



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

AUGUST 2016 • VOLUME 22, ISSUE 01

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 6

Obon Festival
Oregon Buddhist Temple

August 9, 6:00 p.m.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki
Remembrance
Japanese American
Historical Plaza

August 21, Noon

Nikkei Community Picnic
Oaks Park

September 5-13

Kakehashi Trip #1

September 8, 5:30 p.m.

O.N.E. Banquet, MAC Club

September 18

Nichiren Buddhist Temple
Take Out Bazaar

September 22

OAPABA Annual Gala Dinner
Justice Lynn Nakamoto
Award Recipient
Min Yasui - Sentinel Hotel

October 8

PNWDC Board Meeting

October 19

Min Yasui's 100th Birthday
Columbia Center for the Arts
Hood River

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2016 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION AND MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE

by Susan Leedham, Vice President

It's been a busy summer for me. First, I went on the Minidoka Pilgrimage June 23-26, and then I attended the 2016 JACL Convention in Las Vegas as a delegate July 11-14. In fact, as I write this, I'm sitting at the Las Vegas Airport after long days and late nights at the convention.

We accomplished much at the convention. We elected new national officers, including Gary Mayeda as our new National President. We also passed a difficult budget, watched inspiring presentations by an energetic Youth Council on the multiracial and Shin-Nikkei experience and attended a Youth Awards Lunch where they honored Black Lives Matter LA. We also awarded Legacy Grants to deserving applicants from various chapters for projects as diverse as a summer camp for children in Southern California, and funding an interview with President George W. Bush for a documentary on Secretary Norman Mineta.

One of the most inspiring presentations was from Sue Van, President/CEO of the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation. Mr. Coulter was the inventor of the modern-day blood test, and so when Mr. Coulter died, this foundation was formed to fund worthy projects. Ms. Van is Chinese American, and

when she learned that Asians are the fastest-growing minority in the US, not Hispanics, but yet were not getting much attention or funding for anything, she discovered that Asians are by and large ignored because of the very low voting percentage among all age groups of Asians. Even our seniors do not vote in as high a percentage as their counterparts in the White and Black communities.

National JACL received a very generous grant from the Coulter Foundation to basically get out the vote for JAs. I always wondered why since by now the Japanese American community has pretty well assimilated, intermarried and was voting. And yes, the Japanese and the Hmong are at 89%, but after that there is a huge drop-off. Voter registration and participation among the Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese is very low, and of the Asian youth, only one third are registered, and of those, only 37% vote. So please encourage everyone to register to vote and then actually vote, especially APIs. You will see out chapter participating in voter registration for APIs, and please let us know if you have any ideas or would like to help.

It's also been about three weeks since I got back from my first Minidoka Pilgrimage. There was a large group of us from Portland

continued on next page

CONVENTION AND MINIDOKA *continued from Page 1*

led again by our own Connie Masuoka. I highly recommend going with Connie since she is fun, has a lot of knowledge, and she starts by going to the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon, which houses an impressive Minidoka exhibit.

On Thursday, the first event for the pilgrimage was a picnic dinner in a local park. It was a chance for old friends and families to reconnect, including three large busloads from Seattle!

On Friday, we all went to the College of Southern Idaho for a day of seminars. It kicked off with a very powerful film “Children of the Camps” by psychotherapist Satsuki Ina. The film showed sessions with a group of adults who all had a difficult time after their incarceration experience. They were all youngsters at the time, but they bore lifelong scars. It was fascinating watching them argue, cry and eventually come to acceptance. There was one woman who was traded as a 14-year-old teenager for a prisoner of war in Japan, and she was actually sent to Japan. There were also pilgrimage attendees who also spoke of their difficulties, but then there were others who talked about the fun they had and friendships they made as children.

The rest of the day was filled with various seminars you could choose from like stories on Nisei vets, racism, the Hapa/Mixed Race experience, Power of Words, and Holly Yasui and Sarah Segal talking about Min Yasui.

