



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

February 2018

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Day of Remembrance 2018

The Day of Remembrance is being commemorated in a variety of ways this year. Details on times and where to order tickets are contained in the *Events in New England* section of this newsletter.

On February 4 and 8, the Museum of Fine Arts will screen ***Resistance at Tule Lake*** as part of its ***Boston Festival of Films from Japan***. Despite the festival's title, this film is by Japanese American filmmaker Konrad Aderer whose grandparents were incarcerated during World War II. All of the other films in the MFA series are Japanese films from Japan. It's ironic because this film is about one of the American detention camps and it was the government's claimed inability to tell the difference between the enemy and Japanese living in the U.S. that resulted in our imprisonment during WWII. On the positive side, the film is being shown in a respected Boston institution, making it possible for its message to reach a wider audience outside the Asian American community.

On February 10 the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center is presenting ***No-No Boy – A Multimedia Presentation*** that promises to be a creative event. It connects our incarceration experience with the current issues facing many Asian Americans -- from immigration to bi-racial identity. The performer Julian Sporti is a singer/songwriter who was inspired by his doctoral research at Brown University as well as his experience growing up as the son of a Vietnamese refugee in Tennessee. Joining Sporti will be Erin Aoyama, a fellow Brown PhD student whose grandmother was incarcerated during WWII.

On February 21 Tufts University will present ***Incarceration and Resistance***, a program of student speakers presenting stories of Japanese American incarceration during World War II and relating it to current controversies.

And, as we mentioned last month, the Pan Asian Repertory Theater in New York City is offering a special limited return of ***No-No Boy*** from **February 7 to 18**. Details are in the *What's Happening Elsewhere* section of this newsletter.

Greetings from Japan!



NE JACL Board member Christine Pilcavage was in Japan in October 2017 and attended a performance of Kimi Maeda's *Bend* at the Tokyo I-House. That's Christine on the left with Kimi and her husband Andy Smith. Our chapter brought Kimi's *Bend* to New England colleges and theaters as part of its 2016 Day of Remembrance program.

SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

2018 JACL Scholarship Program accepting applicants

Applications are being accepted for the approximately 30 college scholarships offered by JACL to incoming freshmen, undergraduate, and graduate students. There are also scholarships for those in the creative and performing arts and for those in need of financial assistance. **Deadline for freshman applications is March 1, 2018.**

Deadline for all other scholarships is April 2, 2018. For more information and application forms, go to: <https://jacl.org/jacl-national-scholarship-program/>

Pan Asian Rep seeks *NuWorks* submissions

The Pan Asian Repertory Theatre in New York is accepting play submissions for its NuWorks 2018. They are seeking new work from emerging artists who dare to explore different genres and techniques. The work can be any style (comedy, drama, cabaret, musical, dance, experimental, etc.), 15 to 50 minutes in length, and not previously presented in New York City. Submission **deadline is February 21, 2018**. For details go to: <https://www.facebook.com/panasianrep/>

Toshizo Watanabe Study Abroad Scholarships

The US-Japan Council has established the Toshizo Watanabe Endowed Scholarship to provide financial assistance to undergraduate students for a semester or year-long study abroad program in the United States or Japan. The program is open to American and Japanese students. **Deadline for application is February 15**. For more information go to: http://www.usjapanCouncil.org/watanabe_scholarship

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Feb. 1 - 28 **The Boston Festival of Films from Japan**

Boston Museum of Fine Arts,

The MFA is presenting a new annual festival showcasing recent films produced in Japan. The line-up includes anime, live-action adaptation of a Japanese mangas, dramas, as well as an American-made documentary *Resistance at Tule Lake* on February 4 and 8. For information and tickets, go to:

<http://www.mfa.org/programs/series/the-boston-festival-of-films-from-japan>

Thursday
Feb. 1
12-1:30 pm

Japan/Boston Business Forum: *US Outlook for Economic Engagement in the Asia-Pacific Region* **Cambridge Innovation Center, 50 Milk St., 20th floor, Boston**

