



New England Chapter News

Japanese American Citizens League

October 2021

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

MFA features quilt from Poston camp in exhibit

The Museum of Fine Arts' current exhibit ***Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories*** features a quilt made by 58 fourth graders in the Poston concentration camp during World War II. The boys and girls cross-stitched their names into the quilt squares as part of a civics class about pioneer women. Their teacher was Masako Hirata. Also in the exhibit is a contemporary quilt, ***Indigo Colour Mixture***, created by Japanese American artist Tomie Nagano. A very thoughtful story about these pieces in the exhibit was written by the MFA's Olga Khvan, content strategist and brand manager in Public Relations. To read her story: <https://www.mfa.org/article/2021/poston-quilt>

ICA reopens Kasuma's *Love is Calling*

When the COVID lockdown occurred in 2020, it was during an exhibit by Yayoi Kusama, the 92-year-old Japanese icon of contemporary art, at Boston's Institute for Contemporary Art. Her exhibit, ***Love is Calling***, reopened recently (on October 31) and will be available to visitors at the ICA until October 31, 2023. Her installation is described as exemplifying "the breadth of her visual vocabulary – from her signature polka dots and soft sculptures to brilliant colors, the spoken word, and most importantly endless reflections and the illusion of space." Tickets are needed to view her exhibit. For information and tickets: <https://www.icaboston.org/exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-love-calling>

NEH Teacher Training Program for Summer 2022

JACL has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to re-fund a training program for educators on ***Civil Liberties in a Time of Crisis: The Japanese American Incarceration***. The two one-week sessions will bring educators from across the US to Los Angeles' historic Little Tokyo community to take part in a program that includes guest speakers and trips to Santa Anita Racetrack and Mazanar. The programs will be held in late June and early July 2022. Applications will be available beginning in January 2022. For information: <https://jacl.org/announcements/jacl-back-to-school-weekly-feature-week-6>

New Look for JACL Education Resources online

If you are looking for information on Japanese American history, the preferred terminology to describe the camp experience, digital access to nearly a century of JACL's newspaper, *The Pacific Citizen*, and much more, check out the newly updated JACL Education website at: <https://jacl.org/education>

Film: *Norman Mineta and His Legacy*

In honor of Norman Mineta's 90th birthday this month, the Mineta Legacy Project is making its award-winning documentary film, *Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story* available free for viewing during the month of November. If you missed any of the previous screenings of this film, this is an opportunity to learn more about his life and the major role he played in American history. The film includes the story of his father's immigration to America and covers the family's incarceration during World War II and Mineta's political career and his life today. To see the film, go to:

<https://vimeo.com/424965737?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=bc4c4b14-3520-4b17-b4b8-6b409adb9d5f>

For information about the Mineta Legacy Project: <http://minetalegacyproject.com/>

USC seeks their Nisei students incarcerated during WWII

In the past, the University of Southern California has been conferring honorary degrees on Nisei students whose educations were disrupted by WWII and were still alive. The university has extended that decree to recognize students who are deceased. An effort is underway to identify those individuals or their survivors so they can be properly honored. This request is from Richard Watanabe, Professor of Population and Public Health sciences, School of Medicine of USC. Anyone can submit information on individuals or their families:

<https://airtable.com/shrzY4TwdWSuzsh4I?fbclid=IwAR07nJPZ0AsaaALe5AnB28RKYysWV/Mq1bISKdqv4X9NAEeF9GdevN0o6Jss&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=bc4c4b14-3520-4b17-b4b8-6b409adb9d5f>

UC Berkeley launches Manzanar oral history project

An Oral History project at the University of California is seeking Japanese Americans who have parents, grandparents or great grandparents who were incarcerated at Manzanar and Topaz. Through new oral history interviews, the project will document the ways in which intergenerational trauma and healing occurred after WWII. These interviews will examine and compare how private memory, creative expression, place, and public interpretation intersect. By addressing intergenerational memory of the incarceration, the project will address the harms of the past.

For more **information** about the project and to **volunteer or nominate** someone for the project, go to: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScW-TmKBkrnuNSipRUYAYYBmD4-NSIVO4EJyhBT0-6ZvYIKhQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=f7427764-1bdd-405d-b7ba-909880273c80>

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS & MISC.

