

PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

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



PDXJACL.ORG

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Now Through June 15

- Sakura, Sakura
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

April 4, Noon - 5 p.m.

- Sakura Matsuri
Willamette University
Putnam University Center

April 11

- Minidoka Swing Band
Newberg Camellia Festival

April 17, 5:30 p.m.

- Stories from Tohoku
Mercy Corps Center

April 26

- Oregon Buddhist Temple
Salmon Fest

April 30, 4:30 – 7 p.m.

- APACC Spring Mixer
Crowne Plaza Hotel

May 2

- National JACL Board Meeting
San Francisco

May 3

- Japanese American
Graduation Banquet
MAC Club

May 16, 5 p.m.

- Unite People Chili Feed
Oregon Buddhist Temple

May 24

- O.N.E. Strawberry
Golf Tournament
Langdon Farms Golf Club

May 25, 1 p.m.

- Memorial Day Service
Rose City/Lone Fir Cemetery

APRIL 2015 • VOLUME 20, ISSUE 9

Minoru “Min” Yasui Nominated for Presidential Medal of Freedom

*Board Members Message by Lynn
Fuchigami Longfellow*

On the night of March 28, 1942, Minoru “Min” Yasui, a 26 year old lawyer, walked the streets of downtown Portland to intentionally violate the military curfew imposed on Japanese American citizens, seeking to initiate a test case to challenge its constitutionality. Both the FBI and the U.S. Attorney’s office were notified of his intentions, and when a police officer refused to arrest him, he walked directly into the police station. These actions resulted in his arrest, indictment, conviction, and nine months in solitary confinement. He appealed, only to have the Supreme Court uphold his conviction. His case was reopened in the early 1980s under the procedure of *Coram nobis*. The District Court of Oregon vacated his conviction, but sadly Min passed away while the Supreme Court case that would have cleared his name was pending. Despite all of this, he held true to his unwavering faith in the justice system and belief in the principles of democracy.

His lifelong work spanned over five decades, from 1931 until his death in 1986. In 1946, during a time when racial discrimination was legal and cross-racial and cross-cultural collaboration was unheard of, he helped found the Urban League of Denver and

served on its Board of Directors for eight years. Other notable accomplishments include founding what is now the Colorado Latino American Leadership, Advocacy and Research Organization and the now Denver Indian Center. He chaired the Anti-Crime Council, the Board of Employ-Ex (a program for ex-offenders), Denver Opportunity (War on Poverty Program) and the Colorado State Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

He lobbied against legislation to prohibit land ownership by Japanese immigrants, filed for hundreds of claims for losses incurred by the wartime evacuation, and helped influence the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952, enabling U.S. citizenship of Japanese nationals previously prohibited from becoming naturalized. As a founding member of the JACL National Committee for Redress, he helped build the momentum that ultimately led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

He was one of the true pioneers in the fight for civil rights, recognizing the common struggle of under-represented and marginalized people, working across ethnic, racial, class and other elements of diversity including age and people with disabilities. For his tireless lifetime efforts and as a champion defending and promoting civil and human rights, Min has been

Presidential Medal of Freedom continued

nominated for a 2015 Medal of Freedom.

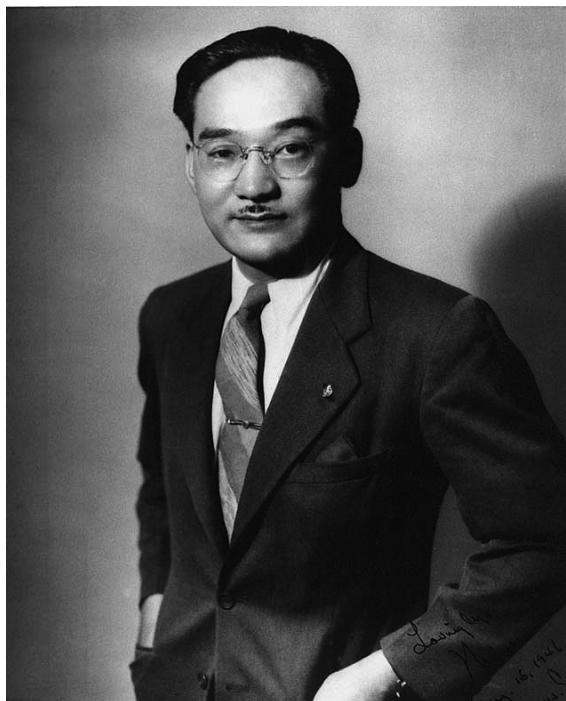
Created in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is the highest civilian honor in the United States, presented to "individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interest of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors."

