



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

May 2019

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Asian American Heritage Month Highlights

It looks like another busy month for Asian Americans in the Greater Boston area. Here are a few highlights, full details in “Events in New England.”

- **Norman Mineta**, Cabinet Member to two US presidents and long-time Congressman from San Jose, CA, will be interviewed at a special Asian American Heritage Month program at WGBH-TV on May 9th. The program was free and open to the public and quickly became “sold out.” I kept details about the program in our “Events in New England” calendar for your information. Norm is here to promote the PBS broadcast of the film ***Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story*** on May 20th (see WGBH program schedule on the next page).
- ***Pacific Overtures***, a musical by Stephen Sondheim, features an all-Asian cast. It opens on May 10 at the Lyric Stage Company in Boston. Be sure to use the discount code in the “Events in New England” calendar when ordering your tickets.
- The **Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival** (May 18), seems to get better every year. Kudos to The Genki Spark and Brookline High School’s Japanese Program for all their hard work in making it such a success. NE JACL will be there along with a number of other community groups. Drop by our table and say hello.

Go For Broke Nat’l Education Center offers cash prizes

The Go For Broke National Education Center is accepting entries for its 2019 high school and college student essay and poetry competition that focuses on the relevance and impact of Japanese American WWII veterans in our world today. Cash prizes totaling \$7,000 will be awarded 12 winners. The competition is open to all high school and college students.

Deadline for entries is June 30, 2019. Information:

http://www.goforbroke.org/news/annual_events/studentcontest/index.php

Paid Fellowships available in Washington, DC

Applications are being accepted for two fellowships in Washington DC: the Daniel K. Inouye Fellowship and the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship. The Inouye fellow works out of the JACL office on a wide variety of projects, issues and programs. The Masaoka fellow works out of the Congressional office of a member of the Senate or House where they can gain firsthand knowledge of policy creation. Both are paid fellowships that last up to one year. **Deadline for application is May 19.** For information email: Katharine Harata at khirata@jacl.org or go to: <https://jacl.org/internships-and-fellowships/>

Inouye Fellowship application form: <https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/s1laolkk1n4ohg4/>

Masaoka Fellowship application form: <https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/r1oe6en91v9eoki/>

Asian American Heritage Month Programs on WGBH

WGBH, Boston's PBS station has scheduled a multitude of Asian American programs during May. Listed below are just a few of the programs. For a complete program schedule go to:

<https://www.wgbh.org/schedule-grid>.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| Sun/May 5 at 11:30 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Next Gen Asian American Art</i> (repeats on May 7) |
| Tue/May 7 at 8 pm | WGBH/2 | <i>Finding Your Roots</i> (Ann Curry) (repeats May 19) |
| Thu/May 9 at 9 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Sinking Cities – Tokyo</i> |
| Fri/May 10 at 7-9pm | WGBH/World | <i>American Experience: The Chinese Exclusion Act</i> |
| Fri/May 10 at 6 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Of Race and Reconciliation</i> (repeats at 9 pm) |
| Sat/May 11 at 1 pm | WGBH/44 | <i>Lucky Chow: Food as Cultural Collision</i> |
| Sat/May 11 at 2-4 pm | WGBH/World | <i>American Experience: The Chinese Exclusion Act</i> |
| Sat/May 11 at 7 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Kimono Revolution</i> |
| Mon/May 13 at 7 pm | WGBH/World | <i>The Ito Sisters: An American Story</i> |
| Sat/May 18 at 7 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Tsuruko's Tea Journey</i> |
| Mon/May 20 at 9 pm | WGBH/2 | <i>Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story</i> |
| Tue/May 21 at 1 pm | WGBX/44 | <i>Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story</i> |
| Tue/May 21 at 7 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story</i> |
| Wed/May 22 at 4 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story</i> |
| Wed/May 22 at 7:30 pm | WGBH/Create | <i>Milk Street TV: Japanese Tuesday Nights</i> |
| Fri/May 24 at 6 pm | WGBH/World | <i>And Then They Came for Us</i> (repeat at 9 pm) |
| Fri/May 24 at 7 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Relocation, Arkansas – Aftermath of Incarceration</i> |
| Fri/May 24 at 8 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Resistance at Tule Lake</i> |
| Sat/May 25 at 2 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Relocation, Arkansas – Aftermath of Incarceration</i> |
| Sat/May 25 at 3 pm | WGBH/World | <i>Resistance at Tule Lake</i> |
| Wed/May 29 at 6 pm | WGBH/World | <i>POV: The Birth of Sake</i> |

EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

through
May 25
showtimes
vary

Theater: Qui Nguyen's *Vietgone*

Boston Cntr for the Arts, Plaza Theatre, 539 Tremont Street, Boston

A kinda true love story with a hip-hop heart, *Vietgone* is a hilarious ride from Marvel Studios writer Qui Nguyen who mixes music and memory to tell his own origin story. The production is in partnership with the Pao Arts Center. Tickets are \$25-\$38, Students \$15 presale. Information & tickets:

<https://companyone.org/production/vietgone/>

Thursday
May 2
7 pm

Book Talk:

Touching Home in China: In Search of Missing Girlhoods

Porter Square Books, 25 White Street, Cambridge

Two girls, who were abandoned as infants in China and adopted by American parents, return as teenagers to the farming towns in China where their lives began. This book is by Maya Ludtke, one of the teenagers, and her mother

Melissa. Mother and daughter will be at the Book Talk to share their experiences. Information: <https://www.portersquarebooks.com/event/melissa-and-maya-ludtke-touching-home-china>

Friday
May 3
5:30 –
8:30 pm

CIC ArtWeek: *Global Arts, Eats & Beats (Japan Edition)*
245 Main Street, 2nd floor, Cambridge

The Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC) presents a celebration of creativity and culture from ancient to modern Japan. The Arts include an interactive digital fabrication station, ikebana and fine art. The Eats feature Japanese tea ceremony, beverages and bite-sized Japanese treats from local restaurants. The Beats are Japanese musicians and dancers. This event is sponsored by CIC, Boston ArtWeek, and the Japan Society of Boston. Free and open to the public, but registration is requested. Information & registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cic-artweek-global-arts-eats-beats-japan-edition-tickets-57041794543?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Friday
May 3
6-9:30 pm

13th Annual Asian American Commission's Unity Dinner
Crowne Plaza, 15 Middlesex Canal Park Drive, Woburn

This year's theme is *Moving Forward: Our Heritage, Diversity, and Identity*. The program will highlight the work of individuals and organizations in Massachusetts. Tickets are \$120. Information & reservations:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/aacs-2019-unity-dinner-tickets-56132019381>

Sunday
May 5
11am-4pm

Japanese Cherry Blossom Friendship Festival
Whitfield-Manjiro Museum, 11 Cherry Street, Fairhaven, MA

A spring festival featuring taiko drummers, origami, ikebana, and bonsai, quilt and kimono displays. Bento lunches will be available: \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 12. To reserve a lunch: call Gerry at 508-858-5303 or email: Gerry@WMFriendshipHouse.org.

Information: <http://www.whitfield-manjiro.org/programs.html>

Sunday
May 5
11am-1pm

Workshop: *Furoshiki Fun*
Boston Public Market, 100 Hanover Street, Boston

Learn the Japanese art of gift-wrapping with textiles in a workshop being offered during Boston ArtWeek. Each participant will work with traditional fabrics and get familiar with the concept of *mottainai* (Japanese for wasteful). You'll master the presentation of elegantly wrapped gifts for any occasion. Tickets: \$20.

Information & reservations: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/furoshiki-fun-workshop-tickets-59167366185?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Sunday
May 5
12:30-5pm

Workshop: *Japanese Textile Dyeing*
Studio on the Common, 22 Church Street, Winchester

An introduction to the Japanese traditional craft of *shibori* using indigo dye with Koyomi Yatsunami. You'll learn basic resist techniques such as binding, folding, wrapping, clamping, etc., and create various patterns and designs. All materials are included in this special workshop limited to 8 students. Fee: \$95. Information & registration: <https://studioonthecommon.wildapricot.org/event-3310172?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=5%2F18%2F2019>

Tuesday
May 7
6 pm

**Book Talk: *Little Fires Everywhere: A Novel*
Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge**

Author Celeste Ng kicks off the launch of the paperback edition of her novel with this event. She will be joined in conversation by Lauren Groff, author of *Fates and Furies*. Tickets for general admission are \$6 and will go on sale April 18. Tickets, on sale are \$18.25 and include a copy of the book. Information and tickets: http://www.harvard.com/event/celeste_ng2/

