



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

June 2015

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773  
Visit our web site: [www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org)

### **Watanabe joins President Obama's Commission on AAPIs**

Paul Watanabe has been appointed by President Obama to his national Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). Watanabe, an associate professor of political science at UMass Boston, is the University's director of the Institute for Asian American Studies, a position he has held since 2003. Obama established the Advisory Commission in 2009 to work with agencies throughout the federal government to improve the health, education and economic status of AAPI communities. Watanabe is one of 11 persons named to the Commission.

Watanabe has also served as chair of the U.S. Census Bureau's National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic and Other Populations since 2012. He is also president of the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, a national program that provides scholarships for Southeast Asian students. At UMass, his focus areas include American foreign policy, American political behavior, ethnic group politics and Asian Americans.

In making the appointment, President Obama said, "These men and women bring extraordinary dedication to their roles and will serve the American people well. I look forward to working with them."

### **Free admission to MFA for JACL members, friends**

The Boston Museum of Fine Arts has offered JACL 20 free passes to the MFA on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. The MFA currently has three outstanding Japanese exhibits: *Hokusai, In the Wake: Japanese Photographers Respond to 3/11*, and *Playing with Paper: Japanese Toy Prints*. Prior reservations are necessary to receive a pass. We must meet as a group at the museum in the morning before entering. Children under 6 do not need a pass. All children must be accompanied by an adult. To reserve your pass, contact Margie at [yamamoto@nejacl.org](mailto:yamamoto@nejacl.org) or call 781-259-9444. You will receive detailed instructions on where and when to meet.

### **Sus Ito featured in New England's *Sampan* newspaper**

An interview with Sus Ito, NE JACL Board member, was featured in *Sampan*, the bilingual Chinese-English newspaper. The article covers his experiences as a member of the famed all Nisei 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team during World War II and his views on life in general. To read the online version of the story, which is also available in Chinese, go to:

<http://sampan.org/2015/05/japanese-american-veteran-chooses-love-not-hate/>.

## EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Wed.  
June 3  
7 pm

### **Book Reading: Jennifer Tseng** **Newtonville Books, 10 Langley Road, Newton Centre**

Jennifer Tseng will read from her novel *Mayumi and the Sea of Happiness*. Mayumi is a librarian on a small island off the coast of New England. At 41 years of age, she is a disenchanting wife and dutiful mother. One day she issues a library card to a shy 17-year-old boy and her life changes dramatically. For more information call Newtonville Books at 617-244-6619 or go to: [www.newtonvillebooks.com](http://www.newtonvillebooks.com).

Starts  
Friday  
June 5

### **From Studio Ghibli: *When Marnie Was There*** **Kendall Square Cinema, One Kendall Square, Cambridge**

From the animation studio that brought you *Spirited Away*, comes a feature by Hiromasa Yonebayashi about a lonely 12-year-old orphan who spends a summer in a sleepy town by the sea. She meets a mysterious new friend, Marnie, who introduces her to the nighttime revels in the villa where she lives. The film will be shown for one week only. Check with the theater for times at:

<http://www.landmarktheatres.com/boston/film-info/when-marnie-was-there-subtitled>.

Saturday  
June 6  
1 to 3 pm

### **Save the date for BCNC's *Savor the Flavor*** **Quincy Center for Innovation, 180 Old Colony Avenue, Quincy**

This is Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center's fundraising event to support programs for families to achieve greater economic success and wellbeing. This reception will include an international sample of sushi, dim sum, Vietnamese cuisine, mango pudding and more. Tickets are \$50. Make your reservation by June 1. For more information and to purchase a ticket, go to:

<http://www.bcnc.net/index.php/event/293/savor-the-flavor.html>.

Saturday  
June 13  
2 to 5 pm

### **Taketina Workshop: Movement, Meditation & Rhythm** **Boston Center for Adult Education, 122 Arlington Street, Boston**

Elaine Fong offers a class on Taketina, a meditative rhythm process. No experience necessary. Registration necessary. Tuition is \$40. For more information and to register, go to: [www.bcae.org](http://www.bcae.org).

