



New England Chapter News

Japanese American Citizens League

December 2020

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Happy and Healthy Holidays!

We hope you are surviving this holiday season and are staying safe and healthy. Our newsletter this month is a little light on local events, but thanks to the benefits of the new virtual world, we can attend events all over the country. I've found two web sites that offer a host of events or links to other resources. Topics include Japanese language tools, museum tours, lectures, cooking classes, workshops, stories and films. The Japanese American National Museum site lists all its offerings throughout the site. In the Japan Society site, you'll have to scroll to the end to find the links.

Japanese American National Museum: <http://www.janm.org/>

Japan Society of Boston: <https://www.japansocietyboston.org/>

Our New England JACL chapter Board is not meeting as often as it did pre-pandemic, but it is starting to work on programs for 2021 that will include a Day of Remembrance event in February. We're planning to surprise you with other interactive events. In the meantime we wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. We're looking forward to a time when we can see you in person.

Holiday gifts with an Asian flair

Every year the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) holds a holiday gift fair with arts and crafts from a variety of vendors. This year they have gone virtual with Kokoro Craft Boutique 2020 and you can surf their vendor catalog for your purchases. There is everything from jewelry and clothing to home items and face masks. The JANM museum store also has a great selection of items. Both sites offer gifts with a Japanese accent.

Kokoro Craft Boutique vendor catalog: <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/930145/44/>

JANM Gift Store catalog: <https://janmstore.com/collections/janm-store-catalog-2020-2021>

Stay Active with Tsuru for Solidarity

Tsuru for Solidarity is staying very active despite the pandemic. In November they sent out updates and an urgent call to action to halt the deportation of immigrant children and their parents. These frequent updates are sent to email subscribers. The information they provide is thorough and shows us how we, as individuals, can help to make a difference. To subscribe, go to: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/>

Preview of *Nisei Soldier Exhibit* at Nat'l Museum of US Army

A preview of the *Nisei Soldier Exhibit* at the National Museum of the US Army in Washington, DC, is now available online. Featured in the video are Gen. Eric K Shinseki; Christine Sato-Yamazaki, Executive Director, Nisei Veterans Network; Tammy Call, Museum Director, and Paul Morando, Chief of Exhibits. The program is moderated by David Ono of ABC news.

For the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9Hu0bBDTPA&feature=youtu.be>

Debra Samuels to receive 2020 Thayer Award

Thursday, December 3, from 7 to 8:30 pm, via Zoom registration required

Debra Samuels, NE JACL member, cookbook author, culinary educator and museum exhibit curator, will be honored by the Boston Japan Society with its John E. Thayer Award for her “outstanding contributions to further understanding and friendship between the people of Japan and the US.” Debra has curated an exhibit at the Fuller Craft Museum on *Objects of Use and Beauty: Japanese Culinary Tools* and has addressed our JACL chapter on Bentos. The Thayer Award program is being offered with a virtual sake tasting reception following the official program. To register: <https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4001476>

BookTalk:

Setsuko's Secret: Friendships Formed in Times of Trial

Saturday, December 5, at 5 pm, registration required

Shirley Higuchi, the author of ***Setsuko's Secret***, will be joined by Norman Mineta, former Congressman and Cabinet Secretary of Transportation, and Alan Simpson, former Senator from Wyoming, as they discuss the impact of the WWII incarceration on their lives. Mineta and Simpson are featured prominently in Higuchi's book. Moderator is David Ono, ABC news anchor.

Information and registration: <https://jacl.salsalabs.org/setsukos-secret-leadership-lessons/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=e9fdea27-9602-42a0-a218-bbcd1e70de60>

Book Talk: Japanese Americans in New York

Saturday, December 5, at 11am (EST), via Zoom registration required

Daniel H. Inouye, author/historian, consultant and attorney, explores the unique stories of a divided community of Japanese New Yorkers before WWII. Inouye will discuss his book ***Distant Islands: The Japanese American Community in New York City, 1876-1930s***. He will be joined by journalist Fred Katayama who will provide a contemporary dimension to the discussion. Sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum. The program is free, with a suggested donation of \$10.

To register: <https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=08684b13-b5ee-429c-9ba5-8cfb44c96bb6>

Mochitsuki – Virtually in DC

Saturday, December 5, from 1 to 2:30 pm (EST) registration required

The JACL in Washington, DC, is holding its annual Mochitsuki via Zoom this year. Special guest speaker will be Robin Koda, owner and operator of Koda Farms, the almost century-old Japanese owned and operated rice farm in Central California. She will share her family story and interesting information about rice. The event is free, but donations are welcomed. For Information and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-mochitsuki-2020-tickets-128952194485>

Easy Home Cooking for Non-Chefs - *Katsukare*

Saturday, December 12, from 5 to 6 pm, via Zoom **registration required**

Katsukare is a simple Japanese dish made up of a breaded, deep-fried cutlet, served with Japanese curry sauce on a bed of rice. Sometimes the curry sauce includes potatoes, carrots or onions. You'll be cooking with Akiko Ghosh. Tickets for the program are \$10 for Society members and \$15 for non-members.

Information and registration: <https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4057644>

AARW Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 12, from 10 am to noon

Join the Asian American Resource Workshop for its annual meeting for updates on their work in 2020 and plans for 2021. The meeting will be virtual. Board members will be elected during this session. The meeting is open to the public and new members are welcome. For more information on joining the meeting go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/803943693774278/>

Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso

Virtual Exhibition through Feb. 6, 2021

The **Worcester Art Museum** is partnering with Chiso, the distinguished Kyoto-based kimono house to present the first exhibition of historic and contemporary kimonos from Chiso's collection. The exhibit highlights the history and artistry of the prestigious 465-year-old garment maker with 14 kimonos from the mid-1600s to 2000s. In addition, a selection of related works – paintings, kimono fragments, and woodblock printed books – from the Chiso art collection reflect the creative collaborations between the kimono maker and several celebrated Japanese artists since the late 19th century. For updates on this exhibition, go to:

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