



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

June 2019

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Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Happy Summer everyone!

As activities slow down during the summer months, we may be sending you only one issue covering July and August, with occasional email blasts when we get word of individual events. We welcome information about events that would be of interest to our JACL members and friends. Send the information to: yamamoto@nejacl.org.

Go For Broke Nat'l Education Center offers cash prizes

The Go For Broke National Education Center is accepting entries for its 2019 high school and college student essay and poetry competition that focuses on the relevance and impact of Japanese American WWII veterans in our world today. Cash prizes totaling \$7,000 will be awarded 12 winners. The competition is open to all high school and college students.

Deadline for entries is June 30, 2019. Information:

http://www.goforbroke.org/news/annual_events/studentcontest/index.php

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

through
June 8

Theater: *Hold These Truths*

**Barrington Stage Company, Sydelle & Lee Blatt Performing Arts Cntr
St. Germain Stage, 36 Linden Street at Center Street, Pittsfield**

The true story of Gordon Hirabayashi, the son of Japanese immigrants who resisted incarceration during World War II. Written by Jeanne Sakata and featuring Joel De La Fuente as Hirabayashi, a college student and a Quaker.

Tickets are \$15 to \$50. Information & reservations:

<https://barringtonstageco.org/Season-Shows/hold-these-truths/>

through
June 16

Theater: *Pacific Overtures*

Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon Street, Boston

This musical, by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman, is set in 1853 and follows Japan's difficult westernization. It premiered on Broadway in 1976 to mixed reviews and closed after six months. The lead characters are Kayama, a samurai, and Manjiro, a Japanese fisherman who was marooned and later rescued by a New England ship. The original Broadway production starred Mako as the Narrator. Two more recent New York productions featured B.D. Wong (2005) and George Takei (2017) as Narrators. The all-Asian Boston cast includes Kai Chao, Sam Hamashima (Manjiro), Alexander Holden, Elaine Hom, Carl Hsu (Kayama), Brandon Milardo, Gary Thomas Ng, Jeff Song, Karina Wen, Micheline Wu and Lisa Yuen. For \$20 discount on tickets, use **Code: PO20**.

Information: <https://www.lyricstage.com/productions/pacific-overtures/#Cast>

Tickets: 617-585-5678 or boxoffice@lyricstage.com

Saturday
and
Sunday
June 8&9

**Boston Dragon Boat Festival
along the Charles River in Cambridge, details online**

This two-day event usually features the time trials on Saturday and the finals on Sunday. Also featured are food and arts & craft booths and cultural performances. Check their web site for updates:

<https://www.bostondragonboat.org/>

Wednesdays
June 5-26
7-8:30pm
(June 12
3-4 pm)

Transcontinental Railroad Lecture Series

Leominster Public Library, 30 West Street, Leominster

This program was organized by the Chinese Historical Society of America and the Chinese Railroad Workers in North America Project at Stanford University. The topics and speakers include:

June 5 ***Early Chinese Migrants in Massachusetts***

with Anthony W. Lee

June 12 ***Debunking Myths about the Chinese Railroad Workers***

with Richard Cheu

June 19 ***The Chinese Question in the Afterlife of Slavery***

with Caroline H. Yang

June 26 ***Chinese Americans, the Chinese Exclusion Act, and the Ongoing Question of Who Gets to be an American***

with Dr. Benjamin Railton

Information: <http://www.leominsterlibrary.org/pdfs/Iron%20Road%20Flyer%20-%20All%20Events.pdf>

Monday
June 10
6:30 pm

Translating Japanese: Sawako Nakayasu & Allison Powell
Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard Street, Brookline

Two prominent Japanese translators will discuss their most recent work. Sawako Nakayasu is an artist working with language, performance and translations. Her most recent book is ***The Collected Poems of Chika Sagawa***. Allison Markin Powell is a literary translator, editor and publishing consultant. She will discuss her translation of ***The Ten Loves of Nishino*** by Hiromi Kawakami. Information: 617-566-6660 or <https://www.brooklinebooksmith.com/events/>

June 10-17
7 pm
(June 22
at 5 pm)

Extreme Cinema: The Action Documentaries of Kazuo Hara
Harvard Film Archive, Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy Street, Cambridge

Kazuo Hara is best known for his passionately confrontational films – or “action documentaries” as he calls them – de in close collaboration with a series of extraordinary activists and agitators. Hara and his long-time producer Sachiko Kobayashi will be present for the screening of his latest film *Extreme Private Eros* on June 23.

