The Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASWDC) presented a wide variety of programs in 2017 with topics ranging from current events, economics & policy to culture, public affairs and education. In addition to these monthly programs, JASWDC organized two signature events with a nationwide scope: The National Japan Bowl®, a competition for high school students studying Japanese language and culture, and Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival, a one-day street festival exhibiting Japanese culture that attracted over 25,000 people in 2017. During the National Cherry Blossom Festival, JASWDC once again highlighted different genres of Japanese cinema by holding CineMatsuri. Through programs such as these, the Society continues to carry out its mission of promoting US-Japan relations in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

**Corporate & Public Affairs Programs**

- **January**
  - Japan in 2017: A Look at the Year Ahead

- **March**
  - Political Science & Economics in Japanese

- **June**
  - Living in the USA: ワークショップ第一回 (Taxes)
  - Networking Night in Tokyo

- **July**
  - US-Japan Networking Night - Tanabata

- **August**
  - Japan 360°: Intersecting Money & Space: Japanese Space Cooperation from Commercial Perspective

- **September**
  - US-Japan Networking Night with Japan Global Initiative (JGI) Roundtable with Japan Global Initiative (JGI) Program
  - Living in the USA: 第三回 アメリカの教育制度 (The American Educational System)

- **October**
  - JASWDC - JETAADC Networking Night

**Cultural & Educational Programs**

- **January**
  - Seijinshiki Photo Shoot
  - Shougatsu-kazari Making Workshop

- **February**
  - Japan 360°: Matsukawaya Sweets
  - JASWDC 60th Anniversary Celebration
  - JASWDC @ Katsucon

- **March**
  - Tidal Basin Cleanup
  - CineMatsuri - Japanese Film Festival
  - Meet Netsuke! Storytellers of Japan @ JICC

- **April**
  - 25th Annual National Japan Bowl
  - 57th Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival
  - Meet Netsuke! JASWDC Member’s Tour @ JICC

- **May**
  - Cherry Tree Planting @ Amidon Bowen Elementary School
  - Inventing Utamaro: JASWDC Member’s Tour @ Sackler
  - Azalea Planting with JIS @ National Presbyterian School

- **July**
  - Ekoji Obon Festival (Booth)
  - Izakaya Pub Quiz Night
  - Tanabata: Japanese Star Festival @ Hillwood Museum

- **August**
  - JASWDC @ Otakon
  - US-Japan Baseball Night @ Nationals Park

- **September**
  - Japan 360°: A Discussion with Author Karin Tanabe on The Diplomat’s Daughter

- **October**
  - JASWDC @ IlluminAsia at Freer | Sackler
JASWDC’s Signature Programs Highlights

25th National Japan Bowl®
Created by JASWDC in 1992, the Japan Bowl is an academic competition that tests high school students throughout the United States who are studying the Japanese language. However, Japan Bowl goes beyond language by also testing the student's knowledge of Japanese culture.

25th National Japan Bowl Facts:
* 170 students, 57 teams, and 28 schools competed at the National Japan Bowl
* Level 4 Champions visited Japan thanks to the Mazda Foundation
* 24 students traveled to Japan as part of the Kakehashi Project, supported by the Japanese government
* Champions from the 2016 Mexico Japan Bowl who attend Liceo Mexicano Japones, A.C.
* Japanese performers and artists who joined the National Japan Bowl: Tamagawa University Dance & Taiko Group, wagashi demonstration by Matsukawa.

57th Annual Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival
First held in 1961, the Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival is now the largest one-day exhibition of Japanese culture in the United States. The Sakura Matsuri is a family-friendly festival. There are over 15 vendors of Japanese food, two beer gardens, 30 exhibitors of Japanese arts and culture, 15 vendors of Japanese products, and over 30 hours of live performances on multiple stages, including traditional and popular Japanese music and dance and martial arts demonstrations.

2017 Sakura Matsuri Facts:
* Over 25,000 attendees at the new Capitol Riverfront location - JASWDC’s largest outreach program!
* Performances by Jr. EXILE, Mizmo, and Kana Uemura, famous for her Toire no Kamisama hit

Japan-in-a-Suitcase (JiS)
One of the JASWDC's most important missions is to reach out to the next generation of young Americans and interest them in Japan and the world beyond our shores. We strive to promote this intercultural understanding through our "Japan-in-a-Suitcase" program. JiS is a free program which packs a little bit of Japan in a suitcase and brings it to DC-area children at schools, libraries and festivals. This program promotes an understanding of Japan and Japanese culture to school children in Grades 3 and up through hands-on activities, games and demonstrations.

2017 Japan-in-a-Suitcase Facts:
* JASWDC visited 27 elementary schools, libraries, camps and festivals
* We reached out to over 900 children through JiS in 2017

Ongoing Programs
JASWDC strives to bring meaningful programs to the Greater Washington DC area. We have many programs that are weekly or monthly.

- Japanese Language School
- English Language School
- Ohanashikai - Japanese Story Time
- Yoga in Japanese
- Shodo Classes
- Tanaka & Green Academic Scholarships
- Networking Lunch in Japanese
- Poli-Sci & Economics in Japanese
- Japanese-English Toastmasters
- J-Book Club
- Monthly Kimono Workshop
- Cooking Classes