



New England Chapter News
Japanese American Citizens League

December 2021

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Dear JACL members and Friends,

As we enter December, the month is packed with lots to do. As much as we curse Zoom meetings at work, it has given us greater and easier access to programs we normally could not attend. We hope you'll have time during this busy month to take advantage of some programs listed in our newsletter. Be sure to read about an exciting new interactive exhibit at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. The exhibit is called *The Interactive StoryFile of Lawson Ichiro Sakai* and the story is in the "Elsewhere" section. **A special note to educators:** read our story about three training workshops scheduled for next year -- two are in Los Angeles and one at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. They all come with stipends to help defray travel and hotel costs.

This month we've been helped with the newsletter by Janet Gee, a great friend of NE JACL and a wonderful resource for information about Boston's Asian American community. Our thanks to Janet and we look forward to working with her in the future.

Our best to all of you for the Holidays. Please stay healthy and safe.

The New England JACL Board

TRAINING/WORKSHOPS & COMPETITIONS

JACL Teacher Training Programs for Summer 2022

JACL has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for an educators' training program on *Civil Liberties in a Time of Crisis: The Japanese American Incarceration*. The two one-week sessions are open to all full- or part-time K-12 educators who teach in public, charter, independent, and religiously affiliated schools, or as homeschooling educators, Museum educators and other K-12 school system personnel. The program will bring 72 educators from across the US to Los Angeles' historic Little Tokyo community to take part in a program that includes guest speakers and trips to Santa Anita Racetrack and Mazanar. The sessions will be held **June 19-24 and July 10-15, 2022**. Applications are now available and carry a **March 1, 2022 deadline**. For information and to apply: <https://jacl.org/application-details>

Heart Mountain Foundation offers Educator Workshops

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation is accepting applications from K-12 educators to participate in two weeklong workshops titled ***Heart Mountain, Wyoming, and the Japanese American incarceration***. The sessions will take place **June 19-24 and July 24-29** for 72 educators at the Heart Mountain interpretive Center and other sites around Cody and Powell Wyoming. The NEH sponsored workshops will place these events in the larger context of Wyoming history and will include segments of Native American history related to Heart Mountain and the stories of homesteaders who moved onto the site after the camp was closed. Deadline for application is **March 1, 2022**. For information and to apply:

<https://sites.google.com/heartmountain.org/hmwf-workshops/home>

JANM Workshop on Little Tokyo's History and Culture

The Japanese American National Museum (JANM) will offer two sessions of a summer workshop on ***Little Tokyo: How History Shapes a Community Across Generations***. The one week workshops for K-12 educators will be held **July 17-22 and July 24-29, 2022** at the Museum in Los Angeles. Each participant will receive a \$1,300 stipend after completing the workshop to help cover expenses such as travel, housing and meals. Application **deadline is March 1, 2022**. For information and to apply:

<https://www.janm.org/education/workshops/neh/apply>

2022 Minoru Yasui Student Essay Contest

More than \$2000 in prizes will be awarded in the 2022 contest. The competition is open to middle and high school students on the theme "What are the duties, responsibilities, and/or obligations of an individual or group in US society in taking a stand against racism and discrimination?" Deadline for submission is **March 1, 2022**. For information:

<https://www.minoruyasuilegacy.org/student-contest>

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS & MISC.

Documentary: *Armed with Language* by David Mura

Thousands of Nisei soldiers served as Military Intelligence Service (MIS) linguists throughout the Pacific theater. They translated captured documents and messages, interrogated prisoners, helped US troops maneuver on battlefields, enabled the surrender of Japanese troops and provided crucial information to commanders forming battlefield strategies. Gen. Charles Willoughby, MacArthur's chief of intelligence, maintained that the MIS Nisei linguists shortened the war in the Pacific by two years and saved a million American lives. The very cultural background which made the Nisei so suspicious to their fellow Americans became one of the US military's greatest assets during the war. After decades of being classified, the story of their courage, sacrifice and valor is finally being told. If you missed this documentary that aired on WGBH in November, you can view it online. <https://www.tptoriginals.org/armed-with-language-world-war-ii-nisei-soldiers-have-so-much-to-teach/>

Asian Films at the Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle Street, Cambridge

www.brattlefilm.org

Films from *The World of Wong Kar-wai*:

