

April 23

23rd Asian Reporter Banquet, Legin Restaurant, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

May 2

Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet MAC Club, 5:00 p.m.

May 5

Portland Taiko 2010 Benefit Banquet, Wong's King Seafood Restaurant, 6:00 p.m. \$50. Call Setsy to get a seat at the Portland JACL table

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.

The FBI director of this region has been invited, as well as Diane Sykes from the Attorney General's office.

This is sponsored by the US Department of Justice, Community Relations Service, Jane Wu, Region X Conciliation Specialist, Seattle, Wa

May 15

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

May 31

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

June 30 – July 4

JACL National Convention, Chicago, Illinois

Reflections on the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference

Member's Message

Marleen Wallingford

The 26th annual JACL/OCA (formerly called the Organization of Chinese Americans) four-day conference was held on March 5 - 9 in Washington, DC. It was my privilege to attend, along with Seattle JACL President Nate Caminos. We learned about developing leadership skills and how national public policy on issues such as healthcare, education and immigration affect our everyday lives.

The conference was designed to provide a broad overview of the decision-making process at the federal level, including meetings with public officials, policymakers who serve in Congress, the White House, a variety of federal agencies, advocacy organizations and the media. We were also informed about legislative issues affecting the Asian Pacific American (APA) community and examined the role civil rights organizations such as JACL and OCA National play in affecting public policy and pursuing civil rights legislation.

We began the conference by talking about the history of the Asian American immigration to America through our personal immigration stories. Led by Dr. Phil Nash, professor in the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Maryland, we talked about where our families were from the mid-1800s to the present. The immigration journey of each of our families was affected by public policy decisions made by the US government. The 1882 passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act closed the door on Chinese immigration, but opened the door for Japanese and Filipino laborers to fill the need for workers in the railroad, timber and farming industries. Both of my grandfathers, who were second sons, immigrated to Oregon in the early 1900s. They were joined in the 1920s through arranged marriages with

their wives. Both entered before 1921, when the US passed the first Quota Law, effectively ending all immigration from Japan. My grandparents were not able to buy any property in Oregon because of the Alien Land Laws, which prohibited non-citizens from owning land.

My family's lives were changed forever with the passage of Executive Order 9066, which gave the military the authority to create zones from which citizens and aliens could be removed. The unjust treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II stands out as one of the most egregious violations of constitutional rights in our country's history. Why did this happen to our community? We had no voice in the government who would champion our rights. The Issei were not allowed to become citizens, and the Nisei were in their twenties or younger. We can take these lessons from the past to help us shape our future.

The importance of a visible Japanese American presence in government was brought home with a remark made by President Bush after the tragic events of 9/11. Norman Mineta, Secretary of Transportation, was at cabinet meeting planning the government response to this attack on our nation. The President told the group they needed to be careful. They didn't want happen to the Muslim American community happened to Norm and his family during World War II. Secretary Mineta's presence at that meeting served as a reminder to the group of high level government officials that they had responsibility not only to protect our country, but also to protect the rights of their citizens.

We had the opportunity to be introduced to several Asian Americans who have active roles in government, including **Tina Tchen**, Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement. This office advances the President's policies with interest groups through briefings, meetings and large events.

Continued on page 3

JACL/OCA Leadership Conference



Left - Secretary Norman Mineta and Marleen Wallingford, JACL board member

Below - JACL/OCA Leadership participants at the Japanese American Memorial in Washington DC. Floyd Mori, Executive Director of JACL, far left. Marleen Wallingford, Portland JACL representative is in the front row, third



Portland Taiko Class Schedule

Adult Beginning Class

April 12 - June 7, Mondays, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Cost: \$130 Prerequisites: Adult Community Workshop

Skills and Drills

April 11 - June 6, Sundays, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

*No class April 4, May 30

Cost: \$110.00. Prerequisites: Adult Beginning Class, instructor's permission

Youth Workshop with Tanuki Taiko (ages 9-16)

Wednesday, March 31, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20.00.

Youth Taiko Class (ages 9-16)

April 7 - June 9, Wednesdays, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

*no class May 5, cost: \$120

Parent/Child Workshops (ages 2 1/2 to 4)

Sunday, March 28, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Cost: \$40 per adult/child pair

Kids Taiko Class (ages 4-5)

April 17 - May 22, Saturdays, 10:00 - 10:50 a.m.

Cost: \$65

Kids Taiko Class (ages 6-8)

April 10 - May 22, Saturdays, 11:00 - 11:50 a.m. Cost: \$75

2010 Taiko Camp

Youth Camp (8-16)

August 9-13 +15, Mon-Fri 9:30 to 3:30 + picnic on Sunday

Cost: \$225.00. Save your spot!

Classes and workshops fill up quickly, so please be sure to register early! All classes

require pre-registration, available at www.portlandtaiko.org or by mail. Space will be reserved when payment and the registration form have been received at the Portland Taiko office. Classes are held at 3230 NE Columbia Blvd. in Portland. Asian American students especially encouraged. Contact info@portlandtaiko.org or Angela at (503) 288-2456 for more information or to register.

