



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2016 • VOLUME 21, ISSUE 9

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**April 3**

Nichiren Spring Bazaar

**April 23**

Min Yasui Symposium, ONLC

**April 24**

Epworth Church Bazaar

**May 1**

Graduation Brunch  
MAC Club

**May 8**

Mother's Day

**May 14**

PNW District Meeting  
Seattle Keiro

**May 17**

Armed Forces Day

**May 30 (1:30)**

Memorial Day Service  
Rose City Cemetery

**June 23-26**

Minidoka Pilgrimage  
Twin Falls, Idaho

**July 11-14**

JACL Convention  
Monte Carlo, Las Vegas

## SPRING POTPOURRI *Board Member Message by Chip Larouche, Vice President, Planning & Development, JACL*

I hope everybody is ready for Spring. I know I am. About the time you read this, I'll be in San Francisco at a JACL National Board meeting, trying to iron out the organization's budget for 2017-2018.

Pretty soon, everyone will be getting a letter from National JACL, asking if you'd like to volunteer to get the digital version of the *Pacific Citizen* (P.C.) or whether you "want" or "need" to get the newsprint version. For each of the last two years, the newspaper has had deficits of over \$100,000. Clearly one of our challenges will be to try to stop this red ink. It's not going to be an easy job! If you read my article in the January edition of the *Pacific Citizen* and you really enjoy receiving the newspaper, you might want to consider sending a tax deductible contribution to what the P.C. calls their "spring campaign."

Back in 2000, when I started volunteering in JACL, the organization had over 20,000 members. In 2018, our membership is projected to be down to about 5,600. You don't have to be a math major to understand that even with a great effort in getting grant money and sponsorships for events like the convention, having only about 30% of the dues revenue that we used to count on will result in a smaller organization. For instance, the Pacific Northwest District Office in Seattle has been vacant

for a couple of years now, and in this new budget, it will officially be closed. There will likely be some personnel slots that are eliminated, too. Some of these have been handled by attrition; others will result in letting some very talented people go.



Enough tough new; how about the brighter future! On May 1st, we will have a graduation banquet for hopefully a large number of graduating Japanese American high school seniors. This year, we will again be having it at the MAC Club, but because the Portland Timbers soccer team will be having a home game that starts at 12:30 p.m., we're going to do something a little different (so that the Nikkeis can get to the parking spaces first!) We're going to have a brunch that starts at 10:00 a.m. Cost is \$35, and it will be a nice way to honor a great group of high school seniors who will soon be heading off to college to

*continued on next page*

## EVENTS *continued from Page 1*

establish themselves on a great career path.

Please consider coming to this event. Setsy can get you tickets. You can leave a message for her at the Portland JACL phone number: 877-843-6914.



Community supporter Alice Sumida, representing Portland Hyakudo Kai, makes an offering of respect at the Nikkei Memorial Day Service last year at Rose City Cemetery.

*Photo: Rich Iwasaki*

We'll also be honoring the veterans on Memorial Day at Rose City Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. on May 30th. The ceremony is short but touching, and some of the group then goes down to the Lone Fir Cemetery near Stark street to hold another short ceremony near a monument that honors some of the early Nikkei pioneers, many of whom worked on the railroads and other early projects in the 1900's prior to World War I.

If you think you'd like to attend a National JACL Convention, again this year it's in Las Vegas. It will be held in the Monte Carlo Hotel, from July 11 to 14, and all the details can be found on the JACL website at <https://jacl.org/events/national-convention/>

Lastly, whatever you do, don't miss the annual Nikkei Community Picnic. More details will be coming out soon, but it's always the third Sunday of August, this year on the 21st. Connie and the committee always do a great job, making it fun for young and old.

Look forward to seeing you soon!

# NIKKEI COMMUNITY PICNIC

A large black and white photograph of a community picnic. A long banner with the text "NIKKEI COMMUNITY PICNIC" is stretched across the scene. People are gathered around tables, some sitting and some standing. In the foreground, a woman in a white jacket is talking to another woman. The background shows a large crowd of people under a tent structure.

**AUGUST  
21**

**Photo: Rich Iwasaki**

## SPRING IN ACTION

*by Sharon Takahashi, Japanese Ancestral Society President*

I hope 2016 has brought a new vitality to all of you, as our winter was such a mild one, compared to that which the rest of our continental U.S. faced. The camellias, crocuses, daffodils and helleborus are all blooming in my neighborhood.

