

2021

COMMUNITY

November 6-7, 2021



JETAA USA National Conference

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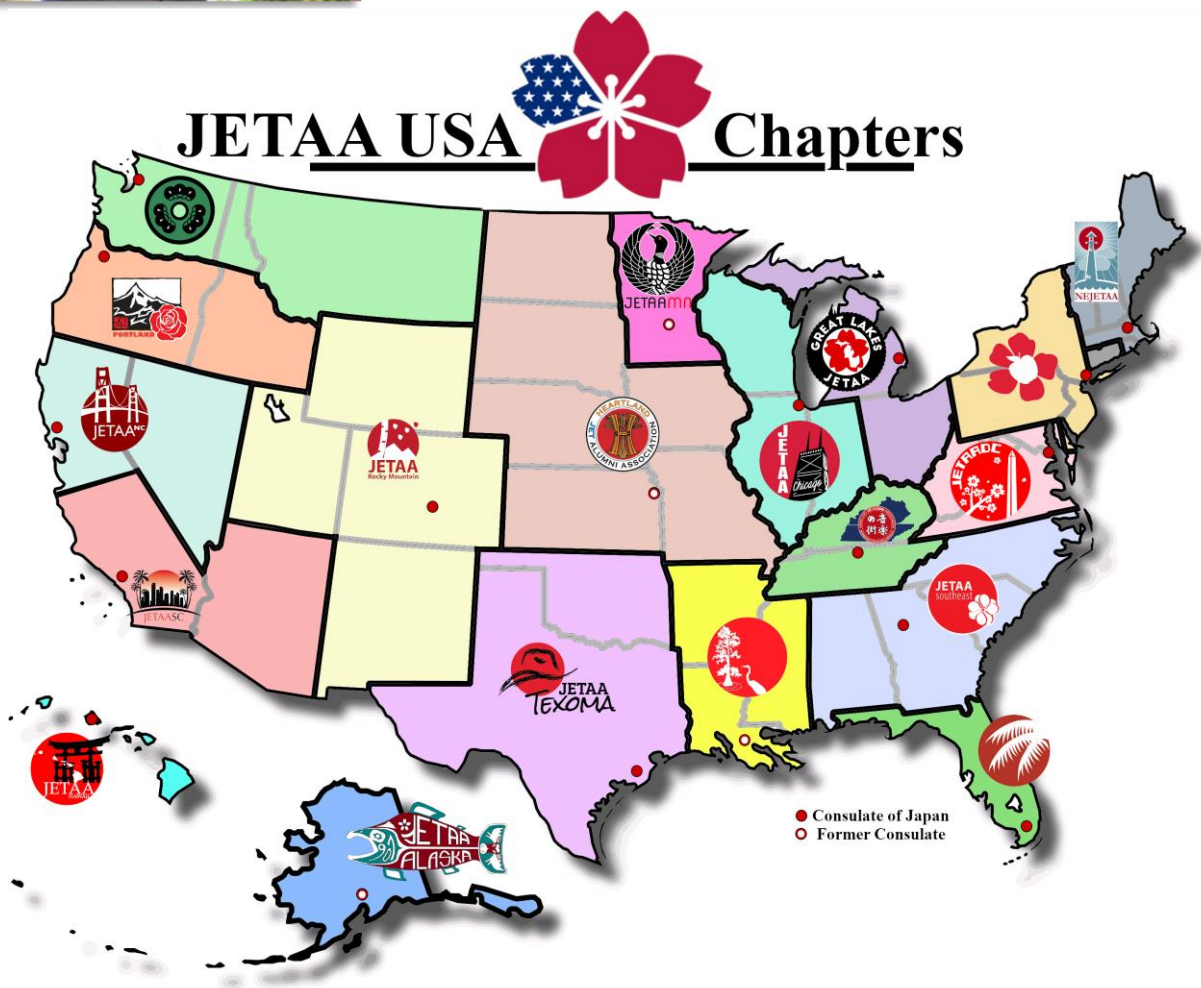
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Embassy



Taichi Kaneshiro

Counsellor- Embassy of Japan, Washington, D.C.





