



## *New England Chapter News*

### *Japanese American Citizens League*

October 2019

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

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

## **The 2019 Boston Asian American Film Festival**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Boston Asian American Film Festival (BAAFF) officially kicks off on Thursday, October 24 and concludes on Sunday, October 27. ***Rising Together*** is this year's theme to encourage all persons to stand up and be counted. BAAFF is using film as the backdrop to illuminate the power of the individual strengthened by a community forum to engage, enlighten, encourage and rise together. The BAAFF is a program of the Asian American Resource Workshop. A new feature this year are Pre- and Post- Festival screenings of two documentaries (see stories below). The full schedule of BAAFF films is printed on page 2 of our NE JACL newsletter. For tickets and details, go to: [www.baaff.org](http://www.baaff.org)

### **Pre-Festival Screening**

#### ***Alternative Facts: The Lies of EO 9066***

New England JACL is co-sponsoring the pre-Festival screening of ***Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066*** on **Saturday, October 12 at 3:30 pm** at the Paramount Center, 559 Washington Street, Boston. The documentary film is directed by Jon Osaki who will be present for a discussion following the film. *Alternative Facts* explores the false information and political influences that led to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. The film also points out its parallels to the current climate of fear that is targeting immigrant and religious communities and attempts to abuse the powers of the government. The film will be preceded by two short films: ***Japantown: A Walk Through Memory*** (about San Jose's Japantown) and ***Everyone Counts: Looking Forward to the 2020 Census***.

For film information: <https://www.alternativefacts9066.com/copy-of-about-1>

Tickets are available online at: <https://artsemerson.org/Online/article/BAAFF-19>

For a slight discount use the code: ALTERNATIVEFACTS2019

### **Post-Festival Screening**

#### ***Chinatown Rising***

***Chinatown Rising*** will be screened on **Saturday, November 16 at 2 pm** at the Paramount Center, 559 Washington Street, Boston. Against the backdrop of the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-1960s, a young San Francisco Chinatown resident turned his camera toward his community. With more than 20,000 feet of film totaling 10 hours, Harry Chuck's unreleased footage captures a divided community struggling for self-determination. The filmmakers are Harry and Josh Chuck, a father and son team – this is the first film they have ever made together. The film will be preceded by ***Everyone Counts: Looking Forward to the 2020 Census***. For film information & tickets: <http://www.baaff.org/chinatown-rising.html>

## Boston Asian American Film Festival Schedule

All screenings will be at the Paramount Center, 559 Washington Street, Boston, unless otherwise noted. Details are available at [www.baaff.org](http://www.baaff.org).

Sat. Oct. 12	3:30 pm	<b>Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066</b> , preceded by <b>Japantown: A Walk Through Memory</b> and <b>Everyone Counts: Looking Forward to the 2020 Census</b>
Thu, Oct. 24	6:45 & 9:45	<b>Lucky Grandma</b> at the Brattle Theater, 40 Brattle Street, Cambridge
Fri, Oct. 25	6:30 pm	<b>Seadrift</b> , preceded by <b>Justice for Vincent</b>
	9:30 pm	<b>After Dark</b> , short films
Sat, Oct. 26	3 pm	<b>Finding Your Place</b> , short films
	6 pm	<b>Go Back to China</b>
	9 pm	<b>Love, Family and Self-Discovery</b> , short films
Sun, Oct. 27	12 pm	<b>Discovery</b> , short films
	3 pm	<b>Geographies of Kinship</b>
	6 pm	Closing Night Film, to be announced
Sat, Nov. 16	2 pm	<b>Chinatown Rising</b> , preceded by <b>Everyone Counts: Looking Forward to the 2020 Census</b>

## Poston Pilgrimage

The **Poston Pilgrimage** will be held October 11 to 12 at the Blue Water Casino in Parker, Arizona, and at various Poston locations on the Colorado River Tribes Reservation. The Poston Community Alliance is planning educational workshops, entertainment, exhibits and a banquet. To **volunteer** at the pilgrimage, contact them at: [postonalliance1@gmail.com](mailto:postonalliance1@gmail.com).