Saturday  
& Sunday  
June  
13&14

### **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston Dragon Boat Festival** **The Charles River, Cambridge**

Dragon Boat races on the Charles River: June 13, 7 am to 2 pm; June 14, 7 am to 5 pm. The Dragon Boat Festival is on Sunday, June 14 from 12 to 5 pm with Asian Food Vendors along Memorial Drive. The Main Tent will feature Asian cultural performances, arts & crafts, along the banks of the Charles River, nears Weeks Footbridge, DeWolfe St., off Mt Auburn St. Free admission. For more information go to: [www.bostondragonboat.org](http://www.bostondragonboat.org).

Saturday  
June 20  
12:30 to  
2 pm

### **Book Signing: Joanne Chang** **Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, 38 Ash Street, Boston**

Joanne Chang, owner of Flour bakery will be talking about her new book *Baking with Less Sugar*. The book contains more than 60 recipes that have less sugar and more flavor. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing.

Admission is free, but reservations are required by Monday, June 15. To register call 617-635-5129, ext.0 or email: [info@bcnc.net](mailto:info@bcnc.net). This event is sponsored by BCNC and the Asian American Resource Workshop.

**Tuesday**  
**June 23**  
**6 pm**

### **Book Talk: Rosana Wan**

**Boston Public Library, Commonwealth Rm., 700 Boylston St., Boston**

Rosana Wan, a park ranger at the Adams National Historical Park, is the author of *The Culinary Lives of John & Abigail Adams: A Cookbook*. The book covers the Adams' 54-year marriage and the diverse cuisines they enjoyed in Massachusetts and Europe. Admission is free. For more information, call 617-536-4500 or go to <http://www.bpl.org/programs/calendar.htm?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D113076491>

**Friday**  
**June 26**  
**6 pm**

### **AACA 2015 Gala: *Their Courage to be New***

**On Board *The Odyssey*, Rowes Wharf, Gate B, Boston**

The Asian American Civic Association (AACA) sponsors an evening cruise from 7 to 10 pm featuring a networking reception, dinner, awards, auctions, dance performances and a photo exhibit. AACA celebrates 48 years of services to immigrants and low-income individuals in Massachusetts. Early bird tickets are \$190 before June 5. After June 5 tickets are \$200. For more information, go to: <http://aaca-boston.org/aaca-gala-2015/>.

**Saturday**  
**June 27**  
**6 to 8 pm**

### **The Genki Spark Taiko Workshop for beginners**

**Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Brookline**

The Genki Spark offers a 2-hour introductory workshop open to all ages (over 7), no experience necessary. Cost: \$30. Information: <http://www.thegenkispark.org>

**July**  
**7 to 8**

### **MFA's Summer Teacher Workshop: *Art of Japan***

**Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston**

The MFA is offering a two-day professional development workshop for K-12 teachers interested in incorporating the teaching of Japan and its arts into their curriculum. The workshop would be supported by two current major exhibits, *Hokusai* and *In The Wake: Japanese photographers Respond to 3/11*, as well as the MFA's renowned collection of Japanese art. It will include lectures, gallery activities, and other behind-the-scenes experiences, offering an immersion in the Japanese visual arts as a means toward understanding the history, culture, and contemporary society of Japan. Fee for the workshop is \$100 which includes admission to the museum, coffee/tea service, and all materials. To register and for more information, email [teacherresources@mfa.org](mailto:teacherresources@mfa.org).

**Saturday**  
**July 18**  
**3 to 6 pm**

### **AARW Summer Grill-Off BBQ**

**Arsenal Park, 485 Arsenal Street, Watertown**

Join members of the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) community in celebrating summer with its annual grill-off. Community groups will be competing with their grilling skills. If you are interested in competing as a team, contact Carolyn by email at: [carolyn@aarw.org](mailto:carolyn@aarw.org). Application deadline is Friday, June 12. Ticket information will be in the July NE JACL newsletter or check the AARW website: <http://www.aarw.org/events/summer-grill>.

