



New England Chapter News

Japanese American Citizens League

January 2020

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Save Feb. 29 for Day of Remembrance 2020

Join the New England JACL on Saturday, February 29, for our Day of Remembrance program. We are planning an afternoon of speakers and activities on the MIT campus in support of **Tsuru for Solidarity**, a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates working to end detention sites and support front-line immigrant and refugee communities. Guest speaker for our February program will be Carl Takei, Senior Staff Attorney at ACLU's Trone Center for Justice and Equality and one of the co-chairs of Tsuru for Solidarity. He will be joined by a panel of representatives from New England organizations working for refugee and immigrant rights.

Tsuru for Solidarity is organizing a **National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps** to be held June 5 to 7, in Washington, DC. The group plans to bring 125,000 paper cranes, or *tsuru*, to Congress as an expression of solidarity with, and support for, the immigrant and refugee communities in the United States. The cranes represent the 125,000 Japanese who were incarcerated in America during WWII. The New England JACL is one of the nation's community groups supporting this event.

You can be part of the National Pilgrimage by joining us for a "*tsuru* fold-in" following the program of speakers on February 29. We will be folding cranes to add to the *tsurus* that will be taken to Washington, D.C. in June. The Pilgrimage is expected to be the largest gathering of Japanese Americans since the WWII incarceration. Plans for our Day of Remembrance event are being finalized and detailed information will be sent to you soon. For information about **Tsuru for Solidarity** go to: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/>

Applicants sought for JACL National Scholarships

JACL's 2020 National Scholarship Program is accepting applications for the approximately 30 awards granted incoming college freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students. Interested students should carefully read the information about the types of scholarships available, some are aimed at students in specific fields of study. Eight scholarships are for incoming college freshmen in all fields of study. Among the eight undergraduate awards available are scholarships in journalism, agriculture and public/social services. The seven graduate awards include scholarships in dentistry, general medicine, education, social justice and community service. There are three law school scholarships as well as special awards for financial need, in the performing arts, and Japanese American creative arts.

Deadline for freshman scholarships is March 2, 2020. Deadline for undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and student aid is April 1, 2020. For scholarship program guidelines, instructions and application forms: <https://jacl.org/jacl-national-scholarship-program/>

Advocacy Opportunities:

Join JACL in supporting Legislation for Immigrants

The Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act (HR 2415) will come before Congress this year to support the rights of asylum seekers and immigrants. The bill proposes changes to how the US treats asylum seekers and all immigrants coming to the United States and ensures transparent and responsible conduct around immigrants awaiting a court decision. It will implement a shift from sending immigrants to detention facilities to alternative, independent housing under community-based supervision. It will also address transparency in how the US runs its detention facilities to ensure that workers are respecting immigrants' rights. For a complete text of the bill: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2415/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22h.r.+2415%22%5D%7D&r=1&s=1>

US Representatives from New England are already well represented as cosponsors, but we can use more. In Massachusetts 6 of its 9 Representatives are cosponsors, Connecticut has 4 out of 5 and Vermont is 100% with its single Representative a cosponsor. Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, each have one of their 2 Representatives signed on as cosponsors. To check if your Representative is a cosponsor, go to the following web site and click on your state to get their names: https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2415/cosponsors?fbclid=IwAR3gt1grs0LTyV_cG3WzpkJz7afsB0TysmMRPeNQKoRYL090Rh2jr_SE970&r=1&s=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22h.r.+2415%22%5D%7D

To sign a petition in support of this bill, go to: https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-the-petition-demand-congress-enact-humane-treatment-for-asylum-seekers-and-immigrants?source=direct_link&referrer=group-japanese-american-citizens-league-jacl

High School video contest sponsored by Nat'l Veterans Network & Comcast/NBCUniversal

The National Veteran's Network (NVN) is inviting high school students to create a personal video that shows the impact the story of a Nisei soldier from WWII has had on them. The Nisei soldier can be a personal relative or friend, or the soldier can be selected from the Smithsonian Digital Exhibition. The competition is open to high school students between the ages of 13 and 19. **All entries must be received by January 30, 2020.** The competition is being held in conjunction with the opening of the National Museum of the Army in Washington, DC. The winning student and one family member will receive travel and accommodation expenses to visit the Museum. For more information and entry forms: <http://nationalveteransnetwork.com/videocontest.shtml>

