



## *New England Chapter News* *Japanese American Citizens League*

October 2011

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: [www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org)

### **Book Talk with Debra Samuels a great success**

Our Book Talk with Debra Samuels on September 10<sup>th</sup> was a fantastic hit! By our count, we had at least 50 people attending. Debra's talk was very well received and held the interest of an audience whose Japanese cooking knowledge ranged from experienced to novice -- a feat very difficult to do. After her talk, Debra invited the audience to assemble a small *obento* from the food that was prepared in advance. We have to give a lot of credit to everyone who helped that day. Our wonderfully organized bookseller was Janet Gee. Steve Nishino was checking everyone in and recruiting new members. They were both part of our unflappable set-up crew that made last minute changes as needed. This group included Steve and Janet, Ken Oye, Willa Michener, and Mari Oye. And kudos to our talented cooking crew that included Sus and Minnie Ito, Chris Martell, Erin Hashimoto Martell, Mark Hopkins, May Takayanagi and Margie Yamamoto. Very special thanks goes to Debra Samuels who, as a new member of our chapter, helped us host one of our most successful events of the year. Photos from the event are at the end of this newsletter.

### **Play by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro featured in Huntington Theatre season**

A new play by NE JACLer Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro will be part of the 2011-2012 season of the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston. *Before I Leave You* will have performances from October 14 to November 13 at the Calderwood Pavilion at the BCA in Boston's South End. Set in Cambridge, the five-character play will feature 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. Four longtime friends face too much past and too little future in this moving comedy." For ticket information go to:

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

### **Julia Otsuka Book Reading in Brookline**

Julia Otsuka will present a reading from her new book *The Buddha in the Attic* on Thursday, October 6, at 7 pm at the Brookline Booksmith, 279 Harvard St., Brookline, phone: (617) 566-6660. Her debut novel, *When the Emperor Was Divine*, won awards from the American Library Association and the New York Public Library and was compared by the New York Times to *To Kill a Mockingbird*. In her long awaited follow-up she tells the story of a group of women brought from Japan to San Francisco as "picture brides" nearly a century ago. This event is free and open to the public. Seating begins at 6:30 pm. For more information go to:

<http://www.brooklinebooksmith.com/events/mainevent.html>

## **Meet the US Senate Candidates at AAPI Community Series**

The New England JACL is partnering with a number of Massachusetts Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations to support the *Meet the U.S. Senate Candidates Speaker Series*. This is a non-partisan series of meetings between candidates for political office and the Asian American community. It is a collaborative effort to increase awareness of elections in 2011 and 2012, to introduce candidates for various offices to the AAPI community's unique issues and concerns, and to increase voter participation and civic engagement in the AAPI community.

**Alan Khazei, City Year cofounder and Be the Change founder**, met the community in August. Two additional candidates have been scheduled for October:

**Marisa DeFranco, Attorney, on Tuesday, October 11 at 6:30 pm**, location to be announced.

**Tom Conroy, State Representative, on Tuesday, October 18, at 6 pm**, location to be announced. Locations for the speakers will be sent to you when they are determined.

Announcements will also be sent when additional candidates are scheduled in this speaker series.

## **Launch Party on Oct. 7 for 2011 Boston Asian American Film Festival**

The Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) kicks off the 2011 Boston Asian American Film Festival with a Launch Party on Friday, October 7 from 6 to 9 pm at The Greatest Bar, 262 Friend St., Boston. Admission is \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door, and free for AARW members. Those attending will be the first to hear the Festival's film lineup and see previews of some of the films. Admission will cover nibbles, a raffle ticket, and dancing to music by DJ JesseJess. To purchase tickets go to: <http://2011-baaff-launch-party.eventbrite.com/>

The theme of this year's Film Festival is *Ideas in Motion* with special screenings held in Greater Boston locations from Thursday to Sunday, November 10 to 13. Festival details will be posted at: <http://www.baaff.org/>

## **CAAM Fellowship Program**

The Center for Asian American Media (CAAM) is launching its second year of the CAAM Fellowship Program in San Francisco, CA. The program works to nurture Asian American media professionals and advance the field of Asian American media by connecting talented individuals with leading professionals in Asian American film television, and digital media. Applications are being accepted now through October 17. For more information go to: <http://caamedia.org/filmmaker-resources/fellowship/caam-fellowship-program-2011/>

## **EVENTS**

### ***Through Hiroshima Eyes: The Hibakusha Art of Junko Kayashige***

**October 1 through 31, 2011, Gallery Talk October 13 at 5:30 pm**

**Gutman Library, Harvard School of Education, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge.**

When Hiroshima was bombed on August 6, 1945, Junko Kayashige had just entered elementary school. She was in a home one mile from where the A-bomb hit. She survived, badly injured, but lost several members of her family. Through her art, she says, "I wanted to depict the foolishness of humans who attempt to solve problems with war and destruction. It is hard for me to revisit and recount my experience, but nuclear weapons are still threatening our lives."

Her paintings have been shipped from Japan for this exhibit with support from the American Friends Committee. The artist will share her story in a gallery talk at the Gutman Library on Thursday, October 13 from 5:30 to 7 pm. The Primary Source will also present a talk about the exhibit on Wednesday, October 19 from 4 to 5:30 pm at the Cambridge Friends Meeting House, 5 Longfellow Ave., Cambridge. Both events are free and open to the public. For more information on the exhibit go to: <http://www.gse.harvard.edu/calendar/#/?i=2>.

