



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

April 2014

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Open call for films for Boston Asian American Film Festival

The Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) is accepting submissions for the 2014 Boston Asian American Film Festival. They are looking for narratives, dramas, comedies, shorts, documentaries, animations, music videos and experimental films. Deadline for submissions is June 15.

This year BAAFF is inviting aspiring Asian American filmmakers to submit a five-minute video about their personal experiences in the community. A panel of judges will select the top submissions and the public will be invited to vote to determine a winner. The winner receives automatic entry in the 2014 Boston Asian American Film Festival. Deadline for entries is May 5.

The BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop. For more information go to: www.baaff.org.

***Music Voyager* features films on Japan**

WGBX Channel 44's *Music Voyager* series visits Japan with two special programs.

Sunday, April 6 at 4:30 pm ***Tokyo: A Feast for the Senses***

Sunday, April 13 at 4:30 pm ***Tohoku: Japan Rising***

Tokyo: A Feast for the Senses features a Japanese jazz giant, a hip-hop free-styler and other colorful characters of Tokyo. *Tohoku: Japan Rising* visits the region devastated by the earthquake and tsunami of 2011.

A Day in the Life of Asian Pacific America

The Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American Center is currently seeking submissions for *A Day in the Life of Asian Pacific America*, an online photo/video exhibit set for May 2014. The exhibit will consist of works by professional and non-professional photographers and videographers all taken on one day, May 10, 2014.

For more information about the project go to: <http://smithsonianapa.org/life2014.pdf> or contact Eddie Wong, guest curator, at eddieoak@att.net or Adriel Luis, Curator of Digital and Emerging Media, at LuisA@si.edu.

AAPI Corner Office Forum Series concludes in April

New England JACL has joined a network of 24 Asian American community organizations and Governor Deval Patrick's Asian American Commission and Advisory Council in hosting a series of forums featuring Massachusetts' gubernatorial candidates. According to the event organizers, this is an historic show of unity and civic engagement by the greater Boston Asian American Pacific Islander community. The series concludes this month with two forums that are free and open to the public:

Tuesday, April 8 **Evan Falchuk (United Independent Party), from 5:15 to 6:30 at The Metropolitan, 38 Oak Street, Boston (Community Room)**

Monday, April 14, **Charlie Baker (Republican), from 5:15 to 6:30 at VIET-AID, 42 Charles Street, Dorchester**

All of the gubernatorial candidates were invited to participate and the following were featured in the March forums: Joe Avellone, Don Berwick, Martha Coakley, Steve Grossman, and Juliette Kayyem, Other community partners joining JACL and the Asian American Commission for this event are: Asian American Civic Association, Asian American Journalists Assn. of NE, Asian American Lawyers Assn. of MA, Asian American Resource Workshop, Asian Community Development Corp., Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote), Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence, Asian Women for Health, Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Boston Asian Youth Essential Services, Chinatown Main Street, Chinatown Residents Assn., Chinese Progressive Assn., Indian American Forum for Political Education, Institute for Aisna American Studies – U/MA Boston, Korean American Citizens League of NE, Kwong Kow Chinese School, National Assn. of Asian American Professionals-Boston, MAP for Health, Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., South Asian Arts Council, South Cove Manor, and Viet-Aid.

For questions and to **RSVP** contact: Christina Chan at CChan84@gmail.com, or Leverett Wing at Leverett.L.Wing@gmail.com.

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Book Talk:

The First Chinese American: The Remarkable Life of Wong Chin Foo

Thursday, April 3, at 6:30 pm

Kwong Kow Chinese School, 87 Tyler Street, Boston

Wong Chin Foo (1847-1898) was a leader and a fighter who advocated for the rights of Chinese in America in the 19th Century. Author Scott D. Seligman will present an account of the life and times of one of America's earliest proponents of racial equality. Books will be available for signing. Presented by the Chinese Historical Society of New England. To RSVP and to reserve books go call 617-338-4439 or email info@chsne.org.

