



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

March 2015

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773
Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Volunteers needed for May 9 Sakura Matsuri

New England JACL will be participating in the annual Sakura Matsuri on Saturday, May 9, at Brookline High School from 12 to 4 pm. This event is organized by the Genki Spark taiko troupe and Brookline High School. Volunteers are needed to help with the JACL information and activity table. If you are able to help, please contact our project chair Steve Nishino at nishino@nejacl.org.

Kimi Maeda to perform *Bend* at Brandeis

**Tuesday, April 28 at 7 pm, free and open to the public, Merrick Theater
Spingold Theater Center, Brandeis University, 415 South St., Waltham**

Award winning theater artist, Kimi Maeda brings her performance piece *Bend* to the Greater Boston area. She combines a live feed projection of sand drawings, archival film footage, personal voice-overs, and audio interviews to tell the true story of two men who were incarcerated in a Japanese American camp during WWII: her father, Asian Art Historian Bob Maeda, and the subject of his research, Isamu Noguchi, the famed sculptor who founded the Nisei Writers and Artists for Democracy. Ms. Maeda, who now lives in Columbia, South Carolina, premiered *Bend* in Columbia and is now bringing it to venues across America. It is an intimate visual performance that crosses disciplines, pushes boundaries, and deals with issues of memory, home and trans-cultural identity. She received a grant from the Jim Henson Foundation for the development of *Bend*. For more information on the Brandeis performance, call 781-736-2662 or email jstern@brandeis.edu.

SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS and COMPETITIONS

2015 BAAFF open call for film submission

The Boston Asian American Film Festival is now accepting submissions. The program will be held October 22 to 24 and feature films on the theme Home in *America*. They are seeking narratives, dramas, comedies, shorts, documentaries, animations, music videos and experimental films. **Early deadline is April 15.** Regular deadline is June 1. Final deadline is July 1. The BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop. For more information go to: www.baaff.org.

Essay & Video Contest for high school and college students

The Go for Broke National Education Center is accepting entries for its Essay and Video Contest. A total of \$6,000 in prizes will be awarded 12 contest winners in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$250. The competition is open to high school and college (undergraduate and graduate) students. Essay and video topics must relate to the Japanese American WWII soldier as outlined in contest details. **Deadline for entries is June 30.** For more information go to: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_CoXi-pB9cjYIRqUVBRZ3hLTWxnTUVIYU44a2gwSjIwYzNN/view?pli=1.

National Park Services seeks summer interns in Boston

The National Park Services is seeking two interns to add student team members to their Northeast Regional History Program in Boston. They are specifically looking for students from the Asian American communities who are interested in public history. An intern will develop digital and social media as well as education and outreach resources. For more information contact Christine Arato, Chief Historian (Northeast Region National Park Service), at 617-223-5103 or email christine_arato@nps.gov.

JAVA announces 2015 scholarships

The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) is accepting applications for its 2015 award program. Competition is open to eligible high school seniors, undergraduate, graduate, and professional students as well as JAVA war veterans and past or present members of Hawaii's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry unit, for scholarships of up to \$5,000. Application **deadline is May 15, 2015.** For full information and application forms, go to: www.javadc.org.

APIA Vote accepting summer internship applications

APIAVote is accepting applications for their summer internship program in Washington, DC. College and graduate students are encouraged to apply and may be assigned to work in the following areas: communications and technology, graphic design, field work, research and policy, training or youth relations. Both paid and unpaid positions are available. Application deadline is May 1. For more information, go to: <http://www.apiavote.org/newsroom/press-releases/2015/apiavote-summer-internships>.

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Thursday
April 2
6-7:30 pm

Film: *To Be Takei*
Cambridge Public Library, Main Lecture Hall
449 Broadway, Cambridge

A free screening of this documentary about actor and activist George Takei. The film covers Takei's journey from imprisonment in a WWII camp, to the helm of the Starship Enterprise, to life as an open and proud LGBT rights activist. The program is co-sponsored by the ACLU of Massachusetts. Takei will be honored by the ACLU at it's annual Bill of Rights Dinner on May 21. For more information about the dinner, go to: <https://www.aclum.org/dinner>.