**For general information:** <https://www.postonpreservation.org/events>

**To register:** [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/dfc2df\\_69749dc6a61d434dbafc25dc50fe112c.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/dfc2df_69749dc6a61d434dbafc25dc50fe112c.pdf)

**Social media updates:**

[www.facebook.com/postonpreservation](http://www.facebook.com/postonpreservation)

[www.instagram.com/postonpreservation](http://www.instagram.com/postonpreservation)

## EVENTS IN NEW ENGLAND

Friday  
October 4  
6 pm

### Chinese Historical Society Annual Meeting & Dinner Empire Garden Restaurant, 690 Washington Street, Boston

The Chinese Historical Society of New England will honor two community leaders with its 2019 Sojourner Awards: Helen Chin Schlichte, former public administrator and committed leader on community health and vitality, and Yu-Sing Jung, renowned architect with many notable buildings in Boston and the world. For tickets and information: <http://www.chsne.org/programs/annual-meeting/>

October 4  
to 10  
times vary

### Film: *First Love* Kendall Square Cinema, 1 Kendall Square, Cambridge

A film from Takashi Miike. A *cinema noir*-tinged yakuza film blending genres in the story of a young boxer and a call girl who fall passionately in love while getting innocently caught up in a drug smuggling scheme over the course of one night in Tokyo. Information and tickets: <https://www.firstlovemovie.com>

Saturday  
Oct 5  
2:30 and  
4:30 pm

### ***Kodo – Incense Appreciation***

**Japan Society, 50 Milk Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor, Edison, Boston**

Masataka Hata, President of Shiyeido Incense of Kyoto will instruct participants in the art of incense appreciation. Seating is limited to 12 people per session. Registration is required. General admission is \$30 and \$15 for Japan Society members. To register for the 2:30 session, go to:

<http://www.japansocietyboston.shuttlepod.org/event-3487991>

For the 4:30 session: <http://www.japansocietyboston.shuttlepod.org/event-3488010>

Saturday  
Oct. 5  
8 pm

### **Concert: *An Evening Honoring Setsuko Thurlow***

**Jordan Hall, 30 Gainsborough Street, Boston**

The Longwood Symphony Orchestra's 2019 Healing Art of Music Concert honors Hiroshima bombing survivor and peace activist Setsuko Thurlow. She was a child when she witnessed the 1945 bombing of Hiroshima and has spent 65 years speaking out about the horrors of nuclear war.

Community sponsors: Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Tickets: \$50 - \$150. Information and reservations: <https://gbpsr.org/events/longwood-symphony-orchestras-2019-healing-art-of-music-concert/>

Sundays  
Oct.6 to 27  
6 to 7 pm

### **Genki Spark Trial Classes**

**Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beason Street, Brookline**

Genki Spark is offering a four-week trial class for potential members. The first class is free, with subsequent classes \$15 each. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Genki Spark and get a taste of the taiko art form. No experience is necessary. Information and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oct-2019-four-week-trial-class-for-prospective-members-tickets-67876794319>

Monday  
Oct. 7  
12 – 1 pm

### **Lunchtime Talk:**

#### ***Re-covering WWII Japanese American Incarceration***

**2 Arrow Street, Room 408, Cambridge**

Sponsored by the Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, Rights. The speaker is Courtney Sato, a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard, who will speak about her curatorial and public humanities work. Discussion will also cover the *Out of the Desert Project*, a multi-year, collaborative effort to present the history of the WWII Japanese American incarceration to a broad audience. Information:

<https://emr.fas.harvard.edu/event/lunchtime-talk-courtney-sato>

Wednesday  
Oct. 9  
5 – 8 pm

### **Japanese/English Language Exchange**

**CIC Boston, Meridian Room, 50 Milk Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Boston**

An informal gathering sponsored by the Japan Society for individuals wishing to practice speaking Japanese. This event is open to those learning to speak Japanese and native Japanese speakers. The program is free to Japan Society members and \$5 to all others. Register online or at the door. Information & registration: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-3557047/Registration>

