



New England Chapter News Japanese American Citizens League

Summer 2004

P.O. Box 592 • Lincoln, MA 01773

JACL Picnic set for August 14

The Annual JACL-Jinkai Potluck Picnic will be held this year on Saturday, August 14 at Wellesley College, beginning at 12:30 pm. Bring your family and friends to this event that is highlighted by fantastic food, games, prizes, and great company. Details will be sent in a separate mailing in mid-July.

Help needed for our Speakers' Bureau

Would you be willing to talk about your World War II internment experience or about issues related to being Asian American in the US? The chapter often gets requests from community groups, schools, and individual students for Japanese Americans who would be willing to talk on a variety of topics. If you are interested, answer the following questions and send your responses to newengland@jacl.org.

Questions:

Your name

What topics can you discuss?

What kind of groups are you willing to address?

Would you speak with a student who is writing a paper?

What is the best way to contact you?

Fundraiser for Cambodian scholarships

Light of Cambodian Children, Inc., is hosting a fundraising party on July 9, from 6pm to midnight, at the Khemara Restaurant, 308 Westford Street, Lowell. Proceeds from this event will fund the Cambodian American Scholarship program and support initiatives that help children and young people focus on their futures. This event includes a four-course meal, a graduation celebration for students from various schools, and a presentation to this year's three scholarship recipients. Tickets are \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. For tickets contact Sophy Theam

or email) or Thnam Kanha Net

Carl Takei goes on the road

JACL Board member Carl Takei is taking a seven-week European trip as he leaves his job with the law offices of Harvey Silverglate and before he begins his studies at Boston College Law School this fall. He plans to visit France, Spain, Estonia, Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe. If you'd like to track his progress, he'll be posting entries on his travelogue/blog at this address: <http://www.carltakei.com/blog>.

Do you have email?

Would you like to get your New England JACL newsletter by email? You can receive your newsletter instantly, receive notices on events not listed in the printed newsletter, and help the chapter save on postage. Send your email address to us at newengland@jacl.org. Thanks in advance for your assistance.

Kabuki in Boston

A fully staged and costumed Kabuki performance is coming to Boston's Majestic Theatre in downtown Boston from July 8 to 10. The performances are part of Japan Society of Boston's Centennial Anniversary celebration. The program includes "Renjishi" ("Dance for Two Lions") a variation on the celebrated Kabuki lion dance. It is based on the Noh play *Shakkyo* ("Stone Bridge") and depicts a parent lion training its young cub. "Bo-Shibari" ("Tied to a Pole") is the Kabuki adaptation of a classic Kiyogen comedy in which two servants outwit their lord and wreak havoc in his household. Featured performers are Nakamura Kankuro, Nakamura Hashinosuke, Kataoka Kamezo, Nakamura Shichinosuke, Bando Yajuro and Nakamura Senjaku. For maximum authenticity, a *hanamichi* or runway – extending through the audience on which Kabuki actors traditionally make their entrances and exits – will be specially built at the Majestic Theatre. Tickets range in price from \$25 to \$75 with a discount for Japan Society members. For details, go to the Japan Society web site, www.us-japan.org/boston.

OCA Conference comes to Boston

The Organization of Chinese Americans will hold its annual national convention "Education and Solidarity: the Road to Empowerment," in Boston July 15 to 18. Activities during the four-day event include receptions, dinners, a tour of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Youth Day, College Day, Senior Citizens Day, a Clam Bake at the Kennedy Library, a Job Fair and a "State of Asian America" Town Hall Meeting. Dignitaries expected to help kick off the event include Lt. Governor Kerry Kealey, Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and the Mayors of nearby Lowell, Quincy and Malden. The Gund Kwok Asian Women Lion Dance Troupe and other Boston-based arts organizations will perform. Some of the events are open to the public. The convention hotel is the Boston Marriott Copley Place. For program details and to register, go to www.ocanatl.org.