Angkor Dance Troupe: *Apsara Dancing Stones***Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 pm****UMass Lowell, Durgin Hall, 35 Wilder Street, Lowell**

This contemporary dance drama includes Eastern and Western influences with a visual narrative that combines dance and music from modern and classical Cambodian styles. Tickets are \$26.63 general, \$11 youth. For tickets go to: www.mktix.com/adt. For more information go to: www.angkordance.org.

Film: *To Be Takei***Thursday, April 3, at 8 pm****Institute of Contemporary Art, 100 Northern Avenue, Boston**

This documentary film on George Takei opens the 30th Annual Boston LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Film Festival (April 3-12). This incisive film covers Takei's remarkable career and personal life. Takei and his husband, Brad, have become the poster couple for marriage equality. Many of his television interviews and online skits have garnered widespread attention. For information and tickets, go to: <http://www.bostonlgbtfilmfest.net/2014-film-festival/films/documentary-features/takei/>.

Performance: *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon***April 11 to May 11****Wheelock Family Theater, 200 The Riverway, Boston**

Tickets are now on sale for the East Coast premiere of the stage production of Grace Lin's Newbery honored novel, *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*. The book was inspired by her father's stories of the Jade Dragon and the Old Man of the Moon. Young Minli sets off on an incredible journey to change her family's fortune and on the way encounters magical creatures including a dragon. Lin will attend the performances on April 11 and 12. Tickets are \$20-\$30 based on seating. Matinees and evening performances. Box Office is open Tuesday-Friday 10am to 6pm, 617-879-2300, or email tickets@wheelock.edu. For more information: www.wheelock.edu/wft-where-the-mountain-meets-the-moon.

Book Talk: *Writing Between Languages and Cultures***Tuesday, April 15, from 6 to 7:30 pm****Boston University Photonics Center, 8 St. Mary's Street, 9th floor, Boston**

A reading and conversation with internationally renowned writer Yoko Tawada. Tawada was born in Tokyo in 1960 and moved to Hamburg when she was 22. She writes in both Japanese and German and has published several books, stories, novels, poems, plays and essays in both languages. This program is free and open to the public. For more information go to: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/Events?eventId=858302&EventViewMode=EventDetails>.

**Conference: *Pivoting for Peace in Asia/Pacific
Challenging US Militarism & Corporate Dominance***

Saturday April 19, from 9:30am to 5 pm

Friends Meeting at Cambridge, 5 Longfellow Park, Cambridge

Featuring keynote speaker Hideki Yoshikawa, environment campaigner, leader of the Okinawan movement against US military bases, and professor at the University of the Ryukyus and at Melo University. Co-sponsors are American Friends Service Committee, Massachusetts Peace Action, United for Peace with Justice, and the Asian American Resource Workshop. Registration is \$10 and \$10 for lunch. For a complete list of speakers, topics and to register, go to: <http://pivoting-for-peace.bpt.me/>. For information call 617-661-6130 or email JSherysr@afsc.org.

Gene Shinozaki: *While U W8 #MBTA Late*

Tuesday, April 22, at 8 pm

Lily Pad, 1353 Cambridge Street, Inman Square, Cambridge

This is an evening at the Lily Pad featuring musicians who would be equally at home giving late night concerts on the T. Featured among the artists will be Gene Shinozaki (a beatboxer) & Max Jackson (on didgeridoo) performing a completely improvised set. Suggested donation at the door is \$10. For a sample of their work, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=7fnp-AndMvY or www.youtube.com/gvsbeatbox.

Concert: *Huun Huun Tu – The Throat Singers of Tuva*

Friday, April 25, at 8 pm

First Church in Cambridge Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge

From the independent republic of Tuva, bordering Mongolia, Huun Huun Tu performs a vocal technique called Khoomei, a style in which a single vocalist produces two or three notes simultaneously. Accompanied by traditional string and percussion instruments, the four-member ensemble sings rhythmic songs that capture the magic of the Siberian steppe. Tickets are \$28. For information and tickets go to: http://www.worldmusic.org/content/event_page/1902.

