

April 2020

# TEA News

Featuring opportunities for  
educators,  
updates, and resources

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## TEA Programs

### TEA's NCTA National Coordinating Site Is Offering a Special "NCTA Maymester"! Register now!

As schools head into the final weeks of online teaching and we look for ways to connect as fellow educators, TEA is offering several NCTA online mini-courses and live discussion groups, beginning in late April and running through early June. These range from Zoom-based film discussions to multi-week asynchronous online book discussions. Class size is limited; pre-registration is required. For Zoom live discussions, participants must be able to access Zoom via video and audio. Certificates of professional development contact hours (PD) will be provided. Professional development credits vary by course and are listed below.

**Webinar: Choices: *China on the World Stage: Weighing the U.S. Response*. New 2019 edition! Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 7:00-7:45 pm ET. (1 PD hour).** In cooperation with the Choices project, TEA-NCTA is offering a webinar introduction to the new 2019 edition of this classic unit. Limited to 20 secondary social studies teachers. Educators who participate in the webinar and submit a one-page implementation plan will receive the Choices unit free. [Registration](#).

**Live Discussions: *The Journey Home: Three Contemporary Chinese Films*. (3 PD hours/film).** Three individual film offerings will be structured for home-viewing prior to live webinar discussion via Zoom. Time commitment: Approximately 2 hours viewing and 1 hour discussion per film. Register for one, two, or three.

- ***The Blue Kite. Family and Home Under Mao's Policies.*** Viewing window: Prior to May 4. Online live discussion group: May 4, 2020, 7 pm ET. [Registration](#).
- ***The Last Train Home. A Look at Migrant Workers and Family Life.*** Viewing window: Prior to May 18. Online live discussion group: May 18, 2020, 7 pm ET. [Registration](#).
- ***Coming Home. Reconstructing Home and Memories.*** Viewing window: Prior to June 1. Online live discussion group: June 1, 2020, 7 pm ET. [Registration](#).

**Online Book Group: *China's Millennials* with Author Eric Fish. May 6 – June 6, 2020. (12 PD hours).** No book purchase necessary; all book excerpts and articles will be provided through the course site. This asynchronous online book group will read selections from *China's Millennials: The Want Generation*, as well as current articles on the impact of the

coronavirus pandemic on China's millennials. Author Eric Fish will moderate the discussion. The book group consists of four one-week modules. [Registration](#).

**Online Children's Literature Book Group: *The Sound of Silence*. May 8 – June 3, 2020. (8 PD hours).** Explore the sounds and sights of contemporary Tokyo in this three-module asynchronous online book group for K-6 teachers featuring the picture book, *The Sound of Silence*, written by Katrina Goldsaito and illustrated by Julia Kuo. [Registration](#).

## National Opportunities

**NCTA Webinars from the Five College Center for East Asian Studies.** New offerings include three focusing on religion in China: Confucianism (April 29), Daoism (May 13), and Buddhism (June 3). Others look at samurai (April 21), COVID-19 in Taiwan and Singapore (May 7), and the Freeman Book Award winner *Girl of the Southern Sea* (June 23). More [information](#).

### Previously Announced National Opportunities

**Elgin Heinz Outstanding Teacher Awards. New application deadline: September 15, 2020.** Nomination/application materials for the 2020 Elgin Heinz Outstanding Teacher Award are now available. This award is designed to honor exceptional K-12 classroom teachers in the United States who further mutual understanding between Americans and Japanese. This year's award will be focused on teachers of Japanese language.

[Application](#).

## Colorado Programs

**Denver-Takayama Sister Cities Online Book Club. April 28, 2020, 7 pm.** This inaugural online discussion will focus on *Autumn Light, Season of Fire and Farewells*, by Pico Iyer. RSVP to Steve Comstock, [steve@trainersfriend.com](mailto:steve@trainersfriend.com).

## NCTA State and Local Programs

**NCTA Summer Institute: *Ties that Bind the U.S. and East Asia*. July 29 – August 2, 2020. Registration deadline: April 26, 2020.** Participants will explore links between Boston and East Asia through a variety of field experiences. Preference given to world and U.S. history teachers. [Applications](#) are still being accepted.

## Featured Resources

The Five College Center for East Asian Studies is presenting author Holly Thompson reading her picture book *The Wakame Gatherers* through June 30, 2020. The reading is available on [YouTube](#), and a teacher's guide is available from Lee & Low, the publisher, [here](#). In another [video](#), Thompson reads three chapters from her YA book *Falling into the Dragon's Mouth*. The video concludes with a brief writing activity. Note that Lee and

Low's website also features a recent [blog post](#) on using children's literature to teach about East Asia.

***The Beast Player***, by Nahoko Uehashi, translated from the Japanese by Cathy Hirano, has won the 2020 GLLI Translated YA Book Prize. The Global Literature in Libraries Initiative is dedicated to helping librarians identify and raise the visibility of world literature for children. More information is available [here](#).

A recent article in *The New Yorker*, "***From Japan, A Mascot for the Pandemic***," by Matt Alt, shares the story of a creature from Japanese folklore being drawn and shared in Japan in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The article is available [here](#).