



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

April 2018

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Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

An overview of activities in Boston in April

It looks like a busy April for all of us. Be sure to reserve your tickets for the East Coast regional premiere of ***Allegiance***. Although the full cast has not been announced, we did hear that Michael Hisamoto, who did an outstanding job portraying Gordon Hirabayashi in the play *We Hold These Truths* at the Lyric Stage Company Theatre recently, will be taking on the role of Mike Masaoka. Reservation information is in the Events in New England section of this newsletter.

Looking to the far future, coming to Boston is the Lyric Stage Company's production of ***Pacific Overtures***, slated to run from May 10 to June 16, 2019. This musical, by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman, is set in Japan beginning in 1853 and follows the difficult westernization of that country. It premiered on Broadway in 1976 to mixed reviews and closed after six months. The original Broadway production starred Mako as the Narrator and there was a sprinkling of Asian actors in the rest of the cast. It has been revived a number of times internationally and on and off Broadway. Two more recent New York productions featured B.D. Wong (2005) and George Takei (2017) as Narrators. The Lyric Stage Company did such an innovative staging of *We Hold These Truths*, it will be very interesting to see what they do with *Pacific Overtures*. We'll publish more information as we receive it.

Also coming up are two Japanese Festivals in Boston. First is the **Japan Festival** on Sunday, April 29 on the Boston Common. It's grown steadily over the years and is now a major event for the city. The smaller **Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival** at Brookline High School on Saturday, May 12, is also growing, but more of a community based event. This year for the first time, The Genki Spark is offering Bon Odori (Japanese folk dancing) Workshops prior to the Festival on April 28 and May 4. Details for both Festivals are in the Events in New England section.

Student Essay, Performance & Visual Arts Contest

The Go For Broke National Education Center is accepting entries for its 2018 High School & College Student Essay, Performance and Visual Arts Contest. It is open to all high school (grades 9-12) and college (undergraduate and graduate) students. The competition offers \$1000 to its top six winners, \$200 to six second prize winners and \$100 to six third prize winners. **Deadline for entries is July 2, 2018.** For information: http://www.goforbroke.org/news/annual_events/studentcontest/index.php

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Saturday
April 7
6 pm

Tamagawa Taiko and Dance 2018

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

This group of 40 talented performers present an evening of high energy Taiko drumming and Japanese folkloric dancing. Presented by the Japan Society of Boston. \$20 General admission, \$10 for Japan Society members, Children 12 and under are free. For information and reservations, go to:

<http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2845528>

Monday
April 9
6:30 –
9:30 pm

A Taste of Ginger

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

A culinary and cultural experience benefitting Joslin Diabetes Center's Asian American Diabetes Initiative. Tickets are \$250. For more information and reservations:

<https://secure2.convio.net/jodc/site/SPageServer?pagename=2018ATasteofGinger>

Tuesday
April 10
5-7 pm

Japanese Language Gathering

Meridian Room, 5th Floor, CIC Boston, 50 Milk Street, Boston

An informal gathering sponsored by the Japan Society to practice speaking Japanese. This event is open to those learning to speak Japanese and native Japanese speakers. The program is free to Japan Society members and \$5 to all others. For information and registration go to:

<http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2861382>

Thursday
April 12
8 pm

Jake Shimabukuro

Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford

The ukulele virtuoso returns with his inspired touch on everything from island standards, popular tunes and classical symphonic concertos. Tickets are \$29, \$35, \$39 and \$45. For more information and reservations:

<https://zeiterion.org/jake-shimabukuro/>

Tuesday
April 17
6 pm

Japan Society of Boston:

Celebrate the Life Changing Magic of the Arts

Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Avenue, Boston

Japan Society's annual gala dinner is honoring Midori, acclaimed violinist, and Roger Servison, philanthropist. Tickets are \$275 for Japan Society members and \$300 for non-members. For information and registration:

<http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2786784>

Friday
April 27
7:30 am

Heart of the Community Dim Sum Breakfast

China Pearl Restaurant, 7 Tyler Street, Boston

Join the Asian Community Development Center as they celebrate 31 years of building affordable housing for families and strengthening communities. Tickets are \$130. For more information and to register, go to:

<https://asiancdc.org/events/dimsum2018>

- Saturday
April 28
6-8 pm** **The Genki Spark Public Taiko Workshop for Beginners**
Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Brookline
An introductory Taiko workshop open to all ages, no experience necessary. Cost \$30. For information and registration: www.thegenkispark.org
- Saturday
April 28
4pm and
Friday
May 4,7pm** ***Bon Odori Workshops***
The Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Brookline
Bon Odori are Japanese folk dances that are traditionally part of the Obon festival. The dances are simple, easy to learn and done in a big circle with music. These workshops put on by The Genki Spark are in preparation for the Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival on May 12th at Brookline High School. Three dances will be demonstrated and taught. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/youth. For more information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/come-learn-bon-odori-japanese-folk-dance-tickets-42139805292>
- Sunday
April 29
11 am to
5 pm** **Japan Festival Boston**
The Boston Common, Boston
This year's festival will feature 30 food booths, 50 stage performances, 80 arts, crafts and information booths, 50 workshops and cosplay events. For updates go to: <http://www.japanfestivalboston.org/>
- Thursday
May 3
6 – 9:30pm** **12th Unity Dinner: #RepresentASIAN**
Boston University Metcalf Hall, 775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston
An evening of networking and entertainment as Boston's Asian American Commission honors individuals and organizations making significant contributions in the communities they serve. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Pam Eddinger, President of Bunker Hill Community College. Tickets are \$125. For information and reservations: <http://www.aacommission.org/unity-dinner/>
- May 4 to
June 2** **Musical: ALLEGIANCE**
Stanford Calderwood Pavilion at the Boston Center for the Arts
527 Tremont Street, Boston
Tickets are now on sale for the East Coast regional premiere of this musical that was first presented in New York on Broadway from 2015-2016. The story of *Allegiance* is inspired by the experience of actor George Takei when his family was forced to leave their home in California following the outbreak of WWII. For information and reservations: <https://www.bostontheatrescene.com/season/SPK-presents-Allegiance/>
- Saturday
May 12
12 – 4 pm** **Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival**
Brookline High School Quad, 115 Greenough Street, Brookline
An annual festival highlighted by food, games and music. Featured is the region's only public taiko drumming program showcasing taiko groups from throughout New England. Also highlighting the program is the community Bon Odori, Japanese folk dances performed by the audience. See Bon Odori workshops, April 28 and May 4. Suggested donation is \$5 for students and \$10-\$20 for families. For more information: <http://www.brooklinecherryblossom.com/>

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

- MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS**
465 Huntington Avenue, Boston
- through
Aug. 12
- Japanese Prints: *The Psychedelic Seventies***
Expo '70 in Osaka marked the beginning of a period of prosperity in Japan that lasted over a decade and resulted in the country's participation in the development of global art styles of the time – in particular, the mind-bending motifs and chromatic verve of psychedelic art. It was reflected in fashion, architecture, and graphic design. For information: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/japanese-prints-the-psychedelic-seventies>
- BOSTON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM**
308 Congress Street, Boston
- through
Sep. 30
- Japanese House Gallery Exhibit: *Home***
An exhibit that explores the meaning and influence of home from the perspective of Japanese students. It showcases artwork created by the students of the Art Thinking project team at Tohoku University of Art & Design in Japan. For more information: <http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/exhibits-programs/exhibits/japanese-house-gallery>
- WORCHESTER ART MUSEUM**
55 Salisbury Street, Worcester
- through
Sep. 2
- Last Defense: The Genius of Japanese Meiji Metalwork***
The exhibition focuses on the genius and versatility of metalworkers during the transitional period of the Meiji Restoration. With the decline of the samurai class, armor-makers applied their skills and artistry to new types of metal products, from toys to decorative art. For information: <http://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/last-defense-japanese-metalwork/>
- SMITH COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART**
20 Elm Street at Bedford Terrace, Northampton, MA
- through
Aug. 26
- Modern Images of the Body from East Asia***
The exhibition, ranging widely in media and culture, is mostly drawn from the Smith College collection. It explores modern and contemporary portrayals of physical appearances in East Asia and particularly how these bodily images have come to symbolize identities, reflect socio-political changes, serve as vehicles for artistic expression, and challenge preconceived notions of humankind. For information: <https://www.smith.edu/artmuseum/On-View/Modern-Images-of-the-Body-from-East-Asia/Introduction>
- FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM**
455 Oak Street, Brockton, MA
- coming
June 2 to
Oct. 28
- Objects of Use and Beauty: Japanese Culinary Tools***
An exhibit demonstrating the beauty of design and craft in Japanese cooking tools. A residential Japanese kitchen will be recreated and culinary demonstration videos will feature the making of sushi rice, soba noodles, and other Japanese foods. For more information, go to: <https://fullercraft.org/event/objects-use-beauty-design-craft-japanese-culinary-tools/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

