



ABIGAIL FRIEDMAN

Founder and CEO, The Wisteria Group; Officer of the Board of Trustees, JASWDC; Haiku Poet

Abigail Friedman is a former U.S. diplomat and is currently CEO and founder of The Wisteria Group, an international advisory firm dedicated to expanding the international presence and effectiveness of nonprofit and business clients. As a career U.S. diplomat, she served in Tokyo, Paris, Afghanistan, Quebec, the Azores, and Washington, D.C.

Friedman has extensive Japan experience, having lived in Japan for a total of 8 years (two in Hiroshima and six in Tokyo). In addition to her diplomatic work, while in Japan, she joined a Japanese haiku group and went on to write several books related to haiku: *The Haiku Apprentice: Memoirs of Writing Poetry in Japan* (Stone Bridge Press, 2010); *I Wait for the Moon: 100 Haiku of Momoko Kuroda* (Stone Bridge Press, 2015); and *Street Chatter Fading* (Larkspur Press, 2015). She is an award-winning haiku poet and for the past three years has been the judge of Washington, D.C.'s Golden Triangle haiku contest.

She is a trustee of the Japan-America Society of Washington, D.C. and recently completed a year as Interim President of that Society. Ms. Friedman is fluent in Japanese, French, and Spanish, and proficient in Portuguese. Ms. Friedman received her B.A. with honors from Harvard University and her J.D. from the Georgetown University Law Center.