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Wednesday
Jan. 8
6 to 8pm

Japanese/English Language Exchange

CIC Boston, Meridian Room, 50 Milk Street, 5th floor, Boston

Join the Japan Society of Boston for a Japanese/English language exchange with native Japanese speakers. This event is open to those learning to speak Japanese and native Japanese speakers. The January meeting is free and open to the public. Register online or at the door. Information & registration:

<https://japansocietyboston.wildapricot.org/event-3664960>

- Wednesday**
Jan. 8
7 pm
Magic: Shin Lim
Chevalier Theatre, Medford Square, 30 Forest Street, Medford
Shin Lim is a Canadian-American magician, recognized for his use of card manipulation and sleight of hand. He is winner of the 2015 World Championship of Magic (FISM) for close-up card magic and of America's Got Talent season 13. Tickets are \$49 to \$195. Information: <https://chevaliertheatre.com/>
- Sunday**
Jan. 12
5 & 8 pm
Masters of Hawaiian Music: Three Slack Key Guitar Masters
Club Passim, 47 Palmer Street, Cambridge
Slack Key Masters George Kahumoku, Jr., Led Kaapana, and Kawika Kahiapo in two performances of Hawaii's unique folk styles that have origins in the early 19th century Hawaiian paniolo (cowboy) culture and evolved into one of the signature sounds of contemporary Hawaiian music. Tickets are \$32 for reserved tables and general admission. Information: <https://passim.secure.force.com/ticket/#/instances/a0F3u000005kfyPEAQ>
- Monday**
Jan. 13
7 pm
Book Talk: Pastry Love by Joanne Chang
Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge
Joanne Chang discusses her latest cookbook. This event is free and open to the public. Information: http://www.harvard.com/event/joanne_chang3/
- Wednesday**
Jan. 15 &
Thursday
Jan. 16
times vary
Film: Weathering With You
Locations and times vary, check web site
A special two-night preview of a new animated film from director Makoto Shinkai and producer Genki Kawamura, the creative team behind *Your Name*. The screenings will feature a video interview with director Shinkai. Information and tickets: <https://www.fathomevents.com/events>
- Friday**
Jan. 17
6 pm
Boston Higashi School Jazz Band
CIC Venture Café, 1 Broadway, 5th floor, Cambridge
Japan Society of Boston launches its 2020 Jazz Series with a performance by the Boston Higashi School Jazz Band. Information: <https://japansocietyboston.wildapricot.org/Jazz-Series>
- Friday**
Jan. 17 at
9 pm &
Saturday
Jan. 18 at
2:15 pm
Film: First Love
Brattle Theater, 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge
The paths of an up and coming boxer, a call girl with a drug problem, and a scheming yakuza punk collide on one fateful, neon-drenched night in Tokyo in this thriller from Japanese director Takashi Miike. Information and tickets: <https://www.brattlefilm.org/2020/01/17/first-love-2/>
- Sunday**
Jan. 19
11am -
4pm
Children's Museum: Oshogatsu 2020
Boston Children's Museum, 308 Congress Street, Boston
Celebrate the New Year with taiko drumming, mochitsuki, the Shishi lion, Chado tea ceremony, origami, Japanese fortune telling and more. Admission is \$18 for children and adults. Children under 12 months are free. Information: <https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/calendar/oshogatsu-2020-japanese-new-years-celebration>

