

Reading about Japan at I-House Library

Nassrine Azimi and Michel Wasserman read from

LAST BOAT to YOKOHAMA

— The Life and Legacy of Beate Sirota Gordon

Thursday, **December 10, 2015, 7:00 pm, The Library, International House of Japan**

Readers: **Nassrine Azimi** (Senior Advisor, United Nations Institute for Training and Research)

Michel Wasserman (Professor, Ritsumeikan University)

Language: **English** (without Japanese interpretation)

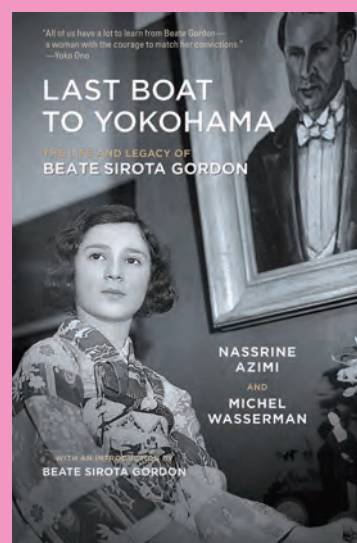
Admission: **1,500 yen** (IHJ Members & Library Members: free) Seating: **45** (reservation required)

Beate Sirota Gordon (1923-2012) was an Austrian-born American performing arts pioneer and women's rights advocate. She was one of the last surviving members of the team that worked under Douglas MacArthur to write the draft Constitution of Japan after World War II, and the only female in the team that drafted the equal rights clause.

After returning to New York, she worked as performing arts director at the Japan Society New York and the Asia Society, introducing Japanese and Asian performing arts to generations of Americans in the post-World War II era.

Her father Leo Sirota (1885-1965), made great contributions by introducing Western music to Japan, through his performance as a pianist and teaching of piano when he lived in Japan, from 1929 to 1946. He is considered one of the great contributors to the development of Western music in Japan.

In this reading session, Nassrine Azimi, who was a friend of Beate and has often worked throughout her UN career on postwar issues, and Michel Wasserman, who has worked and written extensively on Japanese performing arts and the reception of Western music in Japan, will read from their latest book *Last Boat to Yokohama: The Life and Legacy of Beate Sirota Gordon*, a biography of Beate including an in-depth look at her father.



Nassrine Azimi

Born in Iran in 1959 and of Swiss nationality. Received an MA in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies of Geneva, and a second MA in Urban Studies from the Institute of Architecture at the University of Geneva. She is a Senior Advisor at the United

Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and the co-founder/coordinator of the Green Legacy Hiroshima Initiative (www.unitar.org/greenlegacyhiroshima). She has published numerous books and articles, including *Training and Human Capacity-building in Post-conflict Countries* (United Nations, 2004).



Michel Wasserman

Born in Paris in 1948. Agrégation in French Literature, Doctorate in Oriental studies from the University of Paris III. After working as a visiting professor at Tokyo University of the Arts, he served as director of the Institut français du Japon –Kansai from 1986 to 1994. He has been a professor at the College of International Relations, Ritsumeikan University, since 1994. His works include *Mozart à Kyoto* (Indes Savantes, 2008) and *Claudiel Danse Japon* (Classiques Garnier, 2011).

*This program will be held thanks to a contribution from an I-House member.

CONTACT & RESERVATIONS

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