



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

May 2012

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: [www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org)

### **Chef's Table in Chinatown on Friday, May 18**

Our chapter's second Chef's Table dinner is scheduled for Friday, May 18 at 6:30 pm in Boston's Chinatown. Our first Chef's Table held last year at a Japanese restaurant in Chestnut Hill Mall was a big hit and this year's dinner promises to be equally rewarding. It will feature a fabulous 10-course banquet-style meal made up of familiar and new dishes. Dinner will cost only \$35 (includes tax and tip). The dinner is open to JACL members and friends. You are encouraged to make your reservation early because seating will be limited. To reserve a spot at the Chef's Table, complete the form that is enclosed with this e-newsletter. For more information contact Margie Yamamoto at 781-259-9444 or email [yamamoto@nejacl.org](mailto:yamamoto@nejacl.org).

### **Noguchi event postponed**

The June 2 Isamu Noguchi event has been postponed. Originally we had planned to travel to the Noguchi Museum in New York for a tour of the museum and a lecture by Dr. Robert J. Maeda, Professor Emeritus of fine Arts at Brandeis University and a Noguchi scholar. Due to unforeseen logistical difficulties, we've decided to hold this event at a future date in the Boston area so more of our members will be able to attend. Dr. Maeda is a member of our JACL Board and has agreed to be our speaker and will illustrate his talk with slides from his extensive collection. We hope this change has not inconvenienced anyone.

### **Haru Masturi in Copley Square Sunday, April 29**

A reminder that the first ever Haru Masturi will be held in Copley Square on Sunday, April 29 from 11 am to 4 pm. The festival 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. The Consulate General of Japan in Boston is commemorating this event with ceremonial cherry tree plantings throughout New England. In addition, cultural events have been ongoing in the Boston area since March. Sunday's Haru Masturi will feature booths with authentic Japanese food, goods and services, child-friendly games and activities, displays introducing Japanese culture and Japanese-related organizations in Boston. Onstage, will be performances of Japanese music, traditional arts and demonstrations. Admission is free. For more information as well as a list of booths and entertainment schedule go to:

<http://www.japanfestivalboston.org/>

## **Brookline Sakura Matsuri set for May 12**

Sakura Matsuri – Genki Style will be held on Saturday, May 12 from 1 to 3 pm at the Brookline High School Quad, 115 Greenough Street (rain location BHS Shluntz Gym). The program includes a cherry tree planting ceremony, music, bon odori, food booths, games and crafts. Featured will be performances by taiko groups The Genki Spark, Odaiko New England, and Rutsubo Taiko. Suggested donation is \$5 for youth and \$10 for adults. This event is sponsored by The Genki Spark and Brookline High School in collaboration with New England JACL, the Consulate General of Japan, Brookline Asian American Family Network, Showa Boston, Brookline Commission for the Arts, Amos A. Lawrence School, and William H. Lincoln School. For questions and more information contact [Nancy@TheGenkiSpark.org](mailto:Nancy@TheGenkiSpark.org) or go to <http://thegenkispark.org/>.

## **Applications for JACL Fellowship & Leadership Confab**

Applications are being accepted for the annual JACL Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship and for the 2012 JACL Collegiate Leadership Conference. The Masaoka Fellowship covers a six to eight-month program in the office of a member of Congress (Senate or House of Representative) and provides a stipend between \$2,200 and \$2,500, depending on experience. Applicants must be US citizens, a college graduating senior or in a graduate or professional program, and a member of JACL. Deadline for application is May 20, 2012. For more information and application forms go to: <http://jacl.org/leadership/masaoka.htm>.

The 2012 JACL Collegiate Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, is an intensive three-day program scheduled for June 7 to 10 that introduces Asian Pacific American student leaders to the legislative process and the issues affecting the APA community. All travel, lodging and meal expenses will be covered for the participants. Deadline for application is May 4, 2012. For more information and application forms go to: <http://www.jacl.org/youth/dcleadership.htm>.

## **EVENTS, PERFORMANCES AND SPEAKERS**

### ***Tiger Writing: Art, Culture and the Interdependent Self***

Three Lectures by Gish Jen

**Monday, April 30, Tuesday, May 1, Wednesday, May 2 , lectures at 5:30 pm**

**Fong Auditorium, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard, Cambridge**

*The Lure of the Narrative* on April 30; *My Father Writes His Story* on May 1; and *What Comes of All That* on May 2. Free and open to the public. For more information go to: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/%7Eamciv/massey/index.shtml>.

