



New England Chapter News

Japanese American Citizens League

July 2021

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Obon Festivals on the East Coast

We've received word of two Obon Festivals on the East Coast and both events will be held in person (not virtual) on Saturday, July 17. Our JACL chapter in Seabrook, NJ, reports that the Seabrook Buddhist Temple will be holding its Annual Obon Odori Festival. This event has been held every year for 76 years will include traditional obon dancing and Japanese themed items on sale. Some changes will be observed to avoid overcrowding. From one of our new JACL members, Brandon Yu Iizuka Rivas, we learned about the Obon celebration by the Nichiren Buddhist Sangha of Greater Boston in Haverhill, MA. Here is information on both events.

76th Annual Obon Odori Festival

**Saturday, July 17, beginning at 5 and 6:30 pm Seabrook Buddhist Temple
Meditation Garden, 9 Northville Road, Seabrook, New Jersey (right off Route 77)**

In previous years, this event was held with everyone gathering for a full evening of celebration. This year's festival will be a little different with two "seatings" to avoid overcrowding. Participants will be able to stroll through the meditation garden, enjoy the live performances, and browse the sale offerings. You'll be provided colored wristbands to coordinate transition between the seatings. This event is free and open to the public.

Advance registration is required for the following times:

5 to 6:30 pm First Seating

6:30 to 8 pm Second Seating

Entertainment and items on sales will include:

- Traditional Obon Dancing with audience participation
- Taiko drumming
- Japanese themed treat bags and baked goods
- Japanese American themed ornamental trees

Register at Sign-Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d45afab23a2fc1-2021>

For more Information: <http://sbtnj.org/sbtnj.org/website2/events/>

Obon 2021

**Saturday, July 17 Nichiren Buddhist Sangha of Greater Boston
Winnekenni Park, 347 Kenoza Avenue, Haverhill, MA**

Paper lanterns to dedicate to those who passed away will be available for painting following the evening service. Suggested donation \$10.

9 to 10:30 am Morning service at Temple, 80 Merrimack Street, Haverhill

11 am to 5:30 pm Temple Open House

6 to 6:45 pm Evening service at Winnekenni Park

7:30 pm to dusk Lantern floating

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/Nichiren-Buddhist-Sangha-of-Greater-New-England-27016912491/>

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS & MISC.

All events are virtual, unless otherwise noted

Architecture and Design for a Better Environment: Learning from Japan, Past and Present

Tuesday, July 13, 4:30 pm (Pacific Time)

registration required

A Zoom seminar from the University of California, San Diego, on traditional Japanese architecture and design emerging from a sophisticated environmental sensibility that observes the scarcity of resources reinforced by ethical values nurtured over centuries. Author and designer Azby Brown will provide insight into how disparate aspects such as forests, watersheds, agriculture, buildings, energy, and waste can be approached as integrated wholes and can apply to contemporary environmental and architectural design problems. Brown is the author of seminal books including *The Genius of Japanese Carpentry*, *A Very Small Home*, and *Just Enough: Lessons in living green from traditional Japan*. Information and to register:

https://ucsd.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_o_N2ShzyTKqnGw51M9pggg

The World of Manga

Wednesday, July 14, from 6 to 7:30 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

Lindsey Stirek, Assistant Director of Academic Programming at Japan House, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will discuss Manga, a global phenomenon and one of Japan's most recognizable cultural exports. Her talk will introduce manga, its production and history, and explore its evolution and the ways it interacts with culture and society. Sponsored by the Japan Society of Greater Cincinnati. Information and registration:

<https://jasgc.org/en/events/#!event/2021/7/14/the-world-of-manga>

Baseball in Japan and the U.S.

Wednesday, July 14, at 8 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

In celebration of the upcoming Tokyo Summer Olympic Games, the Japan American Society of Chicago is hosting a discussion between two baseball veterans and a filmmaker. They'll cover the differences in the game in both countries, the popularity of the sport, experiences playing through the pandemic, and prospects for baseball at the Summer Olympics. Participants are Warren Cromartie, who has played Major League ball with the Montreal Expos and Kansas City Royals and was an outfielder and first baseman with Tokyo Yomiuri Giants, and Matt Murton, former outfielder with the Chicago Cubs, Oakland As and Colorado Rockies and with Hanshin Tigers. The discussion will be moderated by Yuriko Gamo Romer, director of the upcoming film *Diamond Diplomacy*, that explores the relationship between the US and Japan through a shared love of baseball. The event is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. Information and registration:

<https://jaschicago.org/event/baseball-in-japan-the-u-s/>

AARW: Intro to Southeast Asian Deportation Defense team**Asian American Resource Workshop****registration required****Saturday, July 17, from 1 to 2:30 pm (Eastern Time)**

An orientation session to give an overview of the work of AARW's Southeast Asian Deportation Community Defense team. This will be an opportunity for interested volunteers to ask questions and join a discussion with the team's organizers. This session is open to the public. For information and to register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvdOiopzwsG9Uh-TLIAyUZsncuO0bqkWZr>

Food: Japanese Fried Chicken or *Karaage***Milk Street Live Online Cooking School****Tuesday, July 27, from 6 to 7:15 pm (Eastern Time)****registration required**

