



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

October 2012

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Isamu Noguchi: Bridging Cultures on November 4

New England JACL and the Concord Art Association will host an illustrated talk by Robert J. Maeda at the **Concord Art Association, 37 Lexington Road, Concord, MA, at 2 pm**. He will discuss the life and work of Isamu Noguchi who was one of the 20th Century's most important and critically acclaimed sculptors. Maeda taught Asian Art History at Brandeis University from 1967 to 2000. Late in his career, he became interested in the life and work of the sculptor. Noguchi voluntarily entered the Japanese internment camp at Poston, Arizona, the same camp as Maeda's family. Maeda will discuss Noguchi's art in terms of Noguchi's biracial family, his artistic training and his international reputation.

This event is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested. For reservations, please call the Concord Art Association at 978-369-2578.

News from our members: Aileen Kawabe and Vincent Yee

Aileen Kawabe is a new member and we've met her at several of our events in Boston. She told us she had only recently discovered the New England JACL and was happy to find other Japanese Americans in the area. She has been working with a group called *Tewassa*, a volunteer organization devoted to Japan earthquake and tsunami relief through handmade arts and crafts. She'd love to see more Japanese Americans involved. They meet almost every Saturday to work on different projects at GreyMist Studio & Shop, 360 Huron Avenue, Cambridge, from 4 to 6 pm. Their web site is: <http://www.tewassa.org/en/>.

JACL member Vincent Yee recently published his first novel, *Purple Heart*. At the heart of the book are a mystery and a love story that span four generations of a Japanese American family. The World War II camp experience of the Japanese Americans and the heroic fighting by the Nisei soldiers in Europe initially inspired Vincent to write this book. Vincent is having a book signing in Brookline on October 20; details are available in the Local Events section of this newsletter. It will be a great opportunity to drop by and meet him.

Asian Women sought for Taiko Troupe

The Genki Spark is holding a 4-week trial class for Asian women interested in trying their skills with Taiko drums. There is no obligation to join the taiko troupe at the end of

the sessions. The four 2-hour classes begin on November 10 from 7 to 9 pm and are held weekly on November 17, 24 and December 1. They are seeking high energy, expressive, progressive, self-identified Asian women of East, South, West, Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander descent of all shapes, sizes, ages and backgrounds. Registration is \$100. For more information, go to: www.TheGenkiSpark.org.

Densho launches new Japanese American Encyclopedia

The new Densho Encyclopedia is now available for viewing online. It is a free and publicly accessible web site that provides concise, accurate and balanced information on many aspects of the Japanese American story during World War II. It features more than 300 articles that are extensively referenced and interlinked with more than 550 primary sources (photographs, documents and oral history video clips) included with the articles. Densho plans to add many more articles to the Encyclopedia in the future. To visit the Densho Encyclopedia, go to: <http://encyclopedia.densho.org>.

Special offer from AARP to JACL members

JACL is partnering with AARP in a program that offers discounted AARP membership rates to JACL members and donates a portion of that fee to JACL. The membership rates and the amounts benefiting JACL are:

AARP Membership Term	AARP Discounted Membership Fee	Donated to JACL
Lifetime	\$200	\$50
Five Years (25% savings)	\$47	\$25
Three Years (20% savings)	\$34	\$15
One Year (6% savings)	\$15	\$5

Current AARP members may use this offer to extend their existing membership. This offer expires on December 31, 2012. To purchase a membership or gift membership for someone else, go to: <http://www.aarpmembership.org/jacl>.

Japan Artists Information Directory is launched

The Five College Center for East Asian Studies (FCCEAS) has announced the official launch of the Japan Artists Information Directory (JAID), a database of information about US-based performers and teachers of Japanese arts. The JAID is available online to organizations and individuals. In conjunction with this launch, the FCCEAS is holding an educator workshop on October 13, from 9 am to 3:15 pm at Amherst College. The workshop titled *JAID Aki Matsuri Educator Workshop: Japanese Aesthetics of Sound and Movement*, is for educators and others with an interest in Japanese arts. No previous music or movement training or experience is necessary. Anyone who teaches world cultures or world history may be particularly interested in this workshop that will include cultural and historic background to each of the arts presented. The workshop is free but registration is required. For additional information on the Directory and the workshop go to: <https://www.fivecolleges.edu/jaid>.