The Japan Society of Boston presents a talk by Wendy Cutler, Vice President and Managing Director of the Asia Society Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. Cutler is one of America's most respected trade negotiators and played a central role in negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The program is free to Japan Society members and \$15 to the general public. A light lunch will be served. Advance registration is required. For information and to register:

<http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2783034>

Fri. & Sat.
Feb. 2 & 3
7 pm

The King and I: Hip-Hop Version **Rainbow Hall, Showa Boston, 420 Pond Street, Boston**

Showa's annual musical production is performed by an all-Japanese female cast. For more than 17 years, Showa's musicals have been a highlight and have included West Side Story, My Fair Lady, and Beauty and the Beast. Admission is free and seating on a first come, first serve basis. For information:

<http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2795519>

Sunday
Feb. 4
1:30 pm
and
Thursday
Feb. 8
6 pm

Film: *Resistance at Tule Lake*

Boston Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

A documentary by filmmaker, Konrad Aderer, telling the story of 12,000 Japanese Americans labeled “disloyal” and incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II. Through rare footage and the voices of survivors and their descendants, the film illuminates stories of dissent marginalized for 70 years. Tickets are \$9 for MFA members and \$11 for nonmembers.

For Feb. 4 tickets: <http://www.mfa.org/programs/film/resistance-at-tule-lake>

For Feb. 8 tickets: <http://www.mfa.org/programs/film/resistance-at-tule-lake-0>

Sunday
Feb. 4
4 – 6 pm

Palaver Strings Community Concert and Workshop

Pao Art Center, 99 Albany Street, Boston

A free performance and workshop by Palaver Strings, a Boston based chamber orchestra dedicated to sharing music with diverse audiences in and beyond the concert hall. This event will explore the impact and presence that Chinese music and art has on the city of Boston. For information and to register, go to:

<https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/2018/01/16palaverstrings-85n99>

Monday
Feb. 5
2 pm

Film: *The Chinese Exclusion Act*

Snowden Auditorium, Wheatley Building, 1st floor, W-1-088

UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston

The Asian American Studies Program at UMass is presenting a screening of a new documentary by Ric Burns that examines the critical economic, cultural, social, legal, racial and political dimensions and consequences of the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act – the first US immigration law to prevent immigration and naturalization on the basis of race and nationality. For information go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2024777854433836>

Friday
Feb. 9
7&9:30 pm

Masters of Hawaiian Music

Club Passim, 47 Palmer Street, Cambridge

Featuring George Kahumoku, Jr., and Ledward Kaapana in concert. Both are Grammy Award winning master Slack Key guitarists. George is also a vocalist, songwriter, teacher, sculptor, story-teller, writer and farmer. Led has been a professional musician for more than 40 years and was the recipient of an NEA National Heritage Fellowship. Tickets are \$32. For more information and reservations, go to:

<https://www.passim.org/live-music/events/masters-of-hawaiian-music-with-george-kahumoku-jr-led-kaapana/>

Saturday
Feb. 10
10 am –
5 pm

Lunar New Year Celebration at the MFA

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

The MFA is ringing in the Year of the Dog with Lunar New Year traditions from China, Korea and Vietnam. The day-long program includes lion dances, martial arts demonstrations, a tour of the Art of Asia galleries, and games and art-making activities for the whole family. Free admission tickets will be available at all ticket desks. For information:

<http://www.mfa.org/programs/special-event/lunar-new-year-celebration>

Saturday
Feb. 10
6 – 8 pm

No-No Boy – A Multimedia Concert
Pao Arts Center, 99 Albany Street, Boston

A multimedia event featuring the music of singer/songwriter Julian Saporiti who through music, storytelling and visuals, shines a light on diverse, but interconnected histories: WWII Japanese incarceration, southeast Asian refugees, and kids in middle America making sense of hyphenated identities. Suggested donation \$10. For information and to register:

<https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/2017/02/10/nonoboy>

Sunday
Feb. 11
12-5 pm

30th Annual Lunar New Year Festival: Year of the Dog
North Quincy High School, 316 Hancock Street, Quincy

Presented by Quincy Asian Resources and South Cove Community Health Center, this event will feature cultural performances, karaoke contest, Best Restaurant Competition, Story time, virtual reality, games, photo booth, and more. Free admission. For information: <https://quincyasianresources.org/lunarnewyear>