Thursday
May 9
5-7 pm

**Japanese/English Language Exchange
Meridian Room, 50 Milk Street, 5th floor, Boston**

An informal gathering sponsored by the Japan Society for individuals wishing to practice speaking Japanese. This event is open to those learning to speak Japanese and native Japanese speakers. The program is free to Japan Society members and \$5 to all others. Register online or at the door. Information & registration: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-3337182>

Thursday
May 9
6-9 pm

**WGBH Celebrates Asian Pacific American Month
WGBH Studios, 1 Guest Street, Brighton**

Norman Mineta, Cabinet Secretary for two US Presidents, will be featured in a live interview at WGBH, Boston's PSS station. Additional participants in the program include Michelle Wu, Boston City Councilor; Pam Eddinger, Bunker Hill Community College President; Paul Watanabe, Institute for Asian American Studies Director at UMass Boston; Mark Wu, Harvard Law School Professor; Jon Abbott, WGBH President and CEO; and Liz Cheng, WGBH TV General Manager. Free and open to the public. Information & reservations: <https://www.wgbh.org/event/celebrate-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month>

Thursday
May 9

**Book Talk: *Autumn Light: Season of Fire and Farewells*
Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard Street, Brookline**

Author Pico Iyer takes us on an exploration of Japanese history and culture and a meditation on impermanence, mortality and grief. His book leads us through the year following his father-in-law's death. As the maple leaves begin to redden, he offers a singular view of Japan in the season that reminds us to take nothing for granted. Book information: <https://www.brooklinebooksmith-shop.com/book/9780451493934>

May 10 to
June 16

**Theater: *Pacific Overtures*
Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon Street, Boston**

This musical, by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman, is set in 1853 and follows Japan's difficult westernization. It premiered on Broadway in 1976 to mixed reviews and closed after six months. The lead characters are Kayama, a samurai, and Manjiro, a Japanese fisherman who was marooned and later rescued by a New England ship. The original Broadway production starred Mako as the Narrator and there was a sprinkling of Asian actors in the rest of the cast. Two more recent New York productions featured B.D. Wong (2005) and George Takei (2017) as Narrators. The Boston cast includes Kai Chao, Sam Hamashima (Manjiro), Alexander Holden, Elaine Hom, Carl Hsu (Kayama), Brandon Milardo,

Gary Thomas Ng, Jeff Song, Karina Wen, Micheline Wu and Lisa Yuen. For discount on tickets, use **Code: PO20**.

Information: <https://www.lyricstage.com/productions/pacific-overtures/#Cast>
 Tickets: 617-585-5678 or boxoffice@lyricstage.com

Saturday
May 11
9-11 am

ATASK Community 5K Race
Chestnut Hill Reservoir, details at registration

The Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) is hosting its annual community race in which runners can enter as individuals or a team and have the option of merely running or raising funds for an organization of their choice.

Information: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Events/MA/Boston/ATASKCommunity5K>

Wednesday
May 15
6 pm

Shogi Night with Akio Ishikawa
Fox Library, 175 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington

Join *Shogi* master Ishikawa to learn the game of Japanese chess from a pro. Ishikawa is a professional *Shogi* player from the Japan Shogi Association where he has reached the 7th Dan level. This event is free and open to the public. For information, email shun2guchi@yahoo.com.

Thursday-
Sunday
May 16-19
showtimes
vary

Theater: *See You Yesterday*
Emerson Paramount Center, 559 Washington Street, Boston

Nineteen Cambodian performers utilize extraordinary acrobatics and circus arts skills to travel back in time and shatter a legacy of silence. The performers are second generation survivors of the Khmer Rouge genocide who explore the fragmented narratives they have inherited from their parents and grandparents. Tickets: from \$10 to \$85. Information & tickets:

https://artsemerson.org/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=173D7873-3533-45E1-98AC-D110C41FB7D5

Friday
May 17
7:30 p,

Film: *Surviving Bokator*
Emerson Paramount Center, 559 Washington Street, Boston

A film about reclaiming cultural identity and building bridges between generations. Filmed over five years, it tells the struggle of an older genocide survivor resurrecting the ancient Cambodian martial art of Bokator and preserving it for the nation's youth. Tickets: \$9.50 to \$11. Information & tickets:

https://artsemerson.org/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=Load&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=75E21257-DF2A-4DD0-B97D-5D5B068B0A9C

Saturday
May 18
12-4 pm

10th Annual Asian American Mental Health Forum
Malden Senior Community Center, 7 Washington Street, Malden

This year's theme is *Recognizing Our Value: Forging Solutions to Combat Stigma and Internalized Racism*. Keynote speaker is Dr. Josephine Kim, Harvard Graduate School of Education. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Pre-registration is required. Free and open to the public. Information & registration:

<https://go.activecalendar.com/massdmh/site/learning/event/aamh-forum2019>

Saturday
May 18
12-4 pm

Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival

Brookline High School, 115 Greenough Street, Brookline

An annual festival highlighted by food, games and music. Program highlights include taiko performances and a community Bon Odori, Japanese folk dances performed by the audience. Sponsored by The Genki Spark and Brookline High School. Suggested donation: \$5 for students and \$10-\$20 for families.

