

August 15

Nikkei Community Picnic, 12 Noon to 5:00 p.m.
Oaks Park

August 27

JASO Golf Tournament & Dinner Auction, The Resort at the Mountain

September 25-26

Festival of Japan, Uwajimaya, Beaverton, OR

October 3

Sukiyaki Bazaar, Oregon Buddhist Temple

October 15

Last day to join one of the 11 sponsoring organizations for high school seniors to qualify for local scholarships! Students can join Portland JACL for only \$30 and qualify for thousands of dollars of local and National scholarships! Call Setsy for details.

October 23

Pacific Northwest District Meeting, Hosted by White River Chapter

Notes from the National JACL Convention

Co-president's Message by Jeff Selby

This year's National JACL Convention in Chicago was well represented by not only the official delegates (Jim Kennedy and me), but also your Pacific Northwest District Governor, Chip Larouche, and an impressive team of youth from our Unite People group.

I could fill this article with a review of all the proposed resolutions, but I will save a bit of space for convention business at the close. For me, the highlight of the convention was Unite People and the way they stole the show in Chicago with their logo t-shirts and their willingness to learn about the national organization. I am proud to be affiliated with such an impressive group of young people!

I had the pleasure of mentoring two outstanding "Unite People people" at the convention: Rachel Seeman and Shafer Durgan. I was impressed by their patience for parliamentary procedure and their ability to network with other youth representatives.

At the previous national convention in Salt Lake City, I was met with congratulations for Portland JACL earning Chapter of the Biennium. This time around, I was accosted by JACLers who either wanted to know how our chapter was able to attract such talented youth or where they could find a Unite People t-shirt for sale.

The answer to the first question about Portland JACL attracting talented youth is simple: inspiring adult advisors who dedicate their time and attention to the youth. Over the past few years, with guidance and love from our dear Robbie Tsuboi and caring leadership from Connie Masuoka, Unite People has become the youth group upon which other chapters look as a model of success. My

sincere thanks to Robbie, who we miss so much, and to Connie for taking the time to be such incredible mentors to these future community leaders.

The answer to the second question is simple as well: contact the youth group and they will "hook you up" with a snazzy Unite People t-shirt.

Of the successful resolutions at the convention, one proposed by the Seattle JACL Chapter bears specific mention—The Power of Words. The resolution, "...relates to euphemisms and misnomers in reference to the World War II experience of Japanese Americans." For example, terms such as "internment" and "relocation" do not accurately portray the conditions under which Japanese Americans were denied their civil rights. Terms such as "incarceration" and "forced removal" should be used instead. The resolution passed and a plan to incorporate the acceptable terms is forthcoming.

Elections for National Board positions were held and David Kawamoto from the Pacific Southwest District is among the new officers as incoming President.

The National Conventions are now annual events, with Los Angeles hosting the festivities next year, and Seattle in 2012.

I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming local events. Please feel free to e-mail me anytime with comments, questions, or concerns at jeff@aiwcreative.com

National JACL Scholarship Winners

Portland JACL is proud to announce that four of our student members have been awarded scholarships totaling sixteen thousand dollars by the Na-

tional JACL that is headquartered in San Francisco, California. We congratulate these four outstanding young man and women for their achievements, and we

wish them much success as they continue their education. A brief synopsis of each award and its recipient follows:

David Fukunaga has been awarded the Nobuko Kodama Fong Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is anonymously donated and is awarded to an undergraduate student.

David Fukunaga is the son of Lori and David Fukunaga of SW 13th Avenue in Portland. David currently attends Willamette University and he is studying Physics and Environmental Science. In 2007-2008, he was Secretary-Treasurer for Unite People, the Portland JACL youth group, and he was elected as Co-president of the organization in 2008. His community involvement includes being on the Youth Advocacy Committee, serving as Treasurer and President of the Young Buddhist's Association, and serving as a volunteer at Goose Hollow Family Shelter from 2007 to 2010. David is a member of the Varsity Tennis Team at Willamette University and has been a Camp Counselor for the Oregon Zoo.