One of the seminars I attended was by Brooks Andrews, the son of Rev. Emery Andrews, a pastor in Seattle who moved his family to Idaho so he could still minister to his parishioners who were now at Minidoka. Unfortunately, the seminar was less about Rev. Andrews but more on how the family felt abandoned by their father and the subsequent divorce of his parents. Life was not easy for those who supported the JAs either.

Saturday morning, we all went to the Minidoka National Historic Site for a tour. Now, I have seen pictures of Minidoka, barren and dusty, so it was very interesting to see how it has been transformed into fertile green farmland, mainly because of the hard work of the JAs who built the irrigation system. There are buildings on site, including a housing barrack, mess hall, root cellar, fire station, guard tower and the Honor Roll containing the names of those from Minidoka who joined the 442 and MIS.

areas in need of cheap labor to develop the land and to pick crops.

After our tour of Minidoka, we had lunch at a huge Chinese buffet. You do not go hungry on this pilgrimage! And then it was back to the college where we were divided into groups with a facilitator to share our thoughts on what we have seen and learned. It was again another chance to hear from people who were there about their struggles and their parents’ struggles while incarcerated and after the war.

Sunday morning, we went back to Minidoka for the dedication of the “Field in a Day” baseball field. JACL Board Member and ONE Executive Director Lynn Longfellow was one of many volunteers who constructed the baseball field in one day, due in large part to the farmer and his family who leases farmland on the site, who plowed the field, planted corn for a “Field of Dreams” effect, and then fed all of the volunteers with barbecued hot dogs and stadium food. A picture of one of the two benches that Portland JACL donated is below.



It was also a learning experience for the local Idaho high school baseball team who came out to help and who had not heard about the incarceration. Of course, it was not in their textbooks, but that’s another article.

Baseball was an integral part of camp life, bringing a much needed sense of normalcy and lifting spirits. And the teams were very good—so good that local schools and semi-pro teams would come to play.

If you get a chance, I highly recommend going on a pilgrimage. It’s a great learning experience. My husband is Caucasian, but now he wants to visit every site we can. Maybe next year we will go to Heart Mountain or Tule Lake.

AUGUST ROSE CITY CEMETERY GROUP CLEAN-UP CANCELLED, BUT WORK CONTINUES

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

We are asking for community members to help us clean Japanese Rose City Cemetery. Group clean-ups have been scheduled through October, but August's group session has been cancelled.

Since the August group clean-up is cancelled for the third Saturday, we will meet individually for August.

I go out once or twice a week to spread barkdust right now in the mornings, so will arrange to meet you at Japanese Cemetery at Rose City Cemetery. Bring shovel and pail for barkdust spreading. We have 1/2 a truckload yet to spread! We will try this arrangement for August. Groups can also arrange individually for August.

We can customize and arrange to do your family graves as well,

including repainting of characters as well.

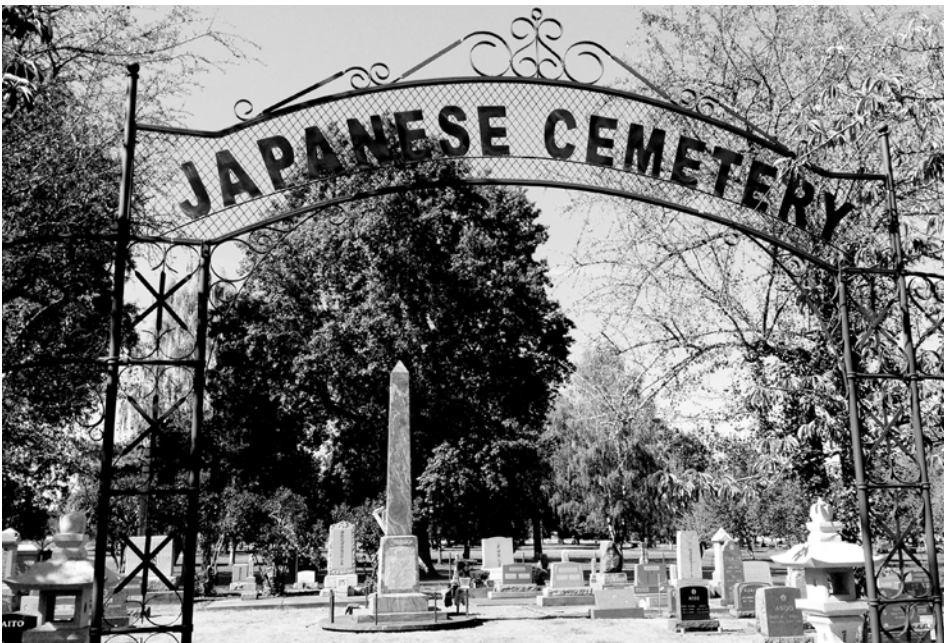
Third Saturdays for September and October are scheduled for group cleaning, 9:00 to Noon. Check your calendars. Bring a finger lunch goodie to share at the end, as we have an enjoyable visit at the end.

