



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2016 • VOLUME 21, ISSUE 10

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**May 14**

PNW District Meeting  
Seattle Keiro

**May 17**

Armed Forces Day

**May 21 & 28**

**(9:00 a.m. to Noon)**  
Rose City Cemetery  
Clean-up

**May 30 (1:00)**

Memorial Day Service  
Rose City Cemetery

**June 14**

Flag Day

**June 23-26**

Minidoka Pilgrimage  
Twin Falls, Idaho

**June 31**

Jerry Inouye Golf  
Tournament  
Glendever East

**July 4**

Independence Day

**July 11-14**

JACL Convention  
Monte Carlo, Las Vegas

## ADVOCACY AT THE HEART OF JACL/OCA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

*by Randy Choy, JACL Member*

As a member of JACL, I have attended, over the years, various wonderful community events organized by the Portland Chapter, including the annual Day of Remembrance, the Japanese American Scholarship Banquet, and the Community Picnic, to name a few. In addition, I have had the honor (twice) to facilitate the chapter's board retreat to help identify the organization's strengths, grow membership, and to ensure future financial sustainability. Being a member and volunteer for the JACL have been an important and impactful part of my life in Portland.

My involvement took another positive turn when members of the chapter board supported my application to participate in the 22nd Annual JACL/OCA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., from February 27 to March 1. OCA, formerly the Organization of Chinese Americans, is now officially known as "OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates."

The intense summit allowed 30 leaders from the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities to learn the basics of advocacy and skills from panelists and policy experts. A number of JACL's community partners facilitated the issues panels on education and immigration issues including the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human



*Randy with Norman Y. Mineta, former congressman from California, former Secretary of Transportation under President George W. Bush, and former U.S. Secretary of Commerce under President Bill Clinton.*

Rights, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, Southeast Asia Resource Action Committee, the National Education Association, and the National Council of La Raza.

The summit ended with JACL and OCA participants visiting congressional offices to advocate for the Reuniting Families Act, FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) translation, and college affordability.

Highlights of the Leadership Summit included: Norman Mineta speaking at the opening Welcome Reception; a White House Briefing with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific

*continued on next page*

## SUMMIT *continued from Page 1*

Islanders (WHIAAPI) staff; dinner with Deputy Secretary Chris Lu; a panel with U.S. Commissioner Karen Narasaki, Terry Ao Minnis from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, and Nancy Zirkin, the Vice President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; and a Congressional Speaker Series featuring Congresswoman Grace Meng, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Ted Lieu, and Congressman Mark Takano.

Overall, this was an excellent summit! To be immersed in issues critical to the AAPI communities, to establish a network of fellow advocates from across the country, and to see and meet national leaders who look like me, and who have a similar life experience, make me feel proud to have experienced such an incredible opportunity at the national level.

It is important to remember, especially during this election season, that AAPIs have a “voice” and must collaborate across ethnic boundaries to unite and raise that voice to our elected and appointed leaders—whether they are local, statewide, or national in scope. Advocating

for public policies that benefit our communities and supporting officials who understand and are sympathetic to our concerns, should be a priority for JACL, OCA, and similar organizations. We cannot continue to be the “silent minority” any longer.

The 2016 Leadership Summit was an empowering experience that I hope to build upon as a community volunteer and as a member of the JACL. I would encourage other JACL members to consider applying for the Leadership Summit in the future. Please contact one of the current Portland Chapter Board members for more information.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank the members of the Portland Chapter Board who supported my application for the Leadership Summit—it was my honor to represent our chapter. Further, I want to thank State Farm and Southwest Airlines for their generous financial support of the summit, and for their continuous support of AAPI leadership development throughout the United States.



