



## *New England Chapter News* *Japanese American Citizens League*

January 2018

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Visit our web site: [www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org)

### **Three plays featuring Asian Americans coming to Boston and New York areas**

The New Year is bringing us several plays either featuring Asian American actors or a return of older classics about the Japanese American experience. We'll try to keep you informed about them through the pages of this newsletter.

We hope you were able to see ***We Hold These Truths*** when it was at the Lyricstage Theatre during the month of December. It featured Michael Hisamoto as Gordon Hirabayashi and told the story Hirabayashi's fight to challenge the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II all the way to the Supreme Court. Hisamoto will return to the stage in the spring when the SpeakEasy Stage Company presents the Boston premiere of ***Allegiance*** (May 4 to June 2). He be taking on the role of Mike Matsuoka.

Central Square Theater in Cambridge is presenting the Pulitzer Prize-winning play, ***Proof*** (January 18 to February 18), with an almost all Asian American cast. Details are in the *Events in New England* section of this newsletter.

To the south, in New York City, the Pan Asian Repertory Theater is offering a special limited return of ***No-No Boy*** (February 7 to 18) in honor of 2018's Day of Remembrance. Details are in the *What's Happening Elsewhere* section of this newsletter.

We'll see you at the theater!

## EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Tuesday  
Jan. 9  
5 to 7 pm

### Japanese Language Soiree

CIC Boston, Meridian Room, 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 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>

Tuesday  
Jan. 16  
7:30 pm

### Huun Huur Tu – The Throat Singers of Tuva

The Rockwell, 255 Elm Street, Somerville

From the independent republic of Tuva, bordering Mongolia, the singers perform an ear-twisting vocal technique in which a single vocalist produces two or three notes simultaneously. Accompanied by traditional string and percussion instruments, the four-member ensemble sings rhythmic songs that capture the magic of the Siberian steppe. Their scheduled Jan. 28 concert is sold out. For tickets and information:

[http://worldmusic.org/content/event\\_page/6651/huun-huur-tu-the-throat-singers-of-tuva](http://worldmusic.org/content/event_page/6651/huun-huur-tu-the-throat-singers-of-tuva)

Jan. 18 to  
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.centralsquaretheater.org/shows/proof/>

Thursday  
Jan. 18  
7 and  
8 pm

### Film: *Mary and the Witch's Flower*

Check website for times and theaters

A new animated tale of magic and wonder from Studio Ghibli (creators of *Spirited Away* and *Howl's Moving Castle*). Based on the classic children's book *The Little Broomstick*, the film is an action packed tale of a young girl trying to find a place in the world. This is a special one-night premiere event at select movie theaters nationwide. For more information and tickets go to:

<https://www.fathomevents.com/events/mary-and-the-witches-flower>

Sunday  
Jan. 21  
4 pm

### Yamato Drummers

Zeiterion Theatre, 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford

The Yamato Drummers are on a world tour with their traditional Wadaiko drums bringing "soul, spirit and psyche" into their performances. Tickets are \$29, \$39 and \$49. For tickets and information: <https://zeiterion.org/yamato-drummers/>

Monday  
Jan. 22  
6 - 7:30 pm

**Author Panel: *It Occurs to Me That I Am America***  
**Boston Public Library, Rabb Hall, 700 Boylston Street, Boston**

This program features original short stories from acclaimed authors - including panelists Alice Hoffman, Ha Jin and Heidi Pitlor – who consider the fundamental ideals of a free, just, and compassionate democracy. The panel will be moderated by writer and artist Jonathan Santiofer. The program is free and open to the public. For more information go to:

[http://www.bpl.org/programs/author\\_series.htm](http://www.bpl.org/programs/author_series.htm)

Tuesday  
Jan. 23  
8 pm

**We'll Meet Again: *Children of World War II***  
**WGBH, Channel 2**

In a new six-part series, Ann Curry brings together people whose lives intersected at pivotal moments in history. In the first episode, Curry helps a Japanese American woman incarcerated during World War II find a childhood friend. This episode will be repeated:

Thursday, Jan. 25 at 12 pm on WGBX/44

Sunday, Jan. 28 at 9 pm on WGBH World

Sunday, Jan. 28 at 11 pm on WGBH/2

Monday, Jan. 29 at 9 am on WGBH World

Monday, Jan. 29 at 3 pm on WGBH World

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

## 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  
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/>

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 140<sup>th</sup> 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**

### **NEW YORK**

Feb. 7 to 18

**Pan Asian Repertory Theatre: *No-No Boy***

**Studio Theatre in Theatre Row, 410 West 42<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.mocanyc.org/exhibitions/fold_golden_venture_paper_sculptures)

## WASHINGTON, D.C.

through  
Dec. 8

### THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

Documents Gallery, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, National Museum of American History  
14<sup>th</sup> 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 MUSEUM SAN JOSE

535 N. Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

Feb. 26 and  
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>

**JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM****100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA      phone: 213-625-0414**

Sunday  
Jan. 7  
11 am to  
5 pm

***Oshogatsu Family Festival: Year of the Dog***

Admission to the museum is free all day. Visitors can enjoy Shishimai (Japanese style lion dances), traditional Japanese New Year food tasting, kids' raffle, traditional *mochitsuki*, Year of the Dog inspired crafts, and much more. For more information, go to: <http://www.janm.org/events/2018/oshogatsufest/>

Jan. 7 to  
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-htm1story.html>.

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/>

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/>