



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

December 2017

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Hold These Truths:

Boston Events Planned for *Hirabayashi* Play

Hold These Truths is a play that tells the true story of Gordon Hirabayashi, the son of Japanese immigrants who resisted incarceration during World War II, a policy that continues to be cited and debated today. Written by Jeanne Sakata and directed by Benny Sato Ambush, the play features Michael Hisamoto as Hirabayashi, a college student and a Quaker. The production uses three *kurogos*, “invisible” stagehands dressed in black in traditional Japanese theater. The play will be performed at the Lyricstage Theater, 140 Clarendon Street, 2nd floor, Boston. Ticket prices range from \$35 to \$73. A discount is available by using the discount code BAAFF. For reservations, go to: <https://lyricstage.com/productions/production.cfm?ID=131>

Sunday
Dec. 17
3 pm

Join the NE JACL Theater Group to see *Hold These Truths* **Lyricstage Theater, 140 Clarendon Street, 2nd floor, Boston**

Please join us for a matinee performance of the play on December 17. Arrangements are underway for a post-performance discussion lead by Paul Watanabe. If you'd like to join us, please order your own tickets for the 3 pm performance on Sunday, December 17. Don't forget to enter the discount code (BAAFF) for a \$20 per ticket discount. For those interested, following the play, the group will head out for an informal dinner at a local restaurant.

Thursday
Dec. 7
6:30 pm

Who is American? ***Chinese Exclusion, Japanese Internment, and Today*** **Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston**

The program will feature a reading from the play *Hold These Truths* by the playwright Jeanne Sakata and director Benny Sato Ambush. The reading will be followed by panel discussion with Sakata, Ambush and Paul Watanabe, Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston. Also featured will be an excerpt from the documentary *The Chinese Exclusion Act*, a film that will be screened by the Boston Asian American Film Festival on December 2. This program is free and open to the public, with prior registration requested at: <http://osmhdec7-17.bpt.me>

The program is co-presented by the Chinese Historical Society of NE and the Old South Meeting House with support from the New England Japanese American Citizens League, The Lyric Stage Company, Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston, ArtsEmerson, and the Boston Asian American Film Festival.

Kakehashi Program for Japan Trips

Applications are being accepted for the second JAACL Kakehashi Program trip to Japan. Young people, between the ages of 18 to 25, will be selected to participate in a program that offers an expenses paid trip to Japan for nine days. Applicants must be a student in a college or university or a young professional who has completed a bachelor's degree and of Japanese American or Asian American heritage. The trip will be from March 12 to 20, 2018 and deadline for application is **January 2, 2018**. For details and application forms:

<https://jacl.org/now-accepting-applications-for-the-jacl-kakehashi-program-2017-2018/>

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Dec.1 - 31

Theater: *Hold These Truths*

Lyricstage, 140 Clarendon Street, 2nd floor, Boston

A play by Jeanne Sakata and directed by Benny Sato Ambush. *Hold These Truths* is the true story of Gordon Hirabayashi, a Japanese American college student who resisted incarceration during World War II. Michael Hisamoto plays Hirabayashi. For discount on tickets, use the code: BAAFF. For more information and tickets, go to:

<http://www.lyricstage.com/productions/production.cfm?ID=131>

Friday

Dec. 1

6 to 9 pm

Harry H. Dow Fund Annual Celebration

China Pearl, 9 Tyler Street, Boston

This is the 32nd annual celebration of the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund. Keynote speaker is Greg Chen, Director of Government Relations, American Immigration Lawyers Association. Tickets are \$125 and \$75. For information: www.dowfund.org

Saturday

Dec. 2

11 am to

12:30 pm

AARW Annual Membership Meeting

Pao Arts Center, 99 Albany Street, Boston

Join the Asian American Resource Workshop in reviewing the past year's activities and planning for the coming year. The meeting will be followed by the launch of the ***Boston Immigration Stories Project*** at 1 pm. The program will include a "story slam" featuring several undocumented Asian immigrants sharing their stories. To RSVP, email: info@aarw.org or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/205814456629689/>

Saturday

Dec. 2

11 am to

4 pm

7th Annual Boston Japan Film Festival

**MIT, Kirsch Auditorium (32-123), Ray and Maria Stata Center
32 Vassar Street, Cambridge**

The Festival features seven short films from and about Japan. The program is free and open to the public. The screenings will be followed by a discussion with the film directors from 3 to 4 pm and a reception. The films include: *The Shining Star of Losers Everywhere*; *Wasabi*; *TORU*; *Complex x Complex*; *I & Myself*; *Sociopaths*; and *POST-X years later*.