- Thursday
April 2
7 pm** **Talk by Author Celeste Ng**
Wellesley Free Library, Wakelin Room, 530 Washington St., Wellesley
 Celeste Ng is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel *Everything I Never Told You*. She has won many awards for her fiction and essays including the coveted Pushcart Prize. For more information on Ng and her public appearances in the Boston area, go to: <http://www.celesteng.com/events/>.
- Thursday
April 2
7 pm** **Asian American Cultures Festival:
The Kingdom of Kambuja**
UMass Lowell, Durgin Concert Hall, 35 Wilder Street, Lowell
 An evening of Cambodian and Cambodian American music, dance and theatre, from traditional to contemporary. Performances by the UMass Lowell World Music Ensemble, Angkor Dance Troupe and Flying Orb Productions. Tickets are \$10. The program is co-sponsored by the Center for Asian American Studies, the Music Department, and the Center for Arts and Ideas at UMass Lowell. For more information go to: www.angkordance.org/#!performances/c243u.
- Thursday
April 2
8 pm** **Film: *Eat with Me***
Institute of Contemporary Art, 100 Northern Avenue, Boston
 The Boston Asian American Film Festival is co-presenting the 31st Annual Boston LGBT Film Festival's opening film and after party with *Eat with Me*, a film from director David Au. This is Au's film debut and offers a fresh take on life, love and food in the heart of Los Angeles. For information and tickets, go to: <http://www.bostonlgbtfilmfest.net/2015-festival/festival-gala-screenings/opening-night-film-after-party/>.
- Friday
April 3
6:30-
9:30 pm** **Master Class: *Conversations with Yoshinori Higiwara***
MIT Building E15, room 054, 20 Ames Street, Cambridge
 An evening with fifth generation potter Yoshinori Higiwara, whose award winning work has been exhibited around the world. He'll discuss his life, work and artistic process while giving a live demonstration. Sponsored by Arts at MIT. Fee for the event is \$15. For more information and to register go to: <http://arts.mit.edu/classes/student-art-association/classes-saa/higiwara/>
- Fri-Sun
April 3-5** **Anime Boston 2015**
Hynes Convention Center & Sheraton Hotel, Boston
 This year's Anime Boston, a three-day Japanese animation convention, will feature a masquerade, an anime music video contest, video programming rooms, an artists' alley and art show, karaoke, game shows, video games, manga library, dances, and much more. For more information and to register, go to: www.animeboston.com.
- Saturday
April 4
8 -11 am** **ATASK Community 5K Run/Walk**
Chestnut Hill Reservoir, Chestnut Hill
 The Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence hosts its first 5K. Participants are invited to run or walk around the Chestnut Hill Reservoir with friends and family to raise funds for a non-profit of their choice. Entry fee is \$25. For more information, go to: <http://www.atask.org/site/community-5k>.

- Sunday
April 5
3 pm** ***Tamagawa Daigaku Taiko & Dance Group***
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston
 This taiko troupe is led by a Kabuki master and has toured the world since 1961. During their 2015 US tour, they will also perform in Philadelphia, Washington DC, and New York. Tickets start at \$20. Contact the Berklee Performance Center's box office at 617-747-2261 (Mon-Sat, 10am to 6 pm) or order online, go to:
<https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?t=tix&e=7974fe979e0b328f65f01dd3b7a9179d>.
- Tuesday
April 14
5-6:30 pm** ***Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific***
MIT, Muckley Building, E40-496, 1 Amherst Street, Cambridge
 Christine Yano, Visiting Professor of Japanese Studies at Harvard and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, will discuss her 2013 book *Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific*, and provide hints into the Japanese culture of cuteness. The program is free and open to the public. Yano is also the curator of *Hello! Exploring the Supercute World of Hello Kitty* exhibit currently at the Japanese American National Museum. For more information go to:
<http://misti.mit.edu/rescheduled-pink-globalization-hello-kittys-trek-across-pacific>.
- Tuesday
April 21
9:30 am** ***Ikebana & Creative Floral Design Demonstration***
Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Elm Bank, 900 Washington St., Wellesley
 The demonstration features Mutsuo Tomita, Grand Master of Ohara School. Tickets are \$20 at the door. For more information contact Minal Akkad, 608-270-6759 or email saloninda@aol.com; or Keiko Thayer, 781-326-2027 or email keikoft@verizon.net.
- Thursday
April 23
6-8 pm** ***BAAFF Free Video Editing Workshop***
Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, 885 Washington St., Boston
 The Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) workshop is offering an introduction to iMovie. Participants will put together a short video from recorded images and music they prepare beforehand. They must bring a USB of photos, music and pre-recorded clips to use in the workshop. Participants will be invited to submit their work for BAAFF's *Short Waves: Stories Shaping Our Community* competition. The workshop will be lead by Chu Huang. For more information and to reserve your place, go to: www.eventbrite.com/e/editing-workshop-by-the-boston-asian-americanfilm-festival-tickets-16113826890.
- Friday
April 24
1-3 pm** ***From Horizontal to Vertical:
Translating American Fiction into Japanese***
Boston University, 745 Commonwealth Ave., 6th fl., room 625, Boston
 Featuring Motoyuki Shibata, the founder and editor of *Monkey* a literary quarterly in Japanese, and of *Monkey Business*, an English-language annual focusing on new writing from Japan. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, go to:
http://www.bu.edu/translation/?utm_source=Taiko%2C+Annual+Dinner+&utm_campaign=September&utm_medium=email.

