



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2017 • VOLUME 23, ISSUE 08

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Now thru Feb 28, 2018**

*Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II*  
National Museum of American History  
Washington DC

**February 5 - July 16**

*Yellow Terror*  
Art by Roger Shimomura  
ONLC

**March 19**

Nichiren Annual Spring Bazaar

**March 28**

Min Yasui Day in Oregon

**March 28**

*Architecture of Internment*  
Oregon Historical Society

**March 28**

Never Give Up (Part 1)  
Historic Grand Theater, Salem  
Event Coord: Jim Azumano

**April 9**

Spring Bazaar  
Oregon Buddhist Temple

**April 15**

PNWDC District Meeting  
Olympia

**May 6, 2 - 4 p.m.**

75th Anniversary of Portland  
Assembly Center Incarceration  
Exhibition Hall "A"

**May 7**

JA Graduation Banquet  
Monarch Hotel

## CALL TO ACTION! #NEVERAGAIN

*by Chris Lee, Portland JACL Board Member*

One year ago, I wrote in this newsletter about how important it is to share stories of the internment so that we never forget the level of freedom that we enjoy today. As it turns out that was not nearly a strong enough message. In the last year we've witnessed an unparalleled level of racism, xenophobia, violence, and hate across the country and all over the world. This year I'm asking you to do more than just tell stories, because the urgency is that much greater. Each one of us needs to ask ourselves, "What can I do?" to help people that are facing the same challenges that Japanese Americans experienced so many years ago. I hope that current events will be a call to arms for all generations of Japanese-Americans to take action and stand up for Muslims-Americans, Mexican and Latino-Americans, Women's rights, Black Lives, the LGBTQ community and anybody who is being targeted by our own government. We've been in their position and it is our responsibility to make sure that history doesn't repeat itself.

So what can we do as individuals to make a difference? There are many ways that you can act to protect freedom and civil rights. If you're fortunate enough you can donate and join organizations that support the cause. There will be many deserving non-profits that need financial help over the next four years. More than money these groups can also use your time by attending events, volunteering or even joining a board or committee. Portland JACL collaborates and supports several

local organizations.

More important than financial support is using your voice in whatever form that takes. It may mean calling your senators, representative or other government officials. It could mean protesting or joining a march. Even posting or sharing on social media is way to exercise your voice (if you don't follow us on facebook, you really should. <https://www.facebook.com/PDXJACL/>). Of course, I continue to encourage you to share your story with your family and really anybody that will listen. By doing so I hope you will empower more people to take some form of action. Many people don't know or don't remember what happened during WWII, but it is critical that we never forget. I know that some of these things may be intimidating, but I encourage you to make a stand and find ways to be heard. A recent example is the NeverAgain: Japanese-Americans Remember event that was held on February 19th, 2017 at the Japanese American Historical Plaza. Over 150 people gathered to share stories of how Executive Order 9066 changed their family's history forever. This was not JACL's annual Day of Remembrance event, because this year JACL and Oregon Nikkei Endowment are planning a special Day of Remembrance for Saturday, May 6th (mark your calendars now!). The #NeverAgain event at the Historical Plaza was put together by Jenna Yokoyama and Traci Kiyama who

*Continued page 2*

## BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

wanted to have a proper gathering on the Day of Remembrance and the 75th Anniversary of EO 9066. I want to thank them for taking the initiative to organize a wonderful event with only a week's notice. More importantly I want to thank them for acting and using their voices to bring our community and its supporters together. Their leadership is an excellent example of how each one of us can make a difference in the fight for freedom. I noticed that there were a lot yonsei and even some gosei in the crowd, which was a refreshing change from the Nisei and sansei that are ever-present in our community. People shared their stories or their family's stories and the impact that the camp experience had on them. Many were stories that I had not heard before. Let's hope this is the beginning for more inter-generational organization in our community.

However, as the event ended and I was walking away from the plaza, a man leaned out from a car that was driving on NW Naito Parkway and yelled out "Trump for two terms!" It was an ironic and frustrating moment that illustrates the challenge that lays ahead. On this Day of Remembrance, it was apparent that now more than ever we must act to protect freedom FOR ALL.

If you missed the event, there are many more Day of Remembrance and other relevant historical events already on the calendar. Visit [www.NeverAgainPDX.org](http://www.NeverAgainPDX.org), a new website dedicated to Nikkei community activism in Portland.