Friday  
Oct. 11  
7 pm

### ***Asian American Playwright Collective Playfest 2 v2***

**Paramount Center, 559 Washington Street, Boston**

Eight short works by Boston-based playwrights of the Asian American Playwright Collective will be presented in staged readings. The featured works are by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro, Mariko Kanto, Takeo Rivera, Christina Chan, Ortense Gerardo, Greg Lam, Michael Lin, and Quentin Nguyen-Duy. This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited and tickets should be reserved. Tickets and information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-asian-american-playwright-collective-playfest-year-2-v2-tickets-73913867367?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

Thursday  
Oct. 17  
7 pm

### **Book Talk: *A Beginner's Guide to Japan & Autumn Light***

**Harvard Book Store, 1256 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge**

Award winning author and travel writer Pico Iyer discusses his newest book *A Beginner's Guide to Japan: Observances & Provocations*, a playful and profound guidebook full of surprising, brief, inclusive glimpses into Japanese culture. After 32 years in Japan, Iyer takes you from a meditation hall to a love hotel, from West Point to Kyoto Station and introduces you to the wide range of fascinations the country and culture contain. He'll also cover his earlier book *Autumn Light: Season of Fire and Farewells*, written after his father-in-law's death. This event is free and open to the public. Information: [http://www.harvard.com/event/pico\\_ayer1/](http://www.harvard.com/event/pico_ayer1/)

Friday  
Oct. 18  
6 pm

### ***AARW's Rising Together: 40 Years in Community***

**Pipefitters Local 537, 40 Enterprise Street, Dorchester**

Join the Asian American Resource Workshop as they celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community. Tickets are from \$40 to \$100. Purchase tickets by October 11. Information and tickets: <https://aarw40.bpt.me>

Saturday  
Oct. 19  
6 pm

### ***CelebrASIANS Benefit Fashion Show***

**Boston Medical Center, Shapiro Atrium, 725 Albany Street, Boston**

Join the Asian Women for Health for an evening of style and inspiration at their annual benefit fashion show. Survivors of cancer and trauma will model the creative fashions of local designers Bora Chiemruon (Kravant Boutique) and Philip Sawyer (Philip Sawyer Designs). Tickets are \$85 and \$100. Information and tickets: [https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause\\_pdetails/NjA0NTc=](https://www.flipcause.com/secure/cause_pdetails/NjA0NTc=)

Saturday  
Oct. 19  
6 pm

### **26<sup>th</sup> Annual Silk Road Gala**

**Marriott Boston Downtown, 275 Tremont Street, Boston**

Join the Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK) for an evening of food and festivities to support its mission to prevent domestic violence in Asian families and provide hope to survivors. Keynote speaker is Sheila Marcelo, Founder, Chairwoman and CEO of Care.com, an online family care service. Tickets are \$225. Information and tickets: <https://www.atask.org/site/>

Saturday  
Oct. 26  
3 – 6 pm

### **VietAID 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**

**IBEW103, 256 Freeport Street, Dorchester**

Join the Vietnamese American Initiative for Development (VietAID) as it celebrates 25 years of services to the community. Since its founding by Vietnamese refugees and immigrants, the organization has grown into a

comprehensive center offering assistance with housing, early education and healthy aging. Tickets and information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/361665117775267/>

Saturday  
Oct. 26  
6 – 8 pm

### **Public Taiko Workshop for Beginners**

**The Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon Street, Brookline**

An introduction to Japanese taiko drumming with the Genki Spark. The workshop is designed as an engaging social activity while learning some of the basics of taiko drumming and having fun. No experience necessary. Cost: \$30.

