

### March 13

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Honorable Service Medal Ceremony by the Veterans of Oregon Association, 1:00 p.m. Veterans who desire to receive the medal must register. Call John Newman at (503) 622-6084 or get more information at [www.veteransoforegon.com](http://www.veteransoforegon.com)

### March 20

Pacific Northwest District Council Meeting, 9:00 a. m. – 4:00 p.m. Holladay Park Plaza

### March 27

*The Way Back Home* shows March 27 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Winningstad Theatre. Tickets are on sale now online at [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org), in person at the **PCPA Box Office**, or by phone (800) 745-3000. For more information and for group tickets, call (503) 288-2456 or email [info@portlandtaiko.org](mailto:info@portlandtaiko.org).

### 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 JAACL table

## Religious Dress in School

*Co-president's Message by  
Jim Kennedy*

Recently the Oregon House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly (51 – 8 vote) to repeal the ban on teachers wearing religious dress in the classroom. The Senate is now taking up the debate on whether to repeal the ban.

As a civil rights organization this issue poses a potential conflict between upholding the personal freedom of individuals to wear religious dress in the workplace and the state's ability to protect the separation of church and state. In addition, I have a personal interest in this issue, since I am in the process of obtaining a teaching license and know several candidate teachers who regularly wear the hijab (Muslim head dress).

The ban on teachers wearing religious dress in the classroom has been a state law since 1923, when the Ku Klux Klan had great influence over the state government. The Klan was instrumental in electing Walter Pierce to the governorship and Klansman Kaspar K. Kubli to the Speaker of the House. These officials pushed a social agenda opposed to Roman Catholicism and race-mixing.

With their leadership, in 1922 the legislature passed the Compulsory School Bill, an initiative requiring all children between the ages of 8 and 16 to attend public schools, as a way to eliminate private Catholic schools. Although voters approved this measure, the Oregon Supreme Court quickly declared the law unconstitutional.

Then in 1923 the legislature passed the Alien Property Act, designed to prevent immigrant Japanese from owning land in Portland and the Hood River Valley and, in the same legislative session and responding to the supreme court decision, the legislature approved the ban of religious dress for teachers in public schools. The state eventually overcame the dubious origins of this legislature and rescinded the Alien Property Act, but the statute banning teachers from wearing religious dress in classrooms is

still Oregon law.

The religious dress ban was tested in 1983 when Karta Khalsa, a Sikh convert, was fired for wearing religiously required clothing for her faith. Khalsa sued, claiming that the law violated her constitutional right to practice her religion, but the Oregon Supreme Court ruled against her claim, stating that the law represented no constitutional violation. This ruling was in keeping with the strong opinion of civil libertarians, who were concerned about the separation of church and state, particularly in the unique situation of public schools.

The ban recently came into light again last year when the Oregon Workplace Religious Freedom Act was passed, allowing all workers to wear religious dress and to observe holy days, except for teachers in public schools. Hence, the Oregon law originally drafted by the same group that passed the Compulsory School Bill and Alien Property Act remains intact today.

Oregon is one of two states that have such laws prohibiting religious dress in the classroom. This seems ironic, since we Oregonians take particular pride in the fact that we take measure of people by their character and actions rather than their clothes. We even had a governor who was famous for his casual dress, so it's interesting that we have a law that prohibits a type a dress in order to qualify for an occupation. It's also disconcerting that many qualified people are prevented from pursuing the teaching profession in a time when we need as many good teachers as possible.

I share the concern of many civil libertarians regarding proselytizing of religion in our schools. I strongly believe that our schools are no place for any type of preaching or endorsing of religion, and I understand the desire to minimize any religious references and symbols therein. However, that is not to say that we can or should prevent all exposure to religion in our schools. Whether in history, social studies, comparative religion or even science, questions of religion and culture are regularly discussed in school, and that should not stop. Examination of different cultures, societies and religions is

