



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

SEPTEMBER 2017 • VOLUME 24, ISSUE 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Now thru December 31, 2018

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

Now thru October 15

American OBON: Dancing in Joy and Remembrance
Oregon Legacy Center

September 2, 10 a.m.

75th Remembrance
Puyallup Assembly Center
Washington State Fairgrounds

September 4

Labor Day

September 11

Architecture of Internment
Muslim Educational Trust

September 17, 11:30 - 2 p.m.

Nichiren Fall Take-Out Bazaar
2025 SE Yamhill

October 1, 11:30 - 3:30 p.m.

OBT Bazaar
Oregon Buddhist Temple

October 4

O.N.E. Banquet
MAC Club

October 28, 10 a.m.

JACL PNW District Meeting
Holladay Park Plaza

November 5

Daylight Savings Time Ends

VISITING A FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP

by Sara Onitsuka, Pilgrim, Minidoka Concentration Camp

I think I will always regret not asking my grandparents about their time in the American concentration camps, before they passed away. As I have been exploring my identity, and as the world sees increasingly hateful rhetoric reminiscent of that directed towards Japanese-Americans during WWII, this important part of my family history has felt more and more important to preserve. When I was asked to speak on a panel at the 2017 Minidoka Pilgrimage about Japanese-American and Black activism and solidarity, I was ecstatic at a chance to connect with like-minded families of those incarcerated, and to connect on a deeper level with my grandparents.

My grandparents were not incarcerated at Minidoka, but the Pilgrimage was incredibly moving regardless. Because I didn't know much about what happened to my family, I felt each story that was shared personally. When I closed my eyes I saw my grandparents in their teens and early twenties, persisting without complaint through the dust storms, the sweltering heat, and the cramped living spaces, looking out at the barbed wire fence that reminded them of their place, each and every day. It was an emotional and humbling experience, but also empowering, to be with people who cared too.

Everyone at the Pilgrimage gave me so much hope. I was very tentative at the beginning, knowing almost no one, but in three short days I was able to connect with many inspiring people.

I also wasn't sure how many people would attend my panel, and whether they would be receptive to the idea of supporting Black Lives Matter. However, the room was packed with engaged and compassionate individuals. In those 50 minutes, my co-panelist Paul Kurose and I both shared our own perspectives and answered questions from the audience (with the help of facilitator Erin Shigaki). We explored topics such as the War on Drugs compared to the current opioid crisis, police brutality towards Black folks, and how, as Japanese-Americans, we have a unique position to understand, and speak out against, unjust incarceration and biased hearings.

The Minidoka Pilgrimage was truly an experience I will never forget. I was surprised at how forward-thinking it was - they were dedicated to not only honoring the past, but also using that knowledge to make sure that something similar never happens again. And I think the two go hand-in-hand; that we have a responsibility to our communities and to our elders to keep fighting for what is right. I am so grateful for this opportunity, and I urge everyone, regardless of whether you had relatives at Minidoka or not, to experience the Minidoka Pilgrimage for yourself, and to commit yourself to ensuring this never happens again. #NEVERAGAIN.

Sara Onitsuka is a junior at the College of Wooster, Ohio, studying neuroscience and a presenter/speaker at this year's pilgrimage.

LIVING IN THE WORLD AUTHENTICALLY *BY WESTON KOYAMA, JACL SCHOLARSHIP WINNER*

How does one live in the world authentically? I tell people I'm an Oregonian, but in truth I was born in California. When I was three my family moved to Ohio. At age 7, we moved to Connecticut and at age 9 back to California and once more to Oregon at age 12 in 2003. I've lived in Oregon since that time and because my ancestors are from Oregon having immigrated here from Japan in 1915, I usually say that I am from Oregon. But there were still times when I felt inauthentic. At Portland State University, I developed the habit of carrying an umbrella with me. My friends would tease, "Only Californians carry umbrellas." So then, what does it mean to live authentically as an Oregonian? Or as a Japanese American? Or as an American? I've since come to take pride in my uniqueness as an umbrella wielding youngster in Portland and with that pride I've discovered something else about identity. Living in the world authentically is not about foregoing umbrellas; living in the world authentically is about owning your identity by taking pride in exactly who you are.

