



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

MARCH 2019 • VOLUME 24, ISSUE 8

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 17

Annual Spring Bazaar
Nichiren Buddhist Temple

March 21

Board Meeting
All JACL members invited

March 28

Minoru Yasui Day

April 12

Portland Taiko Fundraiser
Wong's King

April 20

PNWDC JACL meeting
Olympia, WA

April 28

OBT Spring Bazaar

May 5

Graduation Banquet
Monarch Hotel

May 27

Memorial Day Services
Japanese Cemetery at
Rose City Cemetery

MOCHITSUKI YEAR OF THE BOAR – A NEW VENUE AND RECORD TURNOUT!

Board Member Message by Chris Lee

If you missed Mochitsuki this year we made some big changes for our 23rd annual New Year's event. The major difference is that we moved to a new location on PSU's campus. If you had been to a previous Mochitsuki then you know we were starting to outgrow our home at Smith hall due to the continued growth in attendance. However, it is extremely challenging to find a large enough space that has all the amenities and features needed to pull off a big event like Mochitsuki.

As luck would have it, PSU would be opening the Viking Pavilion at the Peter W. Stott Center in 2018. Where Smith was part classrooms, cafeteria, and communal gathering space, the Viking Pavilion is largely and most easily described as a sports arena.

Our committee knew that it would be like fitting a square peg into a round hole, but we were up for the challenge because it meant a bigger space that could fit more people, more community partners and more vendors that we previously had to squeeze in or turn down.

Our planning committee is about 16 people and all volunteer based, so it meant we had to spend extra time planning, preparing and coordinating for the event. A new venue meant changes to the stage shows, event layout, setup time and logistics, electrical diagrams and event operations, parking, and ticket sales as well as we created a new website and required even more volunteers just to highlight some of the main examples for you. Planning an event takes a tremendous amount of effort and I want to recognize how much more



Members of Utsukikai demonstrate mochi pounding skills at Mochitsuki 2019.

Photo © 2019 Rich Iwasaki

was required from our committee of 16, the 20 performers or demonstrations, the 34 businesses and community groups that were vendors or provided activities and the 100 plus people that volunteered to help at the event. If you're reading this, thank you!

continued on next page

MOCHITSUKI *continued from Page 1*

For the most part I would say that our effort was well rewarded. The biggest takeaway is that we increased ticket sales by 55%! What was previously a 2000-person event is now approaching 3000. On the stage we had multiple taiko groups (Portland Taiko, Takohachi and Unit Souzou), Oregon Koto Kai, Sahomi Tachibana dance, Utsukikai mochi pounding and musical performances from violinist, Joe Kye, and rock group, A-key Kyo. We had eight food vendors offering a diverse spread ranging from broiled onigiri, multiple types of bento, noodles, curry rice and even baked goods like melon pan, and Japanese desserts. There were hands on activities such as Ikebana, bento making, food demonstrations and mochi pounding that were at full capacity for the entire event and vendors selling cards, bags, and art.

I attended the first Mochitsuki in the basement at OBT and never imagined that it would grow to this magnitude. By my count this is at least the 7th venue that Mochitsuki has used in our 23 years of holding the event. What was once a small gathering has now grown to a large festival. I think it is a true testament to our community that we have been able to grow the event to where it is today.

Admittedly not everything was perfect this year. There were still crowds in some areas, sound was an issue since the space was almost entirely open and there were some technical difficulties



Members of Oregon Koto Kai perform at Mochitsuki 2019.
Photo © 2019 Rich Iwasaki

on the stage. I'm sure there were other growing pains that I missed that we will need to sort out, but overall the large venue feels like a step in the right direction especially with the increased turnout. It is too soon to tell what next year holds for Mochitsuki, but hope you'll continue to be a part of it. We will keep you updated and hope you have a great Year of the Boar.