Continued on page 3

# IRO IRO

## Iko no Kai Menu for March

**Monday 1**  
Skip's Pork Stir Fry

**Tuesday 2**  
Oden

**Wednesday 2**  
Submarine Sandwich  
Blood Pressure Checks

**Thursday 4**  
Hina Matsuri  
Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

**Friday 5**  
Salmon

**Monday 8**  
Skip's Pollack Fish Cakes

**Tuesday 9**  
Baked Tonkatsu

**Wednesday 10**  
Egg Salad Sandwich

**Thursday 11**  
Sukiyaki  
Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

**Friday 12**  
Lil Okazaki's Chow Mien

**Monday 15**  
Skip's Spaghetti and Meat Balls

**Tuesday 16**  
Beef and Veggie Stir Fry

**Wednesday 17**  
Asian Chicken Wrap

**Thursday 18**  
Baked Pork  
Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

**Friday 19**  
Ginger Turkey

**Monday 22**  
Skip's Chicken w/Mushrooms

**Tuesday 23**  
Chicken Donburi

**Wednesday 24**  
Chicken Fried Steak

**Thursday 25**  
Sushi

**Happy Birthday!**  
Tai Chi Class 11:15 a.m. - noon

**Friday 26**  
Baked Salmon w/Lemon Dill Sauce

**Monday 29**  
Skip's Calamari Steak

**Tuesday 30**  
Niku Jaga

**Wednesday 31**  
Roast Beef and Cheese Sandwich

## JACL Board Members

**Portland JACL, PO Box 86310  
Portland, OR 97286 1 (877) 843-6914**

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president@pdxjacl.org

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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.

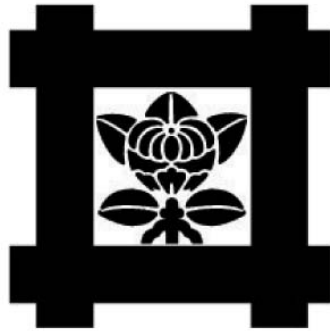
And a big thank you to **Chris Onchi**. Chris has been printing our labels and making data entry changes. Chris has her own business called Chris's Mailing Service, at (503) 452-6864.

## JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE (JACL)

Portland Chapter  
PO Box 86310  
Portland, OR 97286

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# NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE



## 18th Annual Spring Bazaar

Sunday, March 28, 2010 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 2025 S.E. Yamhill

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Special Nichiren Tonkatsu Bento Available for Pre-order only	\$7.00	_____	_____
Chicken Donburi (Chicken Teriyaki over rice)	\$6.00	_____	_____
Chow Mein	\$6.00	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>			\$ _____

Please return this pre-order form with your check by March 23, 2010

Please make checks payable to:  
Nichiren Buddhist Temple,  
2025 SE Yamhill Street  
Portland OR 97214.

All proceeds benefit  
Nichiren Buddhist Temple

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

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## Day of Remembrance 2010



Left - Mari Watanabe, Executive Director of Oregon Nikkei Endowment, speaks at the 2010 Day of Remembrance event at Hoffmann Hall, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

Below - Alice Sumida speaks of her experience during the time of internment at the 2010 Day of Remembrance.



Left - Professor Gilbert Carrasco, Willamette Law School, speaks at the 2010 Day of Remembrance event at Hoffmann Hall, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

Below - Audience members listen to panel speakers at the 2010 Day of Remembrance.



Left - Martin Gonzales, Board President, Latino Network, speaks at the 2010 Day of Remembrance event.

Photos by Rich Iwasaki

## Thank You From Portland JAACL

We would like to thank everyone listed below for their generous donations during the last ten months to our programs, which include the Nikkei Community Picnic, our ongoing programs for civil rights advocacy,

our youth program and scholarships, the Nikkei Community Directory, our annual calendar, the monthly newsletter, and the Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue advertising. Domo arigato gozaimashita!

Please note that all donations of \$100 dollars or more are acknowledged by return mail. All others are acknowledged in our newsletter, unless the donor requests a mailed acknowledgement.

