The 69th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet was held at the Multnomah Athletic Club on May 1, 2016. The program was opened by Emcee, Jeff Selby, and the invocation was given by Reverend David Komeiji of the Buddhist Henjyogi Temple.

The graduates were also congratulated by the new Consul General of Japan, Kojiro Uchiyama, who encouraged the students to continue to be part of the positive relationship between Japan and the United States.

This year’s keynote speaker, Ariko Iso, is the Head Football Trainer for the Oregon State football team. She joined the OSU staff in 2011 after spending nine years on the staff of the six-time Super Bowl-winning Pittsburgh Steelers. She is the first female athletic trainer in the NFL and at OSU and has distinguished herself as both a superb trainer and an inspiration to young women hoping to break into male dominated professions.

In her presentation, Ms. Iso spoke directly to the graduates. She told them that as a high school student in Japan, she aspired to be an athletic trainer, but there was no sports medicine in Japan at that time. So, with the support and encouragement of her parents, she left Japan after high school and moved to Oregon to attend Oregon State University.

Ms. Iso outlined the opportunities that she earned through her hard work and dedication that eventually led to working for multiple universities and the NFL.

She challenged the graduates to find what they love and to pursue it. To travel, learn about other cultures, learn new languages and have new experiences. She then spoke to the parents of the graduates and encouraged them to allow their children to go where they want to go, as her parents had, in pursuit of their dreams.

continued on next page
The first award was the Shokookai of Portland Scholarship. This year’s scholarship winner was Robert Naemura from Cleveland High School. Robert has a 4.0 G.P.A, is an IB student and has been a captain of Cleveland’s Basketball team for four years. He will be majoring in Biology in college.

The Japanese Ancestral Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving the Nikkei community and to promote education and fellowship among the members of the Nikkei community. JAS awards five scholarships. This year’s Satsuki Azumano Scholarship recipient was Saki Nakai from West Linn High School. Saki is a member of two honor societies, has lettered in Track and Field and Cross Country and was named AllState, 1st Violin in the Orchestra. She will majoring in Mathematics in college.

This year’s winner of the Hide Naito scholarship was Youta Kashiwa of South Ridge High School. Youta has distinguished himself as an AP Scholar and an AllState Honor Band member. Youta hopes to pursue both Engineering and Music in college.

The Mary K. Naito Scholarship debuted this year and the winner was Ikumi Yano of South Ridge High School. Ikumi is a member of the National Honor Society, the Key Club and the Captain of the Southridge Varsity Volleyball team. Ikumi hopes to pursue a career in International Business.

The Alice Sumida Scholarship also debuted this year and is sponsored by Alice Sumida, who is 101 years old this year. The winner of the Alice Sumida Scholarship was Alyssa Ono of Camas High School. Alyssa is a National Merit Commended Scholar, a member of the Key Club, and the President of Unite People, the JACL’s youth group. Alyssa hopes to pursue her interest in Psychology in college.

The winner of the Tsuyu Minamoto Scholarship was Jessica Nagae of Central Catholic High School. Jessica is an accomplished soccer and softball player and she volunteers with Iko No Kai, a multigenerational community project that serves weekly senior lunches. Jessica hopes to study Kinesiology in college.

Portland JACL manages four scholarships.

The winner of this year’s Kiyoko Yumibe scholarship was Joy Yuzuriha from Mountain View High School. Joy is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a leader in Girl Scouts, an award winning musician and a star pupil with Sahomi Tachibana’s School of Dance. Joy will be majoring in Computer Science in college.

The Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship was created in her memory. This year’s winner of the Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship was Kinai Kiyokawa of Hockinson High School. Kinai is in the school’s honors program and Key Club, is the team captain of his basketball team and also plays saxophone in the Wind Ensemble, Pit Orchestra and Symphonic Band. He will be pursuing a Pharmaceutical degree in college.

The Buddhist Henjyoji Temple Art Award was created to provide financial aid to a deserving high school senior currently studying a Japanese art. This year’s Art Award winner was Joy Yuzuriha from Mountain View High School.
GRADUATION  continued from Page 2

The final component of the banquet was a speech eloquently given by Robert Naemura of Cleveland High School. Robert thanked all of the attendees and noted that this was not only a celebration of the graduates’ achievements, but of the support of everyone in the room.

Robert recognized that the accomplishments of the students was a team effort. He thanked his grandparents for teaching him to do his best, to persevere, and to be generous to others. He thanked the organizations involved for their generous scholarships and support of Nikkei students in the community.