The Oregon Department of Justice recently re-created Oregon's Civil Rights Unit, which had been eliminated in the mid-'80s because of state budget cuts. John Kroeger, Oregon Attorney General, broadly outlined areas at a community meeting on February 18, 2010 that would receive attention: 1) A more aggressive response to hate crimes throughout the state. For example, a white woman in Benton County had a cross burned on her lawn because she had adopted an African American child. Ironically, she had chosen to move to the area because she felt it would be a safe place to raise her child. This crime remains unsolved. 2) A vigorous response to egregious violations of civil rights which involve a repetitive pattern of behavior and multiple victims. 3) Protecting vulnerable populations of people who are at risk of exploitation,

such as undocumented workers and non-English speakers. Many of these workers have experienced not being paid but were afraid to report abuses because of their immigration status. 4) Constitutional problems, such as voting and voter registration. 5) Reproductive freedom. 6) Reviewing Oregon's state laws to make certain that they support civil rights.

The Civil Rights Unit is actively seeking civil rights violations to investigate. To report possible violations contact the Oregon Department of Justice 1-877-877-9392.

Mr. Kroeger addressed the police shooting death of Aaron Campbell, which has galvanized the African American community. Local community leaders are calling for the federal government to review the shooting, and demanded the suspension of police officer Frashour, who was responsible for shooting Mr.

Campbell, believing that he was reaching for a gun.

Mr. Kroger stated that the Portland police needs to review its procedures, and that Campbell's death confirmed that there is a problem that needs independent review. Unfortunately, Oregon's laws do not give the state's Attorney General the authority to review local police behaviors.

There are serious concerns that Campbell's death is another example of a racial profiling by police within a culture that automatically sees a black man as threatening. An examination of police records documents that people of color are more likely to be stopped by police and are more likely to be searched for contraband. Our African American community is not feeling supported by our local law enforcement.

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

The Veterans of Oregon Association conducted an impressive awards ceremony on March 13, 2010, at the O.N.E. Legacy Center. They presented Honorable Service Award Medals to 17 Oregon veterans, most representing the Oregon Nisei Veterans. Family and friends made up a capacity audience.

Motoyo Nakamura's exhibit of photographs of members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and some of their

families continues until April 18, 2010. Nakamura is a staff photographer for *The Oregonian*, the daily newspaper for Portland. His comments on the 442nd are sincere and poignant.

Please save the following dates:

July 30, 2010 for the Rededication of the Japanese American Historical Plaza and **July 31, 2010** for our Annual Banquet featuring **Senator Daniel Inouye** as the Keynote Speaker. The banquet will also honor the

original Board of Directors of O.N.E. Further details will be forthcoming. Please contact O.N.E. to volunteer your help at these two events. Thank you.

Henry Sakamoto is Vice-President of O.N.E. He may be reached at hcsak@comcast.net or 503-233-2001.

Henry Sakamoto

Member message, continued

She also serves as executive director of the White House Council on Women and Girls. She is a second generation Chinese American. Her parents immigrated to this country in 1949 after the communists took control of China. Ms Tchen, a longtime supporter of women's rights and a feminist, spoke emphatically that the White House's top agenda item is to pass healthcare legislation within the coming weeks. She freely admitted that the healthcare bill did not include all of the legislation that she would have wanted, but felt it was necessary to compromise in order to get something passed.

The Obama Administration has been one of the most responsive to the needs of the Asian American Pacific Islanders.

President Obama has chosen three Asian Americans to lead cabinet posts, the most of any presidential administration: Secretary of Energy **Steven Chu**, Secretary of Commerce **Gary Locke** and Secretary of Veteran Affairs **Eric Shinshiki**.

This conference is sponsored by **State Farm Insurance**. **Art Ruiz**, Director of State Farm's Federal Affairs Office, and **Leslie Moe-Kaiser**, who manages State Farm's relationships with national Asian American Pacific Islander organizations, have supported and attended the conference for many years. Mr. Ruiz, a Hispanic American, believes that it is good corporate policy for his company to support and nurture leadership development with people of color.

At the grassroots level, each of us can

give back to our communities by participating. The Japanese Americans, one of the oldest Asian American immigrant groups, has been able to show great strides in education and employment. We are noticeably not well represented in positions of leadership and government.

The overall message of the conference, is that we as individuals have a civic responsibility to make a difference.

If not us, then who?

If not now, then when?

If not here, then where?

If not through involvement, then how?

Anonymous

IRO IRO

Ikoi no Kai Menu for April

Thursday 1

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

Friday 2

Chili Dog

Monday 5

Skip's Saimin

Tuesday 6

Sweet and Sour Meat Ball

Wednesday 7

Ham and Cheese Sandwich
Blood Pressure Checks

Thursday 8

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

Friday 9

CLOSED

Monday 12

Skip's Pork with Veggies

Tuesday 13

Udon

Wednesday 14

Meat Loaf

Thursday 15

Beef and Vegetable Stir Fr
Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

Friday 16

Lil Okazaki's Mar Far Chicken

Monday 19

Skip's Pasta with Sun-dried Tomatoes and Chicken

Tuesday 20

Buta Dofu

Wednesday 21

Egg Salad Sandwich

Thursday 22

Vegetable and Shrimp Tempura
Happy Birthday!

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

Friday 23

CLOSED

Monday 26

Skip's Calamari Steak

Tuesday 27

Sushi Happy Birthday!

Wednesday 28

Asian Chicken Wrap

Thursday 29

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

Friday 30

Ginger Turkey

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Special Thanks

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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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