



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

JUNE 2018 • VOLUME 90, ISSUE 6

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Now thru December 31, 2018**

*Righting a Wrong*

National Museum of American History

**April 12 - June 10**

Arts & Crafts from  
Incarceration Camps  
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

**June 10, 2 p.m.**

Voices of Three Nations  
World Trade Center

**June 17**

Father's Day

**June 18, 7 p.m.**

JAS Board Meeting  
Epworth

**July 4**

Independence Day

**July 18-22**

JACL National Convention  
Philadelphia, [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)

**August 4**

OBON Festival  
Oregon Buddhist Temple

**August 6, 6 p.m.**

Hiroshima/Nagasaki  
Remembrance

**August 10**

O.N.E. Banquet  
MAC Club  
Featuring John Tateishi

**August 19th, Noon - 4 p.m.**

Nikkei Community Picnic  
Oaks Park

## 71<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL JA GRADUATION BANQUET

*by Heidi Kimiko Tolentino, Portland JACL Co-Secretary*

The 71st annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet was held at the Monarch Hotel on May 6, 2018. The program was opened by Emcee, Terry Nishikawa, President of Gresham-Troutdale JACL and a board member of the Japanese Ancestral Society (JAS). Chip Larouche of Portland JACL led the Pledge of Allegiance and the words before meal were given by Reverend Yuki Sugahara of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

Consul General Takashi Teraoka, the new Consul General of Japan, was also there to celebrate the graduates. The Consul General congratulated the graduates on their achievements and commented on how the Japanese American Community had supported each of the students. He also offered the support of his office for anything that the graduates might need and encouraged them to look into the Kakehashi Program that gives students ages 18-25 the opportunity to travel to Japan to continue the relationship between Japanese and Japanese American communities.

This year's keynote speaker was Mark Mitsui, President of Portland Community College (PCC). Before joining PCC, he served as President of North Seattle College and as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community Colleges within the Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education for the U.S. Department of Education. In Washington, he worked to advance

President Obama's community college agenda through partnerships with numerous federal agencies and national stakeholders.

In his presentation, President Mitsui began by reminding the graduates that they are seeing a landmark time when White Americans will become the minority and Artificial Intelligence is no longer a thing of the future. They also have a rich cultural heritage to call upon as they move forward, just as he did.

President Mitsui took the audience back in time, through the history of the Japanese in America, by reminiscing about his own family's history. He recounted the times when Japanese were not allowed to be naturalized citizens, even though they were successful farmers throughout the NW. Their success brought anti-Asian sentiment, including to his family's home in Yakima. Like many other Japanese immigrant families, they continued to say, "Gaman" or endure the intolerable with patience and dignity.

Like so many in our community, President Mitsui's mother was forced to leave her home and make a life at the Portland Assembly Center before being interned at Heart Mountain and his father was interned at Tule Lake before serving in the all Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Unit.

President Mitsui then told the story  
***Continued on next page***

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about his first trip to the West Wing. As he walked through those hallowed halls, he knew he was not alone. With him were his grandparents and his parents; it was on their shoulders and the shoulders of other Japanese Americans that he stood as he peered into the most powerful rooms in the White House. He reminded the graduates that as they move forward, they should also remember their own family's legacy and who paved the way for them.

The presentation of the scholarship winners followed Mr. Mitsui's inspiring speech. The first award was the Oregon Nisei Vets Athletic Award, presented by Commander Ron Iwasaki. The award was presented to Alyssa Kawata of Clackamas High School. Alyssa is a former gymnast who enjoys boxing, and is currently competing in the pole vault. She had a personal record of over 10 feet 10 inches this season.

The Mrs. Mark Sumida Awards are presented on behalf of Alice Sumida who turned 104 years old this year. Mrs. Sumida wanted to award students in the community so that they would know their community was proud of them. The awards were presented by Ms. Sharon Takahashi. This year, the awards were presented to Cole Iwasaki-McNeil of the International School of Beaverton, Taylor Matsushima of Grant High School, Hideaki Nagayama of Beaverton High School, Midori Tanada of Central Catholic High School and Yoshiro Watanabe of Union High School.

The first scholarship that was awarded was the Shokookai of Portland Scholarship, presented by the Shokookai Vice-President, Mr. Daigoro Sekine. Portland Shokookai was founded in 1966 and facilitates business operations for Japanese companies in Oregon and Southwest Washington. It also links Japanese based businesses with the Office of the Consulate General. This year's Shokookai of Portland Scholarship winner was Hannah Weinstein of Wilson High School. Hannah plays with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony and also provides free violin lessons for children through a student-run nonprofit organization called Project Prelude. Hannah will attend Cal Poly next year.