### **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>.

### **Book Reading by Luong Ung**

**Friday, May 4, at 7 pm**

**Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge**

Ung discusses her new memoir *Lulu in the Sky: A Daughter of Cambodia Finds Love, Healing, and Double Happiness*. This concludes her trilogy that includes *First They Killed My Father* and *Lucky Child*. This event is free and open to the public. For more information go to: [http://www.harvard.com/event/luong\\_ung/](http://www.harvard.com/event/luong_ung/).

### **Chorus Boston's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert**

**Friday, May 4, at 8 pm**

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 15 Saint Paul Street, Brookline**

An Amateur choral group led by conductor Tetsuo Yagi. The group sings both classical and modern music focusing on Japanese music but also performing in English, Latin, Hebrew, Italian and other languages. Admission is free, with donations appreciated. For more information: <http://www.chorusboston.org/>.

### **Odaiko New England: *Spring Thunder Festival***

**Sunday, May 6, at 4 pm**

**Concord-Carlisle High School auditorium, 500 Walden Street, Concord**

Featuring performances by Odaiko New England's performing members and students. Suggested donation: \$10-\$20. For more information call 617-338-4339 or go to <http://onetaiko.org/calendar/current-events.shtml>.

**Speaker: Dr. Konrad Ng, Smithsonian Institution****Thursday, May 10, from 1 to 3 pm****Chancellor's Conference Room (3F), Quinn Administration Building,  
UMass Boston, 100 Morrissey Blvd., Boston**

Dr. Ng is the Director of the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program and is responsible for initiatives, public programs and exhibitions about the Asian Pacific American experience in Smithsonian museums and centers. He will discuss *#Linsanity Remembered: On the Canonization of Asian America in the Digital Age*. The program is free and open to the public. For more information go to: <http://www.iaas.umb.edu/> and <http://www.iaas.umb.edu/aboutkng.shtml>.

**Two APA Heritage Month Events with Gov. Deval Patrick****Thursday, May 10, from 4 to 5:30 pm****Grand Staircase, The Massachusetts State House, 24 Beacon Street, Boston**

Join Gov. Patrick and State and local APA officials to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This event is free and open to the public and sponsored by The Governor's Asian American Commission/Advisory Council. For more information contact Christina Chan at [CChan84@gmail.com](mailto:CChan84@gmail.com) or Leverett Wing at [Leverett.L.Wing@gmail.com](mailto:Leverett.L.Wing@gmail.com).

**Tuesday, May 15, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm****Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center, 38 Ash Street, Boston**

Gov. Patrick will meet with the APA community to hear our concerns and answer our questions. This event is free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP contact Christina Chan at [CChan84@gmail.com](mailto:CChan84@gmail.com) or Leverett Wing at [Leverett.L.Wing@gmail.com](mailto:Leverett.L.Wing@gmail.com).

**Cherry Tree Planting in Portsmouth, NH****Friday, May 11****Wentworth By the Sea, Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

A tree planting ceremony is planned to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the gift of 3,000 cherry trees from Japan to Washington DC in 1912. According to the New Hampshire program book, a little known fact is that the famous Washington trees were given to the US in thanks for America's role in negotiating the peace treaty ending the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 and signed at a conference hosted by President Theodore Roosevelt in Portsmouth, NH in 1905. For information on the tree planting ceremony contact Stephanie Seacord, 603-772-1835 or email [sseacord@lemd.com](mailto:sseacord@lemd.com). For general information go to <http://portsmouthpeacetreaty.com/index.cfm>.

**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>.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Unity Dinner:**

#### ***Emerging Asian American Entrepreneurs***

**Wednesday, May 16, from 6 to 9 pm**

**Boston University's Metcalf Hall at George Sherman Union**

**775 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA**

Keynote speaker and recipient of the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award will be Dean Nitin Nohria of Harvard Business School. Sponsored by the Asian American Commission of Massachusetts. Tickets: \$125. Information and reservations:

<http://www.aacommission.org/unity-dinner/2012-unity-dinner.html>.