July 24  
to 26

**2015 Lowell Folk Festival**  
**Five stages in Downtown Lowell**

Featuring music, art, food and fun, this is the longest running free folk festival in the country. Among the performers is Ann Yao Trio, a Chinese string ensemble. More details still to come at: <http://www.lowellfolkfestival.org>.

## EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

**Peabody Essex Museum**

East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem

through  
June 21

***Audacious: The Fine Art of Wood from the Montalto Bohlen Collection***

The work of several Asian American woodworkers are a part of this exhibit. Common and exotic woods are transformed by lathe and carving tools into complex sculptural forms. For more information go to: <http://www.pem.org/exhibitions/>.

**Fuller Craft Museum**

455 Oak Street, Brockton

through  
Nov. 1

***Haystack Components: Metals and Jewelry***

The work of Kristin Mitsu Shiga is among those highlighted in this exhibition of jewelry and metal art at the Fuller. For more information, go to: <http://fullercraft.org/event/haystack-components-metals-and-jewelry/>.

**Museum of Fine Arts**

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

through  
August 9

***Hokusai***

Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) is one of Japan's most popular and influential artists. The MFA is drawing from its extensive holdings of paintings, woodblock prints and illustrated printed books to showcase works from Hokusai's seven-decade career. Included is the iconic *Great Wave* from his legendary series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*. In the Gund Gallery.

through  
July 12

***In the Wake: Japanese Photographers Respond to 3/11***

This exhibition explores the photographic response to the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011. A number of photographers felt compelled to record not only the events' physical effects on the land, but also to interpret the overarching significance of the tragedy through art. The work of 17 photographers is featured.

through  
July 19

***Playing with Paper: Japanese Toy Prints***

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, color woodblock printing in Japan was so inexpensive that it could be used to make toys for children. This exhibit features colorful board games, paper dolls, cutout dioramas and pictorial riddles, as well as prints showing how the toys and games were enjoyed.

For more information on all exhibits go to: [www.mfa.org/exhibitions](http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions).

**Worcester Art Museum**  
**55 Salisbury Street, Worcester**

through  
 Sept. 6

***Samurai***

The samurai in history and popular culture is explored by guest curator Eric Nakamura, editor and founder of Giant Robot Magazine. The exhibit combines historical Japanese arms and armor from the Worcester Art Museum and John Woodman Higgins collections with work by contemporary artists inspired by samurai and their enduring myth.

through  
 August 9

***Nagasawa Rosetsu, Bamboo***

This six-panel folding screen was painted by Rosetsu in 1792 using broad brush strokes, interrupted only by the nodes of the bamboo and by a dependence on ink tone rather than line in defining form.

For more information on all exhibits go to: <http://www.worcesterart.org/Exhibitions/>.

**Mead Art Museum**

**Amherst College, 41 Quadrangle Drive, Amherst**

through  
 June 28

***Fifty Years of Showa Japan***

Photographs by Kageyama Koyo (1907-1981) documenting the changing urban landscape of Tokyo during the Showa imperial period (1926-1989).

***Nature, Pleasure, Myth: Animals in the Art of Japan***

This exhibit explores the appearance of animals throughout different genres of Japanese woodblock prints, textiles, and fashion.

For more information go to: <https://www.amherst.edu/museums/mead/exhibitions>.

**Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History**

**170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut**

through  
 Jan.3,  
 2016

***Samurai and the Culture of Japan's Great Peace***

The 150 artifacts displayed are from 1615 to 1863, during the period of the Great Peace of the Tokugawa shoguns. The exhibit is designed to show some lesser known sides of Japan under samurai rule such as popular notions of responsible lives, good deaths and desirable after lives. For more information, go to:

<http://peabody.yale.edu/exhibits/samurai-and-culture-japans-great-peace>

## **SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS & COMPETITIONS**

### **Applications being accepted for JACL Fellowships**

JACL National is accepting applications for the 2015 Daniel K. Inouye and Norman Y. Mineta Fellowships, as well as for the Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship. Each paid Fellowship will last for at least one year and is located in Washington, DC. Completed applications (and letters of recommendation, if required) are due by Friday, July 31 by email to [pouchida@jacl.org](mailto:pouchida@jacl.org). For questions, email [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org) or call 202-223-1240. JACL is seeking one Inouye Fellow one Mineta Fellow, and up to four Masaoka Fellows for 2015-2016. For more information and application forms go to:

<https://www.jacl.org/internships-and-fellowships/>.

## Internships in Japan for Spring 2016

The TOMODACHI Internship Program is accepting applications for spring 2016 internships in Japan. The program is open to American students currently enrolled in any accredited college and allows students to participate in a wide variety of areas in Japan including government, financial services, NPO/NGO, media, entertainment, fashion, journalism, IT and consulting. Operation Tomodachi was born in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, when the US and Japanese governments worked together successfully to provide immediate humanitarian relief to the Tohoku region. Building on this cooperation and spirit, the TOMODACHI Internship Program was created, led by the US Embassy in Tokyo and the US-Japan Council, a non-profit organization, and supported by the government of Japan, as well as corporations, organizations and individuals in the US and Japan. The goal of TOMODACHI is to invest in the next generation of Japanese and American leaders through educational and cultural exchanges. Application deadline for the Spring 2016 term is October 1, 2015. For more information, go to: <http://usjapantomodachi.org/tomodachi-internship-program/>.

## Submissions for 2015 Boston Asian American Film Festival

Filmmakers are invited to submit their work for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF). This year's theme will be *Home in America* and formats can be narratives, dramas, comedies, shorts, documentaries, animations, music videos, and experimental films. **Deadline is July 1.** The BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop. For more information, go to: [www.baaff.org](http://www.baaff.org).

## Essay & Video Contest for high school and college students

The Go for Broke National Education Center is accepting entries for its Essay and Video Contest. A total of \$6,000 in prizes will be awarded 12 contest winners in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$250. The competition is open to high school and college (undergraduate and graduate) students. Essay and video topics must relate to the Japanese American WWII soldier as outlined in contest details. **Deadline for entries is June 30.** For more information go to: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_CoXi-pB9cjYIRqUVBRZ3hLTWxnTUVIYU44a2gwSjlwYzNN/view?pli=1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_CoXi-pB9cjYIRqUVBRZ3hLTWxnTUVIYU44a2gwSjlwYzNN/view?pli=1).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

## NEW YORK

### Pan Asian Repertory Theatre

520 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 314, New York, NY phone: 212-868-4030

Performances in Theatre Row, 410 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York

July 5 to  
26

### *Sayonara*

Tisa Chang directs this re-imagining of the epic musical of US military in post-WWII Japan. The production highlights the all female Takarazuka dance theater and how compassion and love can heal prejudice despite the inevitable collision of two disparate codified cultures. For more information and tickets go to:

<http://www.panasianrep.org/index.shtml>.

July 23 to  
August 1

**38<sup>th</sup> Asian American International Film Festival**  
**various locations in Manhattan and Flushing Queens**

This year's festival will highlight feature and short film programs of all genres and visual styles from around the world. Also planned are industry networking mixers, a music video showcase with live performances, exclusive interviews, screenplay readings, press opportunities to meet the filmmakers, post-screening receptions, after parties and much more. For more information go to:

<http://www.asiancinevision.org/asian-american-international-film-festival-2015/>.