The Gresham-Troutdale JACL is part of the oldest national civil rights organization in America. It serves to protect the rights of not only Asians, but all minorities and nurtures the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans. The scholarship was presented by Ms. Linda Guerber to Yukim Nomoto of the Vancouver School of Arts. Yukim has three main hobbies: creating art, cooking and martial arts. At his arts focused high school he has created large art pieces, produced music, created music videos and much more.

The Japanese Ancestral Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the Nikkei community and to promoting education and fellowship among the members of the Nikkei community. JAS awards three scholarships and these were presented by Ms. Sharon Takahashi:

Hide Naito was a Portland entrepreneur who started his first of several businesses in 1921 which diversified during his lifetime into retail operations, importing and real-estate development. This year's winner of the Hide Naito scholarship was Alyssa Kawata of Clackamas High School. Alyssa is an accomplished athlete and scholar who will attend Concordia University in California next year to study nursing. Alyssa prides herself on knowing the history of her Japanese American family and is proud that she is following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Henry Kawata, who was an athlete and played baseball in Minidoka.

homemaker, community volunteer, businesswoman and high school Valedictorian. The winner of the Mary K. Naito Scholarship was Nicole Nagasaka of Westview High School. Nicole is a scholar and an athlete who has also attended and graduated from the Portland Japanese School where she studied Japanese every Saturday for her entire school career. She currently teaches Japanese to younger students. She will be attending Cal Poly in the fall to study physical therapy.

Tsuya Minamoto emigrated from Japan in 1915 and endured being incarcerated during WWII. Tsuya's daughter, Mary, created this scholarship to keep the memory of her mother alive. The winner of the Tsuyu Minamoto Scholarship was Sheela Beebe of the International School of Beaverton. Sheela loved high school chemistry and decided to take two years of advanced IB Chemistry. She will pursue a science degree at Cornell College next year.

Portland JACL has been supporting Civil Rights since 1928 and manages four scholarships which were combined into the Yumibe/Kennedy Scholarship and the Masuoka/Boggs/State Farm Scholarship. These were presented by President Marleen Wallingford:

Kiyoko Yumibe was a hard-working Nisei who was incarcerated during WWII. She established a fund, through Portland JACL, to help support youth seeking higher education.

Yoshiko Kennedy used her talents as a seamstress and master of Ikebana to ensure her children would receive an education. The Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship was created in her memory.

The winner of the Yumibe/Kennedy Scholarship was Mariko Locke of Dominus Lux High School. Mariko was a 4.0 student and also played on the Clackamas High School Varsity Tennis team and played #1 singles. She will attend Liberty University in the fall and aspires to be an orthopedic surgeon.

Mathew Masuoka was a Nisei dentist who was a past President of Portland JACL and a Pacific NW District Governor. This award is given in his honor by his daughter, Dr. Connie Masuoka.

The Portland JACL administers a scholarship in the name of Mabel Shoji Boggs. Her generosity to high school students, Portland Taiko and the Minidoka Swing Band has benefited the Nikkei community in many ways. State Farm also generously donates to this scholarship, and many other Portland JACL programs.

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*Continued from previous page*

The winner of the Masuoka/Mabel Boggs/State Farm Scholarship was Sonny Kusaka of West Linn High School. Sonny was chosen for the All NW Choir Conference and sang with students from all across the Northwest this year. Next year, he will attend the University of Oregon.

The Oregon Nisei Veterans started in 1948 with the purpose of raising money to build a monument to honor the Nisei soldiers killed in action during WW II. The Oregon Nisei Veterans manage the Art and Teri Iwasaki/Roger T. Okamoto Scholarship. This was presented by Commander Ron Iwasaki:

Art Iwasaki was a member of the 442nd Combat team during WWII and a founding member of Oregon Nisei Vets. Art is a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal and this scholarship is given in memory of his loving wife, Teri.

Second Lieutenant Roger Okamoto was killed in Vietnam in 1966 at the age of 23. Lieutenant Okamoto graduated from Benson High School and earned an engineering degree from the University of Washington.

The winner of the Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship was Mikaela Grover of Century High School. Mikaela has played the piano for 11 years and has competed in many piano competitions and received a superior rating and won a gold cup. Next year, she will attend George Fox University to study Nursing.

