



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

March 2015

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773
Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Updates from Tohoku, a journey to a new life

Tuesday, March 31, from 6 to 8 pm, performance followed by refreshments

The Red Room at Café 939, Berklee College of Music, 939 Boylston St., Boston

More than twenty Japanese, Japanese American and educational organizations in the greater Boston area will gather to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the March 11, 2011 disaster that occurred in the northeast region of Japan and affected nearly a half million people.

Updates from Tohoku will include performances by Berklee College students Shun Kumagai and Takeru Saito. Featured speakers are Shun Kanda, Director, MIT Japan 3/11 Initiative; Anne Nishimura Morse, Senior Curator of Japanese Art, Museum of Fine Arts; and Megumi Ishimoto, founder of Women's Eye, an organization supporting women in disaster areas. New England JACL is among this event's supporters. *Updates from Tohoku* is free and open to the public, but reservations are required due to space limitations. For more information and to reserve a seat, go to: <http://tohoku2015.eventbrite.com/>.

Obento and Built Space:

Japanese Boxed Lunch and Architecture

through April 20; Hours: Mon-Fri 8 am to 10:30 pm, Sat-Sun from 9 am to 9 pm

McCormick Gallery, Boston Architectural College, 320 Newbury Street, Boston

A new exhibit has opened at the Boston Architectural College featuring the bento box collection of New England JACL member Debra Samuels. Samuels is a food writer for the Boston Globe, cookbook author, and Japanese food specialist. The exhibit examines the material and social culture of bento boxes and how they inspire architects and designers to think about the potential of emptiness, craft, portability and sustainability. Architects and artists participating in this exhibit include Hiromi Fujii, Sou Fujimoto, KOKO Architecture + Design, Glenn Murcutt, Hiroshi Nakamura, Patkau Architects, and Aat + Makoto Yokomizo. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For more information and to see two short videos about bentos, go to:

<http://the-bac.edu/experience-the-bac/news-and-events/events/bento-and-architecture-exhibition-event>.

George Takei's musical Allegiance comes to Broadway

Allegiance, a musical set in the Heart Mountain camp, comes to Broadway this Fall. It will mark the first Asian-led cast of a musical on Broadway in more than a decade. Actor George Takei is the show's producer and star. Previews are set to begin on October 6 at a Shubert Theatre still to be announced.

The show premiered in 2012 at the Old Globe in San Diego to sold-out crowds and rave reviews. It features music and lyrics by Jay Kuo and a book by Marc Acito, Kuo and Lorenzo Thione. *Allegiance* is directed by Stafford Arima, whose own father was interned in Canada during the war. For more information go to: <http://www.allegiancemusical.com>.

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. For more information go to:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_CoXi-pB9cjYIRqUVBRZ3hLTWxnTUVIYU44a2gwSjlwYzNN/view.

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Friday
March 6
5:30 to 10
pm

BCNC Chinese New Year Banquet

Empire Garden Restaurant, 690 Washington Street, Boston

The Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center's annual event begins at 5:30 pm with a wine and dim sum reception, followed at 7 pm with a traditional banquet and a live and silent auction. This year's Friends of BCNC Awards will be presented to Renee Inomata and Paul Lee. Tickets are \$175 and \$85 for children under 12.

For more information and tickets, go to:

<http://www.bcnc.net/index.php/events/bcnc-banquet-2015.html>.

Fri-Sun
March 6-8

Films at the Brattle Theatre

40 Brattle Street, Harvard Square, Cambridge

The Search for General Tso. Travel the world to unravel the mystery behind the popular dish, General Tso's Chicken. Told as a good detective story, this film is also a tale of the American immigrant experience. Showing on March 6, 7 and 8. Check web site for times.

The Last: Naruto the Movie. An animated film directed by Tsuneo Kobayashi. As the moon approaches dangerously close to the Earth and the end of the world approaches, Naruto must come to the rescue. This is the final chapter of Naruto's story. In Japanese with English subtitles. One showing on March 8 at 12:30 pm.

For more information on both films, call 617-876-6837 or go to:

www.brattlefilm.org.

Saturday
March 7
8 am to
7pm

MIT Confab: *Demystifying Business Practices in Asia*

MIT Media Lab, 75 Amherst Street, Cambridge

The year's MIT Asia Business Conference highlights the key business challenges, practices and innovations that are shaping Asia today and tomorrow. Among the topics to be discussed are "Globalization: Where is the action?," "How to identify the next big startups?," and "How fertile is Asian soil for entrepreneurship?" The program is open to the public, but registration is required by March 7. Fee: \$60.

