range of activists, have created a highly complex and asymmetrical tapestry of security layers, articulated via competing and contradictory narratives.

*Japan-UK relations: old alliances, new partnerships* ("UK-Japan Security Cooperation", Ed Vol. chapter)

This chapter builds on the in-depth account of contemporary developments in U.K.-Japan security relations provided by Mulloy. In contrast, however, with Shetler-Jones’ focused exposition of recent
military exchanges, it does so by broadening the scope of analysis in order to interrogate the extent to which the U.K. and Japan have moved towards a new so called special relationship across a range of security spheres in the post-Brexit world. Given that Britain is arguably Europe’s most significant contributor to regional and global security regimes, Brexit not only matters for the future of intra-European security, but also for how the U.K. – as ‘Global Britain’– forges relations with other key external partners, including those from across Asia, led by Japan.


Japan’s post-Cold War state, market and societal-led responses to North Korea represent an illustrative example of how the construction of a supposedly ongoing crisis has been effectively undertaken to justify the recalibration of security risks – and a reconfiguring of security policy. This chapter critically examines discourse from the Japanese Diet pertaining to North Korean affairs in order to elucidate how the abduction of Japanese citizens, missile testing and nuclear proliferation have been conflated in order to frame the DPRK as an entity amounting in itself to a multifaceted security crisis. It thereby exposes the discourse-led process by which this conflated crisis on the Korean Peninsula is appropriated to depict an increasingly vulnerable Japan whose security capabilities – relative to those of its regional rivals – are seen to be in decline.

*International Affairs* ("Djiboutian sovereignty: worlding global security networks", research journal article)

Japanese state-level agency is largely determined by the perceived interests of its own domestic and foreign policy elites, in broad (though fluctuating) alignment with US national interests as a junior security alliance partner of Washington. The controversial initiative to operate in Djibouti by leasing part of the US Camp Lemonnier base passed through Japan’s National Diet in 2010, and was stealthily enacted while the country’s media and political elite were focused on the triple disaster of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the ensuing tsunami and the Fukushima nuclear power plant meltdown. The establishment of a fully operational Japan Self Defense Force (JSDF) facility in Djibouti is an interesting case of atypical sovereignty performance, in initially sub-letting space from the primary tenant, the US military, who in turn were leasing extraterritorial space from the sovereign owner, Djibouti. In other words, Japan entered Djibouti’s sovereign territory through the outsourced conditionality of an American forces base, but in practice gained effective sovereign-style control over Djiboutian territory, albeit in a highly confined physical space.

*Interdisciplinary International Workshop on Ageing in Japan and the UK* (GBSF-funded, hosted online 9th September 2021)

The workshop built upon the Second Conference on Global Japanese Studies, hosted at Tohoku University, Sendai, in December of 2019, as part of the ongoing research and academic exchange partnership between the University of East Anglia (UEA) and Tohoku University, established in 2018. The event offered an interdisciplinary platform from which to examine how advanced economies facing challenges associated with ageing society might learn from one another and develop more integrated medical, social, economic and politico-administrative systems in order to contribute towards developing systemic improvements, reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience. Its aspirational agenda was to develop research networks that adopt methodologically credible interdisciplinary approaches and responses to practical problems arising from ageing society, with a flexible focus upon Japan and the UK, and a view to wider application. The workshop served as a starting point from which to advance this agenda.
Link to Youtube video of full conference: https://youtu.be/DU8xzrV_VB8


When Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States, global reaction was overwhelmingly positive – and, in some parts of the world, bordering on the euphoric. In recent addresses, Biden has asserted that “American alliances are our greatest asset” and pledged to maintain the so-called “Quad” of the US, India, Australia and Japan to counter Chinese hegemony in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan’s response to the new “leader of the free world”, though, has been comparatively understated. This may come as something of a surprise given the vitriolic pursuit of outgoing president, Donald Trump, by the mainstream media and academia in the English-speaking world.

JET Programme & Daiwa on campus
By Lisa-Rose Moller

The JET programme and DAIWA took part in the UEA Virtual Recruitment & Opportunities Fair on the 14th of October and had the opportunity to reach more than 1,500 students with information about their programmes. We are looking forward to them joining us virtually again for our online ‘Global Opportunities Week, 14-16th Feb 2022. Don’t forget to check out all the events that UEA CareerCentral are running through the Autumn term.