I hope that you will join us on May 6th at 2-4pm for our Return & Remembrance event. It will mark the 75th Anniversary of the local enforcement of Executive Order 9066. The event will be held at the Expo Center, which was used as the Portland Assembly Center during the interment. A full program is being planned with Master of Ceremonies, David Ono (ABC news anchor in L.A. and documentary producer of "Legacy of Heart Mountain.").

**Photos by Chris Lee**





**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION  
Presidio of San Francisco, California**

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**

**LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:**

All of that portion of the County of Multnomah, State of Oregon, bounded on the north by the Oregon-Washington State line, bounded on the east by 122nd Avenue, and 122nd Avenue extended southerly to the Multnomah-Clackamas County line, bounded on the south by the Multnomah-Clackamas County line, and bounded on the west by the Willamette River.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 26, this Headquarters, dated April 28, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P.W.T., Tuesday, April 28, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the presence of the Commanding General, Northwestern Section, War Relocation Authority, located at:

**#NEVERAGAIN**

Special permits will only be granted for the purpose of visiting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency.

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

FOR INFORMATION ON UPCOMING SOCIAL JUSTICE EVENTS, VISIT:

**NEVERAGAINPDX.ORG**



# Around the Community



Mochitsuki 2017 was a great success with over 2500 people participating and attending this annual event. At the Portland JACL booth, Maxx Loitz and Malia Tolentino take turns getting a candy treat by only using chopsticks. →



The community all turned out for Art Iwasaki's celebration of life, appropriately held on February 19<sup>th</sup>, the 75 Anniversary of the signing of Executive order 9066 by President Roosevelt. Art fought in World War II in the 442<sup>nd</sup> RCT and received two bronze stars and two purple hearts.



**Above:** February 19<sup>th</sup>, Day of Remembrance, was a time to assemble at the Japanese American Historical Plaza to not only remember what happened 75 years ago, but to speak out about what is happening today! Visit <https://www.neveragainpdx.org/>

**Right:** Community activists went to Salem to testify in favor of SCR14 that recognized the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Executive Order that resulted in incarceration of 120 thousand Japanese Americans



*Righting a Wrong by Chip Larouche*

On Thursday evening before President's Day weekend, Setsy and I were privileged to attend a reception at the Smithsonian Museum of American History that marked the opening of an exhibit entitled *Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II*. The exhibit will remain open for one year, and you can't miss it. It's right behind the Greensboro Lunch Counter on the second floor of the museum. National JACL was a major sponsor of this exhibit a funding initiative of Priscilla Ouchida, the past Executive Director of National JACL, and it tells the stories of many aspects of the Japanese American life during the war. The exhibit displays the original page 1 of Executive Order 9066 as well as the original Congressional bill HR 442 that became the Civil Rights Act of 1988, signed by President Regan, that provided the nation's apology to the Japanese American community for impinging on their constitutional rights that were purported to be done for national defense, but that were later proven to be caused by wartime hysteria and racial prejudice. There's a map in the exhibit that shows all the incarceration camps, labeled just that way, avoiding the euphemistic term of "internment" that was normally used at that time to make concentration camps seem otherwise. In anticipation of this exhibit opening day, Portland JACL arranged to have several thousand "Power of Words" handbooks printed that outline many of these wartime euphemisms, and guests who attended the opening were given a copy of this handbook which is a product of the Pacific Northwest District, whose Power of Words committee still actively attempt to instruct people on the harm of using these euphemistic words. The remaining copies of the Power of Words will be distributed to the youth groups that stream through this exhibit to remind them of the way "words" can be deceiving at times and hide the true nature of an action or deed.

The exhibit shows the hardships of losing everything, having to sell cherished possessions and businesses for pennies on the dollar, it shows the harshness of the concentration camps, and even the divisiveness that was caused by the loyalty survey, the valor and subsequent difficulties of the draft resisters and those who answered No-No to two questions of the loyalty questionnaire with no correct answer possible, and the visionary courage and actions of leaders like Min Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi, Mitsue Endo and Fred Korematsu. Speaking of heroes, the exhibit certainly covers the incomparable contributions of the soldiers of the 100<sup>th</sup> Battalion, the 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team and the men and women of the Military Intelligence Service whose wartime contribution value were incalculable to not only bringing the war to a quicker end, but also whose valor, highlighted by the award of 21 Medals of Honor and a Congressional Gold Medal speak for themselves. By the way, that very Congressional Gold Medal is also on display at the Museum on the third floor in the Military exhibit that is sponsored by the National Veterans Network.

