

4
Independence Day. Take a moment to reflect on how far we've come, and how far we have yet to go.

6
First baseball game between the all-white Alerts team and the all-African-American Uniques team was played today in 1871. The Uniques won by a score of 17-16

7
Tanabata (Star Festival), in Japan children offer to the stars poems on paper, tied to bamboo branches

13
Bon Festival (Feast of Lanterns), Japan, lanterns are lit to guide the dead, who are believed to return to earth on this day

18
Birth of Nelson Mandela, South African (Tembu), lawyer, anti-apartheid activist, elected President of South Africa

28
Today in 1959 Daniel Inouye became the first Japanese American elected to U.S. Congress and in 1962 became first elected to US. Senate

29
1st Annual Jerry Inouye Memorial Golf Tournament, Sunday, July 29, 2001, Colwood National Golf Course, 7313 N. E. Columbia Blvd.

August 5
Physicians for Social Responsibility sponsor Hiroshima Day Remembrance, Japanese American Historical Plaza, 1:00 p.m.

August 19
Nikkei Community Picnic, Oaks Park, 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Don't miss it! Physicians for Social Responsibility sponsor Hiroshima Day Remembrance, Japanese American Historical Plaza, 1:00 p.m.

President's Message Scott Sakamoto

Rainy day fund? What rainy day?

Last month I addressed the serious income shortfalls that JAACL has experienced due to lower-than-expected investment earnings and, more important, our loss of membership on a national level. I urged us to demand stronger, more purposeful leadership from our National Membership and Program and Development chairs.

Regardless of how our chairs choose to act, however, we need to face the immediate reality that the debt we've incurred isn't going to disappear all by itself. Neither is our struggle to pay daily bills and the salaries of our hardworking staff. In light of this, this month I'm proposing a "Band-aid" fix to our National financial dilemma.

Earlier this month I received a letter from Elaine Akagi, PNW District Governor, in which she asked our PNW chapters to return our Legacy Fund distribution checks. Elaine also reported that the National board's current plan of action to remedy our financial crisis is to:

1. Freeze travel
2. Reduce the Pacific Citizen allocation by 10%
3. Ask each adult board member to try to raise \$2000 by June, 2001
4. Ask each chapter to return all or part of its year-2000 Legacy Fund distribution of earnings

These steps are not enough to get us out of debt and back on track financially. In fact, I believe they are only setting us up for even more financial problems down the road.

At the last February national Board meeting it was reported that our outstanding debt was \$283,838.00. Normally payments toward that debt would be made from reserves and draws from the Endowment Fund interest as well as reserves from membership revenues, but JAACL's reserves had already been completely expended to make up for cash shortfalls incurred in the previous year. As a result, JAACL does not have the money to pay its debt, its ongoing bills, or the salaries of its staff.

Or does it?

As you are aware, JAACL has a sizeable National Endowment Fund. The basis, or principle, of our National Endowment Fund is \$456,851.00. The appreciation, or interest, earned on that basis has accumulated to \$244,490.00. For those of you not

familiar with the original intent of the National Endowment Fund, it was established as a "rainy day" fund for use in an emergency such as another Evacuation (internment). Our bylaws continue to restrict its use to emergencies such as this. In my opinion, it is highly unlikely that in these modern times we will soon face another Evacuation. But we do face an emergency, right now--and from my perspective, it seems as though we ought to utilize the accumulated interest from this "rainy day" fund to pay down our National debt, to act responsibly about paying our outstanding bills, and to take care of our dedicated staff. I am not advocating that we dig into the principle--but we can put the interest it's earned to good use right now. This is a short-term solution, and it won't fix our larger issues of steadily declining membership and investment shortfalls. But considering our present crisis, I believe it is the smartest choice of action to take to relieve our immediate problems.

The responsibility of the National Board to stop JAACL's financial hemorrhage, as well as develop a solid plan to prevent it from happening again, is more urgent than ever.

We can use the funds this year to bail us out, but we shouldn't kid ourselves into thinking that it's anything but what it is--an unfortunate, but necessary, one-shot fix. It is imperative that our National board provide a solid plan to avoid the same from happening next year, and the years following that.