Miyako Kusakabe

Deputy Executive Director - JLGC/CLAIR NY

JLGC (2020.1- Present)

Takaoka City (2014 - 2017) and Nagasaki Pref (2001-2003)

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (2001-)

From Tokyo

Shuhei Fujimoto, JLGC

Japan Local Government Center (CLAIR, New York),
dispatched from Wakayama Prefecture



Matt Gilliam, Senior Researcher

I'm an Iowa Boy who spent 9 years in Japan, mostly around Kansai, studied some stuff, and ended up at JLGC, where I've worked since 1998. I've handled JET/AA matters since about 2000. Among other activities, I have the honor of serving on the JETAAI Board of Advisors.



Risako Kamikasa

I am a member of the JLGC and am in charge of the JETAAUSA Western Chapters.



Japan Local Government Center (CLAIR, New York) was created in 1988 as the first of seven overseas offices of the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) in Tokyo. CLAIR itself was founded earlier that same year as a quasi-government organization under the auspices of the Ministry of Home Affairs (now the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications) in order to coordinate the JET Program and support various other international initiatives undertaken by prefectures and local governments in Japan. It is funded by and works on behalf of these governments. Beyond the JET Program, CLAIR's activities include research into best practices in public administration around the world, arranging exchanges and meetings between public officials at the subnational level, assisting local community and economic development efforts, fostering a multicultural society in Japan, and supporting the JET alumni.

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES



Adam Ledyard

Adam was an ALT in Toyama from 2005-2007. He was on the PNWJETAA steering council as Treasurer and President. He is currently in his second term as a JETAA USA Country Representative. Professionally he works as a Computational Linguist for Oracle and will talk your ear off if you're interested in Japanese Linguistics (pitch-accent is so cool!)

Lara “Zara” Espinoza

Zara Espinoza (pronouns: they/she/ze/zir) is known as a multi-racial/ethnic/cultural Wonder Woman and JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion) Strategist that brings unique skills and life experiences in their People Operations & Culture work in global tech, corporate and nonprofit organizations.

Zara is an active leader and changemaker in the LGBTQ+ tech community as they were the first femme non-binary person in the Chicago Leadership Team of the global nonprofit, Out in Tech. Zara is also celebrating over ten years of actively serving the Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program community, including 8 of leadership in the JETAA Chicago and is a USA Country Representative and on the executive committee of JETAA International. Zara also works on Learning & People Development initiatives with a Black and woman owned-operated strategic consulting/advisory practice, Global Equity Forward (founded by a fellow JET alum).



Valerie Stewart

Valerie was an ALT in Saga-Ken in the seaside towns of Genkai & Karatsu from 1999-2002. A native of Atlanta, GA, Valerie has served both as a Secretary and Treasurer for JETAASE (Southeast) from 2010 – 2021 and now serving as a Country Representative.

Currently, she works in marketing and partnerships for a global concierge and loyalty company.

NatCon Planning Committee



Adam Ledyard
Country Representative
JETAA USA



Lara "Zara" Espinosa
Country Representative
JETAA USA



Valerie Stewart
Country Representative
JETAA USA



Tyler Blaz
Treasurer
JETAA Chicago



Josephine Chong
President
NEJETAA



Amelia Hagen
Former National AJET

Speakers



LaTonya Wilkins, Keynote Fireside Chat

Founder of The Change Coaches
Author “Leading Below the Surface”

Founder of The Change Coaches, LaTonya Wilkins partners with executives, upwardly mobile professionals, and teams to build cultures of belonging through highly customized coaching and consulting services. She is a sought-after keynote speaker and has inspired audiences around the world. She built her career working in HR, talent management and learning & development at Fortune 500 companies before teaching and taking on progressive leadership roles at the University of Illinois’ Gies College of Business.

