

JETAADC 2016-2017 Election Platforms

The elections will take place at the general meeting on Monday, March 28th at 6:30 pm at Cultural Vistas. You must RSVP to attend the meeting.

For position descriptions and to RSVP, visit jetaadc.org.

Overview

Positions

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Social Chair

Professional Development Chair

Communications Chair

Technology Chair

Membership Chair

JET Ambassadors Chair

Thought Leadership/JET Talks Chair

Nominees

Joy Champaloux

Jessica Burbach

Elizabeth Slupski

Joel Zara

Rachel Reed

Brenda McKinney

Tricia Kubrin

David Baasch

Jessika Ranard

Paul Champaloux

Matt Cook/Michael Kotler
Stephanie Sanders

President

Joy Champaloux (JETAADC Vice President, 2014-present / Outreach Chair, 2013-2014)
Wakayama ALT, 2009-2012

Hi everyone! My name is **Joy Champaloux**, and I am running for the position of President. Over the past three years, I have excitedly watched JETAADC significantly expand its board and activities. In response to this growth, I took the initiative to implement a monthly conference call to help officers visualize and stay on top of their events. I hope that these calls were helpful, and I look forward to working with next year's Vice President on adjusting our communication strategies as needed. I have also represented the chapter to outside organizations including serving as Acting President during a meeting with the First Lady of Japan and participating in several meetings with high-level Keizai Doyukai visitors. I enjoy establishing new partnerships, and I believe JETAADC has benefited from the relationships I cultivated at JETAA National Conferences that directly led to events like the March 11th collaboration with the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA and a dinner with visiting high school Kakehashi participants.

As President, I promise to not only continue to support each officer in their initiatives, but also promote the value of its alumni to outside partners. I am extremely excited by this year's potential and look forward to creating an even stronger chapter! Although I have many hopes for this year, I would like to share my three major goals:

- 1. Raise the national profile of JETAADC.** As President, I intend to increase our chapter's visibility by encouraging closer collaborations with USJETAA in Washington and reaching out to our JETAA USA Country Reps and other chapter Presidents throughout the year. There are rumors of a national gathering in Washington to celebrate the JET Program's 30th anniversary in 2017, so I also intend to seek clarification about these plans.
- 2. Set up a task force to acquire 501(c)(3) status for JETAADC by 2017.** Although our chapter has begun the process of acquiring nonprofit status, we have yet to submit the paperwork. I strongly believe that it is imperative for our chapter's growth and outreach efforts to have fundraising capacity, and as President, one of my first actions will be to set up a task force to research and ultimately acquire 501(c)(3) status for our chapter.
- 3. Work with board members to develop a strong program of events that will increase outreach to our 10+ alumni.** Despite significantly expanding the range of events JETAADC offers, our chapter still struggles in reaching out to alumni who departed on the program more than 10 years ago. As President, I promise to work closely with the board to figure out ways we can effectively reach out to these members and increase opportunities to retain their participation in alumni efforts.

Thank you very much for reading.

Vice President

Jessica Burbach was a high school ALT in Shiga from 2011-2013. She has been on the JETAADC Board for two years as the Returnee Handbook Chair and served this past year as the Volunteer Co-chair. She currently works at The Advisory Board Company as a Digital Marketing Specialist.

Her goals for JETAADC this year are:

1. Promote and support programming for the 30th anniversary of JET
2. Increase membership in JETAADC by finding and connecting with JETs in the DC area
3. Increase visibility of JETAADC in the DC community by partnering with new organizations
4. Support larger efforts for potential nation-wide JET programming

In addition to JETAADC, Jessica has also been involved with the JET application process as their processing staff, an application reviewer and interviewer. She is looking forward to the National Cherry Blossom festival where she will be a co-stage manager for the traditional arts stage.