### **Asian American Civic Association Annual Gala 2012**

**Friday, May 18, at 6 pm**

**Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 50 Park Plaza, Boston**

*Their Courage To Be New* will be the theme of this year's program in honor of past, present and future immigrants. Tickets: \$175. Regular tickets are \$17. For more information go to: <http://gala.aaca-boston.org/>.

### **Quincy Asian Resources 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Banquet**

**Friday, May 18, from 6:30 to 10 pm**

**China Pearl Restaurant, 237 Quincy Avenue, Quincy**

This year Quincy Asian Resources, Inc., honors those who helped to bring the Quincy community together and it celebrates the potential of the community's youth. The banquet will include live entertainment and a raffle drawing. For more information go to:

<http://www.quincyasianresources.org/banquet2012>.

### **Rhode Island Cherry Blossom Festival**

**Friday, May 18 to Monday, May 20**

Activities include ceremonial tree plantings, a ribbon cutting ceremony for Chocolate Mill Park, and a kayak race. Odaiko New England will perform at festival events on Saturday, May 19: 11 am at Charles Street and Roosevelt Avenue in Central Falls; 1 pm at Japonica Street and Roosevelt Avenue in Pawtucket; and at 3 pm at 1 Depot Square in Woonsocket. For updates on activities, go to:

<http://richerryblossomfestival.com/>.

## EXHIBITS

### **Tea Bowls and Sake Cups: A Kindred Spirit**

**Saturday, May 5 to Thursday, May 31**

**Lacoste Gallery, 25 Main Street, Concord, MA**

An exhibit exploring tea bowls and sake cups by Japanese and American artists. For more information go to [www.lacostegallery.com](http://www.lacostegallery.com).

### **Worcester Art Museum**

**Thursday, May 17, from 5:30 to 8:30 pm**

**55 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA**

Opening of the Hokusai exhibit and reopening of the museum's Japanese galleries. Featuring performances by Odaiko New England at 6 and 7 pm. Admission free for members and \$14 for all others. Information go to:

<http://www.worcesterart.org/Events/?id=141926>.

## 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***

**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 the MFA's renowned Japanese collections.

## EXHIBITS & EVENTS ELSEWHERE

### **JANM: Asian Pacific Islander Festival**

**Saturday, May 12, from 11 am to 4 pm**

**Japanese American National Museum, 369 East 1<sup>st</sup> St., Los Angeles phone: 213-625-0414**

Activities include the screening of two films and a panel discussion. The films are *Conscience and the Constitution* at 11 am and *Act of War-The Overthrow of the Hawaiian Nation* at 12:30 pm. The films will be followed by a discussion on *Fact to Fiction: API Authors Panel*. Panelists will include authors Jamie Ford (*Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*), Kristina McMorris (*Bridge of Scarlet Leaves*), Margaret Dilloway (*How to Be an American Housewife*), and Paula Yoo (*Good Enough*). Advance reservations are recommended for most museum events. For more information go to: <http://www.janm.org/events/2012/05/>. To make a reservation email [rsvp@janm.org](mailto:rsvp@janm.org) or call 213-625-0414. Current exhibit at the museum, through August 26, is *Folding Paper: The Infinite Possibilities of Origami*.

### ***Gila River and Mama: The Ruth Mix Story***

**Sunday, May 20, at 1 pm**

**Japanese American Museum of San Jose**

**535 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, San Jose, CA phone: 408-294-3138**

The story of Ruth Mix who, as a 15-year-old, volunteered at the Gila River camp and became the only Caucasian nurse's aide in the camp hospital. Claire Mix, Ruth's daughter, produced the film and will host a Q&A session after the screening. Due to limited seating, registration is required. For information and registration contact JAMsj at 408-294-3138 or email [aggieidemoto@gmail.com](mailto:aggieidemoto@gmail.com). Ongoing exhibits at the museum include: *Yesterday's Farmer: Planting an American Dream*; *Pioneers of San Jose Japantown*; *World War II: Assembly Centers and Internment Camps*; *100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team*; *World War II: Military Intelligence Service*; *Post World War II: Resettlement*; *Asahi/Zebbras Baseball*; and *Regenerations Oral History*. Museum hours are Thursday through Sunday, 12 to 4 pm. For more information go to: [www.jamsj.org/](http://www.jamsj.org/).