



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

April 2017

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Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Sus Ito's photo exhibit coming to Boston May 3

Before They Were Heroes is an exhibition of photographs taken by the late Dr. Susumu (Sus) Ito while he was a member of the celebrated World War II 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Sus took the photos with a prohibited camera, capturing the daily lives of young Japanese American soldiers serving in Europe. The exhibit premiered at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles in 2015 and will be shown in Boston from May 3 through June 26 at the Transit Gallery of Harvard Medical School. The Transit Gallery is open Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm. New England JACL is working to arrange a special weekend showing for the Asian American community. Watch for details in future newsletters.

Participants sought for JACL Youth Legacy Program

National JACL has initiated a JACL Youth Legacy Program to connect young Asian Americans with the legacy of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. The program will bring Asian American youth together in Los Angeles, CA for four days of workshop sessions at the Japanese American National Museum and a day trip to Manzanar. A grant from the National Park Service will cover the cost of airfare, meals and lodging. Two sessions will be held: July 25 to 28 and August 8 to 11. The program is open to Asian American youth between the ages of 18 and 25, who are US citizens or permanent residents. **Deadline for application is April 21.** For more information and application: <https://jacl.org/youth/jacl-youth-legacy-program/>.

Smithsonian features exhibit on Japanese Americans

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II is an exhibit now featured at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, through February 19, 2018. Documents, artifacts, and art are on view. They include the original Executive Order; original artwork by Roger Shimomura who spent several years in Minidoka (Idaho); and other historic images and objects. For more information, go to: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/righting-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii>.

2017 Legacy Fund Grants up to \$7,500

Grants for amounts up to \$7,500 are being offered by The JACL Legacy Fund program. Applications must be submitted through local JACL chapters. Activities supported by grants may be ongoing or new, but must be completed no later than June 30, 2018. Deadline for application is May 1, 2017. For more information, go to: <https://jacl.org/legacy-fund-grants/>.

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Saturday
April 1
2 & 7 pm

Baseball Game & Film: Hingham High vs. Tennoji High

Hingham High School field & Auditorium, 17 Union Street, Hingham

Hingham High School continues its traditional baseball exchange with Osaka's Tennoji High School. This year Tennoji students are visiting Hingham High and will culminate the week with an exhibition baseball game on Saturday, April 2, at 2 pm. It will be followed by a closing ceremony that evening at 7 pm in Hingham High's auditorium. The evening program will include a screening of the documentary *KOKOYAKYU: High School Baseball*, featuring Tennoji's baseball team. The filmmakers will be present for a Q&A following the film. The game and closing program are free and open to the public.

Sunday
April 2
4 pm

Tamagawa Taiko & Dance

MIT, Kresge Auditorium, W16, 48 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

An evening of high energy Taiko drumming and Japanese folkloric dancing with the Tamagawa Taiko & Dance group. The more than 40 performers are returning to Boston during their US tour that includes performances in Philadelphia, Washington, DC, and New York. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$10 for students. The program is presented by Japan Society of Boston and MIT Japan. For more information, go to: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2448425>.

Tuesday
April 4
7-9 pm

Odaiko Introductory Taiko Workshop

ACAS, 29 Montvale Avenue, Woburn

Odaiko New England is offering an introductory taiko workshop for beginner players, including those with no musical background. New drummers will learn taiko fundamentals including *kata* (form), *kiai* (vocalization) and *kumidaiko* (ensemble drumming). Workshop fee is \$35. For more information and to register, go to: <http://onetaiko.org/web/classes/workshops/>.

Saturday
April 8
10 am -
4 pm

Asian America Feminism: Not Your Asian Sidekick

Neilson Library, 7 Neilson Drive, Smith College, Northampton

The focus will be on issues surrounding Asian/American/Pacific Islander feminism and activism to help create a space where Asian women and allies can learn more about the intersection of this type of feminism and where it fits in modern day social, political and academic climates. Keynote speakers are Prof. Miliann Kang, UMass, Amherst, and Miriam Yeung, activist and former director of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum. The program is sponsored by the JACL National Youth/Student Council, made possible by State Farm Insurance and Southwest Airlines, and presented by Pan Asians in Action. The program is free and open to the public. For more information contact Mieko Kuramoto at mkuramoto@smith.edu, or call 414-405-1836.

Fri. & Sat.
April 7 & 8
7 pm

We Create! Celebrating Women in the Arts
Hibernian Hall, 184 Dudley Street, Boston

Elaine Fong will be among the 17 women artists featured in the 2017 *We Create!* program. Well known and emerging artists will perform in music, dance, film, performance art, mixed media and circus arts celebrating this year's theme of *Hidden Stories*. Tickets are \$25 and Students \$15. For more information and tickets, go to: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2904221>.

