



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

May 2015

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

### **Fourth Annual Sakura Matsuri in Brookline**

**Saturday, May 9 from 12 to 4 pm**

**Brookline High School, 115 Greenough Street, Brookline**

Join us for the annual Sakura Matsuri in Brookline. Taiko drumming, Obon dancing, Japanese food booths, and activity tables will highlight the afternoon. This event is organized by the Genki Spark taiko troupe and Brookline High School Japanese Program and presented in partnership with the New England JACL, Brookline Asian American Family Network, Japan Society of Boston, and Showa Boston.

The program:

Noon Opening, The Genki Spark

12:30 Odaiko New England, Soran Bushi by Showa Boston

1 pm Takahashi Minyo Kai, Obon dancing

2 pm Mountain River Taiko, Shindaiko, Shishi Mai by Stuart Paton (Burlington Taiko)

3 pm The Genki Spark and Artistic Finale

Food vendors include: Ittoku, Hana Japan, Itadaki, and Japonaise Bakery/Café.

Suggested donation: \$10-\$20 per family, \$5 for students. For more information:

[www.brooklinecherryblossom.com](http://www.brooklinecherryblossom.com).

### **Special JANM exhibit featuring Sus Ito's WWII photographs**

Photographs taken by Sus Ito will be featured in an exhibit at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) in Los Angeles. The exhibit, ***Before They Were Heroes: Sus Ito's World War II Images***, will be on view from July 14 through September 6. The photographs were taken while Ito was on a tour of duty through Europe as a member of the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team. While participating in such dramatic events as the rescue of the Lost Battalion, Ito captured images of the daily lives of a group of young Japanese American soldiers. This is the first in JANM's new *Sharing Our Stories* series of historical exhibitions drawn from its extensive permanent collection.

### **NY Times article on cancelled auction of camp artifacts**

For those of you who missed the article in *The New York Times* after the cancellation of the proposed auction of Japanese American camp artifacts, here is the link:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/18/arts/design/seller-in-cancelled-internment-camp-auction-comes-forward.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=photo-spot-region&region=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>

# EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Monday  
May 4  
5:50 to  
7:30 pm

## **Book Talk: *The Outsider* by Patricia Gercik**

**MIT Tang Center, E51-325, 2 Amherst Street, Cambridge**

Set in the chaos of post-war Japan, the book vividly describes the political turmoil in Japanese and the impact of the American occupation on the nation as seen through the eyes of Sarah, a European child. Gercik, is the former Program Director of the MIT-Japan Program and Associate Director of MIT International Science & Technology Initiatives (MISTI). For information go to:

[http://misti.mit.edu/outsider-book-talk-author-patricia-gercik?utm\\_source=Coming+Event&utm\\_campaign=September&utm\\_medium=email](http://misti.mit.edu/outsider-book-talk-author-patricia-gercik?utm_source=Coming+Event&utm_campaign=September&utm_medium=email).

Monday  
May 11  
7 pm

## **Book Reading: *Re Jane* by Patricia Park**

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

Park's novel *Re Jane* is a contemporary retelling of the classic Jane Eyre with a half-Korean, half-American orphan heroine living in Flushing, New York. *Re Jane* is comic story of falling in love, finding strength, and living, not out of obligation to others, but for one's self. For more information, call 617-661-1515 or go to:

[http://www.harvard.com/event/patricia\\_park/](http://www.harvard.com/event/patricia_park/).

Tuesday  
May 12  
7 to 9 pm

## **The Next Stage:**

### **A Showcase of New Work by Boston Playwrights**

**Boston Playwrights' Theatre, 949 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston**

Work by three Asian American playwrights will be featured in this stage reading of six plays in development by the TC Squared Theatre Company. They include: Raiza Cheng's *In Times of War*; Gideon Bautista's *How I Became a Saxophone*; and Christina R. Chan's *Stir Frying Mahjong*. Admission is free, suggested donation at the door: \$10. Advance reservations are recommended. For more information and tickets:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-next-stage-a-showcase-of-new-work-by-boston-playwrights-tickets-16562196977>.