What to bring:

- Rubber gloves
- Pails

Please call me, Fran Sumida Palk, if you have questions: 503-810-3948.

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



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. 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

AROUND THE COMMUNITY: NATIONAL CONVENTION AND MORE



The Oregon Delegation to the Convention were (L to R) Membership Chair Setsy Larouche, Vice President Susan Leedham, President Marleen Wallingford and Treasurer Chip Larouche.



President and Delegate Marleen Wallingford accepts the award of a Legacy Fund grant that will pay for printing thousands of Power of Words booklets to be distributed at a Smithsonian Exhibit on Executive Order 9066 that will open in February at the American History Museum. Photo by Chip Larouche



The Oregon Delegation members pose with Secretary Norm Mineta and his wife Deni during the Awards Luncheon held on Thursday, July 14. Secretary Mineta will come to Portland on September 8th O.N.E. Banquet at the MAC Club, as the keynote speaker. Photo by Chris Leedham

AROUND THE COMMUNITY: NATIONAL CONVENTION AND MORE

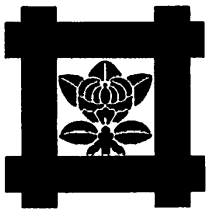


Dances of Three Nations on June 25, 2016 at the Portland Art Museum: a celebration of dances from China, Japan, and Korea.

L to R: Setsy Larouche, Wynn Kiyama M/C, Consul General Uchiyama and Karen Uchiyama, Chip Larouche



Minidoka Incarceration Camp. Photo by Chris Leedham



NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2016 Fall Take-Out Bazaar

Combination Bento	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Chow Mein, Chicken		
& Sushi	\$15.00	

Please Pre-order Total \$

Name

Address

Phone:

Email:

Sunday, September **18**, 2016

PICK-UP 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

2025 S.E. Yamhill

Please return this pre-order form with
your check by **September 11, 2016.**

Please make checks payable to:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

All proceeds benefit:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2025 S.E. Yamhill
Portland, Oregon 97214
(503) 235-8292

Thank You for your Order

日系コミュニティ・ピクニック

NIKKEI COMMUNITY PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016

OAKS PARK

(SOUTH PARK AREA - UNDER THE LARGE STRIPED TENT)

NOON TO 5PM

Food, Fun, Rides for the Kids; Prizes and Performance by Portland Taiko

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:

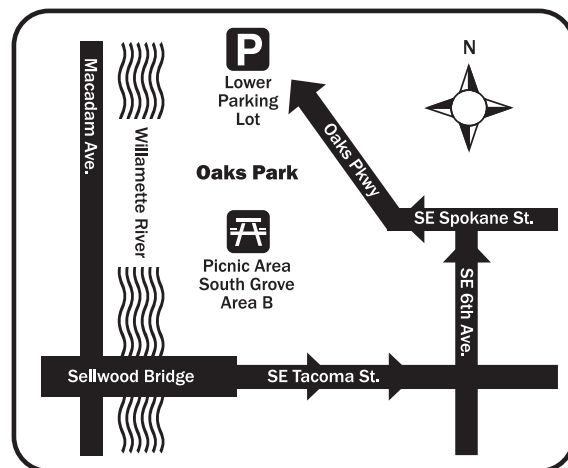
A-Ki Rice or a noodle dish
Kl-Sa Salad or Vegetable dish
Sc-Z Dessert or Bread

主催方からの供給

焼き鳥
お茶、ソーダ、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



Please RSVP by August 8: Connie Masuoka at 503-243-3291

SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

As part of the the 69th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet held in May, students were asked by the Scholarship Committee to write an essay. We will feature these essays here, through September.

