

PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

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



PDXJACL.ORG

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 10

- ACLU Foundation Liberty Dinner, Portland Hilton Pavilion Room, 6 p.m.

March 11

- Daylight Savings Time Begins
- From Oregon with Love 2012, Aladdin Theatre, 7 p.m.

March 18

- Nichiren Annual Spring Bazaar, 11:30 a.m.

March 31

- PNW District Meeting, Puyallup, WA

April 1

- Sakura Sunday, 100th Anniversary of Cherry Tree Gift from Japan
- Deadline for National JACL Scholarship, see www.jacl.org/edu/scholar.htm for application

April 7

- Local Scholarship Interviews at OBT

April 21

- JACL National Board Meeting, San Francisco, CA

April 27

- Asian Reporter Banquet, Legin Restaurant

MARCH 2012 • VOLUME 17, ISSUE 8

Day of Remembrance 2012

*Board Member Message by: Setsy
Sadamoto Larouche*

The Day of Remembrance for 2012 was held at the Hoffmann Hall, Portland State University exactly on the 70th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This year the theme was to honor all those former internees (120,000) who endured undue hardships during WWII for no reason other than looking like the enemy. When Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941, the Japanese American lives were changed forever. Originally, they were sent to assembly centers and later forced to one of the ten permanent concentration camps throughout the U.S. Jean Yamamoto, Co-

President of Portland JACL started the program with a welcome address to over 150 attendees. The Minidoka Swing Band, conducted by Larry Nobori, played some popular tunes from that era including favorites like Sentimental Journey, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Don't Fence Me In with vocals provided by Nola Bogle and Henry Sakamoto. The band also played the Armed Services Medley where veterans in the audience stood as their service song was played. It seemed very special that Larry, Nola and Henry are themselves former Camp internees. The Minidoka Swing Band was the brain child of the late Robbie Tsuboi who wanted to bring back some of the

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Photo © 2012 Rich Iwasaki

Audience members listen to the wartime experiences of former internees at the 2012 Day of Remembrance event, Hoffmann Hall, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon

Board Members Message Continued

history from the camps and to share the idea that people in camp tried to make the best of their situation. Henry Sakamoto played double duty by participating on the panel discussion which was moderated by Professor Linda Tamura from Willamette University. Other panel members included Yoji Matsushima who talked about living in Crystal City, Texas where he lived with Italian and German and Peruvian Japanese prisoners.

He also related that the Matsushima family for part of the time were being considered for deportment back to Japan. George Nakata spoke personally about the feeling and hurt of having his civil rights taken away

from him. Dr. Homer Yasui was a 17 year old student who shared how different age groups had different experiences at camp where he actually enjoyed not having to work the fields in the summer months in

Hood River and also getting the bonus of leaving high school a month early. He also got to meet so many other JA and he actually did not dwell on his civil liberties being violated. Alice Sumida was a young bride and she and her husband Mark decided to leave the livestock yard

Audience members listen to the war-time experiences of former internees



Photo © 2012 Rich Iwasaki

Alice Sumida (far right) speaks about her experience during World War II at the 2012 Day of Remembrance event, Hoffmann Hall, Portland State University, Portland, Oregon. Other panel members looking on are (l to r) Yoji Matsushima, George Nakata, Henry Sakamoto, Linda Tamura, and Homer Yasui.



Photo © 2012 Rich Iwasaki

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Board Members Message Continued



The Minidoka Swing Band performs at the 2012 Day of Remembrance event

that was converted into the Portland Assembly Center to work in the field of Eastern Oregon thinning sugar beet fields and other back breaking work. Professor Tamura expertly kept the panel focused and on track and tied in her thoughts about how she had to deal with the confusion of her parents talk about “camp” with her summer camp experiences. The panel discussion was followed by a lively question and answer period. The program included presenting special pins to each

of the 38 former internees who were in attendance. The pins that depict a bald eagle clutching barbed wire in its talons, contrasting the patriotism of the wearers with the incarceration that they endured were presented by Co-President Susan Leedham. Unite People (UP) Portland JACL’s youth group gave a preview of a video presentation on the Power of Words, where Yoji Matsushima, George Nakata and a local Rabbi discussed the differences in meaning of various descriptors for the camps used in World War II to segregate the Japanese Americans and the Jews. UP plans to show an extended version of this documentary at the National JACL Convention in July in Bellevue, Washington. The program ended with acknowledgments by Susan Leedham and the Minidoka Swing Band playing additional songs with Henry Sakamoto and Emi Lee, the UP Co-Chair swing dancing to the delight of the audience.

