



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2018 • VOLUME 90, ISSUE 2

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Now thru December 31, 2018**

*Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II*

National Museum of American History  
Washington DC

**February 11, 2018, 4 p.m.**

JAS Annual Meeting  
**Dinner: 5 p.m.**

**February 17, 2018, 11:30 p.m.**

Portland JACL 90th Anniversary  
Blrthday Bash  
(Email Setsy for Late Reservation)

**Feb 26**

Redress Now for Japanese  
Latin Americans Lecture  
Lewis & Clark College  
Email youth@pdxjacl.org for details

**March 1, 2018**

Application Deadline for JACL  
& Community Scholarship

**March 9**

ACLU Liberty Dinner  
Convention Center

**March 11**

Daylight Savings Time Begins

**March 18, 11:30 am - 3:00 pm**

Nichiren Bazaar  
Nichiren Buddhist Temple

**March 28**

Min Yasui Day

**April 22**

OBT Spring Bazaar  
Oregon Buddhist Temple

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

*by Verne Naito, Portland JACL Board Member*

Portland is the city of roses and the city of ironies. On one hand, Portland is one of the most vibrant economic metro areas attracting 15 new families per day. On the other, air chocking traffic jams grow worse daily and are destroying productivity and costing millions. On one hand, signs marking districts and neighborhoods pop up on street signs everywhere. On the other, the distinctiveness of Portland's neighborhoods is being homogenized by the steady influx of middle class millennials gentrifying every block of land. On one hand, Portland is environmentally aware to the point of banning plastic grocery bags. On the other, plastic tarps left behind by the homeless blow in the wind along most streets. On one hand, Portland is one of the most diversity-sensitive cities in the US. On the other, it's the least ethnically diverse major city in the country.

And then there's this. Why can't the diversity-sensitive populace pronounce an Asian name correctly? The classic Dale Carnegie book on human persuasion talks at length of the importance of saying a person's name to them in the course of a sales pitch. And saying the name correctly. We all know how important a person's name is to them. The crafty sales person latches onto your name like a dog on a postal carrier's leg and repeats it half a dozen time in 5 minutes.

We have some oddly pronounced street names here. These are streets that date back to just after the founding

of the city. Glisan Street's spelling is close to its phonetic spelling. Couch Street is confusing. The streets are proper family names. Couch was an early Portlander. Dr. Glisan was an early settler and coincidentally married a Couch. Despite how the names are spelled, we get the pronunciation correct. The street names make it easy to spot the tourists. They can't pronounce the names correctly. A big part of our local economy is tourism. We're a favorite destination for out-of-state citizens and foreigners alike. A big source of foreign tourists is Asia, especially Japan. I've met a lot of Japanese tourists and they really like our town. One thing that has come up in conversation is our odd pronunciation of the street that used to be Front Avenue. It looks like it's spelled like a pretty common Japanese surname, but of course it isn't. We don't pronounce that name that way. And of course, Japanese visitors are incredulous that an American street would be named after a Japanese person or person of Japanese descent. The locals pronounce the name so differently than the Japanese pronunciation, many or most Japanese tourists conclude it's not a Japanese name. It just looks like a Japanese name.

I've heard from Asian Americans who are new to the area or just visiting that they, too, thought the street was an Asian or Japanese name when they first arrived in the city.

*Continued on the next page*

*Board Member's Message Continued*

But then they heard it pronounced and conclude it's just similar in spelling to a Japanese name. It's like Couch or Glisan.

Recently, I was at a conference out of town attended by Japanese Americans from all over the country. When I mentioned that I was from the Portland area, a few people who said how proud they were of Portland to be a major American city with a downtown street named after a Japanese American. This isn't the only time I've traveled when a Japanese American has said that they knew of the street named after a Japanese American and indicated that it is a source of pride and ethnic identity. This was a conference of Japanese Americans meeting about Japanese American issues. So, unlike the average tourist, these folks are in tune with the national Japanese American community.

