

PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

Founded in 1928,
Portland JACL is one of
the most respected civil
rights organizations in
the country.



PDXJACL.ORG

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 3

- Spring Bazaar, OBT; 11:00 am

March 10

- Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 17

- Spring Bazaar, Nichiren

April 6

- Scholarship Applicant Interviews

April 13

- JACL District Meeting
Holladay Park Plaza; 9:00 am

April 15

- JAS Board Meeting,
Epworth; 7:00 pm

April 27

- JACL National Board
Meeting, San Francisco, CA

May 5

- JA Graduation Banquet,
Multnomah Athletic Club;
5:00 pm

May 18

- UP Chili Feed, Epworth

MARCH 2013 • VOLUME 18, ISSUE 8

Portland's 2013 Day of Remembrance

*Board Members Message by Heidi
Kimiko Tolentino*

On February 17th, the Portland chapter of JACL held its annual Day of Remembrance at Portland State University. The chapter welcomed a special guest speaker, Floyd Mori, Executive Director of the National JACL, Emeritus. This year's focus was the 25th Anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988: a Presidential apology and symbolic payment (Redress) for lost liberty and property.

Co-President Susan Leedham welcomed the audience and reminded them of the JACL's long history of civil rights activism and the purpose of the Day of Remembrance. The Day of Remembrance is an annual commemoration of President

Franklin D. Roosevelt signing of Executive Order 9066 that was responsible for the incarceration of over 120,000 men, women, and children of Japanese ancestry, many of whom were American citizens.

Chip Larouche, Portland JACL Treasurer and JACL Pacific Northwest Governor, introduced Floyd Mori and shared a list of Mr. Mori's impressive accomplishments. Mr. Mori was City Councilman and Mayor of Pleasanton, California, California State Assemblyman, and the National Executive Director of JACL. He most recently spearheaded a joint JACL/Direct Relief International earthquake and tsunami disaster relief effort for Japan, raising 6.5 million dollars for the cause.

Mr. Mori took the stage and

quietly immersed the audience in stories from his own life as a young Nisei in rural Utah. He spoke of how the pain of rejection can shape or change your life depending on how you react to it. Mr. Mori shared



Floyd Mori, JACL National Director Emeritus, speaks at the 2013 Day of Remembrance, Hoffman Hall, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon.

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next page)

Board Members Message Continued



Professor Linda Tamura (l) moderates a panel discussion at the 2013 Day of Remembrance. The panel included (l to r) Floyd Mori, Prof. Hillary Jenks, Joe Wahl, and Prof. Tung Yin.

the story of the time his classmate had a birthday party and he was the only one who was not invited. However, he chose to go anyway and had a great time. He took the rejection and turned it around for a positive outcome. He then moved to the treatment of the Japanese community during World War II.

They were rejected, rounded up and sent to camps. People's reactions to the government's actions differed widely. But in the end, Mr. Mori argued that there needed to be understanding and recognition that everyone had their own reasons for their actions and how they conducted themselves during a very difficult time. Ultimately, the Japanese community united around the Redress effort, despite their differences.

After Mr. Mori's recollections and insight, moderator Linda Tamura began the panel discussion. Linda Tamura is a professor at Willamette

University and the author of, "The Hood River Issei" and "Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence". Professor Tamura has graciously and expertly led the Day of Remembrance panel discussion many times.

The first panel guest was Professor of History, Hillary Jenks, of Portland State University. Professor



Audience members listen during the 2013 Day of Remembrance

Board Members Message Continued

Jenks is currently working on converting her award-winning dissertation, "Home is Little Tokyo: Race and Metropolitan Development in Twentieth Century Los Angeles", to a book. In her research, Professor Jenks used Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and Gardena, California as case studies. As a panel member, Professor Jenks talked about the importance of coalitions leading to Redress. One important ally was Mervyn Dymally who served in the State Assembly, State Senate, as Lt. Governor of California and as a Congressman. Congressman Dymally learned of the Redress movement from his constituents in Gardena, and was instrumental in building a coalition with the Black community in Watts.

The second panelist was Joe Wahl, President of the Portland JACL chapter in 1986, during Redress. Mr. Wahl is currently assistant director of the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights. Mr. Wahl relayed stories of his own life, being born in Japan to a Japanese mother and white father. His father died when he was only four years old and his mother moved the family to Astoria, Oregon, where his father's family lived. Mr. Wahl spoke of his own experiences growing up as a bi-racial boy in Astoria and not being accepted. He also explained that it was only later in his life that he learned of the incarceration camps from his wife's family. He then became heavily involved in Asian studies and civil rights at the University of Oregon and eventually became President of the Portland JACL chapter. Mr. Wahl paid tribute to his fellow board members and community leaders who worked tirelessly for the Redress movement.

