



## *New England Chapter News*

### *Japanese American Citizens League*

October 2020

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

#### **EDITOR'S NOTE:**

You are getting the October newsletter a little early because there are two events on October 1 that may interest you -- they are the first two items in our newsletter. Unfortunately, the events overlap a bit and you'll have to choose between them. The topics of both are timely and important to all of us and our concern for issues affecting Black Americans as well as Japanese Americans.

You'll also see, thanks to Zoom, we can refer you to events happening outside the New England area. That's one benefit of the *New Normal* -- we are now able to attend film festivals, lectures, and events from a distance. I'm looking forward to finally being able to "attend" the CAAMFest in San Francisco.

On a different subject, we'd like to bring you up to date on a recent NEJACL project. Last year, in an effort to preserve the New England JACL files that go back to the late 1940s, we worked with Paul Watanabe, Director of the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston, to have the JACL files archived at the Institute. Thanks to Paul all of the documents are now organized and preserved at UMass Boston. Recently, he sent us an article written for the *Asian American Law Journal* by Peter Kiang, Professor and Director of Asian American Studies at UMass Boston. Peter's article, ***Exploring Boston's Nisei Sources and Contributions to the Japanese American Redress Movement***, cites the JACL files among its resources. The article includes an overview of the history of Nisei in Boston and the concluding pages point out the relevance of the Japanese American redress movement to contemporary issues. Although it is in a Law Journal, it is well written (not full of legal jargon) and may contain information about people and events familiar to you. To download the article, go to: <https://lawcat.berkeley.edu/record/1181477>

Please stay healthy and safe. And don't forget to VOTE!

Margie Yamamoto for New England JACL

#### **Discussion at Yale: *BLM in the Asian Community***

Thursday, October 1, at 6 pm

registration required

The program is titled ***BLM in the Asian Community: Creating a Safe Space for Discussing Difficult Topics Intergenerationally***, and is co-hosted by the Yale Office of International Students & Scholars, the Yale Child Study Center, and Yale-China Association. It will feature a conversation between an Asian young adult and parent on their views of Black Lives Matter. Speakers will include Eunice Yuen, MD, PhD, at the Yale Child Study Center; Miriam Yeung, Chair of the Asian Pacific Coalition of CT and President of the Organization of Chinese Americans of Fairfield, CT; and Emily Xu, Senior at Yale College. For information and registration:

[https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bKNH2Ei0ZnNR8JD](https://yalesurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bKNH2Ei0ZnNR8JD)

## Lecture Series at Duke University: *Black in 2020*

Thursday, October 1, from 7 to 8:30 pm registration required

This is the second in a series of lectures sponsored by the Duke Black Alumni. The discussion will focus on fighting against the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism and addressing a forward-looking agenda for economic equity, civil rights and inclusion for the diverse voices within Black America on every level of society. The program will be moderated by Blayne Alexander, national correspondent for NBC News, and will feature six Black alumni operating at the highest levels of federal, state and local government. Participating from Massachusetts will be William "Mo" Cowan, President of Global Government Affairs and Policy Developed Markets for General Electric Co. Cowan is also a former U.S. Senator who was appointed to fill the unexpired term of John Kerry when Kerry resigned in 2013. Other speakers will include Angela Alsobrooks, Michael Bennett, Paul Brathwaite, Joyce Brayboy and Tremaine Wright. For information and registration: <http://rsvp.duke.edu/d/w7qxbv?lang=en&sms=7&cn=-enfMayWb0KSS287QFskFA>

## Youth program in Chinatown seeks applicants

The Asian Community Development Corp. (ACDC) is looking for high school students wishing to make a positive change in Chinatown, delve deeper into Asian American identity, and explore social justice issues. The program, called A-VOYCE, is a free leadership youth program to provide an opportunity for young people to meet and network with community members and be part of a tight-knit youth group. Working with ACDC's youth staff, participants will have a chance to design and execute their own community project.

**Deadline for application is September 30 or until all 15 spots are filled.**

For more information about A-VOYCE: <https://asiancdc.org/avoyce>

To apply for the program: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCvLxZ8V8RVEqeW-UfsodCEzqeBYUD7b58JFqAFuqun\\_CXvQ/formResponse](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCvLxZ8V8RVEqeW-UfsodCEzqeBYUD7b58JFqAFuqun_CXvQ/formResponse)

## Sharing Family Recipes Through the Generations

Saturday, October 3 from 1 to 2:30 pm registration required

The Japanese American Museum, San Jose, presents Nina Ichikawa, Executive Director of the Berkeley Food Institute, discussing her article "Community Cookbooks: Asian American Food Selfies." This virtual event will also visit the kitchens of Yu-Ai Kai volunteers who will demonstrate how to make their community cookbook favorites. This event is free,

**registration is required by October 1.** To register:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcC0jR\\_1ZhIMdqI8s19UQfgf0jGS5mGoVrgVdMq45EPL0v3Q/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdcC0jR_1ZhIMdqI8s19UQfgf0jGS5mGoVrgVdMq45EPL0v3Q/viewform)