What a shame that Portlanders choose to mispronounce an Asian American name so that visitors leave without the knowledge that this city, as white as it is, really prizes diversity to the point of naming a major street after an Asian American. What a lost opportunity to not have Asian visitors, foreign and domestic, see a street sign and think, Asian Americans and Japanese Americans must have deep roots in this country. They are as American as all the other races. Let's make a New Year's resolution to pronounce the street name correctly so that all visitors, foreign and domestic, know that Portland has a street named after a Japanese American. We are missing an opportunity to reinforce the message that this is a city that embraces diversity.

## **JAVA Scholarship. Continuing the Legacy of World War II Nisei Military Service and Encouraging Future Military and Public Service**

**Washington, DC.** The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) announces its annual scholarship award program for 2018. The scholarships will continue to benefit a range of graduating high school seniors, advanced undergraduate students, and post graduate and professional education students. Application instructions, forms and other details will be posted on the JAVA website, (<https://java.wildapricot.org>) by January 19, 2018.

The scholarships include a \$5,000.00 memorial scholarship honoring the late US Senator Daniel K. Inouye's iconic career of military and civilian public service, a \$3,000.00 Founders Scholarship (named for JAVA's founder, the late Colonel Phil Ishio, USAR, his wife Constance and his son Douglas Ishio), as well as other JAVA memorial scholarships each in the amount of \$1,500.

Descendants of those who served in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service as well as descendants of World War II Nisei soldiers from other units are eligible. Only in the case of the Senator Inouye scholarship will applications also be accepted from any past or present member of the Army's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry. A current member of JAVA whose membership began prior to April 1, 2016 is eligible to apply. A child of a current JAVA member may also be eligible to apply if the applicant's parent or guardian was a member of JAVA prior to April 1, 2016. Special consideration will be given to eligible applicants who demonstrate their lifelong commitment to public and uniformed service leadership for the nation, e.g., participating in military commissioning programs while in college.

Applicants should first review published rules and forms available on the JAVA website, (<https://java.wildapricot.org>) before making further inquiries. The final date for receiving applications will be Friday, April 1, 2018. The names of the awardees will be announced at the annual JAVA scholarship luncheon in July 2018. 30

Learn and write about Oregon's own civil rights leader, Minoru Yasui.

**The ESSAY CONTEST** is open to all high-school and middle-school students in Oregon, who can win cash prizes and travel expense paid to Portland for the Minoru Yasui Day awards ceremony.

**Essay prompt:**

Explain the lessons learned from the life story and legacy of Minoru Yasui and the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. How do those lessons inform your position on current US policies on immigration and national security?

Essay Length: 500-1000 words

Submissions Accepted: January 1 - March 1, 2018

Finalists selected: March 15

Winners Announced: March 21

Award Ceremony: March 28

Cash Prizes: - 1st prize - \$250 (high school), \$150 (middle school)  
- runners-up - \$150 (high school), \$50 (middle school)

**How to Enter:** Register at [MinYasui.EssayContest@gmail.com](mailto:MinYasui.EssayContest@gmail.com)

Essays will be submitted electronically as Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat documents to that email address with the subject line: "Min Yasui Day Essay Contest." There is no entry fee.

While not required for middle school essays, proper citation of sources will be evaluated by the judges. Footnotes and bibliographies will not be included in the word count.

Please see resources at [www.minoruyasuitribute.org](http://www.minoruyasuitribute.org)

**REGISTER NOW!** [MinYasui.EssayContest@gmail.com](mailto:MinYasui.EssayContest@gmail.com)

For questions about the essay contest  
contact: [minyasuitribute@gmail.com](mailto:minyasuitribute@gmail.com)

For information about the teacher workshops  
contact: [cynthia@oregonnikkei.org](mailto:cynthia@oregonnikkei.org)

## BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

Marleen Ikeda Wallingford  
[marleen@pdxjacl.org](mailto:marleen@pdxjacl.org)

### VICE-PRESIDENT

Susan Leedham  
[susan@pdxjacl.org](mailto:susan@pdxjacl.org)

### CO-SECRETARIES

Heidi Tolentino  
[heidi@pdxjacl.org](mailto:heidi@pdxjacl.org)

Jean Yamamoto

[jean@pdxjacl.org](mailto:jean@pdxjacl.org)

### TREASURER

Chip Larouche  
[chip@pdxjacl.org](mailto:chip@pdxjacl.org)

