



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2019 • VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September 29

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Viewing of Hiro's Table
Clinton St. Theatre

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

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2019 NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION IN SALT LAKE CITY

by Marleen Wallingford, President

The National JACL convention in Salt Lake City was busy and extremely emotional. The Seattle JACL brought forward a new business item: an apology to the Tule Lake resisters. This is a particularly sensitive topic because just after the war, the JACL voted to condemn those who had indicated no-no on the loyalty questionnaire. The division between the yes-yes and no-no group has continued on to this day. Families kept very quiet that they had once spent time there.

The Nisei Vets who fought so valiantly had a hard time forgiving those that refused to serve because they felt they proved their loyalty by "leaving the blood on the sand which is all one color." In 1988, the federal government issued an apology to both groups with the Civil Rights Act. The government apologized. It is now time for the JACL to apologize for actions taken when our community was vilified and described as un-American. In retrospect, we needed both groups in order to attain Redress.

The time is now to become united. We, as a nation are facing bigotry directed at other groups of color. We need to be united in our opposition to the derogatory statements and hate speech directed and unflattering stereotypes directed at another

vulnerable group of people. We were alone. We cannot be bystanders. We will not be silent now.

2019 JACL Convention Honors Three Japanese Americans

Senator Mazie Hirano was honored with the Ralph Carr Award for her work in the U.S. Senate, standing up for the civil rights of the AAPI community and other communities of color. She has spoken out against the Muslim travel ban, defended the rights to asylum, and condemned ICE's deportation raids.

The President's Award was given to Wat Misaka. He was selected by the New York Knicks in the 1947 draft and became the first person of color to play in the now NBA. The first African American did not begin playing until 1950.

Arlene Inouye also was honored with the President's Award. Her uncle was the California Potato King who unsuccessfully fought against the Alien Land Law of 1913. She was a member of the United Teachers of Los Angeles and led the bargaining team through a historic strike and contract settlement. She represented over 34,000 educators employed by Los Angeles Unified School District.

PASSINGS AND OUR WAY OF REMEMBERING

by Sharon Takahashi

A very heartfelt thank you to those who helped us get the Japanese Cemetery at Rose City to be as gorgeous and well maintained as it is every day. So many nice compliments have come to us from families who have traveled to honor their moms and grandmothers on Mothers' Day, our veterans on Memorial Day and fathers and grandfathers on Fathers' Day. They have been local and travelers from afar.

A belated thank you to the three healthy "young men" who wielded their power washer and cleaned off bases on the right side and did what they could on the left side. We had been hemming and hawing about the lack of a power outlet and how we would run our little power washers, but these fellows brought their gas-powered equipment with them. Like many angels, they will remain nameless.

The heavy-duty crew that does work consistently there are Fran Palk, Susan Okada, Nancy Tanaka Clayton, Ken Sumida and Jamie Chappo. Fran Sumida is taking a well-deserved break from the chairmanship of the maintenance committee and turned the reins over to me. I will try to carry on with the volunteers she has recruited and follow her manual of what needs to be done.

Cemeteries have always intrigued me. On road trips, I tend to make stops at which that others groan. The cemetery advisory committee chair Mike Irinaga has called it a strange "hobby." It just seems like an interesting view to see how folks remember their loved ones. As an example, the whole community can look at the new wrought iron fence surrounding our hallowed grounds and see how Sam Naito chose to remember some of his friends and relatives who have passed on. Wasn't that a wonderful gesture?

We will be doing our work on a limited budget and so we have a few requests.

*We need a working wheeled trash bin. We clear brush, flowers and weeds and empty the bin into the trash dumpster we have on the premises. Our current bin is retired due to age.

*Brushes and scrubbers which are gentle on fine stone (Tawashi-style). These environmentally friendly items help keep our stone surfaces safe.

*Rubber gloves (disposable) suitable for cleaning, not food service. Sometimes, new volunteers are not aware that we use bleach and stronger soaps to scrub bird poop off of our stones.

We have volunteer calligraphers who are painting in eroding letters and characters on our headstones. If you or your family do not choose this cosmetic update, please let us know. Our intentions are legibility, but we understand some have different preferences. All will be respected.

Many of our volunteers bring their own equipment when we announce work days. For this we are very grateful. Our storage onsite is limited.

Please email me if you have any ideas and suggestions on how we can involve more in maintaining our cemetery grounds: stakahashi509@gmail.com or (503) 330-1935.

