



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

JANUARY 2016 • VOLUME 21, ISSUE 6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Now – January 17

GAMBATTE!

Legacy of Enduring Spirit
Oregon Nikkei Legacy
Center (ONLC)

January 10

Family Day, ONLC

January 24, 1 p.m.

Oshogatsu & Portland JACL
Board Installation Luncheon,
Chinese Village Restaurant

January 31

Mochitsuki 2016,
Portland State University

February 6

JACL National
Board Meeting, Los Angeles

February 11 – June 19

Uprooted: Japanese
American Farm Labor Camp
during WWII, ONLC

February 15 - 4 p.m.

JAS Annual Meeting
Sayler's Old Country Kitchen

February 21

Day of Remembrance,
PSU-Hoffmann Hall

February 27 - March 1

JACL/OCA Leadership
Summit, Washington D.C.

BE A VOLUNTEER BOARD MEMBER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Board Member Message by John A. Kodachi

Happy New Year or Shinnen
Akemashite Omedetou Gozaimasu!

With each new year, we often make resolutions to improve our lives. In addition to the popular "start exercising" and "lose weight" resolutions, I'd like to suggest another that's easily achievable and definitely one that you'll enjoy: volunteer and make a difference!

Since you're reading this newsletter, I hope you consider becoming a volunteer board member of the Portland JACL. Yes, you! In fact, with all of the vitriolic rhetoric spewing from our politicians and increased threats to our civil rights across our nation and in our backyard, I urge you to get involved.

By serving on the JACL Board, you can help to secure and uphold the civil and human rights of all. If you're not going to do it, who is?

The horrific terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino by ISIS members has generated a tidal wave of fear, hysteria, and xenophobia that has begun to rock the shores of the U.S. For example, Republican front-runner presidential candidate Donald Trump has called for the complete bar of all

Muslims into the U.S. as well as the mandatory forced registration of all Muslims. The complete bar of entry and forced registration is on top of his earlier fear-mongering call to close mosques.

And this sweeping fear and hysteria is certainly not limited to Republicans. Last November, Mayor David Bowers of Roanoke, Virginia, a Democrat, favorably cited to the internment of Japanese Americans as a precedent to reject Syrian refugees. Reprehensibly, Mayor Bowers wrote a letter requesting all Roanoke Valley government and nongovernmental agencies to suspend Syrian refugee assistance. He justified his request by writing:

"I'm reminded that President Franklin D. Roosevelt felt compelled to sequester Japanese foreign nationals after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It appears that the threat of harm to America from Isis now is just as real and serious as that from our enemies." Shamefully, he concludes by writing, "It seems to me to be better safe than sorry."

I say "shamefully" because Mayor Bowers has been a lawyer since 1978. As a trained lawyer and elected official, he, of all people, should know the unconstitutionality of the internment and that "better safe than sorry" is not the rule of law.

continued on next page

VOLUNTEER FOR THE BOARD TODAY *continued from Page 1*

Locally, our government is not above reproach either. Earlier in November, Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum embarrassingly admitted that the Oregon Department of Justice Criminal Justice Division (DOJ) had used software to conduct criminal “threat assessments” of Oregonians in real time. In this case, despite the lack of any evidence of criminal conduct, the DOJ investigated Oregonians who had used the Twitter hashtag “#BlackLivesMatter.”

Ironically, as it turned out, one of people that the DOJ identified as a threat was one of its own, Mr. Erious Johnson, who just happens to be attorney appointed by the Attorney General as the DOJ’s Civil Rights Director. By simply including “#BlackLivesMatter” in a tweet, Mr. Johnson was suddenly identified as a “threat.” The fact that the DOJ was profiling Oregonians based on their tweets

is not only disturbing, but unlawful under ORS 181.575.

Under that law, no law enforcement agency may collect information about the “political, religious or social views, associations or activities of any individual, group, association” unless such information “directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities, and there are reasonable grounds to suspect the subject of the information is or may be involved in criminal conduct.” Perhaps you’ve already been unlawfully profiled simply because of the people you associate with, your Facebook postings, or, dare I say it, membership with the Portland JACL.

In addition to our politicians and government, there are local civilians who threaten our civil rights. Last fall, media outlets reported that Gresham residents received an invitation to join the Ku Klux Klan on their door

steps. Residents found a KKK flyer and plastic bag filled with jelly beans. Yes, the KKK was literally canvassing Gresham for members with sweet talk. The KKK’s message, however, was no laughing matter. The flyer stated the KKK’s 10 present goals, which included among others “Return Christian Morality to America,” “Stop Homosexuality,” and “Stop Interracial relationships.”

As you can see by the above events, all of which just occurred is the last few months, we must remain vigilant against these real threats so that everyone can enjoy and exercise their civil rights. And that’s where you come in. By serving on the JACL Board, you can help to secure and uphold the civil and human rights of all. If you’re not going to do it, who is? Remember, there’s no “i” in “team,” but there’s a “u” in “volunteer!”

