



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

November 2011

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

New England's Gold Medal honorees

Three NE JACL members will be among those honored at the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony on November 2. They are James Inashima, Susumu Ito, and Tetsuo Takayanagi. All three are veterans of World War II, having served with either the Military Intelligence Service or with the legendary 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. Some 3,000 Japanese American veterans and their families are expected to attend the ceremony.

The November 2 ceremony will be shown live via the Pentagon Channel web site at <http://www.pentagonchannel.mil/>. The program begins at 11 am and ends at 12:30 pm. Due to the possible high volume of those logging on at the same time, you should be patient and try logging on again. CSPAN will also attempt to show the ceremony live, but cannot guarantee it if there is a congressional hearing or other required broadcast.

Sus is one of three veterans selected to represent all 1,250 honorees during the presentation ceremony. Only one Gold Medal will be cast by the US Mint and will go directly to the Smithsonian to be exhibited. Bronze replicas may be purchased after the actual presentation. Our congratulations to Jim, Sus and Taka. You've always been gold medal winners in our eyes!

***One Big Hapa Family* to be co-presented by NEJACL at BAAFF**

New England JACL is one of the co-presenters of *One Big Hapa Family* at this year's Boston Asian American Film Festival on Saturday, November 12 at 2 pm. The entire film schedule is listed at the end of this newsletter. Japanese Canadian filmmaker Jeff Chiba Stearns' film is about his journey of self-discovery to find out why everyone in his family married interracially after his grandparents' generation. The screening will be at Emerson College's Bright Family Screening Room, The Paramount Center, 559 Washington St., Boston. Tickets will be \$10 at the door.

NEJACL members are encouraged to attend and join us for an informal early dinner at a nearby restaurant in Chinatown. Cost of dinner will be approximately \$20 (soda, beer and wine extra) and will be collected at the restaurant. To reserve a seat for dinner, contact Ken Oye at: oye@mit.edu.

May Takayanagi to be honored by Community Change, Inc.

NE JACL Board member May Takayanagi will receive a special award from Community Change, Inc. at their Antiracism Leadership Awards Celebration on Tuesday, November 29 from 6 to 8:30 pm. The event will be held at Simmons College, Linda K. Paresky Conference Center, 300 The Fenway, Boston. Community Change works to promote racial justice and equity by challenging systemic racism and acting as a catalyst for anti-racist learning and action. For dinner tickets and information call 617-523-0555 or go to: www.communitychangeinc.org.

New England JACL members in *The Boston Globe*

Two New England JACL members, Debra Samuels and Rosanna Yamagawa Alfaro, were spotlighted with cover stories in *Boston Globe's* "g" feature news supplement in recent weeks.

Debra's story on October 12, featured a cover picture of an obento she prepared during one of her talks on the art of obento. In her article, she wrote about her introduction to Japanese cooking while living in Tokyo and how she learned to prepare Japanese style lunches when she sent her son to school. She also included a recipe for gyoza adapted from her recently published cookbook, *My Japanese Table*. Debra is currently in Japan and is sending stories and recipes from Tokyo that have been appearing weekly in the *Boston Globe*.

Rosanna's cover on October 14 featured references to some of the highlights in her life, including the play she has written that had its world premiere at the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston this past month. The play, *Before I Leave You*, runs through November 13 and is about four Cambridge friends on the cusp of old age. Featured in the play is New York actor Glenn Kubota as Koji. It is described as a love story for grownups: "In a blink, Emily's Harvard Square world falls apart. Her husband Koji suddenly embraces his Asian roots. Her friend Jeremy's work on his novel gets interrupted by a health scare and his sister Trish moving in." For ticket information go to:

<http://www.huntingtontheatre.org/season/subscribe/1112/season.aspx>

Japanese American High School Students can apply for trip to Japan

A special national program sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan offers Japanese American high school students an opportunity to travel to Japan and learn about aspects of its culture, history, politics, economy, and language. Five students will be selected and will receive a trip to Japan for 10 days as the guest of the Ministry. Deadline for application is November 30, 2011. The application form and program information are being sent as an attachment in a separate email (see attachments Shin Nikkei Jin Application form.doc and Shin Nikkei Jin Program.doc). The application form is also available on the Japanese Consulate web site: www.boston.us.emb-japan.go.jp.

