



## **New England Chapter News** **Japanese American Citizens League**

APRIL 2024

[www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org)

### **In Remembrance: May Kyoko Takayanagi**

We were all saddened by news of the death of May Takayanagi on March 12. She passed away peacefully at the age of 99. May was born and grew up in Oakland, CA. She was 17 when WWII broke out and she and her family were first sent to Tanforan to live in horse stalls and then to the American concentration camp at Topaz, Utah. May was able to leave camp before the end of the war when she found work as a domestic in Minneapolis. She married Tetsuo "Taka" Takayanagi in 1949 in Berkeley, CA. The couple came East to Cambridge, MA, when Taka entered Harvard's school of architecture the following year. They then moved to Newton where they raised three children. It was because of their personal experiences before and during the War the couple became very actively involved in peace and justice issues. Before her retirement, May was the New England Regional Accountant for the American Friends Service Committee for 28 years. She sat on the boards of countless organizations including the New England JACL, the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Japan Society, UMass Boston Institute for Asian American Studies, and many others.

Paul Watanabe, Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston, sent a note to many of us in which he beautifully summed up the high regard we all hold for May in our community: "Although small in stature, May was a major force of activism and support for civil rights in the Asian American and broader civil rights communities in Massachusetts. She will be greatly missed by all of us. By deed and example, she demonstrated a remarkable belief in the ability of good to triumph over evil. She believed that the younger generation, which means all of us younger than 100, would carry on these struggles and defeat the bigots, fascists, and war mongers. Let's all pledge to carry on the fight that she has led so well."

### **FESTIVALS, PROGRAMS, EVENTS**

#### **Book Talk: *The Manicurist's Daughter: A Memoir***

Tuesday, April 2 at 6 pm

Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle St., Cambridge

Harvard Book Store welcomes **Susan Lieu**, award-winning author, playwright and performer of *140 LBS: How Beauty Killed My Mother* and the sequel *OVER 140 LBS*. She discusses her memoir with **Grace Talusan**, author of *The Body Papers*. *The Manicurist's Daughter* is more than a memoir about grief, trauma and body image. It is the story of fierce determination, strength in shared culture, and finding your place in the world. **INFO & Tickets:**

[https://www.harvard.com/event/susan\\_lieu/](https://www.harvard.com/event/susan_lieu/)

**Hybrid Lecture: *The MFA's Korean Art Collection and Hallyu!*****Wednesday, April 3 from 1 to 2:30 pm****Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

*Hallyu! The Korean Wave* features several works from the MFA's permanent collection of Korean art—a lesser-known area of the Museum's holdings, but among the largest in America, with strengths in Buddhist paintings, metalwork, and ceramics. Take a look at the collection and discover how Korean history and tradition has inspired the country's creative industries today with **Christina Yu Yu**, Matsutaro Shoriki Chair, Art of Asia. **INFO & Tickets** (in-person or livestream): <https://www.mfa.org/event/lecture/the-mfas-korean-art-collection-and-hallyu?event=113321>

**Book Talk: *Red Helicopter******A parable for our times: lead change with kindness (plus a little math)*****Tuesday, April 9 at 7 pm****Belmont Books 79 Leonard St., Belmont**

**Belmont Books**, in partnership with the **GBH Forum Network**, welcomes **James Rhee**, acclaimed CEO, TED Speaker and Entrepreneurship Professor in conversation with **Cliff Hakim**. Rhee shares the inspirational true story of finding success through kindness (plus a little math). Learn the deceptively simple and positive way to embrace your agency, lead change, and fly free—in the business of life *and* the life of business. RSVP requested; seating is limited. **INFO:** <https://www.belmontbooks.com/event/james-rhee-conversation-cliff-hakim>

**Virtual Book Launch: *A Child's Introduction to AAPI History*****Tuesday, April 9 at 5 pm (PT) / 8 pm (ET)**

**Bel Canto Books** in Long Beach, CA welcomes author **Naomi Hirahara** and Illustrator **Sarah Demonteverde** with the perfect primer for kids ages 8-12 packed with remarkable stories, groundbreaking events, and inspirational people that have made a lasting impact on the history and culture of the United States. The book features profiles of dozens of AAPI trailblazers from all walks of life, including political activist Grace Lee Boggs, Vice President Kamala Harris, actor Dwayne Johnson and others who have made contributions to music, food, the sciences, technology and more. Kids will learn terms like "Asian American" and "Pacific Islander," how to pronounce common Asian names, and the discrimination members of the community have faced (and continue to face). **INFO & Registration:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-book-launch-with-naomi-hirahara-sarah-demonteverde-tickets-808621256947>

**Hybrid Lecture: *K-Pop and Beyond*****Wednesday, April 10 from 1 to 2:30 pm****Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

Dive into the rich history of K-pop, from its humble beginnings to its current status as a global sensation. Learn what distinguishes K-pop from other musical genres and why it captivates a global audience from diverse backgrounds. Lecture presented by **Dr. Ray Seol**, Assistant Professor of Professional Music, Berklee College of Music. **INFO & Tickets** (in-person or livestream): <https://www.mfa.org/event/lecture/k-pop-and-beyond?event=113331>

**College Night: *Hallyu!*****Thursday, April 11 from 6 to 9 pm****Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

In celebration of Korean art and pop culture, the MFA welcomes college and university students for an evening of dance performances, art making, music, gallery talks, free food and more! Free admission with a valid school ID. Tickets available in person on a first-come, first-served basis. **INFO:** <https://www.mfa.org/event/special-event/college-night-hallyu>