LaTonya developed her signature concept of Below the Surface Leadership based on her own experience climbing the corporate ladder and researching across disciplines while constantly being the “only one” on her teams. This revolutionary approach to leadership is about creating psychologically safe relationships across differences, empowering underrepresented employees to feel valued and engaged, and creating cultures of belonging in the workplace.

LaTonya’s clients often describe her as approachable, non-judgmental, inspiring, creative, unique, and insightful. You may experience her the same way as you read through Leading Below the Surface.

Learn more about LaTonya Wilkins and her work at www.leadingbelowthesurface.com

Speakers



Gabriel Coronado, President, JETAA Chicago

I was an ALT at an Agricultural High School in Miyazaki City from 2007 through 2008. I have been active in the local alumni community for eight years and I am the current President of JETAA Chicago.

Amelia Hagen, Former National AJET

From two of its sister cities in Virginia and Washington state, Amelia was perfectly placed as a JET JHS ALT in Kitakyushu City, Fukuoka from 2008 to 2013. While in Japan, she reveled in traveling to all 47 prefectures, learning Japanese, and serving multiple communities as Fukuoka AJET President, and National AJET Block 10 Northern Kyushu Representative, Director of Corporate Advertising, and Treasurer. Amelia leveraged her JET experience to teach on, organize, and execute educational initiatives, events, and programs promoting youth diplomacy, sports, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Following stints in the UK, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, she currently splits her time between consulting on US Department of State exchange programs, coaching young professionals, and leading event operations at large-scale sports events. Amelia has a BBA in Management from The College of William and Mary, an MSc in International Event Management from the University of Brighton (UK), and an MBA in Organizational Leadership from the University of Iowa. Rooted in PNW JETAA but ever mobile, she continues to seek out opportunities to remotely support the JETAA community in creative and innovative ways.



Speakers

Melissa Golden, President, JETAA Northern California



Melissa is originally from the Oregon coast. She participated in the JET Program from 2007-2012 and was based in Akabira, Hokkaido, where she taught at two junior high schools and five elementary schools. Melissa utilizes her international experience and organizational management expertise as Director of Operations at VIA Programs, a San Francisco-based nonprofit, to further sustainable development and operations of VIA's cultural exchange and social impact programs in the US and Asia. She calls beautiful, foggy Monterey, California, home and enjoys running and cooking in her free time, in addition to JETAANC chapter management and activities.

Caroline E. Ideus, Former National AJET Chair and Block 9 Chugoku Region Rep

Caroline Ideus was a high school ALT in Shimane Prefecture from 2007-2012. Since her time on JET she has participated in JETAA events for the JETAA UK, Rocky Mountain JETAA, and Music City JETAA. For the past six years she has lived in rural northwest Tennessee and still maintains her JETAA connection while living outside of urban areas.



Speakers

Micah H. Mizukami, Co-Media Director, JETAA Hawaii



Born and raised on the island of Kauaʻi, Hawaiʻi, Micah found himself on another rural island while on JET from 2013-2016. Placed on Tokunoshima, a small island in Kagoshima prefecture closer to Okinawa than Kyushu, Micah grew interested in the local language, Shimaguchi, and felt at home running through the fields of sugar cane. As a Nikkei and Shimanchu yon/gosei (4th/5th generation Japanese and Okinawan American), Micah grew up listening to stories of sugar plantation life in Hawaiʻi and continues to work with stories at the Center for Oral History at the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa, where he is also a PhD student in the Department of Second Language Studies with an interest in the relationship between narratives, language, and identity. As an oral historian, Micah conducts interviews and also trains communities and organizations to document their own histories. He also organizes events centered around oral histories to foster intergenerational community connections. Micah is a co-media director on the JETAA Hawaii board.

