

PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

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



PDXJACL.ORG

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 4

- OBON Fest, Oregon
Buddhist Temple

August 6

- Hiroshima-Nagasaki
Remembrance, Japanese
Historical Plaza, 6:00 p.m.

August 10

- JASO Golf Tournament,
Resort at the Mountain,
www.jaso.org

August 19

- Nikkei Community Picnic,
Oaks Park

September 16

- O.N.E. Annual Banquet
Honoring Alice Sumida &
Massie Hinatsu, Noon

September 27

- JACL Annual Gala, JW
Marriott Hotel, Washington
D.C.

September 29-30

- Festival Japan, Uwajimaya

October 7

- Sukiyaki Bazaar, Oregon
Buddhist Temple (note:
incorrect on JACL Calendar)

October 15

- Last day to join any of
the eleven sponsoring
organizations for the 2013
Community Scholarships.

AUGUST 2012 • VOLUME 18, ISSUE 1

National Convention Recap

*Board Members Message by
Susan Leedham*

Bellevue, Washington, was the site of the 2012 JACL National Convention held July 5-8. I had the honor of representing our Portland Chapter.

The schedule was packed with National Council sessions, workshops, national officer elections, an oratorical contest and a great chance to meet members from other chapters around the country.

We passed the Power of Words, a very comprehensive document outlining the reasons for no longer using euphemisms like internment camp but instead to use the correct term, incarceration center, and also ways to educate the public.

We passed a very difficult budget eliminating two positions, but, hopefully, with the implementation of a JACL Planned Giving Program whereby you can include JACL at both the national and chapter level in your will or trust, we can replenish our treasury and bring back some of

the much needed staff and fund programs.

Our treasurer, Chip Larouche, was honored with a much deserved Sapphire Pin. To qualify for this honor, you must have at least ten consecutive years of active service to JACL and at least five of those years must be at the district or national level. Chip



Photo © 2012 Rich Iwasaki

Chip Larouche (left), Pacific NW District Council Governor, accepts the Sapphire Pin from JACL President David Kawamoto at the Aloha Welcome Mixer at the 2012 JACL National Convention, Regency room, Bellevue Hyatt Regency hotel, Bellevue, Washington. The Sapphire Pin recognizes active members with long-standing service on boards and committees at the district and National levels.

was our co-president 2002-2004, and he is currently our Pacific Northwest District Governor. You see him at all of our community events, and he and his wife Setsy have been busy traveling to district and national meetings on both coasts of the US. Personally, I don't know where he finds the time, as he works full time for the City of Lake Oswego. We are very

(continued on next page)

Board Members Message Continued

fortunate to have Chip. And he joins his wife, Setsy Larouche, and Connie Masuoka, who have also been recipients of the Sapphire Pin.

Elections were also held for national office. Of note, David Lin is our new National President, and our own Mariko Newton was elected National Youth/Student Council representative.

We also heard from Priscilla Ouchida, our National Executive Director. We are fortunate to have her in Washington, D.C., advocating for not only Japanese Americans but civil rights for all. She emphasized that JACL is important and looked to by other advocacy groups because not only have we been a strong voice for many years, but we have the story vividly demonstrating when fear and prejudice took over and our government forgot that the Bill of Rights and the Constitution are there to protect all of its citizens.

The highlight of the convention for me was the speech at the Youth Luncheon by Vision Award winner Gene Kim, Director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). He gave a rousing speech describing his transformation from a very shy student at UC Berkeley whose career path shifted after taking an Asian studies class and doing some community volunteer



The Minidoka Swing Band performs at the Sayonara Banquet of the 2012 JACL National Convention, Grand Ballroom, Bellevue Hyatt Regency hotel, Bellevue, Washington.

work, to becoming the director of this very high-profile group in Washington, D.C. working with 42 members of Congress dedicated to addressing the needs and concerns of the API communities. He described how indeed Congress is dysfunctional and how he sometimes feels like giving up and going back to his life on the West Coast, but then he remembers all of our ancestors and the

discrimination and hardships they endured so we could have a better life, and so he realizes that, yes, he can put on that suit and continue to fight the good fight, and that his challenges are not as great as what they overcame.

The next National Convention will be in Washington, D.C., in mid-July. It will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1988, also known as the Redress Bill. I hope some of you will be able to join in what promises to be a very inspirational and informative convention.