A new look at Japanese American demographics

JACL has partnered with the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland to produce *A Demographic Overview of Japanese Americans* providing information on JA populations in the top 10 U.S. communities from Honolulu to New York City. The report also includes a timeline of Japanese American history and a description of the changing dynamics of the Japanese American Community and their demographic, social and economic characteristics. The 55-page report is available online and is downloadable by going to:

http://www.aast.umd.edu/japanese_americans.php

Ricesticks and Tea begins holiday gift drive

Ricesticks and Tea, Boston's only food pantry providing culturally appropriate food staples to members of the local Asian low income and non- or limited-English speaking community. The program is seeking donations for its annual holiday party to provide gifts for the 120 families they serve. A letter describing this program is being sent as an attachment with a separate email (see attachment RST Holiday Gift Request 2011.pdf). For more information contact ricesticksandtea@gmail.com. To donate online go to: <http://ricesticksandtea.org/donate>.

2012 JET Program applications available soon

Applications will soon be available for the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET Program). The JET Program promotes mutual understanding between Japan and other nations by offering participants the opportunity to serve in local Japanese government offices, public and private elementary schools, junior high and senior high schools. Applications for the 2012 program are expected to be available in early November. For more information and program updates go to: <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/JET/>

Online Seminar: Tuesday, November 1, from 7 to 8 pm

Fall 2011 Webinar from the Five College Center for East Asian Studies

Culture Day in Japan: Living National Treasures and Tangible Cultural Properties

This online seminar is free and open to the public, prior registration required. For more information contact: The Five College Center for East Asian Studies at fcceas@fivecolleges.edu or call 413-585-3751.

Program: Thursday, November 3, at 5:30 pm

Conversation with Kenzaburo Oe and Susan Napier

Tufts University, Cohen Auditorium, 40 Talbot Ave., Medford

Nobel Laureate Kenzaburo Oe in a program with Susan Napier, Tufts Professor of Japanese Program. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Professor Hirata at hosea.hirata@tufts.edu or call 617-627-3442.

Art: Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6, from 11 am to 6 pm

Paul Nagano Open Studio

Fenway Studios, Studio #406, 30 Ipswich St., Boston

Nagano joins other artists at Fenway Studios in opening their studios to the public and displaying their recent works. See flyer sent as an attachment in a separate email for more information about the event (see attachment OPENSTUDIOpdf.pdf)

Conference: Saturday, November 5, from 9 am to 4:15 pm

ASPIRE's 7th Annual Asian American Women in Leadership Conference

Simmons College, Paretzky Conference Center, 300 The Fenway, Boston

Theme of this year's conference is *What Can We Learn from Asian American Women Leaders?* Keynote Speaker will be Laura Sen, President & CEO of BJ's Wholesale Club. High school students, college and graduate school students, and professionals are welcome! For information go to: <http://girlsaspire.org/aawil/index.html>.

Open House: Saturday, November 5, from 10 am to 1 pm

Chinese Historical Society of New England Open House

Chinese Historical Society of New England, 2 Boylston St. Suite G-2, Boston

Bring historic photos or documents to scan and add to the CHSNE's collection. For information call 617-338-4339 or email info@chsne.org.

Author: Tuesday, November 8, at 7 pm

Book Reading by Ha Jin

Newtonville Books, 296 Walnut St., Newton

Ha Jin reads from his book *Nanjing Requiem*. He is the award-winning author of *Waiting* and *War Trash*. For more information call (617) 244-6617 or go to: www.newtonvillebooks.com

Lecture: Wednesday, November 9, at 7:30 pm

First They Killed My Father:

An Eyewitness Account of the Cambodian Genocide

Lecture by Luong Ung

Phillips Academy, Kemper Auditorium, 5 Chapel Ave., Andover

Ung is a survivor of the killing field of Cambodia. Over a 3-year period, at the age of 5, she lost half her family and spent time in a camp for child soldiers. Her award winning book *First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers* is a national bestseller that has been published in 11 countries. This event is free and open to the public.

