On the night of March 28, 1942, Minoru “Min” Yasui, a 26 year old lawyer, walked the streets of downtown Portland to intentionally violate the military curfew imposed on Japanese American citizens, seeking to initiate a test case to challenge its constitutionality. Both the FBI and the U.S. Attorney’s office were notified of his intentions, and when a police officer refused to arrest him, he walked directly into the police station. These actions resulted in his arrest, indictment, conviction, and nine months in solitary confinement. He appealed, only to have the Supreme Court uphold his conviction. His case was reopened in the early 1980s under the procedure of Coram nobis. The District Court of Oregon vacated his conviction, but sadly Min passed away while the Supreme Court case that would have cleared his name was pending. Despite all of this, he held true to his unwavering faith in the justice system and belief in the principles of democracy.

His lifelong work spanned over five decades, from 1931 until his death in 1986. Other notable accomplishments include founding what is now the Colorado Latino American Leadership, Advocacy and Research Organization and the now Denver Indian Center. He chaired the Anti-Crime Council, the Board of Employ-Ex (a program for ex-offenders), Denver Opportunity (War on Poverty Program) and the Colorado State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

He lobbied against legislation to prohibit land ownership by Japanese immigrants, filed for hundreds of claims for losses incurred by the wartime evacuation, and helped influence the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, enabling U.S. citizenship of Japanese nationals previously prohibited from becoming naturalized. As a founding member of the JACL National Committee for Redress, he helped build the momentum that ultimately led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

He was one of the true pioneers in the fight for civil rights, recognizing the common struggle of under-represented and marginalized people, working across ethnic, racial, class and other elements of diversity including age and people with disabilities. For his tireless lifetime efforts and as a champion defending and promoting civil and human rights, Min has been...
nominated for a 2015 Medal of Freedom. Created in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor in the United States, presented to “individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interest of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.”

Board members of the Portland JACL along with Oregon Nikkei Endowment are proud to serve on the Min Yasui Tribute Committee chaired by Peggy Nagae. The committee, comprised of lawyers, advocates and community leaders, worked to gather materials and obtain letters of endorsements from national civil rights organizations, members of Congress and key elected officials for the nomination. The nomination was submitted to the White House and we anxiously await the announcement of the awards.

Min is indeed a true American hero—a most worthy and ideal candidate to posthumously receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It would be wonderful to see him recognized for his lasting contributions and significant public endeavors. But the most fitting tribute to Min is to continue his life’s work to promote and defend civil and human rights for all Americans. The issues of civil liberties and national security that he raised are just as relevant today as in 1942. His effort to promote empowerment and respect for diversity and a multicultural society are just as critical now as ever.

Min wrote in his memoirs, “If we believe in America, if we believe in equal democracy, if we believe in law and justice—then, each of us, when we see or believe such errors are being made, have an obligation to make every effort to correct such mistakes(s).”

Let us be inspired by Min and the words inscribed on his gravestone “justice for all”. From downtown Portland to Selma, we can all continue his walk on behalf of civil rights and equality.

Min wrote in his memoirs, “If we believe in America, if we believe in equal democracy, if we believe in law and justice—then, each of us, when we see or believe such errors are being made, have an obligation to make every effort to correct such mistakes(s)…”

Let us be inspired by Min and the words inscribed on his gravestone “justice for all”. From downtown Portland to Selma, we can all continue his walk on behalf of civil rights and equality.

Picture of Minoru Yasui courtesy of Yasui Family

Portland JACL would like to thank Curtis Suyematsu for the great photo coverage of the Day of Remembrance and Nisei Appreciation Lunch.

Photographs taken by Reflections Photography at the Day of Remembrance and Nisei Appreciation Luncheon are available for viewing and purchase at the following link.

http://tinyurl.com/mcr3qws

Password to the photo gallery is: JACL DOR 2015

If you have any questions or need help with the photographs please contact Curtis Suyematsu at email: Reflectionsphoto1@gmail.com or phone number 360 921 5448.
Day of Remembrance and Nisei Appreciation Luncheon

Our Centenarian Guests of Honor, Bill Otani, Lury Sato, Alice Sumida & Lilly Ono

Homer Yasui thanking the committee for doing such a great job

Although a few got away, here is our group picture of the Nisei that attended!
LtoR, Jean Matsumoto, Lily Meiners, Alice Ando, Martha & Yoji Matsushima, Carrie Saito & Al Abe

Here are the Wallingfords with Sumi Ikeda, Meredith Loy, and the Sakamoto family

LtoR, Shig Oka, Hatsumi Park, Yoshio Oda, May Oka, Richard Nishimoto, Janice Okamoto and Jean Tateishi
LtoR Jean & Ralph Yamamoto, George Tsugawa, Susan & Chris Leedham, Lynnell Murray, Connie Masuoka, Frank Hrubant, and Sahomi Tachibana

LtoR Patty Locke, Nobuko Masuoka, Katie & Ken Kawazoe & Mitzi Asai Loftus

Linda Tamura (center) poses with her family including Chris, Alissa, Judi, Karie Jean & Lindsey
LtoR, Ryan & Mike Irinaga, Jim Tsugawa, Reverend Anna Cho, Fude Kagawa, Lily Irinaga, Megan Irinaga & Amy Tsugawa

LtoR, Taka Mizote, Ron Iwasaki, Rose Sorensen, Linda Iwasaki, Marilyn Sholian, Aya & Ed Fujii and Becky Fujii

LtoR, Barbara Uyesugi, Michelle Sugahiro, Brian Wong, Mae Hirata, and Ida & Bill Sugahiro
Here are Homer & Miki Yasui pictured here with a large contingent of the family.