Alexis Palmer, Marketing Coordinator, JETAA Chicago

Alexis was an ALT in Tottori Prefecture from 2016-2018. She serves as the Marketing Coordinator for JETAA Chicago as well as the New Jersey Subchapter Representative for JETAANY. Over the past year, Alexis has organized and hosted two virtual Indiana Subchapter events for JETAA Chicago, and has also conducted events for the NJ Subchapter.



Agenda

Saturday, November 6th

All times are as listed below in the respective time zone

8:30 AM HST / 10:30 AM AKDT /
11:30 AM PDT / 12:30 PM MDT /
1:30 PM CDT / 2:30 PM EDT

Room Opens

8:40 AM HST / 10:40 AM AKDT /
11:40 AM PDT / 12:40 PM MDT /
1:40 PM CDT / 2:40 PM EDT

2021 NatCon KickOff and Introductions

8:55 AM HST / 10:55 AM AKDT /
11:55 AM PDT / 12:55 PM MDT /
1:55 PM CDT / 2:55 PM EDT

Welcome Remarks from Embassy

Mr. Taichi Kaneshiro

9:00 AM HST / 11:00 AM AKDT /
12:00 PM PDT / 1:00 PM MDT /
2:00 PM CDT / 3:00 PM EDT

Welcome Remarks from CLAIR NY

Ms. Miyako Kusakabe, CLAIR Counsellor / Deputy Executive
Director, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications

9:05 AM HST / 11:05 AM AKDT /
12:05 PM PDT / 1:05 PM MDT /
2:05 PM CDT / 3:05 PM EDT

Group Photo, Overview of NatCon Agenda

- JETAA USA Code of Conduct (CoC)
- Day 1 Agenda & Technology Overview

9:30 AM HST / 11:30 AM AKDT /
12:30 PM PDT / 1:30 PM MDT /
2:30 PM CDT / 3:30 PM EDT

Keynote Fireside Chat: Leading Below the Surface

LaTonya Wilkins, The Change Coaches, *Founder & Author*
Moderated by Lara "Zara" Espinoza, JETAAUSA Country Representative

10:15 AM HST / 12:15 PM AKDT /
1:15 PM PDT / 2:15 PM MDT /
3:15 PM CDT / 4:15 PM EDT

Break

10:20 AM HST / 12:20 PM AKDT /
1:20 PM PDT / 2:20 PM MDT /
3:20 PM CDT / 4:20 PM EDT

Community Kaizen: JETAA USA Country Representative Talks

Moderated by Amelia Hagen, Former National AJET

Agenda

Saturday, November 6th

All times are as listed below in the respective time zone

11:05 AM HST / 1:05 PM AKDT /
2:05 PM PDT / 3:05 PM MDT /
4:05 PM CDT / 5:05 PM EDT

10 Minute Break

11:15 AM HST / 1:15 PM AKDT /
2:15 PM PDT / 3:15 PM MDT /
4:15 PM CDT / 5:15 PM EDT

**Purposeful Leadership:
Understanding Your Why as a JETAA Leader**
*Facilitated by Valerie Stewart, JETAA USA Country
Representative*

11:40 AM HST / 1:40 PM AKDT /
2:40 PM PDT / 3:40 PM MDT /
4:40 PM CDT / 5:40 PM EDT

What is your JETAA Return on Investment (ROI)
Facilitated by Amelia Hagen, Former National AJET

12:10 PM HST / 2:10 PM AKDT /
3:10 PM PDT / 4:10 PM MDT /
5:10 PM CDT / 6:10 PM EDT

Break

12:15 PM HST / 2:15 PM AKDT /
3:15 PM PDT / 4:15 PM MDT /
5:15 PM CDT / 6:15 PM EDT

Engaging Remote Alumni
Alexis Palmer, Media Coordinator, JETAA Chicago
Smitha Prasad, Pittsburgh Subchapter – Former President
Caroline Ideus, Former National AJET Chair and Block 9
Chugoku Region Rep
*Facilitated by Adam Ledyard, JETAA USA Country
Representative*