Al Abe	Akiyo Horiguchi	Lynn Longfellow	Portland Hyakudokai	Tears of the Theatre
Elaine Akagi	Joseph Hosch	Jay Lyman	Portland Japanese Women's Club	Hajime Terao
Diane Akasaka	Frank Hrubant	Maeda Roy and Joyce	Shannah Louis Praus	Jess Toda
Alan Akiyama	Saburo Ikeda	Dr. Connie Masuoka	Atsuko Richards	Lew Tomita
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Ethel and Richard Hedlund	Misako Kodama	Oregon Buddhist Temple	Carol Suzuki	Jill Yuzuriha
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Robert Hicks	Paul and Mieko Koida	Oregon Nisei Veterans	Ann Takamoto	Todd and Elaine Yuzuriha
Hilltop Mall	Konko Church	Herb and Etsu Osaki	Jean and Ned Takasumi	Hirotoko Zakoji
Dan Hinatsu	Kim Kono	OTA Family Tofu	Kirk Tambara	
JA Hirai	Michiko Kornhauser	Albert Ouchi	Linda Tamura	
Eisaku and Alice Hiromura	Leslie Kowash	Albert Oyama	Calvin and Mayho Tanabe	
Hiroshima Club	Richard Koyama	OyaNoKai	Bill and Linda Tanaka	
Hiroshi's Anzen	Kathleen Kusudo	Frances Palk	Lenora Tanaka	
George Hoashi	Chip and Setsy Larouche	Hatsumi Park	Sachiko Tanaka	
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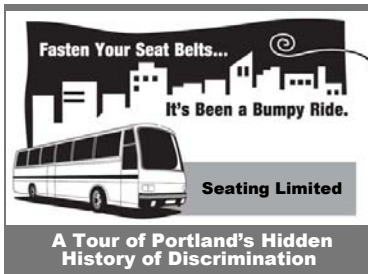
## Housing Discrimination and Segregation: What Happened in History And How it Still Affects Us Today

Join Us for Two Exciting Events in Honor of National Fair Housing Month  
and the Fair Housing Council's 20th Anniversary on Friday, April 23rd

8:30 AM HISTORIC BUS TOUR

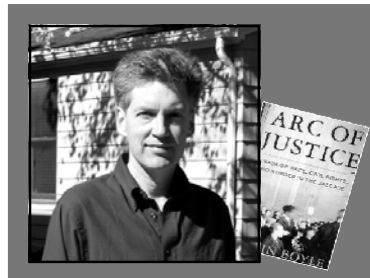
12:00 NOON LUNCH PROGRAM

Fasten Your Seat Belts...  
It's Been a Bumpy Ride



Join us on a charter bus for a stimulating two and a half hour tour that will explore another side of Portland and Oregon history: the ghosts of lost ethnic communities, forgotten hate crimes, Ku Klux Klan rallies, and remnants of communities that were rounded up and exiled because of their ethnic origins.

Featuring Kevin Boyle, Author of  
"Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil  
Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age"



"Arc of Justice" won the National Book Award for non-fiction, the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Tolerance Book Award and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

To quote one review, it is "a poignant biography, a tour-de-force of historical detective work, a gripping courtroom drama, and a powerful reflection on race relations in America. Better than any historian to date, Boyle captures the tensions of a period that witnessed the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan and the flowering of the Harlem Renaissance the crystallization of racial segregation, both north and south, and the rise of the modern civil rights movement."

**Both events are sponsored by the Fair Housing Council of Oregon, a nonprofit civil rights organization that works to prevent illegal housing discrimination and helps enforce federal, state and local fair housing laws.**

**For more information visit <http://FHCO.org/fhmonth10.htm>  
Registration form at <http://FHCO.org/pdfs/FHmonthInvite2010.pdf>**

Join the Fair Housing Council of Oregon on Friday, April 23, for an opportunity to explore Portland's hidden history of housing discrimination, discover a sensational murder trial with historic civil rights implications, and find out the latest on fair housing challenges in Oregon today.

The tour, entitled *Fasten Your Seat Belts - It's Been a Bumpy Ride*, will explore lost ethnic communities, forgotten hate crimes, Klan rallies, and groups of Oregonians who were rounded up and exiled based on their ethnic origins. Following the tour, a luncheon program will feature Kevin Boyle, author of *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age*. The book, which won the National Book Award for nonfiction and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize is, to quote a review, a poignant biography, a tour-de-force of historical detective work, a gripping courtroom drama, and a powerful reflection on race relations in America. Better than any historian to date, Boyle captures the tensions of... a period that witnessed the rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan and the flowering of the Harlem Renaissance... the crystallization of racial segregation, both north and south, and the rise of the modern civil rights movement. Also on the luncheon agenda is an update on discrimination in Oregon today and a performance by the dynamic Sermonettes Gospel Singers.

The event will be held at the Ambridge Event Center in Portland, from 8:30 until 2:30 p.m. The cost of the morning bus tour is \$30, \$25 for students and seniors. The luncheon cost is \$30, \$25 for students and seniors. The cost for attending both events is \$50, \$40 for students and seniors. Advance-registration is required and the registration deadline is April 12th. To obtain registration information, contact [information@fhco.org](mailto:information@fhco.org).