Time Marches On - Ikoi no Kai 2011 Report

The Ikoi no Kai Committee thanks Spirit Mountain Community Fund for its grant to our community lunch program for 2011-2012. Without their grant, we would not be able to continue our service to the community. The Corporation for National and Community Service reported that 63.4 million Americans, or 26.8% of the adult population, gave 8.1 billion hours of volunteer services worth \$169 billion in 2009. In Oregon, that volunteer hour was valued at \$18.47. In 2010, the value rose to \$21.36.

Because we could not pay a full time site manager, Loen Dozono volunteered to fill that position, assisted by Gordon Kondo and Sharon Takahashi when health issues kept her offsite. That position alone at 20 hours per week for 50 weeks a year (less time for floor replacement, weather closures, building usage) would total \$21,350.

Ikoi no Kai Committee meets the second Monday of every month 2 hours. Their time contributed amounts to \$587.40 per member, approximate total

\$7,636. Thank you to co-chairs Gordon Kondo and Sharon Takahashi, secretary Pat Gilman, treasurer Chris Shiraishi, Shig Oka, Dan Hinatsu, Seichi Konno, Marian Hara, Connie Masuoka, Don Matsuda, Noriko Dozono, Katie Tamiyasu and Henry Ueno. Ed Tamiyasu assists us with special projects.

Epworth Liaisons—Donna Tanaka, Kay Endo and Rev. Robin Yim. We don’t know how many meetings you were involved in regarding Ikoi No Kai, but we appreciate your partnership.

We have firms and families who donate food to our program and drivers who pick up these donations and deliver to us. I know I will miss the individuals but the businesses are Uwajimaya, Hiroshi’s Anzen, Ota Tofu, Delphina’s, Killer Dave’s Bread, Fujii Farms and United Pacific. Drivers who assist us are Minnie Young, Wayne Reynolds, Lennie Tanaka and Heidi Inahara.

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Time Marches On - Ikoi no Kai 2011 Report Continued

In Kind Professional Services have been donated by Bruce Iwata and Ed Tamiyasu (plumbing), Chris Shiraishi (accounting), Loen Dozono and Teresa Brandon (grant writing and research), John Kodachi (legal resource), June Shiigi and Karin Kane (website and directory layout) and Pat Gilman (interior design and publication). Their per hour rates and attention to detail are priceless.

We had volunteers who help us bring music to the lunch crowd. Henry Ueno, Mas Yatabe, Reiko Isono, Jerry Baysinger led the monthly singalongs, Special guests Kozue Okabe and Mitsuki Dazai(koto), Ed Kawasaki and Henry Ueno (harmonica), Rev. Robin Yim (mountain dulcimer), Tomodachi Chorus. Reiko Isono (piano) and Stuart Sawai (violin) performed graciously. Lia Teener, 12 year old granddaughter of Frank and Ruth Nakata, came to play the piano and erhu (a classic Chinese instrument).

Also deserving a rousing cheer is the Tomodachi Lunch Bunch who meet one Monday a month and include our clients in their revelry. Tom Nakata, Janet Kakishita and Jere Okada thought it would be fun to have the next generation meet and prepare some fun activities, such as bingo and ice breakers.

While the stomachs were happy, we also needed the bodies to be sound and the health team came forward. Yosh Inahara and Jane Kawashima did blood pressure reading, Dr. Toshio Inahara helped patrons form questions for their primary care physicians. Yowko Richardson conducted tai chi classes and Yoko Nishioka, Taka Mizote, Noriko Dozono and Ryuko Kakishita helped with exercises.

Milestones were always worthy of added sparkle. We had a corsage team of Kaneko Wagar, Atsuko Richards, and Kim Steel. Walt Wier (deceased), Mark

Vossbrink and Rose Kasahara kept our tables graced with beauty.