**Hybrid Symposium: *Global Korea Beyond the Wave***

Friday, April 12 from 2 to 4 pm

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

The MFA and Harvard University's Korea Institute explore global circuits of Korean cultural production that preceded and extend beyond the Korean Wave. **Speakers:** Keynote: **Rosalie Kim**, curator of Korean Art and lead exhibition curator, *Hallyu! The Korean Wave*, Victoria & Albert Museum, London; **Nicholas Harkness**, Modern Korean Economy & Society Professor of Anthropology and Director, Korea Institute, Harvard University; **Ju Yon Kim**, Patsy Takemoto Mink Professor of English, Harvard University; **Soyoung Lee**, Landon & Lavinia Clay Chief Curator, Harvard Art Museums; and **Cecilia Heejeong Kim**, Professor of Composition & New Media, Sangmyung University and Kim Koo Visiting Professor, Harvard University. **INFO & Tickets** (in-person or livestream): <https://www.mfa.org/event/symposium/global-korea-beyond-the-wave?event=113776>

**Memoir Book Talk:**• ***Secrets of the Sun* by Mako Yoshikawa**• ***Cat and Bird* by Kyoko Mori**

Friday, April 12 at 7 pm

Belmont Books, 79 Leonard St., Belmont

**Mako Yoshikawa's** father, Shoichi, was a man of contradictions. She adored him, feared him, and eventually cut him out of her life. Her search takes her through everything from the Asian American experience of racism to her father's dedication to fusion energy research, from mental illness to the treatment of women in Japan, and more. • ***Cat and Bird***, a "memoir in animals," is anchored around **Kyoko Mori's** relationship with the 6 house cats who defined the major eras of her life as a writer. **INFO:** <https://www.belmontbooks.com/event/mako-yoshikawa-and-kyoko-mori-discuss-their-new-memoirs>

**An Evening with Shinya Yamanaka, Nobel Prize Winning Researcher**

Wednesday, April 17 at 7 pm

Museum of Science, Mugar Omni Theater, Boston

Hear about **Dr. Shinya Yamanaka's** groundbreaking work and the discovery that mature cells can be converted to stem cells, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2012. He will also discuss his current work within the life sciences at the Center for iPS Cell Research and Application, Kyoto University. **Free admission with pre-registration:** <https://www.mos.org/events/subspace/shinya-yamanaka>

**Book Talk: *Dear Wendy***

Wednesday, April 17 at 7 pm

Porter Square Books, 25 White St., Cambridge

**Ann Zhao** discusses her debut YA novel with author **Sara Farizan**, award-winning author of several YA novels. Sophie and Jo, two aromantic and asexual college students, engage in an online feud. As they grow closer in real life, will their friendship survive when they learn who's behind the *Dear Wendy* and *Sincerely Wanda* online accounts? **INFO & RSVP:**

<https://www.portersquarebooks.com/event/ann-zhao-author-dear-wendy-conversation-sara-farizan>

**Book Talk: *Red Helicopter******A parable for our times: lead change with kindness (plus a little math)***

Tuesday, April 23 at 7 pm

Wellesley Books, 82 Central St., Wellesley

**James Rhee** discusses his new book with **Stephen Hinds**, Founding President of WPS Institute. **INFO & Tickets:** <https://www.wellesleybooks.com/event/james-rhee>

### **Cambodian New Year Celebration**

**Saturday, April 20 from 9 am to 12 pm Lowell Senior Center, 276 Broadway St, Lowell**  
Join the **Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA)** and community partners at this annual community event celebrating the Cambodian New Year and featuring delicious Khmer food, beautiful traditional outfits and performances of Cambodian folk dance. The event is free and open to the public.

- 12:30 pm Khmer New Year Parade from Lowell Senior Center to Clemente Park
  - 12 to 5 pm Khmer New Year Celebration at Clemente Park, 823 Middlesex St., Lowell
- INFO:** <https://one.bidpal.net/lowellkny24/welcome>

### **Hybrid Lecture: *Korean Cinema***

**Wednesday, April 24 from 1 to 2:30 pm** **Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**  
**Christina Klein**, Professor of English at Boston College, presents a survey of Korean film from the late 1990s to the present, covering popular film, art cinema and indie productions, including those directed by women. She will consider the impact that streaming services such as Netflix are having on the film industry in South Korea. **INFO & Tickets** (in-person or livestream):  
<https://www.mfa.org/event/lecture/hallyu-cinema?event=113341>

### **Virtual Event: GBH | WORLD Celebrate AANHPI Heritage Month**

**Thursday, April 25 from 6 to 7:30 pm**

This year's event celebrates the important role that Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) artists play in their communities by sharing personal stories about their culture and history through film, writing, and dance. The evening features a conversation between **Celeste Ng**, the bestselling author of *Little Fires Everywhere*, and **Ju Yon Kim**, the Patsy Takemoto Mink Professor of English at Harvard University. They will reflect on the ways their Asian heritage and their life experiences have informed and shaped their academic and writing careers. They will compare and contrast how Asian Americans are portrayed in film, literature, and American media and how their work has influenced and impacted the narrative about representation in culture. **INFO & RSVP:** <https://www.wgbh.org/events/a-conversation-with-author-celeste-ng-and-harvard-professor-ju-yon-kim-celebrate-aanhpi-month>

### ***The Larger Conversation: Migration and Memory***

**Thursday, April 25 from 7 to 8:30 pm**

**Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Calderwood Hall, 25 Evans Way, Boston**

How is culture handed down across generations and borders? How are places and spaces of belonging created and sustained? And what is the role of art and artists in creating these connections? Author **Sarah Thankam Mathews**, artist **Sneha "IMAGINE" Shrestha**, and creative producer **Susan Chinsen** of the Boston Asian American Film Festival discuss these questions and explore themes of displacement, home and building community through the arts in a conversation moderated by journalist **Heidi Shin**.