Leigh Nishi-Strattner has been awarded the Aiko Susanna Hiratsuka Memorial Scholarship. This award was established in memory of pianist Aiko Hiratsuka and is awarded to a student studying in the performing arts.

Leigh Nishi-Strattner is the daughter of Dr. Linda and Mark Nishi-Strattner of SW Beveland Street in Tigard. Leigh is an honor roll graduate of Wilson High School, and she will attend Santa Clara University in California majoring in psychology where she also has received the Arts and Sciences Deans Scholarship from the University. Leigh studied classical Kabuki Japanese dance for 11 years under Sensei Sahomi Tachibana and performs in the community for various events throughout the year. She is also a member of Unite People, co-editor of her school newspaper and is a National Merit Scholarship Semi-finalist.



Natalie Rojas has been awarded the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship. This award was established by the estate of Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara. Mr. Kuwahara, a resident of Los Angeles, was a well-known investment and securities broker in Little Tokyo.

Natalie Rojas is the daughter of Gustavo & Etsuko Rojas of SE 57th Avenue in Portland. She was Valedictorian of her Franklin High School class, and she will attend Wellesley College in Massachusetts in the fall and will major in International Relations. She was Vice President of the National Honor Society, Events Planner and Co-president of Unite People, the Portland JACL youth group, and she has been active in the Key Club, the Chinese Club and Upward Bound. She has a varsity letter with the David Douglas Swim Team, and she has participated in summer programs at UC Berkeley and Harvard University to earn college credits.



Rachel Seeman has been awarded the Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship. This award is one of JACL's newest scholarships that was established by the Ohtaki estate.

Rachel Seeman is the daughter of Dan and Toshiko Seeman of NE Sacramento Street in Portland. Rachel was valedictorian of her Grant High School class and she will attend Stanford University in California and will major in Biology. Rachel was selected as the Queen of Rosaria in 2009, the only high school junior to have held that position, travelling to over 30 events in Oregon and to Taiwan to represent the City of Portland. She was student body President in her senior year at Grant High School, Co-president of Unite People, and took part in the Selma to Montgomery, Alabama march in 2009. Rachel volunteers at Goose Hollow Family Shelter and Oregon Nikkei Endowment, and she has a varsity letter all four years on the Grant Swim Team and also was the co-captain for the team in 2009-2010.



Japanese American Historical Society 20th Anniversary Celebration



Above - Jeff Selby and Chip Larouche serve beer at the Japanese American Historical Plaza Beer Garden



Above right - Shafer Durgan, Jeff Selby, and Rachel Seeman

Right - Unite People staff the Portland JACL table at the Japanese American Historical 20th Anniversary Celebration



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

Henry Sakamoto

As part of the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Japanese American Historical Plaza, a new exhibit opens at the O.N.E. Legacy Center on July 30, 2010. The exhibit features the history of the Historical Plaza with photographs and commentary.

Another part of the 20th Anniversary is the rededication of the Historical Plaza on July 30, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. at the Plaza site. Special guests include Oregon Supreme Court Justice Michael Gillette, past-Poet Laureate for Oregon, Lawson Inada, and Consul General of Japan Takamichi Okabe.

Following the rededication, entertainment will be provided by Portland Taiko, the Minidoka Swing Band (MSB) and the Slants beginning at 6 p.m. nearby at the

Bill Naito Legacy Fountain. It is FREE.

It should be noted that the Minidoka Swing Band and Portland Taiko are projects of non-profit organizations. Its players are volunteers who perform for the pleasure of our community. In order to give credible performances, all players rehearse on their own time and at their own expense. For example, for the rededication performance on July 30, the MSB will have rehearsed four times. Each rehearsal lasts two hours and also involves one-half hour to one hour of personal travel time. The performance itself requires time for set-up, sound check, performance and personal travel which means about two more hours of personal time. The personal time requirement for Portland Taiko would be

similar.

