

# 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

### May 2

- National JACL Board Meeting  
San Francisco

### May 3

- Japanese American  
Graduation Banquet  
MAC Club

### May 15, 1-5 p.m.

- Book Signing with Dr. Inahara  
ONLC

### May 16, 5 p.m.

- Unite People Chili Feed  
Oregon Buddhist Temple

### May 17, 2 p.m.

- Strings of Three Nations  
PSU Smith Memorial Ballroom

### 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

### May 31

- Epworth Bazaar

### June 12

- CGM Fundraiser w/  
General Shinseki  
Fairmont Hotel  
San Jose, CA

### June 25-28

- Minidoka Pilgrimage  
Twin Falls, Idaho

MAY 2015 • VOLUME 20, ISSUE 10

## Nikkei Centenarians in our Community

*Board Member Message by Setsy  
Sadamoto Larouche*

According to a recent article in the "Oregonian", the US has 53,364 centenarians, but Japan has the most with more than 58,000. Of course the US population is about two and half times that of Japan. It is remarkable how many Nikkei centenarians we have residing in our own community. We were honored to have four of them at the Nisei appreciation/Day of Remembrance Luncheon on February 22, 2015 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The fifth person, Suma (Akiyama) Kobayashi was unable to attend the luncheon but I would like to tell you a little about her too.

**Suma (Akiyama) Kobayashi** was born November 30, 1914 in Hood River. The Akiyama's had a fruit orchard in the Oak Grove area of Hood River which is still in the family today run by her son Dick Kobayashi. On February 12, 1939 she married Nobuo (Noby) Kobayashi in Vancouver, Washington. The couple moved to Boring, Oregon, where they helped her husband's family operate their truck farm. In 1940 Suma and Noby returned to Hood River to run the family orchard. During the war, she and her family were relocated to the Tule Lake, California Internment camp and then to Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Her two children, son Dick and daughter Nancy, were born during

her internment. While in camp she took embroidery, craft and sewing classes. Suma has long enjoyed crafts and gardening. She continues to live alone in the original family home on the farm and enjoys working in her yard and garden. Suma has three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Lilly Yuriko Ono** was born on June 9, 1914 in Clackamas, Oregon and spent some time in Okayama, Japan attending a sewing school prior to WWII. Lilly spent the war years in Tule Lake, California and spent the entire time working at the mess hall. Her hobbies are sewing and cooking. She was married in 1938 and has five children. Ken is the oldest, Wayne, who passed away at the age of 56, daughter, Barbara Morisato, son, Clyde, and the youngest daughter, Pat. Lilly also has seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She spent most of her life farming in Vancouver, Washington. While working on the farm, she was known for her great speed and accuracy. Lilly drove a tractor and did precision-cultivation of rows and rows of lettuce without "chopping" them. When her husband passed away, so too, went the means for her transportation. Her husband was from the old school and would not let her drive. Lilly was in her seventies when she decided to learn how to drive. She enrolled at the Sears Driving School and

## Nikkei Centenarians continued

received her driver permit. She practiced diligently and tried to pass the driving test the first time. Unfortunately she failed. She practiced some more and re-took the test but failed again because she could not back up the car properly. She continued to practice diligently with her son, Ken, who helped her by using the safety cones. Finally, she passed the test and what a joy it brought to her and her family. But in her early 90's, she kept having fender benders and had to stop driving. It was a very difficult time for her as she lost some of her independence. She's retired now and lives at the Royal Anne Assisted Living Center in Portland. Lilly has been very active at the Henjyoji Temple, enthusiastically leading in their chanting.

**Bill Otani** participates at the Ikoi No Kai lunches when he's in Portland. Bill Otani was born on July 1, 1912 in Honolulu, Hawaii. His father, from Fukui Prefecture, was in the insurance business, and his mother, a Nisei, taught school. Bill moved to Los Angeles after high school and worked to put himself through college. It was on a break from the University of Chicago that he was drafted in 1942. At first the Army did not know what to do with the Nisei, but eventually he was able to take training, studying Japanese at Harvard where he met Mary Yamashiro who had left Topaz to study at Boston College. They got married before he shipped off to serve as a medic in Europe. After World War II, Bill and Mary returned to her home town of Berkeley, CA where he worked as a civilian employee for the Navy. His three children, Valerie, Kimi and Bill all live in Portland, and he divides his time between his home in Richmond, California and Gresham, Oregon. His lifelong interests are fishing and hunting, car repair and collecting cameras. While in Portland, he centers his life around the warm company and good food at Ikoi no Kai and deeply appreciates the care the volunteers devote to this program.