Secretary

My name is **Elizabeth (Beth) Slupski**. I was in Kobe City for my three years on JET and taught mostly middle school. I moved to DC to attend grad school, got a job, and got to stay! I have volunteered with JETAADC for three years and am looking to get even more involved by running for the secretary position. As secretary, I would like to help manage the running of the board and ensure the smooth operations of many of the behind-the-scene processes. I intend to analyze our processes (use and organization of Google Drive, approval messages out to members, etc.) and examine areas for improvement and implement changes. I also intend to assist with additional meetings (Event Skype Calls, co-lead an officer training day) and improve processes for tracking events, supplies, and resources used by the board. As a previous board member, I am familiar with many of the current processes (their strengths and weaknesses) and am open to working with others to improve these. As this will be the 30th anniversary of JET, I am also interested in working with other board members to host an Anniversary Celebration for the DC alums. I see this as an opportunity to include many of the senior alumni and re-engage them with the efforts of JETAADC.

Treasurer

My name is **Joel Zara** and I intend to run for the position of treasurer of the JET Alumni Association of Washington DC for a third term. I was an ALT in Chiba Prefecture from 2005 to 2009. The 4 years I spent in Japan represent some of the best in my life during which I developed many life-long friendships and many of my current interests including a passion for long distance running, Japanese language study, hiking and traveling to distant places. I am currently working at the Embassy of Japan as a Researcher in the Science Section, a position which enables me to use the skills I gained on the JET program and the knowledge I acquired during my master's program at GWU.

As treasurer of JETAADC, my primary function will be to manage the finances of the organization. In doing so, I will maintain databases in which all transactions will be recorded, draft proposals for funding in accordance with CLAIR guidelines and disperse funds whenever necessary. In order to accomplish these goals, I plan to communicate regularly and in a timely manner with other JETAADC board members, as well as with outside organizations on which JETAADC depends on for funding such as CLAIR and the Embassy of Japan. This year, I also intend to set up short individual meetings, either in person or by Skype, with each board member to go over how much funding they will need to achieve their goals for the upcoming year. In addition, I will support the organization by answering any questions board members may have on how to obtain funds for planned events, consulting with them throughout the year with regards to their needs for funds and providing transparent and accurate information about the overall financial situation of JETAADC. I will use the experience I have gained these past two years as treasurer to further improve the flow of information and the ease of obtaining funds.

I will do my utmost to make sure that funds are appropriately used towards events and activities that are in line with JETAADC's overarching goals and which will ultimately strengthen the organization and US-Japan relations as a whole.

I also plan to assist the organization by actively promoting their activities and attending events whenever possible.

I hope I will be given the opportunity to work with the great organization that is JETAADC as its treasurer for a third term and look forward to another year of interesting and exciting events.

どうぞよろしくおねがいします。

Social Chair

My name is **Rachel Reed** and I was an ALT in Gojome-machi, Akita-ken from 2010 – 2013. I am submitting my proposal to run for the Social/Volunteer position where I believe I can have a great impact because of my extensive network in DC, experience event planning, and interest in exploring new avenues for JET alumni to stay engaged with each other, Japan, and the community around them.

Since returning from JET, I have been an active member and avid advocate of JETAADC. For the past three years, I have reviewed JET applications, volunteered alongside my fellow JETs as the Co-Chair of the Arts and Culture section of Sakura Matsuri, and worked professionally on international exchange programs between the U.S. and Japan through my position as an Assistant Program Officer at Cultural Vistas. I continue to travel to Japan on a regular basis for business and pleasure and I am extremely excited to be returning to Gojome from 3/26 to 3/28 for the second time since 2013.

I have built an extensive network of both professional and personal contacts who have great interest in the U.S.-Japan relationship and I actively search for new opportunities for collaboration every day.

I never miss an opportunity to promote the JET program in every aspect of my life and I am always impressed by the passion of the alumni I meet. As the Social/Volunteer chair, I would focus on expanding our outreach to alumni, diversifying the types of social events we host, and exploring new opportunities to volunteer. Cultivating connections and relationships is one of my strengths and I'm looking forward to increasing my involvement in JETAADC as the Social/Volunteer chair!

Thank you for your consideration!

Professional Development Chair

私はブレンダです。よろしくおねがいします。

My name is **Brenda McKinney** and I am running for the position of Professional Development Chair on the 2016-2017 JETAA-DC board. I was an ALT in Hyogo-ken from 2006 to 2009.