**INFO:** <https://www.gardnermuseum.org/calendar/larger-conversation-migration-and-memory>

### **Japan Festival Boston**

**Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28 from 11 am to 5 pm**

**Boston Common, 16 Charles St., Boston**

After 3 years, the festival finally returns with Japanese food, music, performances, vendors and more. **INFO:** <https://www.japanfestivalboston.org/2024-festival>

**Play: *The Far Country*****April 26 to May 18****Yale Repertory Theatre, 1120 Chapel St., New Haven, CT**

In the wake of the Chinese Exclusion Act, an unlikely family carries invented biographies and poems of longing on an arduous journey from Taishan to Angel Island Detention, in hopes of landing in San Francisco. Intimate and epic, ***The Far Country*** weighs the true cost of selling the past for the hope of a brighter future. The play is by Lloyd Suh, the author of ***The Chinese Lady***, that was in Boston in 2022 at the Central Square Theater.

**INFO & TICKETS:** <https://yalerep.org/productions/the-far-country/>**Box Office:** 203-432-1234**Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (April-December)**

For decades Studio Ghibli has created breathtakingly beautiful movies that have captivated and inspired audiences for generations through masterful storytelling and stunning visuals. Join GKIDS and Fathom Events for this annual fest to experience the wonder of these ground-breaking, beloved animated films.

**April 27 to May 1** *Spirited Away***May 19 & 21** *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* – 40th Anniversary

To find a movie theater near you, click on “Get Tickets” and enter your zip code.

**INFO:** <https://www.fathomevents.com/series/studio-ghibli-fest/>**Virtual Book Talk:*****Disability Intimacy: Essays on Love, Care, and Desire*****Tuesday, April 30 at 6 pm**

Harvard Book Store presents **Alice Wong**, author of *Year of the Tiger* and editor of *Disability Visibility*, in a panel discussion with **Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha**, author or co-editor of 10 books, including *The Future is Disabled*; **Nicole Lee Schroeder**, historian, educator and disability rights activist; and **Ellen Samuels**, associate professor & founding member of the UW Disability Studies Initiative. Free event. **INFO:** [https://www.harvard.com/event/alice\\_wong/](https://www.harvard.com/event/alice_wong/)

**Book Talk: *The Notes*****Tuesday, April 30 at 7 pm****Porter Square Books, 25 White St., Cambridge**

**Catherine Con Morse**, one of the inaugural Writers in Residence at PSB, talks with one of PSB's current Writer's in Residence, **Mia Tong**. *The Notes* is a poignant debut YA novel about dealing with academic pressures, falling in love for the first time, and finding yourself. **INFO & RSVP:**

<https://www.portersquarebooks.com/event/catherine-con-morse-author-notes-conversation-mia-tong>**Hybrid Lecture: *Hallyu and Korean Fashion*****Wednesday, May 1 from 1 to 2:30 pm****Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

Today, Korean fashion is so much more than the traditional *hanbok* dress. It is influenced by everything from international street style to couture, and in turn influencing the rest of the world with its take on those two points of view. Delve into how contemporary designers contextualize their experience through their creative lens and how the world of Korean fashion extends beyond clothing. Presenter: **Yoon Chang**, fashion designer; part-time assistant professor, Parsons School of Design (School of Fashion); and adjunct associate professor, Pratt Institute (School of Design). **INFO & Tickets** (in-person or livestream):

<https://www.mfa.org/event/lecture/hallyu-and-korean-fashion?event=113351>

## **Boston Red Sox Games at Fenway Park**

- **AAPI Celebration - Wednesday, May 1 at 7:10 pm**

For the annual Asian American & Pacific Islander Celebration, ticket holders who purchase through this special offer will receive a Red Sox AAPI Celebration jersey, in sizes Adult Small to XL, distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Arrive early to enjoy cultural performances. Special cultural themed food and drink will be available for purchase. **INFO & Tickets:** <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/promotions/themes/aapi-celebration>

- **Hello Kitty 50th Anniversary - Tuesday, June 25 at 7:10 pm**

**INFO & Tickets:** <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/promotions/themes/hello-kitty>

- **Japanese Celebration - Saturday, September 28 at 4:10 pm**

**INFO & Tickets:** <https://www.mlb.com/redsox/tickets/promotions/themes/japanese-celebration>

## **Hybrid Talk: Min Jin Lee: *Writing and the Korean Wave***

**Thursday, May 2 from 7 to 8 pm**

**Museum of Fine Arts, Boston**

Known for bestselling novels *Free Food for Millionaires* and *Pachinko*, **Min Jin Lee** uses her fiction to explore the intersections of race, ethnicity, immigration, class, religion, gender and identity of diasporic people. *Pachinko* was a finalist for the National Book Award for Fiction, has been translated into over 35 languages and is now a series on Apple TV+. In conversation with **Min Hyoung Song**, Professor & Department Chair of English, Boston College.