For information and to register, go to: <http://www.mitasiabusinessconference.com>.

Tuesday
March 17
6:45 to
8:30 pm

Odaiko New England Fundamentals Class

ACAS Center, 29 Montvale Avenue, Woburn, MA

An opportunity to learn basic taiko drumming skills. Open to beginners with no previous drumming experience. Cost is \$25. For more information and to register,

go to: <http://onetaiko.org/web/classes/taiko-fundamentals/>.

Saturday
March 21
8:30 am
registration

APIASF Jump Start College Tour
Ryan Lounge, McCormack Hall, UMass Boston
100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston

Jump Start is a program to provide college planning, leadership training, financial education and professional development tools and resources to students and their families. The program begins with a 9 am session and ends with a 1 pm networking lunch and campus tour. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. The program is free and sponsored by the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund in partnership with UMass Boston with support from Wells Fargo. For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.apiasf.org/jumpstart.html>.

Saturday
March 21
4 pm

Book Reading by Kazuo Ishiguro
Memorial Church, 1 Harvard Yard, Cambridge

Kazuo Ishiguro, award winning author of *Remains of the Day* and *Never Let Me Go*, will be reading from his latest novel *The Buried Giant*. This is Ishiguro's first novel and tells a story about the act of forgetting and the power of memory, a resonate tale of love, vengeance and war. Tickets are \$5. Doors open at 3:15 pm. For more information and to reserve a seat, go to:

<http://www.harvard.com/events/ticketed/>.

Sat & Sun
March
21&22

The Genki Spark: *Making Women's History 2015*
Simmons College, Alumnae Hall, 321 Brookline Avenue, Boston

On Saturday, refreshments & reception at 4 pm, show from 5 to 7 pm. On Sunday, refreshments & reception at 11 am, show from 12 to 2 pm. Tickets are \$20 online and \$25 at the door. For students with ID, \$10 online and \$15 at the door. There will be limited tickets at the door. For information and tickets go to: <http://www.thegenkispark.org>.

Monday
March 23
6:30 to
9:30 pm

A Taste of Ginger: A Culinary & Cultural Experience
MFA, Art of the Americas Wing, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Twenty-six Boston's restaurants provide tastings of their most popular dishes during this event to benefit the Joslin Diabetes Center's Asian American Diabetes initiative. Tickets are \$250. For more information and reservations, go to:

<http://www.joslin.org/ginger.html>.

Tuesday
March 24
5:15 to
7:30 pm

Remaking Boston's Chinatown:
Race, Place, and Redevelopment after World War II
Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston

An immigration and urban history seminar presented by the Massachusetts Historical Society. Speakers are Thomas Chen, from Brown University, and Jim Vrabel, author of *A People's History of the New Boston*. They will examine how Boston's Chinese American community confronted urban change in the decades after World War II. The program is free and open to the public. Reservations are required at seminars@masshist.org. For more information call 617-536-1608 or go to: <http://www.masshist.org/calendar>.

- Saturday**
March 28
6 to 8 pm
- The Genki Spark Taiko Workshop for beginners**
Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Brookline
The Genki Spark offers a two-hour introductory workshop open to all ages (over 7), no experience necessary. Cost: \$30. Information: <http://www.thegenkispark.org>.
- Tuesday**
March 31
4-5:30 pm
- Transnational Black Humor:***
Somewhere between 9.11 and 3.11
Harvard University, Porte Room S250, 2nd Level, CGIS South Bldg
1730 Cambridge Street, Cambridge
Featuring Takayuki Tatsumi, Professor, Faculty of Letters, Keio University.
Moderated by Tomiko Yoda, Takashima Professor of Japanese Humanities,
Harvard University. Presented by the Reischauer Institute Japan Forum.
- Thursday**
April 2
7 pm
- Talk by Author Celeste Ng**
Wellesley Free Library, Wakelin Room, 530 Washington St., Wellesley
Celeste Ng is the author of the New York Times bestselling novel *Everything I Never Told You*. She has won many awards for her fiction and essays including the coveted Pushcart Prize. For more information on Ng and her public appearances in the Boston area, go to: <http://www.celesteng.com/events/>.
- Thursday**
April 2
7 pm
- Asian American Cultures Festival:**
From Tradition to Innovation
UMass Lowell, Durgin Concert Hall 35 Wilder Street, Lowell
An evening of Cambodian and Cambodian American music, dance and theatre, from traditional to contemporary. Performances by the UMass Lowell World Music Ensemble, Angkor Dance Troupe and Flying Orb Productions. Tickets are \$10. The program is co-sponsored by the Center for Asian American Studies, the Music Department, and the Center for Arts and Ideas at UMass Lowell. For more information go to: www.angkordance.org/#!performances/c243u.
- Tuesday**
April 14
5-6:30 pm
- Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific***
MIT, Muckley Building, E40-496, 1 Amherst Street, Cambridge
Christine Yano, Visiting Professor of Japanese Studies at Harvard and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, will discuss her 2013 book *Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific*, and provide hints into the Japanese culture of cuteness. Yano is also the curator of *Hello! Exploring the Supercute World of Hello Kitty* exhibit currently at the Japanese American National Museum. For more information go to:
<http://misti.mit.edu/rescheduled-pink-globalization-hello-kittys-trek-across-pacific>.