- Saturday**
Jan. 25
10am -
4pm
- PEM: *Lunar New Year Festival***
Peabody Essex Museum, East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem
This annual festival includes music, art making and classic traditions highlighted by lion dances performed by Boston's Gund Kwok troupe, the only all-women lion and dragon dance group in the country. All events are included with admission. Admission is \$20 for adults; \$18 for seniors; \$12 for students; and free for youth under 16. Information: <https://www.pem.org/events/the-year-of-the-rat>
- Jan. 30 to**
Feb. 23
- MFA: *The Boston Festival of Films from Japan***
Boston Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston
The festival opens with a free screening of *Okko's Inn*, the latest feature from anime studio Madhouse and director Kitaro Kosaka, a key animator on numerous classic films at Studio Ghibli. Other films I include Takashi Miike's *First Love* and Shinobu Yaguchi's *Can't Stop the Dancing*. A complete list films, dates and times has not yet been released. Check the MFA web site for updates and information: <https://www.mfa.org/series/the-boston-festival-of-films-from-japan>
- Thursday**
Jan. 30
Dinner at
5:30pm
Film at
7pm
- Film: *Persona Non Grata: The Story of Chiune Sugihara***
Vilna Shul, 18 Phillips Street, Boston
The film tells the story of Chiune Sugihara, a Japanese diplomat who issued more than 2,000 visas to Jewish refugees in Kaunas, Lithuania, saving more than 6,000 people during the early years of World War II. The film will be preceded by a kosher-style Japanese-inspired dinner. The program is sponsored by the Japanese Consulate General in Boston and Basis Technology. Tickets are \$40 for dinner and film; \$10 for film only. Information and tickets: <https://vilnashul.org/events/event/sugihara>
- Saturday**
Feb. 1
10am-5pm
- MFA: *Lunar New Year Celebration***
Boston Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston
Celebrate the new year with free admission to the MFA all day. Learn about Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese traditions with a variety of activities, demonstrations and performances. Presented in partnership with the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, Korean Cultural Society of Boston, VietAID, Vietnamese American Community of Massachusetts, and Chinese Culture Connection. Information: <https://www.mfa.org/event/community-celebrations/lunar-new-year-celebration?event=3265>
- Saturday**
Feb. 1
8 pm
- Yamato – The Drummers of Japan***
Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston
The Yamato troupe was created in 1992 by Masa Ogawa in Nara, Japan and has been touring the world every year since its inception. They strive to share their enthusiasm and energy with audiences by featuring the traditional Japanese Waikado drum. Tickets range from \$56 to \$226. Tickets & information: <https://www.boston-theater.com/theaters/berklee-performance-center/yamato-the-drummers-of-japan.php>
- Sunday**
Feb. 2
10am-3pm
- Boston Chinese New Year Parade***
begins on Harrison Avenue between Beach & Essex Streets
The annual lion dance parade begins here and continues through Boston's Chinatown.

Tuesday
Feb. 4 &
Wednesday
Feb. 5

Japan Society launches Japanese Language School Two locations in Cambridge and Boston

The Japan Society of Boston begins its Japanese Language school with two beginner level classes. The class will cover essential communication skills including speaking, vocabulary, grammar, and hiragana/katakana. Registration opens January 6. Class dates and locations:

Tuesdays, 2/4 to 4/21, from 6:30 to 8 pm at CIC Building, 2nd floor, Hogsmeade Room, 245 Main Street, Cambridge.

Wednesdays, 2/5 to 4/22. From 6:30 to 8 pm, CIC Building, 16th floor, Edison Room, 50 Milk Street, Boston.

Information: <https://japansocietyboston.wildapricot.org/Language-School>

Saturday
Feb.8
4 pm

Harvard Film Archive: *Whisper of the Heart* Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, 24 Quincy Street, Cambridge

An animated film directed by Yoshifumi Kondo and based on a manga adapted for the screen by Hayao Miyazaki. The film is presented from the perspective of a 12-year-old who longs to be a writer when she grows up. Tickets are \$5.

Information: <https://harvardfilmarchive.org/calendar/whisper-of-the-heart-2020-02>

Sunday
Mar. 1
2 pm

Film: *Infinity: The Life and Art of Yayoi Kusama* Institute for Contemporary Art, 25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston

This film explores artist Yayoi Kusama's journey from a conservative upbringing in Japan to her brush with fame in America during the 1960s and concludes with the international acclaim she has finally achieved within the art world. Now in her 90s, Kusama has spent the last 30 years living in a mental institution in Japan. The film will be shown at the Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) in conjunction with Yayoi Kusama's exhibition, *Love is Calling*. The film is free with admission.

Film Information: <https://www.icaboston.org/events/kusama-infinity>

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

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (ICA)

25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston

Yayoi Kusama: *Love is Calling*

through
Feb.7, 2021

An icon of contemporary art, 90-year-old Yayoi Kusama has interwoven ideas of pop art, minimalism and psychedelia throughout her work in paintings, performances, room-size presentations, outdoor sculptural installations, literary works, films, design and architectural interventions over her long and influential career. Information:

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

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM

East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem

ongoing

The Japanese Collection

Featured are works from America's most important 19th and 20th Century collectors of Japanese art. The exhibit contains many pieces considered rare even in Japan.

