



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

November 2010

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

2010 Boston AA Film Fest presents *Ideas in Motion*

The New England JACL is joining with the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) as a co-presenter of *AOKI* during AARW's Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF). *AOKI* is part of the four-day film festival that features new works by Asian American filmmakers. The festival runs from November 11 through 14 at various locations throughout the Boston area.

AOKI and *Infamy* will be screened on Friday, November 12 at the Paramount Theater, Bright Family Screening Room, 559 Washington St., Boston, at 7 pm. *AOKI* is a documentary chronicling the life of Richard Aoki (1938-2009), a Sansei who was one of the founding members of the Black Panther Party. Filmed over the last five years of his life, the film features extensive footage of Richard and interviews with his friends and former students. *Infamy* is a short drama about a Nisei's reaction to the government backlash following 9/11 that parallels his own experience during World War II when he was a young man.

Here's the complete BAAFF film line-up:

Thursday, Nov. 11 *Today's Special*

Friday, Nov. 12 *AOKI/Infamy*
 Got Shorts

Saturday, Nov. 13 *Race, Acting, Sexuality, and Asian American Masculinities*
 The People I've Slept With

Sunday, Nov. 14 *The Things We Carry/La Petite Salon*

For a schedule with film descriptions, screening locations, times, and ticket ordering information go to www.baaff.org, then click on "aarw.org/schedule."

SPECIAL OFFER TO NE JACL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS: We have two complimentary passes to the Friday, Nov. 12 showing of *AOKI*. Please email Margie Yamamoto by Friday, Nov. 5th if you would like to use the passes. Email: yamahop@verizon.net.

We also have ten tickets to the Saturday, Nov. 13 workshop on "Race, Acting, Sexuality and Asian American Masculinities" at the Tufts Medical Center, Wolff Auditorium, 800 Washington St., Boston. The session from 2 to 4 pm will feature Bee Vang, lead actor in the Clint Eastwood film *Gran Torino*, and Louisa Schein, Hmong media expert. Contact Margie at the email address above as soon as possible to reserve your tickets.

New Executive Director at AARW

John Hsieh has been named the new Executive Director of the Asian American Resource Workshop. Hsieh is new to the Boston area and brings with him a wealth of skills and experiences from both the for-profit and non-profit worlds. He'll be working with staff members Janet Gee, Judy Khy and Sandra Lee. He will be formally introduced to the AARW membership at their annual meeting tentatively scheduled for Saturday, December 11 from noon to 2 pm at the AARW offices, 888 Washington St., Suite 102, Boston.

Genki Spark launches new taiko classes

The Genki Spark is offering weekly drop-in taiko classes for beginners in Brookline and Jamaica Plain. The classes are low-pressure and welcoming and are open to adults and children (over 13 years of age). Space is limited to 10 people per class so pre-registration is recommended. Cost is \$15 per session. In Brookline, classes are held Sundays from 4 to 5pm at the Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon St., Brookline. In Jamaica Plain on Mondays, from 6 to 7 pm, at Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth St., Jamaica Plain. For more information and to register go to: <http://thegenkispark.org/taiko-classes.html>.

The Genki Spark: Taiko Projects with Attitude is a new taiko initiative launched by Karen Young, one of the founding members of Odaiko New England. She has combined her professional experience in youth development and education with her taiko performance background to bring this art form to schools, youth groups, activist organizations, community centers, and the Asian American community. Her group will have its premiere public performance at the opening of the Boston Asian American Film Festival on November 11th.

Japan Festival at Porter Exchange

The Japanese shops and restaurants at the Porter Exchange Building, 1815 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, are hosting a Japan Festival on Saturday, November 13th from noon to 5:30 pm. The event is free and open to the public and will feature live musical performances, origami lessons, tea tasting, calligraphy demonstrations, fortune telling, and Japanese festival food and treats.