While I only moved to DC last year, I have had a lot of fun getting to know JETAA-DC and I would consider it an honor to serve our community, while also enhancing professional opportunities for individual JETs, in the PD Chair position.

Since returning from JET seven years ago, I have been actively involved with JETAA in Boston, Chicago and New Zealand (and now DC!). I have also served as a JET interview judge in Chicago, a JET interview helper in DC, a panelist at JETAA events in DC and NYC, and a presenter at JET Departure Sessions in Chicago. In addition to JETAA, I am also a member of the JET Alumni Affinity group at the U.S. Department of State in DC and part of the 2016 Sakura Matsuri Planning Committee. I was also active in AJET while in Japan, serving on the National AJET Council in 2008-2009.

I have many reasons for running for the board this year, but one of the biggest involves paying forward the help and support I have received. JETAA was instrumental in helping me find my footing in a new city when I moved back from Japan, and I am drawn toward the opportunity to support others going through similar experiences. At the same time, it would be a privilege to help grow our community and bridge connections within our expanding and robust alumni organization, both in DC and beyond.

As Professional Development Chair, I plan to achieve my goals through organizing educational and professional events. This includes our annual Professional Development Workshop and similar panels. I would also like to see more professional happy hours (bring your meishi!) and to expand our efforts to keep JETs informed of the many opportunities and resources available to them, particularly in DC.

Finally, if selected for this position, I will not only draw from my experiences with JETAA branches nationally and internationally, but I will also draw from my background. I have spent nearly 15 years building a career focused on strengthening communities and enhancing opportunities for others. This has involved working with the private sector, federal government and organizations like UNICEF, Americorps and Fulbright. I can also pull from my time as a graduate student and researcher in M.Ed., J.D., and LL.M. programs, while lending my personal perspective as a former teacher and, now, as a non-practicing attorney. Most of all, though, my goal is to contribute to this community and have fun along the way.

Thank you for your time and consideration. どうもありがとうございます。

Communications Chair

My name is **Tricia Kubrin** (Shimane-ken/Kyoto-shi, 2010-2013), and I'm a current co-chair for JET Ambassadors. For this upcoming year, I would like to remain with JETAADC as the Communications Chair. Our social media presence and newsletters are essential for JET alumni to be aware and up-to-date on the latest events within JETAADC and other Japanese organizations in the area. As the Communications Chair, this year I would like to create an Instagram account and make sure photos are posted to our social media pages after events. I also want to give alumni the opportunity to share their own photos through us, not just with events but also from their times on JET (#tbt, anyone?). With an optimized online presence, JETAADC can actively show that JET's continue to stay involved in this program even after they leave Japan, as well as reach out to other organizations and bring more alumni together as one of the most active chapters in the United States.

Technology Chair

I am **David Baasch**. I was ALT in Hokkaido from 2008 - 2013 and currently work at the Japan Information and Culture Center, Embassy of Japan. I have been involved with JETAADC's board activities since August 2014 and served as Technology Chair for 2015-2016.

In addition to the core duties of Technology Chair, I was able to accomplish many things I had originally set out to do, such as giving the website a visual update; making the website mobile friendly; re-organizing the website for more clear navigation; improving our graphics/logos (e.g. creating scaling vector logos, creating higher-quality versions, or creating entirely new ones); and updating out-dated/missing information on the website, facebook, and twitter.

If I continue as Technology Chair, I plan to continue to improve our digital resources to enhance JETAADC's activities as well as maintain the digital resources that are the most important way we reach out and connect with our members, our supporters, and the community.

Specifically, some of the things I hope to address and improve if I continue in this position is:

- Continue improving on our current digital resources (e.g. website improvement, keeping up to date with facebook's own new features and improvements, graphic creation etc.)
- Consolidate and administer JETAADC's digital resources to make it easy for new members to transition into using them.
- Provide more clear guidance for board members for using the resources.
- Using our current set of digit tools, implement methods and practices that would allow for simple workload sharing and open communication.
- Work closely with other board members to brainstorm new ideas for how best to deploy our resources most effectively.

I hope you will consider me again for this position for JETAADC 2016-2017.

