



## *New England Chapter News*

### *Japanese American Citizens League*

September 2020

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

**Dear JACL members and friends,**

As we continue to stay in semi-lockdown mode, almost all of our activities are virtual. Our New England JACL Board met recently and we are working on programs addressing current issues affecting all of us that we hope to offer via Zoom. This month's newsletter continues to be short, but there are many virtual websites worth a visit.

Please continue to stay healthy and safe.

Best regards,  
Your JACL Board

### ***We Love Boston Chinatown virtual 5k&1mile Race/Walk***

The Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center (BCNC) is hosting a virtual race/walk to help raise funds for ongoing services and programs they provide Boston's Asian American communities. You can complete your 5k or 1 mile anytime on **Saturday, September 12, or Sunday, September 13**. You can choose your own route or BCNC will share a suggested Chinatown route that features art window installations and historical landmarks. Participation is free, but BCNC is asking runner/walkers to make a donation and/or ask friends to participate and donate. Their goal is to raise \$5,000. For details:

<https://bcnc.net/events/2020/9/12/chinatown5k>

### **Pilgrimage information and films on JAMP website**

The Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages (JAMP) project *Tadaima!* was originally created as a community virtual pilgrimage. They had planned to attend all of the camp pilgrimages and conduct interviews to share the pilgrimage experience with a wider audience and to encourage the younger generations to attend and learn more about their families' legacies. Although all of the pilgrimages have been cancelled or postponed, their website is continuing to be an important resource to all of us. Go to: <https://www.jampilgrimages.com/>

A popular feature of their website are the films they have made available to us about the Japanese American and Japanese Canadian experiences. Many of the films have been shown at past Boston Asian American Film Festival programs and if you missed seeing them during the Festival you can now see them in the comfort of your own home. To see the films, go to <https://www.jampilgrimages.com/week-9> and click on any week of the *Tadaima!* program and you'll find a selection under "Films of the Week". One film I recommend is *One Big Hapa Family* about the Japanese in Canada, you can find it under "Week 9."

## ***Okaeri Connects!* -- a digital space for Nikkei LGBTQ+**

Nikkei LGBTQ+ community members and allies of all ages and backgrounds are invited to participate in this **virtual meeting on Sunday, September 6 at 7 pm EDT**. This 90-minute session is available nation-wide and its goal is to provide support, resources and information to the Japanese American community. The inaugural session will take place online via Zoom and will include small group breakout sessions. Pre-registration is required. Information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/okaeri-connects-online-gathering-tickets-115582248617?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=b9c24e0d-3860-434d-8da4-2b5ced8d410c>

## **US-Japan Council's Emerging Leaders Program**

Applications are being accepted for the US-Japan Council's Emerging Leaders Program. Sorry about this late notice, but **deadline for application is September 6**. In its 11<sup>th</sup> year, the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) has made adjustments to its schedule due to the worldwide pandemic. Under normal circumstances, program participants would travel to Japan for a conference and meetings with Japanese officials. This year, the Council is planning a series of virtual events that, if travel restrictions allow, will culminate with an in-person conference in Hawaii in the Spring of 2021. Transportation, accommodations, meals and registration for the conference will be provided. For detailed information go to: <https://www.usjapanCouncil.org/emerging-leaders-program/>

## **Officers elected at JACL's virtual National Conference**

National JACL held its first virtual National Convention over two weeks in mid-August. The program culminated with the election of officers for the next two years:

Jeffery Moy	National President
Sarah Baker	Vice President of Public Affairs
Marissa Kitazawa	Vice President of General Operations
Mieko Kuramoto	Nat'l Youth/Student Council Representative
Justin Kawaaguchi	Nat'l Youth/Student Council Chair

The remaining board positions will be appointed by the President. To view the announcement of the election results, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEdxzGivGsE&feature=youtu.be&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=4d9dbf1f-7403-4205-adb6-11206e8df018>

## **Ruth Asawa postage stamps now available**

The US Postal Service has issued a new stamp honoring Nisei artist Ruth Asawa (1926-2013). Best known for her intricate wire sculptures, her work is on permanent display at San Francisco's de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park and is part of the collections at the Guggenheim and Whitney museums in New York City. Asawa was an arts education advocate and the driving force behind the creation of the San Francisco School of the Arts. In 2010, it was renamed the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts in tribute to her. To learn more about Asawa: [www.ruthasawa.com](http://www.ruthasawa.com)

To order the stamp: [https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/ruth-asawa-S\\_476304](https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/ruth-asawa-S_476304)

## Hate Crimes Resources, updated version

JACL national has issued an updated version of its Hate Crimes Resources page. It's worth a visit to get an overview of what to do if you experience a hate crime. It provides information on reporting incidents to the FBI and other organizations as well as links to many hate crime organizations. A link worth checking out is the one to Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJA) and their listing of recently reported hate crime incidents.

AAJA site with reports of recent incidents: <https://www.standagainsthatred.org/>

The JACL site: <https://jacl.org/hate-crimes/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=b9c24e0d-3860-434d-8da4-2b5ced8d410c>

## 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>

## Portraits by Bryan Ida at San Jose's JA Museum

***con.Text*** is an exhibit of 12 portraits by Bryan Ida that are 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. In the portrait of his grandfather, drawn from a photograph taken by Dorothea 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. The museum is temporarily closed, it would be best to call before trying to visit to see if their status has changed: 408-294-3138

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

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

## JANM offers a variety of films, discussions, activities

Although their doors are currently closed, the Japanese American National Museum is offering a wealth of virtual activities that include films, videos, panel discussions, personal stories, and a cooking class. For details, go to this website and click on the topic or the image next to it: <http://www.janm.org/>