



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

March 2012

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

### ***Tomo: Friendship Through Fiction* program for teens**

A bilingual evening of storytelling, creativity and outreach for Boston teens to support young people in Japan affected by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disasters will be offered on Friday, March 23, from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Children's Museum, 308 Congress Street, Boston. Featured in the program will be the book *Tomo*, an anthology of short stories and graphic art that were contributed by authors and artists from around the world and aimed at readers 12 and older. Tak Toyoshima, creator of the cartoon strip *Secret Asian Man*, will be among the contributors who will share their stories and help guests write or draw their own letters of support to teens in the hardest hit areas of Japan. There will be a \$1 admission charge to the museum. For more information and to RSVP, go to: [www.japansocietyboston.org/tomo](http://www.japansocietyboston.org/tomo).

### **Nisei sought for book on music**

Susan Asai, associate professor of Music at Northeastern University, is seeking Nisei to interview for her book *Sounding Our Way Home: Japanese American Music Making and the Politics of Identity*. Asai is an ethnomusicologist and her book will explore how music making is a performance of social, cultural and political identification for Japanese Americans in the United States. She is writing a chapter on music in the camps and would like to interview Nisei who have memories of camp music activities, as well as Nisei who might have participated in any type of music making (dance band, chorus, glee club, *koto*, *shamisen*, *nagauta*, etc.). Please contact Susan Asai to participate in this study or for more information:

Email: [smasai@verizon.net](mailto:smasai@verizon.net)  
Phone: 339-224-1009  
Mail: 55 Forest Street  
Malden, MA 02148

### **Bakers needed for AARW's annual competition**

The AARW is seeking volunteer bakers for its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual A Little Peace, Dessert Tasting fundraiser. The bakers will be asked to create tidbits in the sweet or savory category. All bakers will receive a complimentary ticket to the event (scheduled for Saturday, April 14 at the Korean Church of Boston in Brookline) and need to register in advance. To sign on as a baker, contact Anna Cheung at [apycheung613@gmail.com](mailto:apycheung613@gmail.com).

### **ASPIRE offers scholarship for Asian American women**

For a second year, ASPIRE (Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence) is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a young Asian American woman entering a two- or four-year college or university. They are looking for applicants who demonstrate strong

leadership skills and the ability to make a meaningful impact in the Asian American community. The scholarship is made possible with the financial support from the Gund Kwok Asian Women Lion & Dragon Dance Troupe. Application deadline is March 15, 2012. For more information and application forms go to: <http://www.girlsaspire.org/>.

## PERFORMANCES

### ***Wild Swans***

**Through Sunday, March 11**

**Tuesday through Sunday at 7:30 and Saturday & Sunday at 2 pm**

**American Repertory Theatre, Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St., Cambridge**

A stage adaptation of Jung Chang's 1991 bestselling memoir, *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China*. As change sweeps over their country, a family endures hardships through sacrifice, courage and love. Tickets are \$25 to \$65. For information and tickets go to: <http://www.americanrepertorytheater.org/events/show/wild-swans>.

### ***Hope for Tohoku Benefit Concert***

**Saturday, March 17, 6 pm reception, 8 pm performance**

**Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street., Boston**

The evening will be highlighted by two high school students from Tohoku who will share their life-changing stories about surviving the disaster. Japanese Koto player Sumie Kaneko and the Longwood Symphony Orchestra will perform. The reception will feature Japanese food provided by some of Boston's top Japanese restaurants. This event is sponsored by the Japanese Disaster Relief Fund-Boston and The Longwood Symphony Orchestra. For more concert information go to: <http://jdrfb.squarespace.com/>. Tickets are \$80, \$60 and for students \$30. To order tickets, go to: <http://hopefortohoku.eventbrite.com/>.

### ***TAO: The Martial Art of the Drum***

**Wednesday, March 21, 7:30 pm**

**Berklee Performance Center, 136 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston**

Taiko drumming is taken to a new level by TAO from Japan. This troupe of men and women bring contemporary flair to the traditional art of taiko. Presented by World Music/CRASHarts. Tickets are \$42, \$37, \$30. For more information and to order tickets go to: <http://www.worldmusic.org/tao-0-919>.

