



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

February 2015

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773
Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Day of Remembrance to feature The Genki Spark

**Thursday, February 19, 7:30 pm, performance followed by refreshments
Tufts University, Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room, 15 Talbot Avenue, Medford**
This year's Day of Remembrance program at Tufts University will feature The Genki Spark, a multi-generational, pan-Asian women's arts and advocacy organization that uses Japanese taiko drumming and personal stories in its performances. Members of the Boston-based troupe took part in the Tule Lake pilgrimage last year. The program will focus on how art is used as an educational tool and how taiko drumming has emerged as a popular art form. This event is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by the Tufts Asian American Center and the Tufts Japanese Culture Club and co-sponsored by the New England JACL.

National JACL kicks off 2015 Scholarship Season

JACL has announced that applications are now being accepted for the approximately 30 college scholarships available to freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students. Deadline for freshmen scholarships is March 1 and for all other scholarship categories April 1. For more information and application forms go to:
<http://www.jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm>.

In addition, JACL is partnering with Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo to offer a scholarship for an incoming college junior who wishes to study in Japan. This two-year scholarship will lead to a bachelor's degree in International Studies. All classes are taught in English. For more information and application forms, go to:
<http://www.jacl.org/edu/MeijiGakuinUniversity.htm>.

Masaoka Congressional Fellowship open for 2015

Applications are being accepted for the Mike Masaoka Congressional Fellowship that is designed to develop leaders for public service. The Fellowship is for a minimum of six months and the candidate is placed in a Congressional office where they will gain firsthand knowledge of policy creation. The Fellowship comes with a \$3,000 per month stipend. Applicants must be US citizens, graduating college seniors or students in graduate or professional programs, and JACL members. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated a commitment to Asian American issues. Deadline for application is March 1. For more information email: policy@jacl.org. To download an application form, go to:
http://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_CoXi-pB9cjVVRWazdHbnZEMVE/view.

Spring Internships with OCA

OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates is a national membership driven organization working to advance social, political and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APA). The OCA internship develops future leaders for the APA community by providing opportunities to work in the public sector and learn about issues affecting APAs. The spring internship program is for 10 weeks, from March 23 to May 29 in Washington, D.C. Placement will be with OCA, a non-profit organization, government agency, congressional office, or a corporation. Applicants must be a full-time undergraduate student or a recent graduate. A \$2500 stipend is provided. Deadline for application is February 27. For more information and application forms, go to: <http://www.ocanational.org/?page=springinternship>.

Summer Seminar for K-12 Educators

Applicants are being sought nationally for a summer seminar called *Asian Americans in New York: Film & Literature*, an immersive program examining race and identity hosted in New York City, the nation's most diverse and rapidly growing Asian American urban community. The seminar will be co-directed by Jennifer Hayashida, Director of the Asian American Studies Program at Hunter College, CUNY, and Chi-hui Yang, film curator, educator and former director of the San Francisco International Film Festival. Sixteen educators will be selected from throughout the US to participate in this unique program through which they will develop teaching tools to engage the diverse student populations in their home states around ideas of race, immigration and identity. The program is funded through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and participants will be provided a stipend to help cover expenses, including travel, accommodations and food. Desired applicants are middle and high school English Language Arts, Social Studies, and Art instructors with a pedagogical interest in ethnic literature/film and contemporary issues around multiculturalism, racial diversity, immigration, citizenship and national identity. Application deadline is March 2. For more information, including a reading list and daily schedule, go to: <http://asianamericanyc.hunter.cuny.edu>.

Asian American TV series premieres on Feb. 4

Fresh Off the Boat is a new situation comedy series that will premier on Wednesday, February 4 at 8:30 on WCVB-TV (ABC, Channel 5 in Boston). The series is inspired by chef/restaurateur Eddie Huang's bestselling memoir by the same name that tells the story of hip-hop loving sixth grader Eddie and his immigrant family's adventures moving into a mostly white neighborhood in Orlando, Florida in 1995. The Asian Pacific American Media Coalition, an advocacy group for greater diversity in network television, has endorsed the series as a "fresh take on the universal story of a family trying to make it in a new environment." The program will premier with two episodes back-to-back. The regular time slot for *Fresh Off the Boat* is Tuesdays on ABC at 8 pm starting February 10.