It might be a good time to take another look at how we view the use of our National Endowment Fund all together as well. Things have changed since the Fund was originally established. Old fears and threats to our community have given way to new realities and challenges. Perhaps, instead of continuing to save for the unlikely "rainy day" of another internment, we should consider putting our Fund to use in concrete ways that will help our organization now, in the 21st century. In ways, perhaps, that will provide better leadership in developing more relevant programs--programs such as increased membership--that we need so badly. But more on that next month. For now, I am focused on doing what we need to do to get out of the financial mess we are in. If we don't take action to resolve that, we may not have a JAACL at all.

PIPFest Announces Lineup for Summer, 2001

PIPFest 2001 is a five week-long extravaganza presenting outstanding international and intercultural theater, music, dance, films, and special events. The Festival, along with its institute offering lectures, courses, and workshops, celebrates its tenth year of presenting exciting contemporary performance with distinct cultural flavors. Many events are suitable for the entire family.

Op.eklekt, **Yan-Shu**, and **Nibroll**, three of Japan's hottest and freshest young groups combine in Japanese New Wave, an evening of dance, multimedia, performance, "pop" butoh and theater that will give a taste of the newest work emerging in Japan. In *Looking at Far East*, **op.eklekt** explores Japanese life from the perspective of space aliens. When the aliens attempt to emulate Japanese behavior, they hilariously get everything wrong.

The young "pop" butoh troupe **Yan-Shu** performs the poetic *Zunija*. **Nibroll** performs the US premiere of *No Parking* a work that examines Japanese urban life through video and witty, innovative, post-modern choreography. The show runs 8:00 p.m. Friday, July 27 and Saturday, July 28 in Lincoln Performance Hall.

There are talk back sessions with the artists following Friday performances. Main stage ticket prices are \$9.00 for PSU students, \$14 other students, seniors, PSU faculty/staff, and \$18 general. Tickets are on

sale at the PSU Box Office, 510 SW Hall, (503) 725-3307, and are available through all Ticketmaster outlets.

There is a studio performance of *Just Say Nob: Classical Japanese Drama* featuring **Sky and Sea** and **Shojoon** Friday, July 20, 7:30 p.m. at Artists Repertory Theatre, 1516 SW Alder. Noh theater workshop students perform *Shojo* and other short noh dances. Their teacher, master noh actor and international fusion theater innovator **Akira Matsui** performs *Sky and Sea* including *Tsuru (The Crane)* in full costume, and *Funa Benkei* This is Matsui's third visit to PIPfest. Tickets: \$3 PSU students, \$5 general, available at the door only.

Fans of Japanese anime animation will want to catch the series **Japanese Anime: Horror, Humor and Mystery**, Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. in Cramer Hall, Room 71, 1721 SW Broadway. The series is part of a class of the same name taught by PSU assistant professor Antonia Levi, who is a recognized expert on Japanese anime and manga, or comic books. Each screening will be accompanied by her comments and a discussion of the video. All videos are in Japanese with English subtitles.

Vampire HunterD shows June 28. When young Doris Lang is bitten by Count Magnus, she turns for help to a stranger with more than a few secrets of his own. An eerie and erotic take on a familiar legend. **Not suitable**

for children.

On July 5 *Chinese Ghost Stories* screens. Ning spends his days dreaming of his lost love, the gorgeous Lan. Taunted by her in his dreams, he travels from city to city, along the way falling for a ghost called Shine. Being dead was never so much fun. Perfectly suitable for children and anyone else who doesn't mind laughing themselves sick.

Perfect Blues screens July 12. When pop idol Mima decides to jettison her innocent, girlish image to pursue a career as a serious actress, she finds that something doesn't want her to change. **Not suitable for children**

The popular lecture series Artists Forum returns Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 12 noon in the Urban Center Building Gallery, Room 212, 506 SW Mill Street. Festival guest artists talk about their work and answer questions. This years lectures include **Yumiko Yoshioka**, dancer/choreographer, June 28; and **Akira Matsui**, master Noh actor, July 17.

The festival features many other classes, lectures, and performances from artists representing many cultures. For more information on PIPfest performances, classes, and a Summer Session catalog, call (503) 72-LEARN (725-3276), or toll-free 1-800-547-8887, ext. 3276. To register, call 725-4832. Check their web site at

www.extended.pdx.edu/pipf/

Legacy Center News

Back to Black

Anyone out there remember when the Legacy Center space was a black, cave-like night club, complete with disco ball? Volunteers are needed to help bring back some of those black walls for a dramatic art exhibit in the fall.