Information: <http://misti.mit.edu/7th-annual-boston-japan-film-festival>

Sunday
Dec. 3
1 to
4:30 pm

Showa Boston Annual Cultural Festival
Showa Boston Institute, 420 Pond Street, Boston

Featured are workshops, an authentic tea ceremony, activity rooms, performances and more. The program is free and open to the public. Performances are from 4 to 4:30 pm in Rainbow Hall. Free parking at Showa and free shuttle bus will depart Reservoir Station at 12:50, 1:50, and 2:50 pm. For information, go to: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2731692>

Monday
Dec. 4
7 pm

Film: *The Departure*
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge

A documentary follows Itetsu Nemoto, a former punk-turned-Buddhist-priest in Japan who has made a career out of helping suicidal people find reasons to live. The film captures Nemoto at a crossroads, he must confront the same question his patients ask him: what makes life worth living? The Filmmaker Lana Wilson will attend. Information and tickets:

<http://www.brattlefilm.org/2017/12/04/the-departure/>

Dec. 5
8 pm

TV: *Good Luck Soup*
On WGBH World, check with your cable service for channel number

Dec. 6
2 pm

Filmmaker Matthew Hashiguchi shares his experience of growing up half-Japanese American in an Irish-Catholic neighborhood in Cleveland, Ohio. He shows how Japanese heritage influenced the lives of his family members, before, during and after World War II. *Good Luck Soup* is being shown as part of the series *America Reframed*.

Dec. 9
10 pm

Thursday
Dec. 7
4 to
5:30 pm

Book Talk: *Media Theory in Japan*
Harvard Yenching Institute
The Common Room, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge

Author, Alexander Zahlten, Associate Professor of Film and Media Studies, Harvard, will be joined by Shunya Yoshima, Visiting Professor of Japanese at Harvard and Professor and Vice President, University of Tokyo, as part of the Book Talk Series at Harvard Yenching Library.

Thursday
Dec. 7
5 to 7 pm

Film: *Paper Lanterns*
Boston University, 725 Commonwealth Ave. CAS 211 (2nd fl.), Boston

The story of Shigeaki Mori, who had devoted much of his life to preserving the legacy of the 12 American prisoners of war who were killed when the Atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Director Barry Frechette and Producer Peter Grilli will be present to introduce the film and answer questions from the audience.

Thursday
Dec. 7
7:30 pm
times may
vary

Film: *Allegiance* (the Broadway Musical)
various movie theaters in New England and other states

The Broadway musical comes to the big screen featuring George Takei, Lea Salonga, Telly Leung, and Christophe Nomura. The story of the Kimura family whose lives are upended when they are forced to leave their homes following the outbreak of World War II. To find a theater near you, go to the following web site:

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/allegiance-on-broadway-2017>

Saturday
Dec. 9
2 pm

Film: *First They Killed My Father*

Lowell High School Auditorium, 50 Father Morissette Blvd., Lowell

Based on the bestselling memoir by Loung Ung, the film was directed by Angelina Jolie and written by Jolie and Ung. The film follows the story of Ung as a 7-year-old and her experiences during the Khmer Rouge years. Admission is free. For information go to: www.baaff.org/decseries.html

Saturday
Dec. 9
8 pm

Coming to America, Then and Now

Cary Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington

A multi-cultural panel will examine how to engage a community in honest and effective dialogue about the enrichment and estrangement inherent in living in a town with a wide breath of cultural backgrounds. Author Marjan Kamali (Iranian) moderates a panel that features area residents with a variety of cultural heritages: Sunny Chandra (Indian), Tatyana Finkelstein (Russian), Larry Ho (Chinese), Susie Lee-Snell (Korean), Heidi Singh (German), and Margie Yamamoto (Japanese). This event is part of the annual series of free public lectures in Lexington. For information, go to: <http://carylectureseries.org/>

Monday
Dec. 11
7 pm

Book Talk: *Myers+Chang at Home*

Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

Award-winning chef Joanne Chang of Cambridge's Flour Bakery celebrates the 10th anniversary of her bakery with a cookbook with recipes from her restaurant Myers+Chang. This event is free and open to the public. For information: http://www.harvard.com/event/joanne_chang2/

Tuesday
Dec. 12
12 to 1 pm

Brown Bag Lunch: *Japanese New Year's Traditions*

Japan Society of Boston, Meridian Room, 50 Milk St., 5th fl., Boston

Featured speaker will be Yosuihiro Yamauchi, Consul for Cultural and General Affairs with the Consulate General of Japan in Boston. He will discuss New Years preparations and traditions in Japan. He will also bring with him some traditional Japanese *Oshogatsu* items. To register for this event, go to:

<http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2725907/Registration>

Tuesday
Dec. 12
5 to 7 pm

Japanese Language Soiree: *New Years Celebration*

CIC Boston, Anchor Room, 1st Floor

Japan Society of Boston, 50 Milk Street, Boston

An opportunity to practice speaking Japanese for learners of all levels and interest in an informal, welcoming setting. Learn about the Japanese New Year traditions practice speaking Japanese. Beginners and native speakers of Japanese are encouraged to attend. This event is free to Japan Society members and \$5 for non-members. Registration is accepted online or at the door. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2738254>