Our paid kitchen teams for 2011 were Kashu Hamada (Tu, Thurs) Sharon Ogata (Mon, Fri) and Lennie Tanaka (Tu, Th). As previously announced, Skip Yamamoto resigned in January after many years of service. A robust thank you is added to their paychecks each month as they work for smiles + wages. The volunteers are: MONDAY: Toy Hirata, Mary Yamaguchi, Gordon Kondo, Karin Kane, Ryuko Kakishita, Elna Shinseki, Noriko Dozono, George Kajiwarra, Karen Fujimoto; TUESDAY: Heidi Inahara, Haruyo Takei, Isae Lafferty, Mary Yamaguchi, Sandy Tashima, Kristen Dozono, Jessie Harry, Betty Jean Harry, Takae Okazaki, Haruyo Takei, Justin Inahara, Ed Tamiyasu, Gary Onchi, George Kajiwarra, Rodney Ninomiya, George Hoashi, May Oka and Lil Kiyokawa, THURSDAY: Alice Ando, Barbara Uyesugi, Lynn Grannan, Noriko Dozono, Lillian Okazaki, Hiromi Stoner, Nobuko Wedick, Lynn Yarne, Don Matsuda, Gordy Kondo, Mary Yamaguchi, George Kajiwarra; FRIDAY: Taka Mizote, Fude Kagawa, Nancy Furumasu, Yoko Nishioka, Mary Yamaguchi, Gordon Kondo, George Kajiwarra, Lily Irinaga. Summer volunteers: Cally Kamiya, Cameron & Corey Suyematsu, Katie Yotsuuye.

We especially want to thank our community donors for 2011. In 2010, we had 55 donors who donated a total of \$16,430. In 2011, the donor number went up to 105 and donations totaled \$22,471. (Note: If you are a donor and have misplaced your receipt, we can get one out to you before April 15)

So thanks to Spirit Mountain Community Fund, our volunteers and the community, we will be celebrating our 33rd year of service in March.

Anti-Asian Ad Removed

The Super Bowl is over and done this year with some faded memories of the exciting finish or some amusing ads. However, one ad aired in Michigan that ignited a firestorm of protest. It was a political ad for Pete Hoekstra's campaign for US Senate. In it an Asian woman spoke broken English and rode through a rice paddy thanking his opponent, Debbie Stabenow, for economic policies that helped the Chinese and took away American jobs.

Why is this political ad in a far off state from Oregon a concern? Well, time and again this type of racial stereotyping and scapegoating leads to racism, then progresses to hate crimes and discriminatory public

policy and laws.

Thirty years ago a 27-year old Chinese American, Vincent Chin, was celebrating his upcoming marriage when he encountered into two unemployed auto workers. Words were exchanged as the workers blamed the Japanese and Vincent for the downturn in the American auto industry and subsequent job losses. Vincent was beaten with a baseball bat and died five days before his wedding. The two killers received probation and were fined \$3,000.

Seventy years ago Executive Order 9066 was
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Anti-Asian Ad Removed

signed authorizing the forced removal of 120,000 Japanese Americans from their homes and sent to incarceration camps in desert wastelands. Homes, businesses, farms, and possessions were lost.

One hundred and thirty years ago the Chinese Exclusion Act barred immigration based solely on race and any Chinese resident already in the US was barred from ever becoming naturalized citizens. They were required to carry residency documents at all times or risk deportation.

The Hoekstra campaign ad pointing to the Chinese

for the loss of American jobs plays right into the anti-Asian fear mongering that starts the whole sad cycle. After many groups, including the JACL protested, the ad was taken down and his opponent now holds a 17 point lead in the race for the Senate seat. There is no place in our elected offices for this type of political messaging. As was so well said during this year's Day of Remembrance, we must be ever vigilant and knowledgeable of our civil rights and stand up and speak up when those rights are threatened. Even when those injuries occur half a continent away.

Oregon Nikkei Endowment (O.N.E.) Upcoming Events

March 2: See a speakers' panel launching the newest book by Kristina McMorris, *Bridge of Scarlet Leaves*, Friday, March 2 at 7 p.m. The program will be led by Ms. McMorris and will include Henry Sakamoto, a former internment camp resident, along with a World War II veteran, Lorry Nakatsu, who recently received the Congressional Gold Medal.

March 3: In conjunction with the exhibit, *KOKESHI: FROM TRADITION TO TODAY* currently on view at the Legacy Center, a Kokeshi doll painting workshop will be held, Saturday, March 3 from 10 a.m. – Noon at Barnes & Noble, Clackamas. Led by Art Institute of Portland instructor and *KOKESHI* ex-

hibit designer, Dale Gronso, kids will have the chance to learn about Kokeshi dolls, their history, and aspects of design. Using techniques of brush painting, kids will decorate their own blank doll which they can take home. Children between the ages of 8-15 are welcome to attend. Thanks to a Project Grant from the Regional Art and Culture Council (RACC), this workshop is FREE!

March 10: A second Kokeshi doll painting workshop will be offered on Saturday, March 10 from Noon – 2 p.m. at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland. Led by University of Oregon Product Design professor, Trygve Faste.