Board members of the Portland JACL along with Oregon Nikkei Endowment are proud to serve on the Min Yasui Tribute Committee chaired by Peggy Nagae. The committee, comprised of lawyers, advocates and community leaders, worked to gather materials and obtain letters of endorsements from national civil rights organizations, members of Congress and key elected officials for the nomination. The nomination was submitted to the White House and we anxiously await the announcement of the awards.

Min is indeed a true American hero---a most worthy and ideal candidate to posthumously receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It would be wonderful to see him recognized for his lasting contributions and significant public endeavors. But the most fitting tribute to Min is to continue his life's work to promote and defend civil and human rights for all Americans. The issues of civil liberties and national security that he raised are just as relevant today as in 1942. His effort to promote empowerment and respect for diversity and a multicultural society are just as critical now as ever.

Min wrote in his memoirs, "If we believe in America, if we believe in equal democracy, if we believe in law and justice---then, each of us, when we see or believe such errors are being made, have an obligation to make every effort to correct such mistakes(s)..."

Let us be inspired by Min and the words inscribed on his gravestone "justice for all". From downtown Portland to Selma, we can all continue his walk on behalf of civil rights and equality.



Picture of Minoru Yasui courtesy of Yasui Family

Portland JACL would like to thank Curtis Suyematsu for the great photo coverage of the Day of Remembrance and Nisei Appreciation Lunch.

Photographs taken by Reflections Photography at the Day of Remembrance and Nisei Appreciation Luncheon are available for viewing and purchase at the following link.

<http://tinyurl.com/mcr3qws>

Password to the photo gallery is: **JACL DOR 2015**

If you have any questions or need help with the photographs please contact Curtis Suyematsu at email: Reflectionsphoto1@gmail.com or phone number 360 921 5448.



Day of Remembrance and Nisei Appreciation Luncheon



Our Centenarian Guests of Honor, Bill Otani, Lury Sato, Alice Sumida & Lilly Ono



Homer Yasui thanking the committee for doing such a great job



Although a few got away, here is our group picture of the Nisei that attended!

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LtoR, Jean Matsumoto, Lily Meiners, Alice Ando, Martha & Yoji Matsushima, Carrie Saito & Ai Abe



Here are the Wallingfords with Sumi Ikeda, Meredith Loy, and the Sakamoto family



LtoR, Shig Oka, Hatsumi Park, Yoshio Oda, May Oka, Richard Nishimoto, Janice Okamoto and Jean Tateishi

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LtoR Jean & Ralph Yamamoto, George Tsugawa, Susan & Chris Leedham, Lynnell Murray, Connie Masuoka, Frank Hrubant, and Sahomi Tachibana



LtoR Patty Locke, Nobuko Masuoka, Katie & Ken Kawazoe & Mitzi Asai Loftus



Linda Tamura (center) poses with her family including Chris, Alissa, Judi, Karie Jean & Lindsey

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LtoR, Ryan & Mike Irinaga, Jim Tsugawa, Reverend Anna Cho, Fude Kagawa, Lily Irinaga, Megan Irinaga & Amy Tsugawa



LtoR, Taka Mizote, Ron Iwasaki, Rose Sorensen, Linda Iwasaki, Marilyn Sholian, Aya & Ed Fujii and Becky Fujii



LtoR, Barbara Uyesugi, Michelle Sugahiro, Brian Wong, Mae Hirata, and Ida & Bill Sugahiro

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Here are Homer & Miki Yasui pictured here with a large contingent of the family



Bill & Nami Koida are pictured here with their family



June and John Schumann with Richard Koyama & Terry Arima



The Nakata Family is pictured here including George, Keiko, Deena, Attila, Darren, Casey and Karla

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LtoR Sheldon Arakaki, Chip Larouche, Kirk Tambara, Jeff Selby, David Lin, Setsy Larouche & Connie Masuoka