The exhibit opening was attended by such dignitaries as Congresswoman Doris Matsui of California, Senator Mazie Hirono of Hawaii, and Ambassador of Japan to the United States, Kenichiro Sasae. National JACL President, Gary Mayeda, was also one of the evening speakers. I've included a few pictures of the evening and some shots of the exhibit itself, but these don't do justice to that exhibit. If you have a chance to visit Washington, DC this year, please carve out a few hours to visit the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian. I think you'll be glad you did.



Exhibit -- Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II *Photos by Chip & Setsy Larouche*



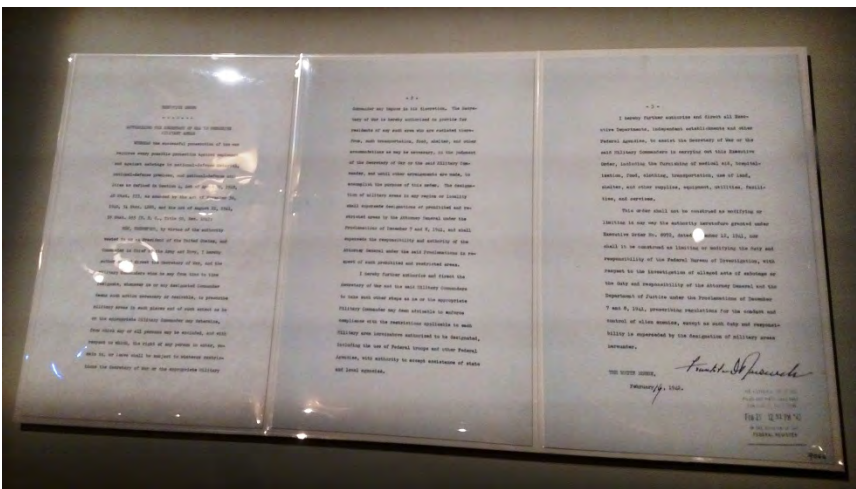
The evening began with Taiko with speeches from Congresswoman Matsui and JACL President Gary Maeda amongst others

Dignitaries included Smithsonian officials, JACL President Mayeda, Congresswoman Matsui and Senator Hirono, and the Ambassador of Japan to the United States, Kenichiro Sasae and his wife Nobuko

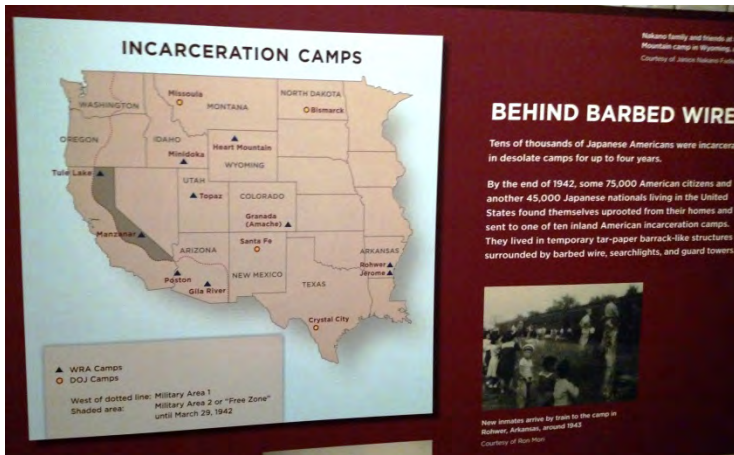


JACL was a major donor to the exhibit. In addition, many individuals donated artifacts from Camp life that are not only displayed throughout the exhibit, but on a daily basis, several artifacts are brought out in front of the exhibit with docents who are there to explain the details about them.

One of the highlights of the exhibit is the original page 1 of Executive Order 9066. Pages 2 & 3 are actually on display at the Japanese American National Museum. →



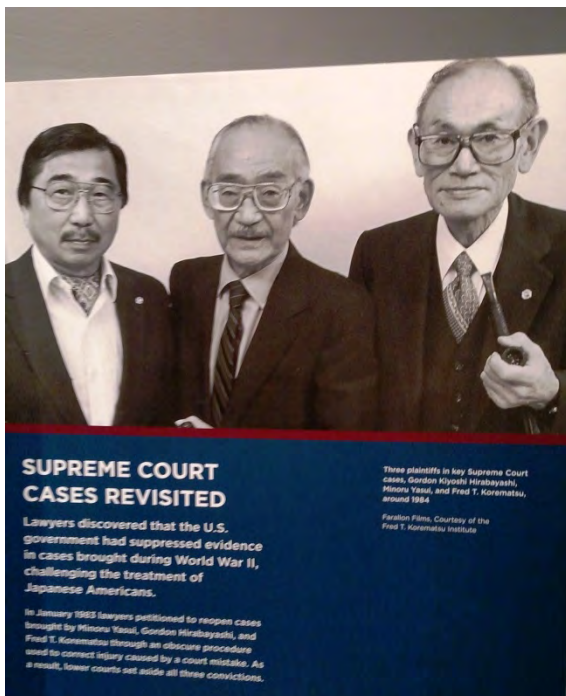




**"No payment can make up for those lost years. So, what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong: here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law."**