Mikaela Grover was also chosen to give the Graduate's Response. As a member of the Portland JACL, Mikaela was appreciative of how the JACL continues to be an important partner in the fight for social justice and in remembering our Nikkei history. Mikaela also thanked each of the sponsoring organizations, the donors and all of the family and friends that came to support the graduates. She ended by reminding the graduates to continue to pursue a world that honors equality and social justice.

The banquet ended with some fun awards presented to the graduates by Ms. Elaine Yuzuriha and Words after Meal by Reverend Yuki Sugahara of the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Then, Terry Nishikawa presented the 2018 Japanese American Graduates to the community. It was a wonderful event that reminded everyone of the importance of continuing the legacy of each of our organizations by remembering those who have come before us and the young people that are our future.



# Japanese American Graduates – Class of 2018



Hannah Weinstein  
Wilson High School  
Shokookai Scholarship



Yukim Nomoto  
Vancouver School of Arts  
G-T JAACL Scholarship



Alyssa Kawata  
Clackamas High School  
Hideo Naito Scholarship  
Nisei Vets Athletic Award



Nicole Nagasaka  
Westview High School  
Mary K. Naito Scholarship



Shela Beebe  
International School of Beaverton  
Minamoto Scholarship



Mariiko Locke  
Dominus Lux  
Yumibe-Kennedy Scholarship



Sonny Kusaka  
West Linn High School  
Masuoka-Boggs-State Farm  
Scholarship



Mikaela Grover  
Century High School  
Art & Terri Iwasaki  
Scholarship



Cole Iwasaki-McNeil  
International School of  
Beaverton  
Alice Sumida Award



Taylor Matsushima  
Grant High School  
Alice Sumida Award



Hideaki Nagayama  
Beaverton High School  
Alice Sumida Award



Midori Tanada  
Central Catholic  
Alice Sumida Award



Yoshiro Watanabe  
Union High School  
Alice Sumida Award

On May 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> the Oregon Nikkei Endowment presented a two day event at PCC Cascade bringing artists and activists together to explore the impact of intergenerational racism through the lens of the Japanese American experience.

As a proud sponsor of *Gamanfest: Reclaiming Identity through Art and Activism*, it is important for the Portland JACL and its members to continue to reexamine our place within the dialogue of race and social justice.

In April of this year a large gathering of Asian Americans showed up in protest over a homeless shelter slated to open up in Irvine, CA. The following is a short excerpt of the Washington Post article:

*"We didn't do it alone," said fellow co-founder Richard Xiaoxiang Lu. "No one knows the county officials, and most of us have never been to their meetings. But we had people from every community say, 'I need to go there' to speak up. Asians are usually quiet, you know. Not this time."*

*Parrisa Yazdani, an Irvine mother of two of Japanese and Iranian descent, launched a Facebook page called "Irvine Tent City Protest" that ballooned to more than 5,000 members in a few days.*

This has been the latest example of Asian American activism at its worst. And although this does not speak directly to the Japanese American community it does beg the question over when, where and what we choose to speak out about and what we truly stand for as an organization dedicated to civil and human rights. Does this include the civil and human rights of people who are houseless?

And then to look back in time, at an old photograph taken at the Minidoka Internment Camp, only to see young Japanese Americans performing a theater play while in blackface, one must think that this should be included in the discussion of intergenerational racism as well. Julian Saporiti, who performed with his friend and colleague Erin Aoyama under the moniker No No Boy at Gamanfest, wrote an in-depth article about the several accounts of black face and cultural appropriation found in the camps while researching what life was like for those interned.

Most important then, is the work and the conversations we choose to engage with in the future. In the year 2020 people in this country will be asked whether they are U.S. citizens by the Census Bureau if all goes according to plan for the current White House Administration. In an acknowledgement of our history it is important to remember that back in 1940 the FBI and other military intelligence agencies stripped back confidentiality protections from the Census to collect data on Japanese Americans leading up to their internment. Just like the strong response from the JA community against the 2017 Muslim Ban or Executive Order 13769, there continues to be times where we can stand in solidarity with other communities against oppressive and racist policies. This is imperative for community building and living up to our proclamation as a civil rights organization.