Shig Oka, Bill Koida and Lew Tomita listen to Chip Larouche telling war stories



Gordon Kondo and Frances Palk practice taking selfies as Alice Sumida looks on



LtoR, Gordon Kondo, Terry Nishikawa, Kimiko Iwamoto, Kay Endo, Katie Tamiyasu & Ron Iwasaki

PORTLAND **JACL**
NEWSLETTER



Sunday, April 26th, 2015

11:00 am to 7:00 pm

\$15.00



Oregon Buddhist Temple

3720 SE 34th Ave

Portland, OR

www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com



(preorder form)

Salmon Sushi Fest

Sunday, April 26th 11 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.

meal includes: salmon, marfar chicken, vegetable, salad & rice

*also available for purchase: SUSHI (makisushi, inari sushi, & CA rolls),
dessert, wine & beer*



Salmon Dinners _____ X \$15 = \$ _____
quantity total \$ salmon

name : _____
please print

Sushi Assortment _____ X \$7.50 = \$ _____
quantity total \$ sushi

phone # : _____

email (optional): _____

TOTAL \$ amount enclosed = \$ _____

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 S.E. 34th Ave. Portland, OR 97202
www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

submit orders by April 17th:

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Unite People's Annual Chili and Curry Feed!



Come join us!

Saturday, May 16th at 5pm
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue.

\$8 per person or
\$25 for families
6 and under are free!

~ Great Food
~ Raffle Prizes
~ Silent Auction
~ Dessert Auction



Can't make it? Order
Take Out!
Call Connie at 503-
318-5839

This event is a fundraiser to help members of Unite People attend the Minidoka Pilgrimage in Idaho 2015.



Chip Larouche poses with Dave Fidanque who was honored for over 30 years as the Executive Director of the Oregon ACLU at the Liberty Dinner. Photo by Setsy Larouche



Portland JACL sponsors a table at the 2015 ACLU Liberty Dinner at the Oregon Convention Center. Pictured Left to Right are Susan Leedham, Connie Masuoka, John Schumann, Peggy Nagae, Chip Larouche, June Schumann, Setsy Larouche and Chris Leedham.

