



## *New England Chapter News*

### *Japanese American Citizens League*

April 2021

Visit our web site: [www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org)

**Dear JACL members and friends:** If the pandemic wasn't life altering enough, the last few weeks has been especially frightening, saddening and angering for Asian American. The encouraging result is seeing **all** Asian Americans joining together to fight this wave of anti-Asian hate. Read the story below about the fantastic response Ken Oye and Chris Pilcavage received when they organized the MIT Starr forum event ***On Causes and Responses to Anti-Asian Violence***. It was energizing to know so many others share our concerns.

To give us a brief respite from pandemic and racism issues, we're having another cooking class with Debra Samuels on Saturday, April 24, from 4 to 5:30 pm. Everyone enjoyed it so much when we made *Okonomiyaki* with her in January, we wanted to do another one. This time we're making a Bento featuring Spam musubi in honor of our late, great member Sus Ito. You can assemble your bento with Deb, then enjoy it as your evening meal. Details about our **Hanami Bento class** are on page 2 of our newsletter.

Please stay safe and healthy until we can all meet again virtually or in person.

--- *Your New England JACL Board.*

## **650 register for Anti-Asian Violence Forum**

More than 650 persons nation-wide registered for the March 31 MIT Starr Forum ***On Causes and Responses to Anti-Asian Violence***. Kudos to our chapter Co-President Ken Oye and Board member Christine Pilcavage for pulling together an amazing event so quickly because of the need for an immediate response to recent events. They were able to get the word out about the forum using MIT and national JACL resources. The program featured:

**Melissa Nobles**, Dean, MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences

**Paul Watanabe**, Prof. of Political Science, Dir. of the Institute for AA Studies, UMass Boston

**Katharine Moon**, Prof. of Political Science, Chair of Asian Studies, Wellesley College

**Tram T. Nguyen**, Massachusetts State Representative and House Asian Caucus member

Moderated by **Ken Oye** and **Christine Pilcavage**.

The speakers covered topics ranging from the history and current scope of anti-Asian violence to its implications for legislative responses and the future.

If you missed this important Zoom event, you can see a recording of it on YouTube:

**MIT Starr Forum: *On Causes of and Responses to Anti-Asian Violence***.

on the CIS YouTube Channel at <https://youtu.be/Bta9og-7zis>.

## **JACL Anti-Hate Program online**

National JACL has developed a *JACL Anti-Hate Page* that contains resource information in response to the rise in anti-Asian hate crimes. To access this web site, go to:

<https://jacl.org/antihate-program?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=c3cfc9d5-29b1-41da-be21-2756e44c90c4>

## Cooking with Debra Samuels



### ***Hanami Bento***

featuring Spam musubi

a virtual class via Zoom

**Saturday, April 24, 4 to 5:30 pm**

To register send an email to:

[cooking@nejacl.org](mailto:cooking@nejacl.org)

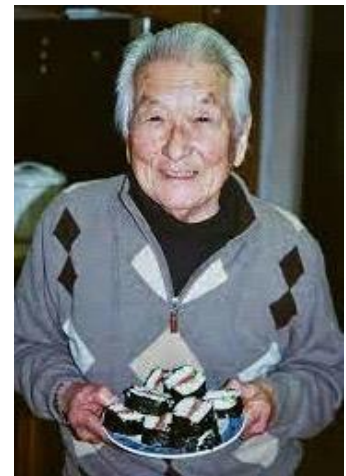
write "Spam musubi" as the subject

Join us in welcoming Spring with a special cooking class on making a ***Hanami Bento***. *Hanami* in

Japanese means flower viewing and it's the traditional custom of enjoying the beauty of blossoming cherry trees. Our version of this custom features a delicious bento that includes Spam musubi made from a recipe by the late **Susumu Ito**, beloved member of the New England JACL and a veteran of the 442nd. Everyone remembers him bringing this special treat to JACL gatherings and meetings and making us all fans of the dish.

**Debra Samuels**, who learned to make Spam musubi from Sus, will be leading this workshop. You'll have the choice of cooking along with her or just watching to learn the technique. She'll also make a tangy cucumber and seaweed salad and other goodies to complete the bento. Debra describes Spam musubi as "layers of short grain rice, teriyaki glazed spam, salty *furikake* sprinkles and piquant shards of red ginger are pressed into a rectangular shape packed with savory flavors." Debra is a cookbook author (***My Japanese Table***), culinary educator, and a former contributor to the Boston Globe Food pages. She's also a member of New England JACL.

You'll be provided a list of ingredients and recipes when you register and Zoom information will be sent to you shortly before April 24. This class is free and open to the public.



