



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

MAY 2017 • VOLUME 23, ISSUE 10

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

May 6, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

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

May 7, 1 p.m.

JA Graduation Banquet
Monarch Hotel

May 11, 6 p.m.

Portland Taiko Benefit Banquet
Wong's King Restaurant

May 13, Noon

Train of Tears
Hood River Train Depot

May 14

Mother's Day

May 27, 2 p.m. May 28, 7 p.m.

Gambatte Be Strong
Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center

May 29, 1 p.m.

Memorial Day Service
Rose City Cemetery

July 5 - 9

JACL National Convention
Washington, D.C.

KAKEHASHI...FROM A CHAPERONE'S POINT OF VIEW

by Marleen Wallingford, Portland JACL President

I am a Sansei born in the 50's and raised in the post-war era when our Issei and Nisei grandparents and parents were recovering from the trauma of losing everything and having to start over in a hostile environment. My parents like many Nisei did not believe in being 100% but 200% Americans. We embraced American values and culture. I did not have a Japanese first or middle name. I did not learn how to speak Japanese, the first language of my grandparents and parents. I did not go to the Buddhist Temple. Although I heard about "camp" when I was growing-up, I did not realize what a travesty of civil rights my family had endured. We were not directly taught our history or culture but I realized that many of the family's behaviors which I thought were idiosyncratic to them were really based on Japanese culture.

Japan was that remote and exotic place that my grandfathers had immigrated from as young men and second sons from Japan. However when I was able to accompany a group of young Asian Americans, many of them of Japanese heritage on an educational trip to Japan, Japan was familiar and unfamiliar at the same time. The Japanese are an incredibly organized, hard working group of people who are obsessed with having things done in a timely manner and being on time means early. The Japanese response to losing the Second World War and being occupied by American soldiers and having their constitution rewritten by

Americans echoed the response that many Japanese Americans had to the tragedy of being incarcerated for being enemy aliens and potential saboteurs in America. Even in the face of adversity, the Japanese are able to forge ahead and not let the past get in the way. It is amazing that Japan, a small island nation, with no natural resources was able to become a military power and has become a world economic powerhouse. Japan's natural resource is its people and their tremendous work ethic. This opportunity to visit the land of my grandparents has helped me understand that although I am an American, I am also Japanese.

The Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsors the Kakehashi Project, an educational program which promotes people to people exchanges between Japan and various nations worldwide. The JACL is the American partner for this program. Their goal is to have over 5,000 people from throughout the world have an opportunity to visit and get to know the people and the unique attractions and history Japan. In the United States, young adult Japanese and Asian Americans are the targeted participants for this program. The activities are carefully scheduled so that in nine days, the participants have heard lectures about Japanese politics, society, history and diplomatic relations. The young adult guests visit a Japanese university, tour museums and have a homestay with a local family. The tour includes urban and rural areas

Continued page 2

BOARD MEMBER'S MESSAGE CONTINUED...

and the opportunities to sample wonderful Japanese food and some shopping time in their busy shopping areas. Stamina is required because sometimes our day would begin at 5:30 a.m. (in order to take the Shinkansen) and usually end at 7 p.m.

Young people who are interested in finding out more about Japan are asked to apply for the Kashehashi Program and are selected through a competitive process. Since all of our students were Asian American there was an easy camaraderie and instant recognition of meeting others who are non-white. Not only were the participants introduced to Japan and its culture and history, they had an opportunity to meet and connect with Asian Americans from all parts of the United States. Our tour group included about 75 young people who ranged from college students to young professionals just getting started on their careers. The participants were required at the end of the program to produce a presentation reviewing what they had learned in their tour of Japan. I thought it was interesting that the process that they were asked to go through, coming up with a collaborative project is the basis of Japan's corporate culture. What is valued in Japan is the ability for the individual to contribute to the group effort. I also observed that goals were always clearly stated and there was always a strategy or process to get to the goals. Spontaneity is not as important as being ready. Many of the participants had never traveled internationally. The nine days passed too quickly. Most of the participants would say that this trip has been the most eye-opening and perhaps life changing experience of their lives. This trip gave them an opportunity to be introduced to a country that is both familiar and unfamiliar. It was time for self-reflection and an opportunity to see themselves as part of a large Asian American community. To find out more information about the Kakehashi Program, please contact me.