Opens on  
Nov. 8  
Previews  
begin  
Oct. 6

***Allegiance***

**Longacre Theatre, 220 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street, New York phone; 212-239-6200**

Inspired by the true childhood experience of its star, George Takei, *Allegiance* is a dramatic musical that tells the multi-generational story of Sammy and Kei Kimura, a brother and sister, and the challenges they face when they choose opposing paths when faced with the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II. For more information and tickets go to: <http://www.allegiancemusical.com>.

## NEVADA

July 13  
to 15

**2015 JAACL National Convention**

**Monte Carlo Hotel, 3770 Las Vegas Blvd. South, Las Vegas**

The national convention will be held in Las Vegas, NV, featuring sessions of the National Council, a Youth orientation and mixer, a performance of Blue Man Group, receptions, and a final Sayonara Banquet. Form registration and more information go to: <https://www.jacl.org/2015convention/>.

## CALIFORNIA

**Japanese American Museum San Jose**

**535 N. Fifth St., San Jose, CA**

**phone: 408-294-3138**

current

***Twice Heroes and More***

An exhibit honoring Nisei veterans who fought in World War II and featuring the work of San Francisco photographer and writer Tom Graves. Other exhibits include ***The Barracks Room, Sports in the Japanese American Community, and Post World War II: Resettlement.***

Saturday  
June 5  
1 pm

**Meet the Author: Brenda Nakamoto's *Peach Farmer's Daughter***

Nakamoto recalls her childhood growing up on a rural Northern California farm. A Sansei, Nakamoto movingly reflects on the decline of her aging parents, her deep connections to the land, and personal family history.

Most Museum events are free with admission, but RSVPs are usually required. For reservations, email [PublicPrograms@jamsj.org](mailto:PublicPrograms@jamsj.org) or call 408-294-3138. For more information, go to: [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org).

## Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA

phone: 213-625-0414

current

### ***Common Ground: The Heart of Community***

This exhibit incorporates hundreds of objects, documents and photographs collected by the museum chronicling 130 years of Japanese American history.

July 11 to  
Sept. 6

### ***Sugar/Islands: Finding Okinawa in Hawai'i***

Paintings by Laura Kina and photographs by Emily Hanako Momohara explore the two artists' mixed heritage roots in Okinawa and Hawai'i, employing unique strategies that blend fiction and reality to question the stability of memory and identity. For more information, go to:

<http://www.janm.org/exhibits/sugar-islands/>.

July 14 to  
Sept. 6

### **Before They Were Heroes: Sus Ito's World War II Images.**

Photographs taken by Sus Ito while he was on a tour of duty through Europe as a member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team will be featured in this exhibit. While participating in such dramatic events as the rescue of the Lost Battalion, Ito captured images of the daily lives of a group of young Japanese American soldiers. This is the first in JANM's new *Sharing Our Stories* series of historical exhibitions drawn from its extensive permanent collection. For more information, go to:

<http://www.janm.org/exhibits/sus-ito/>.

For more information on all exhibits and events, go to: [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org)

Friday  
June 12  
6 pm

## **Congressional Gold Medal Fundraising Dinner**

**Fairmont Hotel, 170 South Market Street, San Jose, CA**

The National Veterans Network is sponsoring a dinner to honor General Eric K. Shinseki, former US Secretary of Veteran Affairs. Proceeds from the dinner will support the Smithsonian's upcoming Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition which will highlight the stories of WWII Japanese American soldiers. Special guests will include The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta and Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi. For more information, go to:

<https://nationalveteransnetwork.givezooks.com/events/congressional-gold-medal-dinner-san-jose-ca>.

Thursday  
to Sunday  
July 2 to 5

## **OCA 2015 National Convention**

**Hilton Union Square, 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA**

*Unifying Asian Pacific Islander America* is this year's theme for the OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates national conference. Early bird registration has been extended to May 11. For more information and to register, go to:

[http://www.ocanational.org/?page=Events\\_Convention](http://www.ocanational.org/?page=Events_Convention).