Therefore, it is hoped that our Nikkei community will show its collective appreciation of these volunteers by attending their free performance on July 30.

The 20th Anniversary Celebration continues on July 31 with an O.N.E. fundraising banquet at the MAC Club beginning at 5 p.m. The keynote speaker is Irene Hirano Inouye. Honorees at the banquet will be Eleanor Davis, Harold Onishi and the original Board of Directors of O.N.E.

Henry Sakamoto is Vice President of O.N.E. and maybe reached at 503-233-2001 or by email at hcsak@comcast.net.

National JACL Convention



Setsy, Chip, Natalie Rojas and Christina Arrington at the VIP reception



Portland JACL youth enjoy the continental breakfast before the first convention business session. Each of the youth were assigned to a delegate to learn some of the processes that happen during a convention.



The opening mixer was a lot of fun, with Chicago deep dish pizza and hot dogs topping the snacks for the evening.



Delegates enjoy their lunch as they discuss some of the resolutions that had been brought up in the morning session.



The Portland JACL youth group are all "dressed up" as they enjoy the Sayonara Banquet.

National JAFL Convention



Former Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta was the keynote speaker at the Sayonara Banquet



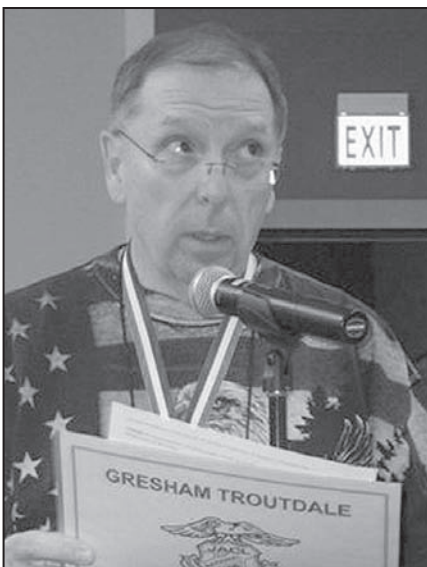
The Chicago Taiko Group entertain during the Sayonara Banquet



Connie takes the youth group on a field trip to discover Chicago



Co-presidents Jim Kennedy and Jeff Selby confer with Karen Yoshitomi, our regional director, on various issues for the upcoming business sessions.



This secret door became known as the Schafer Passage, which got our youth into the Penthouse Health Club everyday to take advantage of the extra shower facilities. To economize on expenses, the youth were bunked four to a room, taxing the room's bathroom facility when they all had to get ready for the daily business meeting.

Governor Chip Larouche, acting as the Gresham Troutdale Delegate, proposes a resolution on the Power of Words to the National Council that would more accurately describe the injustice experienced by the Japanese Americans during World War II. The resolution passed by a vote of 80 Yes votes to 2 No votes.



totally ridiculous, but really brought us together and allowed us to bond.

Schafer Durgan

Unite People Co-president 2010-2011

On behalf of the members Unite People I would like to thank the people, organizations and businesses that believed in and supported them in their journey of furthering their identities as

Japanese Americans. With your help Unite People was able to raise over \$6000 to fund their trip. They did this through fundraising events, grants, and your generous donations. We would especially like to thank the Portland JACL for sponsoring our registration to the convention.

Connie Masuoka

Unite People, Advisor

If you are interested in learning more about Unite People please look us up on the newly renovated Portland JACL website or come to one of our meetings. We meet on the third Friday of the month at Epworth Methodist Church basement at 7:00 p.m.

日系コミュニティー・ピクニック

NIKKEI COMMUNITY PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2010
OAKS PARK
(SOUTH PARK AREA - UNDER THE LARGE STRIPED TENT)
NOON TO 5PM

Join us for an afternoon of food and fun! The picnic is sponsored by organizations of the Nikkei community to celebrate our ethnic heritage.