SAVE THE DATE: 2019 MINORU YASUI DAY ON MARCH 28TH

Thursday, March 28th 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. | University of Oregon Law School, 70 NW Couch St.

Schedule

3:45 - Gather at Japanese American Historical Plaza

4:00 - Presentation by Heath Hyun and Kurt Ikeda and then march to the U of O School of Law

4:15 - Arrive at the University of Oregon School of Law at the White Stag Building, Event Room 142 and 144 and present winners of the Minoru Yasui Essay Contest

4:30 - Panel Discussion featuring:

Peggy Nagae, lead attorney in Yasui v. United States
Rod Kawakami, co-lead counsel for the coram nobis team in the Gordon Hirabayashi case.

To be confirmed, representative from Fred Korematsu's coram nobis appeal.

6:00 - Reception at Light Court Commons

Presented by Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project, sponsored by the University of Oregon School of Law, and co-sponsored by ACLU, OAPAB (Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association).



NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE



27th Annual Spring Bazaar

Sunday, March 17, 2019 11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 2025 S.E. Yamhill

ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Special Nichiren Tonkatsu (pork) Bento (Available for Pre-order Only)	\$ 10.00	_____	_____
Chicken Donburi (Chicken Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Chow Mein	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Veggie Chow Mein	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Tofu Donburi (Tofu Teriyaki over rice)	\$ 9.00	_____	_____
Total \$		_____	_____

Please return this pre-order form with
your check by **March 11, 2019**

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

____ Take Out

Name: _____ BAKED GOODS
Address: _____ CRAFTS &
Phone: _____ email: _____ MUCH MORE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

An envelope with your pre-paid tickets
will be ready for you at the Will-Call line.

Oregon Buddhist Temple

3720 SE 34th Ave & Powell Blvd, Portland

Spring Bazaar!
Sunday, April 28, 2019
11am-3pm



Omiyage!



Manju!

Curry Rice Mabo Dofu Mar far chicken Bento Inari sushi

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Marleen Ikeda Wallingford

marleen@pdxjacl.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Susan Leedham

susan@pdxjacl.org

CO-SECRETARIES

Heidi Tolentino

heidi@pdxjacl.org

Jean Yamamoto

jean@pdxjacl.org

MEMBERSHIP

Setsy Sadamoto Larouche

setsy@pdxjacl.org

Lynn Fuchigami

lynn@pdxjacl.org

Sachi Kaneko

sachi@pdxjacl.org

Christopher Lee

chris@pdxjacl.org

Margaret Lieder

margaret@pdxjacl.org

Connie Masuoka

connie@pdxjacl.org

Ryan Nakano

ryan@pdxjacl.org

Verne Naito

verne@pdxjacl.org

ADVISORY MEMBER

Rich Iwasaki

rich@pdxjacl.org

NEWSLETTER (non-Board)

Jeff Selby

jeff@aiwcreative.com

WHAT WE DO TOGETHER IS PHENOMENAL! *by Sharon Takahashi*

Routines can make you feel like a hamster in its cage, just stepping on the rungs to get the wheel to turn. Then, something untoward happens and the routine is interrupted. In February's case, it was a non-event snowstorm that caused us to postpone our Japanese Ancestral Society's General Meeting. As a result, I have one more "shout out" from the soapbox.



This year's Graduation Banquet is Sunday, May 5 at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon.

Two community events happen in the next quarter that are considered quite routine, and yet are points of pride for our community. They are the Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet and the Memorial Day Services at our Japanese Cemetery, located at Rose City Cemetery. Many of you know more about these events than I do, but there may be a new reader or two in the membership, I hope.

