



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

# PORLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2018 • VOLUME 90, ISSUE 11

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Now thru March, 2019**

*Righting a Wrong*

National Museum of American History

**November 1-4**

*Contested Histories: Art and Artifacts from the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection*  
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

**November 4**

Daylight Savings Time Ends

**November 6**

Election Day

**November 11**

Veterans Day

**November 15, 1 p.m.**

Dedication of the Sato Elementary School

775 NW Kaiser Road, Portland

**November 22**

Happy Thanksgiving!

**November 24, 2 p.m.**

For the Sake of the Children  
Oregon Buddhist Temple

**December 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Holiday Craft Fair  
Oregon Buddhist Temple

**December 8, 5 p.m.**

Nikkei Holiday Party  
Epworth United Methodist  
1333 SE 28th, Portland

**December 25**

Merry Christmas!

## KODOMO NO TAMENI, FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN

by Lynn Fuchigami Parks, Portland JACL Board Member

This was the mantra of the Issei (first generation Japanese in America) that established flourishing Japantowns, faced overt prejudice, suffered unjust incarceration and loss during WWII, and somehow managed to start over, resettle and re-establish their lives with dignity and grace. Always for the sake of the children, doing everything in their power to ensure the best possible future for their children.

That generation passed without many of them speaking about their experiences or sharing their stories. Now, we are facing the passing of another generation, the Nisei, with stories of their own that have not been shared. For both generations, putting the past injustices and suffering behind was done for the sake of the children. But these stories have the power to live in the conscience of our country and to help prevent history from repeating itself. They can also help heal generational trauma that resulted from the incarceration.

This year marked the 30th Anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act, legislation issuing a formal apology from the U.S. government and restitution to survivors of the WWII incarceration. It cited racial prejudice, war hysteria, and lack of political leadership as the cause and was an attempt to atone for what is considered one of

the darkest chapters in our country's history. It admitted that a grave error had been made and should never happen again.

76 years later, people still have little real knowledge about the forced removal and imprisonment of Japanese Americans in concentration camps, nor their struggles that followed postwar. This history remains invisible to many because it is the story of a marginalized ethnic minority. This is an American immigrant story that has more relevance today than ever before in today's fight against racism and promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As families gather for the holidays, share your stories, and/or join us for the program at Oregon Buddhist Temple over the Thanksgiving weekend on Saturday, November 24th at 2pm for "Kodomo No Tame Ni", Our Roots, Our Nikkei Story..... Retold. Come listen to stories you'll never find in the history books, knowledge that must be shared before it's lost, personal accounts too moving to forget.

We must not let this history be forgotten or erased. Rudyard Kipling said, "If history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten." This is not just for the sake of our children, it's for the sake of our future.

**"KODOMO NO TAMENI" ...FOR THE SAKE OF OUR CHILDREN**  
(The "Mantra" of our Issei Pioneers)  
**OUR ROOTS – OUR NIKKEI STORY...RETOLD**

Issei pioneers...Japantown...World War II...Minidoka...Resettlement – words and stories from our Nikkei history.

Come hear how Nihonmachi came to be, about being incarcerated behind barbed wires, the impact of Executive Order #9066, facing overt prejudice, and being stripped of human rights and freedom.

George Nakata grew up in Portland's Japantown prior to World War II, was imprisoned into an ex-livestock yard, then into a desolate remote camp called Minidoka. Listen to little-known facts of our Nikkei past, injustices suffered by many Nisei parents, Issei grandparents, by Nikkei relatives and friends.

Listen to the re-telling of first-hand stories of one Japanese American – reflecting back upon our Nikkei roots...our history. A chance to **Listen** and **Learn**. Most such experiences absent from American history books.

**Location:** Oregon Buddhist Temple, 3720 S.E. 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

\*\*\*\*\* **Date:** Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 PM

\*\*\*\*\* **Admission:** Free with light refreshments to follow...

\*\*\*\*\* **Sponsors:** Oregon Buddhist Temple, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, and Portland Chapter for the Japanese American Citizens League.

# CONTESTED HISTORIES

*Art and Artifacts from the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection*

Coming to Portland!



On display at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

November 1-4, 2018

121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland



**Thursday Only! Free Admission & Special Hours:** November 1st , 11am-7pm

Friday & Saturday Hours: 11am-3pm; Sunday Hours: Noon-3pm

Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 students/seniors, free for *Friends of O.N.E.*

**Workshops:** Thursday, November 1st at 5pm & Sunday, November 4th at noon

Allen Hendershott Eaton's historic 1952 book, *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps*, explored arts and crafts created by Japanese Americans while wrongfully incarcerated in the World War II American concentration camps. In the course of conducting research for the book, Eaton amassed a significant personal collection of artifacts.

