



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

January 2022

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Dear JACL members and Friends,
Happy New Year! For me, entering a new year means having hopes for a fresh start on all those resolutions I made last year and didn't have time to fulfill. I'm happy to report that one resolution was achieved. As some of us on the NE JACL Board begin aging out, it's been our goal to bring new and younger people on board. I feel very, very lucky to have had Janet Gee step forward to help with the NE JACL newsletter. We're making her our co-editor and she'll soon be editor! She's a real pro, having edited the monthly calendar for the Asian American Resource Workshop. An added plus is her familiarity with and knowledge of the Boston Asian American community. You'll see her work in this edition for which she provided more than half the content. Your newsletter will be in excellent hands.

With this good start to 2022, the New England JACL Board joins me in wishing you health and happiness in the New Year.
Akemashite omedetou! --- Margie Yamamoto

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS & MISC.

Book Talk: *Brown Girls* by Daphne Palasi Andreades

Thursday, January 6 at 7 pm

virtual, registration required

Harvard Book Store and Grub Street have invited award-winning writer **Daphne Palasi Andreades** for a discussion of her book. A blazingly original debut novel told by a chorus of unforgettable voices, *Brown Girls* illustrates a collective portrait of childhood, adulthood, and beyond. It and is a striking exploration of female friendship and a powerful depiction of women of color attempting to forge their place in the world today. Free event; \$5 contribution suggested at registration.

Information: https://www.harvard.com/event/virtual_event_daphne_palasi_andreades/

Odaiko New England

Regent Underground Theatre, 7 Medford Street, Arlington

- Introductory Taiko Workshop - Sunday, January 9 from 9:30 to 11 am

- Beginner Taiko Class – 6 weeks – starts Sunday, January 16 from 9:30 to 11 am

Information: www.onetaiko.org

Asian Films at the Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle Street, Cambridge

Monday, January 10 at 4:45, 7 & 9:15 pm

Tuesday, January 11 at 4:30, 7 & 9:30 pm

Friday, January 14 at 6 pm

Friday, January 14 at 9:45 pm

Thursday, January 20 at 4:15 & 7 pm

Coming in February:

Information: www.brattlefilm.org

Goodbye, Dragon Inn by Tsai Ming-liang

Cure by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 1997

Labyrinth of Cinema by Nobuhiko Obayashi

Hausu by Nobuhiko Obayashi, 1977

Days by Tsai Ming-liang, 2021

Your Name. by Makoto Shinkai, 2016

Winter Japanese Language classes from Boston's Japan Society

beginning Monday, January 10

virtual, registration required

Ten-weeks of Japanese language classes on all levels from beginner to advanced will be offered online by the Japan Society of Boston. Classes will be small (from 4 to 8 students) and taught by native professional instructors. Tuition is \$300, with a 15% discount for Japan Society members.

Information: <https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4573682>

Waltham Library: *Justice Denied: A Personal Perspective*

Wednesday, January 12 at 7 pm

virtual, NO registration required

New England JACL's Margie Yamamoto will be the featured speaker at Waltham Library in January. She will be sharing the story of her family's immigration to America and their incarceration during World War II and return to California after the war. The online talk will be richly illustrated with family and historic photographs from that period. The program is free and open to the public, no registration is required. It will be available live on January 12 at 7 pm at: [YouTube.com/walthampubliclibrary](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=walthampubliclibrary)

Film: *Drive My Car*

Opens Friday, January 14, Coolidge Corner Theatre, 290 Harvard St., Brookline

Adapted from a short story in Haruki Murakami's *Men Without Women*, Ryusuke Hamaguchi's *Drive My Car* is a haunting road movie traveling a path of love, loss, acceptance, and peace. The film was winner of three prizes at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, including Best Screenplay. It was named Best Film of 2021 by the New York Times Film Critics Circle. (2 hrs. & 59 min. in Japanese with English subtitles)

Information: <https://coolidge.org/films/drive-my-car>

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: *An Evening of Poetry* -- Jenny Qi & Antonio Lopez
Wednesday, January 19 at 8 pm virtual, registration required

Jenny Qi is a writer and scientist and the author of *Focal Point*, winner of the 2020 Steel Toe Books Poetry Award. She has a Ph.D. in Cancer Biology from UCSF.

Antonio López is a poetician working at the intersection of poetry, politics and social change. He is pursuing a PhD in Modern Thought and Literature at Stanford University. His debut poetry collection, *Gentefication*, was selected by Gregory Pardlo as the winner of the 2019 Levis Prize in Poetry. Antonio is currently fighting gentrification in his hometown as the newest and youngest councilmember for the City of East Palo Alto.