Okaeri 2021 Virtual Conference

November 12 to 14

virtual, registration required

Okaeri's a mission is to create visibility, compassionate spaces, and transformation for LGBTQ+ Nikkei and their families by sharing stories and providing culturally-rooted support, education, community-building and advocacy. This year's international conference will

feature 24 workshops (four of them in Japanese). 11 meet-up sessions, and a guest appearance from Gia Gunn. Information and registration:

<https://www.okaeri-losangeles.org/conference?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=bc4c4b14-3520-4b17-b4b8-6b409adb9d5f>

ACDC's 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, at 5:30 pm (Eastern Time) virtual, registration required

Join the Asian Community Development Corporation (ACDC) at its annual meeting where they will share reflections on the past year and how it has been supporting communities through affordable housing, resident and youth leadership, financial empowerment, and advocacy and civic engagement. To register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xmZm0tZaRCqYVBs1gWnkew

Book Talks: *The Eagles of Heart Mountain*

Wednesday, November 17, from 6 – 7 pm (Pacific Time) virtual, registration required

Author Bradford Pearson recounts the special connections he made with past players and the lessons he learned on injustice and the human spirit as he wrote *The Eagle of Heart Mountain: a True Story of Football, Incarceration and Resistance in World War II America*. His book tells the story about the Heart Mountain High School team that went undefeated against the all-white teams they played from Montana and Wyoming.

The program is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California. To register:

<https://14797.blackbaudhosting.com/14797/Virtual-Author-Talk-The-Eagles-of-Heart-Mountain-with-Bradford-Pearson>

Saturday, November 20, from 2 to 3:30 pm (Pacific Time) virtual, registration required

This program is sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum with \$10 general admission and free to Museum members. The author will discuss his book with New England JACL's Erin Aoyama. Information and registration:

<https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=981ad4f2-3c63-4ca0-8423-28b083c3ae43>

***Detention 101* with Professor Naomi Paik**

Thursday, November 18, at 5 pm (Eastern Time) virtual, registration required

Follow-up Event: December 9, at 8 pm (Eastern Time)

Tsuru for Solidarity (TFS) presents a conversation/discussion with Professor Naomi Paik on the history of detention in the United States across administrations. The program will help individuals to contextualize TFS's work for immigration rights and to end all detention camps.

The **Follow-up Event** in December will be a reading group discussing Prof. Paik's recent book *Bans, Walls, Raids, Sanctuary: Understanding U.S. Immigration for the 21st*

Century.

To register: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvf--hgT4rHNS9f8-PGJRV-15f1BITQquf?link_id=14&can_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-tfs-email&email_referrer=email_1340405&email_subject=tsuru-updates-events-october-30-2021

Book Talk: *Everything She Touched, the life of Ruth Asawa***Saturday, November 20, from 1:30-3:30 pm (Hawai'i Time) virtual, registration required**

A biography by Marilyn Chase that follows Ruth Asawa from growing up a farmer's daughter to becoming a celebrated artist. Her signature wire sculptures are in the collections of both the New York and San Francisco Museums of Modern Art, as well as the Whitney and many museums and galleries across America. The program is sponsored by the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center in Hawai'i. To register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_S9JT74OhTCOEFLeltIDADA

EXHIBITIONS**WORCESTER ART MUSEUM**

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA

Japanese Screen: *Parodies and Legends* through December 2021

A handscroll by painter Furuyama Moromasa representing one of the most elaborate and extensive work by the artist. It contains 20 separate paintings, each approximately four feet long. The screen will be unrolled in stages to exhibit different portions of the scroll.

Information: <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/japanese-screens/>

***Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso* through July 3, 2022**

The **Worcester Art Museum** is partnering with Chiso, the distinguished, 465-year-old, Kyoto-based kimono house to present a view of the world of traditional kimono design and artistry. Over the course of 10 videos, the **virtual exhibit** provides a rare, behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the *Worcester Wedding Kimono*, the first kimono ever commissioned as a work of art by an art museum. For **information** and access to the video series, go to:

<https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-couture/>

INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (ICA)

25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston

Yayoi Kusama: *Love is Calling* through October 31, 2023

An icon of contemporary art, 90-year-old Yayoi Kusama has interwoven ideas of pop art, minimalism and psychedelia throughout her work in paintings, performances, room-size presentations, outdoor sculptural installations, literary works, films, design and architectural interventions over her long and influential career. For tickets: <https://my.icaboston.org/events>

For information: <https://www.icaboston.org/exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-love-calling>

MASS MoCA

87 Marshall Street, North Adams, MA

phone: 413-662-2111

Glenn Kaino: *In the Light of a Shadow* through September 5, 2022

In the Light of a Shadow is inspired by the connection between two protests -- the tragic events known as "Bloody Sunday" from Selma, Alabama and Derry, Northern Ireland. The installation spans the entire football-field size Building 5 gallery and provides an immersion experience of moving shadows and evocative soundscape.