June 10 ***The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On***

June 17 ***Sayonara CP***

June 21 ***A Dedicated Life***

June 22 ***Sennan Asbestos Disaster***

June 23 ***Extreme Private Eros: Love Song 1974***

Information: <https://library.harvard.edu/film/films/2019junaug/hara.html>

Wednesday
June 19
7:30 to
9:30 pm

Concert: *Jake Shimabukuro*

Cary Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington

The ukulele virtuoso returns with his inspired touch on everything from island standards, popular tunes and classical symphonic concertos. He will be introducing new songs into his concert as he embarks on an extensive US tour and a fall tour of Japan. Tickets: \$39, \$49, \$59. Information & tickets:

<https://www.caryhalllexington.com/events/2019/6/19/jake-shimabukuro>

Friday
June 21
7-9 pm

Kreplach & Dim Sum – Yes, there are Jews in China!

New England Historical Society, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston

The extraordinary presence of Jews in China is celebrated in this presentation featuring lively stories, photos, video, and music. Learn about the history of Jews in China from the 8th and 9th Centuries to the present. The program is presented by the Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center in partnership with the Chinese Historical Society of New England. A kosher style dinner will be catered by Mei Mei. Tickets: \$36. Information & Reservations:

<https://my.americanancestors.org/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=1078>

Saturday
June 29
1-4 pm

The Second Annual Quincy Family Fun Fair

Cavanagh Stadium, Birch Street, Quincy, MA

Sponsored by the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center in Quincy, this event brings children and families together for an afternoon of outdoor summer fun and entertainment. Activities include arts and crafts, family competitions, a bouncy house, a petting zoo and much more. This event is free and open to the public. Information:

<https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/quincy-fair>

Sunday
June 30
1-5 pm

AACA Gala: Their Courage to be New

***Spirit of Boston* cruise ship, Seaport Blvd., Boston**

This year's Asian American Civic Association gala features Honorary Chairs Governor Charlie Baker and Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh. Tickets start at \$220. Information & Reservations: <https://aaca-boston.org/aaca-gala/>

July to
December

Studio Ghibli Fest 2019

at movie theaters in your area, check web site for locations

Studio Ghibli animated film classics will be featured in special showings at theaters in our area. To find a theater near you, go to:

<https://www.fathomevents.com/series/studio-ghibli-fest>

July 1, 2 ***Whisper of the Heart***

July 28,29,31 ***Kiki's Delivery Service***

Aug 25,26,28 ***My Neighbor Totoro***

Sep 29,30 ***The Secret World of Arrietty***

Oct 27,28,30 ***Spirited Away***

Nov 17,18,20 ***Princess Mononoke***

Dec 16, 18 ***The Tale of the Princess Kaguya***

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

through
Sep. 15

Royal Celebrations: Japanese Prints and Postcards

As Japan welcomes a new emperor, the MFA offers an exhibit of prints, postcards and illustrated books from its collections that depict important events in the Japanese imperial family from 1868 to the present. Information:

<https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/royal-celebrations>

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>

HARVARD ART MUSEUMS 32 Quincy Street, Cambridge

through
August 11

Prince Shotoku: The Secrets Within University Teaching Gallery

A rare opportunity to view a significant 13th Century Japanese icon, *Prince Shotoku at Age Two*. The Prince is regarded as the founder of Buddhism in Japan. Information:

<https://www.harvardartmuseums.org/visit/exhibitions/5756/prince-shotoku-the-secrets-within>

through
August 11

Japan on Paper University Study Gallery

Featured are almost 50 woodblock prints from the 17th through the 20th Century. Artists include Hiroshige, Hokusai and Jakuchu as well as contemporary work by Noriko Saito. Information: <https://www.harvardartmuseums.org/visit/exhibitions/5803/japan-on-paper>

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM

East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem

through
Jan. 3, 2021

Japanomania! Japanese Art Goes Global

An exhibit that covers the beauty and complex stories behind the museum's celebrated Japanese export art collection. It covers the period from the arrival of Portuguese merchants in the 1500s through Japan's emergence on the world stage in the late 19th Century and beyond. Information:

<https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/japanomania-japanese-art-goes-global>

