

# PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

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



PDXJACL.ORG

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2014 • VOLUME 20, ISSUE 4

## Sharing Our Heritage and Culture through Music

*Guest Message by Laura Baxter,  
Manager Minidoka Swing Band*

In observance of the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, the all-volunteer Minidoka Swing Band of Portland JACL has been invited to perform in Japan! Mr. Ken Murakami, CEO of Brain Music Company in Hiroshima Japan came to Portland to hear the band perform last year and loved the purpose of our band, the story of the band members and thought it would be great to share our purpose, music and talents with Japan. So, the date has been set for the Minidoka Swing Band to travel to Japan . . . November 13-28, 2015.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Minidoka Swing Band, here is a brief history: In 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066, and 120,000 Americans of Japanese heritage who lived on the West Coast of the United States were given one week's notice to leave their homes, businesses and possessions. Japanese Americans spent almost four years behind barbed wire; armed guards in towers ensured that prisoners did not escape. The Band shares this story through the big band swing music that was popular at that time. This music was played inside the incarceration camps by non-professional musicians who lived inside the camps, mostly young teens. As quoted

by 91-year-old George Tsugawa, a former internee at the Minidoka Concentration Camp, "Every weekend we looked forward to the music and dancing. We loved to swing dance and loved the music and loved the socialization it afforded us. It gave us something to look forward to and took our minds off our living situation. Your band brings back such wonderful memories of a bad place."

The Minidoka Swing Band consists of 17 musicians and 4 vocalists who play and sing such big band tunes as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "Sentimental Journey," "Moonlight Serenade," "American Patrol," "Tuxedo Junction," "All of Me," and many more. The band has been recognized by TV, magazine and newspaper organizations and articles, including the Wall Street Journal (New York), an Emmy-nominated story by KING TV5 Evening Program (Seattle, Washington), the Pacific Citizen Magazine (San Francisco, California), and many more local newspapers around the Portland-Metro area. Two of the Minidoka Swing Band's musical recordings were used in the nationally-broadcasted documentary about music in the WWII incarcerations camps, "Searchlight Serenade," produced by KEET TV Public Broadcasting (Eureka, California).

The not-for-profit Minidoka Swing Band of Portland JACL operates solely on grants and

### Nov 2

- Daylight Savings Time Ends

### Nov 2, 2 p.m.

- Oregon Nisei Veterans Service  
Rose City Cemetery  
Willamette National Cemetery

### Nov 4

- Election Day!

### Nov 8

- Minidoka Swing Band  
Fundraiser Dinner  
Walters Cultural Arts, Hillsboro

### Nov 11

- Veterans Day

### Nov 18, 6 p.m.

- Memory Wars in East Asia  
PSU Smith Center, Free

### Nov 27

- Thanksgiving

### Dec 13, 5 p.m.

- Children's Nikkei Holiday Party  
OBT

### Dec 14, 2-4 p.m.

- Minidoka Swing Band  
Courtyard Village  
Vancouver, Washington

### Jan 25, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Mochitsuki  
Smith Hall, PSU

### Feb 7

- JACL National Board Meeting  
San Francisco

### Feb 22

- Day of Remembrance/  
Nisei Appreciation Luncheon  
MAC Club

# PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

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## Sharing continued

donations and performs frequently at major cultural events, conferences, parks, and schools throughout America's Pacific Northwest. We look forward to this great opportunity to continue our educational concerts to Japan, sharing the history of WWII Japanese American incarceration.

We are looking at venues in Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima and possibly other cities. We are looking mainly at Universities and schools, maybe community events and possibly American military bases in Japan. Our tour will last two weeks and will include 8-10 concerts.

We have a lot of work to do during the upcoming year as far as fund raising. We approximate that it will cost us about \$120,000 to cover the MSB expenses. We have some ideas, but we would like to open it up to our MSB supporters, for more input as to how we can fund our trip. **WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WITH A TALENT AND/OR INTEREST IN FUNDRAISING.** If any of you are interested in helping us fund raise or have any ideas on fund raisers, we would appreciate your help. Just give me a call or send an email with any suggestions. We have ideas that we

are working on, but need more. If you would like to join our committee please call Laura Baxter at 503-640-0120 or 503-715-6689 or email: [laura@minidokaswingband.com](mailto:laura@minidokaswingband.com).

