

PORTLANDJACL NEWSLETTER

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



PDXJACL.ORG

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec 7, Noon-3 p.m.

- Minidoka Swing Band
Maritime Museum
1792 Marine Drive, Astoria

Dec 13, 5 p.m.

- Children's Nikkei Holiday Party
OBT

Dec 14, 2-4 p.m.

- Minidoka Swing Band
Courtyard Village
Vancouver, Washington

Dec 21, 4 p.m.

- UP Holiday Party
Cherrywood Retirement Center

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

- Mochitsuki
Smith Hall, PSU

Feb 7

- JACL National Board Meeting
San Francisco

Feb 8, 4:30 p.m.

- JAS General
Membership Meeting
Sayler's Steak House
Restaurant

Feb 14

- Valentine's Day

Feb 22

- Day of Remembrance/
Nisei Appreciation Luncheon
MAC Club

March 8

- Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 15

- Spring Bazaar, Nichiren

DECEMBER 2014 • VOLUME 20, ISSUE 5

Hollywood: Asians need not apply?

*Guest Message by John Kodachi,
Board Member*

My wife and I recently took our 6th grade daughter to the theater to watch the teen-oriented sci-fi movie **"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part I."** The film, which is the third installment in The Hunger Games film series, is about a teenage girl, who uses her wits, strength, and courage, not to mention her incredible archery skills, to survive in an oppressive post-apocalyptic society.

After the film, our daughter enthusiastically gave it a big thumbs up. I then reflected on my childhood memories and thought about some of my movie heroes: **Bruce Lee** and **Sean Connery**. I was curious. I knew that our daughter enjoyed **Jennifer Lawrence**, who plays the heroine in the Hunger Game films, but wondered if there were any others actresses or actors that she admired.

She mentioned **Shailene Woodley** who plays the strong-willed heroine in the "Divergent" films, which is yet another young adult films series set in a post-apocalyptic society. I asked her if she happened to know of any Asian actors or actresses. She quickly replied, "No," but later mentioned **"Mulan"** with the caveat that she's a Disney animated character.

Granted, our daughter doesn't watch a lot of movies or television, but she's not completely ignorant of pop culture like her old man.

Consequently, her unfamiliarity with any Asian movie actors or actresses was, admittedly, perplexing to me. After all, I could easily rattle off for her "Bruce Lee." Sure, he died over 41 years ago, but he's still popular, right? Sort of? Then there's **Pat Morita**. Okay, maybe not since he's dead, too. As far as the living, I mentioned famous JACL member **George Takei**. He still makes movies, right? The names, however, didn't seem to register with our daughter, who only shrugged her shoulders nonchalantly. I suddenly felt old . . . real old.

Optimistically, perhaps today's younger digital generation doesn't identify or judge film characters by "the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," which, if true, would be "awesome," as my daughter likes to say. Or, pessimistically, perhaps it's that Hollywood still doesn't afford many opportunities to Asian actors and actresses.

I'm not a movie buff, but looking back at some recent mainstream films, it's clearly the latter. In fact, actor **Dev Patel**, who was in the Oscar-winning film **"Slumdog Millionaire,"** told a newspaper, "Asian actors tend not to be offered scripts from Hollywood that are challenging or substantial. I'm likely to be offered the roles of a terrorist, cab driver, and smart geek."

I've also recently read articles about Asian actors and actresses fleeing Hollywood for Asia as a

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Hollywood continued

way to jump start their floundering careers. Sadly, Bruce Lee also left Hollywood for Hong Kong because Hollywood big shots weren't convinced America was ready for an Asian leading actor.

Regrettably, the only films where I immediately remember an Asian lead character are in animated films. For example, several years ago I remember watching Pixar's animated box-office hit movie "Up," and was pleasantly surprised to see the lead character, a boy named Russell, depicted as Asian American. Russell was a portly and talkative boy, who didn't speak with an accent, had jet black hair and almond-shaped eyes.

