



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

August 2011

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

***My Japanese Table* featured in Book Talk**

Join us on Saturday, September 10 at 2 pm, for our book talk by Debra Samuels, NE JACL member, bestselling author, and travel and food writer for the Boston Globe. Her book *My Japanese Table: A Lifetime of Cooking with Friends and Family* is a wonderful collection of stories and home style recipes. In this very special book talk, Debra will tell us about her experiences in Japan and with Japanese cooking, including her introduction to the art of Bento. Refreshments will include samples of some of her recipes. Her book will be on sale and she will be available to sign them. The book talk will be at the Lincoln Public Library, 3 Bedford Road, Lincoln, MA. This event is free and open to the public, but because of limited seating and food preparation, reservations will be required. For reservations, email: yamamoto@nejacl.org or phone Margie at 781-259-9444. Let us know how many will be attending and your contact information. Your reservation will be confirmed by email or phone. See attached flyer.

***Before I Leave You* by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro**

A play by NE JACLer Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro will be part of the 2011-2012 season offered by the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston. *Before I Leave You* will have performances from October 14 to November 13 at the Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA in Boston's South End. Set in Cambridge, the five-character play will feature New York actor Glenn Kubota as Koji. It is described as a love story for grownups: "In a blink, Emily's Harvard Square world falls apart. Her husband Koji suddenly embraces his Asian roots. Her friend Jeremy's work on his novel gets interrupted by a health scare and his sister Trish moving in. Four longtime friends face too much past and too little future in this moving comedy." For ticket information go to: www.huntingtontheatre.org.

Scholarship Winner from New England

Our congratulations to Sarah Matsumoto for being awarded the Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Creative Arts Scholarship in the amount of \$5000.

Tanabata Festival of Summer Stars

Friday, August 5, from 2 to 9 pm

Boston Children's Museum, 308 Congress St., Boston

Tanabata is the folktale of separate star lovers, the Princess Weaver and the Cow Herdsman, who reunite in the sky once a year on a summer day. As the star lovers' wish of being together comes true, it is said your wish will be granted as well. The Tanabata celebration at the Children's Museum will feature a fashion show, Taiko drumming by The Genki Spark, music, storytelling, dress-up for kids, and much more.

Showa Boston Institute Summer Events

Fridays in August , from 2 to 4 pm

420 Pond St., Boston, MA

During the month of August Showa Boston will host a series of free Japanese cultural workshops. For more information contact Erin Naumann at enaumann@showaboston.org or phone: 617-522-0080, ext. 5514. For directions go to:

<http://www.showaboston.org/about/directions.html>.

August 5: Swimming and *Suika-wai*, enjoy swimming at the Showa pool and the traditional Japanese game of splitting a watermelon with a stick while blindfolded.

August 12: *Uchiwa* Decorating and *Tanzaku* Wishing

August 19: Traditional Japanese festival dancing and Taiko drumming

August 26, 6:30 pm: O-Bon Festival

Hawaii Culture Camp – Ukulele & Hula Workshop

Saturday-Sunday, August 6 to 7, starting at 10 am

52 South Fair St., Warwick, RI

The day-long workshops will cover hula basics and hula dancing for women, men and couples. Also included are Hawaiian language games and beginner to advanced ukulele workshops with Jason Poole. Fees range from \$5 to \$35 for individual workshops. Advance registration only. Contact Sarah McGinnis at 401-766-5453 or email at: mcginnis_sarah@hotmail.com.

***Swallowing the Sun*, a public sound piece**

Monday, August 8, from 8 to 11 pm

Church of the Advent, 30 Brimmer St., Back Bay, Boston

This performance commemorates the lives of those killed when atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945. *Swallowing the Sun* is a public sound piece for a large ensemble, utilizing 100+ musicians. It invites the audience and performers to meditate on the role of nuclear power in our world today. Each musician will be instructed to play approximately 50-60 notes per minute for one hour, each note represents one life lost in the bombings (estimates of those killed range between 150,000 to 250,000). Musicians and singers interested in participating in the performance should contact Tom Plsek at tplsek@berklee.edu.

