



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2018 • VOLUME 90, ISSUE 3

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Now thru December 31, 2018

Righting a Wrong

National Museum of American History

March 9

ACLU Liberty Dinner
Convention Center

March 17-18

Cherry Blossom Bazaar-ONLC

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

Nichiren Bazaar
Nichiren Buddhist Temple

March 28, 4 p.m.

Min Yasui Day
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

April 6

Portland Taiko Benefit Banquet
Wong's King Restaurant

April 14, 6 p.m.

Gambatte Be Strong
Chapel at Lewis & Clark

April 21

PNWDC JACL Board Meeting
Seattle, WA

April 22

OBT Spring Bazaar
Oregon Buddhist Temple

April 29

Epworth Spring Bazaar

May 6, 1 p.m.

Graduation Banquet
Monarch Hotel

May 11 & 12

"Gaman Festival

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS...WHAT NEXT?

by Chris Lee, Portland JACL Board Member

On Saturday, February 17th the Portland Chapter of JACL celebrated 90 Years of Service to Our Community with a Luncheon at The Aerie at Eagle Landing. As guests arrived there was a slideshow, which included pictures from the Portland State University Archives and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, as well as more recent images from the annual calendar and monthly newsletters. Although not a comprehensive collection, it was a great demonstration of the rich history of Portland JACL and a reminder of the connections that each of us has to past generations and the Issei who started it all.

The program started with music from the Minidoka Swing Band including a mix of classics and jazz standards. Local newscaster, Kyle Iboshi, led the program as the Master of Ceremonies. Kyle gave a summary of the historical events of the early 1900s, such as Oregon's Alien Land Bill and the Federal Government's 1924 Exclusion Act that led to the formation of the Portland Progressive Citizens League, which was our original name before changing to the Japanese Citizens League when we merged with the national organization out of Seattle.

One of the first issues that the Portland Progressive Citizens League tackled was helping simplify the process for Nisei in Oregon to obtain birth certificates. Other early battles focused on securing citizenship for Nisei

Veterans and challenging the Portland Realty Board's support of segregated neighborhoods. Portland JACL was also actively trying to find ways for Nisei to get better jobs. Although housework or other physical labor was readily available, it was very difficult to get a well-paying office job. The scholarship committee, which is still a major function of JACL, was started to provide tuition for college. At that time \$100 scholarships were awarded, which covered a year of tuition at an Oregon state school.

Former Portland JACL President Chisao Hata was next to speak and recounted the events before, during, and after internment. Portland JACL was de-activated on May 6, 1942 when people of Japanese descent were required to report to the Portland Assembly Center. It was not until 1946 that Portland JACL was reactivated. After coming back from camp, Nisei were struggling to reclaim their financial losses during internment. They faced continued harassment and still had to jump through hoops to get business licenses.

As the program continued, Kyle described Portland JACL's growth after the civil rights movements in the 60's and 70's. Most notable was the first Day of Remembrance held in Portland in 1979. Depending on who you ask, there were between 1,000 and 2,000 people who attended the event.

Continued on the next page

Board Member's Message Continued

The one thing that the speakers could agree on was that everybody who attended was well-fed.

In the 1980s, Portland and National JACL were focused on redress and building corum nobis cases for Min Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Fred Korematsu. 2018 marks the 30th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act, in which the U.S. Government apologized to Issei and Nisei for their incarceration. Portland JACL was also important in founding many other Nikkei organizations in Portland, such as Nikkei Jin Kai, Ikoi No Kai, Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Ikoi So Terrace, and the development of the Japanese American memorial park on the waterfront.

Many of the past chapter Presidents of Portland JACL were in attendance at the event and some of them were asked to speak at the end of the program. They each recounted their time as president and the major challenges and victories achieved during their tenure. More than their accomplishments, every one of the past presidents who spoke mentioned the strong support network they had and the bonds within our community.

So, after 90 years, what comes next? Japanese-Americans have gone from being illegal aliens, to prisoners in their own land, and now part of a growing class of "model minorities." Japanese-Americans have been through a lot and we may have come a long way as a community, but our country doesn't seem to have made as much progress.