After many years of lying forgotten in storage, the collection was put up for auction. An outcry arose from the Japanese American community, who rallied successfully to stop the insensitive sale of these important artifacts of Japanese American history. Ultimately, the collection was transferred to the Japanese American National Museum for safekeeping.

The *Contested Histories* display includes physical or digital representations of objects in the Eaton collection: photographs, sculptures, artwork, and other items handmade by Japanese Americans. In addition to providing an opportunity to see the collection that inspired such strong emotions and decisive actions, *Contested Histories* is intended to gather as much information about each object so that the efforts to preserve and catalog the collection can be as complete as possible. People are encouraged to share information they know or remember about the objects, including who or what is depicted in the many photos.



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT  
121 NW 2nd Ave Portland OR 97209

[www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org)  
[www.janm.org/exhibits/contested-histories](http://www.janm.org/exhibits/contested-histories)

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## A STORIED SUITCASE FINDS ITS WAY HOME

***Written by Penny Nakamura (reprinted from Bend Magazine with permission)***

In the hands of its rightful heir, an orphaned suitcase shines a light on a dark chapter in Oregon's history.

Eric Ballinger ran his hand along the battered brown leather suitcase, and paused when he came to the number "#16380" emblazoned on the smooth leather. He traced the numbers with his finger. "This was my great-grandfather Hidehiko Morioka's suitcase," explained Ballinger, as he recalled the emotional upheaval and toil that this small suitcase symbolizes for the family.



**Eric Ballinger holds his great-grandfather's suitcase.**  
*Photo by Alex Jordan*

"When Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942, it essentially rounded up Japanese families living here and sent them to internment camps, in the most remote parts of the United States," he said. "People, families were reduced to mere numbers."

How this symbolic suitcase was retrieved is almost miraculous, according to Ballinger, who is a fourth generation Oregonian of Japanese descent living in Bend with his wife and young daughter.

Historical writer and artist Jane Comerford found the suitcase by a dumpster on Killingsworth Street in Portland and felt it was more than just a battered piece of garbage. Seeing the inscription "H. Morioka #16380," she instinctively picked up the discarded old leather valise and drove it to Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, a museum interpreting Japanese American experiences in the 1940s, in downtown Portland.

One of the curators at the museum had recently met Ballinger at a "Day of Remembrance" discussion on Japanese internment at the Deschutes Public Library and recognized the Morioka family name. The curator, Todd Mayfield, was able to contact Ballinger and reunite the suitcase with the descendant of Hidehiko Morioka.

"The suitcase is a story of immigration, civil rights, racism, perseverance and great sadness," explained Ballinger, glancing at the suitcase and the journey it has taken to finally end up in his possession. "It is a reminder of the incredible sacrifice that my family went through to be here in this country. It survived as a reminder of the struggle for freedom."

The Morioka family had been farmers in the Hood River and The Dalles area. They sent their fruits and vegetables to market in Portland every weekend. Ballinger said the Morioka family assimilated into the American way of life, and to prove it, he shows a black and white photo where his grandmother is wearing bobby socks and oxford shoes, as the family picnics along the Columbia River Gorge with Mount Hood in the background.

"They looked like any other American kids," said Ballinger with a laugh.

"My grandmother even played basketball in high school." In the wake of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, paranoia and fear began to set in, and bigotry started to show. Japanese Americans were treated with skepticism and hostility by neighbors once considered friends. When Executive Order 9066 was issued, Japanese families had only six days to pack up what they could muster. They left empty homes, jobs and dreams.



Ballinger holds the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to his grandfather for his service in World War II.

Tule Lake, the largest internment camp in the country, on the California-Oregon border. He promptly volunteered for the United States Army and became a much sought after translator in the Military Intelligence Service.

Morioka was later given, posthumously, the Congressional Gold Medal for his service, which Ballinger and his mother proudly received in his honor in Washington D.C. in 2011.

"Even after the war, when they came back to Oregon, my great Uncle Shig said there was blatant racism in Hood River. There was a full-page ad in the newspaper that read, 'So Sorry, Japs not wanted in Hood River,'" said Ballinger. "In 1944, the American Legion in Hood River had removed sixteen names of Japanese American soldiers from its Wall of Honor despite their sacrifices for our country. It was a pretty hostile environment."