We will provide at no cost:

- Main dish: Fried Chicken
- Beverages: hot tea, soda, and beer
- Eating utensils: plates and napkins
- Watermelons
- Games and prizes and ride bracelets for kids high school and younger
- Parking

Please bring a side dish to share. In order to ensure a variety we suggest that you bring a side dish that corresponds to the alphabetical groupings listed below:

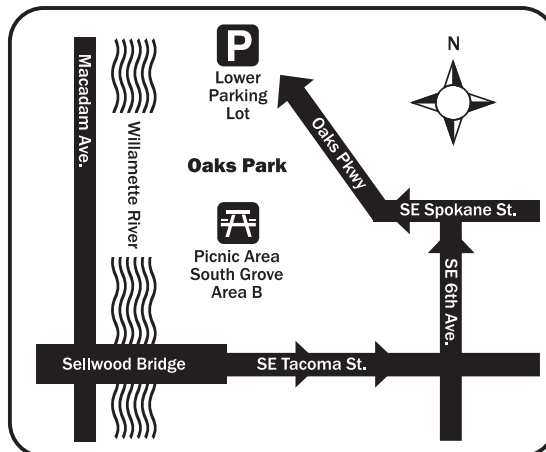
- A-Ki Rice or a noodle dish
- KI-Sa Salad or Vegetable dish
- Sc-Z Dessert or Bread

主催方からの供給

焼き鳥
お茶、ソウダ、ビール
西瓜
遊芸と遊技の賞品
駐車場

持ち合わせ品

A-Ki サラダ
KI-Sa ごはん
Sc-Z デザート



Performances by Portland Taiko's Camp Kids and Youth Camp!

Please RSVP by August 2: Connie Masuoka at 503-243-3291.

On June 30, 2010 I was fortunate enough to accompany 10 youth members of Portland JACL's Unite People to the JACL National Convention in Chicago. Many times I have heard from people in the Nikkei community about their disappointment that their children or grandchildren do not recognize or take pride in being Japanese American. They would commiserate with them that that was the downside to assimilation, but on this trip I was pleasantly surprised by the energy and enthusiasm in participating in the convention. The following are some of the reflections of those who attended the convention.

We, the Unite People, were very lucky to be able to participate in this year JACL national convention. Because I was able to participate in this great event, and be part of the Mentorship program, I was able to learn so much more about JACL and its purpose in society.

My mentor, who was serving as a President of Cincinnati JACL chapter, taught me how the JACL works, and how things are voted and discussed during these national conventions. I sat through a few of the meetings where different resolutions proposed by local chapters were argued, discussed, and voted on. I saw many important activists and political leaders sharing their thoughts during the panel sessions, which were both educational and inspiring.

The workshops that I attended also were amazing, because I was able to hear specific topics from the professionals in that area. I attended Asian American Politics, and US-Japan relations. In US-Japan relations, I had the opportunity to listen to some amazing people such as the Japanese Ambassador, the CEO of the Airbus Company, and Mrs. Irene Inouye, wife of the Senator Inouye.

It was great hearing from them because they truly cared about the younger generation. Their supportive attitude toward us, and their effort to educate us, inspired me. These sessions made me aware of the different issues affecting our country right now, and how important it is to have strong ties with Japan, and to work with Japan to solve conflicting issues.

I also learned that JACL is active not just for the Japanese or the Asians, but for many other groups as well. There

were many voices arguing that JACL should take action against the Arizona immigration law, and when the resolution for the JACL to become part of the activists against the law was able to pass, I truly felt the JACL's great concern about ANY civil rights issues.

I was also able to learn about many historical events regarding Japanese Americans through displays and talking with war veterans. I felt the pain they went through, I felt their courage, their determination, and their pride.

I realize now that I was ignorant before this five day trip to Chicago. Now that I've had an amazing opportunity to see the inside of JACL activities and the great people who are supporting them, I became more intrigued in studying International Relations when I go off to college this fall. Hopefully, I can stay part of JACL while I am in college, so that I can continue to be supportive toward this organization.