**Lury (Shiogi) Sato** was born on January 25, 1915 to parents who farmed in Montavilla. Among the crops they grew were strawberries and cucumbers which expanded into canning/pickling and ultimately running a grocery store as well as a downtown hotel. After graduating from Franklin High School, she used the credits from night school at Lincoln (now PSU) with a couple of years at Oregon Normal to earn a teacher's certificate. Barred from teaching in the state, she

continued schooling at the University of Oregon from which she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree. She married Yoshio Sato in August 1939. While interned at the Portland Assembly Center, she helped organize the school system there and also at Minidoka. Her husband who had both a Reed College degree and a Master of Science from OSU joined Professor Tarbell in Rochester, NY. The couple left the exclusion zone. After a post-doctorate with Jacobs at the Rockefeller Institute, Yoshio took a permanent position with the National Institute of Health. Relocating to the Washington, DC area, Lury spent the first six years raising her two sons, Ron and Paul, born respectively in Rochester & New York City into the public school systems and then started teaching there herself. After her husband's death, she stayed in Bethesda, Maryland for a while but in 1978, Lury returned to Portland. She was instrumental in getting a million dollars from the Housing & Urban Development for senior housing project which helped build Ikoi so Terrace. Lury was also the first site manager for Ikoi No Kai, a program she was very fond of, which provided ethnic lunches and activities for seniors. She currently resides in a local foster care facility.

**Alice Etsuko Sumida** was born in Oso Flaco, (Santa Barbara County) California on July 18, 1914. She married Mark Sumida (an Issei) who was 10 years older and moved to Seattle. They had a business selling seeds to farmers all over the West Coast. When WWII started they were herded into the Portland Assembly Center (now the Expo Center). Instead of being sent to Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho, they opted to work in Eastern Oregon in Nyssa, Oregon. Once the contract work was completed they got a small loan and purchased a small farm and decided to grow potatoes and onions. However, since the market was saturated they could not make a living growing potatoes and onions. So they opted to try growing gladioli bulbs. After sending samples all over the U.S., they were flooded with orders and it took them 5 years to fill all the orders. They became the largest gladioli bulb growers in the U.S. They wanted to pass their business to their nephew but he declined so they sold their business. After moving back to Portland around 1965, they started a Japanese Koi (carp) business. They moved to Woodburn, Oregon and continued the Koi business. After 10 years of Koi business her husband

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passed away due to a stroke. Alice sold the business and moved to Portland and at 88 years of age started ballroom dance lessons. She traveled the world attending dance competitions and winning each time. Alice is currently the President of the Hyakudo Kai (Century Club) and she remains very active attending many functions. Her generosity and support is legendary to various non-profit organizations to include, the Japanese Ancestral Society, JASO, the Minidoka Swing Band, Nikkei Fujinkai, the Oregon Buddhist Temple, Oregon Hiroshima Club, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Portland JACL, the Portland Japanese Garden, Portland State University, Portland Taiko, Tomodachi-Kai and Unite People, Portland JACL's youth group. She still drives during the day and currently lives at Edgewood Downs Retirement Center. Her advice to us is: "Be patient, accept whatever comes to your life, happy or sad, and make the best you can from every circumstance. Then enjoy every day as it comes!"



Hopefully the stories of these centenarians will inspire you to live a long, healthy and happy life.



