

# PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

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



PDXJACL.ORG

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2014 • VOLUME 20, ISSUE 2

### Nikkei Community Picnic 2014

*Board Member's Message by  
Connie Masuoka*

Every year I think that the Nikkei Community Picnic could not be better than the previous year but each year it gets better. It was perfect weather and a fabulous day, with around 500 people in attendance it was one of our largest picnics.

We were roused by the performance of **Portland Taiko**. And during the public service portion of the program we were introduced to **Rev. Anna Cho**, the incoming minister at Epworth Methodist Church and our community's newest Taiko group **Unit Souzou**.



Picnic CEO Connie Masuoka (l) and volunteer Ken Kawazoe (r) slice watermelon for visitors at the 2014 Nikkei Community Picnic.  
Photo by Rich Iwasaki

We had great food from Oaks Park Special Fried Chicken to ice cold organic Hermiston watermelon and lots of tasty nigiri and sushi, salads, and desserts in between. As a special treat this year Unite People served up authentic shave ice with sweet red

beans and or condensed milk and Konko Church cooked up delicious imagawayaki (small waffles with yummy fillings) on site. There were ride bracelets for the kids and **BeeBee Tan-Beck** was our face painting artist in residence. And what is a picnic without Bingo? We had lots of bingo called by **Chris Lee**, our newest and youngest member of the Portland JACL board, who did a fantastic job. In addition, there were raffle prizes galore. The grand prize this year was a pair of roundtrip tickets on Southwest Airlines, I don't know who the winner was but I hope they have a nice trip planned.

And as always if you weren't lucky enough to win a prize there was a special take home gift for you. Now don't you wish you were there?

The Nikkei Community Picnic is one of the highlights of the year and is made possible through the generosity of many. The picnic would not be possible without the sponsorship of the Japanese American organizations, churches and temples. The **Portland JACL**, **the Hiroshima Club**, **Nikkei Jin Kai (JAS)**, **Veledas**, **Nikkei Fujin Kai**, **Johrei Fellowship**, **Oregon Buddhist Temple**, **Portland Taiko**, **Oregon Nikkei Endowment**, **Oregon Nisei Veterans**, and **Ikoï no Kai** all help to sponsor this event. And in addition, there are many monetary and prize donations from community businesses

#### Now through Oct 19

- Art Behind Barbed Wire  
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

#### Sept 25-28, 8 pm

- Words that Burn: A  
Dramatization of WWII  
Experiences of William Stafford  
Milagro Theatre  
www.milagro.org

#### Sept 25, 4-7 pm

- Asian Pacific  
American Chamber of  
Commerce Fall Mixer  
Crowne Plaza  
1441 NE 2nd Street, Portland

#### Sept 20-21

- Japan Festival  
Uwajimaya, Beaverton

#### Sept 28

- Fall Food Take-Out  
Nichiren Buddhist Temple

#### Sept 28, 5 pm

- Oregon Nikkei  
Endowment Banquet  
Multnomah Athletic Club

#### Oct 5

- Fall Bazaar  
Oregon Buddhist Temple

#### Oct 9

- JACL National Gala  
Washington D.C.

#### Oct 10

- JACL National Board Meeting  
Washington D.C.

#### Oct 28

- Epworth United Methodist  
Church Bazaar

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## Nikkei Community Picnic 2014 continued

and individuals. We would like to thank, **Rich Iwasaki, Kurtis Inouye, Richard Hedlund, Riverview Abbey, Ota Tofu, Koida Nursery, Kirk Tambara, Yoji Matsushima, Chip and Setsy Larouche, Nobi Masuoka, Hiroshi's Anzen, Osakaya Restaurant, Ichidai Restaurant, Terry Kawamoto, Carl Itamura, Susan Leedham, Jean Yamamoto, Mas Yatabe, Masamichi Nitani, Rose City Mortuary, Dr. Jim and Amy Tsugawa, and True World Foods.**

I would especially like to recognize the volunteers who make the picnic run smoothly, they are ones who make this event special. They include; **Ken and Katie Kawazoe, Kay Endo, Nobi Masuoka, Kaneko Wagar, Tsuyako Monas, Chip and Setsy Larouche, Rich**

**Iwasaki, Marleen Wallingford, Jason Setera, Chris Lee, and the members and family of Unite People.**

We had lots of new faces at the picnic this year and some of them are life long Oregonians who were touched by the *kimochi* (deep feeling) of being part of a larger Nikkei community. Maybe you would like to know this feeling. The most important benefit of being a member of **Portland JACL, Nikkei Jin Kai (JAS)** or any of the other community organizations is to be engaged and enjoy the camaraderie of the Nikkei Community.