From an Asian American perspective, I enjoyed the fact that the movie did not focus or even mention his ethnicity. Russell was just a likable kid with a big heart—no super powers, no super intelligence, and no martial art skills. Moreover, the voice for the animated character of Russell was performed by a young Nikkei named **Jordan Nagai**.

And this fall, Disney released the animated movie "Big Hero 6," which features the main character Hiro

Hamada, who is a young Japanese prodigy, and his plus-sized inflatable robot that he created. The voice for the character Hiro was performed by another Nikkei actor **Ryan Potter**.

So, when it comes to animated films, it looks like Asian lead characters are acceptable by Hollywood standards, but not so much when it comes to live films with—you know—real people. Unfortunately, the trend of whitewashing continues.

In fact, there are reports that Hollywood is making a live-action adaption of the Japanese cult anime film "Akira," which tells the story of two young motorcycle-riding cyberpunks Tetsuo and Kaneda set in—you guessed it—another post-apocalyptic society.

However, for the live-action film, the main characters will not be played by Asian actors. Is Hollywood saying there aren't any talented young Asian actors out there? Or is Hollywood still clinging on to the racist view that America isn't ready to accept Asians in a leading role?

You can be the judge of that.

Before Memories Fade: Uncovering the Story of the Kida Family of White Salmon

December 13, 2014 - February 22, 2015

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center
121 NW 2nd Avenue | Portland, OR 97209
503-224-1458 | www.oregonnikkei.org



Both heartbreaking and inspirational, *Before Memories Fade* gives voice to a family's story that was at risk of being lost forever. Using first-hand materials and community recollections, our all-volunteer exhibit committee has been able to walk in the footsteps of Kenjiro and Kay Kida and their son George. While the branch of their family tree ended when George passed away in 1998, we soon discovered that the memory of the Kidas is still carried in the hearts of their friends and neighbors. We invite you to join us on their journey from immigration, through World War II, to the end of a century. Along the way, find out how the road that led us to the Kidas intersects not just one Japanese American family but the American experience itself.

Looking for Grant High School Alumni Internees

Dear JACL members,

My name is Taylor Ishida and I am a junior at Grant High school. I am also a reporter and photographer for my school's new publication, Grant Magazine (all of our work can be found at grantmagazine.com). I am currently pursuing a story about Grant alumni who were put in Japanese internment camps. If you or someone you know has any insight in regards to this topic, please contact me at taylor.ishida19@gmail.com or (971) 678 2131. Any other assistance or advice on the matter is much appreciated!

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Osechi Ryori

Japanese New Year's Food



Jubako box style
and food content
may vary

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OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

Order at www.oregonnikkei.org

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_____ boxes at \$130 each

_____ boxes at \$100 each (provide your own jubako)

Checks: Make payable to Oregon Nikkei Endowment

Credit card: ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Credit Card # _____

Expiration date _____ Security code _____

Signature _____

Today's date _____

Support the Oregon Nikkei Endowment and enjoy traditional Japanese New Year's foods (*osechi ryori*) prepared by Nikkei community cooks, displayed in a three-tiered lacquer box (*jubako*). Drop off your *jubako* marked with your name at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland by Friday, December 12.

The traditional foods will include: nishime, kimpira gobo, kazunoko, makizushi, sekihan, and more...

Cost: \$130.00 include the jubako box and foods OR \$100.00 if you provide your own jubako box. (\$60 is tax deductible).

DEADLINE to order: Friday, December 12, 2014

For more information: 503-224-1458 or info@oregonnikkei.org

Mail order form to: Oregon Nikkei Endowment, 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97209

Or order online: www.oregonnikkei.org

ORDER PICK-UP: available on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, from 2:30-3:30 PM, at the Oregon Buddhist Temple (3720 SE 34th Ave, Portland)



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

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Nikkei Community Holiday Party

Saturday, December 13, 2014 starting at 5pm

Oregon Buddhist Temple Basement

3720 SE 34th, 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

Omiyage Pop-Up Shop

Shop and support O.N.E. at our holiday pop-up shop, **Omiyage!**

November 13th-December 24th

Oregon Nikkei Endowment is excited to have been selected to participate in the Portland Business Alliance and Portland Development Commission's PDX Pop-Up shop project. The project turns Portland's vacant retail space into temporary shops that showcase local talent and encourage downtown shoppers to seek out unique gift offerings during the holiday season.