## Photo Gallery



The Hyakudokai group held their annual meeting and luncheon recently. Pictured here (l to r) are Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa, Margaret Lynch, Setsy Larouche, Misao Minagi, Alice Sumida, Kaneko Wagar, Chip Larouche Tsuyako Monas and Henry Ueno. Photo by June Shiigi



If you thought dancing at 88 years old was a challenge, here is Chris Berg, School Director for the Hillsboro Aero Academy giving Alice Sumida her first Helicopter flying lesson. Photo by Setsy Larouche



Consul General Furusawa addresses the audience who attended the Portland screening of the documentary, *Stories from Tohoku*, at the Mercy Corps facility downtown on April 17th. Photo by Chip Larouche



The Pacific Northwest District Council of JACL held their quarterly meeting in Portland recently at the Holladay Park Plaza. Here is a "selfie" of most of the attendees. Front Row: Stan Shikuma, Eileen Lamphere, Hisami Yoshida, Elsie Taniguchi, Paul Tashima, Lynn Longfellow, Sheldon Arakaki and Sylvie Shiosaki. Back Row: Rich Iwasaki, Bill Tashima, Susan Leedham, Setsy Larouche, Kirk Tambara and Chip Larouche.

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## 2015 Minidoka Pilgrimage

It has been 73 years since 13,000 people of Japanese ancestry from the western areas of Oregon and Washington were removed from their homes and sent to live in a concentration camp in a desolate area near Twin Falls, Idaho. This summer will mark the 13th annual pilgrimage of incarcerated, their family and friends to the former Minidoka Camp now Minidoka National Historic Monument. The pilgrimage is a hands-on learning and sharing experience of the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans.

The Minidoka Pilgrimage will be from Thursday, June 25 to Sunday, June 28.

To register for the pilgrimage or get additional information go to [www.minidokapilgrimage.org](http://www.minidokapilgrimage.org)

This year Connie Masuoka will be escorting a group to do a Minidoka Plus Pilgrimage which will include the Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium at Boise State; tour of the Four Rivers Cultural Museum in Ontario, Oregon; as well as attend the Minidoka Pilgrimage. The Mindoka Plus Pilgrimage will start on Wednesday, June 24 and return June 28. The cost will be around \$725 and will include airfare, ground transportation, hotel, registrations and admissions and most meals. There will also be an option for a Minidoka Pilgrimage only. Please contact **Connie Masuoka** for more information about or to register for the Portland to Minidoka excursion at [connie@pdxjacl.org](mailto:connie@pdxjacl.org) or (503) 318-5839.

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**Saturday, May 9**  
**FAMILY DAY** at the  
**Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center**  
**11am-3pm**

**Free Day at the Museum!**



Happy Spring! Join us at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to make your own Sakura Sakura picture. We will have all the supplies needed for you to paint a cherry blossom tree to hang up at home to welcome spring.



FEATURING A SPECIAL PROGRAM!

FREE!

## **Old Town/Chinatown Photo Scavenger Hunt with Motoya Nakamura**

**NOON-1:30 PM**

**Ages 8+ (with family supervision)**

**Co-Sponsored By:**



*Portland Photographic Society*



Regional Arts &  
Culture Council

*Join celebrated local photographer Motoya Nakamura for an exciting family-friendly workshop at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Learn more about his current exhibit "Sakura Sakura," and hear some cool stories about how Motoya captured such beautiful photographs of the cherry trees just blocks away from our museum along the Willamette River.*

*With Motoya as your guide, and "Sakura Sakura" as your inspiration, families attending will be provided disposable cameras and sent on a photo-taking scavenger hunt through the neighboring streets of Old Town/Chinatown! Students from Portland Community College and members of the Portland Photographic Society will also be on hand taking part in the fun!*

**Workshop space is limited.** Please RSVP by contacting the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center by calling 503-224-1458 or emailing [info@oregonnikkei.org](mailto:info@oregonnikkei.org).



**Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center**

**121 NW 2nd Avenue | Portland, OR 97214**

**503-224-1458**

**[www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org)**

You are cordially invited for  
the unveiling of an autobiography,

**"A NISEI, RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME"**

Toshio Inahara, M.D.

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center  
121 NW 2nd Avenue

Saturday May 16th, 2015  
1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

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PORTLAND **JACL**  
NEWSLETTER

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EPWORTH  
UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2015  
**SPRING BAZAAR**  
11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

LUNCH (TAKE-OUT), BAKE SALE, PLANT SALE, & CRAFT SALE.