I struggled to take pride in my ethnicity as a Japanese American as a young boy. Growing up in mostly white communities, my peers often asked me, "Why is your English so good?" and "Can you say something in Chinese?" I was much too young to come up with witty comebacks to their ignorant remarks and often felt unable to say anything at all. To a fellow seven-year-old I'm just a foreigner despite being a fourth generation American whose ancestors immigrated to the United States in 1915. Unable to blend in as an "authentic" American or as an "authentic" Asian person, I felt utterly detached from my peers because I didn't possess the confidence or the vocabulary to own my identity.

How does one start to own their identity? I think owning one's identity starts with understanding the vocabulary needed to articulate and defend one's self from prejudices and stereotypes projected on to us by others. Even as a young college student my vocabulary was limited to protestations about my Americanness. "No," I would state firmly, "I do not know Japanese any more than a fourth generation German American knows German." But these protestations felt unsatisfying. They felt unsatisfying because as much as I wanted to be seen as a pure American, I knew deep down that my Asian face would always mark me as a foreigner. European Americans abandon their heritage language in exchange for being seen as normal Americans. My parents and I had abandoned the Japanese language and culture in exchange for nothing at all. I didn't have the vocabulary to state plainly, "I don't know Japanese, but that is because of decades of oppressive forces that stripped my family of its culture." I didn't have the pride to say, "Nonetheless, I am proud to be Japanese American."

Cultivating a vocabulary necessary to take pride in one's identity is at times difficult. At first it can feel like you're a faker. But just like us umbrella wielding Oregonians prove that there is no one right way to be an Oregonian, there is likewise no one right way to be American or Japanese American. I can tell you that the single most effective way to develop one's vocabulary around Japanese American identity is through studying one's cultural heritage. With the help of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, I've discovered many different ways of doing being Japanese American. I studied my family's incarceration experience at Minidoka and pieced together my great-grandfather's story as one of the first Japanese American dentists in Portland. The sacrifices of my ancestors serve as a powerful source of affirmation and hence of vocabulary for articulating my identity.

Regardless of whether your family immigrated to the United States recently or a century ago like mine, studying one's heritage and history cultivates a vocabulary. With this vocabulary, one might state confidently, "My family was forced to speak only English and not Japanese because to speak Japanese would make you the target of hatred," or "No one in my family speaks Japanese anymore, but I'm learning my heritage language to connect with a piece of my culture that has been lost due to oppression." With vocabulary comes pride. The ability to state confidently, "I am a fourth generation Japanese American," fundamentally changed the way I walk in this world. I no longer feel detached from my peers. I feel grounded by roots that stretch back to Japan and speak to enormous courage and sacrifice to get me to where I am today. And with my vocabulary I feel empowered to educate my peers so that they might make fewer assumptions about people like me in the future.

I started this essay with a question: How does one live in this world authentically? The answer is surprisingly simple. To live in the world authentically means to take ownership of our identities. Rather than cower to the notion that all Oregonians tough out the rain without an umbrella, I decided that I would take pride in my family's roots in Oregon notwithstanding my umbrella collection. And likewise, though my knowledge about my ancestry is not perfect or complete, I know enough to understand the struggles they went through. I feel grounded enough to push back against the assumption that Asians are automatically foreigners because of their face. With my voice and vocabulary, I am empowered to speak to exactly who I am. And I will always be proud of who I am.

NEWS FROM THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE BY PHAEDRA URBAN

Since the arrival of new resident minister Reverend Sugahara in June, Oregon Buddhist Temple has been enjoying musical performances of ukulele and bass guitar in addition to insightful weekly dharma talks.

This fall, Reverend Sugahara will also share a series of more in-depth Buddhist talks geared toward newcomers and longtime OBT members alike. These Sunday afternoon talks will include: "Introduction to Buddhism" (September 24), "Buddhism and the Mind" (October 8), and "Jodo Shinshu Basics." These classes will run from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. All are welcome. Donations to support the Dharma presented at the temple are gratefully accepted. Oregon Buddhist Temple is located at 3720 SE 34th Avenue in Portland.

Reverend Yuki Sugahara comes from a temple family called Kōrinji (father's side) and Gokurakuji (mother's side) in Shimane Prefecture located just north of Hiroshima. He received his Tokudo Ordination in 1996 when he was a freshman in high school. He received his Kyoshi Certification in 2002, and in 2009, he came to the United States to attend the International Ministerial Orientation Program at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley.