Above: David Kawamoto is Marleen's co-chaperone on the trip with Marleen sampling the great "sidewalk" food in Japan



Left: Group shot (with a local deer) taken at historic Miyajima Island at *The Great Torii* "where People and Gods Live Together"





2209 N.Schofield Street
Portland, OR 97217
www.vanportmosaic.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PLEASE

Contact: Chisao Hata: chatamoves@gmail.com 503.975.2748

GAMBATTE BE STRONG

Stories of Japanese American Displacement & Resilience in Portland

Created by Chisao Hata & Nikki Nojima Louis

Offered as part of the 2017 Vanport Mosaic Festival, May 26 - 29

The immigrant journey of the Japanese in Oregon is paved with stories of perseverance and courage. Gambatte Be Strong is the rallying cry for an original reading of the little known stories of the return of Japanese Americans to Oregon after their incarceration during WW II.

Two Public Performances:

The Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center 5340 N Interstate Ave, Portland, OR 97217

Saturday 5/27 2pm and Sunday 5/28 7pm

Running time 1 hour with no intermission. IFCC box office opens one hour before curtain. General Admission: \$10, Students & Seniors \$5.

Limited Seating, reservations encouraged.

Tickets at www.vanportmosaic.org.

Seventy-five years ago, the signing of Executive Order 9066 led to incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, the majority of whom were American citizens. Looking like the "enemy" led to denial of their human rights and violation of their civil rights by their own country. These hard-working community people were suddenly forcibly removed from their homes and livelihoods.

First, they were taken to assembly centers in Portland, an area known as the Livestock Pavilion, that became their home for three months, then moved secretly to government prison camps in remote desert areas of America. Following the war, with no homes and their Nihonmachi (Japantown) community destroyed, many either left Oregon or relocated to Vanport. In 1947, the Vanport Flood brought death and destruction to its residents. Once again, the Issei of Portland and their American-born children found themselves displaced, living in designated "race" areas of the city but continuing to pursue *The American Dream*.

Please visit the *Surge of Social Change* exhibit running with this performance.

For general information about Festival programming please contact

Rachael Mortensen: rachaelgmortensen@gmail.com 503-550-9463

The Vanport Mosaic is a collective of artists, historians, educators and media makers seeking to engage the public in remembering the silenced histories of the Pacific Northwest to better understand our present. Artistic Directors: Laura Lo Forti and Damaris Webb www.vanportmosaic.org

Were you sent to "Camp" before receiving a diploma???

All students of any age who were enrolled in Hood River County School District in 1942 who were incarcerated and did not eventually earn their diploma are eligible for honorary diplomas from Hood River Valley High School.

Presentations will occur on Friday, June 9, 2017

If you are eligible, or know someone who is, Contact Terri Martz, Assistant to the Superintendent, by May 15, 2017

Email: terri.martz@hoodriver.k12.or.us Telephone: 541-387-5013

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PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER



On Min Yasui Day, March 28th, Mayor Ted Wheeler read a Portland Proclamation in City Hall that officially apologized to the Japanese American Community for not protecting their civil rights in 1942



Sho Dozono, Past Portland JACL President, Joseph Wahl, Past Portland JACL President, Jann Carson, Associate Director ACLU - Oregon, Holly Yasui, Daughter of Min Yasui, Jeff Selby, Past Portland JACL President, Wajdi Said, President, Muslim Educational Trust, Barbara Bellus, Member Portland JACL, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Scott Sakamoto, Past Portland JACL President, Nick Fish, Commissioner, City of Portland, Lynn Longfellow, Executive Director, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Marleen Wallingford, Current Portland JACL President, Kojiro Uchiyama, Consul General of Japan to Portland, Jessica Asai, Civil Rights Investigator at Oregon Health & Science University, Dante James, Director of the Office of Equity and Human Rights, City of Portland (Photo by Chip Larouche)



The World Premiere of the film NEVER GIVE UP: Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice happened, appropriately, on Min Yasui Day in Oregon, May 28th, at the Historic Grand Theater in Salem. The film screening event was opened by a performance by Portland Taiko, remarks by Oregon Governor Kate Brown, followed by a panel discussion led by emcee Jim Azumano, with panelists Professor Linda Tamura, author of The Hood River Issei, and Nisei Soldiers Break their Silence, Mr. George Nakata, a former internee at the Minidoka Concentration Camp, and Oregon Representative Brian Clem. Pictured at the reception prior to the film screening are (L to R) Keiko Nakata, George Nakata, Governor Kate Brown, Lynn Nakamoto, Weston Koyama and Setsy Larouche. (Photos by Chip Larouche)



CITY OF
PORTLAND

Whereas

Whereas, during the spring of 1942, under the authorization of Executive Order 9066 signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 120,000 Japanese Americans along the west coast – men, women, elders, and children – were subject to registration, curfew, and travel restrictions, and forced by military proclamation to leave their homes, with only what they could carry; and