**INFO & Tickets** (in-person or livestream):

<https://www.mfa.org/event/the-ruth-and-carl-j-shapiro-celebrity-lectures/min-jin-lee-writing-and-the-korean-wave?event=105041>

## **2nd Asian Street Food & Music Festival**

**Sunday, May 5 from 11 am to 6 pm**

**Harvard Square, Church St., Cambridge**

Festival features live performances from traditional melodies to contemporary beats; crafts curated by international vendors; festive beer gardens; and delicious street food. Presented by the **Harvard Square Philippine American Alliance**. **INFO:** [www.hspaa.org](http://www.hspaa.org)

## **2024 Boston AAPI 5K**

**Saturday, May 18 at 9 am**

**Carson Beach, South Boston**

**AAPI 5K** is a community run celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Proceeds will benefit **local AAPI non-profits:** Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) • Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence (ASPIRE) • Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) • Asian Women for Health • Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) • Chinese Culture Connection • Chinese Progressive Association Boston (CPA) • JB Line, Inc. • Massachusetts Asian and Pacific Islanders for Health • National Association of Asian American Professionals – Boston • OCA New England • Panethnic Pourovers • Saheli • Taiwanese American Professionals • The Chinatown Project • VietAID • Vietnamese American Civic Association (VACA). **INFO:**

<https://raceroster.com/events/2024/76132/2024-boston-aapi-5k>

## CONCERTS, FILMS, PERFORMANCES

### **Film: *Perfect Days***

Through April 4

Coolidge Corner Theater, 290 Harvard St., Brookline

<https://coolidge.org/films/perfect-days>

Thursday, April 4 from 7 to 9 pm

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston

Hirayama is content with his life as a toilet cleaner in Tokyo. Outside of his structured routine he cherishes music on cassette tapes, books, and taking photos of trees. Through unexpected encounters, he reflects on finding beauty in the world. Film was nominated for Best International Feature Film at the recent Academy Awards, from director **Wim Wenders**.

This is the final film in the **UNIQLO Festival of Films from Japan**.

<https://www.mfa.org/series/uniqlo-festival-of-films-from-japan>

### **Concert: Mia Elezović**

Friday, April 5 at 8 pm Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Houston Hall, 8 Fenway, Boston

Mia Elezović is an acclaimed Croatian-Japanese pianist who has won numerous competitions abroad. She will hold a recital of mostly Japanese compositions on piano. Free event.

INFO: <https://www.japansocietyboston.org/events/mia-elezovic-piano-recital>

### **Film Festival: *Wicked Queer 40***

April 5 to 14 Encore streaming: April 15-30

INFO: <https://www.wickedqueer.org/festival/wicked-queer-40>

Asian films at the Emerson Paramount Center, 559 Washington St., Boston:

- *Emergence: Queer Asian Stories* – Sunday, April 7 at 3 pm

<https://www.wickedqueer.org/events/emergence>

- *Egoist* – Friday, April 12 at 6 pm

<https://www.wickedqueer.org/events/egoist>

- *Peafowl* - Sunday, April 13 at 7:30 pm

<https://www.wickedqueer.org/events/peafowl>

### **Concert: Rasa String Quartet**

Saturday, April 6 at 1 pm

Arlington Street Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston

The Boston-based **Rasa String Quartet** - Kiyoshi Hayashi, Maura Shawn Scanlin, Emma

**Kondo Powell**, and **Mina Kim** - explores the musical space where classical and global folk

traditions intersect and influence one another. They bring together folk selections and highlights from anime and film scores from Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Taiwanese backgrounds.

Presented by **Celebrity Series of Boston**. **INFO & Tickets:**

<https://www.celebrityseries.org/productions/rasa-string-quartet/>

### **Concert: Vista Philharmonic Orchestra featuring Midori**

Saturday, April 6 at 7:30 pm

Groton Hill Music Center, 122 Old Ayer Rd., Groton

The concert features works from the classical and romantic periods as well as symphonic music based on Hungarian folk tunes. **INFO & Tickets:**

<https://grotonhill.org/concerts/vista-philharmonic-orchestra-featuring-midori/>

**Chronicles of Changing Times: The Cinema of Edward Yang**April 7: *Mahjong*April 8: *The Terrorizers*April 15: *That Day on the Beach*April 19: *Mahjong*April 20: *Taipei Story; The Terrorizers*April 21: *Taipei Story*April 22: *In Our Time*May 3: *Yi Yi*May 4: *A Brighter Summer Day*May 5: *In Our Time*

Harvard Film Archive, Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge

In early 1980s, **Edward Yang** (1947-2007) returned to Taiwan and launched a 20-year career that was only too short for his immense talent and brilliance. As a leading figure of the Taiwan New Cinema, Yang conducted a series of inquiries into the trials and tribulations of contemporary life in Taipei. **INFO:** <https://harvardfilmarchive.org/programs/chronicles-of-changing-times-the-cinema-of-edward-yang>

**Concert: Ajaeng in America: Korean Music and Delta Blues**

Thursday, April 11 from 6 to 7 pm

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave., Boston

This performance synthesizes traditional Korean music and American blues in an innovative and contemporary way. **Yoona Kim** is a Boston-based composer, improviser and musician specializing in the *ajaeng*, a Korean string instrument. **Roman Barten-Sherman** is a banjo player and guitarist from Arizona. Together they play tracks from their first album, *Delta Dokkaebi*, which received a grant from the New England Conservatory, along with new compositions that showcase the fusion of their musical influences. **INFO & Tickets:**

<https://www.mfa.org/event/sound-bites/ajaeng-in-america-korean-music-and-delta-blues?event=113491>