Master of Ceremonies Jeff Selby (r) welcomes attendees to the 69th annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet. Seated at the head table are (l to r), Rev. David Komeiji, keynote speaker Aiko Iso, Consul General of Japan Kojiro Uchiyama, and Karen Uchiyama. Photo ©2016 Rich Iwasaki

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
Marleen Ikeda Wallingford
marleen@pdxjacl.org

VICE-PRESIDENT
Susan Leedham
susan@pdxjacl.org

SECRETARY
Jean Yamamoto
jean@pdxjacl.org

TREASURER
Chip Larouche
chip@pdxjacl.org

MEMBERSHIP
Setsy Sadamoto Larouche
setsy@pdxjacl.org

Rich Iwasaki
rich@pdxjacl.org

Christopher Lee
chris@pdxjacl.org

Lynn Longfellow
lynn@pdxjacl.org

Connie Masuoka
connie@pdxjacl.org

Verne Naito
verne@pdxjacl.org

Kirk Tambara
kirk@pdxjacl.org

Heidi Tolentino
heidi@pdxjacl.org

NEWSLETTER (non-Board)
Jeff Selby
jeff@pdxjacl.org
KAKEHASHI PROGRAM by Setsy Sadamoto Larouche

Many Portland JACL youth have already participated in this wonderful program which provides Japanese American and Asian American college students (18 to 25 years old) an almost free nine-day trip to Japan. Students have to fund their own way to the hub departure cities. In the past, some of the departure cities have included San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Washington, D.C.

The next Kakehashi trip is planned for September 5-13, 2016. Please check the JACL website (www.jacl.org) for the latest information. We anticipate that the new application will be posted very soon. I had the privilege of being one of the chaperones on the January 2016 trip. Our group traveled to two cities—Tokyo and Fukuoka. The second group went north to the Tohoku area. There were two-day home stays which were a highlight for the participants.

Students need not be JACL members to apply but we hope they become members in the future. So if you are eligible or if you know someone who may qualify, please let them know about this fantastic opportunity to visit their ancestral homeland. We are grateful to the Japanese Government for providing this wonderful opportunity for our youth.

CELEBRATING JUSTICE LYNN NAKAMOTO by Marleen Wallingford

Portland JACL held a reception recently for Justice Lynn R. Nakamoto who was appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court as an associate Justice on January 25.

Justice Nakamoto was appointed to the court of appeals in 2011 by Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski before being recently appointed by Governor Kate Brown as the first Japanese American to serve on Oregon’s highest court.

Lynn Nakamoto was a managing shareholder at Markowitz Herbold, a Portland law firm focusing on business litigation for more than 20 years, where she gained valuable experience in litigating appeals.

She was also the vice chair of the Oregon Board of Bar Examiners in 2001 and chair of the Oregon State Bar Affirmative Action Committee in 2006. From 1985 to 1987, she worked at Bronx Legal Services in New York City.

Justice Nakamoto was the Portland JACL President in 1996-1997 and the chapter is very proud to have one of its active members now sitting on the bench of Oregon’s Supreme Court.
OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN ORDER FORM TO CELEBRATE OBONFEST 2016

Please use one form for each new lantern. This order form is also available on the OBT website.

Our Calligraphers would like the lantern order forms by: Tuesday, August 2, 2016.

Re-hanging lantern order deadline: Friday August 5, 2016.

WHITE COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN ($25)
Deceased's Name (English) _______________________________________________________
Japanese Version (kanji/katakana) _________________________________________________
Date of Passing: ______________________
*****************************************************************************

RED COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN ($25)
Name (English) ________________________________________________________________
Japanese Version (kanji/katakana)_________________________________________________
*****************************************************************************

RE-HANG a previously purchased lantern to continue this joyful remembrance.

RE-HANGING Previously Purchased Lantern: $15 for the 1st order, $10 Each additional lantern

Name (English) ________________________________________________________________
Name (English) ________________________________________________________________
Name (English) ________________________________________________________________
Name (English) ________________________________________________________________

PURCHASER’S NAME _____________________________________________________________
Email: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Checks Payable to: Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202

Lanterns to be re-hung in 2017 can be stored at the temple OR purchased lanterns can be picked up Sunday following the ObonFest. Lanterns inactive for two years will be discarded.