Whereas, during the first week in May, 1942, nearly 3,700 of these persons were imprisoned in the Pacific International Livestock Exposition Center in North Portland, surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards, and forced to live in converted, but extremely unhygienic animal stalls; and

Whereas, in September of 1942, they were taken by military transport from Portland to the War Relocation Authority's Minidoka concentration camp in Hunt, Idaho, and were subject to gross and ongoing violations of civil and human rights based solely upon ancestry or national origin; and

Whereas, the City of Portland aided and abetted in this process by cooperating with the discriminatory military orders applied against its own birthright citizens as well as legal residents; and

Whereas, in 1983, a federal Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians determined this process to be the result of "race prejudice, war hysteria and a lack of political leadership;" and

Whereas, the City of Portland is today a sanctuary city, mindful of the civil and human rights of all people, not allowing its local law-enforcement officers to be used to enforce federal programs regarding immigration, registration of aliens, or travel restrictions; and

Whereas, March 28 has been declared by the Oregon state legislature as Minoru Yasui Day in perpetuity, in honor of an American of Japanese ancestry who in 1942 challenged the discriminatory military curfew; and

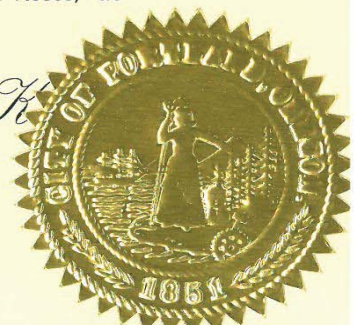
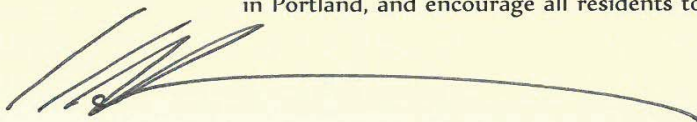
Whereas, that the City of Portland issues this official apology to its Japanese American community for failing to defend the civil and human rights of its citizens and legal residents in 1942; and

Whereas, today, March 28, 2017, Minoru Yasui Day in Oregon, that the City of Portland affirms its resolve, along with the Japanese American community, that never again will any persons be registered, restricted, or detained based solely upon their ancestry or national origin,

Now, therefore, I, Ted Wheeler, Mayor of the City of Portland, Oregon, the "City of Roses," do hereby proclaim May 1-5, 2017 to be

JUSTICE FOR ALL WEEK

in Portland, and encourage all residents to observe this week.



Train of Tears

The “Train of Tears” will be remembered when the Hood River, Oregon community commemorates the 75th anniversary of the day when Japanese Americans from the Mid-Columbia region were forcibly removed during World War II. The program starts at noon on Saturday, May 13, 2017 and will take place at the Hood River train depot, where over 500 Japanese Americans departed exactly 75 years ago.

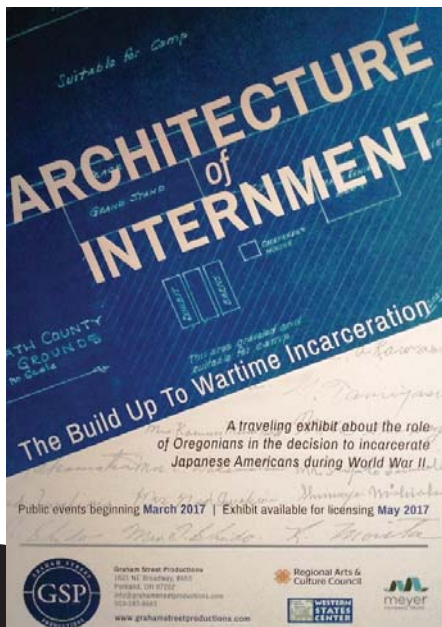
Audio of Homer Yasui’s voice will introduce the remembrance as he reflects on the departure from his hometown. Leadership students at Hood River Valley High School will string tags along the depot railings corresponding to nametags worn by Nikkei, and Yasui granddaughter Kendra Wilkins will sing Tom Russell’s poignant ballad “Manzanar.” Paul Blackburn, mayor of Hood River, and Ron Rivers, chair of the Hood River County Commission, will read resolutions commemorating this 75th anniversary. The program will also feature tanka poetry written by Shizue Iwatsuki, Hood River Issei honored for her poetry and her cultural achievements by Emperor Hirohito, as well as quoted reflections from Issei and Nisei and statements from letters written by Nisei to their grade school teacher and principal, Miss Vienna Annala.

The Minoru Yasui Legacy Stone will also be dedicated on the lawn of the Hood River County Library, to be surrounded by a stone garden with a Japanese ambiance in the future. High school students have chosen to establish a yearly award honoring a graduating senior who has demonstrated exemplary work in social or civil justice whose name will be inscribed on a small stone to be added to the garden, year after year.