### **Annual Burmese Food Fair**

**Saturday, October 8 from 4 to 7 pm**

**International Community Church, 30 Gordon St., Allston**

The Overseas Burmese Christian Fellowship offers a taste of authentic Burmese food to raise funds for their church. All dishes are homemade and will include Mohinga (fish soup), assorted fried appetizers, noodle salad, desserts and tea. For more information go to:

<http://www.obcfboston.com/>

### **Taking Charge of Your Career Success Conference Series**

**National Association of Asian American Professionals**

**Saturday, October 15 from 8:30 am to 4 pm**

**John Hancock Hotel & Conference Center, 40 Trinity Place, Boston**

This is part of a comprehensive conference series uniquely designed to help Asian professionals develop critical strategies for career advancement and leadership. The theme is "Personal Leadership," a must for long-term satisfaction and success, and critical in times of turbulent job markets. Guest speakers include Anne H. Chow, Senior Vice President with AT&T Global Services, and Jim Fong, retired Director of Strategy & Planning at Hewlett-Packard Services. For information and to register go to: <http://www.naaapboston.org/>

### **Breaking Down Doors: A Display of Raw Talent, Strength and Excitement**

**Saturday, October 15, fro 2 to 4 pm (doors open at 1 pm)**

**Harvard-Epworth United Methodist Church, 1555 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge**

The Jasmine Asian Women Giving Circle presents this afternoon of powerful stereotype-breaking and inspirational performances. There will be an opportunity to participate in the world premiere of *Forbidden Voices*, a new play about Asian American women speaking out on mental illness and healing. For more information about the play go to:

[www.breakingsilencesproject.blogspot.com](http://www.breakingsilencesproject.blogspot.com). The program will also feature a performance by

The Genki Spark, a women's taiko performance group. Admission is \$40 and will cover refreshments and the program. For more information go to:

<http://jasminecircle.org/2011/08/22/breaking-down-doors/>

### **BASIC 2011: Converging at Crossroads**

**Saturday, October 22, from 9 to 6 pm**

**Harvard University, 59 Shepard St., Cambridge (Corner of Garden and Shepard Sts.)**

Suzanne Lee, Boston educator and community advocate, will be the keynote speaker at this year's conference. BAASIC (Boston Asian American Student Intercollegiate Conference) is the annual student-run conference for Asian American students from colleges in New England. Workshops will cover topics ranging from "Dating Violence, Abuse and Asian Americans" to "Bringing Poems to Life," and "Asian Americans and Social Media" to "Multiracial Identities." For more information and registration go to: [www.baasic.org](http://www.baasic.org)

## **18<sup>th</sup> Annual Silk Road Gala 2011**

**Saturday, October 22, from 7 to 10 pm**

**Sheraton Boston Hotel, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, 39 Dalton St., Boston**

The Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence sponsors this annual benefit featuring great chefs, silent and live auctions, and entertainment. Guest chefs include Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger and Simply Ming (TV show); Jody Adams of Rialto; Joanne Chang of Myers+Chang and Flour Bakery+Café; Jamie Bissonnette of Toro; Jason Santos of Blue Inc.; Ting San of Oishii; David Wong of Shabu-Zen; and Patricia Yeo of Om Restaurant. Tickets are \$200. For more information go to: <http://www.atask.org/site/>.

## **Book Reading by Gish Jen**

**Thursday, October 27, at 7 pm**

**Harvard Book Store, 1257 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge**

Gish Jen reads from *World and Town*, her novel now out in paperback. For more information go to: [www.harvard.com](http://www.harvard.com) or [www.gishjen.com](http://www.gishjen.com)

## ***Eternal Return*, Art by Mizue Sawano**

**through October 31**

**Harvard University, CGIS South Building, 1730 Cambridge St., Cambridge**

Fifteen oil paints by internationally acclaimed artist Mizue Sawano. The exhibit includes selected works from her cherry orchard series that commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan's gift of cherry trees to Washington D.C.

## **Kawanabe Kyosai and the Hell Courtesan**

**until June 17, 2012**

**Museum of Fine Arts, 465 Huntington Ave, Boston (617) 267-9300**

This is the first exhibition in the MFA's newly renovated Japanese Print gallery and focuses on a recent acquisition, a monumental hanging scroll of the *Hell Courtesan* by Kawanabe Kyosai (1631-1889). It relates the story of a famed 15<sup>th</sup> century beauty who wore a robe decorated with scenes from the Buddhist Hell. For more information go to:

<http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/kawanabe-kyōsai-and-hell-courtesan>

## **ASPIRE's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian American Women in Leadership Conference**

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

**Simmons College, Paretsky 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>.

## **Book Reading by Ha Jin**

**Tuesday, November 8, at 7 pm**

**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](http://www.newtonvillebooks.com)

**2011 Boston Asian American Film Festival**  
**Thursday to Sunday, November 10 to 13**  
**Locations in Boston**

The schedule of films, location and times is being developed. Updates will be posed on their web site at: [www.baaff.org](http://www.baaff.org)

**Photos from the Debra Samuels Book Talk on September 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Photos by Mark Hopkins