### **Genki Spark Celebrates Women's History Month**

**Saturday, March 24 from 6 to 8 pm**

**Simmons College**

Genki Spark presents a variety show featuring original spoken word pieces, songs, dance, and taiko drumming. Funds raised will support troupe travel to the 4-day Tule Lake Pilgrimage. Suggested donation is \$5 to \$30. For more information go to: <http://thegenkispark.org/> To RSVP go to: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/3037650695>.

## **Asian Breast Cancer Project**

### ***Celebration of Love, Laughter and Life***

**Thursday, March 29 from 6 to 9 pm**

**Tufts Medical Center, lower level, Wolff Auditorium**

**800 Washington Street, Boston**

A special event to encourage support and participation in the Asian Breast Cancer (ABC) Project. The program includes a screening of *Speak. Share. Support.*, a film by Yi-Ling Dai, an ABC intern; a performance of *I'm Going to Love You Through It* by DeAnna Choi, vocalist, and Liza Talusan, ABC peer leader. RSVP by March 26 at <http://abc12.eventbrite.com>. For more information contact Chien-Chi Huang, ABC Project Director at 617-870-4056 or email [abcH2H@gmail.com](mailto:abcH2H@gmail.com).

## **EVENTS AND SPEAKERS**

### ***Experiments in Thinking, Action and Form***

**Re-Representations and Simulations**

**Monday, March 5, at 7 pm**

**MIT, ACT Cube, Wiesner Building (E15-001), 20 Ames Street, Cambridge**

Bruce Yonemoto, Professor of Studio Art in Video, Experimental Media and Film Theory at the University of California, Irvine, will discuss his art with Stephen Prina, Professor of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University. Yonemoto works within the overlapping intersections of art and commerce, and the gallery world and cinema screen. He juxtaposes cultural material from different international communities, such as those of the Japanese Americans, Nipo-Brasiliero, Peruvian Quechua, and Hollywood communities. This event is free and open to the public. For more information go to:

<http://act.mit.edu/projects-and-events/lectures-series/2012-spring/>.

### **Japan Technology Group: *Leading Edge CleanTech Innovations***

**Tuesday, March 6, from 9am to 1 pm**

**Metro Meeting Center Boston, 101 Federal Street, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston**

In a program presented by Tokyo University of Science, participants will learn about latest research in Japan, novel approaches to clean technology, and alliances among industry, government and academia. They will also discuss untapped alternative energy technologies in solar, wind, energy conservation and recycling. Registration is free. For more information and registration, go to:

[http://www.japantechnologygroup.com/events/03062012/showcaseBoston\\_2012.html](http://www.japantechnologygroup.com/events/03062012/showcaseBoston_2012.html)

### **Kristi Yamaguchi book signings**

**Thursday, March 8**

Kristi Yamaguchi will be in the Boston area to promote her new children's book, *It's a Big World, Little Pig*. The 1992 Olympic gold medal winner will be signing her book at the following locations:

- **Noon at Barnes & Noble**, Prudential Center, 800 Boylston St., Boston.
- **4 to 5:30 pm at Costco**, 71 Second Avenue, Waltham.
- **7 pm at Barnes & Noble**, Derby Street Shoppes, 96 Derby St., Hingham.

## **11<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian Diversity Career Expo**

**Friday, March 9, 10 am to 4 pm**

**Penn Plaza Pavilion, 401 Seventh Avenue on 33<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York City**

The nation's largest running career fair of its kind, it is specifically designed to connect top Asian American talent with U.S. and global companies. For more information go to: [http://www.asianlife.com/ems/ems\\_main.html?event\\_id=33](http://www.asianlife.com/ems/ems_main.html?event_id=33).

## ***Smith Remembers Fukushima***

**Saturday, March 10, from 9 am to 12:15 pm**

**Hillyer/Graham Hall, Smith College, Northampton**

On the eve of the first anniversary of the Fukushima disaster, Smith College is presenting a symposium with remarks from the Consul General of Japan, Takeshi Hikiyara, a student panel discussion, and presentations from Smith faculty members.