Black Ships Festival in Newport

The 21st annual Newport Black Ships Festival will be held July 14 to 18. This year's event celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Kanagawa that was negotiated by Commodore Perry and ended two centuries of Japanese isolation. The five days of exhibits, performances, and special events will be highlighted by a Japanese-American Market complete with demonstrations of sushi making, Japanese arts and crafts, anime & manga, sumi-e, and the ancient art of *amezaiku*, a method of turning hot taffy-like candy into animals and mythical creatures. Sake and tea tastings, sushi & sake sails aboard a Tall ship, kite making, and a Japanese film festival will be offered at different locations in Newport. Highlighting the event is the Taiko Drum Festival. It will feature performances by Maturiza Taiko, from Disney World's Epcot Center, and Soh Daiko. On going activities during the festival include Belcourt castle tours, Japanese kite display, exhibits at the Buddha and Asian Galleries, the Commodore Perry Silver Collection & Memorabilia display, and the Tall Ships Festival. Tickets and reservations are required for some events. For details and tickets, call 401-846-2720 or visit www.NewportEvents.com.

APIA Caucus Events at the DNC

The Democratic National Convention will be in Boston from July 26 to 29 and hundreds of Asian Pacific Islander Americans (APIA) are expected to be in attendance. Special Caucus Briefings, being held for delegates at the Boston Sheraton, are open to the public. For more information, contact Tobi Quinto at tobiquinto@yahoo.com.

Monday July 28 from 10 am to noon. **APIA Voter Trends.** Panel discussion on polling results, voter trends and out-out-the-vote efforts among different APIA communities.

Wednesday, July 28, from 10 am to noon. **What Makes APA Families Strong in Post 9/11 America?** A focus on economic and social disparities that impact the APA community, including topics such as the Patriot Act, civil rights concerns post 9/11, access to health care, small business assistance, and education.

Japan-America Summit 2004

The 14th Annual Japan-America Grassroots Summit will be held in Boston July 15 to 19. The Summit is a meeting between Americans and Japanese to exchange ideas and share cultures for understanding and friendship at the grassroots level. This event is presented by the Japan Society of Boston and the John Manjiro-Whitfield Commemorative Center for International Exchange. Events open to the public include the opening and closing sessions. On July 15 at 4 pm at the Kennedy Library on *Japan & New England*. On July 19 at 3 pm at the New Bedford Whaling Museum on *Pacific Encounters: Yankee Whalers, Manjiro and the Opening of Japan*. Registration fee for the summit is \$150. For registration and information contact the Japan Society of Boston, 617-451-0726 or email jsb@us-japan.org.

Ozawa returns to Tanglewood

In celebration of the 10th anniversary of Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood Seiji Ozawa and John Williams will conduct the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra and Boston Symphony Chamber Players on Sunday, August 1. The program includes Bernstein's *Benediction* and Takemitsu's *Ceremonial, An Autumn Ode for sho and orchestra*. The Japan Society of Boston is offering a special package that includes bus transportation, dinner, and tickets to the concert. Prior to the concert, participants will dine at Bizen Kaiseki, a new restaurant that opened last December in Great Barrington. The meal will consist of a six-course kaiseki meal in two of the private tea rooms from which you can view the koi pond. Departure is from the Harvard Stadium gates at 2 pm (meeting at 1:30) and returning at approximately 12:30 am. Reservations must be received by July 23. Tickets for Japan Society members is \$120 or \$190 and for non-members \$130 or \$200 (depending on location of concert seats). For details call 617-451-0726 or visit www.us-japan.org/boston.

Forest Hills Lantern Festival July 15

The Sixth Annual Lantern Festival at Forest Hills Cemetery, in Jamaica Plain, will be held on Saturday, July 15 at 6 pm. Rain date is July 22. The event was inspired by the Buddhist Obon tradition of honoring the spirits of deceased ancestors. The event is free and open to the public. A suggested donation is \$10 per lantern. For details go to www.foresthillstrust.org.

NPS seeks info on Camp McCoy

The National Park Service (NPS) is considering seeking a national historic Landmark designation for Camp McCoy to illustrate the military contributions of Japanese American soldiers. In order to complete the designation process they need to identify the barracks that housed the members of the 100th Infantry Battalion during their training at Camp McCoy from June to December 1942. If anyone has specific information, please contact Dr. John Sprinkle, Jr., Ph.D., Supervisory Historian, National Historic Landmarks Survey, 1849 C Street, NW (2280), Washington, DC 20240, or phone 202-354-2228.