LOCAL EVENTS

Book Event: *Purple Heart* by Vincent Yee

Saturday, October 20, 4:30 pm reception, 5 pm program

GARI Japanese Restaurant, 187 Harvard Street, Brookline, 617-277-2999

Purple Heart is a novel about a young Yonsei woman who unravels a family mystery and in the process learns about the love story between her grandparents, the imprisonment of the family during World War II, and her grandfather's story as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The book event will feature complimentary sake reception, a short talk by the author, a book signing, and, for those who stay for dinner, 10% off the cost of the evening's meal. Copies of *Purple Heart* will be on sale for \$15 during the reception. The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested. Please RSVP through Facebook at www.facebook.com/thepurpleheartbook or email your reservation to vyee@thepurpleheartbook.com and indicate how many will be attending.

2012 Silk Road Gala

Friday, October 26, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm

The State Room Boston, 60 State Street, 33rd Floor, Boston.

This year's event sponsored by the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence will feature some of New England's finest chefs, including Joanne Chang of Flour Bakery+Café, Alison Fong of Bon Me, Phillip Tang of ExNE, Ting Yen of Oishii and Tim and Nancy Cushman from o ya. For more information and to purchase tickets, go to: <http://www.atask.org/site/get-involved/silk-road-gala.html>.

Asian American Women in Leadership 2012 Conference

Saturday, November 3, from 9 am to 5 pm

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

The AAWIL Conference is an interactive one-day event aimed at growing and developing leadership skills. It will focus on increasing awareness of the unique challenges Asian American women face in school, the workplace, and at home and provide direction towards achieving life goals. For more information on speakers, workshops and to register, go to: <http://girlsaspire.org/2012conference/about.html>

Community Report on the Tule Lake Pilgrimage

Tuesday, November 13, 6 to 9 pm (with refreshments)

Wolff Auditorium, Tufts Medical Center, 800 Washington St., Boston

Members of Genki Spark will report on their 4-day pilgrimage to Tule Lake, CA, where 18,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. They will share what they learned during this important event. For more information go to: www.TheGenkiSpark.org.

EXHIBITS IN AND AROUND BOSTON

Wendy Maruyama: Executive Order 9066

Through November 3

Society for Arts and Crafts, 175 Newbury Street, Boston

Wendy Maruyama's exhibit includes three integral parts: Executive Order 9066, The Tag Project, and a selection of historical artifacts. The Tag project is made up of 120,000 paper identification tags suspended from the ceiling to evoke a powerful sense of number of individuals who had to endure the experience of displacement and imprisonment. Gallery hours are: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. Closed Sunday and Monday. For more information, go to: <http://www.societyofcrafts.org/>.

Pilgrimage to Hokusai's Waterfalls

through November 2012

Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

The featured exhibit in the museum's newly redesigned Japanese gallery spotlights A Tour of Waterfalls in the Provinces (ca. 1833), a masterpiece woodblock print series by the Japanese artist Katsushika Hokusai. Also on view is a permanent display of Japanese ceramics, ranging in date from 17th to 21st Century. For more information go to: <http://www.worcesterart.org/Exhibitions/hokusai-waterfalls/>.

The Allure of Japan

through December 31, 2012

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

This exhibit celebrates a period around 1900 when America had a fascination for all things Japanese. Included will be a rich display of rarely exhibited American prints, posters, watercolors and decorative arts complemented by a selection the MFA's renowned Japanese collections. For more information go to: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/allure-japan>.