Job Fair: Friday to Sunday, November 11 to 13, from 9 am to 7 pm, to 3 pm on Sunday
Bilingual Boston Career Forum

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St., Boston

A job fair for Japanese-English bilinguals from students to working professionals. For more information and registration, go to: <http://www.careerforum.net/event/bos/?lang=E>.

Taketina Workshops with Elaine Fong

Elaine Fong will be leading a series of Taketina workshops in Massachusetts in November. Taketina is a playful journey in music and movement in which participants use their body by stepping, speaking rhythm syllables and clapping for a uniquely effective kinesthetic learning experience.

Sunday, November 13, from 10 am to 6 pm

Concord Masonic Temple, 58 Monument Square, Concord.

Cost is \$90. Send your registration to Elaine Fong, 68 Parkman St., #3, Brookline, MA 02446.

Wednesday, November 16 from 7 to 9 pm

Ancient Spiritual Resource Center, Hawthorne North Plaza

435 Newbury St., Suite 210, Danvers, MA

Cost is \$20. For more information and to register go to:

<http://www.AncientWisdomSRC.com/elaine>

Saturday, November 19, from 10 am to 1 pm

North Grafton Library, 6 Prentice St., North Grafton, MA

Cost for the Taketina workshop is \$45. A Taiko workshop will follow the Taketina workshop at the Grafton Library. For more information on both workshops, go to:

<http://graftondrum.com/lessons.php>.

Program: Monday, November 14, from 7 to 9 pm

MIT Japan 3/11 Initiative

MIT Bartos Theater, Weisner Bldg (E15), Lower Level, 20 Ames St., Cambridge

A report on the MIT Japan 3/11 Initiative, a multi-year collaborative project focused on disaster-resilient planning, design and reconstruction. Shun Kanda and Jim Wescoat will discuss the process and challenges in planning and implementing alternative strategies for disaster preparedness. Kanda is a Tokyo native and Director of Architectural Studies for the Initiative and Wescoat is Aga Khan Professor in the MIT School of Architecture and Planning. This program is free and open to the public. For more information contact Laura Chichisan at clauraa@mit or call 617-253-4415.

Lecture/Demonstration: Tuesday, November 15 at 10 am

Bonsai Lecture and Demonstration

Espousal Center, 554 Lexington St., Waltham, MA

Ikebana International presents this program featuring Todd Hansen and Lydia Cruz of Sanctuary Bonsai Nursery in East Hartford, CT. Fee is \$15. The public is welcome. For more information go to: www.ikebanaboston.org.

Classes: Fridays, November 18, December 9 and 16 from 7:45 to 9 pm

Saturday, November 12, from 3:30 to 6:45 pm

Drop-in Recreational Taiko Classes

The Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon St., Brookline.

Designed as an engaging social activity, the class focuses on trying something new and having fun, according to Karen Young, The Genki Spark founder and NE JACL member. Walk-ins are welcome on a space available basis. Fee is \$15. For information and to reserve a spot, email Karen@TheGenkiSpark.org or call 617-308-4900.

Dinner: November 29 from 6 to 8 pm

ACDC Annual Meeting and Dinner

Hei La Moon, 88 Beach St., Boston, MA 02111

The Asian Community Development Corporation annual meeting and dinner will include reports on the opening of its 34-unit affordable rental housing in Quincy and funding for the development of Boston's Parcel 24 into 345-units of new housing. Dinner costs is \$20 (includes ACDC annual membership). For reservations and information contact Iris Tan, Special Events Manager, at 617-482-2380, ext. 216, or email: iris.tan@asiancdc.org.