When we speak of Gaman, we speak of persevering against all odds. Whether we are at odds with our country, at odds with our community, or at odds with ourselves it is important for us to think of the ways in which we have and which we must persevere. This perseverance has to begin as a journey inward, seeking out our own racial-bias, our privilege, our relation to the struggle and survival of other oppressed communities as it stands. This event hosted by the Oregon Nikkei Endowment is just one of many ways in which we are heading toward the right direction in having these conversations and asking these difficult questions over what it means to activate the power of heritage history and ignite social change. When we speak of Gaman, do we speak of the past? The future? The present?

## Moments from GamanFest 2018



**Above Left:** Attendees participate in a Community Circle discussion entitled "Activism for Social Change" at Gamanfest - Reclaiming Identity Through Art & Activism, Student Union, Portland Community College, Cascade campus, Portland, Oregon. **Above Right:** Musician Joe Kye performs at Gamanfest. **Below:** Members of The Slants perform at Gamanfest, Moriarty Auditorium Photos © 2018 Rich Iwasaki



**Right:** No No Boys perform with artistic images behind them.



**Below:** Panel Discussion about *Activating the Power of Heritage History and Identity through Art*.

**Far right:** the GamanFest Program for 2018. Don't miss 2019!

Photos by Curtis Suyematsu, Reflections Photography



## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



**Left:** Alice Sumida, President of the Hyakudokai Club, runs her board meeting recently in the private luncheon room at Edgewood Point. Since Alice was having difficulty getting to the meetings, it seemed reasonable that the meetings come to her!

Photo by Setsy Larouche

**Right:** The Amazing Skippini (aka Roy Yotsuuye) has twins Nathan and Matthew help him with a magic trick recently at the Ikoi No Kai hot lunch program.

Photo by Setsy Larouche



**Left:** Hideo Naito Scholarship winner and Nisei Vets Athletic Award winner Alyssa Kawata poses here with her equally famous grandfather, Wimpy Kawata at the 2018 Graduation Banquet

Photo by Curtis Suyematsu,  
Reflections Photography



**Right:** Consul General and Mrs. Takashi Teraoka look on as Keynote Speaker, Mark Mitsui, President of Portland Community College, delivers a very inspiring speech to the graduates at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Graduation Banquet.

Photo by Curtis Suyematsu,  
Reflections Photograph



PORTLAND JACL  
NEWSLETTER

OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE

COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN ORDER FORM TO CELEBRATE OBONFEST 2018

WHITE Lanterns

Commemorate the life of a loved one, remembering relatives, friends or even pets.



RED Lanterns

Honor a living person, organization or business.

RE-HANG a previously purchased lantern to continue this joyful remembrance.

Please use one form for each new lantern. This order form is also available on the OBT website.

Our Calligraphers would like the lantern order forms by: Monday, July 30, 2018.

Re-hanging lantern order deadline: Thursday, August 2, 2018.

**WHITE COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN (\$25)**

Deceased's Name (English) \_\_\_\_\_

Japanese Version (kanji/katakana) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Passing: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**RED COMMEMORATIVE LANTERN (\$25)**

Name (English) \_\_\_\_\_

Japanese Version (kanji/katakana) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**RE-HANGING Previously Purchased Lantern: \$15 for the 1st order, \$10 each additional lantern**

Name (English) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (English) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (English) \_\_\_\_\_

Name (English) \_\_\_\_\_

**PURCHASER'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Checks Payable to: **Oregon Buddhist Temple**

3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202

Lanterns to be re-hung in 2019 can be stored at the temple or purchased lanterns can be picked up Sunday following the ObonFest. Lanterns inactive for two years will be discarded. Lanterns OBT Phone contact: 503-234-9456

Thank you very much.

# JAPANESE ANCESTRAL SOCIETY OF PORTLAND

June 2018

Dear Golfers and Friends:

You are cordially invited to participate in the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Japanese Ancestral Society Jerry Inouye Memorial Golf Tournament to be held on Sunday, July 29, 2018 at Glendoveer Golf Course-East (14015 NE Glisan, 503.253.7507). The JAS has hosted this event for over 25 years and renamed in 2001 to honor Jerry for his many years of service in promoting this event. The shotgun start will begin at 8:30 a.m. with check-in at 7:30 a.m.

**You must be a JAS member to participate. You can include your membership dues along with your entry fee.**

A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the lowest net scorer among the men's "A" and "B" flights and also to the "ladies" flight. Prizes will be awarded for KP's on all par 3 holes, a longest drive hole, and low gross honors in each flight. In case of a tie, players score cards will be evaluated from the 18<sup>th</sup> hole backwards with the first low score winning. Everyone will ride a cart, and lunch will be served at Super King Buffet (following the tournament. If you have a golfing preference for your foursome, please let us know and list the names of each person of your group. If a foursome is requested, please make sure that a golfer(s) of a group is not duplicated in another foursome.