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

Boston Children's Museum

308 Congress Street, Boston

through
April 26

Children of Hangzhou: Connecting with China

An exhibit to engage visitors in learning about China through its young people. It is designed to expand knowledge, understanding and appreciation of contemporary China through life in Boston's Sister City, Hangzhou. Museum hours: Daily, 10 am to 5 & Fridays, 10 am to 9 pm. For more information call 617-426-6500 or go to: <http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/exhibits-programs/exhibits/children-hangzhou>.

Worcester Art Museum

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

through
May 3

A Screen for the New Year: Pines and Plum Blossoms

A rare screen from the 1600s representative of the sophisticated elegance, energy and sumptuousness that appealed to noblemen and feudal lords.

through
May 24

Uncanny Japan: The Art of Yoshitoshi

Works by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-1892), one of the greatest designers of Japanese woodblock prints at a time when the medium was facing increasing competition from photography and lithography. For more information on all exhibits, go to: <http://www.worcesterart.org/Exhibitions/>.

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

through
July 19

Playing with Paper: Japanese Toy Prints

By the middle of the 19th 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 go to: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/playing-with-paper>.

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
April 26

Legacy of Fire: Clay Dragon Studios Revisited

The work of Kyoko Tonegawa is one of the ceramic artists featured in this exhibit. For more information, go to: <http://fullercraft.org/event/legacy-of-fire-clay-dragon-studio-revisited/>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

NEW YORK

Pan Asian Repertory Theatre

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

Performances in Theatre Row, 410 West 42nd Street, New York

July 5 - 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. At the Clurman Theatre in Theatre Row.

Fall 2015

No-No Boy

Following rave reviews and sold-out performances in May 2014, *No-No Boy* will return to NYC and select venues nationwide.

For more information and tickets for all performances go to:

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

New York Historical Society Museum & Library

107 Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way (77th Street), NYC

through

Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion

April 19

An exhibit that explores the centuries-long history of trade and immigration between China and the United States. The accompanying narrative extends from the late 18th Century to the present and shows that the Chinese American saga is a key part of American history. For more information call 212-873-3400 or go to: <http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/chineseamerican>.

CALIFORNIA

Japanese American National Museum

100 North Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA phone: 213-625-0414

Sunday

Love to Nippon 2015

March 8

An annual conference commemorating the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Northern Japan. Included are an interfaith service, a screening of *Live Your Dreams: The Taylor Anderson Story*, and a panel discussion.

1 - 7:30 pm

through

Hello! Exploring the Supercute World of Hello Kitty

April 26

An exhibition celebrating the 40th anniversary of Hello Kitty, her colorful history and influence on art and culture.

current

Common Ground: The Heart of Community

This exhibit incorporates hundreds of objects, documents and photographs collected by the museum and chronicles 130 years of Japanese American history, beginning with the early days of the Issei pioneers through the WWII incarceration and to the present.

For more information on all exhibits and events, go to: www.janm.org.

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.

March 14

Not Your Typical Nisei: JA Women and Adventures in Identity

1 pm

A lively discussion on how expectations and stereotypes have shaped Japanese American women. Using the experiences of filmmaker Emiko Omori and her sister Chizu, activist Susan Hayase will moderate the discussion.

April 4

Traditions in Japanese Architecture

from 4:30 to
6:30 pm

Karl Bareis undertook a carpenter's apprenticeship in Japan in the 1970s. He returned to the US in 1980 and designed and built the tea rooms in the Lower House of Hakone Gardens in Saratoga, CA. In 1994 he built the Daishu-in West Rinzaï Zen Temple in Humboldt County, CA. the program will begin with a talk about and a tour of the rebuilding of the Japanese American Museum of San Jose. Suggested donation is \$10.

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