A special note: The Japanese Ancestral Society, owner of the Japanese Cemetery, is a 501(c)3 entity and all donations made to the Cemetery Endowment Fund are tax deductible.

UNITE AGAINST HATE *by Jeff Selby*

Portland United Against Hate (PUAH) is a coalition of 80+ community-based organizations (including Portland JACL), neighborhood groups, and the City of Portland. Their mission is to track, respond to, and prevent acts of hate while providing the support that our communities need.

Communities experience hate-motivated violence in a variety of ways and there's a need for a documentation process that enables those most impacted to be able to track hate incidents in a trusted manner.

PUAH is building a rapid response system that combines reporting and tracking of hateful acts and providing the support and protection our communities need in this uncertain era.

If you witness or experience a hate incident, you can report it confidentially to:

ReportHatePDX.com

Together, we can all unite against hate.

LETTER TO THE CHAPTER

Hello—

I am a curator with JANM and I am hoping you might be able to help me. We are working on developing an exhibit that will explore the experiences of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the wartime camps. As part of this project, we are interviewing as many former scouts as possible. I am hoping to locate and interview former scouts from all 10 camps (there were Boy Scouts in all and Girl Scouts in most), but have so far had no luck with Minidoka. I've contacted Densho, Oregon Nikkei, Wing Luke, spoken to Yosh Nakagawa and Brooks Andrews of the Seattle Japanese Baptist Church, and reached out to the Minidoka Pilgrimage committee. I was hoping you could get word out to your community members and see if anyone is or knows of a former scout from Minidoka. I know there will be considerable overlap with the organizations I've already been in touch with, but I am hoping that maybe someone has slipped through the cracks so far. Thank you so much for your help! Please feel free to share my contact info (listed below) with people there.

Best,
Emily

Dr. Emily Anderson, Project Curator
eanderson@janm.org | (747) 254-1577 (VM only)

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NEWSLETTER (non-Board)

Jeff Selby

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THE CREATION OF GAMBATTE: AN AMERICAN LEGACY

by Heath Hyun Houghton

In 2017, Chisao Hata was given a photograph of Martha Jordan's first grade class in Vanport, Oregon.

She embarked on collecting stories from five Japanese Americans students shown in the photo, about their time in camp, about living in Vanport, about their lives.

These stories were then adapted into a 45 minute oral history play called *Gambatte Be Strong*, by playwright Nikki Nojima Louis. This script was staged as a reading as part of Vanport Mosaic Festival, 2017.

Plays and musicals need to be nurtured and meticulously crafted. They need to be performed in front of audiences to discover how a story is being received. A public reading at Lewis and Clark in 2018 gave us the courage to move forward in dramatically restructuring the play. We began by asking a series of questions in writing sessions; what does it mean to be Asian American, Japanese American? What is American? How has the myth informed the lie? We worked to expand and deepen the emotional clarity of the piece.

Many elements were tried and discarded, such as including Martha Jordan as a character in the play. We ended up approaching the structure of the piece much like the book of a musical, creating a framework in which the stories could be contextualized. The piece was reshaped and poetic sequences written by Lawson Inada, Janice Mirikitani, and Ken Yoshikawa were interpolated into the script and the story was clarified to focus on the what we pass on to the next generation.

People have been deeply moved by this piece; we have received many comments that speak to the power of experiential storytelling to offer a platform for conversations that can help communities begin to heal. For some the emotional legacies have been so deeply rooted in their family histories that only through symbolic representations can they

feel safe expressing their personal truths. Creating artistic works like these validate the personal experiences members of the Japanese American community may have gone through; allowing different communities to come together, on subjective terms.



Portland JACL was one of the sponsors of play which was one of the activities of the Vanport Mosaic. Back to front: Ken Yoshikawa, Kurt Ikeda, Thien-Kim Bui and Heath Hyun are escaping the Vanport flood. Photo: Shawnte Sims

Audiences sit in a dark room and go on a journey with one another. They laugh together and cry together. This creates space for dialogues to begin, as we continue the great and complex work of building a society we are proud to pass on to our children.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



On July 21, Jayne Ichikawa, Tuesday Shellmire, Mayu Garner, Maho Garner, Connie Masuoka, Marleen Wallingford, Amanda Shannahan and June Schumann supported Portland Parks and Recreations' Walk with Immigrants and Refugees event.