It's a pain that has spanned generations. Ballinger noted that his mother didn't learn of her family's internment until she was in high school.

"No one in the Japanese American community ever spoke of this topic. It was painful, embarrassing and dishonoring," said Ballinger.

Since the suitcase was saved, Ballinger felt compelled to tell his family's story in Oregon. It has been part of the 4th/5th grade storyline on Japanese American Internment at Bend's Kenwood Elementary School and was on display this past summer at the High Desert Museum's exhibit on World War II.

Recently, Ballinger told his story at Central Oregon Community College, and he hoped to continue to share this family history that is sometimes forgotten in American history.

"The suitcase is helping to tell a story that my grandparents had a hard time sharing. In fact, they didn't really tell us anything until they were in their eighties," said Ballinger. "The suitcase was packed with dreams, pride, uncertainty and hope. I think it's important to tell this history, where U.S. citizens were denied their freedoms and stripped of their civil rights—it's especially important now."

"My grandmother told me you could only take what you could carry, and I think the weight limit was seventy pounds," explained Ballinger. "So many people lost everything. They left behind houses, farms, equipment and furniture. Things they could sell were sold for the fraction of what they were worth."

Ballinger said his grandfather, Takeshi "Harry" Morioka, was a newlywed during the years of his family's internment at

## NIKKEI COMMUNITY WINTER HOLIDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 8, 2018, 5 p.m.  
Epworth United Methodist Church\*



Create a new holiday tradition and please join us for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Nikkei Community Winter Party where we will joyfully welcome the holiday season. This will be a semi-potluck

dinner where the main course (Roast Pork and Vegetarian Pasta Putanesca) will be provided.

Bring a side dish of your choice (optional) – we would rather have you and your family there! There will be activities for kids, bingo and raffle for the adults, and a visit from Santa. Start the holidays with food and fun.

\*Note the new location Epworth Methodist Church, 1333 SE 28<sup>th</sup>, Portland, OR 97213

For more information or to RSVP contact Connie at [cmasuoka@comcast.net](mailto:cmasuoka@comcast.net) or 503-318-5839.

# Thanksgiving – A Daily Commitment

by Sharon Takahashi, President, Japanese Ancestral Society

Being grateful should not be a one day focus, but should be a part of every day. In the past year, I have realized how many blessings have come my way and how I have taken them for granted. I have been working with the cooperation of 30 great volunteers who have shared the leadership job of the Japanese Ancestral Society with me. What a joy! I want to thank the entire board for being willing to give their time to help our organization.

Since we meet every other month, I have tried to summarize upcoming events, community news, and deadlines via email or fax. I'd like to share a "fleshier" version of the news with you. I announced the passing of several community folks last week and as I focused on each name, I was filled with gratitude that they had been a part of our community.

Golfer, pharmacist and Ikoi No Kai volunteer **Yoshio Inahara** passed away on Sept. 17, 2018. Many of us can picture Yosh as the volunteer blood pressure taker at Ikoi No Kai. He used to say he did it because wife Heidi was busy helping Marian Hara in the kitchen and he had to keep busy. They had such a wonderful way of keeping an eye on each other.

Next on the list is a "youngster"—**Galen Itami**, who passed on Sept. 21, 2018 at 69. Galen worked for United Grocers for 35 years and married Patty Kato, his high school sweetheart 45 years ago. This husband, father, grandfather will be sorely missed.

Golf supporter and great friend **George Kanegae** passed on October 3, due to emphysema. Many Jerry Inouye Tournament were greeted by donations from George and his wife Amy. I cannot tell you how many hours we have spent talking stories about families and how much they have helped me personally through family crises (yes, plural!). A private family service has been held.

**William Kenichi Matsuda (a.k.a. Bill)** passed away on October 5, 2018. Bill was inspired by George Bush, Sr., to skydive after turning 90 and he did so again as a birthday highlight. The dive went well but days later, Bill took a fall at his home and passed due to injuries sustained from that fall. In his last days, he said he had no regrets and appreciated each day, according to brother in law Yoji Matsushima, his brother in law.

Our tri-state treasure **Bill Otani, Sr.**, passed at the age of 106. Bill was a property owner in Hawaii and California and lived in Oregon in his later years. Valerie Otani and Bill, Jr. shared him with us for a long time. The "kids" monitored Bill's coming and goings and kept him involved. I remember offering him a ride from Ikoi No Kai to Valerie's home as he was trucking a suitcase and I was headed in Valerie's direction. He declined the ride, saying he would miss out on the "humanity" he would come in contact with on the Tri-Met bus. What a curious spirit he was.