Please mark your calendars and be sure to join us Sunday, August 16, 2015 for the 27th Annual Nikkei Community Picnic at Oaks Park. We look forward to seeing you there.



Members of Unite People help setup the overhead cover for the food line at the Annual Community Picnic. Pictured left to right are Abby Matsushima, Kirt Achterman and Taylor Matsushima.

Photo by Setsy Larouche



Michie and Lisa Uzunoe cook Dorayaki to the delight of many of the over 400 attendees of the Nikkei Community Picnic at Oaks Park on August 17th.

Photo by Setsy Larouche



Chip Larouche (l) and Mary Ann Suyematsu sell raffle tickets to guests at the 2014 Nikkei Community Picnic, Oaks Park, Portland, Oregon.

Photo by Rich Iwasaki



Members of Portland Taiko perform at the 2014 Nikkei Community Picnic, Oaks Park, Portland, Oregon.

Photo by Rich Iwasaki

## San Jose Convention Reflections

*by Connie Masuoka*

On July 9, 2014, I was fortunate to accompany 10 youth members of Portland JACL's Unite People to the JACL National Convention in San Jose, California. This is the fourth time Unite People has chosen to participate at the national convention and the first time they worked on presenting a workshop at the convention. This year the group facilitated a workshop, "Model Minority: Do the Math", with Prof. Darby Li Po Price which discussed the Asian stereotypes and their inherent problems and pressures on young Asian Americans.

I am very proud of their work and the energy and enthusiasm in participating in the convention. The following are some of the reflections of those who attended the convention.

### **Abby Matsushima Grant High School:**

The 2014 JACL convention opened my mind to various number of social media stereotypes, both related to Asian stereotypes but also other non-American cultures. I never really thought about how Asians were played as a certain type in the media; but the lectures that were held, showed me how the public perceives Asians. I learned a lot about the discrimination that Asian face every day. I see myself playing into the stereotype as well; we all have different ways of seeing the issues our country. The JACL looks at problems from all angles.

My experiences at the convention were one of a kind. The memories I made will last a lifetime. I was given so many opportunities to branch out and expand my knowledge of having a voice. The JACL give so many young adults the opportunity to be apart of their communities and connect with people from all over the country. As one of the youngest youth chapters, United People represented a group of mature youth.

We led a workshop along with Darby Li-Po Price to talk about the issues of Asian stereotypes and school. Many Asians are said to be excellent at science and math but it is not always the case, they aren't fitting the stereotype. I feel like I need to live up to the expectation at some points in time.

The JACL conference exposed the discrimination that Asian's face in social media and in

communities. A lecture included live polls within the room, it amazed me how big of a difference the youth reacted to social media discrimination and how the elderly reacted. There is an expectation that must be met and if it is not met then you are not "Asian." I feel like I have a bigger voice after attending this conference. It taught we had to interact with people much older than me and how to handle discrimination on the daily basis.

### **Kirt Achterman, Central Catholic High School:**

This year's JACL convention was a fun and rewarding experience. I am grateful for the opportunity provided by JACL to attend the convention. I learned a lot while meeting many new people. I can only hope that next year's convention is just as fun.

Running the Model Minority workshop with the rest of Unite People was a lot of fun, and a good experience. Being involved in the planning, and setup of the workshop was great practice. It's not something I would normally do, and it was a bit out of my comfort zone, but sparking discussion and hearing every ones opinions was really fun. To run the workshop, we had to do a quite a bit of research on the topic of Model Minority, doing so we found how much it played a part in all of our lives. This was a great experience, and next year, I hope we can plan another workshop and do an even better job using our experience from this one.

Being from a younger generation, I found many of the topics at this year's convention much easier to relate and connect to. The focus on Asians and stereotypes in media felt more meaningful to me because of how much my generation uses and relies on media. I see offensive things on T.V. all the time, and seeing them addressed and discussed at this convention was reassuring to me that other people notice and recognize it. The voting that we did was one of my favorite parts of the convention; it was fun and got me engaged in the meeting and topics. It was interesting to see the results of the voting, especially between the different generations. I think these things got me much more involved in meetings, and are going to inspire me to do much more with JACL throughout the year.

My favorite part of JACL conventions is meeting people. People come from all over the nation, and

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## San Jose Convention Reflections continued

from many different backgrounds to attend these conventions. It's interesting to hang out and talk to all the youth delegates from different states. I think while spending a week together at conventions, we

form unique friendships, and I can't wait to see all of them at next year's convention.