## Annual Poston Pilgrimage goes online

Saturday & Sunday, October 3 & 4, from 1:30 to 3:30 EDT registration required

The annual pilgrimage sponsored by the Poston Community Alliance will be held online over two days and is free and open to the public. The Poston camp was located on the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation (CRIT) in Arizona. This year's program is being held in collaboration with the CRIT Tribal Council and will feature memories of camp life and the significant links and relationships between the Japanese Americans and members of the tribal community. For information and to register: <https://www.postonpreservation.org/>

## **Japan Society Workshop: *A Night of Japanese Traditional Music*** **Monday, October 5, at 7:30 pm** **registration required**

Boston's Japan Society is presenting this program featuring Master Kouzan Oyama of Shishido. Oyama is a Tsugaru-Jamisen (a type of shamisen) player, master teacher, and two-time winner of the World Championships on this instrument. He is now a celebrated teacher in Shinjuku, Japan, as well as in New York. The workshop will showcase traditional Japanese music on the Tsugaru-Jamisen, the koto, and the Okinawa sanshin. You'll also learn the difference between traditional Japanese and Western instruments. Admission is free, with a suggested donation between \$10 and \$40. For information and registration: <https://japansocietyboston.wildapricot.org/event-3970339>

## **BookTalk: *Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and its Legacy*** **Wednesday, October 7, from 7 to 8 pm** **registration required**

The DC chapter of JACL is hosting a free virtual BookTalk by Shirley Ann Higuchi about her book that explores her family's incarceration experiences during World War II. The full title of the book is ***Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration***. The author will be present for this live event and will be available for Q&A following her talk. For more information and to register: <https://bit.ly/3i4dEPx>

## **Cooking: *Vegan Sushi***

**Wednesday, October 7, at 6:30 pm**

**registration required**

This virtual workshop by Yuki Gomi, author of *Sushi at Home*, and will feature sushi making techniques using flavorful, seasonal veggies. Students will receive a recipe and suggested shopping list and may follow along during the session or simply observe. General admission is \$25 and \$22 for Japan Society members, seniors and students. For information and registration: <https://www.japansociety.org/event/tasty-creations-vegan-sushi>

## ***Multiracial Families and Identities in Japanese America***

**Saturday, October 10, from 1 to 6 pm**

**registration required**

A community conversation sponsored by **Tsuru for Solidarity** on ***Claiming Our Full Community: Multiracial Families and Identities in Japanese America***. The program will be moderated by Duncan Williams and feature multiracial Japanese American scholars and activists discussing belonging, identity, and diversity within Japanese America. There will be a one-hour intermission followed by affinity group sessions for additional conversation and community building. The program is free and open to the public. Information and registration: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/claiming-our-full-community-multiracial-family-identity-in-ja-community-tickets-120089285285?can\\_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-community-conversations-continue&email\\_subject=community-conversations-continue&email\\_referrer=email\\_915772&link\\_id=6](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/claiming-our-full-community-multiracial-family-identity-in-ja-community-tickets-120089285285?can_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-community-conversations-continue&email_subject=community-conversations-continue&email_referrer=email_915772&link_id=6)

## ***CAAMFest goes virtual October 14 to 18***

CAAMFest is one of the largest festivals in the US showcasing new Asian American and Asian films. If you've never been able to travel to San Francisco for the annual event, this year CAAMFest will give you access to more than a dozen live virtual programs and approximately 50 films on-demand. Some of the films include *The Story Beyond a Cup of*

*Sake; Tokyo Hula; Atomic Café: The Noisiest Corner of J-Town; Son of Memory; From the Streets of Japan; Vanishing Chinatown; Winter Terrace;* and many, many more. Tickets for the virtual programs and on-demand films will **go on sale October 5**. For film descriptions and more information: <https://caamfest.com/forward/>

## **Anime BostonXJSB: ANIME SAI**

**Friday, October 23, from 10 am to 7 pm**

**registration required**

This year's Anime event will be held online and hosted by the Japan Society of Boston (JSB) and Anime Boston. Topics to be covered include:

- A Parent's Guide to Anime with Anime Boston
- Japanese Casual Phrases with JSB
- Japanese Cooking with JSB
- A Cosplay Showcase Video

Admission is free with a suggested \$10 to \$20 donation. Information and registration: <https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-3986531>

## **Japanese and Black Americans Post-War and Now**

**Saturday, October 24, from 1 am to 6 pm**

**registration required**

Tsuru for Solidarity is presenting a discussion on *Divide and Conquer: Japanese and Black Americans Post-War and Now*. This event will focus on understanding how the intersection of Black and Japanese American lives after WWII set the stage for perpetuating racism and division. The program is free and open to the public. Featured in conversation will be Dr. Donna Nagata, psychologist and scholar, Dr. Satuski Ina, co-chair for Tsuru for Solidarity, and moderator Brian Niiya. Information and registration:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/divide-and-conquer-japanese-and-black-americans-post-war-and-now-tickets-120098434651?can\\_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-community-conversations-continue&email\\_subject=community-conversations-continue&email\\_referrer=email\\_915772&link\\_id=7](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/divide-and-conquer-japanese-and-black-americans-post-war-and-now-tickets-120098434651?can_id=47321377307c703453ff3372a580a4f2&source=email-community-conversations-continue&email_subject=community-conversations-continue&email_referrer=email_915772&link_id=7)