Information and registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/102619-public-taiko-workshop-for-beginners-tickets-72371678639>

Oct. 27-30  
times vary

### **Film: *Spirited Away***

**Locations vary, check web site for one near you**

The Academy Award winning animated feature by Hayao Miyazaki will be screened in the dubbed and subtitled formats. For theaters and showtimes:

<https://www.fathomevents.com/series/studio-ghibli-fest>

Tuesday  
Oct. 29  
8 am to  
3:30 pm

### **2019 Asian American & Pacific Islander Civil Rights Forum Federal Reserve Plaza, 600 Atlantic Avenue, Boston**

Guest speakers: Christopher Sean, Japanese American actor on Hawaii Five-0; David Lopez, JD, former General Counsel for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and Natasha Warikoo, Associate Professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. *Unsung Hero Awards* will be presented to State Representative Tackey Chan and Dr. Elisa Choi. This event is free and open to the public. Information and registration: <http://www.aacommission.org/4th-annual-aapi-civil-rights-forum/>

Wednesday  
Oct.30  
6 pm

### ***Allure of the Shamisen* with Janet Pocerobba 245 Main Street, 3rd Floor, Mosaic, Cambridge**

A shamisen demonstration and lecture by Janet Pocerobba, of Leslie University and author of *The Fourth String: A Memoir of Sensei and Me*. She will discuss the history and features of the shamisen and her personal journey to learn the instrument. General admission is \$10 and \$5 for Japan Society members.

Information and registration: <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-3390113>

Sun, Nov 3  
2pm  
Sat, Dec 7  
1pm  
Sun, Mar 1  
2 pm

### **Film: *Infinity: The Life and Art of Yayoi Kusama* Institute for Contemporary Art, 25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston**

This film explores artist Yayoi Kusama's journey from a conservative upbringing in Japan to her brush with fame in America during the 1960s (where she rivaled Andy Warhol for press attention) and concludes with the international acclaim she has finally achieved within the art world. Now in her 90s, Kusama has spent the last 30 years living in a mental institution in Japan. The film will be shown three times at the Institute for Contemporary Art (ICA) in conjunction with Yayoi Kusama's exhibition, *Love is Calling*. The film is free with admission. Kusama's influences and her important legacy on contemporary art will be featured in an accompanying exhibit titled *Beyond Infinity: Contemporary Art After Kusama*.

Film Information: <https://www.icaboston.org/events/kusama-infinity>

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



## EXHIBITIONS IN NEW ENGLAND

through  
Nov. 10

### SOCIETY OF ARTS + CRAFTS

100 Pier Four Blvd., Suite 200, Boston

#### *Kogei-Kyoto at SA+C Boston:*

#### *Contemporary Innovators in Japanese Arts and Crafts*

Artists from the Artists Group Kogei-Kyoto crafts collective in Kyoto, Japan, present their first American exhibition of handmade works. Featured are traditional pieces and innovative new works made with traditional methods. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Information: <https://societyofcrafts.org>

through  
Feb.7, 2021

### INSTITUTE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART (ICA)

25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston

#### *Yayoi Kusama: Love is Calling*

An icon of contemporary art, 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. This exhibit premiered in Japan in 2013 and is the most immersive and kaleidoscopic of the artist's Infinity Mirror Rooms. For the 90-year-old artist, this exhibit represents the culmination of her artistic achievements. Information:

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

through  
June 30,  
2020

### MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

465 Huntington Avenue, Boston

#### *Conservation in Action:*

#### *Japanese Buddhist Sculpture in a New Light*

A rare, behind the scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures. The wooden figures are decorated with polychromy or gliding and date from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> 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>

through  
Mar.1, 2020

### WORCHESTER ART MUSEUM

55 Salisbury Street, Worcester

#### *Archaic Avant-Garde: Contemporary Japanese Ceramics*

The exhibit focuses on contemporary Japan's leading ceramicists who have explored and experimented with ancient Japanese pottery techniques and forms to invigorate their own modern creations. Information:

<https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/archaic-avant-garde/>

Coming in  
Mar. & Apr.  
2020

#### *The Kimono in Print: 300 Years of Japanese Design*

#### *Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso*

Details in future newsletters.