12:50 PM HST / 2:50 PM AKDT /
3:50 PM PDT / 4:50 PM MDT /
5:50 PM CDT / 6:50 PM EDT

Day 1 Recap & Day 2 Reminders

- Group Photo

Nijiai Session – How to use Gather Tutorial by
Jodie Young, Co-Events Coordinator, JETAA Hawaii

1:00 PM HST / 3:00 PM AKDT /
4:00 PM PDT / 5:00 PM MDT /
6:00 PM CDT / 7:00 PM EDT

**Official 2021 NatCon Nijikai hosted by
JETAA Hawaii on Gather platform**

Agenda

Sunday, November 7th

All times are as listed below in the respective time zone

10:30 AM HST / 11:30 AM AKST /
12:30 PM PST / 1:30 PM MST /
2:30 PM CST / 3:30 PM EST

Room Opens

10:40 AM HST / 11:40 AM AKST /
12:40 PM PST / 1:40 PM MST /
2:40 PM CST / 3:40 PM EST

Warm-Up Activity & Day 2 Overview

- Group Photo
- Day 2 Technology Overview

11:00 AM HST / 12:00 PM AKST /
1:00 PM PST / 2:00 PM MST / 3:00
PM CST / 4:00 PM EST

Sustainability in our JET Stories

Micah Mizukami, Co-Media Director, JETAA Hawaii

11:40 AM HST / 12:40 PM AKST /
1:40 PM PST / 2:40 PM MST / 3:40
PM CST / 4:40 PM EST

Break

11:45 AM HST / 12:45 PM AKST /
1:45 PM PST / 2:45 PM MST / 3:45
PM CST / 4:45 PM EST

Building Stronger Leadership Through Empathy: Having more meaningful conversations to cultivate the next generation of leaders in JETAA USA

Gabriel Coronado, President, JETAA Chicago
Melissa Golden, President, JETAA Northern California

12:30 PM HST / 1:30 PM AKST /
2:30 PM PST / 3:30 PM MST / 4:30
PM CST / 5:30 PM EST

Break

12:35 PM HST / 1:35 PM AKST /
2:35 PM PST / 3:35 PM MST / 4:35
PM CST / 5:35 PM EST

JETAA USA General Discussion

Facilitated by Valerie Stewart, JETAA USA Country Representative

1:20 PM HST / 2:20 PM AKST /
3:20 PM PST / 4:20 PM MST / 5:20
PM CST / 6:20 PM EST

10 Minute Break

Agenda

Sunday, November 7th

All times are as listed below in the respective time zone

1:30 PM HST / 2:30 PM AKST /
3:30 PM PST / 4:30 PM MST / 5:30
PM CST / 6:30 PM EST

GiA CLAIRifications

Matt Gilliam and Shuhei Fujimoto
CLAIR NY (Japan Local Government Center)

1:50 PM HST / 2:50 PM AKST /
3:50 PM PST / 4:50 PM MST / 5:50
PM CST / 6:50 PM EST

Recap & Closing Remarks

2:15 PM HST / 3:15 PM AKST /
4:15 PM PST / 5:15 PM MST / 6:15
PM CST / 7:15 PM EST

15 Minute Break

2:30 PM HST / 3:30 PM AKST /
4:30 PM PST / 5:30 PM MST / 6:30
PM CST / 7:30 PM EST

2021 JETAA USA NatCon Celebration Reception sponsored by CLAIR NY

3:30 PM HST / 4:30 PM AKST /
5:30 PM PST / 6:30 PM MST / 7:30
PM CST / 8:30 PM EST

2021 JETAA USA NatCon Officially Ends

US Chapter Delegates



US1 - Washington, D.C.