**Mary Fumiko Saito** passed away on September 24, 2018. Her sons Rick and Ken have served on the JAS board and daughter in laws Cathy Yarne, Carol Saiget and Linda Saito serve on various local church boards. Most of you probably know that the Saito family brings dessert to Ikoi No Kai regularly for the patrons. A leaker told me of a family gathering at holiday time when they held a Texas Hold 'Em tournament and donated the proceeds to Ikoi No Kai. Their family service spirit is a gift to us all.

Kurtis Inouye shared the passing of **Masako Yada** with me earlier. While the date escaped me, I remembered Masako as the mom who invited a "starving" Willamette University freshman to her home in Brooks, Oregon 52 years ago for real rice and tsukemono. I will never forget the "food hug" that Laani Watanabe and I experienced that Friday night.

Death tends to sadden us for the short term, but as we remember how each lived their lives, we can't help feeling joyful for the memories and lessons they left with us. Our condolences go to all the families who are dealing with large voids. Please know others in the community share your sorrow.

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



**Left:** JACL National Board meeting was held in Washington, D.C. on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Members of the National Board took advantage of the nice setting at the offices of the Littler Law firm. Members of the board pictured are: **Front Row** I to r: Betsy Sato, Governor of the Midwest District, Marissa Kitsawa, VP Operations, Haruka Roudebush, VP Membership, Sarah Baker, VP Public Affairs, Carol Kawamoto, Governor Pacific Southwest District, Janet Komoto, Governor Intermountain District. **Back Row** I to r: Roberta Barton, Governor Central California District, James Kirihara, Secretary-Treasurer, Jeff Moy, National JACL President, Chip Larouche, Governor Pacific Northwest District, Kota Mizutani, National Youth/Student Council Chair, and our host, Brandon Mita, National Legal Counsel

Photo by David Inoue



**Left:** Wajdi Said kicks off the third annual Building Bridges of Understanding in Our Communities event with Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill and Chief Deputy District Attorneys Don Rees and Kristen Snowden and many other leaders from law enforcement, civil society organizations and students at the Muslim Educational Trust.

Photo by Chip Larouche

**Right:** Portland JACL President, Marleen Wallingford participates in the Building Bridges event where tables organized with community partners and law enforcement to discuss challenges facing the community.

Photo by Setsy Larouche





Left: Portland JACL life member Sho Dozono and Wajdi Said of the Muslim Educational Trust share a discussion table during the event. Below: Chip Larouche makes a point at his table group as the moderator documents the idea and other participants including the Police Chief and a Sergeant from the Lake Oswego police force and a City Councilor look on.