- President Ronald Reagan, 1988

The original Civil Rights Act of 1988 is also in the exhibit which provided redress to all those sent to the incarceration camps who were still alive when the Act was signed. President Reagan made a great point that it wasn't about the money.



The activists of the time are also highlighted including our own Min Yasui and the only person to "win" her initial Supreme Court case, Mitsuye Endo.

If you want to find the actual Congressional Gold medal that was awarded in 2011 to the 100<sup>th</sup>/442<sup>nd</sup>/MIS Nisei Soldiers, that's upstairs on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the museum in the *Price of Freedom* exhibit that shows the contributions of our military to the American way of life.





## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN BY SHARON TAKAHASHI

This year has certainly marched in like a lion. The adventures of snow and ice have left us with a myriad of problems to deal with but we remain hopeful for a “bug-less” spring.

Thank you to all who renewed memberships and were so generous to the Japanese Ancestral Society for 2017. Ikoi No Kai, the community lunch program and the Japanese Cemetery at Rose City continue to amaze families and friends who come to visit. Volunteers are very dedicated, and we sincerely appreciate their efforts.

We need the community's help this month and next in identifying and referring graduating high school seniors to the banquet committee. The goal of the organizations involved in the banquet has always been to salute all high school graduates, regardless of academic rank (grade point average). Today, many seniors finish their high school requirements by the end of their junior year or first semester of their senior year and start classes at the community colleges nearby. Some of these students lose the contact with their high school counselors and are very independent in monitoring their graduation requirements. Although we try to reach these counselors, they cannot breach privacy laws and ask about Nikkei heritage, organization membership or church affiliation.

The scholarship program is a by-product of the aim to salute all seniors. To apply, the student or parent must be members of one of the sponsoring organizations. The Oregon Nisei Veterans, Inc., one of the sponsoring organizations, recognizes an outstanding male and female athlete with special awards.

The organization acting as “toban” this year is the Oregon Buddhist Temple, and Elaine Yuzuriha is the committee chair. If you have referrals of graduates or outstanding athlete (male and female), please email her at e.yuzuriha@gmail.com. We would appreciate it if you could go one step further and also send names of current juniors who we might miss next year.

This year's event will be a 1:00 luncheon at the Monarch Hotel at Clackamas Town Center. Graduates are guests of the committee but tickets for families and guests are available for \$35.



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## PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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### **Al Sugiyama, Champion of Social Justice** *by Verne Naito*

(Editor's Note: This article was inadvertently omitted from last month's newsletter)

The New Year brought with it the passing of Al Sugiyama, a great Japanese American leader, a tireless advocate for minorities, and an inspirational human being. Al lived and worked mostly in the Puget Sound area, so you may not have gotten to know him. The mayor of Seattle praised Al as a champion for social justice.

I met Al through the Portland Chapter of JACL. Al was the head of the Executive Development Institute (EDI), a non-profit dedicated to developing leaders among members of the Asian Pacific Islander and Hispanic communities. Portland Chapter participated in a project with a team from EDI.

EDI was created in 1994 under the guidance and direction of the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce because Japanese Americans were grossly underrepresented in corporate America's leadership positions. The program quickly expanded to include all Asian and Pacific Islander communities, and in 2009, EDI launched its Hispanic leader development curriculum. The program's current goal is to help multi-cultural participants rise to the highest positions of influence in businesses and government agencies.

The EDI program is a combination of classroom instruction and field exercises. EDI partners with over 50 northwest corporations and agencies. In the Portland metro area, the best-known organizations are Nike, Boeing, Union Bank, and BPA.

EDI's mission is to help participants break through the "bamboo ceiling" in corporations and in government agencies. Courses and exercises focus as much on character development as on skills and knowledge. The program spans many months and is completed both on paid employer time and the participant's personal time. Programs are run in Seattle and Portland with about 50 developing leaders in each class. Many are first generation Asian/Pacific Islanders (APIs) Americans, several are Latino Americans, and the balance is second generation APIs.

