



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 2019 • VOLUME 91, ISSUE 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Now thru March, 2019

Righting a Wrong

National Museum of American History

February 10, 4 p.m.

JAS Annual Meeting

Dinner at Saylor's

February 22

ACLU Liberty Dinner

Portland Convention Center

February 24, 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

Day of Remembrance

Hoffmann Hall

Portland State University

March 1

JACL & Community Scholarship

Application Deadline

March 3, 4:30 p.m.

40th Anniversary Ikoï No Kai

Wong's King Restaurant

March 10

Daylight Saving Time Begins

March 17

Annual Spring Bazaar

Nichiren Buddhist Temple

March 28

Min Yasui Day

April 12, 6 p.m.

Portland Taiko Fundraiser

Wong's King Restaurant

April 20

PNWDC JACL Meeting

Olympia, WA

WHITE NOISE

by Verne Naito, Portland JACL Board Member

Top 40 radio is now available on a variety of media - internet, FM, and satellite. But, it remains the same format. 40 songs play repeatedly until you start to tune them out mentally. The music becomes white noise. National news is a lot like Top 40 radio. The same 20 headlines blare at us through all media - internet, broadcast network, and cable TV - until the "news cycle" is exhausted.

Few of us rely on national news to make daily decisions in our lives and for many, national news is entertainment. News that won't sell advertising is either skipped over or drowned out by the white noise of the headlines. Hence, this article to bring to your attention news about the lawsuit filed against Harvard University for discriminating against Asian Americans (AAs) in admissions.

Arguments were heard in October. There will be another hearing this month. According to the Harvard alumni magazine, the judge affirmed before the arguments a very big part of the case: can race be considered in college admissions. That is, she affirmed the legality of Affirmative Action. The judge may have more on Affirmative Action and on the narrower issue of whether Harvard discriminates against AAs this spring when she issues her ruling.

Leading up to this case, several websites including Harvard's student

newspaper ran opinion pieces and background reports on the case. The press covered with some enthusiasm facts which arose during the discovery process including favorable admissions treatment of applicants with alumni family members and athletic accomplishments. The latter group is no surprise to any graduate of a university with a big athletic program.

There was less coverage on the part of the lawsuit that now goes forward. Harvard uses subjective criteria including likeability, humor, and leadership qualities in evaluating candidates. Those suing Harvard presented data pointing to bias against AAs based on those criteria. AAs with greater academic achievement were being rejected in favor of Caucasians based on subjective criteria.

There is no question that a university that prides itself on having more US presidents as graduates than any other school should consider personality and leadership qualities in evaluating candidates. But, the plaintiffs argue that in the case of Harvard, there is a high correlation between being an AA and getting a low personality rating. The judge will decide if correlation equals causation in this case, that is, Harvard discriminates against AAs by giving more AAs low personality scores.

Most of you have first hand experience being stereotyped in some way or another. *Continued on next page*

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For me, this case goes well beyond quips such as, "All Asians are good at math." Look at the facts. There is a disproportionately small number of AAs in all positions of leadership in this country. In government, in business, and in academia, there are far fewer AAs at the top as a percentage than there are AAs in the general population. And not by a little.

There is a very disadvantaged ethnic group, which receives little press: first generation AAs. Portland State University's Center for Population Studies published a paper in 2012, *The Asian and Pacific Islander Community in Multnomah County: An Unsettling Profile*. You can Google this paper and read in entirety, but I will summarize here. By every metric - income, education, employment, household formation, etc., a disproportionately high percentage of Asian Pacific Islanders in Multnomah County are disadvantaged. The national statistics are much rosier, but there are clearly pockets of adversity and we live in one.

The news coverage of the Harvard case has focused on the funding source for the lawsuit -- an anti-Affirmative Action advocate-- and has concluded that the motive behind the lawsuit has less to do about discrimination against AAs and much to do about abolishing Affirmative Action. Does Harvard, an academic factory of future leaders, discount applications from AAs because of the applicant's race? As New Yorker contributor and Harvard Law professor Jeannie Suk Gersen writes, Harvard relies on outside reports on applicants such as teacher recommendations and alumni interviews to formulate the subjective evaluations. Does Harvard factor in possible bias from those sources? She concludes, "...one outcome...has been to heighten awareness of implicit racial biases." Once the news gets beyond the issue of Affirmative Action, the press' attention should shift to discrimination against AAs. Will it?

JACL has published its position on this case. JACL and the Portland Chapter support Affirmative Action and Harvard. Google this case and educate yourself. It's interesting to hear the opinions. But first you have to find the news coverage on the lawsuit.

As a postscript, I want to shout out to APANO which vigorously represents the interests of the many first generation AAs in Portland. Portland Chapter supports APANO.