Areas we need help in:

1. We would like to find Corporate Sponsors. If you know of any businesses that would like to be a sponsor of our goodwill tour to Japan, let me know. I have sponsorship sheets available showing benefits of being a sponsor.
2. Need fund raising leaders! Share your talent and skill with us and let me know if you are interested!
3. Need fund raising ideas. Let me know if you have an idea or want to help with a fundraiser

Thank you to the late Robbie Tsuboi, whose idea it was to form this band, the Portland JACL, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment and all of you for your support in the past and in the future! I look forward to hearing from you.



**PLEASE VIEW OUR PROMOTIONAL VIDEO AT [WWW.MINIDOKASWINGBAND.COM](http://WWW.MINIDOKASWINGBAND.COM)**

# PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

## 2014 OBT Holiday Craft Show



Saturday, November 22, 2014

Oregon Buddhist Temple  
3720 SE 34th, Portland, OR 97202  
(just off SE Powell Blvd.)

10AM—4PM

**No admission fee! Quality crafts at affordable prices!**

**Concessions available!**

For More Info:

contact: OBTcraftfair@gmail.com

*Hope to see you there!*

## Nikkei Community Holiday Party

Saturday, December 13, 2014 starting at 5pm

Oregon Buddhist Temple Basement

3720 SE 34<sup>th</sup>, Portland, OR 97202

Join us in welcoming the holiday season with an evening of food and fun! With the help of members of the community we are reviving the Christmas Holiday Party that celebrates our Japanese-American heritage

This will be a semi-potluck dinner – Main dish, beverages, plates, napkins, and eating utensils will be provided.

There will be games and crafts for the children and a visit from **Santa Claus**

Please bring a side dish to share.

Please call Connie Masuoka at 503-243-3291 to RSVP

## Japanese Traditional Arts Program

Sunday, Nov. 30  
2:00 PM

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE

ONE  
DAY  
ONLY!

ON SCREEN



"Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Arts in the WWII Internment Camps"

ON STAGE



Master koto player Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto-Wong and special guest



Sahomi Tachibana Dancers

## PRESENTED BY



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

As part of its yearlong 25th anniversary celebration, Oregon Nikkei Endowment fills the screen and stage at the Hollywood Theatre. You're invited to the Portland debut of the critically acclaimed new documentary film "Hidden Legacy."

For this one day only, watch traditional Japanese arts come alive with koto music and dance performances. Attendees will also be able to participate in a question and answer session with the filmmaker and artists.

\$15 Friends of O.N.E.  
\$18 Seniors and Students  
\$22 General Admission

TICKETS ON SALE!  
through the Hollywood Theatre  
www.hollywood.org | 503-493-1128  
4122 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland, OR 97212



Oregon Nikkei Endowment Membership: 503-224-1458 | www.oregonnikkei.org

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# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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## Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF)

*Scholarship opportunities for Asian American and  
Pacific Islander students enrolling in Fall 2015*

### APIASF GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP

*Closes January 9, 2015 at 11:59 PM EST*

### GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM

*Closes January 14, 2015 at 11:59 PM EST*

For more information, visit [WWW.APIASF.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS](http://WWW.APIASF.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS)

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### Veterans Histories Needed

by Susan Leedham, Board Member

The Oregon Veterans History Project is looking for veterans to share their experiences in the armed forces. The interviews take place the third Tuesday each month at the Oregon State Bar offices in Tigard, Oregon, and they last 60-90 minutes.

The interview is conducted by a volunteer attorney with the Oregon State Bar, and there is a court reporter making a verbatim transcript of the interview, as well as a videographer making a video record. Both the written transcript and the video are sent to the Library of Congress to be preserved.

If you are interested, please contact me at [susan@pdxjacl.org](mailto:susan@pdxjacl.org).