Rachel Reed
President
Akita 2010 - 2013



Kendaal Strailey
Vice-President
Ehime 2006-2008



US2 – New York



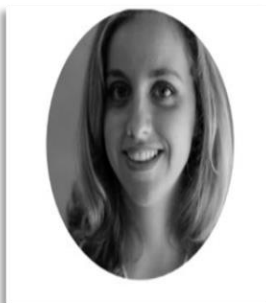
Andy Schartzner
President
Shizuoka 2014 - 2016



Mike Buonadonna
Treasurer
Akita 2007 - 2009



US3 – New England
@nejetaa



Giuliana Alfinito
Vice - President
Wakayama 2017 - 2018



Sabrina Cramer
Webmaster
Gunma 2015 - 2016

USA Chapter Delegates



US4 - Southeast
@jetaase



Tim Edenfield
Vice President
Akita 2010 - 2013



Julia Lattarulo
Treasurer
Ehime 2006-2008



US5 – Mid-South
@jetaamidsouth



Rachel Duplechain
Treasurer
Niigata 2007-2008
Toyama 2018-2019



Jovan Montaque
Webmaster
Kumamoto 2005 - 2007



US6 – Florida
@fljetaa



Mike Daniels
President
Saitama 2002-2003
**Chapter Officer Observer*

USA Chapter Delegates



US7 - Chicago
@jetaachicago



Rurik Tywoniw
Networking Coordinator
Miyazaki 2014 - 2015



Alexis Palmer
Marketing Coordinator /
Indiana Subchapter Rep
Tottori 2016-2018



US8 – Heartland
@heartlandjetaa



Jeanne Beck
Iowa Subchapter Co-President
Nagano 2008-2011



US9 – Texoma
@texoma



Andrew McCarthy
President
Akita 2005-2008

USA Chapter Delegates



[US10 – Rocky Mountain](#)
[@jetaarockymountain](#)



Alyssa Weaver
Event Coordinator
Niigata 2018 - 2019



David LaCharite
Webmaster
Kagoshima 2012-2016



[US11 – Pacific Northwest](#)
[@official_pnwjetaa](#)



Denise Sawyer
Newsletter Coordinator
Hyogo 2012-2017



Janice Laureano
Media Coordinator
Niigata 2013-2017



[US12 – Portland](#)
[@jetaapdx](#)

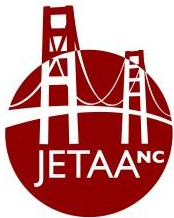


Lindsay Amor
Treasurer
Aomori 2008-2013



Rosalie Fordham
Secretary
Nagasaki 2014 - 2017

USA Chapter Delegates



US13 – Northern California @jetaanc



Melissa Golden
President
Hokkaido 2007-2012



Andrew Esterline
Vice President
Shizuoka 2014-2017



Anna Fung
Treasurer
Iwate 2011-2014



US14 – Southern California @jetaasc



Alberto Servin
Co-President
Wakayama 2015-2017



Michael Coleman
Treasurer
Ibaraki 1997-2000



US15 – Hawaii @jetaahawaii



Kristian Lipumano
President
Hokkaido 2012-2014



Chelsea Cagaoan
Vice President
Nagano 2014 - 2017

USA Chapter Delegates



US16 – Alaska
@akjetaa



Mari Rueter
President
Tokushima 2009 - 2014



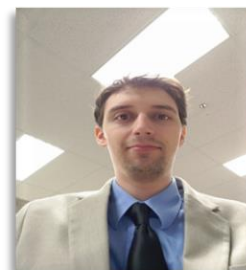
Stacy Tessandore
Technomancer
Tokushima 2016-2017



US17 – Great Lakes
@JETAAGreatLakes



Alicia Smith
President
Hokkaido 2008-2013



Kyle Belanger
Vice President
Shizuoka 2015-2017



US18 – Minnesota
@jetaamn



Kate Thersleff
President
Wakayama 2005-2008



Gregory Schuneman
Events Coordinator
Fukuoka 2013 - 2017

USA Chapter Delegates



US19 – Music City
@jetaamc



James Shively
Secretary
Tokyo-To 2015 - 2018