Tuesday  
May 12  
7 pm

## **Book Reading: *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng**

**Porter Square Books, 25 White Street, Cambridge**

Ng's debut novel presents a sensitive family portrait, exploring the division between cultures and rifts within a family. For more information call 617-491-2220 or go to: <http://www.portersquarebooks.com/event/celeste-ng-everything-i-never-told-you>.

Thursday  
May 14  
8 am to  
3:30 pm

## **The 3<sup>rd</sup> State of Asian Women's Health in MA:**

### ***Community, Campus and Clinical Linkage***

**Impact Hub Boston, 50 Milk Street, 17<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston**

This annual event seeks to engage and educate key stakeholders working to eliminate Asian health disparities by sharing data and showcasing best practices. Speakers are from local colleges and universities, community health centers, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-3rd-state-of-asian-womens-health-in-ma-tickets-15582911909>.

**Friday  
May 15**

**Annual Quincy Asian Resources Community Banquet**  
**China Pearl Restaurant, President Plaza, 237 Quincy Avenue, Quincy**  
 Quincy Asian Resources will be honoring individuals and organizations providing exceptional service to the Asian community in Quincy. They will also present community service scholarship awards to outstanding high school seniors. For more information and tickets, call Christine at 617-472-2200 or email [christine@quincyasianresources.org](mailto:christine@quincyasianresources.org).

**Saturday  
May 16  
10:30 am**

**Boston Chinatown Historic Walking Tour: *Food Edition***  
**Location sent when you register**

A 90-minute tour lead by Chinese Historical Society of New England Board members, Stephanie Fan and David Chang. Space is limited and registration is necessary. General admission is \$15, Students and Seniors \$12, CHSNE members \$8. To register, call 617-338-4339 or email [info@chsne.org](mailto:info@chsne.org).

**Tuesday  
May 19  
3:30 to  
5 pm**

**Japanese Noh Workshop**  
**MIT Stratton Student Center, W20-491, 33 Mass Avenue, Cambridge**  
 Master Kanji Shimizu leads a workshop on *Noh: The art of traditional Japanese theatre by the Tessen-kai Noh group*. Free and open to the public. For more information go to: <http://misti.mit.edu/japanese-noh-theatre-workshop>.

**Tuesday  
May 19  
7 pm**

**Book Reading: *Daughters of the Samurai* by Janice Nimura**  
**Porter Square Books, 25 White Street, Cambridge**  
 Nimura is a book critic, independent scholar and the American daughter-in-law of a Japanese family. *Daughters of the Samurai* is the true story of five young girls who, in 1871, are sent by the Japanese government the United States to learn Western ways and return to Japan to help nurture a new generation of enlightened men to lead Japan. Ten years later they return to Japan - a land grown foreign to them – determined to revolutionize women's education. The book is based on in-depth archival research in Japan and in the United States, including decades of letters between three of the women and their American host families. For more information call 617-491-2220 or go to: <http://www.portersquarebooks.com/event/janice-nimura-daughters-samurai>.

**Wednesday  
May 20  
6 to 9 pm**

**WGBH Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration**  
**WGBH Studios, One Guest Street, Boston ([www.wgbh.org/directions](http://www.wgbh.org/directions))**  
 WGBH celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with a special screening of excerpts from three unique films they plan to broadcast. The films, part of the 39 films and programs planned for May, are *9-Man* by Ursula Liang, *Winning Girl* by Kimberlee Bassford, and *Cambodian Son* by Masahiro Sugano. Liz Cheng, General Manager of WGBH Television and WGBH World, and a panel of representatives from the Greater Boston Asian Pacific American community will discuss important issues raised in these films. This program is free and open to the public, but reservations are necessary. To register, go to: <http://www.wgbh.org/events/event.cfm?eid=Asian%20Pacific%20American%20Heritage%20Month%20Celebration-54>.