Masumi Hayashi has received national recognition for her stunning photo montages of the sites of internment camps. The desolate sites and remaining structures are depicted in large scale collages of photo images that envelop the viewer in a poetic and poignant

image. To highlight the drama of these photos, we will be painting some walls black.

There will be work parties on Saturdays in July and August, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Call June Schumann at (503) 224-2458, or olnc@teleport.com to help with the gallery preparation or to get on the mailing list for the announcement of this show.

Cloud Cap Beckons

Cloud Cap Inn? Old time Portlanders may know the significance of this site on Mt. Hood, but newcomers may not.

Reminisce or explore on a field trip to the sites in the Mt. Hood area that hold special significance for Nikkei. Led by the US Forest Service staff, speakers will meet us and give background on the historic involvement on Japanese Americans in the forest.

This great outing is being planned for August or September. Contact June at Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, (503) 224-2458 to be informed of plans.

Portland Taiko - Art Explosion

Portland Taiko's presentation of music and dance of Asia, Art Explosion, was videotaped by the Production Crew of CitiNet 30. Broadcast times are as follows;

Don't miss it on channel 30!

6/30	11:00 p.m.	7/8	8:30 p.m.
7/6	1:30 p.m.	7/9	11:00 p.m.
7/7	9:00 a.m.	7/10	8:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: This program is 2 hours and 15 minutes long. It will not fit on a standard 120 minute video tape. 160 minutes tapes are available at most places that sell video tape.

SALUTE 2001: All-Nikkei Veterans and Family Event

August 3-5, 2001 Little Tokyo Los Angeles, California

For ALL Veterans and personnel who served in the military of the United States at time of Peace and at time of Conflict

Families and Friends are encouraged to attend and honor our veterans. Get together to renew old friendship and reminisce about our times together. Learn about the diversity of our experience in the service of this nation. Share our legacy with our younger generation. Take in the Nisei Week festivities, the largest

and oldest Nikkei festival in the U. S.

Some highlights:

- * **Open House gathering at the Japanese American National Museum**
- * **A Special Salute Program and Luncheon with National Speakers at the Beverly Hilton Hotel**
- * **Optional Hospitality Gathering with your friends.**
- * **Veterans Monument, Memorials, Special Displays and Programs for young and old.**
- * **Continental Breakfast followed by an Interfaith Memorial Service.**
- * **Be immersed in the 61st Annual Nisei Week**

Japanese Festival, including the parade honoring the veterans.

- * **Explore Little Tokyo with 12 cultural institutions, 75 restaurants and a variety of specialty shops and services.**
- * **Special hotel rates.**
- * **And much, much more.**

For further information: Write to: Salute 2001 Japanese American National Museum 369 East First St. Los Angeles, CA 90012. Or call: Hawaii Office: 808/946-5417, Los Angeles: 213/630-5649

OPB To Broadcast Of Civil Rights and Wrongs: The Fred Korematsu Story

POV, the critically acclaimed NPR series featuring the best of recent documentaries, presents Of Civil Rights and Wrongs: The Fred Korematsu Story on OPB television, Channel 10, on Tuesday, July 10, at 10:00 p.m.

Mr. Korematsu was born in Oakland, California. By 1942 he had tried twice to enlist in the army but was turned down for a physical disability. Before and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he worked in defense plants in the San Francisco area, and had no criminal record. He was ordered to one of the internment camps during World War II, at the age of 22. He refused to go quietly and was arrested in May 1942.

Korematsu was tried in a federal district court and was joined in his fight by Ernest Besig, the Executive Director of the ACLU of Northern California. Besig had read about Korematsu in a local paper and offered the assistance of the ACLU in the legal battle that would ensue. Korematsu challenged the order as it applied to him, a loyal citizen of the United States, but he was found guilty of knowingly violating the Civilian Exclusion Order. He was confined in a relocation center in Utah while he appealed his case to the United States Supreme Court.

Korematsu lost his case in a highly-charged legal opinion that upheld his conviction. But the impact of the case on the civil rights movement was considerable, and almost 40 years later, the case was reopened. In 1983, Korematsu won a reversal of his conviction. In January 1998, Fred Korematsu was honored with the Medal of Freedom, the country's

highest civilian award, at a White House ceremony.