**Sus Ito with a plate of Spam musubi**

**About Spam musubi molds.** It is not necessary to have a Spam musubi mold for this class. Debra will show you alternative methods to make your musubi. If you wish to purchase a plastic mold, they are available online and in Japanese grocery stores. When we checked, they ranged in price from \$4 and up. To find them, just Google "Spam Musubi molds." We did not check all the Japanese grocery stores in the Boston area, but we did find a few at Maruichi in Arlington.

## LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS & MISC.

### USC: *Reparations Past and Present*

#### *A Conversation with Ta-Nehisi Coates*

Tuesday, April 13 from 12 to 1 pm (Pacific Time)

registration required

Ta-Nehisi Coates is a journalist, MacArthur Fellow, and a National Book Award winning author. He wrote the influential 2014 essay "The Case for Reparations" and in 2019 testified before a Congressional House hearing on HR 40, a bill to establish a commission to study reparations. His talk will be moderated by Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams, Director of the USC Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Cultures. The program is sponsored by the Ito Center in partnership with Densho, the Japanese American National Museum, and Tsuru for Solidarity. Information and to register:

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/events/site/192/35334966853018/reparations-past-and-present-a-conversation-with-ta-nehisi-coate/>

### Perspectives: *Queerness, Ethnicity and Gender in the Arts*

Sunday, April 18 , from 8:30 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

Among the issues to be explored is how ethnic identity, gender, and sexual orientation have influenced the works of queer Nikkei artists. Artists working in different media will share their thoughts in conversation. Artists include Rey Fukuda, Jill Guillermo Togawa, Nikiko Masumoto, and Michael Matsuno. Moderator is traci kato kiriyama. This program is part of *Seeing LGBTQ Nikkei*, a collaboration of J-Sei and Okaeri-Los Angeles, and is a series of programs centered on the perspectives and insights of different generations of queer Japanese Americans. Information and to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seeing-queer-nikkei-tickets-141077369209?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=c3cfc9d5-29b1-41da-be21-2756e44c90c4>

### Spring Japanese Language Courses start April 19

Boston's Japan Society will begin its Spring Japanese Language Courses on April 19. They will be offering beginner, intermediate and advanced online courses. Cost of the 10-week online course is \$300 with a 15% discount for Japan Society members. Courses are taught by native Japanese speakers. Information and to register:

<https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4206794>

### Discussion: *Unexpected Sites of WWII Incarceration*

Wednesday, April 21 at 12 pm (Pacific Time)

registration required

Scholars Takako Day, Courtney Sato, and Heidi Kim will present their original research on camps run by the Department of Justice to incarcerate Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII. These camps were very different from the 10 incarceration centers with we are familiar. They include a private mansion in Chicago, a tuberculosis sanitarium, upscale hotels in North Carolina and other locations hidden in plain sight. The scholars will be joined in conversation by Brian Niiya, Densho's Content Director. Information and to register:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_VLvZqI4uRzqXAL0kckdmTA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_VLvZqI4uRzqXAL0kckdmTA)

## Chicken Karaage Cooking Class

**Sunday, April 25 from 11 am to 12:30 pm (Pacific Time) registration required**

An online cooking class all the way from San Francisco and its Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. The menu includes crispy fried *karaage* chicken and cabbage salad. Cost is \$10. Information and registration:

[https://www.jcccnc.org/event/kenjis-kitchen-chicken-karaage-online-cooking-class/?instance\\_id=44278](https://www.jcccnc.org/event/kenjis-kitchen-chicken-karaage-online-cooking-class/?instance_id=44278)

## BCNC Lantern Festival Gala goes virtual

**Thursday, May 6 , starting at 5:30 pm (Eastern Time) registration required**

The Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) is holding its annual gala virtually this year. The program will be hosted by Janet Wu, anchor/reporter for Bloomberg News. The evening's entertainment will include Ava Sophia, Aznjub featuring Jeff La, Continuum Dance, and Shaw Pong Liu. Tickets are \$50. Information and tickets:

<https://givebutter.com/BCNC2021Gala?bblinkid=249421331&bbemailid=29851601&bbejrid=1897344711>

## Book Launch: *Facing the Mountain*

**Tuesday, May 11 at 5 pm (Pacific Time) registration required**

*Facing the Mountain* is a new book that chronicles the World War II incarceration of the Japanese Americans and the experiences of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. The book is by Daniel James Brown, the author of the NY Times bestseller *The Boys in the Boat*. This virtual event will feature a conversation between Brown and Densho Executive Director Tom Ikeda, who conducted oral histories with many of the men highlighted in the book. *Facing the Mountain* grew out of a conversation Brown had with Ikeda in 2015. Brown tells the story of the kaleidoscopic journey of four Japanese American families and their sons based on his extensive interviews with the families of the protagonists as well as his deep archival research. Information and to register: <https://densho.org/mountain/>

