



New England Chapter News

Japanese American Citizens League

April 2020

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Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Our lives in the days of the coronavirus

It seems like it was a long time ago when we sent out our March newsletter congratulating ourselves on our successful Day of Remembrance event on February 29. It was shortly after that the coronavirus crisis began here in New England. My apologies for not getting an April newsletter out to you sooner. Our newsletter will be a little different this month. I continue to get emails about cancelled or postponed events and some information about online activities that might interested you. So you'll find short items instead of a calendar of events.

Just like all of you, our lives have changed dramatically because of the statewide lockdown due to the pandemic. As many of you know my husband and I moved into a retirement community a few years ago. The newspapers are saying facilities for the elderly are being hit hard by the virus. Our facility (Newbury Court in Concord, MA) is a CCRC (Continuing Care Retirement Community) is made up mostly of independent living apartments with access to a nursing home and assisted care facility. Because of the more vulnerable residents here, Newbury Court has stayed ahead of many other similar communities in preparing for the crisis. We've been in some form of lockdown since March 16. Currently we are in total lockdown and encouraged not to leave our apartments. We are being well taken care of and actually feel safer here than if we were living out in the community. We hope all of you are finding ways to get through this period and you and your families are staying safe and healthy.

Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund

Five Boston community organizations have joined to form the Asian Community Emergency Relief Fund (ACERF) to provide immediate and direct financial support to the members of the Boston Asian community who have lost work and are having trouble meeting their basic needs and may be not eligible for other public benefits. The fund was launched by the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) in partnership with the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW), Chinese Progressive Association, Greater Boston Legal Services' Asian Outreach Unit, and Vietnamese American Initiative for Development.

The donations are tax deductible and will directly help families and individuals pay for food, medical care and other basic expenses during the crisis. The fund was seeded with a \$10,000 donation from The Boston Foundation's Asian Community Fund. The fund has already surpassed its goal of \$150,000, but with the unpredictability of the pandemic, additional funds are welcomed. To donate: <https://donorbox.org/covid19-relief-fund>

From Tsuru for Solidarity: *Keep on Folding!*

We received an April 7 message from Tsuru for Solidarity regarding what to do with the cranes we folded to be used in the now postponed National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps . Here is their message:

*“Even before the coronavirus upended life and led to the postponement of the National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps, the paper crane committee has been wanting to write to you **because we have reached a total of 110,605 tsuru!** (editor’s note: the count on their website today is 119,756) Yes, we are less than 15,000 away from our goal of folding 125,000 cranes. As we grapple with the unprecedented “new normal,” we are ever more grateful for the strength and friendship we have gained from each other. Folding cranes together has built our collective determination to Close the Camps and that hasn’t been deterred.*

***Please continue to fold!** We plan to collect tsuru until we reach our initial goal of 125,000. New deadline, May 15. Please do not mail them to the collection points in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and Washington, DC. Hold on to them for now, but let us know your count by emailing tsuruforsolidarity@gmail.com and writing “Tsuru count” in the subject line. Take a picture of yourself and your Tsuru and tag us in social media so we can share! Tsuru for Solidarity is planning a June 5-6 national unity action online and we will ask for your participation with your cranes. Details to follow.”*

I will send out follow-up information as I receive it. In the meantime, you can check in with Tsuru for Solidarity for any updates on their activities: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/>

A must read: *Coughing while Asian*

Here’s an Opinion piece by Paul Watanabe from the April 4 Boston Globe: <https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/04/09/opinion/coughing-while-asian/>

Film: *Alternative Facts* online free

If you missed seeing the film *Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066* by Jon Osaki, the film’s distributor, New Day Films, is giving you an opportunity to see it free online. By going to the site below, you can get a free 14-day streaming license to see the film. For details, go to: <https://www.newday.com/free-streaming>

Activities from Japan Society of Boston

The Japan Society of Boston is offering a variety of activities from their web site. It includes Japanese language classes, recipes, Japanese art lectures, and museum tours. Go to: <https://japansocietyboston.wildapricot.org/>

JACL Scholarship deadline extended

National JACL has extended its scholarship filing deadline for undergraduate, graduate, law, arts and student aid applications to May 1. There is no change to the March 2 freshman scholarship application deadline. For details, go to: <https://jacl.org/jacl-national-scholarship-program/>