For the past 20 years the Fair Housing Council of Oregon has worked to protect renters and home buyers from illegal housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, disability, source of income, marital status, sexual orientation and age.

### REGISTRATION FORM: April 23<sup>rd</sup> Fair Housing Anniversary Celebration

Complete one registration form for each attendee. Please copy registration form as needed to submit one form per person.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEE:**  \$30 per person bus tour only

\$25 per person bus tour only, student or senior

\$30 per person luncheon only

\$25 per person luncheon only, student or senior

\$50 per person for both events

\$40 per person for both events, student or senior

**METHOD OF PAYMENT:**

Check (made payable to Fair Housing Council of Oregon)



The Ambridge Event Center is located at 1333 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., in Portland. It is 1.5 blocks north of the Convention Center MAX stop, across from the Marriott Courtyard Hotel. Limited free parking is available on site. The Ambridge Event Center is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Please indicate any special needs, e.g. wheelchair bus access, ASL interpreter, etc. by April 9th:

#### MAIL REGISTRATION TO:

Fair Housing Council of Oregon  
506 SW Sixth Ave., Suite 1111  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Registration will be accepted on a space-available basis

▶ Registration deadline is April 14th

For further information,  
email [information@fhco.org](mailto:information@fhco.org)  
or call (503) 223-8197, ext. 108



[www.FHCO.org](http://www.FHCO.org)

## UP Youth Group Fundraiser

Unite People (UP) is the Portland JACL Youth Group. Our primary mission is to create awareness of current civil rights issues among youth coming from all ethnic backgrounds. There are over 30 of us right now and we meet monthly with our youth coordinators **Robbie Tsuboi** and **Dr. Connie Masuoka**. We have participated in a variety of service projects, including sending care packages to soldiers stationed in Afghanistan, volunteering monthly at the Goose Hollow Family Shelter, as well as volunteering at various Japanese-American community events throughout Portland. We hope that through our community involvement we will promote more local volunteerism among youth.

In July of 2010, our youth group hopes to attend the JACL National Convention

in Chicago. There, we will participate in a variety of activities designed to teach us about Asian-American history, current civil rights issues, and how we can use that knowledge to make a difference in our communities.

Our purpose for attending this conference is to bring back to Portland what we will have learned in Chicago in order to create more awareness about civil rights among youth and the greater community. Because we youth have a responsibility to the future, we believe that it is necessary to educate youth of the bridge between past and current events to ensure that history will not repeat itself.

Sending most of the group to Chicago is estimated to cost around \$12,000.

We are requesting donations to help us achieve our goal of going to Chicago

next summer. If you would like to help, please make checks out to JACL and put the word YOUTH in the corner of your check. Please mail them to:

**Portland JACL**  
**PO Box 86310**  
**Portland, OR 97286**

These donations are tax deductible.

We would like to thank **Nikkei Jin Kai, George and Nobi Azumano, Kurtis and Jenny Inouye** and **Joe Koida Florist** who have already donated generously to help us get to Chicago this summer.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Seeman

Jon Lee

Natalie Rojas

*Co-presidents of Unite People*

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

The exhibit featuring photographs of member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team continues through April 18, 2010, at the O.N.E. Legacy Center. The photographs taken by **Motoya Nakamura**, Staff Photographer for The Oregonian, are displayed with interpretive comments.

On Saturday, March 13, 2010, beginning at 1:00 p.m., O.N.E. will host an Honorable Service Medal Ceremony.

The Veterans of Oregon, a non-profit service organization presents a free medal to every veteran who applies for one. Application deadline is March 6, 2010. Contact the Legacy Center for details.

Please continue to save these dates:

**July 30, 2010:** Rededication of the Japanese American Historical Plaza

**July 31, 2010:** O.N.E. Annual Banquet with special guest speaker, Senator Dan-

### Henry Sakamoto

iel Inouye. The original Board Members of O.N.E. will be honored.

Be a community helper by volunteering at O.N.E.

*Henry Sakamoto is Vice-President of O.N.E. and President of the Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland. He may be reached at [hcsak@comcast.net](mailto:hcsak@comcast.net) or (503)233-2001.*

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### Co-president's message, continued

an important part of our children's education, particularly given the inherent diversity of our citizenry.

