



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

July 2020

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Storytelling by Alton Takiyama Chung this weekend

Alton Chung brings you tales about the Japanese American experience, from stories of incarceration during WWII and the exploits of the 442nd to Asian ghost stories and folk tales. Many of his live performances are available free via Zoom and are often followed by Q&A with the audience. Pre-registration is required and the Zoom connection will be sent to you. The programs include:

Sat., July 11, at 7 pm	<i>The Ben Kuroki and Frank Emi Stories</i>
Sun., July 12, at 6 pm	<i>The Minoru Teruya and Takejiro Higa Stories</i>
Thu., July 23, at 5 pm	<i>Shivery Tales & Gentle Spookies:</i> <i>Tales of Ghosts & Things that Go Bump in the Night</i>
Thu., August 6, at 5 pm	<i>Folktales from Around the World</i>

For more information and to register for his free performances, go to:

<https://www.altonchung.com/>

Click on "Tour Schedule" in the menu bar, then click on the program you'd like to see.

Bystander Intervention Training

This training was listed in our June newsletter and proved to be so popular, that additional sessions are being offered in July and August. AAJC (Asian Americans Advancing Justice) and Hollaback! are partnering to offer free online workshops on ***Bystander Intervention***. According to the organizers, the training will help you learn what to look for and the positive impact that bystander intervention has on individuals and communities. The training workshops are free, prior preregistration is required.

Training dates and times:

Wednesday, July 15, at 2 pm

Tuesday, July 21, at 4 pm

Monday, July 27, at 2 pm

Monday, August 10, at 2 pm

Wednesday, August 12, at 1 pm

Information and registration: <https://advancingjustice-aajc.org/events>

Obon at Home with the San Jose Buddhist Church

One of the best Obon festivals in Northern California is the one hosted by the San Jose Buddhist Church. On **Saturday, July 11**, they are offering the fun, food and games of the event on Facebook and Instagram. Programs will be offered from noon to 8:30 pm and will include cooking demonstrations, children's crafts, and performances by San Jose Taiko, Chidori Band and many others. For program schedule and more information, go to:

<http://www.sjbetsuin.com/san-jose-obon/>

BCNC Annual Meeting on July 16

The Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center will be hosting its Annual Meeting on Thursday, July 16 from 5 to 5:30 pm via Zoom. BCNC's new CEO Ben Hires will be introduced to the membership. To attend this session, **register by July 14** at:

<https://bcnc.net/events/2020annualmeeting>

Tsuru for Solidarity: *Community Conversations*

Tsuru for Solidarity will be offering a series of Community Conversations beginning July 25, from 1 to 3 pm. The series will provide an opportunity to explore identity and intergenerational trauma, anti-Black racism in our community, and what it means to be in solidarity with other communities historically targeted by racism and violence. The first session will be on Japanese American Identity and will feature Dr. Donna Nagata, psychologist and Professor at the University of Michigan; Dr. Satuski Ina, co-organizer Tsuru for Solidarity; and moderated by Brian Niiya, Content Director, Densho. Registration opens on Wednesday, July 15 at 9 am (EDT). Registration will be limited. To register:

https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsuru-rising-community-conversations/?link_id=1&can_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-tsuru-rising-community-conversations&email_referrer=email_857814&email_subject=tsuru-rising-community-conversations

Lessons from the Past: Yellow Peril in COVID-19 Times

We found some great websites in the JACL newsletter from Washington, DC. One you might find of particular interest is a panel discussion regarding current issues faced by Asian Americans during this pandemic. Panelists are Shirley Ann Higuchi, JD; Dr. Satsuki Ina; Dr. Carolee Tran; and Dr. Gordon C. Nagayama Hall. My favorite part of the video is at 50:57 on the tape and Dr. Tran's response when she is confronted by a racist in Costco. Go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_sUW2wWnfA&feature=youtu.be&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=cbb10205-2312-4478-ad0b-302fcd276b41

#IAMNOTAVIRUS created to fight racist attacks

NE JACL member George Sugai sent us information on this website that was created in response to the growing racist attacks against Asian since the outbreak of COVID-19. Michael Keo, the organization's founder is from Connecticut and his goal is to show how Asians and Asian Americans are deeply ingrained and connected to the very soul of America... and an attack against an Asian American is an attack against a neighbor. To see the organization's video and posters, go to: <https://www.iamnotavirus.info/>

Japanese home cooking for non-chefs

The Japan Society is offering an online cooking class on *Okonomiyaki*, a savory pancake and an iconic Japanese street food. The class will be held on **Saturday, August 1 from 5 to 6:30 pm**. Registration is \$10 for Japan Society members and \$15 for non-members. The class will be hosted via Zoom and students will be sent a list of ingredients prior to the event. Registration and information: <https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-3901022>

Bilingual home exercises

The Japan Society web site introduced us to a neat 11-minute exercise video featuring Japanese professional golfer Eika Ohtake showing you upper body exercises using water bottles as weights. She uses both English and Japanese to show you what to do. A great way to see how much Japanese you can understand. Go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9qSC9Q6PNVI>

***Tadaima!* Virtual Community Pilgrimage through Aug. 16**

We are currently in week four of this virtual event hosted by Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimage (JAMP). In an effort to provide an overview of many of the annual pilgrimages to the WWII American incarceration sites that would normally take place, the JAMP team is made up of visual artists committed to memorializing the history of Japanese Americans. They plan to bring together representatives from different parts of the JA community as well as scholars, artists and educators. To learn more and register:

<https://www.jampilgrimages.com/virtualpilgrimageregistration>

National Youth Council Storytelling Competition

This summer JACL's National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) is conducting a **Digital Storytelling competition** on ***How Does the Past Influence Your Present?*** Open to all youth ages 13 to 30, the NY/SC is inviting submissions in a variety of formats: journalistic essay, visual art, video/film, poetry or creative writing. The top two entries will receive an expenses paid opportunity to attend the 2021 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas to present their work as well as having it published online and in the National JACL newspaper The Pacific Citizen. Deadline for entries is August 15, 2020. For more information:

<https://nysc.jacl.org/how-does-the-past-influence-your-present-ny-sc-digital-storytelling-competition/>