Tuesday
Feb. 13
12 - 1 pm

Bridging Countries with Organic Farming
CIC Boston, Meridian Room, 50 Milk Street, 5th floor, Boston

Assawaga Farm's Yoko Takemura will discuss her work to combine Japanese and American farming practices and customs to produce organic vegetables. She and her husband have a certified organic vegetable farm in Northeast Connecticut where they grow a diverse range of vegetables and mushrooms with a special emphasis on Japanese heirloom and traditional varieties. To register for this event go to: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2778596>

This is part of the Japan Society of Boston's Brown Bag Luncheon Series presented on the second Tuesday of each month.

Tuesday
Feb. 13
5 - 7 pm

Japanese Language Gathering
CIC Boston, Meridian Room, 50 Milk Street, 5th floor, Boston

The Japan Society of Boston offers an opportunity to practice speaking Japanese for learners of all levels and interest in an informal, welcoming setting. Beginners and native speakers of Japanese are encouraged to attend. This event is free to Japan Society members and \$5 for non-members. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2738257>

through
Feb. 18

Central Square Theater: Proof
450 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge

Asian American actors Michael Tow and Lisa Nguyen are featured in this play about an enigmatic woman, her brilliant father and an unanticipated suitor. After the discovery of a groundbreaking proof, the daughter is confronted with the question of how much of her mathematician father's brilliance did she inherit – and is that the only thing he passed on to her? Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, David Auburn's *Proof* is a moving exploration of the nature of genius, women in mathematics, and father-daughter relationships. For more information and tickets: <https://www.centalsquaretheater.org/shows/proof/>

Sunday
Feb. 18
7:30 pm

TAO: *Drum Heart*

Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston

TAO: Drum Heart offers a vibrant, modern twist to a traditional art form with explosive taiko drumming and innovative, acrobatic choreography. Tickets are \$30, \$38, \$48 and \$58. For information and tickets:

http://worldmusic.org/content/event_page/5991/taodrum-heart

Tuesday
Feb. 20
6 pm

Machio Kaku – *The Future of Humanity*

Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard Street, Brookline

Machio Kaku is the author of the bestseller *The Future of the Mind* in which he traverses the frontiers of astrophysics, artificial intelligence, and technology to offer a stunning vision of man's future in space, from settling Mars to traveling to distant galaxies. Tickets are \$29.95 and includes admission to Kaku's reading and a copy of his book. For information and reservations:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/michio-kaku-22018-tickets-41316318220>

Wednesday
Feb. 21
6 –8:30 pm

Tufts Day of Remembrance: *Incarceration and Resistance*

Alumnae Lounge, Tufts University, 40 Talbot Ave., Medford Campus

Student speakers will present personal stories of survival during the Japanese American incarceration and today. They hope to find intersections between past and present resistance stories and how the fight toward ending racism has not ended. Presented by the Tufts Japanese Culture Club, United for Immigrant Justice, and the Asian American Center. The program is free and open to the public.

Sunday
Feb. 25
11am–3pm

BCNC: Lunar New Year Celebration

Pao Art Center, 99 Albany Street, Boston, MA

Drop in for Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center's free family-friendly activities that include lantern making, Chinese macramé, and Lion Dance workshops at 12, 12:30 and 1 pm. For information and tickets:

<https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/2017/02/25/lunarnewyear>

A special dumpling making workshop will also be offered starting at 11 am. Cost of the workshop is \$30. Prior registration is required. To register go to:

<https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/inthekitchennewyeardumplings>

Monday
Feb. 26
3-5 pm

Lunar New Year Celebration at the State House

Massachusetts State House, Great Hall, 24 Beacon Street, Boston

The Asian American Commission and the Asian American Civic Association host the first annual Lunar New Year celebration at the State House. For reservations and questions, email: tgao@aaca-boston.org.