**PEABODY ESSEX MUSEUM**

**East India Square, 161 Essex Street, Salem**

ongoing

***The Japanese Collection***

Featured are works from America's most important 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century collectors of Japanese art. The exhibit contains many works considered rare even in Japan, with the late Edo- and Meiji-period collection ranked among the finest in the world.

Information: <https://www.pem.org/explore-art/japanese-art>

through  
Jan. 3, 2021

***Japanomania! Japanese Art Goes Global***

An exhibit that covers the beauty and complex stories behind the museum's celebrated Japanese export art collection. It covers the period from the arrival of Portuguese merchants in the 1500s through Japan's emergence on the world stage in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and beyond. Information:

<https://www.pem.org/ongoing-exhibitions-japanomania-japanese-art-goes-global>

## WHAT'S HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

### NEW YORK

through  
Nov. 3

**OFF-BROADWAY MUSICAL: *Soft Power***

**Newman Theater, Joseph Papp Public Theater, 425 Lafayette Street, NY**

David Henry Hwang and Jeanine Tesori have collaborated to produce a groundbreaking new musical-within-a-play. *Soft Power* is an exploration of America's current place in the world, told from China's point of view. The cast includes Kendyl Ito, Francis Jue, Austin Ku, and Raymond J. Lee. Information and tickets:

<https://www.broadway.com/shows/soft-power/>

**NEW YORK JAPAN SOCIETY GALLERY**

**333 East 47<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY**

through  
2020

***En/trance***

A series of yearlong art projects aimed at bringing visual art and interactive experiences into the institution's public spaces. Artist Yoshitomo Nara launches the series with new works he created in Shigaraki, one of Japan's oldest areas for pottery making.

Information: <https://www.japansociety.org/page/programs/gallery/entrance>

### CALIFORNIA

**JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM SAN JOSE**

**535 North Fifth Street, San Jose, CA**

**phone: 408-294-3138**

Saturday  
Exhibit  
opening  
Oct. 19  
1-3 pm

**Photo Exhibit: *The Go For Broke Spirit***

Photographer Shane Sato spent eight years shooting moving portraits of Nisei soldiers to create a book with more than 80 portraits of Nisei veterans. Each portrait is accompanied by candid photos and a short personal story. Reservations for the opening of the exhibit are required. Information: <https://www.jamsj.org/upcoming-events>

Reservations: call 408-294-3138 or email: [PublicProgram@jamsj.org](mailto:PublicProgram@jamsj.org)

**MUZEEO MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER**

241 South Anaheim Blvd, Anaheim, CA

through  
Nov. 3

***“I am an American”*: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear**

A 5,000 square foot exhibit features personal testimonials, artifacts and memorabilia as well as a first-hand look at the Poston incarceration camp experience. The exhibit is sponsored by the Anaheim Public Library and the Muzeo and was funded, in part, by the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

Information: <http://muzeo.org/?exhibition=i-am-an-american>

**JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM**

100 North Central Avenue, Los Angeles, CA

phone: 213-625-0414

Saturday  
Oct. 19  
5 pm

**Reading of Velina Hasu Houston’s *Madame Butterfly***

An exploration of the “real” story of *Madame Butterfly*, based on an 1898 short story by John Luther Long. Houston exposes the archetype myth in her new play and film *Madame Butterfly: The Original*. The program is free, but reservations are recommended at:

<https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=f0fc6769-5ef7-423b-b5e1-84b8e3f6123b>

through  
Oct. 20

***At First Light: The Dawning of Asian Pacific America***

A multi-media exhibition exploring and celebrating the emergence of a politically defined Asian Pacific American consciousness and identity. A co-production of Visual Communications (VC) and the Museum, it will feature video stories from the VC archives, a free standing cube sculpture produced by VC, and a contemporary video installation.

Information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/at-first-light/>

through  
Jan. 5, 2020

***Fighting for Democracy: Who is the “We” in “We, the People”?***

An experimental exhibit based on these fundamental principles. It features seven real people and follows their stories through the pre-war, during World War II, and post-war periods as examples of the millions of Americans whose lives were affected by the war.

Information: <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/ffd-los-angeles-2/>