- Dec 25 @ 3 & 7:15 pm -- *The Hand* (2004)
- Dec 25 @ 4:45 & 9 pm – *In the Mood for Love* (2000)
- Dec 26 @ 2:45 & 7 pm – *Chungking Express* (1994)
- Dec 27 @ 7 & 9:30 pm – *As Tears Go By* (1988)
- Dec 28 @ 4:30, 7 & 9:30 pm – *Fallen Angels* (1995)
- Dec 29 @ 4:30 & 7 pm – *Days of Being Wild* (1990)
- Dec 30 @ 4:30, 7 & 9:30 pm – *Happy Together* (1997)

Cooking Classes: Four-Week Session for kids

Thursdays, December 9 to 30, at 6 to 7 pm (Eastern Time) virtual, registration required

A special weekly interactive cooking class for kids age 7 to 12 years that will cover okonomiyaki, sushi, Japanese sweets and Bento. Sponsored by Table for Two, an international program to fight hunger and promote healthy eating practices. Registration is \$60. **Information:**

https://outschool.com/classes/japanese-cooking-for-fun-and-health-learn-cook-eat-japanese-GnzISw89?sectionUid=fb49e39e-90f5-434f-854e-aec955112354&usid=uBRyWiP5&signup=true&utm_campaign=share_activity_link#abkwo2c9b5

Cooking Class: Matcha Marble Cake & Matcha Latte

Saturday, December 11, at 5-6 pm (Eastern Time) virtual, registration required

NE JACL member Debra Samuels will be leading this live, virtual cooking event. The featured ingredient is Matcha, in cake and drink. Tuition is \$10 for Japan Society members and \$15 for non-members. Hosted by the Japan Society of Boston and Japan-America Societies of Georgia and Houston. **Information and registration:**

<https://www.jasgeorgia.org/event-4519562>

Discussion: *Building AAPI Power – Overcoming Invisibility*

Wednesday, Dec. 15, from 10-11:30 am (Eastern Time) virtual, registration required

The opportunities and challenges facing our growing Asian American population will be the topic of a forum presented by the Asian Community Fund of the Boston Foundation. The featured speaker is **Anne Kiyono Calef**, research fellow with Boston Indicators, the organization that released the recent *Building AAPI Power* report that shows the significant growth in the past two decades of the Asian American population in Boston and Greater Boston. Joining her in the program are **Paul Watanabe**, Director, Institute for Asian American Studies, UMass Boston; **M. Lee Pelton**, President and CEO, The Boston Foundation; and **Paul W. Lee**, Chair, Asian Community Fund of The Boston Foundation. The program is free and open to the public. **Information and registration:**

<https://events.tbf.org/event/home/buildingaapipowerbostonindicators>

Book Talk: *Parenting with an Accent***Wednesday, December 15, from 6-7 pm** virtual, registration requiredAuthor Masha Rumer will discuss her book *Parenting with an Accent: How Immigrants Honor Their Heritage, Navigate Setbacks, and Chart New Paths for Their Children*.Using her own stories and interviews with other immigrant families, Rumer paints a realistic and compassionate picture of what it's like for immigrant parents raising a child in America while honoring their cultural identities. *Parenting with an Accent* incorporates a diverse collection of voices and experiences, giving readers an intimate look at the lives of many different immigrant families across the country. **Information and registration:**<https://bpl.bibliocommons.com/events/617056b1f67cb7430016c659>**Discussion: *A Stain on American Jurisprudence -- What Korematsu vs. United States Means for Us Today*****Thursday, December 16, 6:30 pm (Pacific Time)** virtual, registration requiredDale Minami, lead attorney on the team that overturned the conviction of Fred Korematsu, and Dr. Karen Korematsu, founder and executive director of the Korematsu Institute, will be featured in this program moderated by Lane Nishikawa, actor and independent filmmaker. Their discussion will include behind-the-scenes stories from the case and its implications and relevance in our world today. The program is co-sponsored by the San Diego chapter of the JACL and the San Diego Public Library. **Information and registration:**<https://sandiego.librarymarket.com/events/virtual-event-stain-american-jurisprudence-what-korematsu-vs-united-states-means-us-today?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=9096bea0-2b06-459f-9985-ec0451cf81e9>**Play Reading: *Found in Translation: Chosen Family*****Friday & Saturday, December 17 & 18 at 7pm** in-person, live performance**Pao Arts Center, 99 Albany St., Boston Chinatown**Chuang Stage, Asian American Theatre Artists of Boston (AATAB), and Pao Arts Center unite for *Found in Translation*, a play reading and community workshop series that amplifies the power and complexities of being multilingual, immigrants or identifying as AAPI in Greater Boston. The first play in this series, *Chosen Family* weaves together the Vietnamese-American diaspora with Buddhist reincarnation theory. **Information:**<https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2021/chosen-family?bblinkid=255595820&bbemailid=35298121&bbejrid=-2146130488>**Book Talk: *The Block Manager* by Judy Mundle****Saturday, December 18, 1:30 pm (Hawai'i Time)** virtual, registration requiredThe Block Manager is based on the true story of Janet, a Japanese American, and her experiences being shuffled between three camps, marriage, and having a child while World War II raged on. She joined her husband in post-war Japan as famine gripped the country. She remained an American throughout her ordeals holding on to the dream of being reunited with her family in the US. The program is sponsored by the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center. It is free and open to the public. **Registration:**https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hs5eafspTVGY8yGFRr0m3q