### MEMBERSHIP

Setsy Sadamoto Larouche  
[setsy@pdxjacl.org](mailto:setsy@pdxjacl.org)

Ryan Nakano

[ryan@pdxjacl.org](mailto:ryan@pdxjacl.org)

Christopher Lee

[chris@pdxjacl.org](mailto:chris@pdxjacl.org)

Lynn Fuchigami

[lynn@pdxjacl.org](mailto:lynn@pdxjacl.org)

Connie Masuoka

[connie@pdxjacl.org](mailto:connie@pdxjacl.org)

Verne Naito

[verne@pdxjacl.org](mailto:verne@pdxjacl.org)

Sachi Kaneko

[sachi@pdxjacl.org](mailto:sachi@pdxjacl.org)

Newsletter Editor

Chip Larouche  
[chip@pdxjacl.org](mailto:chip@pdxjacl.org)

Happy Hearts Galore! *by Sharon Takahashi, President, Japanese Ancestral Society*

The year of the Dog is upon us, and with man's (and woman's) best friend as our mascot this year, we look for good things to happen. Dogs are noted for loyalty and trusting behavior so how can we go wrong? We wish all of you a healthy and happy 2018.

The Japanese Ancestral Society would like to congratulate the Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League on reaching 90 years of activism. In an ideal world, we shouldn't need civil rights watchdogs, but we are glad that one has stood vigilant in difficult times.

The Olympics start this month but we want you to know that we have gold medalists in our midst. Michiko Kornhauser and Tomoko Ono, calligraphy students of Yoshiyasu Fujii, both won awards at the Murashino Calligraphy Exhibit in Japan. Michiko received the Hatoyama Mayor's Award and Tomoko also won a Mayor's award. We're proud of our students who brought home the gold. Mr. Fujii was recognized for his efforts at bringing so many students to mastery level participation. Judy Yamauchi, Yasuko Fields and Misako



Kodama also study with Mr. Fujii.

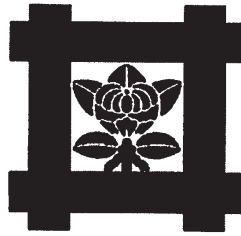


At press time we learned of the new posting for Consul General and Mrs. Uchiyama to India. Their stay was short in Oregon (only 2 years) but they participated in many of our "local flavor" activities and we had come to think they were like family—there when you needed them for that little extra personal touch. Though we will miss their presence, we will cherish the stories they shared and their warmth for our community. We hope they will always feel at home in Oregon and come back to visit us.

The Japanese Ancestral Society will be celebrating its Shinnenkai (New Year) on February 11, 2018 at Saylor's Country Kitchen in Portland. A general meeting will be held at 4:30 pm and dinner (on your own) will follow at 5:15 pm. All are welcome to join us. RSVPs may be sent to [stakahashi509@gmail.com](mailto:stakahashi509@gmail.com) or 503.330.1935, [shodozono@gmail.com](mailto:shodozono@gmail.com) or 503.3580.0398, or [mikeirinaga@gmail.com](mailto:mikeirinaga@gmail.com) or 503.223.9797.



# NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE



## 26th Annual Spring Bazaar

Sunday, March 18, 2018 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 2025 S.E. Yamhill

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Special Nichiren Tonkatsu (pork) Bento (Available for Pre-order Only)	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Chicken Donburi (Chicken Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Chow Mein	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Veggie Chow Mein	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Tofu Donburi (Tofu Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Total \$		_____	_____

Please return this pre-order form with  
your check by **March 12, 2018**

Please make checks payable to:  
**Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple**

All proceeds benefit:  
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple  
2025 S.E. Yamhill  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
503-235-8292

\_\_\_ Dine In      \_\_\_ Take Out

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

BAKED GOODS

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

CRAFTS &

\_\_\_\_\_

MUCH MORE

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

An envelope with your pre-paid tickets  
will be ready for you at the Will-Call line.

## MEET OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

### Sachi Kaneko



My name is Sachi Kaneko. I am 26 years old and am a mixed race (hafu), queer, Yonsei Japanese-American, and Jewish-American. I was raised in Portland, Oregon and was enrolled in the Japanese Magnet Program. First, I attended Richmond Elementary School and, later, Mt. Tabor Middle School. I left the program to do IB at Cleveland High School, but decided to graduate early instead of receiving the full certification.