JACL Executive Director, David Inoue, Marleen Wallingford, Chip Larouche, President Jeff May, Setsy Larouche and Lynn Fuchigami Parks at the opening reception of the convention at Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City.



On August 6, Physicians for Social Responsibility sponsored a Hiroshima and Nagasaki event at the Japanese American Historical Plaza. Michiko Kornhauser, a survivor, and Pat Hoover, a downwinder whose family was exposed to radiation in the production of plutonium at Hanford, were speakers.



Open Signal, a nonprofit media center, hosted a conversation with Japanese Americans, Go Ask Aunty on August 17. Martha Matsushima shares her story. Second photo: Chisao Hata and Laura LoFoti, one of the founders of Vanport Mosaic, share memory activism. Remembering our past informs our present.



HIRO'S TABLE

2:30 p.m., Sept 29, 2019

Clinton Street Theater

2522 SE Clinton

Tickets: \$10 or \$8 JACL members

Purchase tickets online at Clinton Street Theater website. Contact marleen@pdx.jacl.org for promo code

A film portrait of master chef Hiroji Obayashi and his wife Yasuyo tending to both their family and their restaurant, Hirozen's Gourmet over a 16 year period. It's a story of immigration, following your dream, cooking and all of the joys and sorrows that life entails. In Hiro's words. "Food is not just cooking. Food is heart."

Pre-show Complimentary Saké Tasting by Miyuki Yoshida, Saké Sommelier

Q and A with the director and producer Lynn Hamrick and Hiroji and Yasuyo Obayashi.

Hiro's Table won Best New Mexico Documentary at the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival 2018, a Taste Award and the Audience Award at the Golden State Film Festival in Los Angeles (2019) and Best Documentary at the American Asian Latino Film Festival in NYC 2019.



NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2019 Fall Take-out Bazaar

Combination Bento

Chow Mein, Chicken	Quantity	\$ Amount
& Sushi	\$17.00	_____
Please pre-order	Total	\$ _____

Thank you for your order

Sunday, September 15, 2019. Pick-up: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Please return this pre-order form with your check by September 8, 2019.

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

All proceeds benefit:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2025 SE Yamhill Portland, OR 97214
(503) 235-8292



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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY	3 Fujinkai Board: 10 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Thai basil chicken	4 X	5 Qi Gong: 11:30 Clam chowder & chikuwa fry (see chikuwa descrip. below) Mah jong: 12:30-2	6 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Kathryn Work on piano Sanshokudon (3 colors: ground chicken, egg & green veggies)
9 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Tomato chicken curry Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	10 Blood pressure: 11:15 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Sweet & sour pork	11 X	12 Qi Gong: 11:30 Ika dango (calamari balls) Mah jong: 12:30-2	13 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Hiru Gohan Gurupu: 11:45 Korean karaage (fried chicken)
16 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Ohana Lunch Bunch Wonton soup Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	17 Sage Circle: 10 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Shrimp curried fried rice	18 X	19 Qi Gong: 11:30 Tuna burger Mah jong: 12:30-2	20 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Pad Thai (featuring pork & age)
23 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Niku tofu (beef & tofu) Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	24 Blood pressure: 11:15 Ki Development: 11:30 Chicken w/black bean sauce	25 X	26 Qi Gong: 11 Sing Along: 11:30 Birthday sushi Mah jong: 12:30-2	27 Nisei Day & Keiro no Hi ** Reservations Required
30 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Saba teriyaki (grilled mackerel w/teriyaki sauce) Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2			NOTE for SEPT 5: *Chikuwa is a fish by-product like kamaboko, fake crab.	

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

Sept 3: Fujinkai Board-10 a.m.

Sept 6: Kathryn Work on piano: noon

Sept 13: Hiru Gohan Gurupu-Rick, John, Mary, Hiroshi & Ellen perform-11:45

Sept 16: Ohana Lunch Bunch-Sansei gathering-11:30

Sept 17: Sage Circle-10; Ki Development with Dwight Onchi-11:30

Sept 26: Sing Along with Reiko & Jerry-11:30

Sept 27:** Combined Nisei Day & Keiro no Hi -- Reservations Required

\$10--featuring sashimi & sekihan

M, Tu, F: Chair Exrcis w/ N Kaji; Th: Qi Gng w/K Kuba; Sep 24-Ki Dvlpmt w/D Onchi-11:30

Blood Pressure: Sept 10-Jane Kawashima, Sept 24-Ellen 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.