Joy Yuzuriha, Mountain View High School

Explain how the Japanese American experience, or your own experiences in working with the community, has shaped your life.

Shaku Nesshin. That is my homyo (Buddhist name), meaning passionate heart and mind. A name chosen for me because of my devotion towards discovering new passions that develop my self-identity. As a fourth generation Japanese-American, I cling to opportunities that bring me closer to the past, while finding inspiration for the future.

When I was four years old, I begged my mother to let me take odori lessons after watching my sister's weekly lessons. Not only does the grace of the art form excite me, but my sensei is a rare treasure. Sahomi Tachibana is a 92-year-old dancer who has been teaching her craft for nearly eight decades. I feel extreme gratitude to learn about Japanese folk tales and culture from such a master. Coincidentally, Tachibana sensei taught my own obaachan at the Tule Lake internment camp during World War II. Every time I take the stage in my kimono and tabi, I feel my obaachan looking down on me with a smile.

My love of the arts has expanded past the graceful movements of the body to a life of instrumental performance. As a seventh grader, I dove into the world of jazz through the Minidoka Swing Band, a group dedicated to sharing the culture of the World War II Japanese-American internment camps through music. As the youngest member of this band, I have an extraordinary opportunity to augment my understanding of my great-grandparents' and

grandparents' internment stories. I hope I accomplish even a fraction of what my ancestors did; making a better life for themselves and future generations. Last year, I had the opportunity of a lifetime to travel to Japan with the band as an educator of internment and an ambassador for youth. I hope I made my ancestors proud as I forged better relations between the youth of Japan and America in Tokyo and surrounding areas.

Being recognized in the Japanese-American community through dance and music has further inspired me to contribute through religion. As a part of my Japanese heritage, I am grateful to my parents and grandparents for maintaining our family's practice of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Buddhism is a universal religion that can apply to any individual's daily life as it explains the interdependence and impermanence of all beings. These sensible teachings of the Buddha have taught me to live each day with selfless and compassionate mindfulness.

This past summer, I was able to share my understandings of Jodo Shinshu with teens just like me. It was a week-long retreat that I will never forget. We were all fully immersed into our youth minister's assistant training and Japanese Buddhist culture workshops. At the end of the retreat, I was presented with my homyo, initiating me as a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha.

My Japanese roots have become so much a part of me through my dancing, music, and religion, that I am inspired to share my Japanese culture, and hoping to guide others towards their own life passions, developing a foundation to build their self-identity.



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IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH MENU FOR AUGUST

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

Mon. 1 - Tomato Beef
Chow Mein

Tue. 2 - Thai Pork &
Noodle Salad

Thu. 4 - Chicken Katsu

Fri. 5 - Sanma Shiyoyaki
(grilled pike mackerel)

Mon. 8 - Tilapia Kabayaki

Tue. 9 - Burmese Pork
Curry

Thu. 11 - Ingen Shinoda-
maki (bean curd roll)

Fri. 12 - Tempura Soba

Mon. 15 - Chicken Sticky
Rice/Gyoza

Tue. 16 - Clam Chowder/
Chicken Caesar Salad

Thu. 18 - Jajamen

Fri. 19 - Katsu-don

Mon. 22 - BBQ Pork Buns

Tue. 23 - Mar Far Chicken

Thu. 25 - Torihniku-
yubamaki-age (chicken-
filled deep fried tofu skin)

Fri. 26 - Birthday Sushi

Mon. 29 - Sukiyaki

Tue. 30 - Lemon Plum
Sauce Chicken

Menu Notes:

- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- Closed Wednesdays
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:** hanafuda and bridge
- **Mon-Tue, 11:30:** chair exercises
- **Thursdays,** Ping Pong
- **Aug 15, 12:30:** Ohana Lunch Bunch
- **Aug 18, 11:30:** Sing-along with Reiko and 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.