Send us your news!

If you have items you think would be of interest to other members of the JAACL, please send it to us. You can contact us by email at newengland@jacl.org or send it to us at New England JAACL, P.O. Box 592, Lincoln, MA 01773.

Newsletter Editor: Margie Yamamoto
Executive Committee: Stephen Nishino (president), Susumu Ito, Walter Kato, Walter Kondo, Robert Maeda, Tiffany Nagano, Ken Oye, Tom Shikashio (treasurer), May Takayanagi, Tetsuo Takayanagi, Carl Takei, Margie Yamamoto.

At the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM), Salem.

For directions and details call 978/745-9500 or visit www.pem.org.

Jul 14 7 pm **Chinese Medicinal Herbs with Zhenzhen Zhang, L.Ac.** (China M.D.). The basic principle of Chinese herbal medicine in maintaining the body's balance between hot and cold. Dr. Zhang describes how to choose herbs for any condition, as both preventive and curative medicine. Fee is \$8 for museum members and \$13 for others.

Jul 21 6:30 pm **Cooking Class: Chinese Medicinal Herbs.** Zhenzhen Zhang, L.Ac. (China M.D.) demonstrates how to make common family dishes incorporating herbal medicine to help with insomnia and stress, to prevent illness, and to boost energy. Space is limited, reservations by July 14. Fee is \$25 for museum members and \$35 for all others.

Jul 31 3-4 pm **Obon Festival.** During the Japanese Buddhist Obon festival, families make offerings to ancestral spirits and take part in *bon odori*, a rhythmic dance performed by young and old alike. Middle school students from Salem's sister city of Ota, Japan, will demonstrate *bon odori* and invite all to participate. Mark Hideyuki Rooney from Odaiko New England will provide the drumming. This event is free with museum admission.

At the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA), Boston

For details call 617/267-9300 or visit www.mfa.org.

thru Jul 11 **Japanese Design in Transition 1900-1940.** Exhibition of graphic works and design from the early 20th Century.

At The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University

For details call 617-496-1027 or visit www.peabody.harvard.edu.

thru Apr 30,05 **Bringing Japan to Boston: The Edward S. Morse Collection.** Focuses on the small but choice items collected by Morse for the museum from 1877-1879. Included are hats, shoes, pottery from the Heian through Edo periods, Ainu prayer sticks, Noh masks and architectural models.

At the Wenniger Gallery, Rockport, MA

For details, call 978-546-8116 or 978-526-4888.

thru Jan 1, 05 **Diaries by Tetsuya Noda, Printmaker.**

At the Art Complex Museum, Duxbury

For details, call 781-934-6634 or visit www.artcomplex.org. All Tea Ceremonies are at 2 pm

Jul 18 **Family Tea Ceremony.** An introduction to the tea ceremony in the Art Complex tea hut *Shofuan*, "Wind in the Pines Hut."

Jul 25 **Tea Ceremony.** Demonstration by Aiko Somi Rogers, of the Urasenke School of Tea.

Aug 29 **Tea Ceremony.**

thru Sep 12 **Curator's Choice Prints.** Prints from traditional portrayals of landscape to more direct, simplified views of nature and the human figure. Featured artists: Ando Hiroshige, Kawase Hasui, Munakata Shiko and more.

At the Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles

For details call 800/461-5266 or visit www.janm.org.

cont. exhibit **Common Ground: The Heart of the Community.** Incorporating hundreds of objects, documents and photographs, this exhibit chronicles 130 years of Japanese American history, beginning with the Issei pioneers through the World War II incarceration and to the present.

Jul 1 to Aug 15 **September 11: Bearing Witness to History.** This powerful exhibit evokes the memories and experiences of September 11 through carefully selected objects and poignant stories from the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the Shanksville, PA crash site. This is a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition.

Sep 12 to Jan 2,05 **George Nakashima: Nature, Form & Spirit.** This exhibit features rare examples of furniture and designs from the immediate post-World War II period until his death in 1990.

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock & the Japanese American National Museum

For information contact Nancy Araki at 213-830-5649 or by email at naraki@janm.org.

