



Congratulations to Omotesenke Domonkai, Eastern Region, on their 15th anniversary. Japan Society and I are delighted to be a part of this growing and important history. We've had the privilege of hosting Omotesenke Domonkai at the Society several times where we've participated in workshops and public tea ceremonies that filled our space with beauty and spirit like few other programs have achieved.

The tea ceremony tradition is emblematic of Japan. But increasingly, I've seen how Americans are openly embracing traditions of all cultures – traditions that bring mindfulness and constancy. In an ever-changing world, traditions like the tea ceremony open our senses in exciting ways while simultaneously bringing stability that bridges cultures and ideas that respect and elevate our past.

In many ways, the work of Omotesenke Domonkai is a much needed anchor amidst the flux of modernity. Thanks to their unshakeable commitment to honoring the past we can feel especially confident that together we will advance Japan's cultural import and vitality through the beauty and art of the tea ceremony.

Tea – one of the oldest and most revered drinks – continues to bring people together. It is the vehicle by which we bond, we commune, we respect history, and we remember our ancestors. My two favorite Japanese words and philosophies are kizuna and ichigo ichie that are abundantly present within the Japanese tea ceremony, and contribute to inner peace.

Congratulations, again.

Japan Society President & CEO  
**Dr. Joshua Walker**