Lanterns OBT Phone contact: 503-234-9456
AROUND THE COMMUNITY

On May 6, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) presented their Minoru Yasui Voices of Change Award to Peggy Nagae. Photo: Nikki Deleon

On May 9, Portland JACL began supporting voter registration of new citizens at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services building, where about 150 immigrants become new citizens every week at swearing-in ceremonies. APANO is the lead organization in this volunteer effort. Pictured are: Lee, Dean Price and Yian Saechao from APANO and Setsy Larouche from Portland JACL.

“Inspiring Action and Igniting Justice,” a symposium to honor Minoru Yasui, was held on April 23, 2016, at the World Trade Center in Portland. The symposium was opened by Peggy Nagae, lead attorney for Min Yasui’s Coram Nobis case with the attendees being treated to a speech by Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon). The symposium was organized by Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the Min Yasui Tribute Committee with Portland JACL acting as Sustaining Sponsor.


APANO and Vote Network hosted a roundtable with leading candidates for Mayor of Portland on April 20. The roundtable was a nonpartisan educational forum and an opportunity to strengthen relationships among communities. No endorsements were made. Invited candidates included Jules Bailey, Sarah Innarone and Ted Wheeler. Each candidate had the opportunity to answer questions about Old Town Chinatown, engaging the API community, Islamophobic political rhetoric, displacement and the Jade District. The forum was hosted by the Lee Family Association. Current Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler is pictured here with Anita Yap.

NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF PORTLAND

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER: 503-235-8292
Dear Golfers and Friends:

You are cordially invited to participate in the 16th Annual Jerry Inouye Memorial Golf Tournament to be held on Sunday, July 31, 2016 at Glendoveer Golf Course-East (14015 NE Glisan, 503.253.7507). While the JAS has hosted this event for over 25 years, the tournament was renamed in 2001 to honor and recognize Jerry for his many years of service in promoting this event. The shotgun start will begin at 7:30 a.m. with check-in at 6:45 a.m.

You must be a JAS member to participate. You can include your membership dues along with your entry fee.

A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the lowest net scorer among the men’s “A” and “B” flights and also to the “ladies” flight. Prizes will be awarded for KP’s on all par 3 holes, a longest drive hole, and low gross honors in each flight. In case of a tie, players score cards will be evaluated from the 18th hole backwards with the first low score winning. Everyone will ride a cart, and lunch will be served at Chinese Village following the tournament. If you have a golfing preference for your foursome, please let us know and list the names of each person of your group. If a foursome is requested, please make sure that a golfer(s) of a group is not duplicated in another foursome.

If you are not interested in golf but would like to donate to this annual event, please call Nancy Kajitsu at 503.665.4589. Due to course regulations, we must collect your entry fee by July 15, 2016 to reserve our tee times. No exceptions! Entry fee is $75, which includes golf, cart, and lunch.

Best Regards from your Golf Committee

Please return this information from and a check for $75 (consider renewing your membership, too!) made payable to Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland, no later than July 15, 2016

_____ I will play _____ I will stay for lunch _____ Single JAS membership ($25)
_____ I will not play _____ I will not stay for lunch _____ Family JAS membership ($40)
_____ I (We) will come for lunch only. ($15 per attendee)

_____ Please accept my tax deductible donation of $ ____________

Golfer’s Name___________________________________ (circle) Male Female
Golfer’s Phone # ___________________________________ USGA GHIN Number _______________________
USGA Handicap Index as of July 1, 2015 _________ or List last 5 golf scores (18 holes) _____________________
For golfers without established GHIN, maximum handicap allowed is 40 for women and 36 for men.
If playing with a group, please add names ___________________________________________________________

Mail form to: JAS, c/o Sharon Takahashi, 7610 SW Cherry Drive, Tigard, OR 97223-8043.
IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH MENU FOR JUNE
1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland, 503-238-0775

Mon. 6 - Cioppino fisherman stew
Tue. 7 - Pineapple chicken fried rice
Thu. 9 - Gyu-don beef
Fri. 10 - Sweet sour pork
Mon. 13 - Korean beef & noodles
Tue. 14 - Shrimp in lobster sauce
Thu. 16 - Beef, onion croquette
Fri. 17 - Fried tofu omelette (vegetarian)

Mon. 20 - Lemon plum sauce chicken
Tue. 21 - Miso pork tofu
Thu. 23 - Chicken-chiri rice
Fri. 24 - Nira nabe

Mon. 27 - Shumai & shrimp bun
Tue. 28 - Garlic herb chicken pasta
Thu. 30 - 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
• Thursdays, Ping Pong
• Jun 14, 10:30: Fujinkai Board Meeting
• Jun 20, 11:30: Ohana Lunch Bunch
• June 23, Sing-along with Reiko and Jerry

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.