**Concert: Grace Kelly with Strings: At the Movies**

Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 pm

Regent Theatre, 7 Medford St., Arlington

Jazz saxophonist, singer, composer and songwriter **Grace Kelly** comes with a 15-piece ensemble including strings taking us on a musical journey to Hollywood and giving new life to some of the silver screen's greatest tunes. **INFO & Tickets:**

[https://regenttheatre.csstix.com/event-details.php?e=220&mc\\_cid=99b7da3fc6&mc\\_eid=fa6aecb9d0](https://regenttheatre.csstix.com/event-details.php?e=220&mc_cid=99b7da3fc6&mc_eid=fa6aecb9d0)

**Concert: JIJI**

Thursday, April 11 at 7:30 pm

UMass Amherst, Bowker Auditorium, 80 Campus Center Way, Amherst

Equally at home with both acoustic and electric guitar, **JIJI** presents programs that range from traditional and contemporary classical to free improvisation. Through her impeccable musicianship, compelling stage presence, and commitment to commissioning and performing new musical works, JIJI has solidified her reputation as a top 21st century guitarist.

**INFO:** [https://fac.umass.edu/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=JIJI&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context\\_id=](https://fac.umass.edu/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=JIJI&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context_id=)

**Performance: Stardust in a Dandelion**

Friday, April 19 from 6 to 8 pm

Pao Arts Center, 99 Albany St., Boston

Come for an evening of music, poetry and visual arts, co-curated with musician and songwriter **Maddie Lam**. Enter a dreamworld crafted by sound and words that capture the worldly in the ethereal. The performances take you through an inner landscape of a human heart, charting the atlas of grief and loss, celebration and regeneration. Featuring artwork by **Ashley Jin** and poetry by **Anny Thach**, these artists sew threads of art from the fabric of their lives, art that is honest as it is compelling. **INFO:** <https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2024/stardust-in-a-dandelion>



**Performance: *Book of Mountains and Seas***

Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 at 8 pm; Sunday, April 21 at 2 pm

Emerson Paramount Center, 559 Washington St., Boston

*Book of Mountains and Seas* is a new work by award-winning composer **Huang Ruo** and MacArthur Fellow puppeteer/artist **Basil Twist**. In this collaboration, the show takes on ancient Chinese creation myths—which are strikingly relevant to our current climate change emergency. An ensemble of massive puppets and the chorus of **Ars Nova Copenhagen** harness music and a visual tableaux to offer a portrait of the natural world and our vital, yet tenuous, relationship to it. **INFO & Tickets:** <https://artsemerson.org/events/book-of-mountains-and-seas/>

**Concert: Ray Chen**

Friday, April 19 at 7:30 pm Amherst College, Buckley Hall, 53 College St., Amherst

Violinist and online personality **Ray Chen** redefines what it means to be a classical musician in the 21st century. With a global reach that inspires a new classical audience, his musicianship has earned him an audience of millions as reflected through his engagements both online and with orchestras and concert halls around the world. Beyond the performing arts, his work has contributed to philanthropy, popular culture and educational technology. **INFO & Tickets:** [https://fac.umass.edu/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=RayChen&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context\\_id=](https://fac.umass.edu/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=RayChen&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context_id=)

**Concert: Laufey**

Tuesday, May 7 at 8 pm and Wednesday, May 8 at 8 pm

Boch Center, Wang Theatre, 270 Tremont St., Boston

Grammy-nominated, Los Angeles-based, Icelandic-Chinese artist, composer, producer and multi-instrumentalist **Laufey** (pronounced lāy-vāy) was raised between Reykjavík, Iceland and Washington, DC with annual visits to Beijing. In 2020, while a student at Berklee College of Music, her debut single *Street by Street* topped the Icelandic radio charts. In 2022, her debut album, *Everything I Know About Love*, reached #1 on Billboard's Alternative New Artist Album chart and the track "Valentine" was #1 on the Spotify Jazz Chart. Today, she has over 1 billion streams across all platforms and is the biggest streaming artist from Iceland in the world. **INFO & Tickets:** <https://www.bochcenter.org/events/detail/laufey>

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| <b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b> |
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**Massachusetts Asian American Champions Advancing to Nationals**

- **Tanoshi Inomata**, a fifth grader at Boston's Winship School, has won the Boston Center for Youth & Families Citywide Spelling Bee for the second year in a row. More than 3,00 students participated in Boston-area public and parochial school spelling bees to qualify for the citywide final competition. Next stop for Tanoshi is the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington DC in May.
- **Ailin Sha**, a Boston Latin School student, is the 2024 Poetry Out Loud state champion. More than 15,000 students participated in this contest where students memorize and recite a poem of their choosing. Ailin will represent MA in the National Poetry Out Loud contest in Washington DC in April.

## **Boston Asian American Film Festival 2024 – Call for Submissions**

Save the date for **BAAFF 2024: October 17-27**. They are seeking narratives, dramas, comedies, shorts, documentaries, animations, music videos, experimental films and more.

**Early Deadline: April 15. Regular Deadline: May 15.** Submit on FilmFreeway:

<https://buff.ly/42ee65a>. Any questions, contact: [baaff.programming@aarw.org](mailto:baaff.programming@aarw.org).

