



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2019 • VOLUME 24, ISSUE 10

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### May 5

Graduation Banquet  
Monarch Hotel

### May 19

Cemetery clean up  
Noon to 2:00 p.m.  
Japanese Cemetery at  
Rose City Cemetery

### May 25

Cemetery clean up  
9:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
Japanese Cemetery at  
Rose City Cemetery

### May 27

Memorial Day Services  
Japanese Cemetery at  
Rose City Cemetery

Please send your community calendar items to Jeff Selby at:  
jeff@aiwcreative.com  
no later than the 16th of each month!

## HONORING MIN YASUI

by Marleen Wallingford

Since 2016, The State of Oregon recognizes every March 28 as Minoru Yasui Day. Oregon Nikkei Endowment, the ACLU of Oregon, the Min Yasui Legacy Project, and Portland JACL sponsored a program to honor his legacy this year.

After an opening event at the Japanese American Historical Plaza featuring Kurt Ikeda and Heath Hyun, the attendees walked across the street to the University of Oregon White Stag Building. Three panelists discussed the coram nobis cases of Min Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu. The panelists included Peggy Nagae who represented Yasui, Karen Kai, a representative of the Korematsu legal team, and Rod Kawakami who was on Hirabayashi's legal team of Hirabayashi.

In the 1940s, the Supreme Court upheld their convictions based on the argument of "military necessity" without examining any of the evidence that would prove that necessity. The team was fortunate that the last copy of the document, Final Report, Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast, 1942 was found,

which stated (based on U.S. Naval War Intelligence research) that the Japanese American community posed no threat to the United States. The secret document was suppressed by the U.S. government when the case was presented in the '40s. This proved that there was no proof of "military necessity" and that the government deliberately lied about the need to remove the Japanese from the west coast in the trial.

Today we hear inflammatory statements like "immigrants are rapists and murderers" to describe immigrant communities. U.S. crime

data shows clearly that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than those who were born here. Why were seven primarily Muslim countries targeted for Trump's travel ban? What evidence shows



Participants commemorate the 2019 Minoru Yasui Day at the Japanese American Historical Plaza, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland, Oregon

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**MIN YASUI DAY** *continued from Page 1*

that those immigrants are more likely to commit crimes? Why wasn't Saudi Arabia on the list since that was the country of origin for most of the 9/11 terrorists? As engaged community members, we need to ask questions. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 states that the forced removal of the Japanese population from the West Coast was fueled by "racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." It should be added that these cases also show a failure of judicial leadership.



*Professor Elizabeth Tippet (l) University of Oregon School of Law, moderates a panel discussion at the Minoru Yasui Day program. Panel members included Peggy Nagae, lead attorney for Minoru Yasui's coram nobis case, Karen Kai, co-lead counsel for Gordon Hirabayashi's coram nobis case, and Rod Kawakami, member of Fred Korematsu's coram nobis legal team.*

**TIME FOR SPRUCING UP –FAMILIES ARE COMING!**

*by Sharon Takahashi, for the Cemetery Advisory Committee*

"Many hands make a big job doable" is something I learned from my Issei father many years ago. Let's keep proving he was right.

The cemetery advisory committee invites everyone to participate in our days of clean-up at the Japanese Cemetery located at Rose City Cemetery at 5625 NE Fremont St, Portland, OR 97213. Although it looks beautiful now with blooms (planted by Fran Palk, Jamie Chappo, Nancy Clayton Tanaka, and Susan Okada), the preparation for our Community Memorial Day Services will entail some fine tuning.

We had volunteers spreading topsoil and barkdust around the sunken areas in the periphery of the cemetery where the older graves are settling. Many thanks to Fran, Ken and Steve Sumida, Ken Ono, Susan Okada, and Rick and Rob Shiraishi for taking advantage of the Fred Meyer garden supplies sale and Rose City's bounty of fill dirt. Susan Okada and I provided cookies and inari sushi for the work party.

Work parties are planned for Sunday, May 19 (Noon - 2:00 p.m.), and Saturday, May 25, (9:00 - 11:30 a.m.).

On the Sunday work party, Fran Palk will give a short history of the cemetery for those who are new to our elbow grease party. We guarantee it will be short as we need all hands on deck cleaning.



For our work parties, please wear "grubbies" and covered shoes as it may be muddy. Housecleaning waterproof gloves (especially since we use bleach and ammonia), brushes and buckets are a plus. If you are a painter, scrapers and brooms for removing and sweeping moss are welcome. Dress for the weather and come meet some of the regular cemetery aficionados.

Lastly, all Japanese American work parties end with the cries of "Yatta ne! (We did it!)" and a bit of refreshment and socializing. Finger snacks are welcome for sharing, and we will provide napkins and plates.