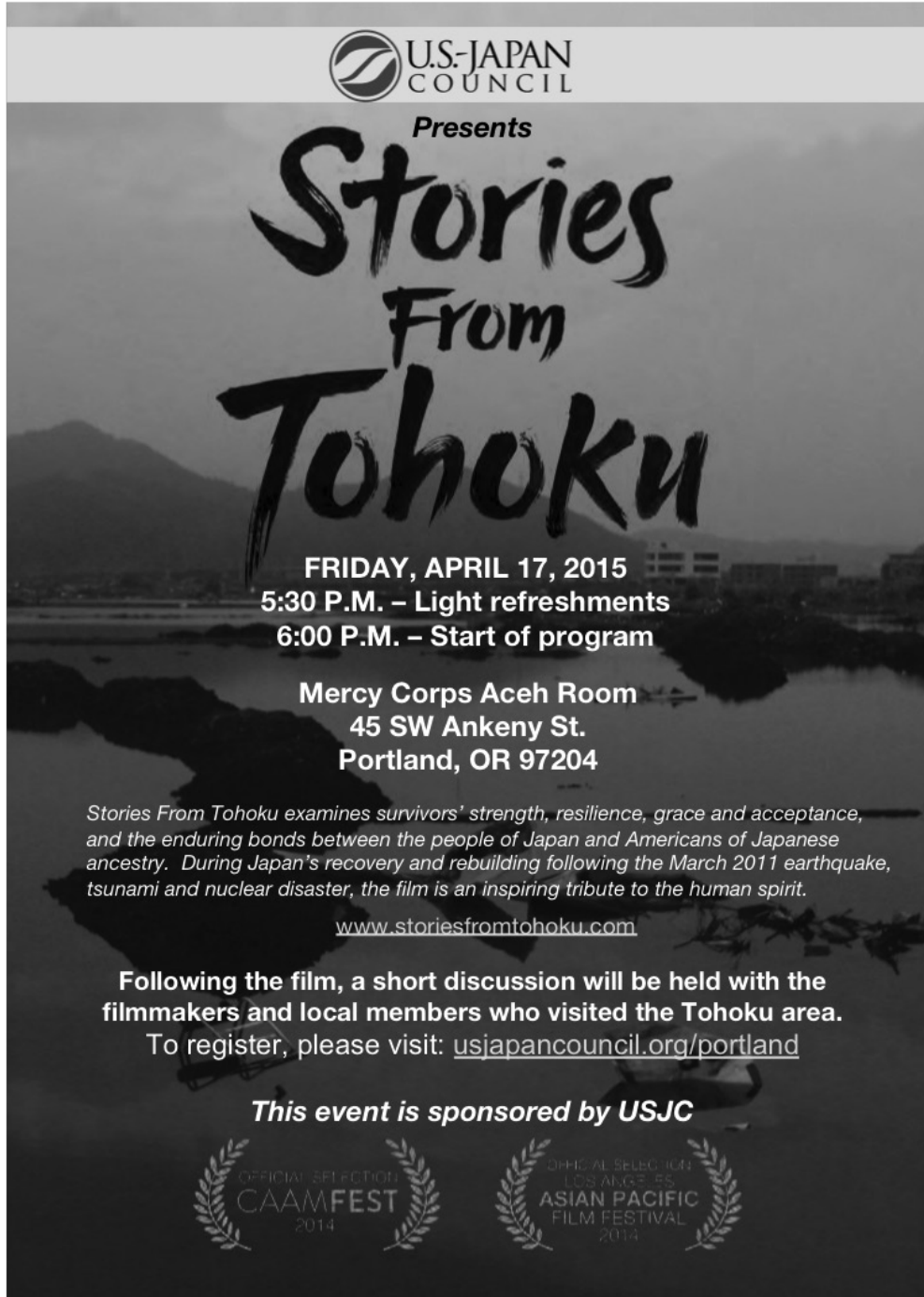



At the JASO Hanami event at the Japanese Garden on March 15th, here is Chiko Kobayashi dressing one of the young ladies attending the event in a yukata. Photo by Setsy Larouche



Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa and Setsy Larouche attend this year's JASO Hanami event at the Japanese Garden. Photo by Chip Larouche

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 **U.S.-JAPAN
COUNCIL**

Presents

Stories From Tohoku

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015
5:30 P.M. – Light refreshments
6:00 P.M. – Start of program



Mercy Corps Aceh Room
45 SW Ankeny St.
Portland, OR 97204

Stories From Tohoku examines survivors' strength, resilience, grace and acceptance, and the enduring bonds between the people of Japan and Americans of Japanese ancestry. During Japan's recovery and rebuilding following the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, the film is an inspiring tribute to the human spirit.

www.storiesfromtohoku.com

Following the film, a short discussion will be held with the filmmakers and local members who visited the Tohoku area.
To register, please visit: usjapancouncil.org/portland

This event is sponsored by USJC

YOUR PORTLAND JACL BOARD

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Iko no Kai at Epworth April 2015 Menu

1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland, 503-238-0775

Wednesday 1 - Closed

Thursday 2 - Chicken
teriyaki

Friday 3 - Cod & Clam
chowder / Cobb salad

Monday 6 - Roast pork /
Singapore noodles

Tuesday 7 - Chicken &
spring veggies

Wednesday 8 - Closed

Thursday 9 - Sake lee
kasu-jiru

Friday 10 - Korean beef &
noodles

Monday 13 - Thai peanut
chicken / fried rice

Tuesday 14 - Brunch sea-
food (tilapia)

Wednesday 15 - Closed

Thursday 16 - Chicken
yakisoba

Friday 17 - Kahlua pork
plate

Monday 20 - Crispy beef
bibimbap

Tuesday 21 - Beef curry

Wednesday 22 - Closed

Thursday 23 - Sweet &
sour meatballs

Friday 24 - Cashew chick-
en

Monday 27 - Chicken &
seafood paella

Tuesday 28 - Birthday
chirashi

Wednesday 29 - Closed

Thursday 30 - Tempura

Menu Notes:

- Meals include salad
or soup and dessert

Mondays, 12:30-2:

hanafuda and bridge

Mon-Tue, 11:30:

chair exercises

Apr 2:

Bingo!!!

Apr 9, 11:

Hyakudokai

Apr 14, 10:30:

Fujinkai Board

Apr 20, 11:30:

Ohana Lunch Bunch

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.