Homebuyer 101 Classes

Are you interested in buying a home? Did you buy a home and need help? Are you a renter with questions? The Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) offers a Comprehensive Housing Opportunities Program (CHOP) with monthly workshops and individual housing counseling with a bilingual (English, Cantonese, Mandarin) counselor. The classes will be held on November 20 and 21, from 8 am to 3 pm in the Metropolitan Room of the ACDC offices, 38 Oak Street, Boston. To RSVP and for information, contact Alex Zhang at alex.zhang@asiancdc.org or call 617-482-2380.

Book Readings and Signings

Saturday, Nov. 6. *World and Town* by Gish Jen. At the Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC), 38 Ash St., Boston, from 2 to 3:30 pm. Pre-registration requested, contact BCNC at 617-635-5129. For info: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=145984328777299>.

Nov. 10 to Dec. 2. *Flour: A Baker's Collection of Spectacular Recipes* by Joanne Chang. Chef and owner of Flour Bakery. For more information visit www.flourbakery.com/cookbook.php?post=1904. Chang will be signing her book at locations throughout Massachusetts:

Wednesday, Nov. 10 at Barnes & Noble, Northeastern University, noon to 2 pm
Wednesday, Nov 10 at Williams Sonoma, Copley Place, Boston, 5 to 7
Thursday, Nov. 11 at Bookends Bookstore, 559 Main St., Winchester, 7 to 8 pm
Saturday, Nov. 13 at Costco, location and time to be announced
Saturday, Nov. 20 at Porter Square Books, 25 White St., Cambridge, 1 to 3 pm
Saturday, Nov. 27 at Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline, 2 to 3 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 1 at the Wellesley Booksmith, 82 Central St., Wellesley, at 7 pm
Thursday, Dec. 2, at KitchenWares, 215 Newbury St., Boston, 6:30 to 8 pm

Dec. 5 to 7. *Simply Ming One-Pot Meals: Quick, Healthy & Affordable Recipes* by Ming Tsai. For more information visit www.ming.com/. Tsai will be signing his book at the following locations:

Sunday, Dec. 5 at Wellesley Booksmith, 82 Central St., Wellesley, 2:30 to 4:30 pm
Monday, Dec. 6 at Borders, 10-24 School St., Boston, 12:30 to 1:30 pm
Tuesday, Dec. 7 at Barnes & Noble, 1 Worcester Rd., Framingham, 7 pm

A Guide to Local Jazz Musicians

The Asian American Resource Workshop newsletter recently printed a helpful guide to local Asian American Jazz Musicians. It's reprinted here for your convenience:

- A-NO-NE Music performs original jazz every Sunday afternoon at the Café Luna in Cambridge. www.anonemusic.com
- Kaoruko (Yoshida) is a Jazz vocalist who hosts Jazz Jam – Tuesdays, 8 to 11 pm at Amazing Things Art Center, Natick. www.amazingthings.org/ or www.kaorukojazz.com
- Grace Kelly, more info at www.gracekellymusic.com
- The Kosana Quartet, more info at www.myspace.com/thekosanaquartet
- The Kubota PowerJAZZ Unit performs the third Friday of each month at the Yangtze Inn, West Bridgewater. www.powerjazz.net
- The Yoko Miwa Trio, more info at www.yokomiwa.com

Events and Exhibits

Now through Nov. 12. Boston, Bali and Between: The Watercolors of Paul Nagano, at the Christopher Brodigan Gallery, Groton School, 282 Farmers Row, Groton, Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. Nagano shares his vision inspired by the natural beauty he sees during his travels between Honolulu, Boston and Bali, Indonesia. The Gallery is free and open to the public.

Tuesday, Nov. 2. Japanese Noh Theater and Transnational Performance at the Boston Playwrights' Theater, 949 Commonwealth Ave., Boston, from 3 to 5:30 pm. The program is sponsored by the Theatre Nohgaku and Boston University and is open and free to the public. This lecture-demonstration will include selections from the *noh* play *Hagoromo* in English and Japanese, W.B. Yeats' *noh*-inspired *At the Hawk's Well*, and two new *noh* plays in English. For more information go to www.theatrenohgaku.org or contact cipresto@bu.edu.