Presented by Brookline Booksmith. **Information:**

<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

Pop-Up: *Chinese New Year Flower Market*

Saturday, January 22 to Monday, January 31 from 9 am to 6 pm

681-683 Washington St., Boston Chinatown (across from Empire Garden Restaurant)

Presented by Chinatown Main Street. **Information:**

<https://www.chinatownmainstreet.org/post/chinese-new-year-flower-popup-market-%E6%96%B0%E5%B9%B4%E8%8A%B1%E5%B8%82>

Concert: *Masters of Hawaiian Music*

Saturday, January 22 at 5 & 8 pm

Club Passim, 47 Palmer Street, Cambridge

Featuring **George Kahumoku, Jr.**, **Led Ka'apana**, and **Herb Ohta, Jr.** Known as Hawaii's Renaissance Man, **George Kahumoku Jr.** is a multiple Grammy & Hoku Award-winning master Slack Key Guitarist, vocalist, songwriter, performer, teacher, artist and sculptor, storyteller and writer, farmer and entrepreneur.

Led Ka'apana's mastery of stringed instruments, particularly slack key guitar, and his extraordinary baritone and leo ki'eki'e (falsetto) voices, have made him a musical legend. Recognition from his peers has earned Led four Grammy nominations in his own right and two wins on slack key compilations. For 'ukulele fans who prefer unpretentious technical proficiency over theatrics, **Herb Ohta Jr.** is the undisputed master 'ukulele instrumentalist of his generation.

Information: <https://www.passim.org/live-music/events/masters-of-hawaiian-music/>

Oshogatsu 2022: Celebrate the Japanese New Year!

Sunday, January 23 from 9:30 to 11:30 am admission charged

Boston Children's Museum, 308 Congress Street, Boston

Celebrate the Year of the Tiger! Visit the Japanese House exhibit, a real house from Kyoto, which will be decorated with special items that bring luck to the new year. Participate in fun activities to wish everyone happiness and good luck for 2022!

Information: <https://bostonchildrensmuseum.org/calendar/oshogatsu-2022-celebrate-japanese-new-year#>

Book Talk: How High We Go in the Dark

Tuesday, January 25 at 7 pm

virtual, registration required

Join Belmont Books and **Sequoia Nagamatsu** to discuss his debut novel, *How High We Go in the Dark* with author **Chaya Bhuvaneshwar**. **Sequoia Nagamatsu** is a Japanese-American writer and managing editor of *Psychopomp Magazine*, an online quarterly dedicated to innovative prose. Originally from Hawaii and the San Francisco Bay Area, he is the author of the award-winning short story collection *Where We Go When All We Were Is Gone* and teaches creative writing at St. Olaf College and the Rainier Writing Workshop Low-Residency MFA program. **Information & registration:**

<https://www.belmontbooks.com/event/virtual-sequoia-nagamatsu-conversation-chaya-bhuvaneshwar>

UPCOMING EVENTS

34th Annual Quincy Lunar New Year Festival – Year of the Tiger

Sunday, February 6 from 12 to 4 pm

North Quincy High School, 316 Hancock St., Quincy

Annual celebration presented by Quincy Asian Resources, Inc. (QARI) features cultural performances, Asian food & beverages, children's entertainment, God of Fortune, Asian arts & crafts, storytelling and more. **Information:** <https://quincyasianresources.org/2022-lunar-new-year>

2022 Lunar New Year Celebration

Sunday, February 13 from 11 am to 3 pm

registration required

Pao Arts Center, 99 Albany Street, Boston Chinatown

This popular family-friendly celebration is back! Experience Lion dance, brush painting demos and more! Entries will be timed to allow for social distancing.

Information & registration: <https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2022/lunar-new-year>

Chinese New Year Cultural Village

Sunday, February 13 from 11:30 am to 3 pm

China Trade Center, 2 Boylston Street, Boston

Chinatown Main Street presents Chinese calligraphy, handmade dough characters, arts & crafts, lantern making, origami, lion dance and cultural dance performances.

Information: <https://www.chinatownmainstreet.org/post/chinese-new-year-cultural-village>

Taiko Concert: Yamato - The Drummers of Japan

Saturday, March 12 at 8 pm, Berklee Performance Center, 136 Mass. Ave., Boston

Yamato's new show, *Tenmei* (Destiny), is a thrilling, high-energy interpretation of the centuries-old Japanese taiko tradition. With virtuosity, strength, spirit, and sheer endurance, Yamato displays its breathtaking performance on more than 20 drums as well as with bronze cymbals, vocals, and bamboo flutes. Presented by Global Arts Live.

Information: 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=

TRAINING/WORKSHOPS & COMPETITIONS

2022 JACL National Scholarship Program

Applications are being accepted for 30 scholarships totaling more than \$70,000 in 2022. This year's program will be conducted totally online and no mailing-in required. Scholarships are available to entering freshmen, undergraduates, graduate students, and students in the areas of law and creative/performing arts and those in financial need. All scholarships are one-time awards.

Deadlines: Freshmen scholarships – March 4, 2022. All others – April 1, 2022.

information & applications: <https://jacl.org/scholarships>

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**.

information & applications: <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**. **Information & applications:**

<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**.

Information: <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?" Submission deadline is **March 1, 2022**.