- Saturday
April 25
6-8 pm** **The Genki Spark Taiko Workshop for beginners**
Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Brookline
The Genki Spark offers a two-hour introductory workshop open to all ages (over 7), no experience necessary. Cost: \$30. Information: <http://www.thegenkispark.org>.
- Sunday
April 26
10am-5pm** **Japan Festival Boston**
Boston Common at Beacon and Charles Streets
An annual Japanese festival highlighted by stage performances and booths featuring Japanese/Asian food, merchandise, and community information. For more information, go to: <http://www.japanfestivalboston.org>.
- Tuesday
April 28
5:15-
7:30 pm** ***Due Credit: Chinese Workers and the Central Pacific RR***
Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston
The Mass Historical Society presents an immigration and urban history seminar. Speakers are Manu Vimalassery, Barnard College, and Hidetaka Hirota, Columbia University. The program is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. For reservations, go to: seminars@masshist.org. For more information, call 617-536-1608 or go to: <http://www.masshist.org/calendar>.
- Thursday
April 30
5:30 pm** **Asian Women for Health: 2015 AppreciASIANS Awards**
UMass Club of Boston, 225 Franklin Street, 33rd Floor, Boston
This event honors individuals who made special contributions to support the mission of Asian Women for Health. Program: 5:30 pm VIP Reception, 6:30 pm Dinner and Awards Presentation, 8 pm Hillbilly Holiday Band & Dance. For more information and reservations, go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/appreciasians-2015-tickets-15784826842>.
- Friday
May 1
7:30 pm** **3rd Annual Heart of the Community Dim Sum Breakfast**
China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler Street, Boston Chinatown
The Asian Community Development Corporation's annual gourmet dim sum fundraiser, a social meal that connects friends, families and businesses. Tickets are \$125. For more information and reservations, go to: <http://www.asiancdc.org/content/heart-community-gourmet-dim-sum-breakfast>
- Saturday
May 9
12-4 pm** **Brookline Sakura Matsuri**
Brookline High School, 115 Greenough Street, Brookline
Save the date to join us at this annual event organized by the Genki Spark and Brookline High School. Details to come.
- Thursday
May 21
6:30 pm** **George Takei at ACLU 2015 Bill of Rights Dinner**
Westin Copley Place Hotel, 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston
ACLU's 34th annual Bill of Rights Dinner will honor George Takei with the Roger Baldwin Award for his courage and commitment to the principles of liberty and justice for all. Takei is a prominent advocate for equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans. As a young child, he and his family were incarcerated at the Rohwer camp in Arkansas. The ACLU dinner is open to the public. Tickets are \$180. For more information and to reserve a seat, go to: www.aclum.org/dinner.

