



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

April 2012

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Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Save June 2 for Noguchi Museum Tour

New England JACL is planning a trip to New York and a tour of the Isamu Noguchi Museum on Saturday, June 2 starting at 11:30 am. Noguchi was one of the 20th Century's most important and critically acclaimed sculptors. Highlighting the museum visit will be a talk by Dr. Robert J. Maeda, Professor Emeritus of Fine Arts at Brandeis University and a Noguchi scholar. Dr. Maeda is a long time member of NE JACL and is currently a member of its Board. Plans are being made for possible car pools and other activities. More details and registration forms will be sent later in April. Be sure to save June 2 for this event.

Special program for JA high school students

Japanese American High School students are being sought to participate in a special program that will take them on an all-expense paid, 13-day trip to Japan to promote understanding and friendship between young Japanese and Japanese Americans. Five Americans of Japanese heritage (including those of multiracial backgrounds) will be selected nationally in this program sponsored by the Japanese government. Applicants must be of high school age, hold US citizenship (and not have dual Japanese citizenship) and be able to participate in the full program (from June 30 to July 10 and pre-departure orientation on June 29). Japanese language proficiency will not influence the selection process. Deadline for application is April 24, 2012. For more information go to <http://www.boston.us.emb-japan.go.jp/invitationJA.html>. Information sheet and application form are attached with this newsletter.

Volunteers needed for Sakura Matsuri

The Genki Spark, the all-women's Taiko group, is seeking volunteers to help prepare for its Sakura Matsuri Festival in May. Volunteers are needed to locate and contact local food trucks (preferably those selling Asian food) and invite them to participate in the Festival. The Festival will be held on Saturday, May 12 from 1 to 3 pm at Brookline High School. It will feature Taiko performances by The Genki Spark, Odaiko New England and Rutsuko Taikko, as well as Obon dancing, craft tables and food. The Genki Spark's co-sponsors include New England JACL and Brookline High School. Interested volunteers should contact Steve Nishino at nishino@nejacl.org as soon as possible, but no later than April 10.

USC offers honorary degrees to Nisei interneers

The University of Southern California has announced it will confer honorary Bachelor's and Master's degrees to Nisei who were enrolled at USC prior to February 1942 but forced to interrupt their studies due to their incarceration during World War II. These degrees will be presented by President C.L. Max Nikias at USC's commencement on May 11, 2012. Families of deceased Nisei will be honored with an "Honorary Alumni" certificate. For more information and to register to participate, go to <http://www.usc.edu/dept/pubrel/specialevents/commencement/Nisei.php>.

Applications available for Masaoka Fellowship

Applications are being accepted for the annual JACL Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship. The successful Fellow will serve a six to eight months in the office of a member of Congress (Senate or House of Representative) and receive a stipend between \$2,200 to \$2,500, depending on experience. Applicants must be US citizens, a college graduating senior or in a graduate or professional program, and a member of JACL. Preference will be given to those demonstrating a commitment to Asian American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community. Deadline for application is May 20, 2012. For more information and application forms go to: <http://jacl.org/leadership/masaoka.htm>.

Collegiate Leadership Confab open to APA students

Applications are available for the 2012 JACL Collegiate Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. This intensive three-day program scheduled for June 7 to 10 introduces Asian Pacific American student leaders to the legislative process and the issues affecting the APA community. All travel, lodging and meal expenses will be covered for the participants. Twelve students from across the country will be selected to participate. Deadline for application is May 4, 2012. For more information and application forms go to: <http://www.jacl.org/youth/dcleadership.htm>.

Funds needed by Poston Community Alliance

The Poston Community Alliance is raising funds to relocate a barrack in its original state from Parker, Arizona, to the Poston Camp 1 site and to have the historic preservation team stabilize the fragile structure. The Alliance had already received \$31,000 from the National Park Services and \$10,000 from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, but to meet the requirements of the Department of Interior, an additional \$10,000 must be raised before May 15. For more information or to make a tax deductible donation, go to: <http://postonupdates.blogspot.com/>

EVENTS AND SPEAKERS

Sundays, April 1 to April 29, 9 pm, plus reruns

***Pacific Heartbeat*, TV series**

WGBH World

Boston's PBS station is broadcasting a series of documentaries from the Pacific Islands. The channel number for WGBH World differs according to your cable provider. To find your channel go to <http://www.wgbh.org/watch/tvchannels.cfm>. Programs include *Waimea 'Ukulele & Slack Key Guitar*; *Under a Jarvis Moon*; *Papa Mau: The Wayfinder*; *Keola Beamer: Malama Ko Aloha*; and *There Once Was An Island*. For daily schedules, go to <http://www.worldcompass.org/schedule>. For schedule of repeat showings, click on name of program.