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Massachusetts Asian American Voters – 2014 Poll Findings

Tuesday, February 3, from 5:30 to 7 pm

Metropolitan Community Room, 38 Oak Street, Boston

Jerry Vattamala, the staff attorney for the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) will present the results of their multilingual poll conducted during the November 2014 elections in Massachusetts. This event is presented by the AALDEF and the Asian Community Development Corporation. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations are requested. For more information or to reserve a seat, email: Leverett.L.Wing@gmail.com.

Food & Wine Tasting: Amrita - Drink of the Gods

Thursday, February 5, from 6 to 9 pm

China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler Street, Boston

Join Jonathon Alsop, founder of Boston Wine School and wine writer, for an informative night of wine and food tasting. In this custom master class, he will teach us how to pair the spices of six Asian cuisines with the flavors of wines from Tuscany. This event is hosted by Professionals in Alliance for the Asian American Civic Association (PAAACA). Tickets are \$100. For questions, contact Vekonda Luangaphay at 617-426-9492, ext. 205 or email: vekonda@aaca-boston.org.

Book Discussion with Marie Mutsuki Mockett and Celeste Ng

Thursday, February 5, at 7 pm

Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

Mockett is the author of *Where the Dead Pause, and the Japanese Say Goodbye: A Journey*. Her family owns a Buddhist temple 25 miles from the Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant. After the 2011 earthquake and Tsunami, radiation levels prohibited the burial of her Japanese grandfather's bones. At the same time, her American father dies unexpectedly. Seeking consolation, Mockett is guided by a colorful cast of Zen priests and ordinary Japanese who perform rituals that disturb, haunt, and finally uplift her. Her book will be available for purchase and signing. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 617-661-1515 or go to: http://www.harvard.com/event/marie_mutsuki_mockett/.

Chinatown Main Street Annual Fundraising Gala

Saturday, February 7, from 6 to 10 pm

Hei La Moon Restaurant, 88 Beach Street, Boston

An evening of authentic Chinese food, performances, and activities including Lion Dances, martial arts, folk dances, calligraphy, a silent auction and raffle. Tickets are \$50. For more information and reservations, go to: <http://521436066492055280.weebly.com>.

Meet the Author: Ha Jin

Saturday, February 7, from 1 to 3 pm

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, 38 Ash Street, Boston

The award-winning author of *Waiting* and *War Trash* is introducing his newest book, *A Map of Betrayal*, a tale of espionage and conflicted loyalties that spans half a century and the histories of two families and two countries –China and the United States. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Proceeds from the book sale will benefit the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center and Asian American Resource Workshop. The program is free and open to the public, but due to space limitations, reservations are required. To reserve a seat, call 617-635-5129, ext. 0; email info@bcnc.net; or online at <http://www.bcnc.net/index.php/event/280/meet-the-author-ha-jin.html>.

Japanese Language Classes

beginning week of February 16

Showa Boston, 420 Pond Street, Boston

Showa Boston and the Japan Society offer 17-week courses on all levels of Japanese language study, elementary, intermediate and advanced. The instructors are all native Japanese speakers. Tuition is \$315 plus the cost of texts. Parking is free. For more information go to: <http://www.showaboston.org/jlc/index.htm>.

Boston Public Library Historical Fiction Panel Discussion

Thursday, February 19 at 6 pm

Commonwealth Salon, Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Boston

Ha Jin, award-winning author of *A Map of Betrayal*, and authors Amy Belding Brown (*Flight of the Sparrow*) and Nadia Hashimi (*The Pearl that Broke Its Shell*) will be featured in a historical fiction panel discussion moderated by William Martin, best selling author of 10 novels. This program is free and open to the public. For more information go to: http://www.bpl.org/programs/author_series.htm.

ECAASU Conference 2015:

What does it mean to be a New Asian American?

Friday to Sunday, February 20 to 22

Harvard University campus, Cambridge

The East Coast Asian American Student Union (ECAASU) conference comes to Boston. According to the planners, this year's gathering will "challenge stagnant notions of AAPI identity, igniting a bold movement to transform and critically inform the way we understand ourselves. No matter your sexuality or your citizenship, your ethnicity or your gender, we want to hear your stories, raw and unedited. We want to forge a powerful, active community that will empower Asian Americans to take risks, to defy expectations, and to chase after our goals." For more information and to register, go to: www.ecaasu2015.org.

The Genki Spark Taiko Workshop for beginners

Saturday, February 21, from 6 to 8 pm

Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Brookline

The Genki Spark offers a two-hour introductory workshop open to all ages (over 7), no experience necessary. Cost: \$30. Information: <http://www.thegenkispark.org>.