Interview with Student Union Postgraduate Education Officer, Ayane Hida
By Oliver Moxham

As a special audio-article for the e-newsletter, I was lucky enough to be joined by Ayane Hida, the Postgraduate Education Officer at the UEA Student’s Union (SU). Ayane studied an MA in Global Intercultural Communication over 2019-20 at UEA before taking on her current role. In the interview, I ask her about her motivations for joining the SU, the challenges of the role during a pandemic and her plans for the future.

For our 2021-22 CJS Research Webinar Series we will be resuming our monthly online sessions on the second Thursday of each month, 13:00-14:00 BST. Please subscribe to our website, https://JapanInNorwich.org, for email updates as soon as booking goes live. Our roster for the Autumn semester is as follows:

11 November
The history of translation of Beauvoir's *The Second Sex in Japan*
with Dr Julia Bullock, Professor of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures at Emory University

9 December
Missing the Point: The Art of Translating Mishima Yukio
with Professor Stephen Dodd

Other CJS-related events:

24 November 13:00
School of History Online Book Launch for
*Eleven Winters of Discontent* (Harvard University Press)
by Dr Sherzod Muminov in discussion with Professor Simon Kaner
Online/blended Events

SISJAC Third Thursday Lectures

The Arts and Culture of Intellectual History: Re-Encountering Nature and Science.
With Dr Eiko Honda
Thursday 21 October 2021 | 18:00 GMT
Available to attend in person at the Hostry, Norwich Cathedral.
Available to watch online.
Book here

How have the arts and culture shaped the ways in which humans come to understand nature? What kind of role have they played in uncovering scientific facts and ideas? This talk will explore these questions with case studies from intellectual history of modern Japan and contemporary art. Ranging from microbes to knotweed, it invites the participating audience to re-encounter what they thought they knew about nature and science found in their everyday lives with fresh perspectives.

About the speaker

Eiko Honda specialises in intellectual history of modern Japan. She is particularly interested in the ways in which the Humanities impacted the articulation of modern scientific ‘truths’ within the wider context of global political thoughts and the ‘environmental’ crisis. Through her research on scientist-polymaths who embraced humanistic knowledge, she illuminates the underlining logic behind interdisciplinary knowledge formation of which existing historiography could not make sense. Her fellowship at the Sainsbury Institute has enabled her to turn her DPhil thesis into a monograph manuscript tentatively entitled The Emergence of Queer Nature: Minakata Kumagusu (1867-1941) and the Making of Microbial Paradigm, 1887-1900.

In parallel to her research in intellectual history, she investigates the implications of such histories to forms of knowledge-making required to face the climate crisis today. Her work received the Grand Prize at the Toshiba International Foundation’s 30th Anniversary Essay Contest on the research agenda for Japanese Studies (2019). Prior to embarking on her DPhil in History at the University of Oxford, she worked as a curator and writer of contemporary art and ideas in London as a curatorial fellow for Japan’s Agency for Cultural Affairs (2013-2016). As a curator she specialised in transdisciplinary projects of art, sciences, and technologies in the context of Anglo-Asian historical relations, delivering various exhibitions and education programmes on the topic. For information on Dr Honda’s publications: https://www.sainsbury-institute.org/info/eiko-honda

Notes on booking

The Sainsbury Institute retains no information collected via Eventbrite in accordance with GDPR regulations. If you wish to subscribe for updates on events, you can sign up to our monthly e-bulletin via our homepage or follow us on Twitter @SISJAC_UK.
If you wish to attend in-person, we encourage you to wear a mask where possible. Please be aware that the on-site elevator is unavailable due to flood damage and is awaiting repairs.

Robert Sainsbury Lecture: The Presence of Absence
With Rebecca Salter, President of the Royal Academy
Thursday 18 November 2021 | 18:30 GMT
Available to attend in person at Lecture Theatre 1, University of East Anglia, NR4 7TJ.
Available to watch online.

The extraordinary Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection illustrates the complexities, but also the immeasurable rewards, of learning about each other mediated through art and artefacts. Their Collection was created with love, an appetite to explore and include and, arguably, with an artist's eye.

Artists are, by nature, visually curious and hungry for the unfamiliar. Reflecting the spirit of the Collection, in the 2021 Robert Sainsbury Lecture, the artist and President of the Royal Academy of Arts, Rebecca Salter, will trace the development of her career through an examination of her long and enriching relationship with Japan and its culture. In the context of narratives around the dynamics of the interactions between cultures, this is a very personal journey as seen through the eyes of an artist.