Taiko, Activism and Asian American Identity

Wednesday, April 4 at 6 pm

MAP for Health, 322 Tremont Street, Boston

The Genki Spark presents speakers Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, former Executive and Artistic Directors of the San Jose Taiko and 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellows. As founders of the San Jose Taiko, the Hirabayashis helped to create a new Asian American art form by infusing the traditional rhythms of Japanese drumming with musical and cultural influences from around the world. Suggested donation is \$10 to \$20. For more information and to RSVP go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2980921015>. For questions, email trisha@thegenkispark.org.

Anime Boston 2012

April 6 to 8

Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston Street, Boston

New England's largest annual celebration of Japanese animation, comics and pop culture. Featuring Japanese vocalist Kanako Ito and voice actors Christopher Ayres, Caitlin Glass and Carli Mosier. For information and registration go to: <http://www.animeboston.com/>

DaXun Zhang & Tomoko Kashiwagi Concert

Saturday, April 7 at 8 pm

Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston

DaXun is a soloist on the double bass and Tomoko Kashiwagi is a chamber music pianist. Program is presented by the Foundation for Chinese Performing Arts. Tickets are \$50 for VIP reserved seating, \$30 open seating, and \$15 for students. For more information call 781-259-8195 or go to.

<http://www.chineseperformingarts.net/tickets/index.htm>

ACDC's 25th Anniversary Inspiration Gala

Thursday, April 12 from 6 to 9 pm

The Taj, 15 Arlington Street, Boston

An evening of dinner and entertainment to celebrate the Asian Community Development Corporation's 25 years of community building. Special awards will be presented to Sam and Leslie Davol, Jeffrey Wong, and Cheng Imm Tan. Tickets start at \$175. For information and reservations, go to:

<http://www.asiancdc.org/content/acdc-25th-anniversary-inspiration-gala>.

A Little Peace, AARW's 6th Annual Dessert Tasting Fundraiser

Saturday, April 17, from 7 to 10 pm

Korean Church of Boston, 32 Harvard Street, Brookline

Featuring more than 30 desserts, both sweet and savory, from Asian American bakers. Proceeds will benefit Asian American Resource Workshop, API Movement, Boston Korean Adoptees, Inc. and Chinese Youth Initiative of the Chinese Progressive Association. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$27 at the door, Children 10 and younger are \$10. Order tickets by April 11 online at www.aarw.org/dessertnight or send check with your name address and phone number to: Asian American Resource Workshop, 888 Washington Street, Suite 102, Boston, MA 02111-1446. Questions, call 617-426-5313 or email dessert@aarw.org.

Kollaboration Boston II Talent Show

Saturday, April 21 at 7 pm

John Hancock Hall, 180 Berkeley Street, Boston

Kollaboration Boston is a city-wide Asian American talent show to give AAPI talent a greater presence in the mainstream entertainment world. Featured will be a variety of performing artists competing for a \$1,000 first prize. This is part of a nationwide *Kollaboration* movement in 12 major cities in the US and Canada. Early Bird tickets \$30 for VIP admission, \$15 General Admission. For more information and tickets go to www.kollaborationboston.org.