Clark Center Loaves & Fishes March 2012 Menu

2740 SE Powell Blvd., Portland OR

Thursday 1 - Meatball goulash over egg noodles or turkey cranberry cream cheese sandwich

Friday 2 - Baked fish w/ tartar sauce or greek salad

Monday 5 - Salisbury steak or tortellini salad

Tuesday 6 - Ginger turkey or mediterranean sandwich

Wednesday 7 - Meat lasagna or tomato basil veggie burger

Thursday 8 - Swedish meatballs or chicken enchilada casserole

Friday 9 - Bourbon chicken or veggie lasagna

Monday 12 - Beef & mac casserole or grilled chicken breast sandwich

Tuesday 13 - Chicken tetrazzini or curry pork

Wednesday 14 - Baked fish or veggie pizza

Thursday 15 - Savory baked chicken or french dip sandwich

Friday 16 - Corned beef or stuffed tuna

Monday 19 - Sweet & sour chicken or mushroom & cheese omelet

Tuesday 20 - Turkey pot roast or chinese chicken salad

Wednesday 21 - Chicken a la king or spinach lasagna

Thursday 22 - Spaghetti w/ meat sauce or open face turkey sandwich

Friday 23 - Breaded tilapia or chicken enchilada casserole

Monday 26 - Ginger chicken or veggie chili

Tuesday 27 - Meatloaf w/ gravy or veggie pizza

Wednesday 28 - Veggie pizza or shrimp salad

Thursday 29 - Pork stroganoff over egg noodles or tuna salad sandwich

Friday 30 - Baked fish w/ lemon dill or chicken fajita

Portland Taiko Presents

THREE: 3 conversations with taiko



Photo: Chris Roesing 2011

March 23, 24 @ 8 pm & March 25 @ 2 pm

Winningstad Theatre @ PCPA

This innovative concert from Artistic Director Michelle Fujii explores the taiko art form's ability to speak to us individually and collectively. **THREE** weaves distinct forms of classical Japanese art **Nihon Buyo**, **Koto** and **Shakuhachi** into contemporary conversations with the drum.

This collaboration celebrates Michelle's exploration of taiko as an active force that continues to evolve and inspire curiosity.

Nihon Buyo is the art form of traditional Japanese dance, vibrant today with a history of nearly four centuries. The Koto (13 string plucked zither) and Shakuhachi (flute held vertically like a recorder) are instruments seemingly unchanged over the ages that continue to reveal new possibilities.

Join more conversations!

Pre-performance discussion Sunday March 25 @ 1 pm

Moderated by: Larry Kominz, Professor of Japanese at PSU and member of the Japan Society of New York's performing arts advisory committee.

Tickets: Single Tickets on sale February 6th,

\$20.25- \$11.25, available through PCPA Box Office and Ticketmaster outlets.

NEW- Membership to Portland Taiko. Make a gift of \$35 and purchase tickets directly from Portland Taiko and save 10%, additional benefits included. Call Portland Taiko at (503) 288-2456 for more information.

Ikoï no Kai at Epworth

1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland

Thursday 1 - Yakisoba

Friday 2 - Thai chicken salad rolls

Monday 5 - Arroz con pollo

Tuesday 6 - 33rd Anniversary Lunch

Wednesday 7 - Closed

Thursday 8 - Cabbage roll

Friday 9 - Chicken pot pie

Monday 12 - Ramen, panko shrimp

Tuesday 13 - Sweet & sour pork

Wednesday 14 - Closed

Thursday 15 - Chicken teriyaki

Friday 16 - Corned beef

Monday 19 - Cioppino

Tuesday 20 - Steamed "dragon" roll

Wednesday 21 - Closed

Thursday 22 - Mabo dofu (spicy tofu w/ meat)

Friday 23 - Korean beef kalbi

Monday 26 - Shu mai, sticky rice

Tuesday 27 - Birthday Special

Wednesday 28 - Closed

Thursday 29 - Yanagawa donburi (beef rice bowl)

Friday 30 - Hawaiian pineapple chicken

YOUR PORTLAND JACL BOARD

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Ikoï no Kai March 2012 Menu Notes:

- Only the main dish is listed. Menu also includes soup or salad, side dish, and dessert.
- Anniversary Lunch: Cherry blossom soup, Sekihan (red bean rice), ginger beef, fried shrimp, nishime (Japanese vegetables); Reservations required.
- March 27: Birthday Special: Assorted sushi (cucumber maki, inarizushi, futomaki, pressed sushi)

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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.



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