Photo © 2012 Rich Iwasaki



Secretary Norman Mineta speaks at the National Council session

日系コミュニティ・ピクニック

NIKKEI COMMUNITY PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 2012
OAKS PARK
(SOUTH PARK AREA - UNDER THE LARGE STRIPED TENT)
NOON TO 5PM

Join us for an afternoon of food and fun! The picnic is sponsored by organizations of the Nikkei community to celebrate our ethnic heritage.

We will provide at no cost:

- Main dish: Fried Chicken
- Beverages: hot tea, soda, and beer
- Eating utensils: plates and napkins
- Watermelons
- Games and prizes and ride bracelets for kids high school and younger
- Parking

Please bring a side dish to share. In order to ensure a variety we suggest that you bring a side dish that corresponds to the alphabetical groupings listed below:

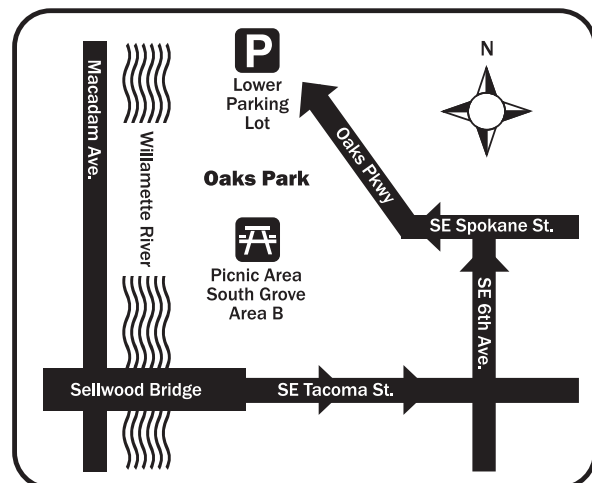
A-Ki Rice or a noodle dish
Kl-Sa Salad or Vegetable dish
Sc-Z Dessert or Bread

主催方からの供給

焼き鳥
お茶、ソウダ、ビール
西瓜
遊芸と遊技の賞品
駐車場

持ち合わせ品

A-Ki サラダ
Kl-Sa ごはん
Sc-Z デザート



This year, Kristi Fukunaga is setting recycling stations at the Nikkei Picnic as part of her Girl Scout Gold Project to create a greener environment.

Please RSVP by August 10: Connie Masuoka at 503-243-3291

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2012 JACL National Convention Pictures



Dinner with Ambassador Fujisaki at the Hyatt Regency, Bellevue, WA.



Susan Leedham (left), Portland JACL co-president, Chip Larouche (center), Pacific NW District Governor, and Mariko Newton (right), National Youth Student Council Representative vote during the second day of the National Council Session.



Chip and Setsy Larouche with Ambassador Fujisaki



Left to right: Secretary Norman Mineta, Fiance to Gene Kim who was the keynote speaker at the Youth Luncheon, Priscilla Ouchida, Congressman Honda, David Kawamoto President of JACL.

Reflection: Youth at the JACL National Convention and Beyond

By Mariko Newton

“Inform, Transform, Perform: Embracing JACL in an era of transformation.” With the changing demographics of the Japanese American community and the challenges the organization must face amid the 21st century, the theme for this year’s JACL National Convention seemed more appropriate than ever. Just as I had expected, one of the major discussions revolved around the question of: How can JACL remain relevant for years to come? While there is no single right answer to this question, it is undoubtedly true that cultivating the next generation of JACL leaders is an integral step to sustaining our place as the leading Asian American civil rights organization in the nation.

Keeping this concept in mind, the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) organized various youth-oriented activities at the 2012 convention with the hopes of inspiring students and young professionals to become further involved with JACL at the local, regional, and national level. Starting off with the youth mixer on Thursday and ending with the NY/SC-hosted youth forum on Sunday, the convention allowed for meaningful discussions on the future of JACL and ways for youth to be integrated into its leadership structure. Also coordinated by the NY/SC, this year’s Min Yasui Oratorical Competition consisted of four finalists each of whom addressed the issue of “How can JACL maintain its JA heritage while also staying relevant within an APIA community filled with new immigrants and multiracial/multiethnic individuals?” As a multiracial Shin-Nisei myself, I personally believe reaching out to the broader Asian Pacific American

community is critical for the longevity of the organization. Furthermore, my personal highlight of the weekend was the Youth Luncheon. In recognition of his commitment to public service and leadership, the NY/SC presented the Vision Award to Gene F. Kim, the Executive Director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), a group comprised of 42 Members of Congress dedicated to addressing the needs and concerns of the AAPI community. As many of the luncheon attendees would agree, Gene Kim’s keynote speech conveyed an eye-awakening

message that left within each and every one of us a renewed sense of drive, awareness, and passion for our community.