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES BY CHISAO HATA

### **GAMBATTE: AN AMERICAN LEGACY**

by Chisao Hata

Gambatte: An American Legacy explores the resilience and fortitude of the Japanese American community, from Nihonmachi, Portland's historic Japan town, to the present. Through theatre, dance and music the 90-minute performance is a way to raise empathy and heal the emotional legacy and the effects of racism in America.

#### **INTERSTATE FIREHOUSE CULTURAL CENTER**

(5340 N. Interstate Ave.)

Saturday, June 1 at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4 and

Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m.

**Seating is limited. Reservations strongly recommended**

**Tickets at this link: [www.vanportmosaic.org](http://www.vanportmosaic.org)**

Adults \$15/ Children/Seniors \$10

Join us on Monday, June 3rd at 7:00  
p.m.

for a free COMMUNITY HEALING  
GATHERING. Listening circles will hold  
space as we address the emotional  
legacies expressed in this performance.

Sponsored by:

The Regional Arts and Culture Council  
Portland JACL  
World Arts Foundation  
Ronni Lacroute  
Oregon Nikkei Endowment



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**SEND YOUR COMMUNITY PHOTOS TO JEFF SELBY!**



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE JACL/OCA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

by Board Member Ryan Nakano

In the early morning of April 6th, 2019 I boarded a plane from Portland International Airport to Washington DC. A week before, I scrambled to find a suit and tie (shout-out to Nordstrom rack, and blessed be Goodwill). I was on a mission to find the appropriate, formal, business-casual attire that said I'm important but not more so than any other individual member of a civil rights organization.

I ended up with a shiny pair of green slacks, some slick Van Heusen button ups, a blue tie with white polka dots and a navy-blue suit jacket. On the night of April 5th, I sat staring at my newly purchased wardrobe for the trip and laughed. Did any of it match? Were my outfits at all cohesive? Did the articles of clothing go together in the way in which anyone from the outside could make sense of it? Of me?

For the next four days I would be attending conferences, listening to various leaders within the API community and advocating for policies around immigration, education and census data "on the hill". For the next four days I would be participating for the first time at the annual JACL/OCA Leadership Summit (a joint conference sponsored by JACL and OCA Advocate (formerly the Organization of Chinese Americans). And because of this, I was hung up on appearance, on the keeping up and the upkeep of myself as someone who would go off to represent the duality; the

community and the individual. The green pants were striking, and this scared me. They would definitely stand out, and in part I feared this. I couldn't see myself wearing them, and yet they fit, they fit like, well...pants that fit well. And so, I brought everything. I crammed the suitcase and on the morning of April 6th, 2019, boarded a plane headed to the land of museums and monuments.

On the first night, our cohort took the opportunity to see the monuments all lit up. Originally, we had planned to see the cherry blossoms, but of course we detoured to the steps of Lincoln, where it is written "...let us strive on to finish the work that we are in to bind up the nation's wounds...". As I scanned the writing carved into stone, I spotted in the periphery a red hat that said "Make America Great Again," worn by several members of a family who also wished to enjoy the view. And the irony was not lost on me, though it may have been lost on them. So of course, I snapped a photo to capture a moment in history, to capture cognitive dissonance.

The rest of the group was waiting to take a photo of our own and it was during this transition when I began to think about the idea of civil rights organizations being non-partisan, and what that didn't mean. It didn't mean I couldn't comment on the hat. It didn't mean I couldn't stand up for immigrants, public education, data disaggregation. It didn't

mean I couldn't talk to my district representative and come to an agreement.

It is my concern that sometimes in our community, be it Japanese American or more broadly Asian American, we are cautious to the point of debilitation because of the polarization of political party and its associations. It is unfortunate. However, it seems a good enough time as any to remember that at the end of the day, organizations such as JACL or OCA are at the foundation concerned with both the civil rights and human rights of individuals living in this country and what that means is, "I think we can be unwavering and wear the shiny green slacks." In fact, we have a responsibility to show up in our most unique and striking experiences because it's what "fits;" it's what embodies our community.

By the end of the trip, I felt the shiny green slacks were perfect. They were loud, and unique in their own right and yet they did not overshadow or upstand any other attire present at the summit. They came off as professional, as cohesive, as bold. And I guess what I'm saying is, I wish that for this organization, I wish that for this community, I want to see us step into situations in which we cannot see ourselves in and serve as allies and build coalition and continue to expand our scope of which we term "human rights" in our mission.

## LET'S MAKE THIS NEWSLETTER BETTER

by Jeff Selby

Your Portland JACL Newsletter serves as a Nikkei Community gathering place for news and events. For countless years, this publication has been a way for all of us to connect and keep up with each other.

Over the years (off and on) it has been my pleasure to use my professional design and layout experience to make this the best newsletter it can be. And we need your help!

