



New England Chapter News *Japanese American Citizens League*

September 2011

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

Visit our web site: www.nejacl.org

Still time to RSVP for September 10th Book Talk

There is still time to reserve a seat for the NE JACL sponsored book talk on Saturday, September 10 at 2 pm. The featured speaker is Debra Samuels, NE JACL member, bestselling author, and travel and food writer for the Boston Globe. Her book *My Japanese Table: A Lifetime of Cooking with Friends and Family* is a wonderful collection of stories and home-style recipes. In this very special book talk, Debra will tell us about her experiences in Japan and with Japanese cooking, including her introduction to the art of Bento. Refreshments will include samples of some of her bento recipes. Her book will be on sale and she will be available to sign them. The book talk will be at the Lincoln Public Library, 3 Bedford Road, Lincoln, MA. This event is free and open to the public, but because of limited seating and food preparation, reservations will be required. For reservations, email: yamamoto@nejacl.org or phone Margie at 781-259-9444. Let us know how many will be attending and your contact information. Your reservation will be confirmed by return email or phone.

Before I Leave You by Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro

A play by NE JACLer Rosanna Yamagiwa Alfaro will be part of the 2011-2012 season offered by 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: www.huntingtontheatre.org.

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>.

State Farm seeks applicants for Youth Advisory Board

State Farm is recruiting applicants from the US and Canada for its Youth Advisory Board. They are seeking a diverse group of 30 young people between the ages of 17 and 20 to represent their communities on this body. The board is given responsibility over the resources of \$5 million to grant service-learning projects that try to solve important domestic issues. For more information, go to: <http://statefarmyab.com/apply/the-board/>.

Asian American actor needed for New Bedford play

You Theatre, Inc., a community theatre in New Bedford, is seeking an Asian American male actor between 35 to 60 years old for a play it is producing. The play is about an ethnically and culturally diverse group of New Englanders who were sent into isolation and treatment for Hansen's disease (leprosy). They were sent to a facility on the Penikese Island, off the coast of New Bedford, MA from 1905 to 1921. One of the patients was a Japanese man named Iwa. If interested, contact the play's director, Ed Maguire at edcyn@comcast.net.

A video challenge from the White House

The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) has launched a "What's Your Story?" video challenge. Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community members are asked to produce three-minute videos that explore the personal stories of AAPIs across the country who have had an impact on their community through their dreams, experiences and dedication to a cause. The video should answer these questions:

- How have your unique experiences shaped who you are today?
- What issues matter to you?
- In what ways are you making a difference in your community?

For more information go to: www.whitehouse.gov/whatsyourstory.

Learn Taiko with The Genki Spark

The Genki Spark continues its Friday night introductory classes for those wishing to find out more about taiko drumming. According to the group's founder (and NE JACL member) Karen Young, the class is designed as an engaging Friday night social event focusing on trying something new and having fun. Sessions are scheduled for Fridays, September 16, October 14 and 28, November 18, and December 9 and 16. Pre-registration is strongly recommended and walk-ins will be accommodated on a space available basis. Tuition is \$15 per class. All classes are held at the Brookline Ballet School, 1431 Beacon St. Brookline. For more information and to register go to: <http://www.thegenkispark.org/friday-night-introductory-basics.html>.

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

September 6-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 100th anniversary of Japan's gift of cherry trees to Washington D.C.

Fall Japanese Language Program

Beginning week of September 12

Showa Boston Institute, 490 Pond St., Boston

This program offers 17-week Japanese courses on all levels, from elementary to advanced. These evening classes for adults are taught by experienced native speakers. Japanese college students are available as conversation partners. The program is sponsored by Showa Boston and the Japan Society. Tuition is \$300 and parking is free. More information: <http://www.showaboston.org/jlc/index.htm>.