COMING UP IN 2022

Theater: *The Emperor's Nightingale*

January 15-30, at Theatre 5 at Theatre Row, 410 W. 42nd Street, New York City
Pan Asian Repertory presents *The Emperor's Nightingale*, featuring gossiping pandas and dancing tigers, set in 18th Century China. The story brings to light the youthful exploits of the future Emperor Qianlong. Written by **Damon Chua**, directed by **Chongren Fan** and featuring **DeAnna Choi, Jonathan Frye, Fenton Li, Hyunmin Rhee, Xiaoqing Zhang** and **Mandarin Wu**. Information: <https://www.panasianrep.org/the-emperors-nightingale>

Book Talk: Poetry with Jenny Qi and Antonio Lopez

Wednesday, January 19 at 8pm virtual, registration required
Brookline Booksmith presents an evening of poetry with Jenni Qi (*Focal Point*) and Antonio Lopez (*Gentefication*). Information and registration: <https://www.brooklinebooksmith.com/event/evening-poetry-jenny-qi-and-antonio-lopez>

Genealogy: Organizing Your Research

Thursday, January 20, at 11 am (Pacific Time) virtual, registration required
A special workshop with Genealogist Linda Harms Okazaki will help you tackle that growing mountain of data. She will share strategies to help you start your research, keep track of your findings, and establish naming conventions for both digital and paper files. Sponsored by Densho and free and open to the public. To register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_88XdotPBS6aJmV53uJg9fA

Concert: Masters of Hawaiian Music

Saturday, January 22, at 5 and 8 pm in-person, live performance
Club Passim, 47 Palmer Street, Cambridge
Featuring **George Kahumoku, Jr., Led Ka'apana, and Herb Ohta, Jr.**
Information: <https://www.passim.org/live-music/events/masters-of-hawaiian-music/>
Tickets for the 5:00 pm show: <https://passim.secure.force.com/ticket/#/instances/a0F3u000006LonbEAC>
Tickets for the 8:00 pm show: <https://passim.secure.force.com/ticket/#/instances/a0F3u000006LongEAC>

Taiko: Yamato – The Drummers of Japan

March 12 at 8 pm Berklee Performance Center
Information and reservations: https://www.globalartslive.org/content/event_page/9888

Taiko: Kenny Endo Contemporary Ensemble

April 7 at 7:30 pm UMass Amherst
Information and reservations: https://fac.umass.edu/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=KennyEndo&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context_id=

EXHIBITIONS

PAO ARTS CENTER

99 Albany St., Boston Chinatown

Embodied Identities

through Friday, December 17

This exhibit is part of ***New Narratives***, a work that explores how identity is deeply connected with, but not limited by, our physical selves. The exhibit is curated by Leslie Anne Condon and includes the work of five Asian American artists: Maria Fong, Eugene La Rochelle, Brenda Lau, Jennifer Okumura, and Mei Taing. *Information:*

<https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2021/embodied-identities?bblinkid=255595824&bbemailid=35298121&bbejrid=-2146130488>

INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (ICA)

25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston

Yayoi Kusama: *Love is Calling*

through October 31, 2023

When the COVID lockdown occurred in 2020, it was during an exhibit by Yayoi Kusama, the 92-year-old Japanese icon of contemporary art, at Boston's Institute for Contemporary Art. Her exhibit, ***Love is Calling***, reopened recently and will be available to visitors at the ICA until October 31, 2023. Her installation is described as exemplifying "the breadth of her visual vocabulary – from her signature polka dots and soft sculptures to brilliant colors, the spoken word, and most importantly endless reflections and the illusion of space." Tickets are needed to view her exhibit. **Information and tickets:**