8th Annual A Little Peace: Dessert Tasting Fundraiser

Sunday, April 26, from 6 to 8:30 pm

Korean Church of Boston, 32 Harvard Street, Brookline

Help support local social justice organizations by spending the evening tasting the creations of the AAPI community's best bakers. Proceeds will benefit the Activist Training Institute, Asian American Resource Workshop, Asian & Pacific Islander Movement, and Boston Korean Adoptees, Inc. If tickets are purchased in advance, admission is \$20 general, \$10 children 10 and younger. Tickets at the door are \$27. For information and tickets go to: www.aarw.org/dessertnight.

Performance and Workshop: *Cat Mountain*

Sunday, April 27, performance at 1 pm, workshops at 2:15 and 3 pm

Harvard Museum of Natural History, Geological Lecture Hall, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge

Despite everyone's warnings, Sho, a young servant girl journeys to the strange, far-off mountain where she hopes to find her freedom and her lost cat. This magical Japanese folk tale is brought to life with puppetry, dance, masks and Japanese style theater. After the performance, join the actors in the Peabody Museum Education room for a mask-making workshop. Tickets with advance registration are \$5 and includes museum admission. Registration on the day of the event is \$5 for museum member, regular museum admission rates for non-members. To register call 617-495-2341 or go to: <https://reservations.hmsc.harvard.edu/Info.aspx?EventID=19>.

Lecture: *Cutie and the Boxer*

Wednesday, April 30, from 7 to 8 pm

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

Reiko Tomii, art historian and independent curator illustrates the very real stories of Ushio and Noriko Shinohara's uplifting and sometimes tragic lives as artists in New York City. The Shinoharas were featured in the 2013 Academy Award nominee for best documentary *Cutie and the Boxer*. To order tickets by phone call 1-800-440-6975. To order in person, visit any MFA ticket desk. For more information go to: <http://www.mfa.org/programs/lecture/cutie-and-boxer>.

2nd Annual Heart of the Community Gourmet Dim Sum Breakfast

Friday, May 2 at 7:30 am

China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler Street, Boston

The Asian Community Development Corporation's annual event will feature keynote speaker Daniel Arrigg Koh, chief of staff to Boston Mayor Marty Walsh. For more information and tickets go to:

<http://asiancdc.org/content/heart-community-gourmet-dim-sum-breakfast>.

Brookline Sakura Matsuri

Saturday, May 10

Brookline High School, 119 Greenough Street, Brookline

Celebrate Spring and Japanese cherry blossoms with this outdoor family festival featuring food music, games, bon odori dancing, and taiko drumming. Featuring The Genki Spark, ShinDaiko and Odaiko New England. Hosted by Brookline High School Japanese Language Program and The Genki Spark. For more information, go to:

<http://www.thegenkispark.org>.

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

The Stories We Tell

through June 15

Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street, Brockton

Featuring the work of Binh Pho, Tommy Simpson, and Michelle Holzapfel. The multi-media exhibition includes furniture, vessels, sculpture, painted reliefs, ceramics and textile designs -- each reflecting the artists' unique narrative qualities through underlying themes of nature, history and whimsy. For more information, go to:

<http://fullercraft.org/current-exhibitions/>.

Exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

through Sep. 8

Fired Earth, Woven Bamboo – Contemporary Japanese Ceramics and Bamboo Art. A Celebration of Japanese decorative arts. More than 60 dramatic ceramics and baskets are

complemented by contemporary Japanese quilts and fabric screens and an example of sophisticated paper sculpture.

through Aug. 17

The Creative Process in Modern Japanese Printmaking. In the 20th Century, printmaking in Japan became not just a way of producing popular images, but a fine art form. No longer constrained by the requirements of commercial publishing, artists were able to exploit the color woodblock process as far as their imaginations could take them.

through Jul. 6

Return of the Dragon: Shohaku's Dragon and Clouds

The first showing of the recently restored *Dragons and Clouds* (1763) by the celebrated Japanese eccentric artist Sogo Shohaku. Phillip Meredith, the Conservator of Japanese Paintings at the MFA, and Anne Nishimura Morse, Senior Curator of Japanese Art will lead a discussion about the artist on **Wednesday, April 9 at 7 pm.** in the MFA's Remis Auditorium. To order tickets call 1-800-440-6975 or visit any MFA ticket desk.