Grand Tales of the Loom: Four Master Weavers

through January 20, 2013

Fuller Craft Museum, 455 Oak Street, Brockton

Fuyuko Matsubara is among the four weavers featured in this exhibit. She joins Cyndy Barbone, Deborah Frazee Carlson and Bhakti Kiek in exhibiting narrative, symbolic or ethereal woven images. For more information call 508-588-6000 or go to: <http://fullercraft.org/event/grand-tales-of-the-loom-four-master-weavers/>.

Two Exhibits on China

through January 31, 2013

Peabody Essex Museum, 161 Essex Street, Salem

The exhibits are: *Fish, Silk, Tea, Bamboo: Cultivating an Image of China* and *Perfect Imbalance, Exploring Chinese Aesthetics*. For more information go to: <http://www.pem.org/exhibitions/>.

Spotlight on Maki Haku (1924-2000)

through January 2013

Worcester Art Museum, 55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

Japanese artist Maki Haku is famous for his deeply embossed prints of abstract and playfully arranged Chinese characters. For more information go to:

<http://www.worcesterart.org/Exhibitions/maki-huki/>.

Cats to Crickets: Pets in Japan's Floating World

through February 18, 2013

Museum of Fine Arts Boston, 465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

Urban commoners in 18th and 19th Century Japan enjoyed a hedonistic lifestyle that included the pleasure of the companionship of pet animals. Formerly a prerogative of the nobility, pets were now available to newly affluent commoners as well. Cats and small dogs were especially favored, but monkeys, mice, fish, birds and even singing insects were also cherished. This exhibit is not just for animal lovers, but will also appeal to those interested in early modern Japanese popular culture and fine

printmaking. For more information go to: <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/cats-crickets>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

Interns needed at CAAM, San Francisco

The Center for Asian American Media in San Francisco is seeking interns in the areas of fundraising, marketing, outreach, event planning and media production in support of the annual San Francisco Asian American Film Festival in 2013. For more information go to: <http://caamedia.org/about-caam/job-opportunities/>.

JAMSJ Winter Boutique

Saturday, November 10

San Jose Buddhist Church, 640 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA

Start your holiday shopping early at the Japanese American Museum/San Jose's annual boutique. Featured will be items from Japanese American artists and crafts people. For more details, contact the Japanese American Museum/San Jose by phone, 408-294-3138 or email: mail@jamsj.org.

Giant Robot Biennale 3

through January 20, 2013

Japanese American National Museum

369 East 1st St., Los Angeles, CA phone: 213-625-0414

Presenting the creative talents of Japanese and Japanese Americans whose innovative work is having an impact on American culture. Curated by *Giant Robot* co-founder Eric Nakamura, GRB3 presents the work of eight emerging artists along with a customized vinyl figure collection. For more information on all these exhibits, go to: www.janm.org.

Ongoing Exhibits

Japanese American Museum of San Jose

535 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA phone: 408-294-3138

Ongoing exhibits include: **Agricultural Exhibit - Yesterday's Farmer: Planting an American Dream; Pioneers of San Jose Japantown; World War II: Assembly Centers and Internment Camps; 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team; World War II: Military Intelligence Service; Post World War II: Resettlement; and Asahi/Zebras Baseball.** Museum hours: Thursday through Sunday, 12 to 4 pm. For more information go to: www.jamsj.org/.

Secrets Revealed: The Presidio Project

current until 2013 when major exhibit opens

Visitors Center, Presidio of San Francisco, 105 Montgomery Street

San Francisco, CA

The exhibit reveals untold stories of Nisei internees, including military enlistees. Their stories are brought to life through an interactive kiosk that presents a special sneak preview of the more exciting exhibits and programs coming to the new Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Historic Learning Center scheduled to open in 2013. This is the site of the US Army's first MIS Language School at the Presidio of San Francisco.

Visitors Center hours: Thursday-Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. For more information go to: <http://www.njahs.org/programs/viewdetails.php?id=317>.