Flowers and thankfulness seem to go hand in hand in our community. When Koida Greenhouse poinsettias are delivered to our mobility impaired elders at holiday time, their beauty lasts long after the short visit. Similarly, the Iwasaki primroses and pansies gracing our cemetery at Memorial Day perk up the families who come to pay their respects. These bits of brightness go a long way.

At our general meeting on February 15, 2016 at Saylers Country Kitchen Restaurant in Portland, we bid a fond farewell to Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa, who had completed his posting of three years in Portland.

We also heard from the Cemetery Committee Endowment Treasurer Kay Endo who submitted his financial report. We received a grant from the State of Oregon for restoration and repair of our aging markers at Rose City for \$5,171. This was a feat accomplished with the guidance of the cemetery project co-chairs Fran Palk and Ken Ono and assistance from the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. The committee managed to stretch their funds to do a great deal of work at our section of the cemetery at Rose City.

Too often we forget to acknowledge acts of kindness from friends—because they are good friends. I would like to steal some of Kay Endo's thunder and thank the following for their donations to the Cemetery Fund for 2015: Eisaku and Alice Hiromura, Dr.

Jim and Amy Tsugawa, Taka Mizote, Kay Endo, Yoichi "Cannon" Kitayama, Richard Nishimoto, The Okamoto Family Trust, Yoneko Tsurusaki, Jessie Harry, Mary Fumi Saito, Joyce Gee, Shigeo Kuroye, Beti Ann Wantroba, Leslie Hara Shick, Jean Tateishi, Kenji Yamasaki, Sumiko Ikata, Ota Family Tofu, Sally Hinatsu, Alaska Tanker Co. LLC, Dr. Joe Onchi, Lynne D. Davis, Henry and Atami Ueno, Kashu Hamada, Paul Sumida, Midori Imai Oller, Kimberlee Bratcher, and Todd Bratcher.

Donations to the Cemetery Fund for 2015 were \$9,777.50. The most heartwarming aside to that large number is the fact that \$5,000 was donated by a niece and nephew in tribute to their aunt and uncle who moved on to Washington.

We really appreciate the elbow grease that so many of you have supplied to keep our cemetery section clean and safe for all our visitors. We will put all energies to work—young and old. Please feel free to ask to be put on the email or call list for work parties. When we have many hands, the jobs don't seem as monumental.

There will be work parties as we prepare for our annual Memorial Day Services at Rose City Cemetery to honor our community heroes (veterans) and give a nod of appreciation to those who toil to keep their resting place pristine. Cemetery clean ups are scheduled for April 16, May 21, and May 28, from 9:00 until Noon.

I really want to thank Gordon Kondo for serving as JAS president for the last 3 years and setting some great goals. With all of your help out there, I hope to keep moving forward on those.

## BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

**Marleen Ikeda Wallingford**  
marleen@pdxjacl.org

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### NEWSLETTER (non-Board)

#### Jeff Selby

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*"We are born into this world for a purpose  
and that is to make it a better place"*

*Minoru Yasui*



*Please join us for a symposium  
to honor the life and legacy of  
Minoru Yasui*



*Inspiring  
Action and  
Igniting  
Justice*

**Saturday, April 23, 2016  
World Trade Center, Portland  
121 SW Salmon Street, Portland, OR  
9 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

***Minoru Yasui's life proves that one person can make a difference.***

The purpose of this symposium is to inspire action and ignite justice.

Opportunities and implications will be explored and shared  
with the intention that attendees see what they can do  
to make our world a better place.



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

more information: (503) 224-1458  
info@oregonnikkei.org  
online registration:  
www.oregonnikkei.org

\$30 Students/Seniors (62+)

\$35 Educators

\$40 General

Scholarships for students available

*(prices include breakout sessions, lunch, keynote speech and film screening)*

**MINORU  
YASUI**   
Tribute Project

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

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

## FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS *by Verne Naito*

Last November, my wife and I attended a tour of the Tohoku region organized by the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) in the US Japan Council (USJC). USJC is an organization whose mission is to maintain and improve relations between Japan and the US. It is unique from organizations with similar missions in that all US members are Japanese-Americans. You can learn more on USJC's website. The ELP focuses on younger Nikkei.

