



New England Chapter News

Japanese American Citizens League

June 2021

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Go For Broke postage stamp now available

The Go For Broke postage stamp honoring Japanese American soldiers of WWII went on sale June 2. Efforts to make the stamp a reality started in 2005 when three Nisei women in California decided "... the story of the Japanese American soldiers of WWII is worthy of a commemorative postage stamp... and is one small step toward honoring the proud, diverse history of our armed forces and of our nation as a whole." Two of them were widows of MIS and 442nd veterans.

The three women who started this grassroots campaign are Fusa Takahashi, Aiko O. King, and the late Chiz Ohira (she passed away in 2018) and were incarcerated in American concentration camps during WWII. Mrs. Takahashi and Mrs. King are both 93 years old.

For the full story of their tireless work and the help they had along the way go to:

<http://niseistamp.org/about-us/> To order a sheet of the new postage stamp, go to:
<https://store.usps.com/store/results?Ntt=go+for+broke&requestid=939394>

Inouye Fellowships

Applications are being accepted for the Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship in JACL's Washington, DC office. Because JACL's DC office is currently being operated remotely, the fellowship will begin virtually, but will be physically based in DC once regular office operations resume.

During the one-year program, fellows will explore JACL's legislative and policy advocacy work and help administer several major JACL projects. **Deadline for application is June 13, 2021.** For more information and application forms: <https://jacl.org/internships-and-fellowships?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=72b3e239-2db0-4e3d-bc8c-a50c69f3ec96>

Kakehashi Program to Japan may be virtual

The JACL Kakehashi Program that traditionally sends participants to Japan for a cross country/cultural exchange is continuing this year, but with a smaller virtual exchange. If conditions permit, and a trip to Japan becomes possible during this funding year, participants accepted for the virtual program will automatically participate in the physical trip. If a physical trip does not materialize, participants will be eligible to apply to a future Kakehashi trip or similar program. Application **deadline is June 13.** For more information:

<https://jacl.org/faqs?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=d707fc7a-658c-48b8-a4da-12860016a359&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=72b3e239-2db0-4e3d-bc8c-a50c69f3ec96>

JACL Young Professionals Caucus (YPC) Survey

The YPC is an affinity group within JACL for self-identifying young professionals and is working towards providing a space for sharing experiences, building and deepening relationships, and collective growth. They are conducting a survey to help build towards future programs. For more information and to participate in the survey, go to:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScjmbjDokDLER_vWjp_aWOSTg0gHnVPg19H6hB7a4aRERXZg/viewform

Art Competition for Tsuru for Solidarity

Tsuru for Solidarity is seeking art submissions that are inspired by or in conversation with the organization's priorities. The organization is a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates and allies working to end detention sites and support directly impacted immigrant and refugee communities targeted by racist, inhumane immigration policies. Submissions can be in a wide range of media from architecture, murals, photography and traditional art to 3D, animation, sound art, and new media. A handful of selected artists will receive a \$500 stipend, have their work displayed on social media by Tsuru, will be part of an online group exhibit, and their art will be converted into prints to be sold at fundraisers for Tsuru. **Deadline for submissions is June 28.** For full details go to: <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/tsuru-art/>

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS & MISC.

All events are virtual

Cooking Class: #EdamameChamp

Saturday, June 5 at 5 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

Join this annual spring campaign to promote healthy eating through Japanese cuisine focusing on soy and to raise funds for teaching healthy eating to more children. The Japan America Society of Minnesota and Debra Samuels, representing Table for Two, are hosting this program about healthy Japanese cuisine. Participants will learn how to make miso ramen at home and can enjoy fun challenges using edamame. The program is free and open to the public with a suggested donation of \$5 to \$10. Information:

<https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4275874>

Constant Change, Changeless Constancy:

Japan in the Summer of its Olympics

Tuesday, June 8 at 7 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

Pico Iyer, internationally known author, journalist and TED talk favorite, will be featured in a conversation with Peter Grilli, President Emeritus of the Japan Society Boston. In Iyer's recent books, *Autumn Light* and *A Beginner's Guide to Japan: Observations and Provocations*, he reflects on his 30 years in and around Kyoto and Nara. Pico and Grilli will reflect on their Japanese journeys and how they have influenced the way they think, write, speak and live their lives. This event is free and open to the public, a donation to the Japan Society of Boston is suggested. Information:

<https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4311175>

Heart of the Community Dim Sum Breakfast

Friday, June 11 at 10 am (Eastern Time)

registration required

This annually fundraising event for the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) will again be held virtually. Proceeds support community members in re-imagining and rebuilding their quality of life and transforming their neighborhoods. Programs supported include A-VOYCE youth leadership program, bilingual first-time homebuyer workshops and financial counseling, civic engagement and place keeping projects. Tickets are \$130. For information and program updates: <https://asiancdc.org/events/dimsum2021>

***If Only We Dare* -- from the Harada Story to ending Asian Hate**

Thursday, June 10, from 6 – 7:30 pm (Pacific Time)

In 1916 in Riverside, CA, Japanese immigrant Jukichi Harada was criminally prosecuted in a racially motivated attempt to deny the Harada family their own home. Panelists will consider motivation behind discriminatory behavior and hate crimes and the differences between past and present crimes. Panelists will include Kimberly Harada, David Inoue (JACL), Linda Leu (IMPACT Bay Area), Curtis Takada Rooks (Loyola Marymount University), Mark Takano (US Congressman), and Carolee Tran (UC Davis). Information and registration:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UWfews2PQtqECP7rnwtlbg?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=72b3e239-2db0-4e3d-bc8c-a50c69f3ec96

Film: *Queer Japan*

Friday, June 11 at 7 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

Artists, activists and everyday people from across the spectrum of gender and sexuality defy social norms and dare to live unconventional lives in this kaleidoscopic view of LGBTQ+ culture in contemporary Japan. From shiny pride parades to playfully perverse underground parties, *Queer Japan* pictures people living brazenly unconventional lives in the sunlight, the shadows and everywhere in between. Director Graham Kolbeins will be present for a Q&A following the screening. This event is free and open to the public. **Tickets are limited, reserve early.** Information and reservations: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/queer-japan-limited-screening-at-fujocon-2021-tickets-155675857681?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-Chefs:

Karaage and Shimaki Tamago

Saturday, June 12, from 5 to 6 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

Karaage is chicken that's been marinated in shoyu and fried. *Dashi tamago* or rolled omelet is made by rolling a thin layer of seasoned egg into multiple layers. Your volunteer chef/teacher is Masayo Kawaguchi who was born in Fukuoka and grew up in Osaka and Tokyo. General admission is \$15. Information and registration:

<https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4321597>

Book Event: *We Hereby Refuse:*

Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration

Monday, June 14, at 9 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

A new graphic novel by Frank Abe and Tamiko Nimura with illustrations by Ross Ishikawa and Matt Sasaki. The book is based on the stories of Japanese Americans who fought the incarceration of the Japanese during World War II. The program will feature the two authors and one of the artists in conversation with Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho. When you register, you will have the option of registering for the event (free) or registering and buying a copy of the book (\$22). This event is presented by Densho, the Elliott Bay Book Company, Seattle Public Library Foundation, and The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience. Information and registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/we-hereby-refuse-book-event-tickets-152224693155>

Learn Japanese: *Travel Japanese*

Two Mondays, June 21 and 28, 7 to 8 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

Learn basic Japanese for travelers with Japan Society Boston. The course includes general greetings, how to check in at the hotel, use the bus, train and taxis, order food in a restaurant, and buy souvenirs. The \$50 registration fee covers the two sessions.

Information and registration: <https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4320924>

The History of Anti-Asian Hatred and the WWII Japanese American Incarceration

Tuesday, June 22 at 12 pm (Pacific Time)

registration required

Tom Ikeda, Executive Director of Densho, will discuss the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans and share his family's personal experiences when his parents and grandparents were sent to Minidoka. Ikeda's talk is part of a series of discussions on *Embracing Our Humanity & Diversity* being presented by the Holocaust Center for Humanity. The program is free and open to the public. Information and registration:

<https://holocaustcenterseattle.org/programs-events/656-embracing-our-humanity-diversity>