Talk by Yul Kwon

Friday, April 27 at 7 pm

Phillips Academy, Kemper Auditorium, 5 Chapel Ave., Andover

Yul Kwon, winner of the reality TV show *Survivor*, will discuss negative stereotypes, their effects, and why he participated in a reality show to change those stereotypes. Open and free to the public. Sponsored by the Phillips Academy Asian Society, Andover Korean Society and the Office of Community and Multicultural Development. For more information contact Aya Murata, advisor to Asian and Asian American Students, 978-749-4253 or amurata@andover.edu.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month at WGBH

Thursday, May 3 at 6 pm

WGBH Studios, One Guest Street, Boston

WGBH kicks off Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a program featuring *Planet Takeout*, a multi-media project on the role of Chinese restaurants in Boston neighborhoods and beyond, by Val Wang, WGBH producer-in-residence. Also on the program is a dance performance by Mesma Belsare and dulcimer players Katie Chong and Liane Wong. Tickets are \$5 for WGBH members and \$10 for non-members. To reserve your ticket go to www.wgbh.org/asianevent.

APA Heritage Month with Gov. Deval Patrick

Tuesday, May 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, 38 Ash Street, Boston

Gov. Patrick meets with the community and answers their questions. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Christina Chan at CChan84@gmail.com or Leverett Wing at Leverett.L.Wing@gmail.com.

Asian American Civic Association Annual Gala 2012

Friday, May 18 at 6 pm

Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 50 Park Plaza, Boston

Their Courage To Be New will be the theme of this year's program in honor of past, present and future immigrants. Early Bird tickets are \$165 by April 13th. Regular tickets are \$175. For more information go to <http://gala.aaca-boston.org/>.

Quincy Asian Resources 5th Annual Community Banquet

Friday, May 18 from 6:30 to 10 pm

China Pearl Restaurant, 237 Quincy Avenue, Quincy

This year Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., honors those who helped to bring the Quincy community together and it celebrates the potential of the community's youth. The banquet will include live entertainment and a raffle drawing. For more information go to <http://www.quincyasianresources.org/banquet2012>.

EXHIBITS AND CLASSES

Asian Pacific Roots, American Soil

through Saturday, April 21; hours M-W 9am-3pm, Sa 10am-12pm

W/T Gallery, One Nassau Street, Unit 2, Boston

A collection by Asian Pacific American photographer Corky Lee, his work brings to life much of the history of the APA movement. The exhibit is presented by the Henry Wong & You King Yee Memorial Gallery, Chinese Progressive Association and AARW. For more information email wvgallery@gmail.com or call 617-426-5313.

Koto and Flute Workshop

Sunday, April 22, at 2 pm

Kaji Aso Studio, 40 St. Stephen Street, Boston

An afternoon of traditional Japanese music and an opportunity to play the koto. Also featured are koto performances by Miho Yamaji and her students. Seating is very limited. To reserve tickets email mwashio@earthlink.net.

Mens et Manus: Folded Paper of MIT

through April 29

Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street, Brockton

An exhibit of the work of MIT students, alumni and faculty who have made the school a hub for a stimulating community of artists in origami. They transform paper into complex representational and abstract three-dimensional sculpture through a series of complex folds. For more information go to:

<http://www.fullercraft.org/exhibitions.html#Mens>

THE JAPAN-US CHERRY BLOSSOM CELEBRATION

Spring 2012 throughout Boston

This Spring, Boston celebrates the 100th anniversary of the gift of cherry trees from Japan to the United States. The original trees were planted at the Tidal Basin of the Potomac River in Washington DC and each Spring, they attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors.

The Consulate General of Japan in Boston is commemorating this event with ceremonial cherry tree plantings in many Boston parks and public places. In addition, planning is underway for a festival of Japanese cultural events in Boston from March to May 2012. They include the following:

Sakura in Japanese Culture

Thursday, April 5 from 7 to 8 pm

An online seminar by Anne Prescott, Director, Five College Center for East Asian Studies. In celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the donation of cherry trees from Japan to the US as a symbol of friendship, learn about the *sakura* in Japanese culture, samurai culture, literature and music. For more information contact The Five College Center for East Asian Studies by email at fcceas@fivecolleges.edu or call 413-585-3751. To register go to: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/644849990>.