Historic Preservation in Japan & Boston

Tuesday, Feb. 24, from 4:30-6:30 pm; Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 9 am-4: 30 pm

Tsai Auditorium, Harvard University and Boston Children's Museum

A 2-Day symposium to celebrate the 55th anniversary of the Kyoto-Boston Sister City relationship. This event is being organized by The Boston Children's Museum, the Japan Society of Boston, The Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University and leading American and Japanese preservationists, architects, urban planner and art historians. Registration is required. For Japan Society and Boston Children's Museum members, \$40; non-members, \$85. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-1847373>.

Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific

Tuesday, February 24, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Gesmer Updegrove LLC, 2nd floor Conference Center, 40 Broad Street, Boston

In a lively, visual presentation, Christine Yano, will explore the creation and rise of Hello Kitty as part of Japanese cute-cool culture. She will explain the international popularity of Hello Kitty within the frame of pink globalization – the spread of goods and images labeled as cute (or *kawaii*) from Japan to other parts of the industrialized world. Yano is a visiting professor of Japanese Studies at Harvard University and she is the curator of the current Hello Kitty exhibit at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Boston International is sponsoring her talk. Tickets are \$10. For more information and reservations, go to: <http://www.bostoninternational.org>.

Northeastern 's Asian American Center 10th Anniversary Celebration

Friday to Sunday, February 27 to March 1

Northeastern University campus

A weekend of events to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Northeastern's Asian American Center includes campus tours, an alumni social, and brunch with student leaders.

Highlighting the weekend is a 10th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, February 28, at 6:30 pm at the Colonnade Hotel, 120 Huntington Avenue, Boston. Tickets for the Gala are \$25 for students and \$40 general admission. After February 1, tickets will be \$30 for students and \$45 general admission. For a complete schedule of events and to reserve tickets for the Gala, go to:

<http://www.northeastern.edu/aac/calendar-events/10-year-anniversary-celebration/>.

Quincy Lunar New Year Festival

Sunday, March 1, from 10:30 am to 4 pm

North Quincy High School, 316 Hancock Street, Quincy

Quincy Asian Resources will sponsor its annual Lunar New Year celebration with activities for the whole family. For more information go to:

<http://quincyasianresources.org/event/lunar-new-year-festival/>.

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center Chinese New Year Banquet

Friday, March 6, from 5:30 to 10 pm

Empire Garden Restaurant, 690 Washington Street, Boston

The BCNC's annual event begins at 5:30 pm with a wine and dim sum reception, followed at 7 pm with a traditional banquet and a live and silent auction. This year's Friends of BCNC Awards will be presented to Renee Inomata and Paul Lee. For more information and tickets, go to:

<http://www.bcnc.net/index.php/events/bcnc-banquet-2015.html>.

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

Lunar New Year Festival

Saturday, February 28, from 10 am to 4 pm

Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem

The museum celebrates the Lunar New Year with a day of activities and performances for the whole family. Included are designing your own Lucky Lantern (10 am–4 pm), an Art Cart featuring Chinese Art (1–3 pm) and performances by Gund Kwok (11 am), Ribbon Dance (noon and 2 pm), Boston synchrony Chinese Percussion Ensemble (12:30 and 2:30 pm), Chinese Dulcimer Guzheng Youth Band (noon and 2 pm), and the Chinese Folk Dance Workshop (1 pm). All events are included with museum admission. For more information and a complete schedule, go to:

http://www.pem.org/calendar/event/1233-lunar_new_year.

Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China **through April 26, 2015**

Boston Children's Museum, 308 Congress Street, Boston

An exhibit to engage visitors in learning about China through its young people. It is designed to expand knowledge, understanding and appreciation of contemporary China through life in Boston's Sister City, Hangzhou. Museum hours: 10 am to 5 daily, Fridays from 10 am to 9 pm. For more information call 617-426-6500 or go to:

<http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/exhibits-programs/exhibits/children-hangzhou>.

Worcester Art Museum

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

through May 3 ***A Screen for the New Year: Pines and Plum Blossoms***

A rare screen from the 1600s representative of the sophisticated elegance, energy and sumptuousness that appealed to Japanese noblemen and feudal lords.

Feb 28 - May 24 ***Uncanny Japan: The Art of Yoshitoshi***

An exhibition of works by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892), remembered as one of the greatest designers of Japanese woodblock prints at a time when the medium was facing increasing competition from photography and lithography.

For more information go to: <http://www.worcesterart.org/Exhibitions/>.