Although the convention is officially over, the NY/SC continues to work towards our mission of building a national network of leaders and advocates to ultimately create positive change in the APIA community. As the recently elected National Youth Student Representative, I, along with National Youth Student Chair, Jeffrey Moy,

foresee the youth council achieving numerous goals in the next biennium. We would like to see the NY/SC reaching out to students and young professionals in every capacity possible—whether that be by executing more leadership programs such as the JACL youth summit, enhancing its online visibility through social networking, and/or strengthening relationships with other non-profit organizations. But we cannot do this without your support. Please join us in this effort. Let’s bring a new wave of JACL leaders so that in this “era of transformation,” the organization maintains a strong, vibrant voice that stretches expansively across the nation for many years into the future.



National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) members with Southwest Airlines representative Kim Delevett at the 2012 JACL National Convention’s Sayonara Banquet.

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Unite People at the 2012 JACL National Convention!

On July 5, twelve members of Unite People got up early to board a 15 passenger van with their advisor, Connie Masuoka and Mom/Co-pilot, Patty Locke to attend the National JACL Convention 2012 in Bellevue Washington. On the way to the convention we toured the Experience Music Project and Science Fiction Hall of Fame museums in Seattle. We spent 2 ½ days intensely involved in the convention where our Unite People members got to meet JACL youth from across the country, attend various workshops, and see democracy in action during the business meetings. They were also able to exercise their leadership skills by hosting a nonscheduled mixer for the youth attending the convention. On the way home we took the ferry to Bainbridge Island for a personally guided tour by Lilly Kodama, Dr Frank Kitamoto, Clarence Moriwaki and other residents of Bainbridge Island of the Bainbridge Island Historical Society Museum and also the beautiful and inspiring Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.

Unite People was able to attend the convention by fundraising through numerous events such as the wreath sale and chili feed, and the gracious sponsorship of the Portland JACL. We are very thankful to the chapter for their financial support and encouragement and to the people of the community who supported them in their fundraising endeavors. Included below are a few of the UP member reflections. Additional reflections will be featured in next month's newsletter!

The JACL Annual Convention experience was fantastic. The event was really well planned. I got to meet a lot of interesting people, youth and adults, from around the northwest and across the country. One of the most memorable moments from the convention was when a few adult JACL members taught the youth to swing dance. I will never forget the laughter and smiles from that night. None of this would have been possible without the help and support of the community and the Portland Chapter of JACL. Thank you.

- Meredith Loy, Oregon Episcopal

This year's convention was a great experience. It allowed me to reconnect with old friends from the convention I attended in 2010, as well as make new friendships with new people. I was truly glad to see an incredible increase in the attendance of youth members from all over the West Coast. One of the best

moments from the trip was dancing with The Minidoka Swing Band. I haven't dance with them since my first trip to Minidoka four years ago. I think my dancing skills have increased since then. I may have been scaring everyone with my wild moves. In the end, this trip was a fantastic experience and I can not wait till the next convention comes around and I can attend.

- Schafer Durgan, Portland State University

The national JACL convention really made me realize how much of a large community I am involved in. Being at the workshops and meetings and seeing all of the representatives from all over the country made me feel like I am part of something greater. I learned a variety of new things from the workshops especially from the people that were interned at the camps. Each one of them had multiple stories to tell and the more stories I hear, I develop a better understanding of how it must have felt for the interned. I really enjoyed the workshops mostly because they varied from different topics from the Minidoka camps to learning how to be smart about buying your first car. But for me, the best part of this convention was the connections I got to make. Through the many events, I got to meet kids my age doing the same exact thing I am doing at different parts of the country. I also met many inspiring young professionals that are still involved in the JACL, which motivated me to be a part of this powerful community past my high school years. Overall the national convention was an amazing opportunity for me to network, meet new people, and be educated which made this trip a memorable experience. I am very thankful for the Portland Chapter of the JACL for all of their support and giving us, Unite People, for this opportunity and experience.

- John Rojas, Franklin High School

After attending the 43rd Annual JACL convention, I realized how active and resilient the Japanese-American community is. For me, going from knowing hardly any Japanese-Americans in my area last year to being a part of a JACL convention full of proud Japanese-Americans was quite a shock. Everyone was extremely kind to one another and the automatic bond between everyone was wonderful. It gave me a strong sense of belonging and made me want to become more in touch with my Japanese side.