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### One more Thank You

by Rich Iwasaki, Board Member

In last month's newsletter, the Board Member's Message singled out individual members in the JACL community for their past and ongoing volunteer work. Unsurprisingly, the writer of that article, **Chip Larouche**, failed to mention himself as one of those "do it" people deserving appreciation. Some folks may not realize that Chip wears many volunteer "hats" in the community: After a long and productive stint as District Governor of JACL's Pacific Northwest district, Chip is currently serving a second term as National JACL Vice-President for Planning and Development. He serves locally as treasurer for both Portland JACL and the Mochitsuki committee as well, and is a board member of Japanese Ancestral Society, among others. So, it's more than appropriate and timely to give Chip a big Thank You as well for his commitment and generous service to the community. Thanks Chip!

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## MOCHITSUKI 2015

*The Year of the Sheep*

19th Annual Japanese American New Year Celebration

**Sunday, January 25, 2015 • 11 AM-4 PM**

***New Location!***

**Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU)**

**Portland State University**

**1825 SW Broadway • Portland, OR 97207**



[www.mochipdx.org](http://www.mochipdx.org)

Come celebrate the incoming New Year with Japanese American traditions at the Mochitsuki Community Festival! Experience family-friendly hands-on events, demonstrations, and activities with mochi pounding, calligraphy, origami, tea ceremony, ikebana, and games. Enjoy traditional Japanese dancing, drumming, and musical guests from Portland Taiko, Takohachi, Unit Souzou, Sahomi Tachibana Dancers, and many others! Presented by Portland JACL, and co-produced by Konko Church of Portland, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, and Portland Taiko.



The Hiroshima Club's annual bus trip took the group to Hood River this year for the Harvest Festival. They visited the Kiyokawa farm and shown here are Mrs. Mich Kiyokawa with her son Randy, daughter Nancy and Mich's 15 month old great granddaughter along with Nobuko and Connie Masuoka, Chip & Setsy Larouche and Linda Tamura.



At the Oregon Nikkei Endowment Annual Banquet on September 28th, the Homer and Mike Yasui table wins the top prize in the dessert dash. As you can see, there was plenty of dessert for the evening, and everyone got to take some home!

# PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER



The National JACL Gala was held in Washington, DC on October 9th. Pictured here is The Honorable Adam Smith, Congressman from the 9th Congressional District in Washington State, who was one of the honorees for the evening. Photo by Joe Shymanski



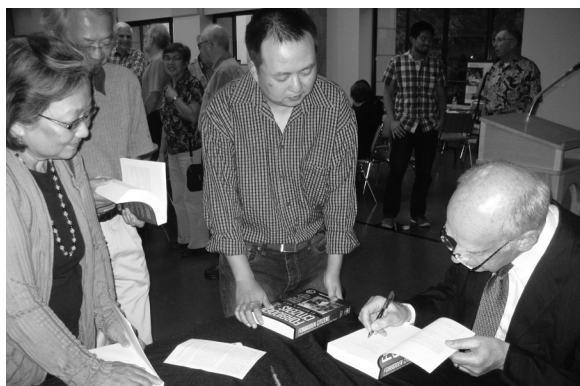
Members of Portland JACL (Kirk Tambara, Susan Leedham, Setsy Larouche & Chip Larouche) meet in Olympia for the Pacific Northwest District Council meeting on October 18th.



Members of Portland JACL attend the CACA 1882 Project Celebration on Oct 4th at the First Christian Church. From Left to Right are John and June Schumann, Marleen Wallingford, Patty Locke, Chris Lee, Rich Iwasaki and Chip & Setsy Larouche.



Consul General Furusawa addressed the attendees at the 25th Anniversary Banquet for the Oregon Nikkei Endowment on September 28th. He is pictured here with Connie Masuoka and Lynn Longfellow from O.N.E. and Rania Ayoub & Wajdi Said from the Muslim Educational Trust. Photo by Curtis Suyematsu



Mr. Martin Gold signs a copy of his book *Forbidden Citizens, Chinese Exclusion and the US Congress, A Legislative History* at the 3rd Annual CACA Portland Lodge 1882 Project Celebration, that was Co-sponsored by Portland JACL.