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

- Boston Architectural College**
McCormick Gallery, 320 Newbury Street, Boston
 through **April 20**
Obento and Built Space: Japanese Boxed Lunch and Architecture
 An exhibition featuring the bento box collection of New England JACL member Debra Samuels. Samuels is a food writer for the Boston Globe, cookbook author, and Japanese food specialist. The exhibit examines the material and social culture of bento boxes and how they inspire architects and designers to think about the potential of emptiness, craft, portability and sustainability. Architects and artists participating in this exhibit include Hiromi Fujii, Sou Fujimoto, KOKO Architecture + Design, Glenn Murcutt, Hiroshi Nakamura, Patkau Architects, and Aat + Makoto Yokomizo. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri 8 am to 10:30 pm, Sat-Sun from 9 am to 9 pm. For more information and to see two short videos about bentos, go to:
<http://the-bac.edu/experience-the-bac/news-and-events/events/bento-and-architecture-exhibition-event>.
- Boston Children's Museum**
308 Congress Street, Boston
 through **April 26**
Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China
 An exhibit to engage visitors in learning about China through its young people. It is designed to expand knowledge, understanding and appreciation of contemporary China through life in Boston's Sister City, Hangzhou. Museum hours: Daily, 10 am to 5 & Fridays, 10 am to 9 pm. For more information call 617-426-6500 or go to:
<http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/exhibits-programs/exhibits/children-hangzhou>.
- Worcester Art Museum**
55 Salisbury Street, Worcester
April 18 to Sept. 6
Samurai
 The samurai in history and popular culture is explored by guest curator Eric Nakamura, editor and founder of Giant Robot Magazine. The exhibit combines historical Japanese arms and armor from the Worcester Art Museum and John Woodman Higgins collections with work by contemporary artists inspired by samurai and their enduring myth.
- May 13 to August 9**
Nagasawa Rosetsu, Bamboo
 This six-panel folding screen was painted by Rosetsu in 1792 using broad brush strokes, interrupted only by the nodes of the bamboo and by a dependence on ink tone rather than line in defining form.
- through May 3**
A Screen for the New Year: Pines and Plum Blossoms
 A rare screen from the 1600s representative of the sophisticated elegance, energy and sumptuousness that appealed to noblemen and feudal lords.
- through May 24**
Uncanny Japan: The Art of Yoshitoshi
 Works by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892), one of the greatest designers of Japanese woodblock prints at a time when the medium was facing increasing competition from photography and lithography.
 For more information on all exhibits, go to: <http://www.worcesterart.org/Exhibitions/>.

Museum of Fine Arts
465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

**April 5 to
 August 9**

Hokusai

Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) is one of Japan's most popular and influential artists. The MFA is drawing from its extensive holdings of paintings, woodblock prints and illustrated printed books to showcase works from Hokusai's seven-decade career. Included is the iconic *Great Wave* from his legendary series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*. In the Gund Gallery.

**April 5 to
 July 12**

In the Wake: Japanese Photographers Respond to 3/11

This exhibition explores the photographic response to the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011. A number of photographers felt compelled to record not only the events' physical effects on the land, but also to interpret the overarching significance of the tragedy through art. The work of 17 photographers is featured.

**through
 July 19**

Playing with Paper: Japanese Toy Prints

By the middle of the 19th Century, color woodblock printing in Japan was so inexpensive that it could be used to make toys for children. This exhibit features colorful board games, paper dolls, cutout dioramas and pictorial riddles, as well as prints showing how the toys and games were enjoyed.

For more information on all exhibits go to: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/upcoming>.

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

**through
 June 21**

Audacious: The Fine Art of Wood from the Montalto Bohlen Collection

The work of several Asian American woodworkers are a part of this exhibit. Common and exotic woods are transformed by lathe and carving tools into complex sculptural forms. For more information go to:

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

Fuller Craft Museum
455 Oak Street, Brockton

**through
 April 26**

Legacy of Fire: Clay Dragon Studios Revisited

The work of Kyoko Tonegawa is one of the ceramic artists featured in this exhibit. For more information, go to:

<http://fullercraft.org/event/legacy-of-fire-clay-dragon-studio-revisited/>.

Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History
170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut

**through
 Jan.3,2016**

Samurai and the Culture of Japan's Great Peace

The 150 artifacts displayed are from 1615 to 1863, during the period of the Great Peace of the Tokugawa shoguns. The exhibit is designed to show some lesser known sides of Japan under samurai rule such as popular notions of responsible lives, good deaths and desirable after lives. For more information, go to:

<http://peabody.yale.edu/exhibits/samurai-and-culture-japans-great-peace>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

NEW YORK

Pan Asian Repertory Theatre

520 8th Avenue, Suite 314, New York, NY phone: 212-868-4030

Performances in Theatre Row, 410 West 42nd Street, New York

July 5 - 26

Sayonara

Tisa Chang directs this re-imagining of the epic musical of US military in post-WWII Japan. The production highlights the all female Takarazuka dance theater and how compassion and love can heal prejudice despite the inevitable collision of two disparate codified cultures. At the Clurman Theatre in Theatre Row.