This year's graduation banquet is scheduled for Sunday, May 5, 2019 at the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon. The banquet is made possible by nine

sponsoring organizations. They strive to honor all graduates who are of Japanese ancestry and/or are members of the sponsoring groups. It may surprise some to know that this event is 72 years old. Sponsors are: Buddhist Henjyoji Temple, Epworth United Methodist Church, Gresham-Troutdale JACL, Nikkei Fujinkai, Japanese Ancestral Society, Nichiren Buddhist Temple, Oregon

Nisei Veterans, Inc., Portland JACL, Shokookai of Portland, and the Veleda Club. These organizations share the belief that high school graduation is an important achievement. Committee members try to find all qualified students to assure each receives an invitation to

attend as our guest. Scholarships and athletic achievement awards are also given out. If you would like to know more about the event or would like to attend (tickets are \$35 for the luncheon which starts at 1:00 p.m.) please email me stakahashi509@gmail.com or call me 503.330.1935.

The Japanese Community Memorial Day Service is held each year on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May. Since 1950, the Japanese Ancestral Society has organized this event. In 1951, the Oregon Nisei Veterans, Inc., started providing the master of ceremony for the program. The community

churches have rotated the lead responsibilities and shared the physical organization of the site. The churches are Buddhist Henjyoji Temple, Konkō Church of Portland, Nichiren Shu Minori Kai, Oregon Buddhist Temple and Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple. This year's church in charge is Oregon Buddhist Temple.

Everyone is invited to participate. After the services at the Japanese Cemetery, all are invited to the Japanese section of Lone Fir Cemetery located at SE 26th and Stark St. Many Issei (first generation immigrants from Japan) who perished in the 1890s through early 1900s rest here.

Please put these events on your May calendar and attend, if you can. I guarantee that you will be proud to be part of this strong community!

ATTENTION ALL JACL MEMBERS

Please join us at our next Board Meeting:

**Thursday, March 21, 2019
at 6:30 p.m.**

Oregon Buddhist Temple
(Minister's Office)
3720 SE 34th Ave.

Enjoy light refreshments
and find out about
events and what projects
your board is working on.

PORTLAND JACL CALLS FOR CITY OF PORTLAND TO LEAVE JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE *by Marleen Wallingford*

Portland JACL has been working with a coalition of community partners to get Portland Police Bureau out of the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF).

The City's partnership with the FBI was created in 1980. Its formal purpose was to prevent terrorist activity, but it has a troubling history of surveillance of lawful first amendment activity and other civil rights abuses.

In 2000, we began organizing to get out of the JTTF. We were successful in 2005, but after the manufactured Christmas tree bombing of Pioneer Courthouse Square in 2010, the City rejoined the Task Force. Despite our efforts, we did not have the support of the Portland City Council. The election of Jo Ann Hardesty has changed the political make-up of the City Council and one of her campaign promises was to get Portland out of the JTTF. We are proud members of a coalition that now numbers over 50 organizations, which organized to get out. On February 13, Portland City Council voted to end the City's participation in the JTTF.



Jeff Selby was one of four participants in an information session held at Unite Oregon on January 16, 2019. Panelists left to right: Kayse Jama from Unite Oregon, Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, Kimberly McCullough from ACLU of Oregon, and Jeff Selby.

Jim Kennedy, former Portland JACL president, testified on February 13 in favor of ending Portland's relationship with the JTTF.

JIM KENNEDY'S TESTIMONY TO CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 13, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the council today with our concerns about JTTF participation. There's been a lot of information shared recently explaining all of the safeguards put into place by the JTTF participants and overseers to ensure local officers are not violating state law and that Oregonians' civil rights are not impacted. The efforts are commendable and we believe the people in place are righteous, but ultimately the oversight process amounts to self-regulation that occurs in secret.

At Portland JACL we understand that civil rights become secondary when people are afraid. Most of us feel comfortable that their civil rights are safe but everyone fears physical harm. Policies that make us safer are always better until it's your civil rights that have been abused. The incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII was considered prudent policy that kept us safer. And yes, that was a long time ago; time, however, revealed it to be bad policy, regrettable to American ideals. Just recently Chief Justice Roberts wrote that *Korematsu v U.S.*, which essentially says that safety takes precedence over civil rights during times of military necessity, was "gravely wrong the day it was decided" and "has

been overruled in the court of history".