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

through
March 1
2020

Archaic Avant-Garde: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics

This exhibit focuses on contemporary Japan's leading ceramicists who have explored and experimented with ancient Japanese pottery techniques and forms to invigorated their own modern creations. Featured are pieces from the Horvitz Collection and works from such late 20th Century potters as Kamoda Shoji, Mori Togaku, Mihara Ken and Isezaki Koichiro. Information:

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

CANADA

THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

through
August 5

Being Japanese Canadian: reflections on a broken world

Contemporary Japanese Canadian artists share their personal perspective on the exile, dispossession, and incarceration of Japanese in Canada during World War II. Some of the artists experienced this history first hand and others through their parents and grandparents. Exhibit information:

<https://hyperallergic.com/485797/contemporary-artists-reflect-on-japanese-internment/>

Museum information:

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/exhibitions-galleries/exhibitions/being-japanese-canadian>

NEW YORK

THE MET FIFTH AVENUE

1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street, New York, New York

through
June 16

The Tale of Genji: A Japanese Classic Illuminated

This is the first major loan exhibition in North America focusing on the artistic tradition inspired by *The Tale of Genji*. More than 120 works, covering the period from the 11th Century to the present, include paintings, calligraphy, silk robes, lacquer wedding set items, a palanquin for the shogun's bride, and popular art such as ukiyo-e prints and modern manga are featured. Highlights include two National Treasures and several works recognized as Important Cultural Properties. Information:

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2019/tale-of-genji>

PAN ASIAN REPERTORY THEATER

Bruce Mitchell Room, 520 8th Avenue, 3rd floor, New York, New York

June 25-29
2:30&7 pm

Nuworks 2019

The Pan Asian Rep presents new work from emerging artists who explore different genres and techniques. A diversity of voices, topics, and types of art will be presented in seven productions by eight artists. Tickets: \$25. Information & Reservations:

<https://www.panasianrep.org/nuworks-2019>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

Documents Gallery, 2nd floor, National Museum of American History
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

ongoing

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II is an exhibit now featured at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History through. Documents, articles and art exhibited include the original Executive Order 9066 and other historic images and objects. Information:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/righting-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii>

CALIFORNIA

ASIAN ART MUSEUM

200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA

phone: 415-581-3500

through
August 18

Tattoos in Japanese Prints

This exhibit recounts how large scale, densely composed pictorial tattoos emerged in the 19th Century Japan in tandem with woodblock prints depicting tattooed heroes of history and myth. Featured will be Japanese prints from Boston's MFA collection that explore the interplay between ink on paper and ink on skin. Information:

<http://www.asianart.org/exhibitions/tattoos-in-japanese-prints>

current

Puppy Love

This gigantic sculpture by Yoshitomo Nara of a cartoonish white dog is on view at the museum's Osher Plaza. Nara has named his work *Your Dog* and its surreal scale evokes the large guardian sculptures stationed at entrances to Shinto shrines.

Information: <http://www.asianart.org/regular/nara-your-dog>

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM SAN JOSE

535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

through
Sep. 29

AGRARIANAA@JAMSJ

The Asian American Women Artists Association and the Museum present a multimedia exhibition featuring nine local and national artists inspired by the history of Japanese American agricultural crafts, legacies and present day community placemaking. The opening reception is on Saturday, March 9 from 12 to 3 pm, and will feature a participatory art piece, along with refreshments and more. Admission to the museum will be free for the opening reception. Information:

<https://www.jamsj.org/agrarianaa-jamsj>

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

100 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA

phone: 213-625-0414

through
October 20

At First Light: The Dawning of Asian Pacific America

A multi-media exhibition exploring and celebrating the emergence of a politically defined Asian Pacific American consciousness and identity. A co-production of Visual Communications (VC) and the Museum, it will feature video stories from the VC archives, a free standing cube sculpture produced by VC, and a contemporary video installation.

Information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/at-first-light/>

through
July 7

Kaiju vs Heroes:

Mark Nagata's Journey through the World of Japanese Toys

Drazoran and Captain Maxx are among the hundreds of dazzling vintage and contemporary Japanese vinyl toys on display. *Kaiju* translates to "strange creature" in English, but has come to mean "monster" or "giant monster" referring to the characters popular in Japanese films and on television soon after WWII. Mark Nagata began collecting these toys as a child in California in the 1970s.

Information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/kaiju-vs-heroes/>