Bill & Nami Koida are pictured here with their family.

June and John Schumann with Richard Koyama & Terry Arima.

The Nakata Family is pictured here including George, Keiko, Deena, Attila, Darren, Casey and Karla.
Gordon Kondo and Frances Palk practice taking selfies as Alice Sumida looks on.

Shig Oka, Bill Koida and Lew Tomita listen to Chip Larouche telling war stories.

Gordon Kondo and Frances Palk practice taking selfies as Alice Sumida looks on.


LtoR, Gordon Kondo, Terry Nishikawa, Kimiko Iwamoto, Kay Endo, Katie Tamiyasu & Ron Iwasaki.
2015
Salmon & Sushi Fest
Sunday, April 26th, 2015
11:00 am to 7:00 pm
$15.00

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave
Portland, OR
www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Salmon & Sushi Fest
(preorder form)

Sunday, April 26th, 11 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
meal includes: salmon, marfar chicken, vegetable, salad & rice
also available for purchase: SUSHI (maki sushi, inari sushi, & CA rolls),
dessert, wine & beer

Salmon Dinners _____ X $15 = $ _______

Sushi Assortment _____ X $7.50 = $ _______

TOTAL $ amount enclosed = $ __________

name: ____________________________________________
phone #: __________________________________________
email (optional): ____________________________________

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 S.E. 34th Ave. Portland, OR 97202
submit orders by April 17th:
www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com
Unite People’s Annual
Chili and Curry Feed!

Come join us!
Saturday, May 16th at 5pm
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue.

$8 per person or
$25 for families
6 and under are free!

~ Great Food
~ Raffle Prizes
~ Silent Auction
~ Dessert Auction

Can’t make it? Order Take Out!
Call Connie at 503-318-5839

This event is a fundraiser to help members of Unite People attend the Minidoka Pilgrimage in Idaho 2015.

Chip Larouche poses with Dave Fidanque who was honored for over 30 years as the Executive Director of the Oregon ACLU at the Liberty Dinner. Photo by Setsy Larouche

Portland JACL sponsors a table at the 2015 ACLU Liberty Dinner at the Oregon Convention Center. Pictured Left to Right are Susan Leedham, Connie Masuoka, John Schumann, Peggy Nagae, Chip Larouche, June Schumann, Setsy Larouche and Chris Leedham.

At the JASO Hanami event at the Japanese Garden on March 15th, here is Chiko Kobayashi dressing one of the young ladies attending the event in a yukata. Photo by Setsy Larouche

Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa and Setsy Larouche attend this year’s JASO Hanami event at the Japanese Garden. Photo by Chip Larouche
Stories From Tohoku

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015
5:30 P.M. – Light refreshments
6:00 P.M. – Start of program

Mercy Corps Aceh Room
45 SW Ankeny St.
Portland, OR 97204

Stories From Tohoku examines survivors’ strength, resilience, grace and acceptance, and the enduring bonds between the people of Japan and Americans of Japanese ancestry. During Japan’s recovery and rebuilding following the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, the film is an inspiring tribute to the human spirit.

www.storiesfromtohoku.com

Following the film, a short discussion will be held with the filmmakers and local members who visited the Tohoku area.
To register, please visit: usjapancouncil.org/portland

This event is sponsored by USJC

YOUR PORTLAND JACL BOARD

President:
Kirk Tambara
kirk@pdxjacl.org

Vice President:
Marleen Ikeda Wallingford
marleen@pdxjacl.org

Secretary:
Jean Yamamoto
jean@pdxjacl.org

Treasurer:
Chip Larouche
chip@pdxjacl.org

Membership:
Setsy Larouche
setsy@pdxjacl.org

Newsletter:
Ralph Yamamoto
ralph@pdxjacl.org

Christopher Lee
chris@pdxjacl.org

Susan Leedham
susan@pdxjacl.org

Lynn Longfellow
lynn@pdxjacl.org

Connie Masuoka
connie@pdxjacl.org

Verne Naito
verne@pdxjacl.org

Heidi Tolentino
heidi@pdxjacl.org
Iko no Kai at Epworth April 2015 Menu
1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland, 503-238-0775

**Wednesday 1** - Closed
**Thursday 2** - Chicken teriyaki
**Friday 3** - Cod & Clam chowder / Cobb salad

**Monday 6** - Roast pork / Singapore noodles
**Tuesday 7** - Chicken & spring veggies
**Wednesday 8** - Closed
**Thursday 9** - Sake lee kasu-jiru

**Friday 10** - Korean beef & noodles
**Monday 13** - Thai peanut chicken / fried rice
**Tuesday 14** - Brunch seafood (tilapia)
**Wednesday 15** - Closed
**Thursday 16** - Chicken yakisoba
**Friday 17** - Kahlua pork plate

**Monday 20** - Crispy beef bibimbap
**Tuesday 21** - Beef curry
**Wednesday 22** - Closed
**Thursday 23** - Sweet & sour meatballs
**Friday 24** - Cashew chicken

**Monday 27** - Chicken & seafood paella
**Tuesday 28** - Birthday chirashi
**Wednesday 29** - Closed
**Thursday 30** - Tempura

**Menu Notes:**
- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:** hanafuda and bridge
- **Mon-Tue, 11:30:** chair exercises
- **Apr 2:** Bingo!!!
- **Apr 9, 11:** Hyakudokai
- **Apr 14, 10:30:** Fujinkai Board
- **Apr 20, 11:30:** Ohana Lunch Bunch

Your Portland JACL Newsletter comes to you thanks to DocuMart on SW Main in Portland, who prints it at a greatly reduced cost. Please consider them for your printing needs: (503) 228-6253.

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.