Come celebrate the tradition of gift giving and choose from Asian inspired gifts and crafts created by local artisans, designers and authors. **Omiyage** will feature jewelry, fashion and home accessories, cards, origami ornaments, art objects, Anime inspired merchandise, books by local authors and a selection of curated vintage items.

Conveniently located on the MAX light rail and bus transit mall at 11 NW 5th Avenue, **Omiyage** will share space with two emerging retail entrepreneurs. **Draplin Design/Field Notes** offers an array of merchandise including coin purses, key chains, writing utensils, hats, t-shirts and a spirited memo book line. **North Street Bags** will showcase simple, sleek, waterproof convertible backpack/panniers and travel packs for the urban and touring cyclist as well as a curated selection of bicycle-related gifts and accessories.

Proceeds from **Omiyage** sales will support our local vendors and our programs, exhibits and the mission of Oregon Nikkei Endowment. Hope to see you there!

Hours: 11am-7pm Tuesday-Saturday

Noon-5pm Sunday, closed Monday

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The US Government told them to pack up, sell their businesses and get ready to leave their homes. **They did.** The same Government classified the men as enemy aliens but then asked them to leave their loved ones behind the barbed wire and volunteer to fight the war. **They did.** Their story forms an exceptional part of what we have labeled *The Greatest Generation*. **They are the Nisei.** For the 2015 Day of Remembrance event, Portland JACL and the Japanese Ancestral Society are co-sponsoring a Nisei Appreciation Luncheon to honor this generation of Japanese Americans and thank them for their contributions to the community and to America.



2015 Day of Remembrance/Nisei Appreciation Luncheon

Sunday, February 22, 1-4 p.m. Multnomah Athletic Club

Cost: Complimentary for Nisei members of Portland JACL or JAS who are 75 or older

Others: \$40 per person. Reservations Required.

For Nisei Guests, circle whether you are a JAS member or Portland JACL member, or both.
For All, Circle if you want vegetarian meal rather than regular chicken entrée.

Questions?
Call Setsy at 503-698-4656
or
Email: Larouche@msn.com

Guest Name _____	JAS or JACL _____	Vegetarian Meal? _____
Guest Name _____	JAS or JACL _____	Vegetarian Meal? _____
Guest Name _____	JAS or JACL _____	Vegetarian Meal? _____
Guest Name _____	JAS or JACL _____	Vegetarian Meal? _____
Guest Name _____	JAS or JACL _____	Vegetarian Meal? _____
Guest Name _____	JAS or JACL _____	Vegetarian Meal? _____

Send Reservation Form with check payable to JACL: JACL c/o Chip & Setsy Larouche,
12811 SE Hawks Crest Pl, Happy Valley, OR 97086

Deadline for Reservations is January 31, 2015!

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So Others Can Experience the Joy

Sharon Takahashi, Japanese Ancestral Society Board

My granddaughter Amaya gave away her Princess Sofia dress, crown, shoes and amulet this week. It was a very unusual gesture for this five year old. She's spent many hours being Princess Sofia and having grandpa be part of her kingdom and watching many episodes of Sofia the First.

When ice and the chill closed her school, we spent the day cleaning out closets and making room for clothes that fit. We filled boxes and boxes with clothes that brother Kai would never wear (He's a boy, Grandma!). We picked two friends to deliver these to, but I never expected her to add the treasured Sofia garb.

I asked her if she was sure, and she said, "It doesn't fit very well anymore and I want someone else to have fun with them. I want another girl to enjoy them." So, off I went to deliver my treasure trove.