The final panelist was Tung Yin, a law professor at Lewis & Clark Law School. Professor Yin teaches courses in national security law, terrorism and the law and federal criminal law. His focus has been legal issues that arose from post 9/11 counter-terrorism policies and practices. Professor Yin talked about the recently-leaked Justice Department white

paper on "kill lists" and American citizens, and the lack of transparency surrounding these documents. He raised troubling questions on the use of drones killing Americans overseas without oversight from anyone, not the Justice Department or Congress. Professor Yin also talked about how the War on Terrorism differs from traditional warfare, but that the Presidential power to use drones to kill overseas without transparency has very troubling parallels to the Japanese incarceration experience.

The panelists then expertly answered questions from the audience about an array of topics. Many of the questions came from members of the Portland JACL youth group, Unite People. The event was brought to a close by co-President of the Portland JACL chapter, Jean Yamamoto.

Floyd Mori, Linda Tamura and the entire panel did



Co-presidents Laura Suzuki (center) and Lennon Boutwell (r) of Unite People ask a question during the 2013 Day of Remembrance. Unite People is the youth group component sponsored by Portland JACL.

an impressive job of enlightening the audience on the powerful, tireless work that made Redress possible, as well as bringing to light current events that continue to plague civil rights in our country today. It reminds us all why civil rights organizations like JACL are still a crucial part of American society.

NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE



21st Annual Spring Bazaar

Sunday, March 17, 2013 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 2025 S.E. Yamhill

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PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL in the Community



Mochitsuki 2013 at the Scottish Rite Center, Portland, Oregon. Jean Yamamoto observes a future JACL member practice with chopsticks on January 27, 2013.

Photo © 2013 Chip Larouche



Photo © 2013 Setsy Larouche

Sahomi Tachibana dancers provided entertainment for the annual Oregon Hiroshima Club Shinnenkai at the Chinese Village Restaurant on Feb 3, 2013. Angela and Akemi Kanegai, Sahomi Tachibana, Joy Yuzuriha and Kellie Takahashi.

Photo © 2013 Setsy Larouche



Henry Sakamoto and Homer Yasui were honored on Feb 13, 2013 at the Oregon Historical Society as "The Roosevelt Freedom Fighters". 90 Roosevelt freshmen interviewed 16 community Freedom Fighters who have taken a stand for social justice.

PORTLANDJACL

NEWSLETTER

Time and Memories March On

By Sharon Takahashi, Japanese Ancestral Society

Though I rarely read the sports section, I couldn't help but see the word "Sensei" on the front page of the February 16, 2013 section and proceeded to read John Canzano's article on Jim Onchi. If you haven't had a chance to read the tribute, please go online to the Oregonian page. It will make you smile as Canzano has captured Jim's spirit. Our condolences to all of Jim's family for their loss, and our deepest gratitude for sharing him with all of us for many years.

Because my mother's "baby sister" died in January, family plots, memorial anniversaries and how families face challenges have been topics of many conversations. Yes, life goes on and change is inevitable, but honoring our forebears is important. JAS has standing committees and one is the Cemetery Committee, chaired by Ken Ono. Their goal is to keep us apprised of the maintenance needs and issues, problems, improvements facing the Japanese section of Rose City Cemetery. In recent years, their reports have dealt with the vacation of a street which would give us more space to grow, and it was not an easy process. We were aided in the process by Terry Yamada, an attorney who has been a vigilant friend to our organization.

The JAS board has 30 members and theoretically,

individuals learn the workings of the organization and volunteer to serve on committees which pique their interest. Board member Fran Palk's curiosity led her to Ken. Past Consul General Takamichi Okabe and his wife Kozue were also intrigued by the cemetery. Fran's interest was in the older stones on the periphery which were disappearing and breaking and she proceeded to research the "how to's" to repair and bring their beauty back. Building their case, they were able to get the rest of the board to see the needs and fund the repair. Their project is well underway. Ken is into authenticity and he researched the signage that used to be there. After finding the piece, he was approached by someone who wanted to complete the refurbishing of the sign and make the repairs necessary so it could be reinstated to its original state- as his/her contribution with the caveat that he remain anonymous. Thank you, generous friend..