One Big Check!

by Sharon Takehashi, President, Japanese Ancestral Society

I am writing this in the midst of the longest government shut down in US history and it is appalling how the morale of the country seems to be sinking. I try to think of myself as a glass half full person, rather than half empty, but it is difficult not to feel the real pain of the workers not receiving paychecks even though they are doing the work. Eventually, we hope all will be paid retroactively, but will they be able to forget the jeopardy they were placed in.

Our volunteers in the Japanese Ancestral Society are precious. They do so much in so many different ways. When I was part of the Beaverton School District's volunteer program, we were asked to keep a listing of hours we spent volunteering in our communities. It was a chore to turn these in to the district coordinator but we followed the command like sheep. It can really be a rude awakening to see how many hours we all spend doing volunteer jobs rather than vacuuming our floors or cleaning our toilets. Being a volunteer was so much more fun. So, where am I going with all of this? Let's go on a wild ride as I try to get to the finish line.

This month will be my last as the Japanese Ancestral Society's president and I have been wondering how I can bring a year into perspective and thank all of the helpers who have been helping me along the way.

My board (30) gives two hours for meeting attendance five months of the year	300 hrs
Cemetery advisory committee (7 members) for 5 four hour meetings	140 hrs
Cemetery clean up (20 volunteers average) 3 hours X 4 times a year)	240 hrs
The treasurer and secretaries work at least 5 hours on minutes and stats for each meeting	50 hrs
In January, we have nominating committee (5), ballot construction and mailing (8), ballot counting (9) and board notification to elected directors	40 hrs
Memorial Day has 8 churches and 19 organizations participating for 2 hours (This event usually attracts 80-100 folk.)	54 hrs
Graduation Banquet in May (6) volunteers sit on the committee and meet monthly January till May,	60 hrs
Interviewers (6) and stay for 8 hours	48 hrs
Scholarship chair collates packets, coordinates interviewees, verifies membership Eligibility, fields questions	40 hrs
JAS Jerry Inouye Golf Tournament --coordinating entries, prizes, venue, etc. (20) attend Various meetings, etc.	40 hrs
August picnic—Monetary sponsorship	
December's holiday visits (coordinating drivers and clients, getting donations, thanking all) (10 drivers accommodated 41 mobility impaired)	45 hrs
Total	1057 hrs

Iko No Kai volunteers hours are not figured in this calculation but that will be available at a later date.

The estimate of the value of one volunteer hour for 2018 was \$24.69. So given 1057 hours for the year and the calculated value, our JAS member volunteers donated \$26,107.33 to us.

So, the next time you are out in the community and hear someone say, "I'm just a volunteer," be sure to thank him/her for being part of the big contribution.

From the Japanese Ancestral Society, thank you for your valuable time and service.

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NICHIREN

BUDDHIST TEMPLE



27th Annual Spring Bazaar

Sunday, March 17, 2019 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)	\$ 10.00	_____	_____
Chicken Donburi (Chicken Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Chow Mein	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Veggie Chow Mein	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Tofu Donburi (Tofu Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
		Total \$	_____

Please return this pre-order form with your check by **March 11, 2019**

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

____ Take Out

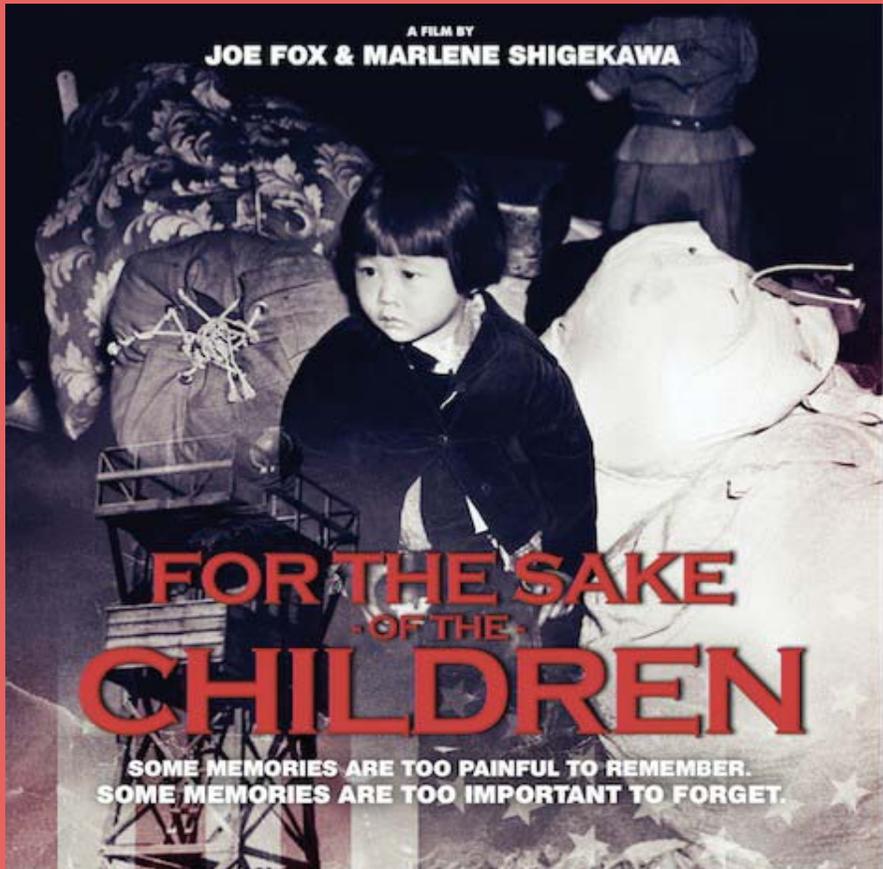
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Film Screening & Panel Discussion

