



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

APRIL 2019 • VOLUME 24, ISSUE 9

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Please send your community
calendar items to Jeff Selby
at:
jeff@aiwcreative.com

PORTLAND JACL HOSTS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Board Member Message by Margaret Lieder

Sunday, February 24, 2019 marked Portland's Day of Remembrance observance at Hoffmann Hall on the Portland State University campus. The annual event commemorating the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II this year featured the presentation of a documentary film, *For the Sake of the Children*.

Along with the film, the program included a message from Marlene Wallingford, Portland JACL board president, a spoken word performance by Portland JACL board member Sachi Kaneko, and a panel discussion following the film. The event concluded with a poem presented by Portland artist A'Misa Chiu. Our master of ceremonies and discussion moderator was Jeff Selby.

I know from my own life that broaching a parent's painful life events is a delicate and sometimes impossible endeavor. Do you press someone to recount the events and recall feelings from a traumatic time in her life or do you respect that person's wish to not face the past and relive the pain? The former seems almost

cruel while the latter could mean never knowing the painful truth. As the tag line of the film says, "Some memories are too painful to remember. Some memories are too important to forget."

The film explores the impact of the internment camp experience on several families as they try to come to terms with it during the intervening years. The viewer follows the journey the descendants take as they struggle to learn what their incarcerated parents and grandparents experienced, its impact on their personalities and how they suppressed much



©2019 Rich Iwasaki
Jeff Selby moderates a panel discussion following the film screening. Panel members included (l to r) Marlene Shigekawa, Leland Baxter-Neal, Patricia Tsubokawa-Reeves, and Jhoana Monroy-Espinosa

of their Japanese heritage going forward.

Common themes emerge from the family stories: feeling unworthiness, shame, insecurity and a

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DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

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sense of "I don't fit in anywhere." The realization of parents intentionally disconnecting from Japanese culture in a determined effort to blend in with the wider American culture. However, while European first names became the norm for many children born after internment, the Japanese family names and their Japanese faces often triggered racist words and actions from the community around them long after the war was over.

There is hope and inspiration in the film though, through the family members who found ways to be witnesses to the past and to tap into their righteous anger. Some directly represented the memory of incarceration by seeking redress, leading pilgrimages or establishing monuments at the internment sites. Others chose professional careers championing civil rights and environmental

activism while other descendants in the film became journalists, storytellers and artists. All have channeled from the past into the future the energy, urgency and distress that are the fruit springing from the painful seeds of the incarceration experience.

Ultimately, what the film presents is the powerful resiliency of the Japanese Americans who persevered through the years of struggle and suffering in the camps.

They left incarceration to start new lives with little or nothing but the determination to leave the past behind and a willingness to work tirelessly for safety and security for their families. Throughout they strived to do the best they could, for the sake of the children.

The film was followed by a panel discussion with the filmmaker

Marlene Shigekawa and Patricia Tsubokawa-Reeves, a featured participant in the film. Also, on the panel were two Portland community members: Leland Baxter-Neal from the ACLU and Jhoana Monroy-Espinosa, DREAM coordinator at Portland Community College, both of whose professional work with refugees and immigrants echoes all too painfully the vulnerability of groups of people whose dignity and civil rights are threatened by unjust and inhumane government decisions.

This Day of Remembrance was a moving, thought-provoking event for those of us in attendance. If you are interested in more information about the film, For the Sake of the Children, please visit the website:
www.forthesakeofchildren.org.

Oregon Buddhist Temple
OBT Spring Bazaar!
Sun, April 28, 2019, 11am-3pm

FOOD PRE-ORDER FORM
*** Return to OBT by April 24 ***

<u>Meat Menu:</u>	Price	Quantity (Eat in)	Quantity (Take Out)	Amount
Mar Far Chicken Bento	\$10	_____	_____	\$ _____
Mar Far Chicken Curry Rice	\$9	_____	_____	\$ _____
Mar Far Chicken (a la carte)	\$8	_____	_____	\$ _____
<u>Vegan Menu:</u>				
Ota Tofu Curry Rice	\$8	_____	_____	\$ _____
Mabo Dofu Bowl	\$8	_____	_____	\$ _____
Inari Sushi (6pc)	\$6	_____	_____	\$ _____
Name: _____		Total Amount \$ _____		
Phone: _____		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Make all checks payable to: Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Ave Portland, OR 97202 </div>		
Email: _____				

NEW! PRE-ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.OREGONBUDDHISTTEMPLE.COM

Thank you for your support!

