
May 13

The Coalition Against Hate Crimes and the Q Center (4115 N. Mississippi Ave.) are sponsoring a Forum on Hate Crimes May 13, 2010, 6:30-8:30.

There will be an overview of bias/hate crimes; representatives from local, state and federal government on a panel to explain their role regarding hate crimes, a scenario, audience discussion and refreshments. The goal is to seek input from the community that might be affected by hate.

May 15

Asia Fest at the Oregon Convention Center, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

May 22

Unite People Youth Group fundraising dinner and dessert auction. 6:00 p.m. at Epworth Methodist Church, 1333 SE 28th Ave Portland OR, 97214. Tickets are \$8 or \$5 for children 10 and under.

May 31

Memorial Day Service at Rose City Cemetery, 1:00 p.m.

June 24-27

Minidoka Pilgrimage
Details at minidokapilgrimage.org.

June 30 – July 4

JACL National Convention, Chicago, Illinois

July 11

Portland Japanese Garden Tanabata (Star Festival). 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Details at www.japanesegarden.com/events/star-festival

July 30

Rededication of the Japanese American Historical Plaza 5:00 p.m. in the Plaza

July 31

O.N.E. Annual Banquet, 5:00 p.m. at the MAC. Honoring Harold Onishi and Eleanor Davis. Keynote speaker: Senator Daniel Inouye

JACL, the Convention and the Budget

Chip Larouche
Governor PNWDC

As the Governor of the Pacific Northwest District of JACL and what they call the Governor's Caucus Chair, I get the privilege and duty of attending the budget meetings prior to the National Board meetings. The most recent board meeting was held in San Francisco on April 9 and 10, and the budget was the main item on the agenda.

As you may have read in the *Pacific Citizen*, the board vote on endorsing the budget to go to the National Council at convention (where all the chapters get to vote on it) was not unanimous, but then again, budget votes have never been unanimous in the ten years I've been doing this.

The current points about the endorsed budget include:

- It's balanced
- It includes dues increases for Regular members (\$5), Couple/family members (\$10), and 1000 and Century Club memberships (\$25). Other membership categories (students and spouse) remain the same.
- It keeps the printed version of the *Pacific Citizen* thru at least 2012
- The most contentious issue is that it moves the *Pacific Citizen* operation from Los Angeles to San Francisco, a strategic consolidation (in my opinion) that the organization must do to have a chance to survive.

The key driver for tight budgets at National JACL has been changes in membership. In 1999, we had 22,000 members. In 2010 we have about 14,000. During that time, they've reduced the

staff in both San Francisco and Washington DC by about 40%. There are 14 staff members left in JACL - five of those are in Los Angeles, where they publish the *Pacific Citizen*. The portion of membership dues that goes to creating and distributing the *Pacific Citizen* used to be \$12 in 1999, but in 2009 it was over \$22 and, with the current budget through 2012, it will be well over \$25.

For these reasons, I think it's clear that National JACL needs to streamline facilities right now in the budget for 2011 and 2012. If you look at the total budget, there are only two places to make a real difference - cut the number of people or cut occupancy costs. Of course, if you cut the number of people, you also have to cut some of the projects and missions that those people are working on.

Cutting facilities isn't fun either. In my last tour of duty in the Army, I was in charge of cutting some logistics bases around the United States to cut costs and make consolidations to accommodate a smaller Army. From a business perspective, it made sense to close a depot in California that rebuilds radios which costs twice as much to operate as the one in Pennsylvania. When that kind of decision gets made, it is difficult for the folks at the closing installation. Although very often they are given the opportunity to follow their job to the new location, most decide to look for work locally instead of moving their families, certainly an understandable decision.

For the Army, the decision revolved around the question, "Do you spend money for bases you don't need, or do you spend those funds on the latest equipment that the soldiers need?" For JACL, the decision is similar: "Do you consolidate to a leaner organization to accomplish the goals that your membership believes is important, or do you let

(Continued)

JACL Expresses Concern Over Arizona Immigrant Law

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) expresses deep concern that Governor Jan Brewer of Arizona signed into law today a measure that would allow law enforcement officers to detain anybody “if there is reason to suspect they are illegal immigrants.”

JACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the nation. Restrictive and punitive immigration laws against Asians were the prime reason for the JACL to be organized in 1929. Since that time, the JACL has fought for fair immigration laws that did not discriminate against one specific group of people.

The National Executive Director of the JACL, **Floyd Mori**, said upon hearing of the signing of the bill, “This legislation essentially puts a target on the back of anybody who may be viewed as an im-

migrant, whether or not they are citizens of the United States. This is alarming to those of us of color who are citizens but are often pegged as foreigners simply because of our ethnic heritage.