## **International Seafood Show, Japan Pavilion**

**Sunday, March 11, at 2 pm**

**Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, Rm.104B, 415 Summer St., Boston**

Located near the International Boston Seafood Show, this program will have speakers addressing the safety and quality of imported seafood products from Japan. Sponsored by Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) with the cooperation of the Consulate General of Japan in Boston, speakers will include Consul General Takeshi Hikiyara, representatives from MAFF and the Food and Drug Administration, an industry expert seafood buyer, and a celebrity chef. For more information go to: [www.japan-seafood.net](http://www.japan-seafood.net).

## ***Challenging the Pivot:***

### ***The U.S., China & Alternatives to Asia-Pacific Militarization***

**Tuesday, March 13, from 7:30 to 9 pm**

**Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle Street, Cambridge**

A public forum about changing power dynamics and alternatives to Asia-Pacific militarization. Leading the discussion will be Jason Tower, American Friends Service Committee's representative for Northeast Asia and based in Beijing, and Joseph Gerson who has worked closely with Asian and Pacific peace movements for many years. This event is co-sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, Massachusetts Peace Action and United for Justice and Peace. For more information email [swolman@afsc.org](mailto:swolman@afsc.org) or call 617-661-6130, ext. 119.

## ***Boston Neighborhood: Chinatown***

**Thursday, March 15, at 12:15 pm**

**Old South Meeting House, 310 Washington Street, Boston.**

The history and growth of the active Chinatown neighborhood will be discussed by Wing-kai To, Professor at Bridgewater State University and Vice President of the Chinese Historical Society of New England. His talk will cover the early settlement of the area in the 1870s through the current urban renewal and community organizing. Admission is \$6, free to Chinese Historical Society members, Chinatown residents and

Old South Meeting House members. For information email [info@chsne.org](mailto:info@chsne.org) or call 617-338-4339.

### **AARW Quarterly Open House**

**Wednesday, March 14, 10 am to 1 pm**

**888 Washington Street, Suite 102, Boston, (617) 426-5313**

Asian American Resource Workshop's quarterly open house for members and non-members.

### **Joslin Diabetes Center's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual A Spoonful of Ginger**

**Monday, March 26, 6:30 to 9 pm**

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

An annual event to benefit the Joslin Diabetes Center as part of the Asian American Diabetes Initiative. More than 25 top Boston chefs, including Joanne Chang and Jasper White will be on hand to present their restaurant's specialties. Tickets start at \$250.

For more information go to:

<http://www.aadi.joslin.org/event/a-spoonful-ginger-32612>.

### ***Taiko, Activism and Asian American Identity***

**Wednesday, April 4 at 6 pm**

**MAP for Health, 322 Tremont Street, Boston**

Genki Spark presents speakers Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, former Executive and Artistic Directors of the San Jose Taiko and 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellows. As founders of the San Jose Taiko, the Hirabayashis helped to create a new Asian American art form by infusing the traditional rhythms of Japanese drumming with musical and cultural influences from around the world. Suggested donation is \$10 to \$20. For more information and to RSVP go to:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/2980921015>. For questions, email

[trisha@thegenkispark.org](mailto:trisha@thegenkispark.org).

### ***Anime Boston 2012***

**April 6 to 8**

**Hynes Convention Center, 900 Boylston Street, Boston**

New England's largest annual celebration of Japanese animation, comics and pop culture. Featuring Japanese vocalist Kanako Ito and voice actors Christopher Ayres, Caitlin Glass and Carli Mosier. For information and registration go to:

<http://www.animeboston.com/>

### **ACDC's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Inspiration Gala**

**Thursday, April 12 from 6 to 9 pm**

**The Taj, 15 Arlington Street, Boston**

An evening of dinner and entertainment to celebrate the Asian Community Development Corporation's 25 years of community building. Special awards will be presented to Sam and Leslie Davol, Jeffrey Wong, and Cheng Imm Tan. Tickets start at \$175. For information and reservations, go to:

<http://www.asiancdc.org/content/acdc-25th-anniversary-inspiration-gala>.