Membership Chair

I am **Jessika Ranard**. I was in Japan on the JET Program from 2009-2011. I was in Fujisawa-shi, Kanagawa-ken. I have recently relocated to NoVA for work and am happy to be able to participate in JETAADC after five years. Through the membership chair, I would like to better represent and track who participates in our events as well as keep a database of all of our members. Having been a member of JETAADC, but living in NC, I was never able to participate. It might be possible to use an updated member database by to better provide Japan related opportunities for members further away. Additionally, by keeping a continuation of “Member of the Month” we can introduce JETAADC members to each other and provide a stronger network.

JET Ambassadors Chair

Hello, my name is **Paul Champaloux** and I was an ALT in Minabe-cho, Wakayama Prefecture from 2009-2012. I am submitting my proposal to continue my work as JET Ambassador Coordinator for the 2016-2017 JETAADC Board.

During my time on the board,, I have actively endeavored to develop new relationships with local JET alumni presenters as well as area teachers and schools which, along with my co-chair, produced 4 successful school presentations. I also helped organize a JETAADC happy hour in January and was a panelist for a JET informational session at Katsucon that brought in over 30 attendees.

As the JET Ambassadors program moves into closer partnership with the Embassy of Japan this coming year, I would like to incorporate my outreach skills and experiences to expand our JET Ambassador database and solidify the working relationship between both organizations. I strongly believe that we will be able to greatly expand the impact of our work in promoting the JET Program and Japan to the DC metropolitan area.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

どうぞよろしく申し上げます！

Thought Leadership/JET Talks Chair

Our names are **Matt Cook** and **Michael Kotler**. We are the current Co-Directors of the JET Talks program. Throughout the course of the last year we have helped plan and execute four events in which many of you may have taken part. This year's topics included:

- Baseball in the U.S.-Japan relationship - Hearing a talk from the New York Yankees head of Japan baseball operations George Rose (Fukushima-ken 1989-91)
- Ramen - Featuring a talk from Josh Beatty (Saga 1999-2001) about how to make ramen and a tasting of his different types of ramen afterwards
- 3/11 - A remembrance of the Great East Japan Earthquake and its aftermath with a talk with Matthew Fuller (Aichi-ken 1991-93), former Special Assistant to Ambassador John Roos and a showing of *Toboku Tomo* produced by Wesley Julian (Miyagi, 2008-10).
- JETAADC's sponsorship of CineMatsuri - helping to promote Japanese films within the DC community

This was the first year that JET Talks partnered with two organizations: Johns Hopkins University SAIS and Sasakawa Peace Foundation. We plan to continue this outreach to expand the reach of JETAADC through these networks to allow our programming to reach as many people as possible. With a year under our belts, we would appreciate the opportunity to continue to be your representatives on JET Talks. We have a number of ideas building off of what we have accomplished this year as well as the contacts we have formed throughout our time on the board. We hope that you choose us to continue the thought leadership programming that we have provided throughout the year.



My name is **Stephanie Sanders**, and I would like to serve as Thought Leadership / JET Talks co-chair. I was an ALT in Akita-ken from 2010-2013, before moving to DC and joining the JETAA community here in 2014. Since then, I've supported JASW's Sakura Matsuri every year in varying levels of responsibility, from day-of volunteer to co-chair of the Taste of Japan committee. I've also greatly enjoyed the JETAADC events I've had the opportunity to participate in, and would like to become more deeply involved in the JETAADC community as well this year.

The event that left the deepest impression on me was the screening of the film *Hafu*, particularly the diversity of perspectives shared by the subjects of the film on their experiences being biracial in Japan. It's important to explore other perspectives and share our experiences, which is why I was excited to hear of the launch of the JET Talks program. As a Public Affairs intern at the U.S. Consulate in Osaka, I worked with American diplomats to bring guest speakers and performers from the U.S. to audiences in the Kansai area, and look forward to building upon that experience as Thought Leadership / JET Talks co-chair. In this position, I hope to further facilitate thoughtful discussion on the way Japan has impacted and continues to impact our lives, whether it's through TPP or AKB48.