**If you are not interested in golf but would like to donate to this annual event**, please call Nancy Kajitsu at 503.665.4589. Due to course regulations, we must collect your entry fee by July 15, 2018 to reserve our tee times. No exceptions! **Entry fee is \$80, which includes golf, cart, and lunch.**

Best Regards from your Golf Committee,

( Jacquelyn Alderman, Kay Endo, Pat Gilman, Ron Hiromura, Kurtis Inouye, Nancy Kajitsu, Carl Kato, Terry Kawamoto, Hideo Kobayashi, Gordon Kondo, Bob Kurimoto, Chip & Setsy Larouche, Don Matsuda, Merianne Nagae, Andrea Nitta, Ken Ogawa, John Ollerenshaw, Sharon Takahashi, Katie Tamiyasu, Frances Tanaka, Lew Tomita, Henry Ueno, and Jeff Yoshida.

Please return this form and a check for \$80 (green fee) and your membership fee, unless you are already a JAS member, made payable to the Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland, **no later than July 15, 2018.**

☐ I will play      ☐ I will stay for lunch      ☐ Single JAS membership (\$25)  
☐ I will **not** play      ☐ I will **not** stay for lunch      ☐ Family JAS membership (\$40)  
☐ I (We) will come for lunch only. (\$15 per attendee)

☐ Please accept my tax deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer's Name \_\_\_\_\_ (circle) Male Female

Golfer's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ USGA GHIN Number \_\_\_\_\_

USGA Handicap Index as of July 1, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ or List last 5 golf scores (18 holes) \_\_\_\_\_

**For golfers without established GHIN, maximum handicap allowed is 40 for women and 36 for men.**

**If golfing with a group, please list names** \_\_\_\_\_

PORTLAND JACL  
NEWSLETTER

**Iko no Kai, June 2018**

1333 SE 28th, 503-238-0775

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				<b>1</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Mapo nasu</b> tangy eggplant (HT)
<b>4</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Kathryn Work on piano <b>Orange peel chkn</b> <b>Yakisoba</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Blood pressure: 11:15 <b>Shrimp pad Thai</b>	<b>6</b> X	<b>7</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> <b>Zaru soba w/</b> <b>tempura</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Mar far chicken</b> (JY)
<b>11</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Vietnamese pork</b> <b>Noodle salad</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>12</b> Fujinkai Board: 10:30 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Ginger chicken/</b> <b>Thai fried rice</b>	<b>13</b> X	<b>14</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:00</i> <b>Hijiki gohan/</b> <b>chicken karaage</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Rick March-Accordion <b>Beef curry</b> (HT)
<b>18</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Ohana Lunch Bunch <b>Korean beef &amp;</b> <b>noodles</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>19</b> Blood pressure: 11:15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Tonkatsu</b>	<b>20</b> X	<b>21</b> <i>Sing Along: 11:30</i> <b>Mabo Tofu/</b> <b>potato salad</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Pork teriyaki</b> (JY)
<b>25</b> Movie Special: 10:20 <b>Cats of Mirikutani</b> <b>BBq pork bun/</b> <b>gyoza</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Birthday</b> <b>sushi</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:00</i> <b>Stuffed teriyaki</b> <b>chicken</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Cold Chinese</b> <b>noodles</b> (HT)

**Cooks: Sharon Ogata M-Tu    Noriko Dozono Th    Haruyo Takei & Judy Yamauchi Fri**

**June 4: Kathryn Work on piano: Noon**

**June 12: Fujinkai Board Meeting: 10:30**

**June 15: Rick March on Accordion: Noon**

**June 18: Ohana Lunch Bunch: Sansei networking, 11:30**

**June 21: Sing Along with Reiko & Jerry: 11:30**

**June 25: Cats of Mirikutani: Special showing at 10:15**

**Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays: Chair Exercises with Nobuko Kaji: 11:30**

**Thursdays: Qi Gong with Kathleen Kuba: 11:30**

**Blood pressure with Jane Kawashima: June 5 & 19**



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CLASS OF 2018 PHOTO BY CURTIS SUYEMATSU, REFLECTIONS PHOTOGRAPHY

**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.