Information: <https://www.pem.org/explore-art/japanese-art>

HARVARD ART MUSEUMS

32 Quincy Street, Cambridge,

Feb. 14 to
July 26***Painting Edo: Japanese Art from the Feinberg Collection***

This is one of the largest exhibitions ever presented at the Harvard Art Museums and extends from the core gallery into four additional galleries. The more than 120 works span the Edo period (1615-1868) when the country settled into an era of peace under the warrior government of the shoguns and opened its doors to greater engagement with the outside world. Tickets: \$20 adults; \$18 seniors; free to students. Information: <https://www.harvardartmuseums.org/exhibitions/5909/painting-edo-japanese-art-from-the-feinberg-collection>

WORCHESTER ART MUSEUM

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

Mar.28 to
Jun.28***The Kimono in Print:******300 Years of Japanese Design Kimono Design***

An exhibition devoted to examining the kimono as a major source of inspiration and experimentation in Japanese print culture from the Edo period (1603) to the Meiji period (1868-1912). Artists documented the evolving trends in fashion, popularized certain styles of dress, and even designed kimonos. The exhibit includes 80 Japanese prints as well as a selection of illustrated books and paintings. Information:

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

April 25
to July 26
2020***Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso***

This is the first exhibition outside of Japan of historic and contemporary kimonos from the collection of Chiso – the distinguished Kyoto-based kimono house founded in 1555. The exhibit will include 13 kimonos from the mid-1600s to 2000s. A special video will document the contemporary creation of a kimono, from start to finish. A rare and up-close look at the intricacy, character and artistry of kimono design and fabrication in one of Japan's most exclusive kimono houses. Information:

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

through
Mar.1, 2020***Archaic Avant-Garde: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics***

The exhibit focuses on contemporary Japan's leading ceramicists who have explored and experimented with ancient Japanese pottery techniques and forms to invigorate their own modern creations. Information:

<https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/archaic-avant-garde/>

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

through
June 30,
2020***Conservation in Action:******Japanese Buddhist Sculpture in a New Light***

A rare, behind the scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures. The wooden figures are decorated with polychromy or gliding and date from the 9th to the 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>

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

NEW YORK

PAN ASIAN REPERTORY THEATRE

Theatre Row, Theatre Five, 410 West 42nd Street, New York

January
11, 12, 18,
19, 25 & 26

The Emperor's Nightingale

A Lunar New Year special for families and children featuring tigers, talking pandas, rival brothers and a magical bird. The production is by Damon Chua and directed by Chongren Fan and stars Leanne Cabrea, Kiet Tai Kao, Dinh James Doan, Jonathan Frye, David Huynh and Xiaoqing Zhang. Tickets are \$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 12. Look for special instructions to order children's tickets. For tickets, go to: <https://www.telecharge.com/Off-Broadway/The-Emperors-Nightingale/Ticket>

CALIFORNIA

Saturday
Jan.25,2020
10:30 am to
1 pm

2020 FRED KOREMATSU DAY:

Civil Liberties & the Constitution: STOP REPEATING HISTORY

Santa Clara University, Charney Hall of Law, Panelli Moot Court Room
500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA

The program will include a showing of *Of Civil Wrongs & Rights: the Fred Korematsu Story*, and a mock trial of "Fred Korematsu, on behalf of himself and 120,000 Japanese Americans v. United States." The trial will be followed by a discussion by Karen Korematsu, Executive Director of the Korematsu Institute, and Prof. Margaret Russell, Santa Clara University School of Law. The program is free and open to the public, but reservations are highly recommended. To reserve a seat email:

publicprograms@jamsj.org or call 408-294-3138 by January 20, 2020. Information: <https://www.jamsj.org/upcoming-events>

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

100 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA

phone: 213-625-0414

Feb 1 to
Mar. 29

Transcendents: Heroes at Borders

A contemporary art exhibition by Taiji Terasaki that honors individuals who advocate and fight for those who face discrimination, prejudice and inequality at borders both real and imagined. The exhibit includes video projections, photographic weavings, and audience participation. Information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/transcendents/>

through
Jun.7

Under a Mushroom Cloud:

Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Atomic Bomb

An exhibit organized in partnership with the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and will include (through March 1, 2020) a special display of artifacts belonging to some atomic bomb victims. Information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/under-a-mushroom-cloud/>

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM SAN JOSE

535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

through
mid-Feb,
2020

Shane Sato: *The Go For Broke Spirit*

Photographer Shane Sato has been photographing portraits of Nisei soldiers for the last 18 years. His work captures the emotion and personalities of his subjects. Museum admission is free to museum members, \$5 for seniors and students and \$8 general admission. Information: <https://www.jamsj.org/shane-sato>