Jean Matsumoto and Emiko Fujimoto are among the guests enjoying their Bento Boxes at the Grandparents Day at Iko No Kai on September 25th.

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## PORTLANDJACL

SUPPORTING CIVIL RIGHTS SINCE 1928

October-November 2014

Dear Fellow JACler,

The Portland JACL Board is excited to inform you that our chapter was selected to participate in a new pilot fundraising program with the National JACL Credit Union. This program is designed to help our chapter with our annual fundraising efforts, help our current and new JACL members with their auto loans, and help the National JACL Credit Union continue to grow so they can continue to support the JACL activities in the future.

This program is very simple and it does not require us to sell anything to anyone. The National JACL Credit Union is offering our chapter 70 basis points on the funded loan amount of any auto loan that our members receive from them. The loan can be for a new auto loan or a refinance of a current auto loan that is not currently at the credit union. The contribution to our chapter is from the credit union so there are no added fees to your loan.

The following is an example of the income that our chapter can receive:

No of loans	Amount Financed	70 bps
1	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 140.00
2	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 280.00
3	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 420.00

The above example is calculating amount financed at \$20K. There is no minimum or maximum loan amount. The loan amount and rate is based on each individual's credit approval.

As noted above, this is a pilot program and we would like to have our member's take advantage of this program if possible. The National JACL Credit Union has consistently beaten the rates of many other financial institutions and in many cases will save you money over the life of your auto loan.

When you contact the National JACL Credit Union please give them the promo code: **PDX Auto 14**  
All contact information for the JACL National Credit Union is on their website at <https://www.jaclcu.com/>

Current Auto Loan Rate is 1.49% \*

Sincerely,

Portland JACL Board

\* Terms and Conditions Apply

### Save the Date!

**Sunday, February 22, 2015**

**Day of Remembrance/Nisei Appreciation Luncheon**

**MAC Club – Keynote Linda Tamura**

**Cost: \$40 (for non-Nisei attendees)**

**Nisei over 75 years old: Complimentary**

**Look for reservation form in next newsletter**

## YOUR PORTLAND JACL BOARD

### President:

Kirk Tambara  
[kirk@pdxjacl.org](mailto:kirk@pdxjacl.org)

### Secretary:

Jean Yamamoto  
[jean@pdxjacl.org](mailto:jean@pdxjacl.org)

### Membership:

Setsy Larouche  
[setsy@pdxjacl.org](mailto:setsy@pdxjacl.org)

### Vice President:

Marleen Ikeda Wallingford  
[marleen@pdxjacl.org](mailto:marleen@pdxjacl.org)

### Treasurer:

Chip Larouche  
[chip@pdxjacl.org](mailto:chip@pdxjacl.org)

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

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

**Monday 3** - Shrimp bun /  
Chinese sticky rice

**Tuesday 4** - Satsuma  
jiru (pork miso stew)

**Wednesday 5** - Closed

**Thursday 6** - Ramen

**Friday 7** - Black bean  
chicken

**Monday 10** - Crispy beef  
bibimbap

**Tuesday 11 - Veterans'**  
**Day** - Chicken katsu

**Wednesday 12** - Closed

**Thursday 13** - Ed's Salm-  
on

**Friday 14** - Roast pork /  
Singapore noodles

**Monday 17** - Ginger  
chicken / Thai fried rice

**Tuesday 18** - Tempura

**Wednesday 19** - Closed

**Thursday 20** - Seafood

omelet

**Friday 21** - Sweet & sour  
pork

**Monday 24** - Mediterra-  
nean chicken

**Tuesday 25** - Birthday  
Sushi

**Wednesday 26** - Closed

**Thursday 27** - Happy  
Thanksgiving

**Friday 28** - Closed

### **Menu Notes:**

- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:** hanafuda and bridge
- Mon-Tue, 11:30:** chair exercises
- Nov 6, 11:00:** Hyakudokai meeting
- Nov 13, 10:30:** Fujinkai Board
- Nov 17:** 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.