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Please use the following order form and make checks payable to Epworth United Methodist Church.  
Please mail by May 24 to: *Epworth United Methodist Church*  
1333 SE 28th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214  
Phone #: (503)232-5253

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Mar Far Chicken and Shumai Bento	\$9.00	_____	\$ _____
Inarizushi	\$6.00	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL AMOUNT			\$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Food is take-out only.

You may pick up your tickets on the day of the bazaar at the Pre-Sale ticket area.

All proceeds benefit Epworth United Methodist Church.

## End Profiling Now

*Article by Vice President Marleen Ikeda Wallingford*

The Portland JACL has signed on as co-sponsors with the Center for Intercultural Organizing of three bills in the Oregon Legislature aimed at stopping profiling by law enforcement officers. Nationwide we have seen cases of police brutality, and use of excessive force. This has sparked a discussion and policy reform from New York, to Ferguson and Los Angeles. Currently Oregon has no state-wide system in place for people to report cases of profiling which means there are no documenting of incidents or data to show there is a problem. As Japanese Americans, we were the victims of the most egregious case of racial profiling by our own government because we looked like the enemy. Our government finally apologized to us but only after families were uprooted and businesses and careers were lost. We should not stand-by and let this happen to others solely because of how they look. The data shows:

- Every week, two African-Americans are killed by law enforcement.
- 73% of all LGBT people and people living with HIV have had fact-to-face contact with police during the past five years.
- Profiling occurs in every part of the state to different communities but there is no coordinated state policy to address it.
- African/African Americans are five times more likely to be pulled over, even though Caucasians are three times more likely to have contraband.

If you have questions about the proposed legislation contact **Salome Chimuku at [Salome@interculturalorganizing.org](mailto:Salome@interculturalorganizing.org) or 503-754-0413**. The Center for Intercultural Organizing is a grassroots organization working to build immigrant and refugee rights.

UPDATE to HB 2002, the first comprehensive bill in Oregon to end profiling by law enforcement. On April 20 HB 2002 passed out of the House Judiciary Committee and is headed to the Joint Ways and Means Committee before the final floor vote in the House. The Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police recently endorsed the campaign. CIO is continuing to collect stories and need your help to urge your legislators to support HB 2002. Please contact Salome for more information.



Marleen Wallingford, Portland JACL Vice President with members of the Center of Intercultural Organizing lobbying in Salem. In the center is Salome Chimuku the director of public policy for the Center for Intercultural Organizing.



Activists demonstrating in front of the state capital led by Kayse Jama, Executive Director of the Center for Intercultural Organizing.

## Rose City Japanese Cemetery

**First of all: many, many thanks for all the community annual donations and contributions specifically for the upkeep of the Rose City Japanese Cemetery.**

Rose City Japanese Cemetery is sponsored and owned by the JAS or Japanese Ancestral Society. One of the main responsibilities undertaken by the Society has been the upkeep of the maintenance and administration of the Cemetery; thus the highlight has been the annual **Memorial Day Service held each Memorial Day at 1pm** this year **May 25th, Monday**, for the Japanese American community of the Portland area, honoring the deceased members from the early 1900's. It is an appropriate and lovely place to honor friends, neighbors, relatives; mothers, fathers, and grandparents. Maintenance has included basic landscaping, and the installation of new graves for many years, as well as record keeping for historical purposes.

In the last few years, however, it has become very apparent that more needed to be done in addition to the bare maintenance. Many graves needed repair. Overgrown shrubs and trees needed tending to. Moss and mold had overtaken many graves. Lettering was disappearing.

Thus we were fortunate to have received a **2014 grant from the Oregon Historical Cemeteries, Heritage Assn.** to do so. We had wonderful volunteers from JAS and supporters, who came out to help with ink and paint brushes, scrub buckets, and shovels, and hoes. The grant provided basic cleaning supplies, contractors to repair graves, and ink, paint and brushes to reproduce valuable Japanese characters.

