



A New League: Shared Pastimes & the Story of US-Japan Baseball

Exhibition, Special Lecture, & Film Screenings

Media Contact: Publicity Coordinator, Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan

Phone: 202-238-6947 **Email:** jicc-press@ws.mofa.go.jp

WASHINGTON DC, (June 7, 2018) – This summer, the [Japan Information & Culture Center \(JICC\), Embassy of Japan, DC](#), together with the [Gordon W. Prange Collection, University of Maryland Libraries](#), and Japanese baseball specialist [Adam Berenbak](#), is excited to celebrate the 2018 Major League Baseball All-Star Game coming to Washington, DC by presenting a series of events to commemorate the bonds and friendships forged between the U.S. and Japan through the game of baseball.

On June 13th, the JICC will open its doors for a special after-hours preview of “A New League: Shared Pastimes and the Story of US-Japan Baseball,” an exhibition that will trace the history of the popular sport in Japan, from its introduction and rapid transformation into Japan’s national sport, as well as its fascinating history of sports exchange and “baseball diplomacy” between Japan and the U.S. exhibition curators, Japanese baseball specialist, Adam Berenbak, and Gordon W. Prange curator, Yukako Tatsumi, will be on hand to answer questions about the items in display. Also in attendance will be Josh Stanka, grandson of Joe Stanka, an American baseball player who received Japan Series MVP in ‘64.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the JICC will also host a special program on July 20th titled “Diamond Diplomacy,” that will feature presentations on US-Japan baseball history from Japanese-baseball experts and specialists, as well as an exclusive preview screening of an in-production version of the upcoming documentary film on US-Japan baseball history, [Diamond Diplomacy](#). Special guests include: baseball historian, Robert Fitts (author of *Banzai Babe Ruth* and *Mashi*), filmmaker and director of *Diamond Diplomacy*, Yuriko Romer, along with the curator of the Gordon W. Prange Collection, Yukako Tatsumi, and Japanese-baseball specialist, Adam Berenbak. Throughout the course of the exhibition, the JICC will also feature two J-Films as part of this series. The June film, a 1949 crime thriller, *Stray Dog*, was made under the scrutiny of the censorship office of the Occupation and features actual footage of a game between the Tokyo Giants and the Nankai Hawks with the “God of Batting,” Tetsuharu Kawakami. The July film, *Number 16: The Tetsuharu Kawakami Story*, is a rarely-seen biopic about one of the first real stars of Japanese baseball in the postwar era, featuring Kawakami playing himself alongside a cast of some of Japan’s biggest “golden age” stars.

To register for any of these events, please visit: <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/events.html>

#