*Randy Choy; Tina Lin (New York) OCA; Kayla Watanabe (Utah) JACL; Karisa Yamamoto (California) JACL; and Robert Hirai (Idaho) JACL—also Honorary Consul of Japan in Idaho.*

日系コミュニティ・ピクニック

**NIKKEI COMMUNITY PICNIC**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016 at Oaks Park • Noon to 5:00 p.m.**

## YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! ROSE CITY CEMETERY CLEAN-UP: MAY 21ST AND 28TH

*by Fran Sumida Palk, Nikkei Jin Kai, Japanese Ancestral Society*

We are asking for community members to help us clean Japanese Rose City Cemetery on Saturday, May 21st and Saturday, May 28th, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The cemetery is located on NE 57th and Fremont. Wind left through the main cemetery and when you're almost to the end, look for a sign above the wire fence marked JAPANESE CEMETERY on the left.

Please help as we will scrub delicate historic graves that are 100 years old and newer. Some will scrape moss and bird poo. Some will paint Japanese Characters on graves.

### What to bring:

- Potluck bento food items to share at 11:30, preferably finger foods. Water will be provided.
- Rubber gloves
- Pails

This is a community affair and a good time to bond with family members, ages 12 and over. Please call Fran Sumida Palk if you are lost or have questions: 503-810-3948.

Clean-ups are also scheduled for June, July, August, and September on the 3rd Saturday of each month, from 9:00 a.m. to Noon.

We will continue work, focusing on restoration of characters, spreading bark dust, planting, and providing tender loving care for our ancestors. Some of us have a dozen or more relatives and friends there.

We are counting on your TLC to energize memories of our deceased. Many thanks for the support we have received so far.



*In 2005, the Japanese Ancestral Society (Nikkei Jin Kai) became the title holder to a portion of the Rose City Cemetery in NE Portland, called Japanese Rose City Cemetery. Today, they administer an endowment to ensure that the cemetery is maintained and kept safe for Nikkei families who come to honor their fore bearers. Photo: Leona Hikosaka*

## BOARD MEMBERS

### PRESIDENT

**Marleen Ikeda Wallingford**

marleen@pdxjacl.org

### VICE-PRESIDENT

**Susan Leedham**

susan@pdxjacl.org

### SECRETARY

**Jean Yamamoto**

jean@pdxjacl.org

### TREASURER

**Chip Larouche**

chip@pdxjacl.org

### MEMBERSHIP

**Setsy Sadamoto Larouche**

setsy@pdxjacl.org

**Rich Iwasaki**

rich@pdxjacl.org

**Christopher Lee**

chris@pdxjacl.org

**Lynn Longfellow**

lynn@pdxjacl.org

**Connie Masuoka**

connie@pdxjacl.org

**Verne Naito**

verne@pdxjacl.org

**Kirk Tambara**

kirk@pdxjacl.org

**Heidi Tolentino**

heidi@pdxjacl.org

### NEWSLETTER (non-Board)

**Jeff Selby**

jeff@pdxjacl.org





THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016

# PORTLAND TAIKO BENEFIT BANQUET IS BACK!

Portland Taiko welcomes new Executive Director  
**Wynn Kiyama** and celebrates 22 years of musical  
innovation and commitment to the community  
at award-winning

## WONG'S KING SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

8733 SE Division St, Portland

{ **CHINESE BANQUET &  
TAIKO PERFORMANCE!** }

Auction ~ Mystery Origami ~ Casual Attire

**6:00-6:30** No Host Bar

**6:30-8:30** Dinner & Program

Our annual fundraiser is a fun-filled evening of  
delicious food, auction, mystery origami and  
taiko performance. Help keep the beat of taiko  
strong in our community!

**Tickets:** \$60 (*includes a \$35 tax deductible donation*)



Purchase tickets online at  
**[www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org)**  
or contact us at  
503-288-2456  
[admin@portlandtaiko.org](mailto:admin@portlandtaiko.org)



## MINORU YASUI DAY FESTIVITIES



On March 28, Governor Kate Brown signed HB 4009, officially recognizing the date as annual Minoru Yasui Day in Oregon.

To commemorate the day and to honor the Nikkei civil rights hero, more than 300 participants took part in the inaugural Minoru Yasui March for Justice.

Marchers of all ages retraced Yasui's historical Portland walk in 1942, from his first law office in the former Foster Hotel to the former Portland Police Headquarters. Yasui's deliberate violation of military curfew resulted in his arrest and subsequent nine-month incarceration at Multnomah County Jail.