*Editor's note: There were other excellent essays that were not printed due to space constraints.*



Members of Unite People pose for a group photo with Secretary Norman Mineta (c) at the 2014 JACL National Convention, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, San Jose, California  
Photo by Rich Iwasaki

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### ***Words That Burn: A Dramatization of World War II Experiences of William Stafford, Lawson Inada, and Guy Gabaldon in Their Own Words***

**Sept. 25-28, 2014  
8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday  
Milagro Theater  
525 SE Stark St.**

Tickets: \$18 in advance through [www.milagro.org](http://www.milagro.org) or 503-236-7253 or \$22 at the door

Los Portenos is a Latina creative writing group that supports Latino writers. *Words that Burn* is their debut theatrical work. Through a blend of poetry and monologue, the play reveals how three historical figures: a conscientious objector, William Stafford, a Japanese American incarcerated in an American concentration camp, Lawson Inada, and an East L.A. marine, Guy Gabaldon, used language to discover liberation during the "good war."

In Commemoration of: the William Stafford Centennial, Hispanic Heritage Month and the 70th anniversary of the rescindment of Executive Order 9066.

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## NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE

### 2014 Fall Take-Out Bazaar

ITEM                      QUANTITY      AMOUNT  
*Chow Mein - Chicken*  
*Combination Bento* \$ 10.00      \_\_\_\_\_

Please Pre-order                      Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your order.**

Sunday, September **28**, 2014

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

2025 S.E. Yamhill

Please return this pre-order form with  
your check by **Sept. 21, 2014**

Please make checks payable to:  
**Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple**

All proceeds benefit:  
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple  
2025 S.E. Yamhill  
Portland, Oregon 97214  
(503) 232 8064

## 2014 SUKIYAKI BAZAAR

Sunday, October 5, 2014, 11 am to 3 pm  
Oregon Buddhist Temple

Come and enjoy a favorite Japanese cold weather food, Sukiyaki (beef or vegetarian),  
Chow Mein, Chicken Bento, Plants and produce, Ikebana and Calligraphy displays,  
Snack Bar, Omiyage (gift) shop, and more...

For information, call 503-234-9456 or email [bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto:bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com)

### ORDER FORM FOR SUKIYAKI BAZAAR

- ^ Pre-ordering is highly recommended.
- ^ Please return order forms by Wednesday, October 1st, 2014.

Item	Price	To Go Quantity	Dine In Quantity	Total Quantity	\$ Amount
Beef Sukiyaki	\$8.00				
Vegetarian Sukiyaki	\$8.00				
Chow Mein	\$8.00				
Chicken Bento	\$8.00				

Total \$ =

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to and mail to:  
**Oregon Buddhist Temple**  
3720 SE 34th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202-3037

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PORTLAND **JACL**  
NEWSLETTER



***You are cordially invited to Oregon Nikkei Endowment's  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration***

***Sunday, September 28, 2014***

***5:00pm Cocktail Reception***

***6:00pm Dinner***

***Multnomah Athletic Club***

***1849 SW Salmon Street***

***Portland, OR 97205***

***Featuring Special Guest and Keynote Speaker***

***David Ono***

***Emmy Award Winning Documentary Producer and ABC7 News Anchor***

***and***

***Honoring the Interviewees of the Minidoka Oral History Project***

***\$125 per person***

***Business Attire***

***Music by the Minidoka Swing Band***

***The favor of your reply is requested by Monday, September 22, 2014***

***RSVP to Oregon Nikkei Endowment 503-224-1458***

***or register online [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org)***

***Sponsorship opportunities available.***

**Questions: [info@oregonnikkei.org](mailto:info@oregonnikkei.org)**

## The Old and New Faces of Nuclear Weapons

by Marleen Wallingford

August 6th commemorates the 69th anniversary of the first and only time nuclear weapons were detonated on human populations. The United States government chose to unleash these super bombs because it was widely believed that this drastic action was necessary to bring an end to the war in the Pacific. Not only were thousands of people killed in an instant, the horror of the event traumatized many more Japanese citizens. The United States government still has to deal with the environmental disaster the production of these nuclear weapons have created. **Oregon Physician's for Social Responsibility** a non-profit organization which works to protect human life from threats to health has partnered with local Nikkei and peace and justice organizations to remember the hundreds of thousands of Japanese people who died and suffered because of man's inhumanity to man. As **Chisao Hata**, the emcee for this event, related, that all humans make choices and our choices can be good or bad. Chisao has participated in the remembrance activities since the 1980's and last year had an opportunity to perform at the annual commemoration in Hiroshima. She is also active in a group called, **Ground Zero**, which is committed to ending the use and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

**Representative Earl Blumenauer** who has worked to limit funding for nuclear weapons spoke about his efforts to move those monies from production to clean-up. **Ann Wright**, a former