## **Japanese American National Museum Podcast:**

### ***Japanese America – Episode 2***

Cohosts **Michelle MaliZaki** and **Koji Sakai** take a look at the iconic movie, *Karate Kid*, reimagine some of the scenes, and explore the wisdom of Mr. Miyagi. If you could rewrite *Karate Kid*, what would you do differently than the original? Listen and subscribe at your favorite podcast app. **INFO:** <https://linktr.ee/JapaneseAmericaPodcast>

## **New Books:**

- ***Corky Lee’s Asian America: Fifty Years of Photographic Justice***

Edited by Chee Wang Ng and Mae Ngai

This book traces Corky Lee’s decades-long quest for photographic justice, following Asian American social movements for recognition and rights alongside his artistic development as an activist social photographer. Featuring never-before-seen photographs alongside his best-known images. <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/719813/corky-lees-asian-america-by-corky-lee-edited-by-chee-wang-ng-and-mae-ngai-foreword-by-hua-hsu/>

- ***The Poet and the Silk Girl: A Memoir of Love, Imprisonment, and Protest***

Psychotherapist and activist **Satsuki Ina’s** book illustrates through one family’s saga the generational struggle of Japanese Americans who resisted racist oppression, fought for the restoration of their rights, and clung to their full humanity in the face of adversity.

<https://www.heydaybooks.com/catalog/the-poet-and-the-silk/>

- ***My Lost Freedom: A Japanese American World War II Story***

By George Takei; illustrated by Michelle Lee

George relates his memories of Santa Anita racetrack, Rohwer concentration camp, and Tule Lake Segregation Center to help children understand what it felt like to be treated as an enemy in your own country. <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/708382/my-lost-freedom-by-george-takei-illustrated-by-michelle-lee/>

## **CONVENTIONS, etc.**

This summer, the **Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)**, **OCA-Asian Pacific Advocates (OCA)** and **APIAVote (Asian & Pacific Islander American Vote)** will partner together in Philadelphia to examine the importance of civic engagement and solidarity in a critical election year.

### **2024 JACL National Convention – July 10 to July 14**

*Looking into the Future Together*

<https://jacl.org/2024-jacl-national-convention>

### **2024 OCA National Convention – July 11 to July 14**

*AANHPI Impact 2024 – Stronger Together*

<https://www.ocanationalconvention.org/>

**APIAVote 2024 National AAPI Leadership Summit – July 11-12**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuXVh8rj\\_6bk3jaiOqEIPtDzsmqf7RWRqbJoJh6uDbaemHiQ/viewform?pli=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfuXVh8rj_6bk3jaiOqEIPtDzsmqf7RWRqbJoJh6uDbaemHiQ/viewform?pli=1)

**APAICS Leadership Academy** (Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies) – July 11-12

<https://www.apaics.org/national-leadership-academy>

**APIAVote Presidential Town Hall – July 13**

Philadelphia Convention Center

<https://apiavote.org/get-involved/events/townhall/>

## 2024 INCARCERATION CAMP PILGRIMAGES

Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages - [www.jampilgrimages.org](http://www.jampilgrimages.org)

- Amache – May 17-19 - <https://amache.org/pilgrimage/>
- Amache Field School – July 5-6 – <https://amache.org/archaeology-open-house/>
- Angel Island – October 5 - <https://nichibeifoundation.org/educational-programs/nikkei-angel-island-pilgrimage/>
- Crystal City – To be announced - <https://www.crystalcitypilgrimage.org/>
- Heart Mountain – July 25-27 – <https://www.heartmountain.org/visit/events/pilgrimage/>
- Jerome/Rohwer – June 5-8 – Registration is now open – deadline: April 30  
<https://give.jampilgrimages.org/event/2024-jerome-rohwer-pilgrimage-registration/e563394>
- Manzanar – April 27 - <https://manzanarcommittee.org/manzanar-pilgrimage-faq/>
- Minidoka – July 4-7 - <https://www.minidokapilgrimage.org/>
- Poston – October 25-26 - <https://www.postonpreservation.org/pilgrimage>
- Topaz Art Pilgrimage – May 2-4 - <https://friendsoftopaz.org/events/save-the-date-topaz-art-pilgrimage>
- Tule Lake – July 5-8 - <https://www.tulelake.org/pilgrimage>
- Wakasa Commemoration – April 13 - <https://www.wakasamemorial.org/>

## EXHIBITS

**Outdoor Installation: *Year of the Dragon 2024***

The Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy continues its annual Chinese zodiac series with two new public artworks in Auntie Kay and Uncle Frank Chin Park in Boston Chinatown.

- Ponnapa Prakkamakul's installation is a 20-foot long interactive dragon, named **Ju Long, Ju Long** (巨龙, 聚龙), which means **Giant Dragon, Gathering Dragon** - through January 2025.  
<https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/art-exhibit/year-of-the-dragon/ponnapa>
- Zhidong Zhang's **Far Away, From Home**, an image-based sculpture, features photographs displayed in a curio cabinet reminiscent of furniture from Zhang's childhood through March 2025. <https://www.rosekennedygreenway.org/art-exhibit/year-of-the-dragon/zhidong>

**Outdoor Installation: *Hudson Street Stoop: Dancing Dragon***

One Greenway Park, 66-88 Hudson St., Boston Chinatown [www.asiancdc.org/hss](http://www.asiancdc.org/hss)

**Pao Arts Center**

99 Albany St., Boston Chinatown

**Inspired by ... Artwork by Josiah Quincy Elementary School****April 6 to June 16**

This exhibit features works by K-5 students who find inspiration from the world around them. Drawing from the works of artists like ceramicist Stephanie Shih, collage artist Romare Bearden, and drip-artist Jen Stark, and author Anna Llenas, these young artists celebrate creativity, inspiration, and community in their galleries. <https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2024/inspiredby>