## EXHIBITS AND CLASSES

### **Tak Toyoshima's *Asian Americana***

**Monday, March 5, opening reception from 8 to 10 pm**

**ZuZu Bar, 474 Massachusetts Avenue (Central Square), Cambridge**

*Asian Americana* is an exhibit of new works by Tak Toyoshima, creative director of Boston's *Weekly Dig* and creator of the *Secret Asian Man* (SAM) comic strip. The new paintings will feature SAM standing in for iconic American figures including Michael Jackson, Clint Eastwood, Captain America, Elvis and more. The opening reception is open to the public.

### ***Asian Pacific Roots, American Soil***

**through Saturday, April 21; hours M-W 9am-3pm, Sa 10am-12pm**

**W/T Gallery, One Nassau Street, Unit 2, Boston**

A collection by Asian Pacific American photographer Corky Lee, his work brings to life much of the history of the APA movement. The exhibit is presented by the Henry Wong & You King Yee Memorial Gallery, Chinese Progressive Association and AARW. For more information email [wygallery@gmail.com](mailto:wygallery@gmail.com) or call 617-426-5313.

### ***Mens et Manus: Folded Paper of MIT***

**through April 29**

**Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street, Brockton**

An exhibit of the work of MIT students, alumni and faculty who have made the school a hub for a stimulating community of artists in origami. They transform paper into complex representational and abstract three-dimensional sculpture through a series of complex folds. For more information go to:

<http://www.fullercraft.org/exhibitions.html#Mens>

### ***Iridescence: New Porcelains by Hideaki Miyamura***

**through March 26**

**Pucker Gallery, 171 Newbury Street, Boston**

Free and open to the public. For more information go to:

<http://www.puckergallery.com/index.html>.

### **Koto and Flute Workshop**

**Sunday, April 22, at 2 pm**

**Kaji Aso Studio, 40 St. Stephen Street, Boston**

Enjoy an afternoon of traditional Japanese music and an opportunity to play the koto. Also featured are koto performances by Miho Yamaji and her students. Seating is very limited. To reserve tickets email [mwashio@earthlink.net](mailto:mwashio@earthlink.net).

## **THE JAPAN-US CHERRY BLOSSOM CELEBRATION**

### **Spring 2012 throughout Boston**

*This Spring, Boston celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gift of cherry trees from Japan to the United States. The original trees were planted at the Tidal Basin of the Potomac River in Washington DC and each Spring they attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors. The Consulate General of Japan in Boston is commemorating this event with ceremonial cherry tree plantings in many Boston parks and public places. In addition, planning is underway for a festival of Japanese cultural events in Boston from March to May 2012. They include the following:*

#### ***A Century of Sakura Concert***

**Thursday, March 15, from 5:30 to 7 pm**

**Pucker Gallery, 171 Newbury Street, Boston**

An evening with music by Toru Takemitsu, George Rochberg and Claude Debussy performed by musicians from the New England Conservatory of Music. Seating is limited. To attend, RSVP to Perri Osattin at [perri@puckergallery.com](mailto:perri@puckergallery.com).

#### ***An Evening of Kabuki Dance***

**Tuesday, March 27, at 7 pm**

**Paramount Theatre, 559 Washington Street, Boston**

A presentation of three colorful classic dance pieces featuring Kabuki star Kotoji Bando. The program includes *Yoshino-Yama*, a poetic dance of love amid the mountains covered with cherry blossoms. Ticket prices range from \$35 to \$85. Tickets are available through the Paramount Box Office at [www.aestages.org](http://www.aestages.org) or by phone 617-824-8000.

#### ***Sakura in Japanese Culture***

**Thursday, April 5 from 7 to 8 pm**

An online seminar by Anne Prescott, Director, Five College Center for East Asian Studies. In celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the donation of cherry trees from Japan to the US as a symbol of friendship, learn about the sakura in Japanese culture, samurai culture, literature and music. For more information contact The Five College Center for East Asian Studies by email at [fceas@fivecolleges.edu](mailto:fceas@fivecolleges.edu) or call 413-585-3751. To register go to: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/644849990>.