He and his wife, Namiko, have a 4-year-old daughter, Aoi, and a son, Hikaru, who was born at the end of October. Their two young ones are a welcome addition to the Dharma School family at OBT. Before arriving at OBT Reverend Sugahara was the resident minister at the Buddhist Church of Florin.

PORTLAND YOUTH RECEIVE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Portland JACL Board is very pleased to announce that three of our youth have received National JACL Scholarships for the upcoming school year.

Joy Yuzuriha (undergraduate) has been named the 2017 National JACL recipient of the Shigeru Nakahira Memorial Scholarship, Madeline Masog (undergraduate), has been selected to receive the Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship and Weston Koyama (law) will receive the Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Law Scholarship.

This is truly a great honor for these students and their families, and we wish Joy, Madeline and Weston great success with their continued studies!

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A GOOD TIME HAD BY ALL *by Sharon Takahashi, President, Japanese Ancestral Society*

The 17th Annual Japanese Ancestral Society Jerry Inouye Golf Tournament held at East Glendoveer Golf Course on July 30th brought 62 golfers out to honor a man who believed in volunteers and their effectiveness when working together. The JAS (Nikkei Jinkai) is a service organization which sponsors a community lunch program (Ikoi No Kai at Epworth United Methodist Church), Memorial Day Services at the Japanese Cemetery located Fremont and 52nd Avenue in Portland, and other activities in the community, such as Mochitsuki and the Nikkei Community Picnic.

Participants range from once a year golfers to twice a week golfers, and all are committed to having a good time. We are indebted to Michelle Sugahiro and Kurtis Inouye for their diligence in the scorekeeping and validation for the majority of the golfers. This year's golf committee instituted a Callaway scoring system for golfers with no GHIN or handicap. Thank you to Pat Gilman and Ron Hiromura for that assistance.

Our 2017 Women's flight winners this year were 1st Setsy Larouche, with a net 64, followed by 2nd Susie (Jinx) Fujii and 3rd Pat Gilman. Twenty two women participated. Low gross winner with a 96 was Bea Saito.

The men's B flight winners were 1st Steven Chan, with a net 64, followed by 2nd Carl Kato and 3rd Gregg Nitta. Carl Kato was the low gross winner in the field of 18 with a 93.

The grand champion this year was A flight golfer Reynold Lee, who shot a net 58. Coming in second was Eddy Kajitsu, followed by Herb Kawashima. Low gross in A flight was Reynold Lee with a 76.

Committee chairs Nancy Kajitsu and Sharon Takahashi would like to thank the many businesses and individuals who contributed funds and prizes for the tournament. To our energetic golfers and volunteers, domo arigato.



Top Left: **Reynold Lee**, Grand Champion, A-Flight with a net score of 58.

Top Right: **Steven Chan**, Men's B-Flight Champion with a net score of 64.

Bottom Right: **Setsy Larouche**, Women's Flight Champion with a net score of 64.

IMAGES of MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE 2017



AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Unit Souzou plays at the Beaverton Night Market



Ken Kawazoe, President of the Hiroshima Club along with Reverend Yuki Sugahara of the Oregon Buddhist Temple and Consul General Kojiro Uchiyama of the Consulate of Japan at the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance



Images of OBONFEST 2017 at the Oregon Buddhist Temple



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER



Attendees listen as Knight Sor (r), Department of Justice Community Relations Service, moderates the Law and Law Enforcement panel at Portland Responding to Hate Crime Forum at Oregon Jewish Museum and Center For Holocaust Education, Portland, Oregon. Panel members included (l to r) Sheriff Pat Garrett, Washington County, Detective Jeff Sharp, Portland Police Bureau Bias Crime Division, Caryn Ackerman, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation - Oregon, Hannah Horsley, US Attorney's Office, and Jeffery Howes, District Attorney's office, Multnomah County. Portland JACL is a partner of Coalition Against Hate Crimes, which sponsored the forum.