Mark Zhang's Asian Comedy Showcase

Monday, August 8, 8 to 10 pm

Dick Doherty's Beantown Comedy Vault

Remington's Restaurant, 124 Boylston St., Boston

Julie Kitayama from Arlington, MA, will be among the comedians featured in this showcase. She'll address the challenges of being multicultural, a Buddhist convert, and making her way through life one date at a time. Also performing will be Mark Zhang, Walter Hohng and Andy Dawson. Tickets are \$15. For reservations call 800-401-2221 or go to:

<http://dickdoherty.com/show.cfm?id=89101>. This is a very small club so it will sell out early.

Community Screening of *Papers*

Wednesday, August 10, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm

Tufts Medical Center, Wolff Auditorium, 800 Washington St., Boston

Papers tells the story of undocumented youth and the challenges they face when they turn 18 without legal status. Co-presented by the Boston Asian American Film Festival and the Student

Immigrant Movement (SIM). RSVP at: www.baaff.org. For information on SIM and *Papers*, go to: www.simforus.com and www.papersthemovie.com.

25th Annual NAAAP National Convention & Diversity Career Fair

August 11 to 13

Seaport Hotel & World Trade Center, 200 Seaport Blvd., Boston

The National Association of Asian American Professionals will meet in Boston to explore this year's theme *Road to Revolutionary Leadership*. In addition to a full schedule of speakers and workshops, NAAAP is offering a Diversity Career Fair that is free and open to the public. The Career Fair will feature 45 diversity-minded employers, on site resume reviews courtesy of Kaplan Test Prep, and interviews for positions in a variety of fields. You do not have to be a paid convention attendee to visit the Career Fair, but you will be required to register online at the NAAAP Career Center to attend. For information and to register for the Diversity Career Fair, go to: <http://www.naaapconvention.org/2011/CareerFair.aspx>. To register for the general NAAAP Convention, go to: www.naaapconvention.org.

August Moon Festival in Boston's Chinatown

Sunday, August 14

The annual festival will be celebrated in the streets of Boston's Chinatown, including Harrison, Beach and Tyler Streets. Look for vendors selling food, drink, toys, plants, clothing, gifts, etc. Performances will include Chinese Opera, children's folk dancing, martial arts and lion dancers. Free and open to the public.

AARW Summer Grill-Off and BBQ

Saturday, August 20, from 4 to 7 pm

Larz Anderson Park (shelter area), across from 325 Goddard Ave., Brookline

Join AARW for summer fun that includes great food, outdoor fun and games and a grilling competition. Five community groups will compete for the 2011 AARW Grill-Off Championship. The winning team will be decided by votes from attendees. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$10 for children 12 and under. Advance ticket purchase is encouraged at: <http://aarw-bbq.eventbrite.com>. To reserve in person or by mail send check or drop off at: AARW, 888 Washington St., Suite 102, Boston. For more information call 617-426-5313.

15th Southeast Asian Water Festival

Saturday, August 20, from 10 am to 5 pm

Lowell Heritage State Park, 500 Pawtucket Blvd., Lowell

Featured events include boat races, a parade on the Merrimack River, and a blessing of the boats. The festival also includes clowns, musicians, dancers and singers performing both traditional and modern songs and dances. Food, drink, crafts and other items will be on sale at the event. For more information go to: www.lowellwaterfestival.org/.

24th Annual Quincy August Moon Festival

Sunday, August 21, from 11 am to 5 pm

Quincy Center, 1400-1600 Hancock Street, Quincy

Featured will be a day of cultural activities, live entertainment, food and exhibits from more than 100 local businesses and organizations. For more information go to: www.quincyasianresources.org/en/2011AMF.

A Thousand Cranes: An Evening to Benefit the JDRF-B
Monday, September 12, 6:30 reception, 7:30 performance
Boston Ballet, 19 Clarendon St., Boston

Boston Ballet principal dancer Misa Kuranaga, in partnership with the Boston Ballet and The Japanese Disaster Relief Fund–Boston (JDRF-B) will host a one-night fundraising performance. The event will be emceed by 7News' Janet Wu and will feature special performances by the Boston Ballet Company dancers. All proceeds will benefit the JDRF-B. Suggested minimum donation: \$100. Due to limited seating, early reservations are strongly recommended. For reservations go to: <http://thousandcranes.eventbrite.com/>. For more information contact Eula Lee at elee@bostonballet.org or Elly Brown at info.jdrfb@gmail.com.