Sunday
April 9
12:45 -
2:30 pm

The Genki Spark Open House & Free Workshop
Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Boston

The Genki Spark is a multi-generational, Asian women's arts and advocacy group that uses Japanese taiko drumming, personal stories, and creativity to build community, develop leadership, and advance respect for all. This event is free and open to the public, but because of limited space, advance registration is requested. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/492017-the-genki-spark-membership-open-house-free-workshop-tickets-31722621214>.

Friday
April 14
7 pm

Film: *Paper Lanterns*
Tufts University, ASEAN Auditorium at Fletcher School
160 Packard Avenue, Medford

The documentary about 12 American POWs killed when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Shigeaki Mori, a Japanese man who refused to let them be forgotten. Barry Frechette, director, and Peter Grilli, producer, will be present for Q&A following the screening. Admission is \$5, free to Tufts students.

Friday
April 21
9:30 pm

Films: *The Adventure of Denchu-Kozo & I am Sion Sono*
Harvard Film Archive, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy Street, Cambridge

As part of *Hachimiri Madness!*, the Harvard Film Archive is presenting Japanese independent films from the Punk Years. Directed by Shinya Tsukamoto, *The Adventure of Kenchu-Kozo (Denchu Kozo no Boken)* is the story of a teenage boy who discovers an electric pylon growing out of his back and is forced to battle cyborg vampires over the future of humanity. *I am Sion Sono!* was directed by Sion Sono and explores the possibilities of film as part of a much larger artistic project. For ticket prices and more information on these films, go to:

<http://hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/films/2017marmay/hachimiri.html#adventure>

Friday
April 28
7:30–
9:30 am

30th Heart of the Community Dim Sum Breakfast
China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler Street, Boston

The Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) is celebrating 30 years of building affordable homes, empowering families and strengthening communities. Featured this year will be the exclusive premiere of filmmaker Ken Eng's video sharing the stories of some of ACDC's founding board members, residents and youth leaders. Individual tickets are \$130. For more information and to order tickets, go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/acdcs-30th-anniversary-heart-of-the-community-dim-sum-breakfast-tickets-31613836837>.

Friday
April 28
4–5:30 pm

***Senile Mother or Lying Daughters?:
Female Inheritance Rights & Gender Roles in Medieval Japan***
Harvard Reishauer Institute, Porte Room (S250) Second Level
CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge

The speaker is Sachiko Kawai, Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard. Moderator is David Howell, professor of Japanese History, Harvard. For more information, go to: <http://rijs.fas.harvard.edu/programs/forum.php>.

Sunday
April 30
11 am –
6 p

Japan Festival Boston
Boston Common, 139 Tremont Street, Boston

Japan Festival Boston is an outdoor Matsuri with more than 100 booths featuring cultural activities and traditional and new Japanese foods and products. Two outdoor stages will offer music and cosplay events and performances. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, go to: <http://www.japanfestivalboston.org/about/>.

Tuesday
May 2
9:30 am

Ikebana: Demonstration by Grand Master Ingrid Lauders
Elm Bank, Hunnewell Carriage House, 900 Washington St., Wellesley

Ikebana International presents this demonstration by Ingrid Lauders of the Ohara School. She will be using containers by potters David and Keiko Hergesheimer. Tickets are \$20 at the door. For more information, contact Kaye Vosburgh at vosburghk@aol.com, phone 617-916-1944, or Joanne Caccavale at joanne.cc@verizon.net, phone 781-337-5704.

Friday
May 5
10 am –
1 pm

Multi-Industry Job Fair
Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 225 Tremont Street, Boston

The Asian American Civic Association is hosting a multi-industry job fair. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, email Cyndy@aaca-boston.org, or call 617-426-9492, ext. 215.

Saturday
May 13
12-4 pm

Brookline Sakura Matsuri – Cherry Blossom Festival
Brookline High School Quad, 115 Greenough Street, Brookline
SAVE THE DATE, more information next month!

On TV and Film

Sat/Apr 8 at 8:30 pm, WGBH Create

Lucky Chow: Bay Area's Pacific Rim Cuisine

Mon/Apr 17 at 8 pm, WGBH World

Pacific Heartbeat: Na Loea: The Masters II

Mon/Apr 24 at 8 pm, WGBH World

Pacific Heartbeat: Mele Murals

Films at Kendall Square Cinema, beginning Friday April 7

After the Storm The newest film by writer/director Hirokazu Kore-eda about a deadbeat father struggling to win back the love and respect of his wife and son.

Your Name An animated film by director Makoto Shinkai about time, the thread of fate and the hearts of two young souls. For more information on both films go to:

www.landmarktheatres.com/boston/kendall-square-cinema.