Questions? Contact us at bazaar@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

UPCOMING PERFORMANCES BY CHISAO HATA

GAMBATTE BE STRONG

Staged reading created by Chisao Hata and Nikki Nojima Louis,
directed by Chisao Hata

INTERSTATE FIREHOUSE CULTURAL CENTER

(5340 N. Interstate Ave.)

Saturday, May 27 and Sunday, May 28 at 2:00 p.m.

From Japantown to the Portland Livestock Exposition, from WWII concentration camps to the Vanport flood—the immigrant journey of the Japanese in Oregon is paved with stories of perseverance and courage. Gambatte Be Strong is an original reading of the little known stories featuring the return of Japanese Americans to Oregon after their incarceration during WWII.

With Heath Houghton, Sumi Wu, Kim Bui, Jenna Yokoyama, Ken Yoshikawa, and Savira Kambhu

GAMBATTE: AN AMERICAN LEGACY

by Chisao Hata

INTERSTATE FIREHOUSE CULTURAL CENTER

(5340 N. Interstate Ave.)

Saturday, June 1 at 3:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4 and

Wednesday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m.



SEND YOUR COMMUNITY PHOTOS TO JEFF SELBY!



BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

Marleen Ikeda Wallingford

marleen@pdxjacl.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Susan Leedham

susan@pdxjacl.org

SECRETARY

Heidi Tolentino

heidi@pdxjacl.org

TREASURER

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

CHANGES IN PORTLAND JACL *by Marleen Wallingford*

Portland JACL will be undergoing some changes. Our longtime treasurer Chip Larouche is giving up the reigns after 17 years of volunteering on our Board.

We appreciate his many years of service and will miss his great organizational skills. He will be replaced by current board member and co-secretary, Jean Yamamoto. Heidi Tolentino will be taking on the full time secretarial position.

Our next elections will be coming up for 2020. We are needing some new volunteers to help us provide meaningful activities for our community.

This past year we have not only supported activities like the Japanese American Scholarship Banquet and Community Picnic, we have also worked collaboratively with other groups with issues affecting immigrant,

refugee, and other marginalized communities.

We need you to help us. You are invited to attend one of our board meetings which take place on the third Thursday of the month with the exception of the months of August and December. We would welcome your energy and your contributions.

DISORIENT ASIAN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL *by Marleen Wallingford*

The 14th annual DisOrient Asian American Film Festival took place at the University of Oregon campus on March 14-17. It was nonstop binging on independent Asian American films with talk backs from many of the producers, directors or actors in the production. This is a juried festival. The 37 or so films shown were selected from over 100 submissions. All the films were excellent and showed a wide range of stories about Asian Americans we do not generally see in the mass media. Stories ranged from a love story between a Chinese couple, both with two daughters who have problems, addiction and autism (Izzy) to a group of skateboarders, Kiere, Zach and Bing who were navigating the difficult path to adulthood (Minding the Gap).

A movie which really resonated with me was, *Alternative Facts: the Lies of Executive Order 9066* which explores the politics behind the signing of an executive order that paved the way for the forced removal of the Japanese population from the West Coast. The director, Jon Osaki, is a community organizer from San Francisco. He wanted to take our history and put

it into the political context of the times. Through the government's own investigation of the Japanese American population prior to 1941, it was known there was no threat of sabotage. Our leaders chose to ignore the facts and be swayed by fear and public opinion. Osaki drew parallels between what happened in 1942 to our current anti-immigration rhetoric.

Another of my favorites was Hiro's Table which tells the story of master chef Hiroji Obayashi who opens a wildly popular small Japanese restaurant in Los Angeles. We learn a lot about his philosophy about food and cooking and there is even a local connection. He and his wife have retired to Portland and there was a section where he was teaching Japanese cooking classes from his home. I saw many familiar community faces in the class. This film had been shown in Portland last fall at the Portland Film Festival but many people did not have a chance to see it, so we are hoping to ask Lynn Hamrick, the director, to bring the film here again.

Many of the producers and directors complimented the all-volunteer DisOrient staff on their organization and gracious hospitality. It felt like they were at a family event. The remodeled Erb Memorial Student Union was a beautiful venue for most of the films and there was non-stop food in the Green Room if you bought the weekend pass.



Another special treat was being entertained by NoNo Boy, Julian Saporiti, who opened the festival at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. His music combined with archival images helped make our history accessible to all audiences.

Next year will be the 15th anniversary of the festival. The organizers promise some extra special touches. Plan to spend time in Eugene for this wonderful Asian American film celebration.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Marlene Wallingford, Portland JACL president, speaks at the 2019 Day of Remembrance event. Photo by Rich Iwasaki.