With that in mind, I cannot see how a teacher's dress, religious or not, rises to the importance of state law, other than the fact that we need a new law to protect the teacher's personal

freedom to practice their faith, through dress if need be. After all, actions and words are what matter, not clothing. Further, there are many statutes in place that limit the degree to which religion can be practiced and expressed in our schools. If current law is not sufficient to ensure that students are protected from undue

proselytizing of religion, then the House and Senate can and should provide further protection in the form of state laws that stipulate proper and improper religious discussion in the classroom.

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### Portland Taiko Brings It Home, continued

Hawaii, the Big Island. The song evokes volcanoes, jungle, mountains, grassland, and oceans.

Seattle composer and performer **Byron Au Yong** composed the performance piece, *News*. The piece begins with the flutter of paper and builds with the rhythms of taiko, bamboo poles, and voice to create a dialogue of sound. *News* asks, "How do we navigate through life's layers of passports, journals, notices, newspapers,

maps, and walls to find each other and ourselves? Au Yong also co-composed "Home" with Artistic Director Michelle Fujii. "Home" opens with a capella lyrics in Japanese, "Ie Nii Ru To. Honto No Ji Bun. Itsumo kae re tai." Translated this means, "When at home. The 'real' me (I can be myself). Always want to go back." The song is inspired by the freedom that a home provides, which Fujii describes as, "A sacred space for your self."

*The Way Back Home* shows March 27 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts, Winningstad Theatre. Tickets are on sale now online at [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org), in person at the **PCPA Box Office**, or by phone **(800) 745-3000**. For more information and for group tickets, call **(503) 288-2456** or email [info@portlandtaiko.org](mailto:info@portlandtaiko.org).

## Portland Taiko Brings It Home

Asian American drum ensemble **Portland Taiko** opens their 2010 season this spring with a Portland concert debut, showcasing their unique fusion of taiko, dance, and music. On March 27 at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., PT brings their successful national touring concert home, for the first time, to the Winningstad Theatre in *The Way Back Home*.

"From the innocence of a child's crayon drawing, to the shattered destruction displaced refugees once knew, home is a sacred place that we all search for," says Portland Taiko's Artistic Director **Michelle Fujii**. *The Way Back Home* was inspired by Portland Taiko's own personal experiences and stories from the local Vietnamese community that were woven into their 2007 production, *The Way Home*.

With its core ensemble of performers, *The Way Back Home* has been refined to its essence, exploring the theme of home, while showing the full range of Portland Taiko's artistic expression. The 2007 concert, *The Way Home*, featured spoken word by Oregon poet **Lawson Inada**. In *The Way Back Home*, Inada's poetry is woven into the music. Fujii explains, "Lawson's poetry was taken by us, and translated into what we do."

Inada's words are expressed through taiko rhythms, melodic music, dance movement, and song.

*The Way Back Home* has been performed throughout the country, including New York, New Hampshire, Idaho, Massachusetts, and Washington, and this year it seemed the right time to bring it home. Fujii explains, "Home can be a place to express and to be yourself. Right now people are losing that space." Audiences who have experienced the touring program have responded with their own written reflections on, "What makes a home for you?" Drawings of trees,

houses, and keepsakes; poetry; lists; and stories written in many languages and formats have been shared by those inspired by Portland Taiko's performance. One audience member from New York responded with "Home is a place where your spirit flies."

Producing Director **Teresa Enrico** is struck by the reaction to *The Way Back Home*, "I have been touched by how much our audience members have been moved and shared so openly with us. It struck a cord wherever we toured, small town, big city, every type of person. Our performances reminded people of things they hadn't thought about for years, bringing tears to their eyes." *The Way Back Home's* program reflects the wide variety of collaborators and composers that gave voice to the program. **Masato Baba**, currently performing with California taiko group On Ensemble, composed *Changing Landscapes*. This song juxtaposes modern taiko rhythms and melodies from the classical Japanese flute (fue). It is inspired by the variety of landscapes on the still forming, youngest island in



Photo by Rich Iwasaki

Continued on page 3

### Portland Taiko Class Schedule

#### Adult Community Workshop

Thursday, April 1, 7:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$40.00. No experience necessary!

#### 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](http://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](mailto:info@portlandtaiko.org) or **Angela** at (503) 288-2456 for more information or to register.