Dinner: Friday, December 2, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm

26th Annual Harry H. Dow Memorial Dinner

China Pearl Restaurant, 9 Tyler St., Boston

Annual dinner to benefit the Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund. For information contact Andrew Leong at andrewlsleong@gmail.com or call 617-233-8871.

Gala: Wednesday, December 14 from 5:45 to 8:30 pm

6th Annual We Are Boston Gala 2011

Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St., Boston

Annual event presented by the Mayor's office of New Bostonians to celebrate diversity, immigrant contributions and heritage. The evening will include an international buffet and dessert, community awards and performances by the Wheelock Family Theatre, Boston Children's Chorus and Larry Watson. For information call 617-635-2980 or go to www.wearebostongala.info.

Art: Through January 21, 2012

PILGRIM FATHER/Illegal son: story of two immigrants

W/Y Gallery at the Chinese Progressive Association, One Nassau St., Unit 2, Boston

A 54-foot graphic mural with text, by Wen-ti Tsen. It tells the stories of two illegal immigrants: One a present-day Chinese who overstays his visa and the other William Bradford of 17th Century England who sailed on the Mayflower.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All attachments are being sent in a separate email.

BAAFF announces 2011 film lineup

The 2011 Boston Asian American Film Festival launches an exciting lineup of films from November 10 through 13. The films will be screened at different locations throughout the Greater Boston area. For program details and to order tickets, go to <http://www.baaff.org/festival.html>. The Film Festival is a program of the Asian American Resource Workshop.

Thursday, November 10

Brattle Theatre, 30 Brattle St., Harvard Square, Cambridge

8 pm ***Almost Perfect***. A narrative feature directed by Bertha Bay-Sa Pan. Actors include Kelly Hu, Tina Chen, Ivan Shaw, Christina Chang, Edison Chen and Roger Rees.

Friday, November 11

MIT (location to be announced, check BAAFF web site)

7 pm. **James Hong: *Behind the Scenes-Secrets of Hollywood***. Actor James Hong has a prolific film and television career spanning 57 years. He will speak about his career and share secrets about the magic and reality of Hollywood.

9:15 pm ***Potluck Shorts: Art of Love***. A program of short films including *The Potential Wives of Norman Mao*, *Angel Island Profile: Tyrus Wong*, *Asian American Jesus*, *Wear I Fit*, *The Bus Pass*, *Brides Wanted*, *Room #11*, *Lunchtime* and *Mother*.

Saturday, November 12

**Emerson College's The Paramount Center, 555 Washington St., Boston
Bright Family Screening Room**

2 pm ***One Big Hapa Family***. A live action and animated documentary by Jeff Chiba Stearns that explores why almost 100% of Japanese Canadians are marrying interracially, the highest rate of any other ethnic group in Canada. This program is co-presented with the New England Japanese American Citizens League and Discover Roxbury.

AMC Loews Theatre, Boston Common, 175 Tremont St., Boston

6:30 pm ***Touch***. A sensual film that explores the sense of touch and its emotional impact through the relationship between a mechanic and a shy Vietnamese-American manicurist. Directed by Minh Duc Nguyen.

9 pm ***Bang Bang***. A narrative feature about a troubled teen looking for a way out of the gang life. Directed by Byron Q.

Sunday, November 13

MIT (location to be announced, check BAAFF web site)

1 pm ***Potluck Shorts: Passion & Courage***. Short films include *Fatakra*, *A Tree Falls in Forest*, *Ballet of Unhatched Chicks*, *Boys and Girls*, *The First Draft of Yao Ming's Retirement Speech*, *Memory of Forgotten War*, *My Name is Seven*, *N as in Name: Danh Nguyen*, *Rehearsing the Future*, and *Top Spin*.

4:30 pm ***Knots***. A Narrative feature set in Hawaii and directed by Michael Kang. Featuring actors Kimberly Rose-Wolter, Sung Kang, Mia Riverton and Janel Parrish.