For Dog Lovers: *Shiba Inu*

Thursday, June 24, from 6 to 7 pm (Eastern Time)

registration required

Learn about one of the most popular of Japanese dog breeds, the Shiba Inu. Shibas are considered Japan's oldest and smallest dog breed. Mary Beth Ross, Director of Education at National Shiba Club of America will shed light on the history of Shiba Inu in Japan and give an in-dept view of their role today. Sponsored by the Japan Society of Boston, the program is free and open to the public with a suggested donation. Information:

<https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-4346556>

EXHIBITIONS

Public Art Campaign: *We Are More*

During the month of June in Quincy

In May, during Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, a public art campaign by Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya appeared on digital billboards on the T and across Greater Boston. The art campaign is moving to Quincy for the month of June. Phingbodhipakkiya's art gives a powerful respond to the stereotyping, harassment and violence that has increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. This public art event is a result of collaboration between the artist and the Pao Arts Center in Chinatown, MBTA, City of Boston, Orange Barrell Media and WGBH. To see the exhibit, go to:

<https://www.paoartscenter.org/news/2021/pao-arts-center-launches-new-public-art-campaign-we-are-more-across-the-city-of-boston?bblinkid=251625137&bbemailid=31700023&bbejrid=1982806475>

Glenn Kaino: *In the Light of a Shadow*

**MASS MoCA, 87 Marshall Street, North Adams, MA
through September 4, 2022**

phone: 413-662-2111

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://www.wbur.org/artery/2021/04/02/mass-moca-glenn-kaino-in-light-of-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/>

Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculpture

Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

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>

ELSEWHERE

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

Japanese American National Museum

Virtual Exhibition

July 9, 2021 to January 9, 2022

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.

Discussions you may have missed

Many of the panel discussions and forums held during the last few months are now available online. Here are a few of them.

Project Community -- Asian American Voices, a WCVB special on April 27 focused on hate crimes against Asian Americans and how we are being affected in Massachusetts. Many familiar and new community leaders were featured from Boston to Lowell. The program is excellent and well worth viewing to learn what is happening in our own communities. To view, go to:

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/covid-19-political-rhetoric-added-fuel-to-already-blazing-anti-asian-american-racist-fire-project-community-aapi/36263497#>

Story Corps on Tsuru for Solidarity. Mary Doi of Evanston, Illinois, and her 29-year-old daughter Lisa told their stories of what the Japanese origami cranes mean to them. Lisa is a Chicago-based organizer for Tsuru for Solidarity. To hear their story, go to:

https://www.wbez.org/stories/storycorps-chicago-our-liberation-is-bound-with-each-others/49c10894-4680-4d37-95da-c1af3db13d37?link_id=16&can_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-thank-you-for-joining-our-national-fold-in-news-and-events&email_referrer=email_1159247&email_subject=thank-you-for-joining-our-national-fold-in-news-and-events

On Causes of and Responses to Anti-Asian Violence, MIT Star Forum, March 31. The program featured Melissa Nobles, MIT; Paul Watanabe, UMass Boston; Katherine Moon, Wellesley College; and Tram Nguyen, MA State Representative. You can see it on the CIS YouTube Channel at <https://youtu.be/Bta9oq-7zis>

Racism Against Asian Americans: Combatting Hate and Discrimination, the Forum at Harvard's Chan School of Public Health on April 30. Speakers were Howard Koh, Harvard Chan School of Public Health and the Kennedy School; Russell Jeung, co-founder of Stop AAPI Hate; Juliet Choi, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum; and Paul Watanabe, Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston. To view the forum, go to: <https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/racism-against-asian-americans/>

Japanese American and African American Advancing the Movement for Reparations and HR-40, an ACLU webinar on March 24. A discussion on the historical impact of reparations and redress on communities, the precedent, and the path forward. Japanese Americans featured in the program include Satsuki Ina, Co-Founder of Tsuru for Solidarity; Susan Hayase, Co-Founder of San Jose Nikkei Resisters; Stan Shikuma, President of Seattle JACL; Ron Wakabayashi, former JACL National President; Troy Osaki, poet; Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams, Director, USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture. To view:

<https://www.aclu.org/news/topic/reparations-h-r-40-and-the-path-forward/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=c3cfc9d5-29b1-41da-be21-2756e44c90c4&redirect=reparations>