Past Consul General Takamichi Okabe and his wife Kozue were also literary scholars and did an inventory/transcription of the older stones so these stories could be recorded. This information has been added to the plat map done by Robert Sunamoto in 1998. A similar labor of love was undertaken by John Kagawa for Lone Fir Cemetery on Stark & Washing-

(continued on next page)

Clark Center Meals on Wheels March 2013 Menu

2740 SE Powell Blvd., Portland OR

Friday 1 - Baked fish w/ ginger sauce or chicken fajita

Monday 4 - Asian BBQ pork or tuna stuffed tomato

Tuesday 5 - Chicken breast or quiche lorraine

Wednesday 6 - Steamed fish w/ spicy sauce or baked chicken

Thursday 7 - Taco salad or open face seafood sandwich

Friday 8 - Meatloaf w/ gravy or broccoli quiche

Monday 11 - Swedish meatballs or turkey sandwich

Tuesday 12 - Roasted parmesan chicken breast or tortellini w/ creamy tomato sauce

Wednesday 13 - Baked mandarin chicken w/ rice or breaded fish sandwich

Thursday 14 - Baked fish w/ tartar sauce or open face turkey sandwich

Friday 15 - Beef brisket or veggie lasagna

Monday 18 - Turkey pot pie or grilled cheese sandwich

Tuesday 19 - Roast pork w/ BBQ sauce or veggie pizza

Wednesday 20 - Steamed rice w/ spicy beef sauce or tomato basil veggie burger

Thursday 21 - Dijon crusted salmon or chicken salad sandwich

Friday 22 - Teriyaki chicken breast or veggie lasagna

Monday 25 - Spaghetti & meatballs or chicken breast sandwich

Tuesday 26 - Savory baked chicken or roast pork w/ gravy

Wednesday 27 - Baked fish or chef salad

Thursday 28 - French dip or salmon cakes

Friday 29 - Beef burgundy w/ rotini noodles or tortellini salad

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Time and Memories March On Continued

ton.

It is exciting to see that people driven by special interests can make a difference. I hope many of you will see the work on display when we hold our Memorial Day Service at Rose City on May 27.

The JAS established a Cemetery Fund many years ago to ensure that this section would be maintained in perpetuity. Kay Endo has served as the treasurer for many years. Since the JAS is a not for profit corporation, donations are tax deductible. We'd like to acknowledge the donors for 2012, and convey our appreciation for their support.

Donors in alphabetical order:

Alan Akiyama, Sharon Yasui Carrell, Kay Endo, Tom

Fujii, George Hamada, Jessie Harry, Wako Henjyoji, Eisaku Hiromura, Sumi Ikata, Tex Irinaga, Dr. Shoun Ishikawa, Akira Iwasaki, Yoshie Kagawa, Ami Kinoshita, Cannon Kitayama, Lillie Kiyokawa, Shigeo Kuroye, Taro Miura, Taka Mizote, Larry Murahashi, Sumi Murakami, Sam Naito, Bill Nakamura, Richard Nishimoto, Gregg Nitta, Shig Oka, Harold Onishi, Ota Family Tofu, Ai Oyama, Fran Palk, Portland JACL, Fumi Saito, Yoshiro Shintani, Bill Sugahiro, Paul Sumida, Jean Tateishi, Yosh Teshima, Jim Tsugawa, Henry Ueno, Frank Uyeda, Marleen Wallingford, May Watari, Kiyoko Yumibe, Shig Yuzuriha,
Thank you, all.

Mochitsuki 2013 Picture Recap



Visitors practice writing Japanese calligraphy at Mochitsuki 2013, Scottish Rite Center, Portland, Oregon



Young girl takes a turn pounding mochi rice.



Members of Tanuki Taiko perform in the auditorium.

Ikoï no Kai at Epworth

1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland

Friday 1 - Garlic herb chicken w/ pasta

Monday 4 - 34th Anniversary Lunch

Tuesday 5 - Steamed meatballs

Wednesday 6 - Closed

Thursday 7 - Kara-age (marinated, fried chicken)

Friday 8 - Tilapia w/ cucumber dill sauce

Monday 11 - Crispy beef donburi

Tuesday 12 - Shio saba (mackerel)

Wednesday 13 - Closed

Thursday 14 - Curry & shrimp fry

Friday 15 - Black bean chicken

Monday 18 - Corned beef & cabbage

Tuesday 19 - Yakisoba

Wednesday 20 - Closed

Thursday 21 - Katsu-don

Friday 22 - Seafood cioppino

Monday 25 - Clam chowder / hoisin chicken

Tuesday 26 - Beef tofu & veggies

Wednesday 27 - Closed

Thursday 28 - Birthday Sushi

Friday 29 - Lemon plum sauce chicken

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A big thank you to Chris Onchi, as well, Chris has been printing our labels, making data entry changes, and assisting with the annual calendar for many years. Her business is Chris' Mailing Service: 503-452-6864.



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