#### ***Boston Gagaku Concert: From Centennial to Millennial Spring***

**Monday, April 9, at 7 pm**

**Boston Symphony Hall, 301 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston**

The program will feature performances by members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and by the Kitanodai Gagaku Ensemble. Tickets range in price from \$10 to \$50. For information and reservations, go to: <http://www.bso.org/Performance/Detail/39534>

#### ***The Second Annual Japanese Language Contest***

**Saturday, April 21**

The contest is sponsored by the Japanese Consul General's office in Boston and includes a speech and an essay competition. Deadline for entry is Wednesday, March 14. It is open to students who are currently enrolled in a Japanese language course at

a university or college within the six New England states (CT/MA/ME/NH/R/VT). While any topic is acceptable for the speech competition, the essay topic must be either “The Great East Japan Earthquake” or “Cherry Trees.” For more information, go to:

<http://www.boston.us.emb-japan.go.jp/ENGLISH/japanesecontest.html>

### **Haru Matsuri 2012: Japan Spring Festival in Boston**

**Sunday, April 22, from 11 am to 4 pm**

**Copley Square**

Details to come. Save the date!

### **The Kioi Sinfonietta Concert**

**Tuesday, May 1, at 7:30 pm**

**Sanders Theatre, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge**

Japan’s celebrated chamber orchestra, the Kioi Sinfonietta Tokyo will perform in a single concert appearance. Presented by The Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard and The Japan Society of Boston. The program, led by Swiss conductor Thierry Fischer, will feature renowned pianist Yu Kosuge. Tickets are \$20, students \$5 with ID. For information and tickets go to

<http://ofa.fas.harvard.edu/cal/details.php?ID=42518>.

### ***The Beauty and Mystery of Textiles***

**Wednesday, May 2, from 7 to 8 pm**

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

Reiko Sudo, textile artist and founder of Nuno Company, will discuss production techniques and show examples of fabrics she created for interiors, fashion and art. Her work is represented in major international museums, including the Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. Tickets are \$15 for museum members, \$18 for non-members. For more information and tickets go to:

<http://www.mfa.org/programs/lecture/beauty-and-mystery-textiles>.

### **The Tiger Okoshi Quintet**

**Saturday, May 12 from 8 to 11 pm**

**James Hough Powers Hall, Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave., Needham**

Okoshi will perform original compositions and Louis Armstrong standards as well as a special composition that he arranged to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cherry trees in Washington. Tickets are \$25 to \$30. For more information and tickets go to:

<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/218247>

## **CONTINUING EXHIBITS AT THE MFA**

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

For more information, go to [www.mfa.org](http://www.mfa.org).

### ***Kawanabe Kyosai and the Hell Courtesan***

**through June 17**

**Gallery 278A**

The first exhibition of the museum’s newly renovated Japanese Print gallery focuses on their recent acquisition, a monumental hanging scroll of the *Hell Courtesan* by



Kawanabe Kyosai (1831-1889). Known for the charm, eccentricity and extraordinary skill of his work, Kyosai satirized the complex political events of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Japan in both paintings and prints.

***An Unspoken Dialogue with Japanese Tea***  
**through September 23, 2012**

**Gallery 177**

An exhibit organized to complement a series of programs held during the Spring of 2011 focusing on the contemporary Japanese tea bowl. Pieces are drawn from the extensive holdings of the Museum of Fine Arts' Morse Collection of Japanese pottery and from several private collections. It explores the rich tradition of ceramics, lacquer ware and bamboo that have been made for the preparation of drinking tea from the 16<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day.

***The Allure of Japan***

**March 24 through December 31, 2012**

This exhibit celebrates a period around 1900 when America had a fascination for all things Japanese. Artists and collectors gathered Japanese objects, studied Japanese traditions and integrated Japanese styles and techniques into their own work. Included will be a rich display of rarely exhibited American prints, posters, watercolors and decorative arts complemented by a selection of the MFA's renowned Japanese collections.