Boston Gagaku Concert: *From Centennial to Millennial Spring*

Monday, April 9, at 7 pm

Boston Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston

The program will feature performances by members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and by the Kitanodai Gagaku Ensemble. Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$50. For information and reservations, go to: <http://www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/39534>

The Second Annual Japanese Language Contest

Saturday, April 21

Brookline Public Library

The contest is sponsored by the Japanese Consul General's office in Boston and includes a speech and an essay competition. Competing will be finalists from among students currently enrolled in a Japanese language course at a university or college within the six New England states (CT/MA/ME/NH/R/VT). While any topic is acceptable for the speech competition, the essay topic this year is either "The Great East Japan Earthquake" or "Cherry Trees."

Haru Matsuri 2012: Japan Spring Festival in Boston

Sunday, April 29, from 11 am to 4 pm

Copley Square

A traditional Japanese-style festival showcasing Japanese culture. Featured will be performances, exhibits and Japanese food.

The Kioi Sinfonietta Concert

Tuesday, May 1, at 7:30 pm

Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge

Japan's celebrated chamber orchestra, the Kioi Sinfonietta Tokyo will perform in a single concert appearance. Presented by The Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard and The Japan Society of Boston. The program, led by Swiss conductor Thierry Fischer, will feature renowned pianist Yu Kosuge. Tickets are \$20, students \$5 with ID. For information and tickets go to <http://ofa.fas.harvard.edu/cal/details.php?ID=42518>.

The Beauty and Mystery of Textiles

Wednesday, May 2, from 7 to 8 pm

Museum of Fine Arts, Remis Auditorium, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Reiko Sudo, textile artist and founder of Nuno Company, will discuss production techniques and show examples of fabrics she created for interiors, fashion and art. Her work is represented in major international museums, including the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. Tickets are \$15 for museum members, \$18 for non-members. For more information and tickets go to: <http://www.mfa.org/programs/lecture/beauty-and-mystery-textiles>.

The Tiger Okoshi Quintet

Saturday, May 12 from 8 to 11 pm

James Hough Powers Hall, Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave., Needham

Okoshi will perform original compositions and Louis Armstrong standards as well as a special composition that he arranged to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the cherry trees in Washington. Tickets are \$25 to \$30. For more information and tickets go to: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/218247>

CONTINUING EXHIBITS AT THE MFA

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

For more information, go to www.mfa.org.

Kawanabe Kyosai and the Hell Courtesan

through June 17

Gallery 278A

The first exhibition of the museum's newly renovated Japanese Print gallery focuses on their recent acquisition, a monumental hanging scroll of the *Hell Courtesan* by Kawanabe Kyosai (1831-1889). Known for the charm, eccentricity and extraordinary skill of his work, Kyosai satirized the complex political events of 19th Century Japan in both paintings and prints.

An Unspoken Dialogue with Japanese Tea

through September 23, 2012

Gallery 177

An exhibit organized to complement a series of programs held during the Spring of 2011 focusing on the contemporary Japanese tea bowl. Pieces are drawn from the extensive holdings of the Museum of Fine Arts' Morse Collection of Japanese pottery and from several private collections. It explores the rich tradition of ceramics, lacquer ware and bamboo that have been made for the preparation of drinking tea from the 16th Century to the present day.

The Allure of Japan

through December 31, 2012

This exhibit celebrates a period around 1900 when America had a fascination for all things Japanese. Artists and collectors gathered Japanese objects, studied Japanese traditions and integrated Japanese styles and techniques into their own work. Included will be a rich display of rarely exhibited American prints, posters, watercolors and decorative arts complemented by a selection the MFA's renowned Japanese collections.

ELSEWHERE

Folding Paper: The Infinite Possibilities of Origami

through August 26, 2012

Japanese American National Museum, 369 East 1st St., Los Angeles phone: 213-625-0414

An exploration of the international phenomenon of origami as a contemporary visual art form. More than 150 works by 40 artists from 16 countries. For more information go to <http://janm.org/>.

Japanese American Exhibits

Japanese American Museum of San Jose

535 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA phone: 408-294-3138

Exhibitions include: Yesterday's Farmer: Planting an American Dream; Pioneers of San Jose Japantown; World War II: Assembly Centers and Internment Camps; 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team; World War II: Military Intelligence Service; Post World War II: Resettlement; Asahi/Zebras Baseball; and Regenerations Oral History. Museum hours are Thursday through Sunday, 12 to 4 pm. For more information go to www.jamsj.org/.