For college, I attended the University of Oregon, and am an alumni of the Honors College. For the past three years I have been living and working in Tottori, Japan on the JET Program. I just returned a month ago and am spending some time figuring out my future goals.

I was briefly involved with a youth group sponsored by the JACL in high school, and I think we need to focus more on growing membership from Yonsei and Gosei. The younger generation is progressive, tech savvy, and has increasing numbers of mixed race members. I feel that I can help to represent these individuals.

### Ryan Nakano



I am a 25-year-old poet and journalist who moved to Portland just over a year ago from California. Growing up in a small white suburb outside of Sacramento, I never felt a deep connection to the Nikkei community. Every Sunday, my family would attend service at the Sacramento Buddhist Temple and every Sunday I would leave feeling like an outsider. I was a Yonsei by way of my father's Japanese parents and my mother's Okinawan mother but I did not know what it meant to be an active member of a JA community.

It wasn't until after graduating Humboldt State University with a bachelor's degree in journalism that I seriously began to consider what my identity meant to me. I took my first trip to Japan in the summer of 2015 and had the opportunity to not only see where my grandmother was from but also meet a few distant relatives along the way. The experience was nothing short of amazing. I came back to the states and made the decision to move to Portland shortly afterward hoping to find community. I became familiar with groups such as APANO and ONE, organizations putting in work to build community and uphold social justice efforts.

In the background I saw the JACL and I began thinking about the longevity and the importance of keeping such organizations around especially in the uncertain future of the current political climate.

As a member of the board I would hope to start changing the age demographic of the chapter's current membership as well as continue to build relationships with partnering community organizations.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Left: Portland JACL chapter president Marleen Wallingford speaks about current issues that Portland JACL are addressing at the 2018 membership meeting, Epworth United Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon. Photo by Rich Iwasaki

Right: Pacific Northwest District Governor Chip Larouche inducts the new Portland JACL chapter board during the 2018 member's meeting, Epworth United Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon. Photo by Rich Iwasaki



Left: Governor Chip Larouche presents Portland JACL president Marleen Wong with a President's pin during the 2018 member's meeting, Epworth United Methodist Church, Portland, Oregon. Photo by Rich Iwasaki

Right: Reverend Yuki Sugahara of the Oregon Buddhist Temple plays a few tunes to entertain the Temple members during OBT's New Year's luncheon. Photo by Chip Larouche





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**IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH MENU FOR FEBRUARY**  
**1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland, 503-238-0775**

<b>Thu. 1-</b> Asparagus Beef Roll	Chips
<b>Fri. 2 -</b> Ground Chicken-Yuba Makiage	<b>Thu. 15 -</b> Pork Kaori-Age
<b>Mon. 5 -</b> Peanut Chicken-Pad Thai	<b>Fri. 16 -</b> Chicken Katsu
<b>Tue 6-</b> Clam Chowder-Somen Salad	<b>Mon 19 -</b> Crispy Beef Bibimbap
<b>Thu. 8 -</b> Tempura Soba	<b>Tue. 20 -</b> Chicken Pho Soup
<b>Fri. 9 -</b> Beef Nira Moyashi	<b>Thu. 22 -</b> Birthday Sushi
<b>Mon. 12 -</b> Sweet & Sour Pork	<b>Fri. 23 -</b> Ton-Jiru
<b>Tue. 13 -</b> Halibut Fish &	<b>Mon 26 -</b> Hawaiian Day-Kahlua Pork
	<b>Tue. 27 -</b> Beef Chow Fun

- **Feb 20, 10:30 -** Sage Circle
- **Feb 22, 11:30 -** Sing Along with Jerry Baysinger
- **Feb 19 -** Ohana Lunch Bunch
- **Feb 13 -** Fujinkai Board

**Menu Notes:**

- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- Closed Wednesdays
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:** Hanafuda and bridge
- **Mon-Tue-Fri, 11:30:** Chair Exercises
- **Feb 13 & 27, 11:15:** Blood pressure
- **Thursdays 11:30:** Qi Gong w/Kathleen Kuba

**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.