NEWSLETTER: A NEW LOOK FOR THE NEW YEAR *by Jeff Selby*

We would like to thank Ralph Yamamoto for his service as Newsletter Editor and annual calendar designer. We appreciate his hard work and organization to bring these popular services to our members. He certainly leaves some big shoes to fill.

As I take the Editor reins this month, I am reminded that I follow in my late father’s footsteps. During the mid-1970’s and early 80’s, Norman D. Selby served a term as President and Newsletter Editor for the Hoosier JACL (in Indiana).

I still remember watching him cut, paste, and layout the new issue every month (kids, back then, clip art was literally clipped and pasted on to the page). Some folks say that witnessing this activity in my youth is responsible for my foray into a graphic design and publishing career.

In coming months, you’ll be seeing some changes (hopefully improvements) to this newsletter.

In past years, this publication has included a lot of event flyers. I would like to see more news and content from our community members, too.

If you have something that would be appropriate to share with our membership audience, please send it to me. Heads-up on relevant local and national events, photos, announcements, recipes, and other tidbits are welcome. The deadline is the 20th of the month. This is your newsletter—let’s make this a better tool to bring us all together!

Please send your stories and input to:
jeff@pdxjacl.org

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS: NATIONAL

JACL Stands with Asian American Leaders to Rally Against Anti-Muslim Hate

Washington, D.C. – Over sixty leaders from the Asian American community gathered today at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C., to counter recent political rhetoric and express support for Muslim, Sikh, Arab, and South Asian American communities. The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) joined a number of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) organizations from the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) to speak out against anti-Muslim hate crimes and discrimination.

Last year, NCAPA member organization South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) published a report on growing xenophobic political rhetoric and hate violence, which includes data and recommendations concerning the hostility against South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab communities. After senseless terrorist attacks last month in Paris, hateful rhetoric, bigotry, and violence against American Muslims has been on the rise. In a 30-day period



*David Lin, National JACL President
(Photo: Curtis Suyematsu)*

following attacks in Paris, over 45 acts of persecution occurred against American Muslims. “Fear-based persecution of American Muslims and those who are perceived to be Muslim cannot be tolerated,” said Priscilla Ouchida, Executive Director.

David Lin, National JACL President, kicked off the rally by emphasizing that policies that

imprisoned 120,000 Japanese Americans following Pearl Harbor should not be repeated. Lin reiterated that JACL stands with the Muslim, Sikh, Arab, and South Asian American communities because Japanese Americans have stood on this dark side of history before.

“Never again” was the message delivered by JACL and leaders from NCAPA, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, South Asian Americans Leading Together, and the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

As the largest and oldest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States, JACL will continue to oppose the anti-Muslim hate, xenophobia, and bigotry undermining our nation’s values and ideals, and call on fellow Americans to do the same.

HUMAN RIGHTS NEWS: LOCAL

Portland City Council Declares Support for Muslim Community

In reaction to growing hostility toward Muslims nationally, and comments from Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump, Portland City Council unanimously voted for a resolution declaring support for Portland’s Muslim Community, last month.

The resolution states that the purpose is to, “...make clear that Portland will not stand for such divisive, hateful, and hurtful speech against our Muslim, immigrant and refugee population. Additionally, it recognizes that the most recent comment, calling for a ban on Muslims entering the United States, should be condemned. Finally, this resolution makes clear

that the City will continue to welcome new immigrants and refugees into our community.”

Mayor Charlie Hales said, “This is a time where there is poisonous speech in national politics, Mr. Trump in particular, and where we need to stand on behalf of the values that this city loves.”

Commissioner Nick Fish said, “Presidential candidates have the right to say dumb things. We have the right to censure them for it.”



Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa addresses the Portland Japanese American and the Japanese Business Community along with distinguished City and State representatives during the birthday celebration for his Highness, the Emperor of Japan on December 11, 2015. Photo: Chip Larouche



Governor Kate Brown is presented with a Sister State award by Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa for their activities in promoting better relations and business ties with the Toyama Prefecture. Photo: Chip Larouche



Kyle Iboshi, Master of Ceremonies at the Emperor of Japan's birthday celebration, with Jeff Selby. Photo: Lynn Longfellow



The Unite People Holiday party at Cherrywood was another fun time. Here (L to R) Bill Matsuda, Kay Endo, Janice Ishii, Yogi Matsushima, Ken Kawazoe, Martha Matsushima, and Rich Iwasaki enjoy the great food and a little time to chat. Photo: Setsy Larouche



Alyssa Ono (far right), Co-President of Unite People, (the Portland JACL youth group), shares the table with her Dad, Yoshi Ono, Marleen Wallingford, the new Portland JACL President, and Chip Larouche. Photo: Setsy Larouche



Connie Masuoka always cooks enough for a regiment and she's assisted by Linda Tamura and Patty Locke who helped with the preparations, and of course, the cleanup at the Unite People party. Thank you Ladies! Photo: Setsy Larouche

VANPORT MOSAIC ASKS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM JA COMMUNITY

Vanport Mosaic is looking for Japanese Americans who lived in Vanport who are willing to share their memories with them, as well as photos and resources to produce their digital narratives.