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

through
April 16

Facing the World: Modernization and Splendor in Meiji Japan
Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

The Meiji period is best known for dramatic domestic reforms in Japan and its modernization also involved presenting the country on the international stage through the beauty of its arts. The exhibition features lacquer ware that represented Japan at international expositions in Paris and San Francisco as well woodblock prints reflecting Japan's accelerated growth at home and abroad. Information:

<http://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/facing-world-meiji-japan/>

through
Aug. 20

New Women for a New Age: Japanese Beauties, 1890s to 1930s
Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Examine the changing image of Japanese women through prints, book illustrations, and photographs made in Japan from the 1890s to the 1930s. Arranged in roughly chronological order, the exhibition begins with *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints of the late Meiji era and postcards that include both photographs and artists' depictions. For more information, go to: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/new-women-for-a-new-age>.

online

Origami Now!
Peabody Essex Museum

The Peabody Essex Museum offers online instructions on origami with precise how-to directions by origami master Michael LaFosse. Featured are *Polar Origami* and *Origami Now!*, with videos on making your own penguins, narwhals, seals, polar bears, ducks, dogs, butterflies, and more. Go to: http://www.pem.org/exhibitions/69-origami_now

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

NEW YORK

Wednesday
April 12
6:30 pm

Screening: *Legacy Leaders of Color Video Project*
Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA)
215 Centre Street, New York, NY

Tisa Chang will be featured in this video of interviews chronicling the stories of founding leaders of theatres of color. Chang is the founder of New York's Pan Asian Repertory Theatre. Admission is free, but seating is limited and reservations required. For more information and reservations:

<https://my.mocanyc.org/single/SelectSeating.aspx?p=2027>.

CALIFORNIA

Saturday
April 29

Manzanar Pilgrimage: *Never Again, to Anyone, Anywhere!* **Manzanar, Highway 395, between Lone Pine & Independence, CA**

The day-long program includes daytime events, an interfaith memorial service and the special Mazanar at Dusk (MAD). For more information go to:

http://www.manzanarcommittee.org/The_Manzanar_Committee/Our_Pilgrimage.html

through
Aug. 13

Japanese American National Museum

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

Instructions to All Persons: Reflections on Executive Order 9066

An educational and interactive exhibition to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. For more information:

<http://www.janm.org/exhibits/instructions-to-all/>.

through
Aug. 20

New Frontiers: The Many Worlds of George Takei

A comprehensive exploration of Takei's life and career of pioneering actor, activist, and social media icon. *New Frontiers* draws on a collection of Takei's photographs, correspondence, scripts, awards, and one-of-a-kind artworks made by his legions of fans. For more information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/new-frontiers/>.

Saturday
April 8
1-3 pm

Japanese American Museum San Jose

535 N. Fifth St., San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

Screening: *The Empty Chair*

The story about Japanese Americans living in Juneau, Alaska, who were sent to incarceration camps during WWII and how the community stood in quiet defiance against their unjust treatment. Available for Q&A following the screening are the film's producer Greg Chaney and Margie Shackelford, chair of the Empty Chair Project. Karleen Grummet, author of *Quiet Defiance: Alaska's Empty Chair Story* will hold a book signing. The film is free with admission to the museum. Seating is limited and reservations necessary: email publicprograms@jamsj.org or call 408-294-3138. For more information on the program go to:

<http://www.jamsj.org/jamsj-news-item/2017/4/upcoming/1/the-empty-chair/>.

current

Exquisite Art Under Adverse Conditions

From the Japanese American Incarceration Camps 1942-1945

The art and craft created by many Japanese Americans who were forcibly held in camps during World War II. Using natural material from the 10 desolate incarceration camps, the artwork comes alive in a very natural way. For more information: <http://www.jamsj.org/exhibit/exquisite-art-under-adverse-conditions>

current

Sports in the Japanese American Community

Sports have always played an integral role in the Japanese American community. Sumo, kendo, judo, Asahi baseball and Zebras basketball were all very popular pre-war sports. For more information:

<http://www.jamsj.org/exhibit/sports-in-the-japanese-american-community>.

current

The Barracks Room

An accurate recreation of a family's living quarters at the Tule Lake camp. Most of the furnishings and other items in the room are genuine artifacts from the camps. For more information: <http://www.jamsj.org/exhibit/the-barracks-room>

Mingei International Museum

Balboa Park, Plaza de Panama, 1439 El Prado, San Diego, CA

**through
April 30**

Layers of Brilliance: The Journey of Japanese Lacquer Tools

The tools of Japanese lacquer makers are implements of prolonged use and objects of remarkable beauty. These humble, functional boards, bowls, buckets, shelves, and drawers were used to produce lacquer. For more information:

<http://www.mingei.org/mim-exhibition/layers-of-brilliance/>

**April 15 –
Oct. 8**

Kanban: Traditional Shop Signs of Japan

Kanban is a fusion of art and commerce, and refers to the traditional street signs Japanese merchants displayed to advertise their businesses. Created from wood, bamboo, iron, paper, fabric, lacquer, and even stone, kanban form a rich, visual vocabulary of traditional advertising. For more information, go to:

<http://www.mingei.org/mim-exhibition/kanban/>.