We are now proud of upright scrubbed gravestones with clear, sharp Japanese characters in a very neatly trimmed garden, primarily in the middle of the cemetery, which is the most visible. We are reapplying for a **2015-16 Grant Renewal for Continuation** for the following three functions.

- Further repairing of graves, scrubbing and cleaning.
- Further reconstruction of historical Japanese characters on gravestones.
- Further extensive landscaping, including stump removals, leveling sunken gravesites with sawdust and dirt, and new plantings.

**What can YOU do as a member or supporter of the Japanese community?**

**1. Volunteer** to help restore cemetery. Call Fran Sumida Palk 503-810-3948 cell or home 503-234-3279.

**2. Contribute to the cemetery fund**, especially in the Spring when additional cleaning and reconstruction supplies are needed.

**Address to Japanese Ancestral Society, c/o Kay Endo , Cemetery Treasurer, 4423 SE Railroad Avenue, Milwaukie, OR 97222**

Many thanks for continued help on our community cemetery, the Rose City Japanese Cemetery.

*Fran Sumida Palk*



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## Unite People's Annual Chili and Curry Feed!



**Come join us!**

Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm  
**Oregon Buddhist Temple**  
3720 SE 34<sup>th</sup> 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.

### YOUR PORTLAND JACL BOARD

**President:**

Kirk Tambara  
[kirk@pdxjacl.org](mailto:kirk@pdxjacl.org)

**Secretary:**

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[jean@pdxjacl.org](mailto:jean@pdxjacl.org)

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[marleen@pdxjacl.org](mailto:marleen@pdxjacl.org)

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Ralph Yamamoto  
[ralph@pdxjacl.org](mailto:ralph@pdxjacl.org)

Rich Iwasaki  
[rich@pdxjacl.org](mailto:rich@pdxjacl.org)

Jim Kennedy  
[jim@pdxjacl.org](mailto:jim@pdxjacl.org)

John Kodachi  
[john@pdxjacl.org](mailto:john@pdxjacl.org)

Christopher Lee  
[chris@pdxjacl.org](mailto:chris@pdxjacl.org)

Susan Leedham  
[susan@pdxjacl.org](mailto:susan@pdxjacl.org)

Lynn Longfellow  
[lynn@pdxjacl.org](mailto:lynn@pdxjacl.org)

Connie Masuoka  
[connie@pdxjacl.org](mailto:connie@pdxjacl.org)

Verne Naito  
[verne@pdxjacl.org](mailto:verne@pdxjacl.org)

Heidi Tolentino  
[heidi@pdxjacl.org](mailto:heidi@pdxjacl.org)



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### Iko no Kai at Epworth May 2015 Menu

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

**Friday 1** - Black bean  
chicken

**Monday 4** - Roast pork  
ramen

**Tuesday 5** - Chicken  
teriyaki

**Wednesday 6** - Closed

**Thursday 7** - Tonkatsu

**Friday 8** - Panko shrimp  
/ Thai salad

**Monday 11** - California  
chirashi zushi

**Tuesday 12** - Mabodofu

**Wednesday 13** - Closed

**Thursday 14** - Kodomo no  
hi special bento : Reserva-  
tions required, +\$2

**Friday 15** - Baked chicken  
/ lemon basil pasta

**Monday 18** - Salmon  
chowder / somen salad

**Tuesday 19** - Seafood  
(cod)

**Wednesday 20** - Closed

**Thursday 21** - Oyako don-  
buri

**Friday 22** - Beef & broccoli

**Monday 25** - Memorial Day  
- Closed

**Tuesday 26** - Yaki-udon

**Wednesday 27** - Closed

**Thursday 28** - Birthday  
sushi

**Friday 29** - Sweet & sour  
pork

#### Menu Notes:

- Meals include salad  
or soup and dessert

**Mondays, 12:30-2:**  
hanafuda and bridge

**Mon-Tue, 11:30:**  
chair exercises

**May 8:**  
Mother's Day  
Magic Show

**May 18, 11:30:**  
Ohana Lunch Bunch

**May 21, 11:30:**  
Sing Along with Reiko  
& Jerry

**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.