Friday
Mar. 2
5:30–9 pm

BCNC Chinese New Year Banquet

Hei La Moon Restaurant, 88 Beach Street, Boston

The Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center's annual New Year Banquet is one of the largest community celebrations in Chinatown. Early reservations are recommended since this event is usually sold out. Tickets are \$200 for adults and \$85 for children under 12. For reservations and information, go to:

<https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/banquet2018>

Friday
Apr. 27
7:30 am

Heart of the Community Dim Sum Breakfast

Location & details to be announced

Save the date for Asian Community Development Corporation's annual dim sum breakfast that celebrates the community and its outstanding leaders.

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

through
Apr. 1

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
June 3

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

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Maihaugen Gallery of Hayden Memorial Library, Building 14N-130
160 Memorial Drive, Cambridge

China Comes to Tech: 1877-1931

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/>.

through
Sep. 2

WORCHESTER ART MUSEUM

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

Last Defense: The Genius of Japanese Meiji Metalwork

The exhibition focuses on the genius and versatility of metalworkers during the transitional period of the Meiji Restoration. With the decline of the samurai class, armor-makers applied their skills and artistry to new types of metal products, from toys to decorative art. For information:

<http://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/last-defense-japanese-metalwork/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

NEW YORK

Feb. 7 to 18

Pan Asian Repertory Theatre: *No-No Boy*

Studio Theatre in Theatre Row, 410 West 42nd Street, New York City

The play is based on the novel by John Okada and is set after World War II as Japanese Americans are returning to the West Coast. The story follows the struggles of Ichiro Yamada to reconnect with the Seattle community after taking a bold stance \ during his incarceration in an American concentration camp. The play is directed by Ron Nakahara and features an all Asian American cast. The Pan Asian Repertory Theatre is presenting *No-No Boy* to commemorate 2018's Day of Remembrance. For tickets and information:

<https://www.telecharge.com/Off-Broadway/NoNo-Boy/Overview?&aid=ven000193900>

through
Mar. 25

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

WASHINGTON, D.C.

through
Dec. 8

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

**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

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>

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES COUNTY MUSEUM OF ART

5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA

phone: 323-857-6010

through
Feb. 4

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 Maya Ando. For more information:

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

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA

phone: 213-625-0414

February
Films***Resistance at Tule Lake*****Saturday, Feb. 10 at 2 pm**

A documentary about the Tule Lake Segregation Center. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers. For tickets and information, go to:

<https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=b9f0697c-70fa-4340-8037-2c6eeef94d8>

Our Man in Tokyo (The Ballad of Shin Miyata)**Saturday, Feb. 24 at 2 pm**

The premiere screening of a film about Shin Miyata, a Tokyo-based record label owner, music promoter, and cultural ambassador who has been distributing Chicano music and bringing East Los Angeles bands to Japan for nearly 20 years. The screening will include a panel discussion with Miyata and live musical performances. For tickets and information, go to:

<https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=22f59af5-529c-4048-941c-b1c9bc6bca08>

through
Feb. 25***Transpacific Borderlands:******Art of Japanese Diaspora in Lima, L.A., Mexico City & 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/>

through
Apr. 8***Contested Histories: Art & Artifacts from the Eaton Collection***

This is the collection that was almost auctioned off in 2015 until Japanese American individuals and organizations intervened and prevented the items from being sold. All of the artwork and artifacts from the Japanese American incarceration camps were saved and are now at the Japanese American National Museum. The collection includes more than 450 paintings, photographs, sculptures, pieces of jewelry and other objects from the camps. For more information, go to: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/contested-histories/>

Also see this Los Angeles Times article:

<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-ca-cm-eaton-collection-20180105-htmstory.html>.

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/>

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM SAN JOSE

535 N. Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

Feb.26 & 27

English Rakugo from Japan

Kanariya Eiraku, from Tokyo, performs Rakugo in English. Rakugo is a 400-year-old tradition of comic storytelling in Japan. Performances will be at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (Feb. 26 from 5 to 7 pm) and at the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center, 415 South Claremont Street, San Mateo (Feb. 27 from 10 am to 12 pm). Both events are free and open to the public, reservations are required. For information and reservations go to:

<http://www.jamsj.org/jamsj-news-item/2018/2/upcoming/1/english-rakugo-from-japan/>

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>