For more information go to: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions>.

Toshio Shibata: *Constructed Landscapes*

through August 31

Peabody Essex Museum, 161 Essex Street, East India Square, Salem

Shibata is one of Japan's preeminent landscape photographers, known for exploring the delicate balance between human-made structures and nature. For more information,

go to: <http://www.pem.org/exhibitions/>.

Exhibits at the Worcester Art Museum

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

through Aug. 10 ***January to December: Japanese Folk Art Calendars***

In the Prints, Drawings and Photographs Gallery.

May 7 to Nov. ***Abstractions in Blue***

Artworks by Japanese Artists from the collection of Joanne and Douglas Wise who viewed Japanese culture from a western perspective with modernist ideals. In the Japanese Gallery.

through Nov. ***Majicolor***

Prints by Majima Ryoichi, a Japanese artist who studied in California. His *neo-pop* prints are imaginative and irreverent examples of *East meets West*, rendered in a vivid palette.

For more information go to: <http://www.worcesterart.org/Exhibitions/>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE NEW YORK

2014 Season at the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre

540 8th Avenue, Suite 314, New York, NY 10018 phone: 212-868-4030

April 5 to 27 ***Fishing for Wives.*** The New York premiere of this comedy by Edward Sakamoto and directed by Ron Nakahara. Set in 1913 Hawaii, a Japanese fisherman sends for a picture bride using the picture of his handsome friend.

May 14 to 18 ***No No Boy.*** A drama by Ken Narasaki, adapted from the John Okada novel set in the aftermath of WWII. The play follows draft resister Ichiro Yamada after his release from prison as he struggles to come to terms with his choices. Directed by Ron Nakahara.

All performances are at theatres located at Theatre Row, 410 West 42nd Street, New York. For more information: www.panasianrep.org. Email: info@panasianrep.org.

CALIFORNIA

The Art of Gaman: Arts and Crafts from the Japanese American Internment Camps, 1942-1946

through May 11

The California Museum, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, California

A showcase of more than 120 artifacts made by Japanese Americans while imprisoned in camps during World War II. The California Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and on Sunday from 12 to 5 pm. Closed Mondays. For directions to the museum, go to: <http://www.californiamuseum.org/directions>.

Exhibits/Events at Japanese American Museum San Jose

535 N. Fifth St., San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

April 27

Kimono and Vintage Sale

9:30am-3:30pm

this sale will be held during the Nikkei Matsuri Festival in San Jose. It features gently used items of Japanese or Asian influence. Last year saw items from the Sassr family estate, books from the museum library, obis, kimonos, fabric, dishes, dolls, swords, paintings and hangings. For more information email eva@jamjs.org or call 408-294-3138.

9am-3pm

Kodomo No Hi (Children's Day)

The museum celebrates Children's Day with crafts workshops. Children can learn to make kaboto (samurai helmets), Koinobori (carp streamers), and other crafts. The event is free with museum admission. An additional materials fee may apply.

May 3 at 1pm

After Camp: Post-War Nisei Life and Politics

Featuring guest speaker Dr. Greg Robinson, award winning author, *Nichi Bei Weekly* columnist, and professor of history at University of Quebec in Montreal, Canada. He will discuss his work concerning the mid-century Japanese American experience, a large, unexplored area of American history.

For reservations, email PublicPrograms@jamsj.org or call 408-294-3138.

For more information on all exhibitions and programs go to:

<http://www.jamsj.org/japanese-american-history-museum-san-jose/news-and-events>.

Exhibits at the Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA

phone: 213-625-0414

through Sep.14

Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World.

An exploration of the artistry of traditional Japanese tattoos and their rich history and influence on modern tattoo practices. A photographic exhibition by Kip Fulbeck and Takahiro Kitamura.

through Sep.14

Dodgers: Brotherhood of the Game. The LA Dodgers' rich history in civil rights, community building, and globalization is explored through the stories of Hideo Nomo, Chan Ho Park, Jackie Robinson and others.

For more information go to: www.janm.org.