We are not trying to equate mass incarceration with the JTTF, but our history tells us that well meaning enforcement agencies that protect us from physical harm are also the ones that can infringe on our civil liberties. Trust, but verify is the minimum requirement to protect against over-reach and civil rights abuses. The current JTTF relationship is only about trust.

You are not considering whether JTTF works today given the quality of people in place to self-regulate things. You are considering if this relationship will hold up against security directives from future Presidents or Attorney General whose priorities can change with times and events. If the JTTF cannot transform and find a way to work with local authorities in a transparent fashion then we should stop cooperating. Any participation agreement that protects Oregonians' civil liberties must require local leadership has visibility into investigations and the right to refuse participation in individual cases if Oregon law is compromised.

OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT PRESENTS
**CHERRY BLOSSOM
BAZAAR**

A Rummage Sale of Japanese Treasures

**Saturday & Sunday
March 30th & 31st, 2019
10 am - 4 pm**

**139 NW 2nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97209**

**Special
Preview Night Benefit**

Friday, March 29th, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Early Shoppers Admission with food and drink:

Friends of Oregon Nikkei Endowment: \$25

General: \$50

RSVP to info@oregonnikkei.org
or 503-224-1458

Something for every age,
taste and budget!

Hunt for hidden treasure at this
unique sale of Japanese
collectibles, objects,
and furniture.

Items from 25 cents!





IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

MARCH 2019 | 1333 SE 28th Ave. | 503-238-0775

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Tomodachi Kai Chair Exercises: 11:30 Sukiyaki Bowl
4 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Hakusai & bacon mille feuilles Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	5 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Grilled ginger chicken	6 X	7 Qi Gong: 11:30 Grilled miso salmon Mah jong: 12:30-2	8 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Marinated fried chicken
11 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Nikujaga beef & potatoes Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	12 Fujinkai Board: 10:30 Blood Pressure: 11:15 Chair Exercises: 11:30 St Patrick's corned beef **	13 X	14 Qi Gong: 11:30 Croquette Mah jong: 12:30-2	15 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Hiru Gohan Gurupu-12 Crispy Meatballs
18 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Ohana Lunch Bunch Grilled teriyaki chicken Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	19 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Tonkatsu	20 X	21 Qi Gong: 11:00 Sing Along: 11:30 Shio saba grilled mackerel Mah jong: 12:30-2	22 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Kathryn Work on piano Vegetable rolls with ginger pork
25 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Mabo tofu Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	26 Blood Pressure: 11:15 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Stuffed cabbage rolls	27	28 Qi Gong: 11:00 Birthday sushi Mah jong: 12:30-2	29 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Marimba Concert Tempura shrimp rice balls/udon

Cooks: Naomi Molstrom-Mon; Kyoko Adcock-Tu ex Mar 12-Nancy Furumasu

Rieko Shimada Th-Fri

Mar 1: Tomodachi Kai

Mar 12: St Patrick's Corned Beef & Cabbage** --Reservations required, +\$2

Mar 12: Fujinkai Board -- 10:30

Mar 15: Hiru Gohan Gurupu (Rick, John & Mary) featuring Irish tunes: noon

Mar 18: Ohana Lunch Bunch -- 11:30

Mar 21: Sing Along with Reiko & Jerry -- 11:30

Mar 22: Kathryn Work on piano -- noon

Mar 29: Marimba Concert; students of Yoshie Yamasaki -- noon

M, Tu & Fr: Chair Exercises with Nobuko Kaji; Th--Qi Gong with Kathleen Kuba -- 11:30



PORTLAND JACL
PO BOX 86310
PORTLAND, OR 97286

NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT #579

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Jim Kennedy and Connie Masuoka attend the "Get Portland out of the JTTF" rally at City Hall on February 13, 2019. Read Jim's testimony to Council on page 5.



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.