**Museum of Fine Arts**

465 Huntington Ave., Boston

- **Songs for Modern Japan: Popular Music and Graphic Design, 1900-1950**

- **April 13 – September 2**

Japan experienced a whirlwind of change between 1900 and 1950. At the turn of the century, Western music notation had become a sign of modernity, helping spread jazz and Broadway to Tokyo cafés and nightclubs, and promoting Japanese film music both inside and outside Japan. Increasing modernism, consumerism and influence from the West came alongside a revolution in sound and mass-produced images from movies and radio. This exhibit explores how sheet music covers provide a window into Japanese society and culture during this period of immense transformation. Visitors discover how leading Japanese graphic designers of the day interpreted modernist international art movements like Art Nouveau and Art Deco, and how demand for military sheet music with propagandist images grew in the 1920s and '30s, reflecting the country's imperialist aspirations. Through investigating styles of graphic design, bold typography, genres of music and the societal environment in Japan, visitors get a glimpse of how design and music celebrating modernity and globalism gave way to endorsing nationalism. **INFO:** <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/songs-for-modern-japan>

- **Arts of Japan**

**opens May 11**

The MFA's newly reimagined galleries explore Japan's art and visual culture from the 7th century to today. Evocative spaces include the renovated Japanese Buddhist Temple Room and an adaptation of a traditional tea room. Multimedia displays illuminate performative art forms, such as Nō theater, bringing their drama to life. The new space for the Museum's Japanese collection—which was the first of its kind in America when established in 1890, and now holds about 100,000 objects—will change regularly, giving visitors the opportunity to see even more works in a setting that honors and celebrates Japan's rich history and cultural legacy. *These galleries open at 2 pm on May 11, following the Japanese Buddhist Temple Room Rededication ceremony.* <https://www.mfa.org/gallery/arts-of-japan>

**Japanese Buddhist Temple Room Rededication** (Simulcast) on **Saturday, May 11 at 1 pm**

A delegation of monks from Miidera, one of Japan's largest temples, will conduct a ritual to rededicate the MFA's Japanese Buddhist Temple Room and to invoke blessings for the community. The service is simulcast from the Temple Room to Remis Auditorium. The monks offer an introduction and explanation of the ritual prior to beginning, and afterward they greet the public in the Arts of Japan galleries. **INFO:** <https://www.mfa.org/event/special-event/japanese-buddhist-temple-room-rededication-simulcast?event=115886>

- **Hallyu! The Korean Wave**

**through July 28**

<https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/hallyu-the-korean-wave>

- **Toshiko Takaezu: Shaping Abstraction**

**through September 29**

<https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/toshiko-takaezu-shaping-abstraction>

- **Japanese Garden – Tenshin-en – The Garden of the Heart of Heaven**

<https://www.mfa.org/collections/featured-galleries/japanese-garden-tenshin-en>

**Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston**25 Harbor Shore Dr., Boston  
through August 4

- Wu Tsang: *Of Whales*

<https://www.icaboston.org/exhibitions/wu-tsang-whales/>

**WNDR Museum**

500 Washington St., Boston (Downtown Crossing)

through December 31

WNDR is a collective of thinkers, artists, poets and designers, working at the intersection of art and technology. Yayoi Kusama's *Let's Survive Forever* is featured among 20+ other immersive exhibits. **INFO & Tickets:** <https://wndrmuseum.com/location/boston/>

Yayoi's Kusama's exhibit: <https://wndrmuseum.com/exhibit/lets-survive-forever-boston/>

**ELSEWHERE****Opera: *An American Soldier***

May 12 to May 19

Perelman Performing Arts Center (PAC), 251 Fulton St., New York, NY

On October 3, 2011, Chinese American Army Pvt. Danny Chen was found dead in a guard tower at his base in Afghanistan. This opera tells the powerful true story of a young soldier from Manhattan's Chinatown who sought to serve his country, only to find his biggest threat was the very people who swore to protect him. Told through the music of **Huang Ruo** (*M. Butterfly; Book of Mountains and Seas*), with libretto by Tony and Grammy winner **David Henry Hwang** (*M. Butterfly; Soft Power*), and directed by Obie Award winner **Chay Yew** (*Cambodian Rock Band; Sweatshop Overlord*). Co-Produced by PAC NYC, Boston Lyric Opera, and American Composers Orchestra.

**INFO & Tickets:** <https://pacnyc.org/whats-on/an-american-soldier/>

**Museum of Chinese in America**

215 Centre St., New York, NY

- *Five Senses of Chinatown*

through May 6

**INFO:** <https://www.mocanyc.org/event/five-senses-of-chinatown/>

**2024 National Cherry Blossom Festival – now to April 14**in Washington, DC. **INFO:** <https://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/>**Chinese American Museum**

1218 16th St. NW, Washington, DC

- *Bruce Lee: American Son & International Icon*

on-going

**INFO:** <https://www.chineseamericanmuseum.org/special-exhibits>

**Chinese American Museum of Chicago**

238 West 23rd St., Chicago

Exhibits: *Chinese Cuisine in America: Stories, Struggles & Successes* • *Chinese American Veterans: Unsung Heroes* • *My Chinatown: Stories from Within* • *Great Wall to Great Lakes: Chinese Immigration to the Midwest*

**INFO:** <https://ccamuseum.org/category/current-exhibits/>

**Utah Museum of Fine Arts**

Marcia &amp; John Price Museum Building, 410 Campus Center Dr., Salt Lake City, UT

*Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo* through June 30

**INFO:** <https://umfa.utah.edu/pictures-of-belonging>

**40th Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival (LAAPFF) May 1- May10**Produced by Visual Communications. INFO: <https://vcmedia.org/festival>**Japanese American National Museum** 100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA

- **Giant Robot Biennale 5** through September 1  
<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/grb5>
- **J.T. Sata: Immigrant Modernist** through September 1  
<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/jt-sata>
- **Ireichō** continues through December 1  
<https://www.janm.org/exhibits/ireicho>
- The **Ireizō** lists names online: <https://ireizo.com/>.

