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](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/](https://jacl.org/internships-and-fellowships/)

Inouye Fellowship application form: [https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/s1aolkk1n4ohg4/](https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/s1aolkk1n4ohg4/)
Masaoka Fellowship application form: [https://jacl.wufoo.com/forms/r1oe6en91v9eoki/](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  Next Gen Asian American Art (repeats on May 7)
Tue/May 7 at 8 pm  WGBH/2  Finding Your Roots (Ann Curry) (repeats May 19)
Thu/May 9 at 9 pm  WGBH/World  Sinking Cities – Tokyo
Fri/May 10 at 7-9pm  WGBH/World  American Experience: The Chinese Exclusion Act
Fri/May 10 at 6 pm  WGBH/World  Of Race and Reconciliation (repeats at 9 pm)
Sat/May 11 at 1 pm  WGBH/44  Lucky Chow: Food as Cultural Collision
Sat/May 11 at 2-4 pm  WGBH/World  American Experience: The Chinese Exclusion Act
Sat/May 11 at 7 pm  WGBH/World  Kimono Revolution
Sat/May 18 at 7 pm  WGBH/World  Tsuruko’s Tea Journey
Mon/May 20 at 9 pm  WGBH/2  Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story
Tue/May 21 at 7 pm  WGBH/World  Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story
Wed/May 22 at 4 pm  WGBH/World  Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story
Wed/May 22 at 7:30 pm  WGBH/Create  Milk Street TV: Japanese Tuesday Nights
Fri/May 24 at 6 pm  WGBH/World  And Then They Came for Us (repeat at 9 pm)
Fri/May 24 at 7 pm  WGBH/World  Relocation, Arkansas – Aftermath of Incarceration
Fri/May 24 at 8 pm  WGBH/World  Resistance at Tule Lake
Sat/May 25 at 2 pm  WGBH/World  Relocation, Arkansas – Aftermath of Incarceration
Sat/May 25 at 3 pm  WGBH/World  Resistance at Tule Lake
Wed/May 29 at 6 pm  WGBH/World  POV: The Birth of Sake

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:

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:

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
12:30-5pm

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

Sunday
May 5
11am-1pm

**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 Yatsuhashi. 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
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Book Talk: <em>Little Fires Everywhere: A Novel</em></td>
<td>Brattle Theatre, 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge</td>
<td>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 <em>Fates and Furies</em>. 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: <a href="http://www.harvard.com/event/celeste_ng2/">http://www.harvard.com/event/celeste_ng2/</a></td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Japanese/English Language Exchange</td>
<td>Meridian Room, 50 Milk Street, 5th floor, Boston</td>
<td>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 &amp; registration: <a href="http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-3337182">http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-3337182</a></td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>WGBH Celebrates Asian Pacific American Month</td>
<td>WGBH Studios, 1 Guest Street, Brighton</td>
<td>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 &amp; reservations: <a href="https://www.wgbh.org/event/celebrate-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month">https://www.wgbh.org/event/celebrate-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month</a></td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Book Talk: <em>Autumn Light: Season of Fire and Farewells</em></td>
<td>Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard Street, Brookline</td>
<td>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: <a href="https://www.brooklinebooksmith-shop.com/book/9780451493934">https://www.brooklinebooksmith-shop.com/book/9780451493934</a></td>
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<td>May 10 to</td>
<td>Theater: <em>Pacific Overtures</em></td>
<td>Lyric Stage Company, 140 Clarendon Street, Boston</td>
<td>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,</td>
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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](https://www.lyricstage.com/productions/pacific-overtures/#Cast)
Tickets: 617-585-5678 or boxoffice@lyricstage.com

### 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.


### 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.

### 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=LoadBOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=173D7873-3533-45E1-98AC-D110C41FB7D5](https://artsemerson.org/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=LoadBOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=173D7873-3533-45E1-98AC-D110C41FB7D5)

### 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=LoadBOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=75E21257-DF2A-4DD0-B97D-5D5B068B0A9C](https://artsemerson.org/Online/default.asp?doWork::WScontent::loadArticle=LoadBOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=75E21257-DF2A-4DD0-B97D-5D5B068B0A9C)

### 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.activecalendarm.com/massdmh/site/learning/event/a-amh-forum2019](https://go.activecalendarm.com/massdmh/site/learning/event/a-amh-forum2019)
**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/](http://www.brooklinecherryblossom.com/)

**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/](https://barringtonstageco.org/Season-Shows/hold-these-truths/)

**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](https://bcnc.net/upcoming-events/2019/05/25/theslants)

**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](https://50.bcnc.net/gala)

**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/](https://www.bostondragonboat.org/)

**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](https://www.caryhalllexington.com/events/2019/6/19/jake-shimabukuro)
EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

FULLER CRAFT MUSEUM
455 Oak Street, Brockton

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

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

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

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

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

*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/

*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**

*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**

*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.

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

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-hichildren’s-day

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

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/

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/