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

TV PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

Thanks to our newsletter's new co-editor, Janet Gee, here is a list of programs you can watch at home on your TV. All are on one of the WGBH cable stations: WGBH/World or WGBH/Create. Check with your cable provider for the station locations on your TV. Some of the programs are weekly or nightly programs. For scheduling changes and information, check the WGBH schedule online: <https://www.wgbh.org/schedule-grid> or <https://www.wgbh.org/schedule>

America Reframed: *Curtain Up!*

WGBH/World

Tuesday, Jan. 4 at 8 pm; Friday, Jan. 7 at 3 pm; Saturday, Jan. 8 at 10 pm; Sunday, Jan. 9 at 5 pm

In New York City's Chinatown, the theater club of PS 124 is staging an adaptation of the animated film *Frozen*. As the 5th graders gear up and rehearse for the musical production, nervous excitement and flubbed lines brush up against cultural stereotypes, family expectations, and post-graduation uncertainties. *Curtain Up!* shares a kids-eye view of the wonders of discovering art, culture and identity.

Poetry in America: Marilyn Chin's *Urban Love Poem*

Saturday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 pm; Thursday, Jan. 27 at 11:30 am **WGBH/World**

Explore San Francisco's history--from the Gold Rush and early Chinese immigration to the rise of Silicon Valley--through Marilyn Chin's poem of her San Francisco youth. In this series opener, Elisa New brings together acclaimed memoirist Maxine Hong Kingston, tech investor Randy Komisar and four Bay Area residents on a rooftop in Chinatown to discuss love of a great city.

TV PROGRAMS OF INTEREST continued**Newsroom Tokyo** Monday through Friday at 7 am WGBH/World

This program gives you comprehensive coverage of events in Japan and Asia. It explains the day's developments and what is behind them.

NHK Newslines Monday through Friday at 6:30 pm WGBH/World

Produced by NHK, Japan's news leading public broadcaster, program features global news and current affairs, business, sports, science and technology trends plus global weather forecasts from over 30 news bureaus throughout the world.

Cycle around Japan Fridays at 10 am and 5 pm WGBH/Create

Throughout this series, viewers vicariously experience breath-taking cycling adventures and see a side of Japan they won't find in the guidebooks. In every location, viewers are treated to the local culture, history, food and traditions that make cycling around Japan such a unique journey. The 10 am program is repeated at 5 pm.

Trails to Oishii Tokyo Sundays at 10 am WGBH/Create

Take an in-depth look at Japanese food available at Tokyo's iconic market, where every kind of fresh food, from seafood to produce, is gathered from around the country. The program traces unique Japanese foods from the market back to their original source.

Journeys in Japan Sundays at 10:30 am WGBH/Create

English-speaking visitors travel the length of Japan exploring the culture, meeting local people, visiting historic sites, and offering travel hints rarely found in guidebooks. The series provides an eye-opening look at the many unique places to visit in Japan.

Confucius Was a Foodie Saturdays & Sundays at 8 pm WGBH/Create

Host **Christine Cushing** takes viewers on a voyage of discovery, uncovering the fascinating traditions, philosophies and history of Chinese culinary culture and its surprising influence on food around the world. From exploring Chinese cuisines in North America to the culinary politics of Taiwan, the tasty richness of Hong Kong, and the blended flavors of South East Asia, Christine finds connections to the gastronomic precepts of the great Chinese philosopher Confucius both ancient and modern. Two episodes air each weekend.

EXHIBITIONS**PAO ARTS CENTER**

99 Albany St., Boston Chinatown

Intergenerational Storytelling***January 27 to March 25***

Join the Pao Arts Center, Curator Leslie Anne Condon, and artists Melody Hsu, Madeline Lee, Jasprett Mahal, Yuko Okabe, Matthew Okazaki, Melissa Teng, and Lily Xie to celebrate the opening of *Intergenerational Storytelling*. Due to COVID-19, they are limiting the number of visitors allowed in their gallery at a time. Please register early to reserve your space!

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 27 from 6 to 8 pm. Information & registration:
<https://www.paoartscenter.org/events/2021/intergenerational-storytelling-opening>

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>

Tattoos in Japanese Prints

through February 20, 2022

The global popularity of tattoos has brought renewed attention to the centuries-old Japanese tradition. This exhibit looks closely at the social background, iconography, and visual splendor of tattoos through the printed media that helped carry them from the streets of Edo-period Japan to 21st Century tattoo shops all over the world. Featured are nearly 80 works by Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797-1861) and his contemporaries, including his colleague and rival Utagawa Kunisada and his pupil Tsukioka Yoshitoshi. Among the highlights are a selection from Kuniyoshi's series *One Hundred and Eight Heroes of the Popular Water Margin*.

Information: <https://www.mfa.org/exhibition/tattoos-in-japanese-prints>

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA

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.

Information & video: <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* *ongoing

An exciting new exhibit using cutting edge technology is being introduced at the Museum called ***The Interactive StoryFile of Lawson Ishiro 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>

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE

535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

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>