Rev. Yuki Sugahara, Oregon Buddhist Temple, offers an invocation at the opening of the Hiroshima & Nagasaki remembrance program, Japanese American Historical Plaza, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland, Oregon



Members of Portland Taiko perform at the conclusion of the Hiroshima & Nagasaki remembrance program, Japanese American Historical Plaza, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland, Oregon

Sean Tenney, Associate Director, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, speaks during the Hiroshima & Nagasaki remembrance program, Japanese American Historical Plaza, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland, Oregon



Poet Allison Cobb (l) and artist Yukiyo Kawano present a poem during the Hiroshima & Nagasaki remembrance program, Japanese American Historical Plaza, Tom McCall Waterfront Park, Portland, Oregon



NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2017 Fall Take-Out Bazaar

	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
<i>Combination Bento</i>		
<i>Chow Mein, Chicken</i>		
<i>& Sushi</i>		\$15.00

Please Pre-order Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sunday, September **17**, 2017

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

2025 S.E. Yamhill

Please return this pre-order form with
your check by **September 10, 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

Thank You for your Order

Save the Date!

Portland JACL

90th Birthday Bash

February 17, 2018

More details to come!

PORTLAND JACL
NEWSLETTER

2017 Sukiyaki Bazaar: Sunday, October 1, 2017

11:30am-3:30pm

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

Fall is approaching and we are hoping everyone will join us for another great Sukiyaki Bazaar this year! This year's Sukiyaki Bazaar will comfort you with familiar foods, familiar company, and familiar surroundings. Come to enjoy the delicious, warm and soothing sukiyaki with fresh tofu courtesy of Ota Tofu Company. Our chow mein and chicken bento are always crowd favorites as well. Beautiful calligraphy will be on display to enjoy and reflect upon. Omiyage (gifts) will be tastefully displayed for your shopping pleasure and snacks will be for sale by our own Dharma School to help support the young ones and teach them about work and helping. We look forward to seeing old friends, meeting new friends and coming together for this heritage event.

To put on this Sukiyaki Bazaar, we would love to have your help! You are welcome to come and assist with the wonderful food preparation from 9am Thursday, 9/28, Friday, 9/29 and Saturday, 9/30. End times will vary, so call if you can only come in the afternoon. Thanks in advance for your time, dedication, and generosity, but mostly for coming to visit with friends and family and to enjoy the delicious Sukiyaki Dinner.

Mie McGraw and Elaine Yuzuriha 971-227-7240

SUKIYAKI BAZAAR ORDER FORM

Pre-Ordering is highly recommended

Item	Price	To Go Qty.	Dine In Qty.	Total Qty.	Total \$ Amount
Beef Sukiyaki	\$14				
Vegetarian Sukiyaki	\$14				
Chicken Bento	\$10				
Chow Mein	\$8				
Total \$:					

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Please return orders forms by Wednesday, September 27, 2017



PORTLAND JACL
PO BOX 86310
PORTLAND, OR 97286

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

Fri. 1 - Yakitori
Mon. 4 - Labor Day --
Closed
Tue. 5- Pineapple
Chicken/Fried Rice
Thu. 7 - Saba
Fri. 8 - Somen w/
Tempura
Mon. 11 - Wor Wonton
Soup
Tue. 12 - Shrimp in
Lobster Sauce
Thu. 14 - Tonkatsu w/

Macaroni Salad
Fri. 15 - Mar Far Chicken
Mon. 18 - Lemon Plum
Sauce Chicken
Tue. 19 - Miso Pork Tofu
Thu. 21 - Chicken Teriyaki/
Yakisoba
Fri. 22 - Chinese Beef
Stew
Mon. 25 - Birthday Sushi
Tue. 26 - Chicken Curry
Thu. 28 - Seafood Fry

Fri. 29 - Hiyashi Chuka
(cold noodles & veggies)

- **Sep 15**, Kathryn Work on
Piano
- **Sep 19, 10:30:**
Sage Circle w/ Hiroko
Stacey
- **Sep 21, 11:30** Sing
Along with 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
- **Sep 12 & 26 11:15:**
Blood pressure
- **Thursdays 11:30:**
Qi Gong w/Kathleen
- **Sep 12** Fujinkai Board
- **Sep 18**, Ohana Lunch
Bunch

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consider them for your printing
needs: (503) 228-6253.

A big thank you to Chris Onchi, as
well, Chris has been printing our la-
bels, making data entry changes, and
assisting with the annual calendar
for many years. Her business is Chris'
Mailing Service: (503) 452-6864.