A class with guest chef John Sugimura, executive chef, concept-brand director and partner at PinKU Japanese Street Food in Minneapolis and at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. You'll learn how to create a *Karaage* rice bowl from marinating the chicken to coating the fried chicken in a savory sauce. Cost: \$24.95. Information and registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/japanese-fried-chicken-with-john-sugimura-tickets-152141069033>

Food: *Easy Japanese Home Cooking* with Debra Samuels**Saturday, July 31 at 5 to 6 pm (Eastern Time)****registration required**

Just in time for summer, a class with Debra Samuels on how to prepare *Hayashi-chuka*, literally meaning "chilled Chinese." It's a cold ramen noodle dish usually topped with vegetables and a protein. You can be as creative as you wish. Debra is a NE JACL member as currently directs program content and curriculum development for Table for Two USA, a Japanese inspired food education program. The class is sponsored by the Boston Japan Society and is being offered live via Zoom. Cost is \$15 for the general public and \$10 for Japan Society members. Information and registration:

<https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4395738?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=7/30/2021>

Hiroshima Day* with First Parish Dorchester*Friday, August 6, starting at 6 pm, film at 8pm****First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish Street, Dorchester****in person event**

A program commemorating the August 6, 1945 bombing of Hiroshima. Beginning at 6 pm activities for kids will include the folding of origami cranes led by Akemi Chayama from the Boston Children's Museum. Tim Nagaoka, a Boston Public School teacher, will fold a giant paper crane with a 12 ft X 12 ft piece of paper. The cranes will be strung and hung in the entrance to the meetinghouse as a symbol of peace. At 8 pm the documentary ***Paper Lanterns*** will be screened. The film tells the story of atomic bomb survivor Shigeaki Mori who spent his life finding the families of 12 American POWs killed by the Hiroshima bomb. The film's producer and co-director Barry Frechette will be on hand for a Q&A following the screening. This event is free and open to the public.

Food: *Mochi Magic – Matcha Madness*

Saturday, August 14, from 1 to 3 pm (Pacific Time)

registration required

Mochi is a traditional Japanese confectionary that now comes in a variety of forms, shapes and textures that you can learn to make at home. Kaori Becker, author of the cookbook *Mochi Magic*, will lead this Zoom workshop on making matcha flavored Mochi donuts, cupcakes and pancakes. The class is offered by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. Registration is \$20. For information and registration: <https://www.jccnc.org/events/mochi-magic-matcha-madness-virtual-cooking-class-with-chef-kaori-becker/>

EXHIBITIONS

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculpture

A rare, behind the scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures. Visitors are invited to watch as conservators study and treat the sculptures in a public conservation studio. The wooden figures – images of worship depicting Buddhas, Guardian Kings, and a Wisdom King – are decorated with polychromy or gilding and date from the 9th to 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>

Japanese Garden, Tenshin-en

Amid the disruption of the pandemic of the last year and a half, many of us may have forgotten about a Japanese Garden right in the heart of Boston. Dedicated in 1988, *Tenshin-en*, or the “Garden of the Heart of Heaven,” is a contemplative Japanese garden. It is named for the Museum’s curator of Chinese and Japanese Art, Kakuzo Okakura (known in Japan as Okakura Tenshin), who worked at the MFA from 1904 until his death in 1913. The entrance to the garden, pre-COVID, was across the street from the Museum parking garage and open parking lot on Museum Road. For more information on the garden, go to:

<https://www.mfa.org/collections/featured-galleries/japanese-garden-tenshin-en>

Glenn Kaino: *In the Light of a Shadow*

MASS MoCA, 87 Marshall Street, North Adams, MA

phone: 413-662-2111

July 15 to September 5, 2022

In the Light of a Shadow is inspired by the connection between two protests -- the tragic events known as “Bloody Sunday” from Selma, Alabama and Derry, Northern Ireland. The installation spans the entire football-field size Building 5 gallery and provides an immersion experience of moving shadows and evocative soundscape. Kaino has had solo exhibits at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, The Andy Warhol Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art in San Diego, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, among others. Information: <https://massmoca.org/event/glenn-kaino-in-the-light-of-a-shadow/>

Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso

**Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury Street, Worcester
through July 3, 2022**

virtual exhibition

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. For information and access to the video series, go to: <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-couture/>

ELSEWHERE

Japanese American National Museum

A Life in Pieces: The Diary and Letters of Stanley Hayami

through January 9, 2022

virtual exhibition

The exhibit brings to life Hayami's writings from camp and his wartime letters with a 3D virtual experience that can be accessed by smartphone. In 1944, at the age of 19, he was drafted into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He was killed in Italy while trying to rescue a fellow soldier during combat. The exhibition will have its world premiere at the 2021 Tribeca Festival in the Immersive Category. For information: janm.org/a-life-in-pieces.

A Call for Home Photos and Movies

JANM is in the planning stages for an exhibition that will examine and highlight Nikkei car culture and are looking for family photos and home movies of people's relationship to their cars. These images can be of people driving, cruising, and racing cars, or family photos/movies shot in front of cars. They are especially interested in images from the 1930s through the 1980s. The exhibition will be curated by Oliver S. Wang, a pop culture expert and professor at California State University, Long Beach. For more information contact Kristen Hayashi, Director of Collections Management and Access, at collections@janm.org or call 213-830-5712.