- Emi Hirsh, Grant High School

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Firsts: A Reflection on the JACL National Convention

By Rhianna Taniguchi

This may have been the 43rd Japanese American Citizens League's National Convention, but for me it was a first. The convention held in Bellevue, Washington on July 5-8 held many firsts for me actually. It was the first time I gathered with Japanese Americans who were passionate and professional visionaries. But of course, coming to the convention held many firsts even for those who have been a part of JACL for decades.

The Vision Award Recipient received a standing ovation at the Youth Luncheon not only for his work, but also for his humble and powerful speech. Gene Kim, Executive Director of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus has set the standard for JACL youth. He spoke of an unconventional path to Washington as well as the willpower to get up and do the hard work necessary for preserving liberty. It was the first time I had an Asian American in the political field that I could personally look up to.

The surprising amount of youth from the Portland chapter renewed their political and social awareness amongst our members with updates of current bills, cases, and action. Friendships between ages

and states were forged or rekindled. This convention brought together a community of likeminded individuals collectively helping each other. The National Youth Council met on Sunday afternoon to discuss the growth of their leadership programs, future summits, and strategies to recruit more students.

The dvd documentary of late Governor Ralph Carr from the Sayonara Dinner was exceptionally well made. The political stance and action that Carr demonstrated while in office was commendable but cost him his political career. Carr's personal work to help the Japanese American community made me quite emotional. He firmly believed that we must protect the Constitutional principles for "every man or we shall not have it to protect any man." His selfless actions and unwavering belief in freedom made him a hero for all Americans.

This year's conference provided invaluable resources to young professionals and students including scholarship, internship, and career information. Being able to network with business, government, and community leaders who were invested in helping you succeed was an incredibly rare opportunity. It was my first real experience with JACL, but most definitely not my last.

Clark Center Loaves & Fishes August 2012 Menu

2740 SE Powell Blvd., Portland OR

Wednesday 1 - Yoji-san's famous beef curry w/ rice

Thursday 2 - Chicken provence or tuna salad sandwich

Friday 3 - Veggie stir fry or chicken fajita

Monday 6 - Chicken fried steak or mushroom veggie burger

Tuesday 7 - Chicken taco salad w/ chipotle vinaigrette or beef ravioli w/ marinara sauce

Wednesday 8 - Asian style honey baked chicken

Thursday 9 - Pepper steak or open face seafood sandwich

Friday 10 - Spaghetti primavera or broccoli quiche w/ tomato slices

Monday 13 - Meatball sandwiches or turkey, cranberry, cream cheese sandwich

Tuesday 14 - BBQ chicken or cheeseburger

Wednesday 15 - Meat loaf w/ gravy or tortellini w/ creamy tomato sauce

Thursday 16 - Beef enchilada casserole or Greek salad

Friday 17 - Baked fish w/ tartar sauce or breakfast casserole

Monday 20 - Fried rice w/ stir fry veggies or mushroom & cheese omelet

Tuesday 21 - Pork w/ BBQ sauce or Mediterranean sandwich

Wednesday 22 - Kaori K's pork yakisoba

Thursday 23 - Dijon turkey or chicken enchilada casserole

Friday 24 - Chicken teriyaki or baked fish

Monday 27 - Swedish meatballs or multi-layer salad

Tuesday 28 - Savory baked chicken or french dip

Wednesday 29 - Baked fish w/ asian spicy sauce

Thursday 30 - Veggie pizza or roast pork w/ gravy

Friday 31 - Breaded pork BBQ sandwich or chicken smitane

Iko no Kai at Epworth

1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland

Wednesday 1 - Closed

Thursday 2 - Tonkatsu

Friday 3 - Somen salad

Monday 6 - Spaghetti

Tuesday 7 - Pork shabu shabu

Wednesday 8 - Closed

Thursday 9 - Curry beef

Friday 10 - Lemon chicken Chinese style

Monday 13 - Tilapia & cucumber radish

Tuesday 14 - Steamed meatball & sweet rice

Wednesday 15 - Closed

Thursday 16 - Summer

veggies & Hiyashi jiru

Friday 17 - Shrimp stir

fry, calamari salad

Monday 20 - Tofu salmon

salad, garlic herb chicken

Tuesday 21 - Beef don-buri

Wednesday 22 - Closed

Thursday 23 - Yakisoba

Friday 24 - Chicken fajita, fresh corn salad

Monday 27 - Tomato beef

Tuesday 28 - Cold somen

Wednesday 29 - Closed

Thursday 30 - Birthday Special: chicken & mushroom miso yaki

Friday 31 - Sweet & sour pork

YOUR PORTLAND JACL BOARD

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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.



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