About the speaker

Rebecca Salter studied at Bristol Polytechnic and then at Kyoto City University of the Arts in Japan, where she lived for six years. While living in Kyoto, Salter studied traditional Japanese woodblock printing with Professor Kurosaki Akira and has since written two books on the subject. Her interest in printmaking is combined with her main practice in painting. Until 2016 she was Associate Lecturer on the MA Printmaking Course at Camberwell College of Art, University of the Arts, London.

Salter exhibits regularly in London and internationally, and in 2011 she had a major retrospective into the light of things at the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, Connecticut. An accompanying exhibition at Yale University Art Gallery explored links between Western artists and Japan. She has also been artist in residence twice (2003 and 2011) at the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation, Connecticut. Salter has undertaken several architectural commissions including 15 Sackville Street, London W1, St George’s Hospital, Tooting and NGS Macmillan Cancer Unit, Chesterfield Royal
Hospital. She has work in many private and public collections including Tate, British Museum, Yale Center for British Art and Yale University Art Gallery.

Salter was elected as a Royal Academician to the category of Printmaker in December 2014 and, in June 2017, was elected as the Keeper of the Royal Academy. On 10th December 2019 she was elected the 27th President of the Royal Academy of Arts and became the first female President since the Academy was founded in 1768.

Subscribe to the Sainsbury Institute e-bulletin to receive an email update when booking is available.

External events

Japanese Studies and Transnationalism
Webinar jointly organised by the Consortium for Global Japanese Studies Nichibunken, Centre Européen d’Études Japonaises d’Alsace (CEEJA) and Hosei University Research Center for International Japanese Studies
Friday 29 – Sunday 31 October
Registration deadline: 27th October
Book here
Read the full programme

In social science and humanities, transnationalism has been a thriving approach to understand our world today. Such a global and transnational turn has also impacted Japanese Studies. Nevertheless, the relationship between the transnational approach and area studies, including Japanese studies, can be complex. On the one hand, accelerated transnational processes in our contemporary society have urged our debates over the limitation, if not the invalidity, of examining area studies based on a nation-state framework. However, on the other hand, we cannot avoid the fact that the nation-state does remain and operates as a powerful institution that promotes and controls transnational flows and practices even until today. As such, the workshop would like to call for papers that empirically and theoretically touch upon the relationship between Japanese studies and transnationalism.

Specifically, the workshop welcomes a broad range of presentations that examine the process, interactions, and outcomes of Japanese transnationalism. Those papers can be historical or contemporary cases from various fields in social science and humanities. At the same time, the workshop also invites contributions discussing broader debates over the intricate relationship between Japanese studies/area studies and transnationalism mentioned above.
Compilation of Pictopedia of Everyday Life in Early Modern Japan:
Ryūkūan Processions and Edo
Kanagawa University
Webinar
Saturday 23 October
Registration deadline: Tuesday 19 October
Book here
More information (日本語)

This webinar (Japanese only) is part of a series exploring depictions of common life in early modern Japan. This talk considers the portrayal of everyday life in the streets surrounding the 1850 procession of Ryūkūan ambassadors to Edo. For more details, please visit the website here: http://himoji.kanagawa-u.ac.jp/news/index.html#p-1126
COVID News from Japan

For a running number of reported COVID19 infections, victims and recoveries in Japan, see the Asahi Shimbun homepage [JP].

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For non-Japanese speakers, the numbers on the webpage indicate:

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For a Japanese government public service video on coronavirus (Japanese only):

3つの密を避けよう！

For Japanese speakers, here are two articles in English from the Japan Times laying out vocabulary coming out of the crisis:

- The Japanese words used to encourage self-restraint
- Cancellations, postponements, suspensions — words that define the times

General Links

- Orientations Magazine
- Embassy of Japan
- Japan Foundation
- JSPS
- British Association for Japanese Studies
- Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation
- Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation
- Japan Society
- EU-Japan Centre
- Canon Foundation
- Applications for JET Programme
- Japanese Language Proficiency Exam
- UEA Japan Society: ueajapansociety@gmail.com
- Taiko Centre East
- Career Forums
If you have any contributions for the next e-newsletter, please send them to us by **10 January 2022** to make the next issue.

Send us an email at cjs@uea.ac.uk.

To keep up with goings-on at CJS, follow us on social media:

Or visit our website: japaninnorwich.org

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