*Photos of the walk courtesy of Curtis Suyetmatsu\*, Rich Iwasaki\*\*, and Jeff Selby\*\*\**





## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Portland JACL supported the Portland ACLU Liberty Dinner on Friday, February 26th. Pictured left to right (front) Heather Pruess, Jeff Selby, Connie Masuoka, Lynn Longfellow (back) Setsy Larouche, Chip Larouche, Roger Wallingford, Marleen Wallingford, June Schumann & John Schumann.



On February 28th, at Epworth United Methodist Church, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment sponsored a talk by elders called "up-rooted", the story of Nikkei during World War II who volunteered to work the sugar beet fields in Easter Oregon. The panel pictured from L to R include Alice Sumida, Dr. Mathew Uchiyama, Dr. Henry Nishima, Mrs. Aya Fujii, Mr. Tom Fujii, Taka Misote & Mr. Sadanega. Photo by Setsy Larouche



After being unanimously approved by both Houses of the Oregon Legislature, on March 28, Governor Kate Brown signed House Bill 4009 with nine members of Portland JACL present, marking Minoru Yasui Day in Oregon in perpetuity. Photo by Setsy Larouche



Portland JACL members like George and Darren Nataka, Chris Yasui Emerson, Barbara Bellus, June Schumann, Lynn Longfellow Jim Azumano and Setsy Larouche join members of the ACLU and others to attend the historic Oregon Senate session that passed a bill to make March 28th Minoru Yasui Day every year.



In 1942, almost 13,000 people of Japanese ancestry living in Washington and Oregon, many of whom were American citizens, were removed from their homes and sent to a desolate American concentration camp near Twin Falls, Idaho.

This summer, the 14th pilgrimage will take place with former incarcerated, their families, and friends - from Seattle, Portland and across the nation - to the former Minidoka Camp in Idaho. This is an opportunity to learn, share memories, and ask questions about the Minidoka experience. Consider participating as a way to bring your family together and reconnect with friends. Participation is limited.

The Minidoka Pilgrimage officially begins in Twin Falls, Idaho on Thursday evening, June 23, for dinner. On Friday, this year will feature a full day of educational programming. On Saturday, the group tours the Minidoka National Park Site followed with small group discussions to learn and share experiences of the incarceration experience. On Sunday morning, we will conclude our pilgrimage with a commemorative closing ceremony at Minidoka National Park Site.

For more information, contact  
Connie Masuoka at 503.318.5839 or [cmasuoka@comcast.net](mailto:cmasuoka@comcast.net).





**PORTLAND JACL**  
PO BOX 86310  
PORTLAND, OR 97286

NON PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT #579

## IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH MENU FOR MAY

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

**Mon. 2** - Roast Pork/  
Singapore Noodles

**Tue. 3** - Mar Far chicken

**Thu. 5** - Children's Day  
special bento

**Fri. 6** - Nikujaga beef &  
potatoes

**Mon. 9** - Clam chowder/  
lemongrass chicken  
salad

**Tue. 10** - Tilapia/  
California chirashisushi

**Thu. 12** - Tofu steak/pork  
w/vegetables

**Fri. 13** - Chicken teriyaki

**Mon. 16** - Shrimp & fish

**Tue. 17** - Chicken curry

**Thu. 19** - Sanma-shiyoyaki  
grilled pike mackerel

**Fri. 20** - Asparagus-beef  
roll w/fried potatoes

**Mon. 23** - Sukiyaki

**Tue. 24** - Tonkatsu

**Thu. 26** - Birthday sushi

**Fri. 27** - Kanitama-donburi/  
Krab omelet

**Mon. 30** - CLOSED

**Tue. 31** - Ramen

### Menu Notes:

- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- Closed Wednesdays
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:** hanafuda and bridge
- **Mon-Tue, 11:30:** chair exercises
- **May 10, 10:30:** Fujinkai Board Meeting
- **May 13, Noon:** Kathryn Work on piano
- **May 16, 11:30:** Ohana Lunch Bunch
- **April 22** Kathryn Work on piano

**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.