On the tour, I had opportunities to hear from ELP members. This is a generation born of my generation, the Sansei. While my generation is much removed from our ancestral roots compared to our parents, the Yonsei – and this is a gross generalization – are even further removed. The Yonsei on the tour, however, expressed a strong desire to reconnect with their heritage and this motivated them to join the USJC. The ELP members are also an impressive group professionally. A committee of three organized a very well run two-day tour.

I visited Fukushima in 2013 and the welfare of the people in the areas affected by the triple disaster has been on my mind ever since. I learned of a fourth disaster in 2013 and the film, *Stories from Tohoku*, reinforced that: the disaster survivors fear they have been forgotten by the rest of the world and their countrymen.

I told my wife of this fourth disaster that in many ways to the residents is more painful than the natural disasters and nuclear meltdown. She decided she needed to go to the region. We want to hear your stories and we want to

encourage you. Ganbatte! The stories we heard were remarkable. Our tour visited NPOs and NGOs engaged in restoring the region. One young woman came to help immediately after the disaster from the Tokyo region and decided to permanently relocate to Ishinomaki. She started a small restaurant and her main goal is to employ people from the area, not make money. Another remarkable young man discovered that most of the physical therapists left the region so he relocated his family and his practice to Ishinomaki. As he put it, the residents pay the same taxes as people in Tokyo and should have the same access to medical services (healthcare is socialized in Japan).

At the end of our first day, we were joined by one of the staff of the area's only hotel. He was born and raised in the area and relayed stories of horror and acts of true heroism the day of March 11 and immediately following. This young man expressed sincere commitment to the rebuilding of the region. He takes many visitors on tours of the area, educating them on the disaster and the rebuilding efforts. My wife was taken on a tour by one of Minamisanriku's many volunteers who escort and educate visitors.

The rebuilding is moving slowly. This month marks the fifth anniversary of the triple disaster. But, there is so much more to do. The residents' lives are far from normal. We went to what you would mistake as a mobile home park in Minamisanriku. It is the main shopping area. There you will find 3 grocers, a barber, a baker, and an appliance store. And while we did not tour any of the temporary

housing, it is still very visible. The tiny trailer-like buildings are everywhere. The DVD about Tohoku showed vivid images of the conditions. It is cramped. It is not good. There are still 19,000 people in temporary housing in Ishinomaki. This is a decrease of 6,000 since April, 2015. 32,000 were in temporary housing at the peak.

Much work has been done. As unbelievable as this may sound, there is a construction project to raise the elevation of Minamisanriku 60 feet. There are massive mounds of earth reinforced with concrete forms everywhere. There is a constant parade of dump trucks and you hear construction equipment from anywhere.

Evidence of the natural disasters is less obvious. The hotel in which we stayed had Tsunami water up the second level, but I did not see any signs of it. There are few remnants of the devastated structures left standing. There is a debate among the residents whether to keep some as monuments and memorials or to remove all traces of the triple disaster. We visited a public service building where two city employees manned a public address (PA) system broadcasting warnings until they both drowned. The PA system is now used to report when all conditions are normal at regular intervals.

Some people returned to their homes after the initial broadcast warnings on March 11 to get pets or winter coats and perished. The two city employees who remained on the PA system until they died undoubtedly saved hundreds of people who otherwise

## US JAPAN COUNCIL TOUR *continued from Page 5*

would not have taken the warnings seriously. There was a long delay between the earthquake and when the water started rising. This region experienced a tsunami after the Chilean earthquake. One fisherman told us that he immediately realized the Tsunami was going to be big since he could see the ocean from where he was working. Those in town did not have that benefit.

We heard many first-hand accounts of how individual people were killed and of tragic avoidable deaths. Those stories really brought home how awful the disaster was. My wife's guide pulled some 200 corpses from

the water. He says he still sees their faces in his dreams. There have been and will be many events throughout this country on this fifth anniversary of the triple disaster to remember those who perished. Sadly, there is nothing that can be done for the dead.