JUST Eats! AARW Annual Benefit

Friday, September 16, from 6 to 9pm

Springstep, 98 George P. Hassett Drive, Medford

The annual Asian American Resource Workshop's benefit dinner will feature awards presentations, a raffle and silent auction. Among the awards to be presented will be the *May Takayanagi Making Waves Award* that recognizes and celebrates outstanding young adult activist leaders. It draws inspiration from the lifetime achievements of May Takayanagi, an outspoken and tireless leader who challenged society's norms since the 1950s. May is a former NE JACL president and currently sits on its Board. For more information on the benefit dinner go to: www.aarw.org.

The Visionary Films of Toshio Matsumoto

Sunday, Sept. 18 and Monday, Sept. 19, at 7 pm

Harvard Film Archive, 24 Quincy St., Cambridge

The Harvard Film Archive will screen two nights of films by Japanese director, video artist and critic Toshio Matsumoto, one of the great pioneers of 60s counter-cinema. On Sunday, his 1969 breakthrough film *Funeral Parade of Roses* will be screened. It is often cited as a major inspiration for Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*. On Monday, Matsumoto's film *For My Crushed Right Eye* (shown on three projectors) will be featured along with five of his other short films. The filmmaker will appear in person at both screenings. Special event tickets are \$12. For more information go to: www.hcl.harvard.edu/hfa or call 617-495-4700.

Japanese Tea Ceremony

Sunday, September 25 at 2 pm

The Art Complex Museum, 189 Alden St., Duxbury

Tea Master Allan Sosei Palmer will demonstrate the tea ceremony and answer questions. Palmer is a student and teacher of the Urasenke school of Chanoyu for more than 38 years. Folding canvas chairs are provided or visitors are invited to bring their own. The event will be held in the museum in case of rain. Admission is free. For more information, go to: www.artcomplex.org.

ASPIRE's 10-Year Anniversary Banquet

Friday, September 30, from 6:30 to 10 pm, program begins at 7 pm

Chau Chow City, 3rd floor, 83 Essex St., Boston

ASPIRE (Asian Sisters Participating in Reaching Excellence) celebrates its 10th anniversary with a banquet featuring Janet Wu, of 7NBC, and a performance by The Genki Spark. Volunteers and past members will speak about their experience in ASPIRE. Tickets are \$50. For reservations and more information, go to: <http://girlsaspire.org/>.

18th Annual Silk Road Gala 2011

Saturday, October 22, from 7 to 10 pm

Sheraton Boston Hotel, 2nd 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/>.

ASPIRE's 7th 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>.

ELSEWHERE

Lifelong Learning: Japanese American National Museum

Saturdays in September

369 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA Phone: 213-625-0414

For more information, cost, and to reserve a spot at these events go to:

<http://www.janm.org/events/>.

September 3 at 1pm: Tour of ongoing exhibition *Common Ground: The Heart of Community* with experienced docents.

September 10 at 11am: Introduction to Soba Making with Sonoko Sakai

September 17 at 1 pm: Shibori Workshop with Indigo

September 24 at 10:15am: Little Tokyo Walking Tour

September 24 at 10 am: Boyle Heights Metro Tour

Exhibit: *Noguchi: California Legacy*

Through October 2, 2011

Laguna Art Museum, 307 Cliff Drive, Laguna Beach, CA Phone: 949-494-8971

The work of Isamu Noguchi, the internationally celebrated Japanese American artist and designer, is examined in three parts: 1) *California Scenario: The Courage of the Imagination* based on his South Coast Plaza sculpture garden commissioned 30 years ago; 2) *What is Sculpture? Akari from the Venice Biennale* from the Akari light sculptures at a 1986 exhibit; and 3) *Noguchi at Gemini G.E.L.*, the sculpture multiples he created in 1982. For more information go to: www.LagunaArtMuseum.org.

Exhibit: *kip fulbeck: part asian, 100% hapa*

through December 21, 2011

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

Japanese American History Museum, 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland OR

Phone: 503-224-1458

An exhibition of portraits by artist Kip Fulbeck who traveled the country photographing Hapa of all ages and walks of life. His work addresses in words and images the one question Hapa are frequently asked "What are you?" Also at the museum is an exhibit about the Oregon Japanese American community, *Oregon Nikkei: Reflections of an American Community*. For more information go to: www.oregonnikkei.org.