A cycle of oppression toward immigrants still exists in this country. Let's be honest, a travel ban isn't that different from an exclusion act, and deporting dreamers is a lot like denying Nisei citizenship. Even though they may be from different countries, today's Issei immigrants still face many of the same challenges as my great-grandparents did before WWII. It is our responsibility to make sure our story is heard and help pull other immigrants up in this country.

After hearing Portland JACL's history and listening to our past chapter presidents, I hope that in the next 90 years immigrants and new Issei from other communities can come to this country in the true spirit of America. People should be able to immigrate to our country without being humiliated and dehumanized by our government. I challenge you to ask yourself, "What am I doing today to enable a better future?"

PORTLAND TAIKO BENEFIT BANQUET 2018: Eat, Celebrate, Support

Join us for a hosted NW wine and beer reception followed by a delicious eight-course, vegetarian-friendly Cantonese dinner. Enjoy an exciting program of taiko performances, mystery origami leis, a live auction and paddle raise, honored guests, and special surprises! [Purchase your tickets here!](https://tinyurl.com/PDXTAIKO)

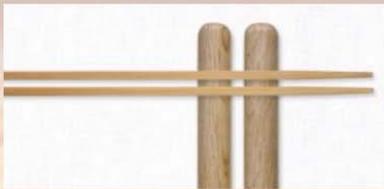
<https://tinyurl.com/PDXTAIKO>

Friday, April 6, 2018

Wong's King Seafood Restaurant

6:00-6:30 p.m. Hosted Wine & Beer

6:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner and Program



Partners in Dance *by Marleen Wallingford, Portland JACL President*



Sahomi Tachibana's illustrious career as a performer and teacher of classical Japanese dance has been well documented. She is 94 years old and has been dancing since she was a child. Her grandparents ran a Kabuki theater in California and her cousin taught her some dances they could perform between acts. Her dancing was

observed by Rev. Iwanaga who had been instrumental in bringing obon dancing to the United States. He told her parents that she showed promise as a dancer and that is how her career began. When she was 11, her parents sent her to Japan to study dance. She returned just before the beginning of World War II; just in time to be incarcerated at Topaz. Her family was able to move to Pennsylvania and Ms. Tachibana made her way to New York City to pursue her studies and career in dance. She was interested in all kinds of dance from ballet to modern. It was there at Carnegie Hall, she met Frank Hrubant, a young man recently returned from military duty in occupied Japan. He loved the theater and dance and was smitten with the young Japanese American dancer. They have been married for 68 years. Frank has always been supportive of his wife's career and he says he never interfered but he was always been good about promoting her dance and encouraging her. Throughout their marriage, Sahomi would often be on the road performing all over the United States. This is a love story between two people, raised in vastly different circumstances but who share a love of the arts. Sahomi and Frank have a daughter who settled in Portland. They moved here in 1990 after her retirement in New York City to be close to her. They have one grandson and one great-grandson (who attends a Chinese immersion program). The Portland Japanese American community has been a fortunate beneficiary of Sahomi's knowledge of Japanese dance which continues today. Sahomi says her students are still eager to learn even though she is no longer able to demonstrate. She continues to teach and encourage a new generation of dancers in the art with Frank and her family still supporting her. The Sahomi Tachibana School Dancers recently performed at Mochitsuki 2018.

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REMEMBER US: A Community Engagement Project by Chisao Hata

REMEMBER US was created in 2017 for the 75th memorial of Executive Order 9066 called *Return and Remembrance*. **REMEMBER US** is a visual prayer for 4,000 Japanese Americans held in captivity in 1942 at the now Expo Center in Portland. The 30 foot long rope portrays the names of those from the Portland area that were held and ultimately moved to incarceration camps across the country.



For over two decades through my work in education, I have been a protector of imagination, personal discovery, and a champion for individual expression. Creating engaged learning for our youth, our citizen artists, is my life's work. As an artist educator, dance director, arts integration specialist, community activist and

performing artist, I have had the honor of serving hundreds of Portland's children, youth, and adults across many communities. My work has yielded generations who have an appreciation of the arts as creative problem solvers, and passionate engaged people. **As a society, we all benefit from creative problem solvers, and passionate engaged people.**

My inspiration for this project comes from my own background as a third generation Japanese American with a legacy in Oregon's history. My grandparents settled in Hood River and my mother became the first Japanese American nurse in the state. My parents were married in Poston, Arizona, one of the ten concentration camps in America.