In order to participate in this expensive program, his/her employer must sponsor the candidate. Senior managers or supervisors select candidates on the basis of having the potential to be the leaders of their respective companies or agencies. Most of the candidates are under 35.

After the JACL project, I had the opportunity to interact with many of the potential leaders as one of their instructors and at social events. I found them to be intelligent, motivated, principled, and engaging. My personal observation is that this program greatly benefits first generation Americans by giving them the confidence and techniques to excel in a new country. The alumni list on the website shows a remarkable number of senior level job titles. Today, EDI boasts over 900 alumni in the Pacific Northwest. In my judgment, EDI is succeeding with its stated mission. At least in Seattle.

The potential of the Portland program has not yet been realized. The Portland program is newer than the Seattle program and there are far fewer large corporations in Portland than in Seattle. Consequently, the number of participating employers is just a handful and the biggest companies are noticeably under represented.

Recently, our nation has seen public demonstrations for social justice in many cities including Portland. Let us keep the momentum going. If you have connections at a large Portland area employer (including government agencies, NGOs, and NPOs) with APIs and Latinos in junior executive positions, tell them about EDI. Get them to sponsor EDI candidates. Tell friends and relatives. If you know of a junior executive who might qualify, encourage them to approach the head of their company or organization to sponsor them. Donate money for scholarships. The EDI website has an online donation page that accepts credit cards.

Please dig deep. I'm making my check out in memory of Al Sugiyama, a champion of social justice. Thank you and Happy New Year.

## Oregon Buddhist Temple

# Spring Bazaar 2017

Sun, April 9 11am-3pm



**Food Pre-Order**  
**Return form by April 3**

	Price	Quantity	Amount
Chow Mein	\$8	_____	\$ _____
Mar Far Chicken	\$8	_____	\$ _____
Salmon Bowl	\$9	_____	\$ _____
Tofu Bowl	\$9	_____	\$ _____
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**All orders are  
pick-up only.**

**Tickets  
will be  
waiting at  
will-call**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to and make  
checks payable to:**

**Oregon Buddhist Temple  
3720 SE 34th Ave  
Portland, OR 97202**

## **New! Pre-Order Online!**

**go to**

**<https://squareup.com/store/oregon-buddhist-temple>**

**Questions? email us at [bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com) or call 503-234-9456**



# NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE



## 25th Annual Spring Bazaar

Sunday, March 19, 2017 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 2025 S.E. Yamhill

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Special Nichiren Tonkatsu (pork) Bento (Available for Pre-order Only)	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Chicken Donburi (Chicken Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Chow Mein	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Veggie Chow Mein	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Tofu Donburi (Tofu Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
Total \$			_____

Please return this pre-order form with  
your check by **March 12, 2017**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH MENU FOR MARCH** **1333 SE 28th Ave, Portland, 503-238-0775**

<b>Thu. 2</b> - Salmon-Saikyoyaki	on Advanced Planning in Japanese by Dr. Onishi	<b>Mon. 20</b> - Mar Far Chicken with Singapore Noodles
<b>Fri. 3</b> - Buta-Kakuni	<b>Mon. 13</b> - Cioppino	<b>Tue. 21</b> - Lemongrass Pork
<b>Mon. 6</b> - Ginger Chicken with Fried Rice	<b>Tue. 14</b> - Our St. Patrick's Corned Beef (Reservation Required + \$1.00)	<b>Thu. 23</b> - Ebi-chiri sauce, Sing Along w/Jerry
<b>Tue. 7</b> - Beef & Broccoli	<b>Thu. 16</b> - Tonkatsu	<b>Fri. 24</b> - Chicken Katsu
<b>Thu. 9</b> - Tsukune-nabe	<b>Fri. 17</b> - Nasu-ankake-don, Kathryn on Piano	<b>Mon. 27</b> - Birthday Sushi
<b>Fri. 10</b> - Charsiu Ramen w/Special presentation		<b>Tue. 28</b> - Hoisin Chicken/Yakisoba
		<b>Thu. 30</b> - Ankake-charhan
		<b>Fri. 31</b> - Seafood Fry

### **Menu Notes:**

- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- Closed Wednesdays
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:** Hanafuda and bridge
- **Mon-Tue-Fri, 11:30:** Chair Exercises
- **Mar 9, 16, 21 11:30:** Blood pressure
- **Mar 2,9,16,30 11:30:** Qi Gong
- **Mar 14, 10:30:** Fujinkai Board
- **Mar 20,** 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.