Nov. 4 through Dec. 18. Mifune & The Master, four films by Akira Kurosawa starring Toshiro Mifune at Showa Boston Institute, 420 Pond St., Boston. The program is sponsored by the Japan Society of Boston and is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested. The films include Nov. 4: *Drunken Angel*; Nov. 16: *Record of a Living Being*; Dec. 2: *Yojimbo*; and *High and Low* at a date to be announced. For more information and to register, go to www.us-japan.org/boston and click on "Information Here."

Saturday, Nov. 6. The second conference of the Asian Americans in New England Research Initiative (AANERI) will be held at the University of Connecticut, Bishop Center, Storrs, CT, from 9 am to 4 pm. The UMass Boston Institute for Asian American Studies established the AANERI to encourage and facilitate the study and documentation of the social, economic, cultural and political experiences of Asian Americans in New England. On-site registration is \$60 general, \$35 student/community and includes breakfast, lunch and reception. For information visit www.iaas.umb.edu/AANERI or call 617-287-5650.

Sunday, Nov. 7. International Family Festival: Celebrating our Japanese Connections at Springstep, 98 George P. Hassett Drive in Medford Square, Medford, from 1 to 4 pm. The event is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested. The program includes tea ceremonies, origami, taiko drumming, Japanese crafts and games and is designed for children from 1 to 13. To register, call the Medford Family Network at 781-393-2106.

Saturday, Nov. 20. Kodo: An Afternoon of Incense Appreciation, at Showa Boston Institute, 420 Pond St., Boston, at 1 and 3 pm. Pre-registration required, \$15 for Japan Society members, \$30 for non-members. Sessions are limited to 12 persons and priority will be given to Japan Society members with remaining seats available to non-members after Nov. 1. To register go to <http://www.us-japan.org/boston/Calendar.html> and scroll down to this program.

Saturday, Nov. 20. Yasuhisa Kohyama Solo, opening reception for this renowned Japanese ceramic artist, from 3:30 to 6 pm at the Lacoste Gallery, 25 Main St., Concord, MA. The artist will also present a slide talk with demonstration at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, on Friday, November 19 at 10:30 am. Seating is limited, rsvp by calling 978-369-0278 or email info@laacostegallery.com.

Wednesday, Nov. 24. RENBU (Dance of Love) by Hiroko Okahashi at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St., Cambridge, Monday through Friday, 10:30 am to 6 pm. Okahashi combines photography, watercolor and printmaking to produce works filled with flowing movement and emotion. For more information call 617-577-1400 or go to www.cmacusa.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 30. Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) 23rd Annual Dinner and Meeting at Hei La Moon Restaurant, 88 Beach St., Boston, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Open to the public. The annual ACDC membership fee of \$20 includes dinner. To rsvp, contact iris.tan@asiancdc.org or call 617-482-2380, ext. 216.

Friday, Dec. 3. The 25th Annual Harry H. Dow Dinner at China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler St., Boston, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. The dinner honors the memory of Harry Dow who was the first Asian American attorney admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1929. For information and reservations, contact Zenobia Lai at zeno_lai@yahoo.com or call 857-919-0565.

Sunday, Dec. 5. The Art of Japanese Carpentry: Joinery and Interiors, at the Showa Boston Institute, 420 Pond St., Boston, from noon to 2 pm. The Japan Society presents Chris Hall who will demonstrate Japanese carpentry and discuss how lessons and ideas from Japanese traditional building practices might transfer effectively to a North American setting. The program is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is requested. To register go to <http://www.us-japan.org/boston/Calendar.html> and scroll down to this program.

At the Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Under the Skin: Tattoos in Japanese Prints. Through January 2, 2011.

Luxuries from Japan Cultural Exchange in the 17th and 18th Centuries. Through January 17, 2011.

Heaven and Hell in Japanese Art. Through May 1, 2011.

Visit the MFA website: www.mfa.org