Playing with Paper: Japanese Toy Prints

through July 19, 2015

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

By the middle of the 19th Century, color woodblock printing in Japan was so inexpensive that it could be used to make toys for children. This exhibit features colorful board games, paper dolls, cutout dioramas and pictorial riddles, as well as prints showing how the toys and games were enjoyed. For more information go to:

<http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/playing-with-paper>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

NEW YORK

Pan Asian Repertory Theatre

520 8th Avenue, Suite 314, New York, NY

phone: 212-868-4030

Performances in Theatre Row, 410 West 42nd Street, New York

through to Feb. 8 ***Film Chinois***. Dangerous romantic liaisons, spy-versus-spy intrigue, and beautiful femme fatale in 1940s noir-drenched Peking. At the Beckett Theatre in Theatre Row.

Jul. 5 to 26

Sayonara. Tisa Chang directs this re-imaging of the epic musical of US military in post-WWII Japan. The production highlights the all female Takarazuka dance theater and how compassion and love can heal prejudice despite the inevitable collision of two disparate codified cultures. At the Clurman Theatre in Theatre Row.

dates to be announced

No-No Boy. Following rave reviews and sold-out performances in May 2014, *No-No Boy* will return to NYC and select venues nationwide.

For more information and tickets, go to: www.panasianrep.org/productionevents.shtml.

East Coast Taiko Conference

Friday to Sunday, February 13 to 15

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

The 3-day conference is an annual gathering of taiko players and enthusiasts of all skill levels and backgrounds to celebrate, share and learn taiko together. Featured will be jam sessions, workshops, a drum battle and concert. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.ectc2015.com>.

American: Exclusion/Inclusion

through April 19

New York Historical Society Museum & Library

107 Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way (77th Street), New York City

An exhibit that explores the centuries-long history of trade and immigration between China and the United States. The accompanying narrative extends from the late 18th Century to the present and shows that the Chinese American saga is a key part of American history. For more information call 212-873-3400 or go to:

<http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/chineseamerican>.

WASHINGTON, DC

Day of Remembrance: *Legacy of Heart Mountain*

Thursday, February 19, at 6:30 pm

Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Warner Bros. Theater

14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC

JACL's Day of Remembrance program will feature a screening of David Ono's Emmy award winning documentary *The Legacy of Heart Mountain*, followed by a panel discussion moderated by University of Massachusetts professor Franklin Ono.

Panelists will include the film producer Ono; former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta; Alice Takemoto, a former internee; Paul Takemoto, author of *Nisei Memories: My Parents Talk about the War Years*; and Shirley Higuchi, chairperson of the Hart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. The program also includes a live performance by spoken word artist G. Yamazawa. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, go to: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/events#!/?i=5>.

CALIFORNIA

Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA phone: 213-625-0414

through Apr 26 ***Hello! Exploring the Supercute World of Hello Kitty.*** An exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of Hello Kitty, her colorful history and influence on art and culture.

current ***Common Ground: The Heart of Community***

This exhibit incorporates hundreds of objects, documents and photographs collected by the museum and chronicles 130 years of Japanese American history, beginning with the early days of the Issei pioneers through the World War II incarceration and to the present.

For more information go to: www.janm.org.

Japanese American Museum San Jose

535 N. Fifth St., San Jose, CA phone: 408-294-3138

current ***Twice Heroes and More.*** An exhibit honoring Nisei veterans who fought in World War II and featuring the work of San Francisco photographer and writer Tom Graves.

Sat., Feb. 7
1 pm ***Fighting for the Emperor: Nisei Soldiers in the Imperial Armed Forces.*** Michael Jin, Texas A&M University, will discuss his research on Nisei draftees in the Japanese armed forces during World War II. Taking part in the discussion will be two Nisei who were in the Japanese army.

Sun., Feb. 22
1 to 2 pm ***Finding Your Japanese Roots in the US and in Japan.*** Learn how to get started researching your family history with Linda Harms Okazaki, a fourth generation San Franciscan with a background in education and an active member of the genealogical community. Cost of the class is \$35, plus admission to the museum. Early registration is recommended.

Sun., March 1
11 am to 3 pm ***Hina Matsuri.*** The Japanese Doll Festival or Girls' Day will be celebrated with the traditional Hina Matsuri dolls, as well as more unique doll exhibits and craft projects for both boys and girls.

Museum events are free with admission, but RSVPs are required for most. For reservations, email PublicPrograms@jamsj.org or call 408-294-3138. Information: www.jamsj.org.