In 1942, Japanese Americans were put into concentration camps simply because of their race. This was contrary to basic Constitutional guarantees of fair and equal treatment under the law. This new Arizona law repeats the same error of that 1942 action by the federal government. People of a particular ethnic heritage will be the target of law enforcement simply because of the way they look. This is the worst case of racial profiling since World War II that we could imagine, and the government of Arizona is making the same mistake the federal government made in 1942, which caused many people to suffer greatly through no

fault of their own.”

Larry Oda, the JACL's National President, stated: “The JACL was opposed to the legislation and continues to oppose its implementation as a law. Many innocent people will experience difficulties and hardship simply because of their ethnic heritage. While Governor Brewer has cited the border problems as a prime reason for signing the law, it is obvious that the impact will be felt largely in Hispanic communities whether people are citizens or not. It is a shame that politics of fear have won out over the principles of fairness and compassion that have made us the great country we are.”

Comments from Oregon Nikkei Endowment (O.N.E.)

Nicole Nathan

The recently closed **Motoya Nakamura** Exhibit drew 1,110 people during its run from January 31 – April 25, 2010. Many of these visitors found the exhibition on line or follow Motoya's work and it's been great to see all the new faces to the Legacy Center.

The next exhibition celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Japanese American Historical Plaza opens at the Legacy Center on July 30, 2010.

Come and join O.N.E. in the rededication activities honoring and celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Plaza. On

July 30, 2010, the celebration begins at 5:00 p.m. at the Plaza and will include special guests **Justice Michael Gillette** of the Oregon Supreme Court; **Lawson Inada**, former Oregon Poet Laureate; the **Minidoka Swing Band**; **Portland Taiko** and many others. A special collaborative project between Portland poet and writer **Kaia Sand**, **Sisters of the Road**, **Transition Projects, Inc.** and **Oregon Nikkei Endowment** will be just one part of this special and free event.

The celebration continues on July 31 as Oregon Nikkei Endowment holds its

annual banquet at the Multnomah Athletic Club with keynote speaker Senator **Daniel Inouye**. Tickets go on sale June 1, 2010, and can be purchased through our website www.oregonnikkei.org

Nicole Nathan is a staff member of O.N.E. as Director of Collections and Exhibits. She may be reached at nicole@oregonnikkei.org or (503) 224-1468.

Member message, continued

attrition take its toll until either all of your functions are not being done well, or you're out of business?”

I think JACL is at that crossroads. Many of us from Portland JACL, including many youth, will be going to the convention in Chicago to take advantage of workshops, to participate in awards recognition, national officer elections, and to take advantage of being in a city like Chicago. But the more important part of the convention might be those fairly boring meetings that debate the budget of the organization and the resulting decisions that go along with that vote.

The history of JACL since its start in 1929 has been filled with lots of great

moments, and some outstanding leaders, and there have been lots of controversial aspects and decisions that made the 81-year history pretty exciting and meaningful. Hopefully the organization's future will hold even more of these memorable kinds of milestones. We'll need to wait and see.

If you'd like to get a copy of the advanced budget summary, send me an email at pdxjad@hotmail.com and I'd be more than happy to send one your way.

In the meantime, getting a few more members into the organization would help a lot too. It's not too late to have the grandkids start thinking about civil rights, advocacy, health reform and

cultural preservation. A \$30.00 student membership might be enough to get them thinking about these kinds of things. It might also result in a scholarship to help them out with college. At the same email address above, you can send us a note and we'll send you a membership packet, or you can visit our website at www.pdxjad.org.

Community Hate Crimes Forum

The Coalition Against Hate Crimes (CAHC) Q Center and the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service present a **Community Hate Crimes Forum**.

May 13, 2010, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Q Center, 4115 N Mississippi Ave
Free

Learn about the new Hate Crimes Protection Act and meet key governmental and community resource people who work on hate crimes. Featuring a panel presentation with representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Fed-

eral Bureau of Investigation, Office of the Attorney General, State of Oregon, Multnomah Co. District Attorney's Office, Portland Police Bureau, Coalition Against Hate Crimes, and the Portland Office of Human Relations.

This program will:

Help community leaders understand what the Hate Crimes Prevention Act is (and isn't)

Help community leaders understand how a crime is designated a "hate crime"

Help community leaders understand how hate crimes are prosecuted locally, at

the state and federal level

Discuss when a civil action is appropriate at the state or federal level and how that works

Discuss how victim assistance works in Portland

Discuss how community response to hate crimes works in Portland ... and much more!

Please let us know if you plan to attend. Call (503) 295-6761, or send an email to info@oajconline.org.

For more information, visit the CAHC website at www.againsthate.pdx.edu.

