



E-NEWSLETTER

January 2020

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Dr. Sheila A. Smith

Senior Fellow for Japan Studies

Council on Foreign Relations



Dr. Yoshihide Soeya

Professor of Political Science

Keio University



**Consul-General
Kayoko Fukushima**

*Consulate-General of
Japan in Nashville*

Tennessee-Japan Forum 2020

Feb 12, 3:00 - 6:00 pm

[Baker Donelson Event Center](#)

Join us at the **Tennessee-Japan Forum** on February 12th. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about geopolitical issues currently facing Japan and America from recognized experts **Dr. Sheila A. Smith** and **Dr. Yoshihide Soeya** and to hear from new **Consul-General Kayoko Fukushima**. We will recognize important JAST member anniversaries and celebrate our 20th year. A networking reception will follow.

The Tennessee-Japan Forum serves as JAST's annual meeting. Representatives from a variety of businesses, government offices, non-profit organizations and other sectors come together to connect and strengthen the vibrant bilateral relationship between Japan and America.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about our speakers, and click [HERE](#) to register. The registration deadline is January 31st.

Welcome Consul-General Kayoko Fukushima



Congratulations and welcome to Consul-General Fukushima, our new Consul-General of Japan, Nashville. Consul-General Fukushima assumed her post in December 2019. This is her third diplomatic assignment in the U.S. The Consul-General has extensive experience working with the United Nations. She served as Program Officer at United Nations University (2003-2006) and as the founding Director of the UN Women Japan Liaison Office (2015-2017), both based in Tokyo. To learn more about our new Consul-General please click [HERE](#).

Consul-General Fukushima will be a speaker at JAST's Tennessee-Japan Forum on February 12th. Please register [HERE](#)

Member Spotlight - Brother Industries (USA), Inc.

Brother Industries (USA), Inc., located in West TN, has been a dedicated member of JAST for 20 years. Brother actively participates in JAST activities throughout the year and is especially supportive of the Memphis Japan Festival. At last year's festival, 30 Brother employees volunteered to staff their very popular children's craft tent which featured some of their products in the largest exhibitor tent at the Festival.

Brother came to Shelby County in 1986 with great fanfare and has been an important part of the Bartlett community ever since. The company employs 600 people at their Bartlett campus, which spans more than 26 football fields. Among their many achievements, Brother has been recognized as Tennessee Business Recycler of the Year by the Tennessee Recycling Coalition.

JAST greatly appreciates the dedicated participation of Norio Mitsubayshi, President of Brother Industries (USA), Inc. and a member of the JAST Board of Directors. JAST thanks Brother and Mitsubayashi-san for their unwavering support. For more information, please visit Brother's [website](#).



brother

at your side

Volunteer Spotlight - Claire Harden

Nashville native Claire Harden first became involved with JAST when she attended an inaugural meeting of JAST Young Professionals in 2012. It was after this meeting that Claire started volunteering with the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival - first as a Cosplay Contest “wrangler” and, in 2014, as J-Funland Area Chair. Claire enjoys working with the vendors and cosplayers. Her director experience with Middle Tennessee Anime Convention has helped bring more vendors to the Festival. Claire loves seeing Festival guests having a good time and the event grow each year. JAST thanks Claire for her continued dedication and hard work!



Welcome JAST New Members

— *Corporate Members*



— *Individual Member*

- Dr. Hideko Shimizu, Vanderbilt University

[Become a member today!](#)

Upcoming Community Events:

<u>Classical Japanese Music with Chiemi Shimizu</u>	Jan 16
<u>Tao Drum 2020 @ TPAC's Polk Theater</u>	Jan 20
<u>Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival</u>	Apr 04

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