Information: <https://massmoca.org/event/glenn-kaino-in-the-light-of-a-shadow/>

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Fabric of a Nation: American Quilt Stories through January 17, 2022

One of the quilts exhibited was made by 58 fourth graders in Poston concentration camp during World War II. Also on exhibit is a quilt by contemporary artist Tomie Nagano. To read a story about the Poston quilt, go to: <https://www.mfa.org/article/2021/poston-quilt>

Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculpture ongoing

A rare, behind the scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures. Visitors are invited to watch as conservators study and treat the sculptures in a public conservation studio. The wooden figures – images of worship depicting Buddhas, Guardian Kings, and a Wisdom King – are decorated with polychromy or gilding and date from the 9th to 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>

Japanese Garden, Tenshin-en

ongoing

Amid the disruption of the pandemic of the last year and a half, many of us may have forgotten about a Japanese Garden right in the heart of Boston. Dedicated in 1988, *Tenshin-en*, or the “Garden of the Heart of Heaven,” is a contemplative Japanese garden. It is named for the Museum’s curator of Chinese and Japanese Art, Kakuzo Okakura (known in Japan as Okakura Tenshin), who worked at the MFA from 1904 until his death in 1913. The entrance to the garden, pre-COVID, was across the street from the Museum parking garage and open parking lot on Museum Road. For more **information** on the garden, go to:

<https://www.mfa.org/collections/featured-galleries/japanese-garden-tenshin-en>

ELSEWHERE

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE

535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

Virtual Winter Auction

through November 15

The museum is offering a virtual Holiday Shopping Experience. For general information or questions call or email: (408) 294-3138 or winterboutique@jamsj.org

BioQuilts: BioGrown Quilts

through November 15

Showcased is the *Cranes in Flight BioQuilt* that was designed and grown in collaboration with community members as part of the BioQuilts project. The quilts are made from mycelium (the root-like structure of mushrooms) and locally sourced materials such as used coffee grounds and food waste rice and ramen. The exhibit is in the Agriculture Area of the museum. For more information: <https://www.jamsj.org/bioquilts>

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF SAN JOSE (continued)

Hidden Histories of San Jose Japantown: Liberation Technology, Art, and Community Building in Action

through January 16, 2022

Learn about this unique grassroots project that combines augmented reality technology, art, and local history and culture to explore the little known and “hidden” stories of connection between the Chinese, Japanese and Filipino communities that together shaped the Japantown of today. Information: <https://www.jamsj.org/hidden-histories>

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

100 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles

Virtual Craft Show: *Kokoro 2021*

through November 15

shop online

The 13th Annual Kokoro Craft Show is virtual again. More than 60 vendors from many states are participating with more than half first time Kodoro vendors. For information on how to participate . For a list of vendors, go to: <https://kokorocraftshow.com/>

Mine Okubo’s Masterpiece: The Art of Citizen 13660

through February 20, 2022

Mine Okubo’s graphic memoir, Citizen 13660, was first published in 1946. Through nearly 200 illustrations, Okubo captures how World War II and the subsequent incarceration upended her life. This is the first time the materials comprising Okubo’s book will be exhibited. Included will be sketches she completed while she was incarcerated at Tanforan and Topaz, original drawings that she created, as well as a draft of the final manuscript.

Information: <https://www.janm.org/exhibits/mine-okubo-masterpiece>

A Life in Pieces: The Diary and Letters of Stanley Hayami

through January 9, 2022

The exhibit brings to life Hayami’s writings from camp and his wartime letters with a 3D virtual experience that can be accessed by smartphone. In 1944, at the age of 19, he was drafted into the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He was killed in Italy while trying to rescue a fellow soldier during combat. The exhibition will have its world premiere at the 2021 Tribeca Festival in the Immersive Category. For information: janm.org/a-life-in-pieces.