Winner of Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition To Win Tickets to Japan

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) has announced that the winner of this year's Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition will receive two round trip tickets to Japan. All Nippon Airways (ANA) has donated flight and hotel arrangements.

The Minoru Yasui Oratorical Competition is named in memory of Minoru Yasui, an attorney and civil rights activist. Prior to the internment, Min Yasui tested the constitutionality of the curfew orders that were imposed against Japanese Americans. Though the Supreme Court of the United States eventually upheld

the constitutionality of the curfew, Min Yasui never wavered in his pursuit of social justice for all Americans. During the 1980s, Min Yasui was an articulate voice in leading JACL's successful campaign to obtain redress for the injustice of the internment.

Contestants in the oratorical competition will answer the questions: What can the Asian Pacific American community and the JACL do to inspire and create change to meet the needs of America's current sociopolitical landscape? President Barack Obama inspired and motivated a nation with a simple

word -- change. As our nation still faces economic turmoil, wars abroad, as well as damaged health care and immigration systems, "change" has never been more welcome.

This year, the JACL will hold its 41st National Convention, in Chicago, IL from June 30-July 4, 2010 at the Swisotel in the heart of downtown Chicago.

For more information on the oratorical competition and its guidelines, please go to:

<http://www.jacl.org/youth/documents/2010OratoricalGuidelines.pdf>

Unite People Youth Group Fundraising Dinner and Dessert Auction

Unite People Youth Group is holding a fundraising dinner and dessert auction to raise money for their trip to the National JACL Convention in Chicago in June. Chili dinner will be served and a raffle and dessert auction will be occurring throughout the evening.

The event will be held on Saturday, May 22 at 6:00 p.m. at Epworth Method-

ist Church, located at 1333 SE 28th Ave Portland OR, 97214. Tickets are \$8 or \$5 for children 10 and under.

Questions? Call **Rachel Seeman** at (503) 756-3212. Thank you and see you soon!

Rachel Seeman is the President of Unite People rachelseeman@gmail.com (503) 756-3212

**Unite People Youth Group
Fundraising Dinner and Dessert Auction
Saturday, May 22, 6:00 p.m.
Epworth Methodist Church
1333 SE 28th Ave Portland OR, 97214
Tickets - \$8.00 or \$5.00 for children 10
and under.**

Consul General Okabe Speaks on Esoteric Buddhist Iconography

It has been said that the "Buddha has many faces." Theologically this expression communicates the diverse manifestations of Buddhist teachings.

Another point of view on this phrase is to view the way that Buddhist iconography is expressed. The teachings migrated from India to other counties and the iconography, paintings and sculpture evolved with the journey. Moving to Cambodia, Tibet or China the representation of the teachings evolved to

reflect the unique qualities of the native cultures.

Intertwining native esthetics, morals and morays and Buddhist teachings, were developed to share the teachings in a culturally competent way. With the passage of time, the teachings remained the same but the iconography representing the Buddha and his teachings reflected the host culture's influence.

Consul General Okabe of the Japanese Consulate in Portland will share his

insights into the unique expressions of Buddhism, and more specifically on Esoteric Buddhist iconography in different countries. This presentation will be held on May 23, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the Buddhist Daihonzan Henjyoji Temple, 2634 SE 12th Ave, Portland, OR.

For more information please contact Mr. **Brian Hochhalter** at (503) 349-4159 or Mr. **David Batchelor** at (503) 481-0211.

IRO IRO

Ikoï no Kai Menu for May

Monday 3
Skip's Chicken Stir Fry

Tuesday 4

Tonkatsu

Wednesday 5

Chicken Salad Wrap

Blood Pressure Checks

Thursday 6

Meatball Bento Box

Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

Friday 7

Baked Salmon

Monday 10

Skip's Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

Tuesday 11

Pork Curry

Wednesday 12

Roast Beef and Cheese Sandwich

Thursday 13

Yakisoba

Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

Friday 14

Yoji's Tuna Sandwich Supreme

Monday 17

Skip's Steamed Pork/Tofu

Tuesday 18

Sukiyaki

Wednesday 19

Ham and Cheese Sandwich

Thursday 20

Oyaki Donburi

Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

Friday 21

Lil Okasaki's Chow Mien

Monday 24

Skip's Calamari Steak

Tuesday 25

Yasai-itame

Wednesday 26

Submarine Sandwich

Thursday 27

Sushi Happy Birthday!

Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

Friday 28

Closed

Monday 31

Closed

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Your JACL newsletter comes to you thanks to Documart, who prints the newsletter at a greatly reduced cost. Documart is located at 101 SW Main, (503) 228-6253.

And a big thank you to **Chris Onchi**. Chris has been printing our labels and making data entry changes. Chris has her own business called Chris's Mailing Service, at (503) 452-6864.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE (JACL)

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