**Chinese American Museum** 425 North Los Angeles St., Los Angeles, CAPermanent Exhibits: *Origins: The Birth & Rise of Chinese American Communities in Los Angeles* • *Journeys* • *Sun Wing Wo General Store & Herbal Shop* [www.camla.org](http://www.camla.org)**Union Station** Waiting Room Gallery, 800 N. Alameda St., Los Angeles*Where You Stand: Chinatown 1880 to 1939* until Fall 2024INFO: <https://unionstationla.com/where-you-stand-chinatown/>**The Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens**

Japanese Heritage Shoya House, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

INFO: <https://huntington.org/japanese-garden/shoya-house>**Asian Art Museum** 200 Larkin St., San Francisco, CA

- **Phoenix Kingdoms: The Last Splendor of China's Bronze Age** April 19 to July 22  
Rising from the ashes of conquest, two brilliant but forgotten cultures claim their rightful places in China's history. <https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/phoenix-kingdoms/>
- **Ruth Asawa: Untitled (S.272)** on-going  
<https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/ruth-asawa-untitled/>
- **Japanese Ink Paintings** through May 6  
<https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/japanese-ink-paintings/>
- **Japanese Tastes in Chinese Ceramics: Tea Utensils, Kaiseki Dishes and More** – May 6  
<https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/japanese-tastes-in-chinese-ceramics/>
- **Deities, Paragons & Legends: Storytelling in Chinese Pictorial Arts** through July 8  
<https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/deities-paragons-and-legends/>
- **Into View: New Voices, New Stories** through October 17  
<https://exhibitions.asianart.org/exhibitions/into-view-new-voices-new-stories/>

**Chinese Historical Society of America** 985 Clay St., San Francisco, CA

- **Chinese in the Richmond** <https://chsa.org/chinese-in-the-richmond/> on-going
- **We Are Bruce Lee: Under the Sky, One Family** on-going  
INFO: <https://chsa.org/we-are-bruce-lee-under-the-sky-one-family/>
- **Living in Chinatown: Memories in Miniature Created by Frank Wong** on-going  
<https://chsa.org/collections/living-in-chinatown-memories-in-miniature-created-by-frank-wong/>

**Larry the Musical: An American Journey**

now to Sunday, April 14

Brava Main Stage, 2781 24th St., San Francisco, CA

The musical pays homage to Larry Itliong's remarkable legacy as a labor activist in California's Central Valley. INFO & Trailer: <https://www.brava.org/all-events/larrythemusical>

**Film Festival: CAAMFest 2024 – May 9 to May 19 -**

In San Francisco and Oakland. Produced by the Center for Asian American Media.

INFO: <https://www.facebook.com/CAAMFest/>**Japanese American Museum San Jose** 535 North 5th St., San Jose, CA*Taken From Their Families –***Japanese American Incarceration on Angel Island During World War II** through June 23

Exhibit features stories from 24 individuals from Hawai'i and the West Coast who were incarcerated on Angel Island after December 7, 1941, and whose lives were changed forever.

INFO: <https://www.jamsj.org/exhibitions>**Japanese American Museum of Oregon** 411 NW Flanders St., Portland, OR**Craft, Community, And Care: The Art and Legacy of Bob Shimabukuro** through April 14INFO: <https://jamo.org/exhibits/shimabukuro/>**Northwest Nikkei Museum**

Japanese Cultural &amp; Community Center of Washington 1414 South Weller St., Seattle, WA

• **Genji Mihara: An Issei Pioneer** <https://www.jccw.org/genji-mihara-an-issei-pioneer>• **Unsettled/Resettled: Seattle's Hunt Hotel** <https://www.jccw.org/hunt-hostel/>INFO & Additional Exhibits: <https://www.jccw.org/museum>**Wing Luke Museum**

719 S. King St., Seattle, WA

• **Sound Check! The Music We Make**

through September 14

<https://www.wingluke.org/soundcheck>• **Be Water, My Friend: The Teaching of Bruce Lee**

on-going

<https://www.wingluke.org/exhibit-be-water-my-friend>• **New Year's All Year Round: Theater, Dance and Sound**

through January 2025

<https://www.wingluke.org/newyearsallyear>**Television Programs about Japan on GBH**<https://www.wgbh.org/tv-shows/schedule> (Click on "A-Z" for an alphabetical list.)

- **Asia Insight** – Tuesday at 6:30 am or 1:30 pm – WORLD
- **Cycle Around Japan Highlights** – Friday at 10 am or 5 pm – CREATE
- **Dining with the Chef** – Monday at 9 am - CREATE
- **Journeys in Japan** – Sunday at 10:30 am – CREATE
- **Newsline in Depth** – Monday-Friday at 7:27 am - WORLD
- **Newsroom Tokyo** – Monday-Friday at 7 am - WORLD
- **NHK Newsline** – Monday-Friday at 6:30 pm – WORLD
- **Trails to Oishii Tokyo** – Sunday at 10 am – CREATE
- **Trails to Oishii Tokyo Mini** – Monday, April 29 at 7:30 am - WORLD