Information: <http://www.brooklinecherryblossom.com/>

May 22 to
June 8

Theater: *Hold These Truths*

**Barrington Stage Company, Sydelle & Lee Blatt Performing Arts Cntr
St. Germain Stage, 36 Linden Street at Center Street, Pittsfield**

The true story of Gordon Hirabayashi, the son of Japanese immigrants who resisted incarceration during World War II. Written by Jeanne Sakata and featuring Joel De La Fuente as Hirabayashi, a college student and a Quaker. Tickets are \$15 to \$50. Information & reservations:

<https://barringtonstageco.org/Season-Shows/hold-these-truths/>

Saturday
May 25
7-9 pm

Concert/Discussion: *The Slants*

Pao Arts Center, 99 Albany Street, Boston

The Slants is the world's first all Asian American dance rock band. They have been featured in a number of national television programs and they have started The Slants Foundation, a nonprofit to provide scholarships and mentorships to artists who incorporate activism into their work. Donation: \$10. Information & reservations:

<https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/2019/05/25/theslants>

Thursday
May 30
6-9 pm

BCNC 50th Anniversary Gala:

Creating Pathways to Brighter Futures

InterContinental Hotel, 510 Atlantic Avenue, Boston

The Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) celebrates its golden anniversary with a gala honoring NBA Basketball star Jeremy Lin, actor Hudson Yang (*Fresh Off the Boat*) and author/journalist Jeff Yang. Tickets: \$250 to \$500.

Information & reservations: <https://50.bcnc.net/gala>

Saturday
and
Sunday
June 8&9

Boston Dragon Boat Festival

along the Charles River in Cambridge, details online

This two-day event usually features the qualifying races on Saturday and the finals on Sunday. Also featured are food and arts & craft booths and cultural performances. Details were not available yet. Check their web site for updates:

<https://www.bostondragonboat.org/>

Wednesday
June 19
7:30 to
9:30 pm

Concert: *Jake Shimabukuro*

Cary Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington

The ukulele virtuoso returns with his inspired touch on everything from island standards, popular tunes and classical symphonic concertos. He will be introducing new songs into his concert as he embarks on an extensive US tour and a fall tour of Japan. Tickets: \$39, \$49, \$59. Information & tickets:

<https://www.caryhalllexington.com/events/2019/6/19/jake-shimabukuro>

EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM

455 Oak Street, Brockton

through
May 12

Felt: Fiber Transformed

Six contemporary artists offer an exciting look at work in the medium of felt today. Among the artists featured are Kiyoshi Mino and Teasy Shiruo Sun. Information:

<https://fullercraft.org/event/felt-transformed/>

McMULLAN MUSEUM OF ART, DALEY FAMILY GALLERY

Boston University, 2101 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston

through
June 2

Eaglemania: Collecting Japanese Art in Gilded Age America

In the exhibit, bronze, silver and ivory sculptures of birds of prey join folding screens, scroll paintings, netsuke, lacquer ware, ceramics, and textiles to bring to life the history of the Boston College eagle. During a recent conservation, Boston College's monumental bronze eagle was found to be a Japanese masterpiece from the Meiji period (1868-1912) donated to the college in the 1950s. Information:

<https://www.bc.edu/sites/artmuseum/exhibitions/eaglemania/>

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

through
Sep. 15

Royal Celebrations: Japanese Prints and Postcards

As Japan welcomes a new emperor, the MFA offers an exhibit of prints, postcards and illustrated books from its collections that depict important events in the Japanese imperial family from 1868 to the present. Information:

<https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/royal-celebrations>

through
June 30,
2020

Conservation in Action:

Japanese Buddhist Sculpture in a New Light

A rare, behind the scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures. The wooden figures are decorated with polychromy or gliding and date from the 9th to the 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>

through
Jan. 3, 2021

PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM

East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem

Japanomania! Japanese Art Goes Global

An exhibit that covers the beauty and complex stories behind the museum's celebrated Japanese export art collection. It covers the period from the arrival of Portuguese merchants in the 1500s through Japan's emergence on the world stage in the late 19th Century and beyond. Information:

<https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/japanomania-japanese-art-goes-global>

WORCESTER ART MUSEUM

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

through
Oct. 27***Archaic Avant-Garde: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics***

This exhibit focuses on contemporary Japan's leading ceramicists who have explored and experimented with ancient Japanese pottery techniques and forms to invigorated their own modern creations. Featured are pieces from the Horvitz Collection and works from such late 20th Century potters as Kamoda Shoji, Mori Togaku, Mihara Ken and Isezaki Koichiro. Information:

<https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/archaic-avant-garde/>

through
May 26***Travels with Hiroshige***

This exhibition places Hiroshige's Famous Views of the Sixty-odd Provinces in dialogue with the visual culture of travel in the late Edo period (1603-1868) and at the dawn of modern Japan. Information: <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/hiroshige/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

CANADA

through
Aug. 5**THE ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM**

100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Being Japanese Canadian: reflections on a broken world

Contemporary Japanese Canadian artists share their personal perspective on the exile, dispossession, and incarceration of Japanese in Canada during World War II. Some of the artists experienced this history first hand and others through their parents and grandparents. Exhibit information:

<https://hyperallergic.com/485797/contemporary-artists-reflect-on-japanese-internment/>

Museum information:

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/exhibitions-galleries/exhibitions/being-japanese-canadian>

NEW YORK

through
May 19**PAN ASIAN REPERTORY THEATRE**Theatre Row, The Becket Theatre, 410 West 42nd Street, New York, NY***The Brothers Paranormal***

Two Thai American ghost hunters investigate eerie events at the home of an African American couple. Their beliefs and reality are pushed to the breaking point. Cast members include Natsuko Hirano and Emily Kuroda. Directed by Jeff Liu. Tickets: \$62.25 to \$102.25. For student discount (\$27.25) use Code TRBP25. For general audience discount (\$47.25) use code TRBP45. Information & reservations:

<https://www.telecharge.com/Off-Broadway/The-Brothers-Paranormal/Overview>

WASHINGTON, D.C.

ongoing

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

Documents Gallery, 2nd floor, National Museum of American History
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II

Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II is an exhibit now featured at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History through. Documents, articles and art exhibited include the original Executive Order 9066 and other historic images and objects. Information:

<http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/righting-wrong-japanese-americans-and-world-war-ii>

CALIFORNIA

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM SAN JOSE

535 N. Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

phone: 408-294-3138

Sunday
May 5
11am-3 pm

Kodomo no hi/Children's Day

The museum celebrates with a Boy's Day doll display and crafts for children. Admission is free to children under 12. Information:

<https://www.jamsj.org/upcoming-events/2019/4/15/kodomo-no-hichildrens-day>

through
Sep, 29

AGRARIANAA@JAMSJ

The Asian American Women Artists Association and the Museum present a multimedia exhibition featuring nine local and national artists inspired by the history of Japanese American agricultural crafts, legacies and present day community placemaking. The opening reception is on Saturday, March 9 from 12 to 3 pm, and will feature a participatory art piece, along with refreshments and more. Admission to the museum will be free for the opening reception. Information:

<https://www.jamsj.org/upcoming-events/2019/3/9/agrarianaa-jamsj-opening-reception>

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

100 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA

phone: 213-625-0414

May 25 to
October 20

At First Light: The Dawning of Asian Pacific America

A multi-media exhibition exploring and celebrating the emergence of a politically defined Asian Pacific American consciousness and identity. A co-production of Visual Communications (VC) and the Museum, it will feature video stories from the VC archives, a free standing cube sculpture produced by VC, and a contemporary video installation. Information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/at-first-light/>

through
July 7

Kaiju vs Heroes:

Mark Nagata's Journey through the World of Japanese Toys

Drazoran and Captain Maxx are among the hundreds of dazzling vintage and contemporary Japanese vinyl toys on display. *Kaiju* translates to "strange creature" in English, but has come to mean "monster" or "giant monster" referring to the characters popular in Japanese films and on television soon after WWII. Mark Nagata began collecting these toys as a child in California in the 1970s. Information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/kaiju-vs-heroes/>