Additionally my inspiration for **REMEMBER US** came from an African saying, "we all die two deaths, one when we leave our body and two when our names are no longer called."

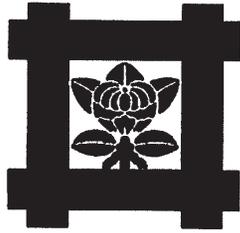
Nearly all 4,000 names of those sent in 1942 to the Portland Livestock Exposition Center which became the Portland Assembly Center are currently listed in a notebook at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, the Japanese American history museum in Old Town Portland. The makeshift “human” stalls were made on top of the animal stalls while Camp Minidoka in Idaho was being built. This action was the result of the Executive Order 9066 issued by President Franklin Roosevelt who supported the military position that all persons of Japanese Ancestry were a threat to national security. This was the first “processing” center for Oregon internees. Soon the 4,000 joined others making 120,000 west coast Japanese and Japanese Americans with an average age of 17-20 forced into incarceration. Most of those were American citizens taken to internment camps. This order was a continuation of racist discrimination laws designed to prohibit Japanese and many others the rights of citizenship, land ownership and civil liberties. These actions denied American rights to due process and protection under the Bill of Rights. Homes, businesses and land were sold for nothing and generations to follow have continued to suffer from the trauma of this historic event. This installation calls out to you, to **Remember Us!**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Linfield College’s Diversity & Community Partnerships and Lewis & Clark College’s Graduate School Department of Diversity and Inclusion are bringing Chisao Hata’s art installation, **REMEMBER US** to both campuses in March 2018. The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center is also cooperating with Linfield and Lewis & Clark to support the **REMEMBER US** display. **GAMBATTE BE STRONG** by Chisao Hata is a readers theater production featuring stories of Japanese American Displacement and Resilience in Portland, Oregon. **GAMBATTE BE STRONG** will be performed Saturday, April 14th 2018 at 6pm in the Agnes Flanagan Chapel on the Lewis and Clark campus.

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	_____	_____
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Tofu Donburi (Tofu Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Total \$			_____

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Please make checks payable to:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

All proceeds benefit:
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

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

PORTLAND JACL
NEWSLETTER

Ikoï no Kai, March 2018

1333 SE 28th, 503-238-0775

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Saba	2 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Ebi fry/potato salad
5 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Gyoza <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	6 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Chicken yakisoba	7 X	8 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Seafood curry	9 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Chinese okowa/ Sticky rice harusame salad
12 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Mar far chicken <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	13 Fujinkai Board: 10:30 Blood pressure: 11:15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> St. Pat's Corned Beef & Cabbage*	14 X	15 <i>Qi Gong: 11:10</i> Sing Along: 11:30 Udon	16 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Teriyaki chicken/ kabocha
19 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Ohana Lunch Bunch Roast pork/ Singapore noodles <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	20 Sage Circle: 10:30 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Ginger chicken/ fried rice	21 X	22 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Fried cod	23 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Nikujaga/ fried tofu
26 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Anniversary Bento: Res.Rqd.* <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	27 Blood pressure: 11:15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Birthday sushi	28	29 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Oyako donburi	30 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Kathryn Work on piano Buta shogayaki ginger pork

Cooks: Sharon Ogata M-Tu Noriko Dozono Th Judy Yamauchi & Haruyo Takei Fr

Mar 13: *St. Patrick's corned beef & cabbage: Reservations, + \$2

Mar 13: Fujinkai Board: 10:30

Mar 15: Sing Along with Reiko & Jerry

Mar 19: Ohana Lunch Bunch: Sansei gathering just for fun: 11:30

Mar 20: Sage Circle: 10:30

Mar 26: *Anniversary Bento: Reservations Req., +3

Mar 30: Kathryn Work on piano: noon

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

Thursdays: Qi Gong with Kathleen Kuba: 11:30

Blood pressure with Jane Kawashima: March 6 & 20



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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.