Partnering with Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, Vanport Mosaic is working to keep the history of the Japanese American experience alive by producing multimedia pieces based on the oral histories of those who returned to Portland after the closing of the incarceration camps.

Many of the former camp prisoners moved into Vanport to rebuild their lives, just to lose everything once again when the flood wiped out the city in 1948.

Vanport Mosaic is an effort to collect and showcase all of the stories, art, and media being produced around the story of Vanport and to ensure that this piece of Oregon history is not forgotten.

Please contact them at vanportmosaic@gmail.com if you have any leads.



According to the 1948 Pacific Citizen article by our own Henry "Shig" Sakamoto, 300 Issei and Nisei were among the 18K+ left homeless in the Vanport Flood.

PSR ANNOUNCES WRITING SCHOLARSHIP

Oregon PSR announces the annual Greenfield Peace Writing Scholarship. Any 11th or 12th grade Oregon high school student may enter by submitting an original essay, poem, or narrative work (maximum 600 words) in response to: "How would a successful movement to confront climate change help create a more just and peaceful world?"

Details can be found at:
<http://www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/events/>
Entries are due by 5:00 p.m. on March 14th, 2016.



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NEWSLETTER (non-Board)

Jeff Selby
jeff@pdxjacl.org

MOCHITSUKI 2016

The Year of the Monkey

20th Annual Japanese American New Year Celebration

Sunday, January 31, 2016 ▪ 11 AM-4 PM

**Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU)
Portland State University
1825 SW Broadway ▪ Portland, OR 97207**

Advance Ticket Prices

\$10 Adult
\$7 Student (w/ID), Senior (62+)
\$4 Child (ages 4-12)

Day of Event Ticket Prices

\$12 Adult
\$9 Student (w/ ID), Senior (62+)
\$5 Child (ages 4-12)

Free Admission For:

Children three years of age and younger
Honored Seniors 88 and older

Purchase tickets online at www.boxofficetickets.com



www.mochipdx.org

2016 Marks the 20th Anniversary of Mochitsuki!

Come celebrate the incoming New Year with Japanese American traditions at the Mochitsuki Community Festival! Experience family-friendly hands-on events, demonstrations, and activities with mochi pounding, calligraphy, origami, tea ceremony, ikebana, and games. Enjoy traditional Japanese dancing, drumming, and music with special 20th anniversary performances from the Minidoka Swing Band, Alton Takiyama-Chung, Takohachi, Larry Tyrrell, Utsukikai, G Yamazawa, Portland Taiko, Oregon Koto Kai, Mitch Imori, Sahomi Tachibana Dance Group, and Unit Souzou. Presented by Portland JACL, and co-produced by Konko Church of Portland, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, and Portland Taiko.

CALENDAR CORRECTION



The above photo was incorrectly captioned in the 2016 Portland JACL Calendar, for the month of January. The photo does not reflect Fujinami Kai dancers. These students are with Mrs. Sahomi Tachibana's dance group. We apologize for the incorrect attribution. Photo: Rich Iwasaki



2016

SalmonSushiFest



Sunday, March 6th, 2016

11:00 am to 6:00 pm

\$15.00

Oregon Buddhist Temple

3720 SE 34th Ave

Portland, OR

www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com



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IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH JANUARY MENU

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

Fri. 1 - Closed

Mon. 4 - Crispy Korean
Beef Noodles

Tue. 5 - Chinese Lemon
Chicken

Thu. 7 - Saba Miso-ni

Fri. 8 - Ton-jiro

Mon. 11 - Thai Noodle
Soup & Chicken

Tue. 12 - Tonkatsu

Thu. 14 - Ebi Wonton

Fri. 15 - Oden

Mon. 18 - Shrimp & Lob-
ster Sauce

Tue. 19 - Ginger Chicken
Fried Rice

Thu. 21 - New Year Bento
(reservations req.)

Fri. 22 - Su-bata

Mon. 25 - Cod Fish &
Chips

Tue. 26 - Roast Pork/Sin-
gapore Noodles

Thu. 28 - Tofu Donburi

Fri. 29 - Birthday Sushi

Mon. - Cioppino-fisherman
stew

Tuesday 29 - Birthday
sushi

Wednesday 30 - Closed

Thursday 31 - Closed

Menu Notes:

- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- Closed on Wednesdays
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:** hanafuda and bridge
- **Mon-Tue, 11:30:** chair exercises
- **Jan. 12, 10:30:** Fujinkai Board Meeting
- **Jan. 18, 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.