Your content makes this newsletter relevant and engaging. Please feel free to share your stories,

reflections, and photos with your community. Just be sure to send me your submissions by the 16th of every month. That gives me time to design, edit, and layout the publication and get it to the printer in time to get the newsletter in your mailbox early in the month.

Once you have proofread your document, correcting all spelling and grammar issues, please send your content to [jeff@aiwcreative.com](mailto:jeff@aiwcreative.com). In your subject line, please include the word, "newsletter," so I know it's important.

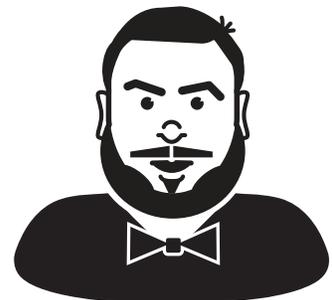


**Please submit all photos, ads, menus, and stories by the 16th of every month.**



Please review your article for typos, spelling, grammar, etc.

Please put "NEWSLETTER" somewhere in your subject line.



[jeff@aiwcreative.com](mailto:jeff@aiwcreative.com)

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Kurt Ikeda (r), Education Manager, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, introduces Holly Yasui at the Minoru Yasui Day program. Photo: Rich Iwasaki



Heath Hyun and Chisao Hata pose before the Minoru Yasui Day festivities. Photo: Curtis Suyematsu, Reflections Photography



Sarah Kutten, Director of Student Services, University of Oregon, speaks at the opening of the Minoru Yasui Day program at University of Oregon White Stag Building. Photo: Rich Iwasaki



Lynn Fuchigami Parks, Executive Director, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, speaks at the conclusion of the Minoru Yasui Day program. Photo: Rich Iwasaki



Susan and Chris Leedham at the Portland JACL table at the Portland Taiko Banquet on April 12.



Minnie Young and her grandchildren, Alexa and Issac, enjoy Birthday Sushi at Ikoi No Kai on Spring Break.



**IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM**  
MAY 2019 | 1333 SE 28th Ave. | 503-238-0775

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		<b>1</b>  X	<b>2</b>  Qi Gong: 11:30 <b>Soba/takikomi gohan</b> mixed rice w/chicken	<b>3</b>  Tomodachi-Kai: 10 Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Fried cod</b>
<b>6</b>  Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Gyudon</b> beef on rice  Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	<b>7</b>  Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Pork lettuce wrap</b>	<b>8</b>  X	<b>9</b>  Qi Gong: 11:30 <b>Katsu curry</b> pork cutlet in curry sauce  Mah jong: 12:30-2	<b>10</b>  Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Kao Man kai</b> chicken rice w/ sauce
<b>13</b>  Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Saba Teri</b> grilld saba w/teriyaki sce  Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	<b>14</b>  Fujinkai Board: 10:30 Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Miso ginger chicken</b>	<b>15</b>  X	<b>16</b>  Skip's Magic Show** <b>Ebi mayo</b> honey walnut shrimp  Mah jong: 12:30-2	<b>17</b>  Chair Exercises: 11:30 Hiru Gohan Gurupu <b>Beef &amp; broccoli</b>
<b>20</b>  Ohana Lunch Bunch Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Kakiage</b> tempura pattie w/cocktl shrpm Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	<b>21</b>  Sage Circle: 10 Ki Developmnt for Life <b>Shumai</b>	<b>22</b>  X	<b>23</b>  Qi Gong: 11 Sing Along: 11:30 <b>Gaprao rice</b> basil chkn & veggies on rice Mah jong: 12:30-2	<b>24</b>  Nisei Day Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Karaage</b>
<b>27</b>  <b>Closed for Memorial Day</b>	<b>28</b>  Chair Exercises: 11:30 <b>Shrimp tofu/ Singapore ndls</b>	<b>29</b>  X	<b>30</b>  Qi Gong: 11:30 <b>Birthday Sushi</b>  Mah jong: 12:30-2	<b>31</b>  Chair Exercises: 11:30 Katherine Work on piano <b>Pork gyoza</b>

Cooks: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Rieko Shimada-Th/F

May 14: Fujinkai Board: 10:30

May 16: Skip's Annual Magic Show\*\*: 11:30-- Reservations Req., Regular price

May 17: Hiru Gohan Gurupu: noon and after lunch

May 20: Ohana Lunch Bunch: 11:30

May 21: Sage Circle: 10; Dwight Onchi-Ki Development for Life-11:30

May 23: Sing Along with Jerry and Rie: 11:30

May 24: Nisei Day: Nisei gathering to re-connect, meet

May 31: Kathryn Work on piano: noon

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

Blood Pressure: May 14-Jane Kawashima, May 28-Ellen Iwasaki



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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.