Fall 2015

No-No Boy

Following rave reviews and sold-out performances in May 2014, *No-No Boy* will return to NYC and select venues nationwide.

For more information and tickets for all performances go to:

<http://www.panasianrep.org/index.shtml>.

New York Historical Society Museum & Library

107 Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way (77th Street), NYC

through

Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion

April 19

An exhibit that explores the centuries-long history of trade and immigration between China and the United States. The accompanying narrative extends from the late 18th Century to the present and shows that the Chinese American saga is a key part of American history. For more information call 212-873-3400 or go to:

<http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/chineseamerican>.

Saturday-

Sakura Matsuri

Sunday

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York

Apr.25-26

A weekend celebrating traditional and contemporary Japanese culture.

10am-6pm

Entertainment and activities include taiko drumming, cosplay fashion show, tea ceremony, kabuki dance, manga drawing, vintage kimonos and much more. Tickets are \$25 adults; \$20 seniors and students; free children under 12. For more information and program schedule, go to:

http://www.bbg.org/visit/event/sakura_matsuri_2015.

WASHINGTON, DC

Saturday
April 11
10:30 am
– 6 pm

Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival 2015

12th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue NW; east to west on Pennsylvania Avenue NW; 9th to 14th Streets, Washington, DC

This is the major event of the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC, and the biggest Japanese street festival in the nation. It stretches six blocks and includes Japanese performances on three stages with more than 200 martial artists demonstrating their skills throughout the day. Other participants include 25 Japanese and Asian restaurants, 30 interactive cultural exhibits and 35 vendors selling Japanese products. For more information, go to:

<http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/SakuraMatsuri.htm>.

CALIFORNIA

Japanese American Museum San Jose

535 N. Fifth St., San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

current

Twice Heroes and More

An exhibit honoring Nisei veterans who fought in World War II and featuring the work of San Francisco photographer and writer Tom Graves. Other exhibits include ***The Barracks Room, Sports in the Japanese American Community,*** and ***Post World War II: Resettlement.***

Saturday

April 4

4:30-
6:30 pm

Traditions in Japanese Architecture

Karl Bareis undertook a carpenter's apprenticeship in Japan in the 1970s. He returned to the US in 1980 and designed and built the tea rooms in the Lower House of Hakone Gardens in Saratoga, CA. In 1994 he built the Daishu-in West Rinzaï Zen Temple in Humboldt County, CA. The program will begin with a talk about and a tour of the rebuilding of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. Suggested donation is \$10.

Sunday

April 12

1 pm

Poetry Readings: Perspectives on Camp

Five Asian Americans share their poetry illuminating the incarceration experience of Japanese Americans during WWII. Featured poets include Mitsuye Yamada, Nellie Wong, Mariko Nagai, Brian Komei Dempster, and Brynn Saito.

Reservations required.

Saturday

April 18

1 pm

Lost Battalion

Two survivors of the "Battle of the Lost Battalion" will take part in a discussion session at the museum. They are Lawson Sakai, a member of the 442nd and Al Tortolano, a member of the Lost Battalion. They will be joined by Franz Steidl, author of *Lost Battalions*, who has interviewed both American and German veterans of the battle. The program will be moderated by Tom Graves.

Reservations required.

Most Museum events are free with admission, but RSVPs are usually required.

For reservations, email PublicPrograms@jamsj.org or call 408-294-3138. For more information, go to: www.jamsj.org.

Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA phone: 213-625-0414

Wednesday

April 8

7 pm

Big Trouble in Little Tokyo Presents: *Big Trouble in Little China*

Screening of this film, an action-adventure set in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Directed by John Carpenter, the film received mixed reviews when first released, but has since become a cult classic. Tickets are available online and at the door.

through

April 26

Hello! Exploring the Supercute World of Hello Kitty

An exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of Hello Kitty, her colorful history and influence on art and culture.

current

Common Ground: The Heart of Community

This exhibit incorporates hundreds of objects, documents and photographs collected by the museum and chronicles 130 years of Japanese American history.

For more information on all exhibits and events, go to: www.janm.org.