## **Densho Dinner@home open to all**

**Saturday, October 24, from 8 to 9:30 pm EDT**

**registration required**

Densho is holding its annual dinner as a live virtual event making it possible for all of its nation-wide supporters to attend. As in years past, they are planning an evening of community, remembrance and solidarity. The keynote speakers are Brynn Saito and Valerie Kaur. Brynn is an organizer, poet, educator and co-founder of the Yonsei Memory Project. She was awarded a Densho Artist Residency in 2019 during which time she created the digital chapbook and online archive, *Dear\_\_\_*. Valerie leads the Revolutionary Love Project to reclaim love as a force for justice in America. Her new book *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* was released in June 2020. Valerie's grandfather was a Sikh immigrant in Clovis, CA in the 1940s and when his Japanese American neighbors were incarcerated, he took care of their farm for the duration of the war. He even traveled to Poston to visit them during their incarceration. Valerie and Brynn, who are lifelong friends, will share inspiring lessons from their families' stories of solidarity and reflect on the power of radical unity of the face of challenging historic events.

Program information: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/denshodinner2020/page/489895/>

To register: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/denshodinner2020/register/>

## Densho: Xenophobia teach-in

Thursday, November 12 from 7 to 9 pm (ET)

registration required

This popular Densho virtual teach-in covers the history of xenophobia from Japanese American Incarceration to immigrant detention today. It is designed for teachers, high school or college students, community leaders, and individuals simply looking to expand their knowledge and deepen their commitment to action. This program is free and open to the public and classes fill quickly. Information and registration (to register, click on “(register now)” next to the appropriate date):

<https://densho.org/announcing-a-virtual-teach-in-on-the-history-of-xenophobia-and-what-we-can-do-to-combat-it/>

## Easy Japanese Home Cooking for Non-Chefs

Saturday, November 14, from 5 to 6 pm

registration required

The Japan Society of Boston is offering a class on cooking sukiyaki via Zoom. Participants will be sent a list of ingredients a few days before the class and will make the dish with Japan Society intern Emily Knick. Emily, a student at UMass Amherst majoring in Linguistics and Japanese, will be sharing her favorite sukiyaki recipe. Registration is required and general admission is \$15 and \$10 for Japan Society members. Information and registration:

<https://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-3997192>

## Kimono Couture: The Beauty of Chiso

Virtual Exhibition begins November 28

The **Worcester Art Museum** is partnering with Chiso, the distinguished Kyoto-based kimono house to present the first exhibition of historic and contemporary kimonos from Chiso’s collection. The exhibit highlights the history and artistry of the prestigious 465-year-old garment maker with 14 kimonos from the mid-1600s to 2000s. In addition, a selection of related works – paintings, kimono fragments, and woodblock printed books – from the Chiso art collection reflect the creative collaborations between the kimono maker and several celebrated Japanese artists since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. For updates on this exhibition, go to:

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

## Portraits by Bryan Ida featured in *con.Text* at San Jose museum

*con.Text* is an exhibit of 12 portraits by Bryan Ida at the **Japanese American Museum, San Jose**, until February 7, 2021. Each work is almost life-size and chronicles a pivotal point in the subject’s life in a subtle but *literal* way. *Literal*, in that Ida has rendered the contours, shapes and shading of the figures with transcribed text rather than with lines. The text is from documents that affected the subject’s life. For example, the portrait of his grandfather, drawn from a photograph taken by Dorthea Lange as he waiting to board a bus that sent him to an “assembly center” during WWII, Ida uses the words from Executive Order 9066.

To view *con.Text* online: <https://bryanida.com/con-text-ink-portraits-on-panel/>

Brian Ida’s website: <https://bryanida.com/>

## Online exhibit at Harvard

*Painting Edo: Japanese Art from the Feinberg Collection* is the largest exhibit ever presented at the Harvard Art Museum. It includes more than 120 works that offer a window

into the visual culture of Japan's early modern era as the country settled into a period of peace under the warrior government of the shoguns.

<https://rijs.fas.harvard.edu/painting-edo-japanese-art-feinberg-collection>

### **Japanese American National Museum Catalog goes digital**

Just in time for holiday shopping the JANM is offering its *Store Catalog 2020-2021* online. You'll find books, clothing, DVDs, cups, dolls, toys, everything with a Japanese or Japanese American theme or connection. You'll find the 30-page catalog at:

[https://janmstore.com/pages/janm-store-catalog-2020-2021?utm\\_source=janm\\_update&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=membership\\_monthly](https://janmstore.com/pages/janm-store-catalog-2020-2021?utm_source=janm_update&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=membership_monthly)