The Executive Order issued during World War II resulted in the incarceration of more than 120,000 people of Japanese descent. Fred Korematsu's heroic stand against this injustice demonstrates the importance of individual conscience, courage, and action.

The Filmmaker

Writer, director and producer Eric Paul Fournier was influenced by his father, a political science professor who shaped his son's strong sense of idealism. When he began making films, writer, director and producer Eric Paul Fournier chose projects that addressed civil-rights issues - one of his father's favorite topics. "I recall my dad ranting and raving about... the (Japanese internment) camps and it stuck with me." When he discovered that his friend Ken Korematsu had a famous father who sued the U.S. government, Fournier decided to help bring his story to the silver screen.

Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story was shown at the Seattle International Film Festival last month, where it received tremendous praise.

In 1942, when American citizens of Japanese descent living on the West Coast were rounded up and relocated to camps, Fred Korematsu, a blue-collar factory worker, refused to go. At the time, he was dating a Caucasian woman who wasn't allowed to accompany him. So they devised a way for him to escape the internment. Korematsu underwent eye surgery to make him look Caucasian. It worked for a

while - until he was arrested and charged with a criminal felony for not obeying evacuation orders. Unable to get support from the American Civil Liberties Union, Korematsu enlisted the help of volunteer lawyers who managed to get his case heard before the Supreme Court. But he was convicted after six of the nine justices refused to vote against President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

"The irony at the time was we were supposed to be fighting fascism," says Fournier shaking his head. "That Japanese Americans were imprisoned based on nothing but their race was clearly illegal."

Since most of his films are about race consciousness and identity in America, does he worry about a dominant majority backlash? "Yeah, people say they're tired of this kind of stuff," Fournier nods, "but you've got to keep hitting people over the head. Just because they don't want to listen doesn't mean I'm going to stop talking."

Forty years later, Fred Korematsu went back to court to clear his name. Instead of risking the possibility that his case would not be heard by the Supreme Court, his new legal team filed in federal district court. This time, a lone judge decided Korematsu had been the victim of lies fabricated by the U.S. military. It was "a cathartic experience," according to Fournier, that led to Korematsu receiving a Congressional Medal of Honor from President Clinton.

"Fred Korematsu is an ordinary guy who had the courage to... do extraordinary things. This tribute is for him and for my father."



Volunteers needed for Nikkei Community Picnic

Volunteers are needed to help in the planning and coordination of the Nikkei Community Picnic. John Murakami has already volunteered. Who's next? Call Connie Masuoka at (503) 243-3291 to help out in this important community event.

Min Yasui Case Revisited Broadcast Times

The United States District Court of Oregon Historical Society's "famous case" series presented a panel discussion on the United States v. Min Yasui case on May 24. The event was attended by a number of representatives from the JA community.

The panel discussion, which included Professor Peter Irons, Professor Linda Tamura, Dr. Homer Yasui, Charles Davis, and Peggy Nagae, was videotaped for July broadcast on Portland Cable Access.

Broadcast times are as follows -
Min Yasui Case Revisited

Channel 11

Sat 7/21 7:00 p.m.
Mon 8/6 5:00 p.m.

Channel 22

Sat 7/14 8:00 p.m.
Thur 7/19 8:00 p.m.

Channel 23

Sat 7/21 2:00 p.m.
Mon 7/23 10:00 p.m.

Obon Festival

Obon Festival will be held at the Oregon Buddhist Temple on Saturday, August 4 starting at 2:00 p.m., with traditional Obon dancing slated to begin at 7:00 p.m. To get you prepared for this all-important event, dance practices will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., starting on July 10 at the Temple. So get your yukata out of mothballs and start limbering up those muscles! For more information or to volunteer, please call OBT at (503) 234-9456.

Epworth United Methodist Church gave an appreciation/thank you potluck on June 23 at noon for the ministry team of Rev. Don Colburn, Rev. George Uyemura and Rev. Wes Yamaka. They have been ministering at Epworth for the last 6 months. **Rev. Barbara Bellus** was appointed at the

Annual Conference in Salem to be the new minister at Epworth as of July 1, 2001. She was formerly at Jason Lee UMC, Salem.



Special Thanks

Support merchants who support the community!

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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