<https://www.icaboston.org/exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-love-calling>

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories through January 17, 2022

The Museum of Fine Arts' current exhibit ***Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories*** features a quilt made by 58 fourth graders in the Poston concentration camp during World War II. The boys and girls cross-stitched their names into the quilt squares as part of a civics class about pioneer women. Their teacher was Masako Hirata. Also in the exhibit is a contemporary quilt, ***Indigo Colour Mixture***, created by Japanese American artist **Tomie Nagano**. A very thoughtful story about these pieces in the exhibit was written by the MFA's Olga Khvan, content strategist and brand manager in Public Relations. To read her story:

<https://www.mfa.org/article/2021/poston-quilt>

Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculpture ongoing

A rare, behind the scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures. Visitors are invited to watch as conservators study and treat the sculptures in a public conservation studio. The wooden figures – images of worship depicting Buddhas, Guardian Kings, and a Wisdom King – are decorated with polychromy or gilding and date from the 9th to 12th centuries. The conservation project occupies an entire gallery in the Museum, allowing visitors to observe the techniques employed by conservators as they carefully clean the sculptures and secure areas of loose paint, lacquer, and gilding. **Information:** <https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/conservation-in-action-japanese-buddhist-sculpture-in-a-new-light>

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA

Japanese Screen: *Parodies and Legends* through December 2021

A handscroll by painter Furuyama Moromasa representing one of the most elaborate and extensive work by the artist. It contains 20 separate paintings, each approximately four feet long. The screen will be unrolled in stages to exhibit different portions of the scroll.

Information: <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/japanese-screens/>

Kimono Couture: *The Beauty of Chiso* through July 3, 2022

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 videos, the virtual exhibit provides 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. For information and access to the video series, go to:

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

ELSEWHERE

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

100 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles

The Interactive StoryFile of Lawson Ichiro Sakai

An exciting new exhibit using cutting edge technology is being introduced at the Museum called ***The Interactive StoryFile of Lawson Ichiro Sakai***. The exhibit will allow the viewer to interact with the image of Sakai and ask questions about his life and experiences as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. Sakai was filmed over five days providing answers to more than 1000 questions. His responses were captured BY 27 cameras that will allow the video to eventually be projected as a holographic image once the technology becomes more accessible and affordable. For a detailed description of the exhibit, go to: <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/lawson-sakai>

Mine Okubo's Masterpiece: The Art of Citizen 13660

through February 20, 2022

Mine Okubo's graphic memoir, *Citizen 13660*, was first published in 1946. Through nearly 200 illustrations, Okubo captures how World War II and the subsequent incarceration upended her life. This is the first time the materials comprising Okubo's book will be exhibited. Included will be sketches she completed while she was incarcerated at Tanforan and Topaz, original drawings that she created, as well as a draft of the final manuscript.

Information: <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/mine-okubo-masterpiece>

A Life in Pieces: The Diary and Letters of Stanley Hayami

through January 9, 2022

The exhibit brings to life Hayami's writings from camp and his wartime letters with a 3D virtual experience that can be accessed by smartphone. In 1944, at the age of 19, he was drafted into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He was killed in Italy while trying to rescue a fellow soldier during combat. The exhibition will have its world premiere at the 2021 Tribeca Festival in the Immersive Category. Information: janm.org/a-life-in-pieces.

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSUEM OF SAN JOSE

535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

BioQuilts: BioGrown Quilts

through December 30, 2021

Showcased is the *Cranes in Flight BioQuilt* that was designed and grown in collaboration with community members as part of the BioQuilts project. The quilts are made from mycelium (the root-like structure of mushrooms) and locally sourced materials such as used coffee grounds and food waste rice and ramen. The exhibit is in the Agriculture Area of the museum. **Information:** <https://www.jamsj.org/bioquilts>

Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown:

Liberation, Technology, Art, & Community Building in Action

through January 16, 2022

Learn about this unique grassroots project that combines augmented reality technology, art, and local history and culture to explore the little known and “hidden” stories of connection between the Chinese, Japanese and Filipino communities that together shaped the Japantown of today. **Information:** <https://www.jamsj.org/hidden-histories>