My trip reinforced for me that it is the living that should be our concern. What I found to be the most memorable part of the tour was meeting the people who are in Tohoku. While many people have relocated to other parts of Japan (the official counts are inaccurate since many people have not bothered to update their voter registration, but it is well over

25% of the original population), of those who remain, many are there by choice. Some have relocated from other parts of Japan to help with the restoration. Others have decided to stay and do what they can to contribute to the rebuilding efforts. Some do what they can to help life seem normal for their neighbors.

To an outsider, the progress is slow and the task seemingly impossible, yet those we met are committed. The people of Tohoku are remarkable and should serve as an inspiration to us all. Please do not forget them.

## VOLUNTEER WITH THE NEW AMERICAN VOTERS PROJECT

*by Marleen Wallingford*

One of our very important rights is voting, but unfortunately, API communities have some of the lowest percentages of engagement with the political process among other marginalized populations.

The New American Voters Project is headed by Oregon Voice in partnership with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Each week, volunteers from APANO, Causa, and the Center for Intercultural Organization attend a Naturalization Ceremony.

Volunteers are trained and authorized to help these new citizens complete their voter registration cards, often using their language skills and cultural knowledge.

Please join me in celebrating and registering the newly naturalized citizens to vote!

Asian and/or Pacific Islander speakers desired, but not required.

For more information on how to get involved, please contact APANO Civic Engagement Associate, Yian Saechao at [yian@apano.org](mailto:yian@apano.org).



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT PRESENTS  
**CHERRY BLOSSOM  
BAZAAR**  
A Rummage Sale of Japanese Treasures

**Saturday & Sunday  
April 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
10 am – 4 pm  
140 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97209**

**Special  
Preview Night Benefit  
Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm - 8 pm**

Early Shoppers Admission with food and drink:  
Friends of Oregon Nikkei Endowment: \$25  
General: \$50

RSVP to [info@oregonnikkei.org](mailto:info@oregonnikkei.org)  
or 503-224-1458

Something for every age,  
taste and budget!  
Hunt for hidden treasure at this  
unique sale of Japanese  
collectibles, objects,  
and furniture.  
Items from 25 cents!



EPWORTH  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2016

**SPRING BAZAAR**

11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

LUNCH TAKE-OUT, BAKE SALE, CRAFT SALE, AND PLANT SALE

Please use the following order form and make checks payable to Epworth United Methodist Church.  
Please mail by April 17 to: *Epworth United Methodist Church*  
1333 SE 28th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214  
Phone #: (503)232-5253

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Chicken and Chowmein Bento	\$12.00	_____	\$_____
Inarizushi	\$6.00	_____	\$_____
		TOTAL AMOUNT	\$_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Food is take-out only.

You may pick up your tickets on the day of the bazaar at the Pre-Sale ticket area.

All proceeds benefit Epworth United Methodist Church.



**PORTLAND JACL**  
 PO BOX 86310  
 PORTLAND, OR 97286

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## IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH MARCH MENU

1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland, 503-238-0775

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Fri. 1</b> - Yaki-udon                | <b>Mon. 11</b> - Ginger scallion chicken/fried rice | <b>Mon. 18</b> - Shrimp pad thai        |
| <b>Mon. 4</b> - Cod fish & chips         | <b>Tue. 12</b> - Crispy beef bibimbap               | <b>Tue. 19</b> - Honey hoisin chicken   |
| <b>Tue. 5</b> - Lemon plum sauce chicken | <b>Thu. 14</b> - Ginger pork                        | <b>Thu. 21</b> - Deep fried tofu nimono |
| <b>Thu. 7</b> - Mabo Tofu                | <b>Fri. 15</b> - Nasu-Ankake-don                    | <b>Fri. 22</b> - Tonkatsu               |
| <b>Fri. 8</b> - Torihikiniku-Yubamakiage |   | <b>Mon. 25</b> - Beef & broccoli        |
|  |   | <b>Tue. 26</b> - Kahlua pork            |
|  |   | <b>Thu. 28</b> - Oden                   |
|  |   | <b>Fri. 29</b> - Birthday sushi         |

### Menu Notes:

- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- Closed Wednesdays
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:** hanafuda and bridge
- **Mon-Tue, 11:30:** chair exercises
- **April 12, 10:30:** Fujinkai Board Meeting
- **April 14, 10:00:** Ping pong
- **April 18, 11:30:** Ohana Lunch Bunch
- **April 22** Kathryn Work on piano

**DocuMart**  
 Copies & Printing

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.