February 24 – 2:00 pm

Portland State University

Hoffman Hall

1825 SW Broadway

Portland, OR 97201

sponsored by the Portland Japanese American Citizens League
& the Poston Community Alliance

View film trailer at www.forthesakeofchildren.org
www.instagram.com/sakeofchildrenfilm

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Top-Right: Connie Masuoka, Setsy Larouche and Chip Larouche pose with Junki Yoshida at the recent JASO Shinnenkai.



Top-Left: Henry Ueno, Nozomi Bray, Atami Ueno, Molly Moran and Curtis Hayashi are amongst the many who enjoyed the traditional Osechi Ryori New Year's meal at Ikoi No Kai.

Middle-Left: Pictured are the talented group of cooks and volunteers who made the special Osechi Ryori meal.

Bottom Left: The Oregon Hiroshima Club are serenaded with a special musical performance called Shigin. Singers are Aiko Tamura, Atsuko Ishihara, Fumiko Day, Haruyasu Nomura, Masako Endo and Norma Grambrel as Bill Tanaka looks on.

Bottom Right: Tomodachi Kai Co-Chairs for the New Year's Potluck, Nancy Reckord & Lynn Geis pose after the group's first meeting of the year on January 11th.



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NEWSLETTER |

Iko no Kai, February 2019

1333 SE 28th, 503-238-0775

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Tomodachi-kai <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Fried spring roll
4 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Chinese New Year: dim sum plate <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	5 Blood Pressure: 11:15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Roast chicken	6 X	7 <i>Qi Gong: 11</i> Sing Along: 11:30 Surprise** <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	8 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Mapo eggplant fried eggplant w/chili sauce
11 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Salmon chowder/ salad rolls <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	12 Fujinkai Board: 10:30 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Spring roll	13 X	14 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Hiru Gohan Band: Noon Marinated fried white fish <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Deep fried dumplings
18 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Ohana Lunch Bunch Pork shu mai <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	19 Blood pressure:11:15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Tsukune tofu/ground chicken patties	20 X	21 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Bibimbap Korean grilled beef w/veggies <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	22 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Kathryn Work on piano Katsu curry Breaded pork cutlet in curry
25 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Sweet & sour pork <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	26 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Stuffed cabbage rolls	27 X	28 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Okonomiyaki <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	

Cooks: Sharon Ogata Feb 4 & 11, Naomi Molstrom Feb 18 & 19

Kyoko Adcock Tu & Feb 25 Rieko Shimada Th & Fri

Feb 1: Tomodachi-kai Meeting

Feb 7:Shellfish Surprise: Reservations only--No phone reservations-1 guest limit, +\$2**

Feb 7: Sing Along with Reiko & Jerry -- 11:30 (Qi Gong at 11)

Feb 12: Fujinkai Board Meeting: 10:30

Feb. 14: Hiru Gohan Grup: Mandolin & guitar duo Rick & John: noon

Feb 18: Ohana Lunch Bunch

Feb 22: Kathryn Work on piano -- noon

Mo-Tu-Fri: Chair exercises with Nobuko Kaji; Th--Qi Gong with Kathleen Kuba 11:30

Blood Pressure: Feb 5 with Jane Kawashima, Feb 19 with Ellen Iwasaki--11:15



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The Oregon Hiroshima Club board celebrates the New Year with Consul General Teraoka. Board members include (l to r) Connie Masuoka, Setsy Larouche, Cherie Yokota, Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha, Chip Larouche, Shig Fujikawa, Katie Kawazoe, Frieda Fujikawa & Ken Kawazoe.

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.