Train of Tears

Noon, Saturday May 13, 2017

Hood River Train Depot



Left: Anne Galisky of Graham Street Productions poses with June Schumann and Chisato Hata at the debut of the traveling exhibit on the Architecture of Internment on March 26th. (Photos by Setsy Larouche)

Right: George and Keiko Nakata with their grandson Ethan Szlovak enjoy the exhibit. George, an internee himself, also spoke at the next day’s public unveiling of the exhibit.



Nikkei Community Happenings

by Sharon Takahashi, President, Japanese Ancestral Society

Each year the Japanese Ancestral Society coordinates the services at the Japanese Cemetery at Rose City Cemetery and the Japanese Section at Lone Fir Cemetery with the Oregon Nisei Veterans, Inc. This year's observance will be on May 29th beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Japanese Cemetery, 5625 N.E. Fremont St, Portland, Oregon 97213.

Following this service, a short memorial service will be held at Lone Fir Cemetery. The entrance is located on SE 26th Street, between Stark and Washington.

Everyone is welcome to attend one or both services.

A Special Note of Thanks

When the curtain goes down on a really good performance, do you ever ask yourself, "Who put that together?" As I get older (imagine that!), I do this more often. One of the most outstanding events happening annually in our community is the Community Graduation Banquet. The banquet planners sought to honor all high school graduates in the community. Through the efforts of many, the event is celebrating its 70th birthday this year.

Many organizations work together to ensure its continuity. I think a special thank you for the individuals on this year's committee and the organizations they represent is appropriate. The toban (organization in charge) this year is Oregon Buddhist Temple, represented by Chair Elaine Yuzuriha and Secretary Carol Saiget. Assignments may change from year to year but these are the sponsoring organizations, with 2017 representatives in parentheses: Buddhist Daihonzan Temple (David Batchelor), Epworth United Methodist Church (Albert Kasahara and Julie Hirai), GT JACL (Terry Nishikawa), Japanese Ancestral Society (Linda Guerber), Nichiren Buddhist Temple (Ida and Bill Sugahiro. Mae Hirata), Nikkei Fujinkai (Michie Uzunoe), Oregon Buddhist Temple (aforementioned), Oregon Nisei Veterans (Kay Endo and Ron Iwasaki), Portland JACL (Chip and Setsy Larouche, Marleen Wallingford, Connie Masuoka), Shokookai of Portland (Yoshiko O'Brien) and Veleda Club (Sharon Takahashi).

The Japanese Ancestral Society convenes the scholarship committee, from posting applications on the Portland JACL website, verifying eligibility, communicating with donors and scheduling interviews of applicants. This year's scholarship chairperson is Linda Guerber. Her committee consisted of Kay Endo, Setsy Larouche, Jenny Ogawa, Heidi Tolentino and Sharon Takahashi. There are many graduation banquet "alums" in the community and we are always thrilled when they return to work on the event, representing various organizations as planners.

If you have any questions about the banquet or need information about the organizations, feel free to contact me.

SAVE THE DATE

Entry forms for the JAS Jerry Inouye Golf Tournament are coming next issue. Tournament date is Saturday, July 30, 2017, at East Glendoveer Golf Course.



PORTLAND JACL
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IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH MENU FOR MAY

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

Mon. 1 - Shrimp in
Lobster Sauce

Tue. 2- Hoisin Roast
Pork/Singapore Noodles

Thu. 4- Children's Day
Special Bento. + \$2
Reservations Required!

Fri. 5 - Beef Curry

Mon. 8 - California
Chirashizuchi

Tue. 9 - Tonkatsu

Thu. 11 - Sweet & Sour
Pork

Fri. 12 - Chicken in
Tomato Sauce

Mon. 15 - Crispy Beef
Bibimbap

Tue. 16 - Plum Sauce
Chicken

Thu. 18 - Green Onion
Chicken Roll

Fri. 19 - Saba Shioyaki -
Katherine Work on Piano

Mon. 22 - Garlic Chicken/

Lemon Pasta

Tue. 23- Panko Shrimp
Bun/Dim Sum - **Wanda
Woman Magic Show**

Thu. 25 - Birthday Sushi

Fri. 26 - Ton Jiru

Mon. 29 - Closed Memorial
Day

Tue. 30 - Sukiyaki, Sing
Along w/ Reiko & Jerry

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
- **May 9,18,26 11:30:**
Blood pressure
- **Thursdays 11:30:**
Qi Gong w/Katherine
- **May 9, 10:30:**
Fujinkai Board
- **May 15,** Ohana Lunch
Bunch

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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.