I also loved the sightseeing part of this trip! Chicago is such an amazing city, and I was sometimes overwhelmed by how many people there were in the streets! But it was always exciting - the river and the lake were beautiful, and the famous deep dish pizza was amazing!

So overall, everything about this trip was great. I had fun and I learned a lot. Thank you for all the people who made it possible for Unite People to go to this trip!

Natalie Rojas

Unite People Co-president 2009-2010

Japanese Americans and the JACL are prepared for change and for the future. This is the message that I received after attending the National JACL convention in Chicago earlier this month.

With ten youth plus our chaperone, Connie Masuoka, representing the Unite People Youth Group, Portland's junior chapter, we counted for nearly half of the youth attending the national convention. The four days that we spent at the convention were full of socializing, learning and exploring.

We all learned networking techniques and met youth and other JACL members from around the country. I was especially excited when I was able to meet the president of the Silicon Valley chapter, since I am planning on joining their chapter

in the fall when I move to California for college. Throughout the convention, we attended many business meetings and luncheons, having the opportunity of listening to many great speakers and thinkers. From Yul Kwon, a *Survivor* reality show winner to the Ambassador of Japan, there were many great minds to learn from.

During the business meetings, the youth were always pleased to see Chip Larouche share his ideas, and Schafer Durgan and I enjoyed the mentorship of President Jeff Selby. Outside of the convention, we enjoyed exploring the streets of Chicago, from the bean statue to tasting different deep dish pizzas.

Our five days in Chicago were absolutely fantastic. I feel like my interest in and passion for the JACL is now greater than ever. We are learning how to use the knowledge of our people's pasts, combined with our youth, to create change for the future.

As an Edison Uno Civil Rights Award recipient, Michael Lieberman, so eloquently stated, we must "channel the scars of our past to something positive." I have no doubt that our youth group will.

Thanks!

Rachel Seeman

Unite People Co-president 2009-2010

The trip to Chicago really opened my eyes. While I was there I saw how involved many of the other youth were in different activities and projects.

But I also realized how lucky we [Unite People] are to have so many members, while all the groups in different states are struggling. I hope that we will be able to open up a sort of exchange program soon, so that other groups can see what we are doing to stay strong in numbers, and also send out some of our members to get new ideas on how we can help promote our message and stabilize the community around us.

My favorite activity to do while in Chicago was the networking with other youth from around the country. All the kids I met there were great and a lot of fun.

I also enjoyed the wide variety of workshops that were set up for the JACL to attend. But my favorite thing to do was definitely just getting know the other kids from around the country. Craig Ishii had us play these games that were

IRO IRO

Iko no Kai Menu for August

Monday 2

Beef & Macaroni Noodle

Tuesday 3

Somen Noodles

Wednesday 4

Roast Beef & Cheese Sandwich

Blood Pressure Checks

Thursday 5

Sweet & Sour Meat Balls

Tai Chi Class:11:15am-Noon

Friday 6

Chili Dog

Monday 9

Cheese Manacotti

Tuesday 10

Croquet

Wednesday 11

Vegetarian Pizza

Thursday 12

Karage Tai Chi Class:11:15am-Noon

Friday 13

Lil Okazaki's Mar Far Chicken

Monday 16

Loen's Summer Tomato Pasta

Tuesday 17

Beef Donburi

Wednesday 18

Submarine Sandwich

Thursday 19

Shrimp Tempura & Vegetables

Tai Chi Class:11:15am-Noon

Friday 20

Lil Kiyokawa's Taco Pie

Monday 23

Yoji's Tuna Fish Sandwich Supreme

Tuesday 24

Chicken Teriyaki

Wednesday 25

Egg Salad Sandwich

Thursday 26

Curry Rice - Pork Tai Chi Class:11:15am-

Noon

Friday 27

Pastrami Sandwich

Monday 30

Calamari Steak

Tuesday 31

Sushi Happy Birthday!

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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)

Portland Chapter

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