Army Colonel, and now peace activist advocated for the complete elimination of the nuclear weapons program. Putting millions of dollars into nuclear programs is completely unnecessary and a waste of taxpayer dollars. She spoke about three activists, including **Sister Megan Rice** who are now in federal prison because they were able to climb and crawl to a nuclear facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and put peace signs up on the fence. Ann also spoke about the little boat, *The Golden Rule*, which tried to go sailing to the Marshall Islands to prevent the detonation and testing of nuclear weapons. The boat only went five miles from Honolulu where its captain and crew members were arrested. This boat has been found in Humboldt County but badly damaged. The hope now is to renovate the vessel and use it as an educational tool so that children can find out about the horrible effects of the bombs on two Japanese cities.

An energetic performance of drumming was given by **enTaiko**, a group of elementary and middle school students. **Anna Daedalus** and **Kerry Davis**, local artists, unfurled their River Shadow Scroll which highlighted the connections between the Columbia River, Hanford, Fukushima, Hiroshima and nuclear weapons. Special guest was the **Consul General of Japan, Hiroshi Furusawa**.

This Day of Remembrance provides an opportunity for reflection and action: How are we treating others? How are we treating our home, the planet Earth? What can we do to make the world a better and safer place?



Retired Army Colonel Ann Wright speaks at the 2014 Hiroshima & Nagasaki Remembrance at the Japanese American Historical Plaza, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland, Oregon  
Photo by Rich Iwasaki



en Taiko ensemble perform at the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Memorial Service at the Japanese American Historical Plaza on August 6th.  
Photo by Setsy Larouche



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## Picture Gallery



Connie Masuoka and members of Unite People participate in the Oregon Buddhist Temple annual Obon Festival on August 2nd.  
Photo by Curtis Suyematsu



Jean Yamamoto and Chip Larouche man the Portland JACL booth at the Beaverton International Festival on July 26th.  
Photo by Setsy Larouche



Portland JACL Board members join Connie and the Unite People youth group as they hail the new UP Officers and farewell the outgoing class.  
Photo by Curtis Suyematsu



Members of the Portland JACL Board pose with Consul General of Japan, Hiroshi Furusawa after a working lunch to discuss areas of cooperation and focus for the coming year.



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## Art Behind Barbed Wire: A Pacific Northwest Exploration of Japanese American Arts and Crafts Created in World War II Incarceration Camps

An exhibition on view at Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center  
July 12 - October 19, 2014

Please join us for a travelling exhibition from the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington's Northwest Nikkei Museum which features arts and crafts gathered from former internees, their families, and the greater Pacific Northwest community. Largely made from scrap and found materials, this powerful collection is a testament to the spirit, strength, and creativity of Japanese Americans who created beauty in the harshest of physical and human conditions. The voices and humanity of those unjustly deprived of their civil liberties are remembered through their art created behind barbed wire.



This illustration titled "Chow Line" by Masao Mike Kawaguchi depicts the artist's family waiting in line for the mess hall while they were incarcerated at the Minidoka concentration camp in Hunt, Idaho, 1943. Courtesy of the Family of Kenji Kawaguchi.

### YOUR PORTLAND JACL BOARD

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## **Iko no Kai at Epworth September 2014 Menu**

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

**Monday 1** - Closed for  
Labor Day

**Tuesday 2** - Nappa soup  
& meatball

**Wednesday 3** - Closed

**Thursday 4** - Chicken  
katsu

**Friday 5** - Thai noodle  
salad / pork tenderloin

**Monday 8** - California  
Chirashi sushi

**Tuesday 9** - Saba

**Wednesday 10** - Closed

**Thursday 11** - Rice pilaf

**Friday 12** - Chinese wal-  
nut shrimp

**Monday 15** - Korean beef  
/ noodles

**Tuesday 16** - Chicken  
karaage

**Wednesday 17** - Closed

**Thursday 18** - Pork &  
daikon in miso sauce

**Friday 19** - Spaghetti

**Monday 22** - Shrimp gyoza  
/ fried albacore

**Tuesday 23** - Somen salad

**Wednesday 24** - Closed

**Thursday 25** - Grandpar-  
ents' Day Bento: reserva-  
tions required

**Friday 26** - Turkey meatloaf

**Monday 29** - Chiken teri-  
yaki / yakisoba

**Tuesday 30** - Birthday  
sushi

### **Menu Notes:**

- Meals include salad or side dish and dessert
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:**  
hanafuda and bridge
- **Mon-Tue, 11:30:**  
chair exercises
- **Sept 4, 10:30:**  
Hyakudokai
- **Sept 9, 10:30:**  
Fujinkai Board
- **Sept 15, 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.