- Thursday  
May 21  
5:30 pm**
- ACLU 2015 Bill of Rights Dinner Honors George Takei**  
**Westin Copley Place Hotel, 10 Huntington Avenue, Boston**  
 The American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts is honoring George Takei with their Roger Baldwin Award for his courage and commitment as a champion of social justice and equal rights. Takei is a prominent advocate for equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans. As a young child, he and his family were incarcerated at the Rohwer camp in Arkansas. The ACLU dinner is open to the public. The reception begins at 5:30 with dinner at 6:30. Tickets are \$180. For more information and reservations, go to: <http://aclum.org/dinner>.
- Saturday  
May 23  
5 pm**
- Book Discussion: Mako Yoshikawa**  
***Every Father's Daughter: 24 Women Writers Remember their Father***  
**Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard Street, Brookline**  
 Novelist and Emerson professor Yoshikawa will be featured in this examination of 24 essays collected from women writers writing about their fathers. Included is an essay by Maxine Hong Kingston. For more information call 617-566-6660, or go to: <http://brooklinebooksmith.com/events/mainevent.html>.
- Tuesday  
May 26  
6 pm**
- Japan Society Annual Dinner: *A Night to Remember***  
**The Fairmont Copley Plaza, 138 St. James Street, Boston**  
 Keynote speaker will be Caroline Kennedy, Ambassador of the United States to Japan. Distinguished honorees are Devon Aoki, actress and model; Kathy Matsui, Vice Chair, Chief Japan Strategist, Goldman Sachs, Japan; and Nobuyuki Tsujii, pianist and composer, Van Cliburn Competition Gold Medalist. Tickets, \$250 for Japan Society members, \$300 for non-members. For more information and to register go to: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-1909248>.
- Wednesday  
May 27  
6:30 pm**
- Screening: *Short Waves: Stories Shaping Our Community***  
**Tufts Medical Center, Wolff Auditorium, Lower Level**  
**800 Washington Street, Boston**  
 A screening of locally produced, community-driven short films about the Asian American Experience and community. This event is free and open to the public. Presented by the Boston Asian American Film Festival. For more information go to: [www.baaff.org](http://www.baaff.org).
- Saturday  
May 23  
6 to 8 pm**
- The Genki Spark Taiko Workshop for beginners**  
**Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Brookline**  
 The Genki Spark offers a 2-hour introductory workshop open to all ages (over 7), no experience necessary. Cost: \$30. Information: <http://www.thegenkispark.org>.
- Saturday  
May 30  
2:30 pm**
- Cherry Blossom Festival**  
**Mattapan Public Library, 1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan**  
 The celebration will feature onigiri, other Japanese treats, and special crafts activities. For more information call: 617-298-9218

- Saturday  
June 6**      **Save the date for BCNC's *Savor the Flavor***  
**Quincy Center for Innovation, 180 Old Colony Avenue, Quincy**  
 The Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center's fundraising event to support programs for families to achieve greater economic success and wellbeing. More details to come. For more information contact Joann Yung at 617-603-2541 or email [info@bcnc.net](mailto:info@bcnc.net).
- Saturday  
June 13  
2 to 6 pm**      **Taketina Workshop: Movement, Meditation & Rhythm**  
**Boston Center for Adult Education, 122 Arlington Street, Boston**  
 Elaine Fong offers a class on Taketina, a meditative rhythm process. No experience necessary. Registration necessary. Tuition is \$40. For more information and to register, go to: [www.bcae.org](http://www.bcae.org).

## EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

- Kirkland Gallery**  
**40 Kirkland Street, Cambridge**  
**May 12 to  
21**      ***A Teahouse Re-imagined***  
 project TEAhouse is an installation re-imagining a Japanese tea house in the US, designed and built by architects at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Traditional Japanese construction techniques are mixed with familiar and recycled materials. Daily events will be held from informal tea gatherings to Japanese tea ceremonies conducted by Boston Urasenke and Harvard-Radcliffe Chado Society. On May 16, 17 and 19 events will be held every 30 minutes from 10 am to 5 pm. For reservations, email: [tito@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:tito@gsd.harvard.edu). For more information go to: <http://gstea.tumblr.com>.
- Worcester Art Museum**  
**55 Salisbury Street, Worcester**  
**through  
Sept. 6**      ***Samurai***  
 The samurai in history and popular culture is explored by guest curator Eric Nakamura, editor and founder of Giant Robot Magazine. The exhibit combines historical Japanese arms and armor from the Worcester Art Museum and John Woodman Higgins collections with work by contemporary artists inspired by samurai and their enduring myth.
- May 13 to  
August 9**      ***Nagasawa Rosetsu, Bamboo***  
 This six-panel folding screen was painted by Rosetsu in 1792 using broad brush strokes, interrupted only by the nodes of the bamboo and by a dependence on ink tone rather than line in defining form.
- 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/>.

## 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

May 16 to  
Nov. 1

### ***Haystack Components: Metals and Jewelry***

The work of Kristin Mitsu Shiga is among those highlighted in this exhibition of jewelry and metal art at the Fuller. For more information, go to:

<http://fullercraft.org/event/haystack-components-metals-and-jewelry/>.

## Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

through  
August 9

### ***Hokusai***

Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) is one of Japan's most popular and influential artists. The MFA is drawing from its extensive holdings of paintings, woodblock prints and illustrated printed books to showcase works from Hokusai's seven-decade career. Included is the iconic *Great Wave* from his legendary series *Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji*. In the Gund Gallery.

through  
July 12

### ***In the Wake: Japanese Photographers Respond to 3/11***

This exhibition explores the photographic response to the Great East Japan Earthquake that struck on March 11, 2011. A number of photographers felt compelled to record not only the events' physical effects on the land, but also to interpret the overarching significance of the tragedy through art. The work of 17 photographers is featured.

through  
July 19

### ***Playing with Paper: Japanese Toy Prints***

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 on all exhibits go to: [www.mfa.org/exhibitions](http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions).

## Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History

170 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut

through  
Jan.3,2016

### ***Samurai and the Culture of Japan's Great Peace***

The 150 artifacts displayed are from 1615 to 1863, during the period of the Great Peace of the Tokugawa shoguns. The exhibit is designed to show some lesser known sides of Japan under samurai rule such as popular notions of responsible lives, good deaths and desirable after lives. For more information, go to:

<http://peabody.yale.edu/exhibits/samurai-and-culture-japans-great-peace>.

# SCHOLARSHIPS, INTERNSHIPS & COMPETITIONS

## Submissions for 2015 Boston Asian American Film Festival

Filmmakers are invited to submit their work for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF). This year's theme will be *Home in America* and formats can be narratives, dramas, comedies, shorts, documentaries, animations, music videos, and experimental films. **Regular Deadline is June 1 and final deadline is July 1.** The BAAFF is a production of the Asian American Resource Workshop. For more information, go to: [www.baaff.org](http://www.baaff.org).

## Mike Masaoka Fellowship applications available

JACL National is accepting applications for the 2015 Mike Masaoka Congressional Fellowship. The one-year fellowship is open to graduating college seniors or students in graduate or professional programs. Successful candidates will work in the DC office of a member of the US Senate or House of Representatives and can begin between this summer and the end of 2015. For more information email: [policy@jacl.org](mailto:policy@jacl.org). For application forms go to: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_CoXi-pB9cjX2xJenpvRzEtSkU/view?pli=1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_CoXi-pB9cjX2xJenpvRzEtSkU/view?pli=1).

## 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. **Deadline for entries is June 30.** For more information go to: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B\\_CoXi-pB9cjYIRqUVBRZ3hLTWxnTUVIYU44a2gwSjlwYzNN/view?pli=1](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_CoXi-pB9cjYIRqUVBRZ3hLTWxnTUVIYU44a2gwSjlwYzNN/view?pli=1).