Photos by Setsy Larouche

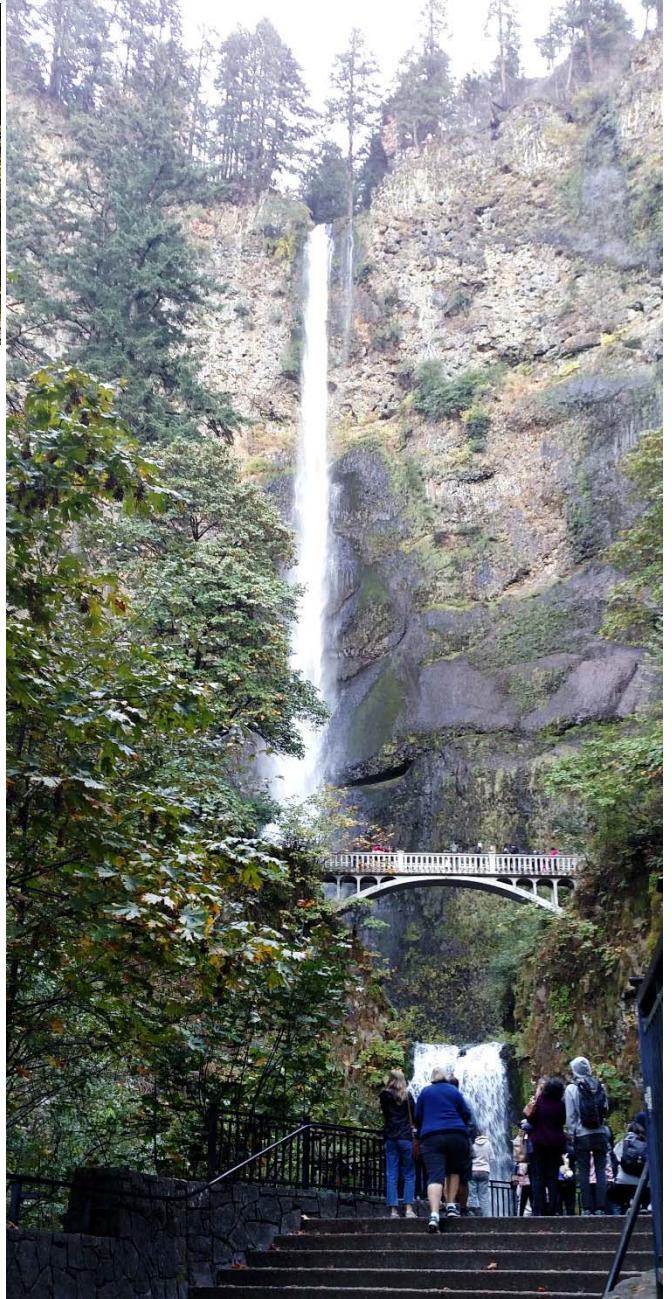


Right: June Shiigi and Janice Okamoto participate in a tea ceremony at Epworth United Methodist Church during the October Tomodachi Kai group meeting.

Below: Several members join the community to hear a presentation of NO NO BOY by Julian Saporiti and Erin Aoyama.

Photos by Setsy Larouche





Right: The Hyakudokai Club, the Nikkei Fujin Kai and the Oregon Hiroshima club got together a few weeks ago to take a bus trip to Hood River and enjoy the region's Harvest Festival which included stops at Multnomah Falls, a very nice lunch at the China Gorge Restaurant in Hood River and participation at the festival at Kiyokawa Orchards in Parkdale. The kids get to participate in piñata contests, hay rides, and the adults get to do a little U-Pick in the orchards and listen to the Mariachi Band. Some of the 44 members who attended, pictured here left to right are Ken Kawazoe, our host Randy Kiyokawa, Junko Hilts, Chip Larouche, Katie Kawazoe, Shoko Wilkenson and 99 year old Misao Minagi.

Photos by Setsy Larouche



**PORLAND JACL  
NEWSLETTER**

**Ikoi no Kai, November 2018**

1333 SE 28th, 503-238-0775

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			<b>1</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> <b>Hamburg Steak</b>	<b>2</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Gyoza</b>
<b>5</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Black bean chkn</b>  <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Miso pork tofu</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>X</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> <b>Ed's salmon**</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Oden</b>
<b>12</b> <i>Veteran's Day**</i> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Kathryn Work on piano:12 <b>Tonkatsu</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>13</b> Fujinkai Board: 10:30 Blood Pressure: 11:15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Chicken pot pie</b>	<b>14</b>  <b>X</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:00</i> <i>Sing Along: 11:30</i> <b>Okonomiyaki</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Saba</b>
<b>19</b> Ohana Lunch Bunch <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Roast pork ramen</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Beef chow fun</b>	<b>21</b>  <b>X</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Happy Thanksgiving!!</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>23</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i>  <b>CLOSED</b>
<b>26</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Lemon plum chicken</b>  <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>27</b> Sage Circle: 10:30 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Croquettes</b>  (KA)	<b>28</b>  <b>X</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:00</i> <b>Birthday sushi</b>	<b>30</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Teriyaki drumstick</b>

**Cooks:** Sharon Ogata M-Tu except Nov 27-Kyoko Adcock Rieko Shimada Th-Fri

**Nov 8:** Ed's salmon\*\*: Reservations Required: \$8

**Nov 12:** Veterans Day\*\*: Veterans free, Reg. price, Reservations

**Nov 12:** Kathryn Work on piano: noon

**Nov 15:** Sing Along with Jerry: 11:30

**Nov 19:** Ohana Lunch Bunch: Sansei gather for fun: 11:30

**Nov 22 & 23:** CLOSED for THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

**Nov 27:** Sage Circle: 10:30

**Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays:** Chair Exercises with Nobuko Kaji: 11:30

**Thursdays:** Qi Gong with Kathleen Kuba: 11:30, except Nov. 29

**Blood pressure with Jane Kawashima:** Nov 13, 11:15



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Aya Fujii (c) relates her experiences before and during World War II, at the opening of the exhibit AgriCulture: Shaping Land and Lives in the Tualatin Valley, Washington County Museum, Portland, Oregon. The exhibit opening featured personal narratives from community members, whose portraits and quotations were displayed on exhibit panels.

Photo by Rich Iwasaki

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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.