When we had our Ikoi No Kai board meeting that evening, we discussed the financial stability of our community lunch program. Our charges do not cover the costs of the meals, and we subsidize those through donations and other acts of kindness. Raw food donations during the year from many friends allow us to stretch our dollars. Our friends at Uwajimaya have donated food items for special occasions and have saved goods with damaged packaging for us. A long time community friend, Ota Tofu, donates their product weekly so our chefs can count on that ethnic addition to the menu. We have had donations of fish from our friends who realize that their bounty can be enjoyed by others.

If you are a regular visitor to our lunch program, you have probably noticed the greeting cards that are for sale on the back counter. Proceeds from the card sales support the once a month meal delivery program organized by the Monday lunch bunch. A well honed volunteer crew run this program as a special outreach and we truly appreciate their efforts..

We are past the Thanksgiving month and into December, the hectic month of year end planning. I want us all to think like Amaya, who wants another to be able to enjoy something special. The social interaction and the great meals at Ikoi No Kai are a true bargain and it will take the generosity of many people to keep our program growing and vibrant in the coming years. Please consider a gift to the community and make a donation today. Donations to Ikoi No Kai are tax deductible, as we are a special project operating under the auspices of the Japanese Ancestral Society. Checks may be written to the Japanese Ancestral Society/Ikoi No Kai OR to the Japanese Ancestral Society with Ikoi No Kai noted on the memo line. Donations may be sent to 1333 SE 28th Avenue, Portland, OR 97214.

Thank you, all, for helping others in our community. Come join us for lunch to check on your gifts.



Portland JACL was invited to join Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa and USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye at a private U.S.-Japan Council reception, generously hosted by Miller Nash LLP on November 5th. Pictured L to R are Consul General Furusawa, Ms. Irene Hirano Inouye with Chip Larouche and Connie Masuoka. Photo by Setsy Larouche



Portland JACL had a booth again this year at the Festival Japan held at Uwajimaya Center. Helping to man the booth are Rich Iwasaki, Jean Yamamoto, Lynn Longfellow, Susan Leedham, Setsy Larouche and Chip Larouche.

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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



Reverend Anna Cho of Epworth United Methodist Church, speaks at the Veteran's Day commemoration at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon. Holding an umbrella is Ron Iwasaki, commander of Oregon Nisei Veterans, which sponsors the annual commemoration. Photo by Rich Iwasaki



Armed services veterans (l to r) Kay Endo, Chip Larouche, Ron Iwasaki, Ed Fujii, Henry Ueno, Don Matsuda, Setsy Larouche, Eddie Kajitsu, and Joe Onchi pose for a group photo with Rev. Anna Cho (third from left) at Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, Oregon. Photo by Rich Iwasaki

YOUR PORTLAND JACL BOARD

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Iko no Kai at Epworth December 2014 Menu

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

Monday 1 - Mar far
chicken

Tuesday 2 - Buta
Dofu (tofu/pork stew)

Wednesday 3 - Closed

Thursday 4 - Yakisoba

Friday 5 - California
chirashizushi

Monday 8 - Crispy beef
donburi

Tuesday 9 - Salmon

Wednesday 10 - Closed

Thursday 11 - Shumai

Friday 12 - Holiday Meal
Reservations only

Monday 15 - Cioppino

Tuesday 16 - Beef curry

Wednesday 17 - Closed

Thursday 18 - Baked pork

Friday 19 - Hoisin chicken

Monday 22 - Thai pork /
spring roll

Tuesday 23 - New Year
soba

Wednesday 24 - Closed

Thursday 25 - Merry
Christmas! - Closed
Friday 26 - Closed

Monday 29 - Almond
chicken / lemon basil pasta
Tuesday 30 - Birthday
Sushi

Wednesday 31 - Closed

Menu Notes:

- Meals include salad or soup and dessert
- **Mondays, 12:30-2:**
hanafuda and bridge
- Mon-Tue, 11:30:**
chair exercises
- Dec 9, 10:00:**
Fujinkai Board
- Dec 12:**
Holiday Meal, +\$2,
Reservations required
- **Dec 15:**
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.