## JAVA announces 2015 scholarships

The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) is accepting applications for its 2015 award program. Competition is open to eligible high school seniors, undergraduate, graduate, and professional students as well as JAVA war veterans and past or present members of Hawaii's 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 442<sup>nd</sup> Infantry unit, for scholarships of up to \$5,000. Application **deadline is May 15, 2015.** For full information and application forms, go to: <http://javadc.org/news/2015-java-memorial-scholarships/>.

## American Petroleum Institute S.T.E.M. Graduate Fellowship

The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies is offering the American Petroleum Institute S.T.E.M. Graduate Fellowship for individuals interested in pursuing a career in public policy with a background in energy, engineering and mechanical sciences. **Deadline is May 22.** For information contact Amy Watanabe at 202-296-9200 or email: [fellowship@apaics.org](mailto:fellowship@apaics.org).

# WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

## NEW YORK

### Pan Asian Repertory Theatre

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

Performances in Theatre Row, 410 West 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York

July 5 to  
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 go to: <http://www.panasianrep.org/index.shtml>.

Opens on  
Nov. 8  
Previews  
begin  
Oct. 6

#### ***Allegiance***

Longacre Theatre, 220 West 48<sup>th</sup> Street, New York phone; 212-239-6200

Inspired by the true childhood experience of its star, George Takei, *Allegiance* is a dramatic musical that tells the multi-generational story of Sammy and Kei Kimura, a brother and sister, and the challenges they face when they choose opposing paths when faced with the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II. For more information and tickets go to: <http://www.allegiancemusical.com>.

## CALIFORNIA

### 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. Other exhibits include ***The Barracks Room***, ***Sports in the Japanese American Community***, and ***Post World War II: Resettlement***.

Sunday

May 17  
1 pm

#### ***City Girls: The Nisei Social World in LA 1920-1950***

Valerie J. Matsumoto's book explores the vital role Nisei girls played in the JA community in prewar Los Angeles contributing to the family's economy and serving as cultural mediators. Matsumoto is professor of history and Asian American Studies at UCLA. Reservations recommended.

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



## Japanese American National Museum

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

Wednesday  
May 13  
7 pm

### ***The Curse of Quon Gwon: When the Far East Mingles with the West***

A rare screening of this silent black and white film (1916-17) directed by Marion Wong. It is the earliest known film directed by an Asian American and one of the earliest directed by a woman. The movie features an all-Chinese cast. The evening will include a talk with Mai-Lon Gittelsohn and Dr. Greg Mark, descendants of star Violet Wong and filmmaker Arthur Dong. Pre-sale tickets are \$8 for members and \$10 general. At the door tickets are \$12 for members and \$15 general. To reserve a seat go to:

<https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=006867a4-bae5-46f8-af59-aea41a036ae3>.

through  
May 31

### ***Hello! Exploring the Supercute World of Hello Kitty***

An exhibition celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hello Kitty, her colorful history and influence on art and culture, has been extended to May 31.

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.

For more information on all exhibits and events, go to: [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org)

Friday  
June 12  
6 pm

## **Congressional Gold Medal Fundraising Dinner**

**Fairmont Hotel, 170 South Market Street, San Jose, CA**

The National Veterans Network is sponsoring a dinner to honor General Eric K. Shinseki, former US Secretary of Veteran Affairs. Proceeds from the dinner will support the Smithsonian's upcoming Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition which will highlight the stories of WWII Japanese American soldiers. Special guests will include The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta and Olympic gold medalist Kristi Yamaguchi. For more information, go to:

<https://nationalveteransnetwork.givezooks.com/events/congressional-gold-medal-dinner-san-jose-ca>.

Thursday  
to Sunday  
July 2 to 5

## **OCA 2015 National Convention**

**Hilton Union Square, 333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA**

*Unifying Asian Pacific Islander America* is this year's theme for the OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates national conference. Early bird registration has been extended to May 11. For more information and to register, go to: [http://www.ocanational.org/?page=Events\\_Convention](http://www.ocanational.org/?page=Events_Convention).