Fall Japanese Language Program
Beginning week of September 12
Showa Boston Institute, 490 Pond St., Boston

This program offers 17-week Japanese courses on all levels, from elementary to advanced. These adult evening classes are taught by experienced native teachers, with Japanese college students available as conversation partners. The program is sponsored by Showa Boston and the Japan Society. Tuition is \$300 and parking is free. More information: <http://www.showaboston.org/jlc/index.htm>.

JUST Eats! AARW Annual Benefit
Friday, September 16, from 6 to 9pm
Springstep, 98 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford

The annual Asian American Resource Workshop's benefit dinner featuring awards presentation and a raffle and silent auction. Among the awards to be presented will be the *May Takayanagi Making Waves Award* that recognizes and celebrates outstanding young adult activist leaders. It draws inspiration from the lifetime achievements of May Takayanagi, an outspoken and tireless leader who challenged society's norms since the 1950s. May is a former NE JACL president and currently sits on its Board. For more information on the benefit dinner go to: www.aarw.org.

Japanese Tea Ceremony
Sunday, September 25 at 2 pm
The Art Complex Museum, 189 Alden St., Duxbury

Tea Master Glenn Sorei Pereira will demonstrate the tea ceremony, explain it and answer questions. Folding canvas chairs are provided or visitors are invited to bring their own. Admission is free. For more information, go to: www.artcomplex.org.

EXHIBITIONS

Faces of Chinatown
Through August 12
W/Y Gallery at the Chinese Progressive Association
One Nassau St., Unit 2, Boston

The encounters of four Boston Chinatown residents during the spring of 2011 are documented in this exhibit. Photographer Alexis Yuen illustrates the diversity within Chinatown as a residential community and a commercial center. Hours for the gallery are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 9 am to 5 pm; Saturday 10 am to 12 pm ; and by appointment. For information call or email: 617-357-4499 or wvgallery@gmail.com.

Tanabata Star Festival

Through August 14

Kaji Aso Studio, 40 St. Stephen Street, Boston

This exhibit of paintings, drawings, and ceramics inspired by the Japanese legend Tanaba will continue through August 7. For information call 617-247-1719 or go to: www.kajiasostudio.com.

ELSEWHERE

Japanese American National Museum

Summer 2011

369 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA phone: 213-625-0414

The JANM has a number of events and exhibits of interest this summer:

Through August 28. Exhibit: *The California Hotel: Hawai'i's Home Away from Home.*

Through August 28. Exhibit: *Fighting for Democracy: Who is the "We" in "We, the People"?*

Through September 11. Exhibit: *Year of the Rabbit Custom Show*

Through October 30. Exhibit: *Year of the Rabbit: Stan Sakai's Usagi Yojimbo*

For more information go to: www.janm.org

Exhibit: *Noguchi: California Legacy*

Through October 2, 2011

Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Drive, Laguna Beach, CA Phone: 949-494-8971

The work of Isamu Noguchi, the internationally celebrated Japanese American artist and designer, is examined in three parts: 1) *California Scenario: The Courage of the Imagination* based on his South Coast Plaza sculpture garden commissioned 30 years ago; 2) *What is Sculpture? Akari from the Venice Biennale* from the Akari light sculptures at a 1986 exhibit; and 3) *Noguchi at Gemini G.E.L.*, the sculpture multiples he created in 1982. For more information go to: www.LagunaArtMuseum.org.

Exhibit: *kip fulbeck: part asian, 100% hapa*

through December 21, 2011

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

Japanese American History Museum, 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland OR

Phone: 503-224-1458

An exhibition of portraits by artist Kip Fulbeck who traveled the country photographing Hapa of all ages and walks of life. His work addresses in words and images the one question Hapa are frequently asked "What are you?" Also at the museum is an exhibit about the Oregon Japanese American community, *Oregon Nikkei: Reflections of an American Community*. For more information go to: www.oregonnikkei.org.