NEW YORK

through
May 6

INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

250 Bowery, New York City

Then They Came for Me: Incarceration during World War II

The ICP examines a dark episode in US history through the exhibit *Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II*. The exhibit includes photos by Toyo Miyatake as well as Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams, and others. For information: <https://www.icp.org/exhibitions/then-they-came-for-me-incarceration-of-japanese-americans-during-world-war-ii>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

through
Dec. 8

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

Documents Gallery, 2nd floor, National Museum of American History
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II is an exhibit now featured at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History through. Documents, articles and art exhibited include the original Executive Order 9066; 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>.

CALIFORNIA

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM SAN JOSE

535 N. Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

Thursday
May 3
7 pm

Don't Exclude Us: "I Never Saw My Father Again"

A multi-cultural panel will discuss broken families, torn apart, from Japanese Americans during WWII to Mexican Americans during the Mexican repatriation of the 1930s. Explore the answer to the question "How can we best defend civil liberties that are under attack today?" Free and open to the public, but reservations are required. Information and reservations: call 408-294-3138 or email publicprograms@jamsj.org

ongoing

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>

through
Aug. 19

ASIAN ART MUSEUM

200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA

When Pictures Speak: The Written Word in Japanese Art

Paintings that show the great historical and thematic range of the written word in Japanese Art. Though not unique to Japan, the marriage of text and image flourished there, finding relevance within each new generation of artists, writers and patrons. For more information: <http://infocus.asianart.org/japan/>

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

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

through
April 8

Contested Histories: Art & Artifacts from the Eaton Collection

This is the collection that was almost auctioned off in 2015 until Japanese American individuals and organizations intervened and prevented the items from being sold. All of the artwork and artifacts from the Japanese American incarceration camps were saved and are now at the Japanese American National Museum. The collection includes more than 450 paintings, photographs, sculptures, pieces of jewelry and other objects from the camps. For more information, go to: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/contested-histories/>

April 7 to
Oct. 28

hapa.me – 15 years of the hapa project

Artist Kip Fulbeck continues his project begun in 2001, of photographing persons who identify as “Hapa” – of mixed Asian/Pacific Islander descent – to promote awareness and positive acceptance of multiracial identity. He pairs the earlier photos with contemporary portraits and newly written statements by the subjects, reflecting physical and perspective changes. Also included are portraits of hundreds of new participants. For more information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/hapa-me/>

ongoing

Sadako’s Crane

Sadako Sasaki was born in Hiroshima and was two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on that city. When she was 12 and hospitalized for leukemia, she learned of the Japanese belief that anyone who folds 1000 cranes would be granted a wish. Although she folded 1,300 cranes, she died on October 25, 1955. Since then Sadako and the crane has become immortalized as a symbol for world peace. One of the original cranes folded by Sadako was presented to the museum by her family and is on display. For more information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/sadako-crane/>

ongoing

Common Ground: The Heart of the Community

This exhibit incorporates hundreds of objects, documents, and photographs collected by the Japanese American National Museum and chronicles 130 years of Japanese American history, beginning with the early days of the Issei pioneers through the WWII incarceration to the present. For more information, go to: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/commonground/>