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

through
Dec. 16

On View: *In Living Color*

Pao Arts Center, 99 Albany Street, Boston

The collective photographic works of David Kong and his mother Wen Kong that celebrates the movement, color and light of the living world. Opening reception: Thursday, Sept. 14, from 6 to 8 pm. Gallery Talk and Photo Walk with David Kong: Saturday, Nov. 4, from 3 to 4:30 pm. Closing Celebration: Saturday, Dec. 16, from 3 to 5 pm. For more information, go to:

<https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/2017/5/6/on-view-living-in-color>

through
Apr. 1,
2018

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Takeshi Murakami: *Lineage of Eccentrics*

Contemporary works by Takashi Murakami are juxtaposed with treasures from the MFA's collection of traditional Japanese art. The exhibit shows how Murakami's contemporary vision is influenced by the historical past. For more information:

<http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/takashi-murakami>

through
Dec. 10

Showdown! *Kuniyoshi vs. Kunisada*

Rival artists Utagawa Kuniyoshi and Utagawa Kunisada were the two-best-selling designers of *ukiyo-e* woodblock prints in 19th Century Japan. Kunisada was known for his portraits of Kabuki actors, sensual images of women and the luxurious settings he imagined for historical scenes. Kuniyoshi is remembered for his action scenes of tattooed warriors and supernatural monsters as well as comic prints and forbidden political satire in disguise. The exhibit features 100 works, drawn entirely from the MFA's Japanese collection. For more information, go to:

<http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/showdown-kuniyoshi-vs-kunisada>

through
June 3,
2018

Black and White: Japanese Modern Art

Centered around a newly acquired, large-scale calligraphy by Inoue Yuichi (1916-1985), this exhibition showcases a selection of avant-garde works in the monochrome aesthetic shared widely in Japan and beyond during the postwar period. Among the nine works on view are prints, ceramics and sculpture, primarily drawn from the MFA's collection. For more information, go to: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/black-and-white>

through
Feb. 2018

China Comes to Tech: 1877-1931

**MIT's Maihaugen Gallery of Hayden Memorial Library, Building 14N-130
160 Memorial Drive, Cambridge**

An exhibit to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the first students from China to enroll at MIT. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Open Monday through Friday from 10am to 4 pm. A companion website, *China Comes to MIT*, is accessible at <http://chinacomestomit.org/>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

through
Dec. 8,
2018

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II
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 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>.

NEW YORK

currently
playing

Theater: *M. Butterfly*
Cort Theatre, 138 West 48th Street, New York City

This is the first Broadway revival of David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly*. The Tony-winning production first opened on Broadway in 1988 and was considered groundbreaking with its story about a French diplomat involved in a 20-year love affair with the male star of the Chinese Opera who he thought was a woman. Hwang has revised the original script, adding new material that has come to light since the play's premiere. Clive Owen and Jin Ha star. For tickets and information:

<https://mbutterflybroadway.com/>

through
Mar. 25,
2018

FOLD: Golden Venture Paper Sculptures
Museum of Chinese in America, 215 Centre Street, New York City

The story of the passengers of the Golden Venture, a ship carrying 286 undocumented Chinese immigrants that ran aground in New York City in 1993.

http://www.mocanyc.org/exhibitions/fold_golden_venture_paper_sculptures

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles County Museum of Art
5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA phone: 323-857-6010

Atmosphere in Japanese Painting

The exhibit presents a span of techniques for evoking atmosphere. Featured is the work of Ikezaki Yoshio, born in 1953. An entire level of the Pavilion for Japanese Art is devoted to his work. Also featured are new acquisitions from three Japanese artists" Yamato Kakurei, Senju Hiroshi, and Miya Ando. For more information:

<http://www.lacma.org/art/exhibition/atmosphere-japanese-painting>

through
Feb. 4,
2018

Japanese American Museum San Jose

535 N. Fifth St., San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

current

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>

current

The Barracks Room

An accurate recreation of a family's living quarters at the Tule Lake camp. Most of the furnishings and other items in the room are genuine artifacts from the camps. For more information: <http://www.jamsj.org/exhibit/the-barracks-room>

Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA

phone: 213-625-0414

Saturday

Dec. 9

2 pm

Film: Moving Walls: American nightmare to American Dream

Los Angeles premiere of a documentary about the barracks from Heart Mountain camp. The film features interviews with former prisoners as well as the people who live in the structures today. General admission is \$12. To reserve a seat, go to:

<https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=511f762b-8460-4094-b9e9-adabd2929c70>

through

Feb. 25,

2018

Transpacific Borderlands:***The Art of Japanese Diaspora in Lima, L.A., Mexico City and Sao Paulo***

The exhibit examines the experience of artists of Japanese ancestry born, raised or living in either Latin America or predominantly Latin American neighborhoods in Southern California. For more information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/transpacific-borderlands/>

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/>