## ACLU: *JA and African American Reparations and HR-40*

An ACLU webinar on *Japanese American and African American Advancing the Movement for Reparations and HR-40* (held last month) is now available online. Japanese Americans featured in the program include Satsuki Ina, Co-Founder of Tsuru for Solidarity; Susan Hayase, Co-Founder of San Jose Nikkei Resisters; Stan Shikuma, President of Seattle JACL; Ron Wakabayashi, former JACL National President; Troy Osaki, poet; Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams, Director, USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture. To view:

<https://www.aclu.org/news/topic/reparations-h-r-40-and-the-path-forward/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=c3cfc9d5-29b1-41da-be21-2756e44c90c4&redirect=reparations>

## **Panel: *Intergenerational Trauma of Japanese Americans***

**Wednesday, May 12, from 6-7:30pm (Pacific Time)**

**registration required**

San Diego JACL will present a panel discussing the intergenerational impact and trauma of the Japanese American incarceration during WWII. Featured on the panel are Debra Kuwahara, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the California School of Professional Psychology, and Donna Nagata, Professor of Psychology, University of Michigan. The program is free and open to the public. Information and registration by email:

[sandiegojacl@gmail.com](mailto:sandiegojacl@gmail.com).

## **AUDIO THEATRE**

### **Huntington Theatre Company**

#### ***Tiger Style!* – An Audio Play**

All four episodes of the Huntington Theatre's hit 2016 production of *Tiger Style!* is available as an audio play online. *Tiger Style!* is the story of squabbling siblings Albert and Jennifer Chen – both have reached the pinnacle of academic success, but as adults feel they are epic failures. He's just been passed up for promotion and she's been dumped by her boyfriend. They confront their parents and launch an Asian Freedom Tour from California to China. The comedy examines race, parenting and success with wit and sharp humor. The cast includes Francis Jue, Emily Kuroda, Rubio Qian and John Norman Schneider. The play is by Mike Lew and directed by Maritz von Stuelpnagel. This event is free and open to the public. To listen to the play, go to:

[https://soundcloud.com/huntington/sets/tiger-style-an-audio-play?utm\\_source=wordfly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EBLAST\\_3.3\\_TigerStyle!Entireseries&utm\\_content=version\\_A](https://soundcloud.com/huntington/sets/tiger-style-an-audio-play?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBLAST_3.3_TigerStyle!Entireseries&utm_content=version_A)

### **Huntington Theatre Company**

#### ***The View from MemChurch* by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro**

A short audio play by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro, a NE JACL member, is featured in the Huntington Theatre Company's *Dream Boston* series. Rosanna's play is set in Harvard Yard with a cast that includes Emily Kuroda, Alberto Isaac, and Calley Chase. To listen to the play, go to:

[https://www.huntingtontheatre.org/season/upcoming/dream-boston/memchurch/?utm\\_source=wordfly&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EBLAST\\_12.8\\_DreamBoston&utm\\_content=version\\_A](https://www.huntingtontheatre.org/season/upcoming/dream-boston/memchurch/?utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBLAST_12.8_DreamBoston&utm_content=version_A)



## EXHIBITS

### ***Memento Mori***

**Praise Shadows Art Gallery, 313A Harvard Street, Brookline  
thru April 18**

To commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami the Praise Shadows Art Gallery presents the US premiere of ***Memento Mori***, a painting series by Yuri Shimojo dedicated to the memory of the lives lost in the disaster.

Information: <https://praiseshadows.com/exhibitions/memento-mori/>

Film about artist: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tGD0rXxn4gw>

### ***The Kimono in Print: 300 Years of Japanese Design***

**Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury Street, Worcester**

**The exhibit runs until May 2**

This is the museum's first exhibit devoted to examining the kimono as a major source of inspiration and experimentation in Japanese print culture from the Edo period (1603-1868) to the Meiji period (1868-1912). This dialogue between print and kimono design is illustrated by approximately 70 Japanese prints. Print artists from this period documented ever-evolving trends in fashion, popularized certain styles of dress, and even designed kimonos.

Information on this exhibit: <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-in-print/>

### ***Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso***

**Virtual Exhibition**

The **Worcester Art Museum** is partnering with Chiso, the distinguished, 465-year-old, Kyoto-based kimono house to present a view of the world of traditional kimono design and artistry. Over the course of 10 weeks, the virtual exhibit provided a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the *Worcester Wedding Kimono*, the first kimono ever commissioned as a work of art by an art museum. The final episode of the series will be available on February 6. For information and access to the video series, go to:

<https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-couture/>