Sep 23 to 26 **Life Interrupted: The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas.** The University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the Japanese American National Museum are presenting this four-day event in Arkansas that will include the opening of five travelling exhibits and a one-day conference on *Camp Connections: A Conversation about Civil Rights and Social Justice in Arkansas*. The weekend concludes with a day trip to the Jerome and Rohwer campsites.

The following was prepared by Walter Kondo for the JACL 75th Anniversary Convention Program Book. He was assisted by Gary Glenn, David Sakura, Carl Takei and Margie Yamamoto.

History of the New England JACL

Current and Past Presidents

Stephen Nishino, Margaret Yamamoto, Gary Glenn, May Takayanagi,
Robert Maeda, Kei Kaneda, David Sakura

The chapter was founded in 1948 with activities centered on WWII internment claims and naturalization of the Issei. After a hiatus, the chapter was reactivated in 1979 to respond to the unique needs of a widespread Japanese American community. Glen Fukushima, Laurel Kimura, and Michael Adachi, who were students at Harvard University, should be recognized for their role in the reactivation. The new chapter under President David Sakura worked to develop an extensive pan-Asian network of community activists and organizations for cooperation and support on common issues and concerns. One of its first activities was to join other community and government groups in its first observation of Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. Highlight of the week was a photographic essay by chapter member Tetsuo Takayanagi on the incarceration of the Japanese Americans. It was displayed in the JFK Federal Building. In addition, several members reflected on their internment experiences in local television appearances.

With the redress campaign underway, the chapter was in the forefront of building local public interest in issues affecting Asian Americans. The Chapter Redress Committee was instrumental in bringing the hearings of the Commission on Wartime Evacuation and Internment of Civilians to Boston. Harvard University co-hosted the hearings in December 1981. Unlike the hearing held on the West Coast, no individual testimonies were given, instead the Commission heard panels discussing the constitutional issues of internment and featured noted constitutional scholars such as Lawrence Tribe, Alan Dershowitz and David Musto. After the hearings, chapter members remained active in the process that resulted in implementation of the Commission recommendations.

The chapter continued to sponsor programs to bring together and promote the common bonds and issues of the Japanese American community. In 1997 Professor Paul Watanabe, University of Massachusetts, discussed Asian American political fund raising and its impact on the AA community. It co-sponsored a screening of "Rabbit in the Moon" in 1999. In 2000 a reception for the playwright Philip Kan Gotanda was held before the performance of his play "The Sisters Matsumoto" in Boston. Also in 2000, it co-sponsored a panel discussion of Nisei veterans at the Harvard Kennedy School. In 2001, JACL member Erica Harth held a book signing for *Last Witness*, a collection of reflections on the internment.

Over the years, the chapter has joined with other Asian American organizations in observing the annual Day of Remembrance in February. In 1998 it co-sponsored a "Day of Remembrance: Redress, 10 years later" and featured a video "Meeting at Tule Lake" followed by a discussion with three past NE JACL presidents instrumental in gaining support for redress: Kei Kaneda, May Takayanagi and David Sakura.

In the aftermath of 9/11, when there was concern for the civil rights of Arab Americans, the chapter invited other community groups to join them in co-sponsoring a forum on "Civil Liberties under Threat." Arab American, Asian American, Muslim, Sikh and South Asian communities joined to share their experiences. In 2003 the chapter presented a series of one act play readings. The featured play was "Don't Fence Me In," by Rosanna Alfaro, about one family's internment experience. Other plays were "Curfew," set in the West Bank town of Ramallah and "Under Cover," an exploration of what it means to be "interned" behind a symbolic veil. Day of Remembrance 2004 featured the story of the Japanese Latin American Redress Experience with guest speaker Grace Shimizu, of the Campaign for Justice Redress NOW for Japanese Latin Americans.

Japanese American Congressmen, Robert Matsui and Mike Honda spoke at two separate events. Matsui was here in 2001 at a forum at the Kennedy Library. It was later broadcast on CSPAN. In 2003, Honda and Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank were featured in a JACL/MIT forum on "National Security and Civil Liberties."

These were some of the activities of the New England Chapter, a relatively small chapter with a widespread membership covering the six New England states.