Panel members participate in a discussion following the film screening of "For The Sake of the Children" Day of Remembrance event. Panel members: Marlene Shigekawa, Leland Baxter-Neal, Patricia Tsubokawa-Reeves, and Jhoana Monroy-Espinosa. Photo by Rich Iwasaki.



Sachi Kaneko, board member, presents a spoken word piece at the Day of Remembrance event. Photo by Rich Iwasaki.



A'Misa Chiu presents a poem at the conclusion of the Day of Remembrance. Photo by Rich Iwasaki.



Jeff Selby moderates the panel discussion following the film screening at the 2019 Day of Remembrance event.



The planning committee for the 40th Anniversary Celebration for Iko No Kai Senior Lunch Program takes time to pose for a photo.



Fude Kagawa and Misao Minagi attend the 40th Anniversary Celebration for Iko No Kai Senior Lunch Program.

Epworth United Methodist Church
presents

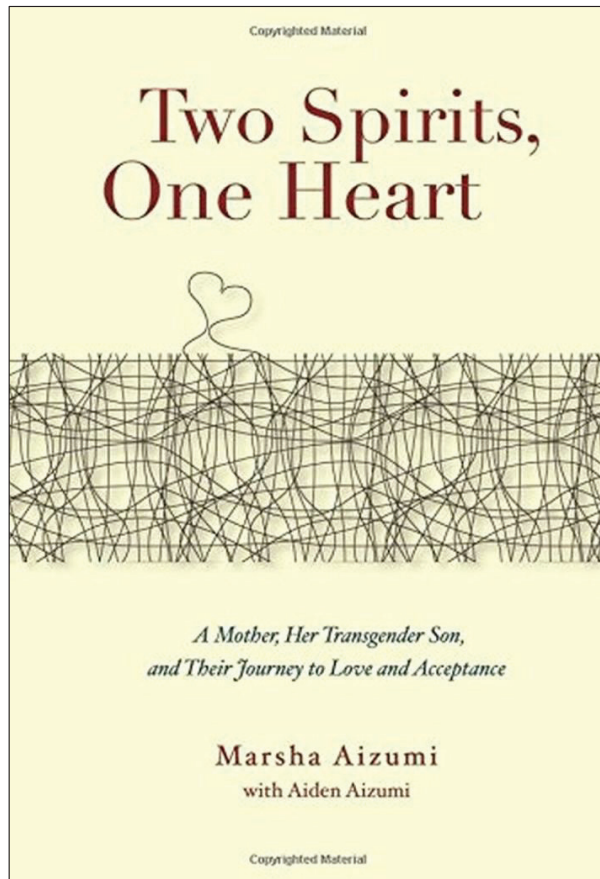
MARSHA AND AIDEN AIZUMI

Sunday, April 14, 2019 1:00pm
1333 SE 28th Avenue, Portland OR

(Free Admission; donations are welcome)

Please join us to hear their story, inspired by a mother's love and her child's transition from young woman to transgender man.

Q&A with Marsha and Aiden Aizumi will follow.



Two Spirits, One Heart
chronicles Marsha's personal
journey from being the mother of
an adopted baby girl to offering
unconditional love, acceptance
and support as her child
reconciled his gender identity to
live openly and authentically as a
transgender man.

Books are available at the event or at www.amazon.com
Visit Marsha online at www.marshaaizumi.com



IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Chicken w/green onion sauce g	2 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Sweet & sour pork	3 X	4 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Happosai pork & mini shrimp chop suey	5 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Oyako donburi chicken & egg on rice
8 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Ginger chicken/yakisoba <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	9 <i>Fujinkai Board: 10:30</i> <i>Blood Pressure: 11:15</i> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Japanese ham-ba-ga	10 X	11 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Clam chowder & spring mix rice <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	12 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Chickn Pad Thai
15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <i>Ohana Lunch Bunch</i> Tofu-ground pork pattie w/ mushroom sauce	16 <i>Sage Circle: 10</i> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Korean beef noodles (RS)	17 X	18 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Tempura <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	19 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <i>Hiru Gohan Gurupu: 12</i> Hashed beef w/ rice
22 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Croquette/veggie soup	23 <i>Blood Pressure: 11:15</i> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Shrimp fried rice	24 X	25 <i>Sing Along: 11:30</i> Tenshin han crab & ham omelet with sauce on rice	26 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <i>Kathryn Work on piano</i> Panang chicken curry
29 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Birthday sushi	30 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Orange chicken			

Cooks: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Rieko Shimada-Th/F

Apr 9: Fujinkai Board: 10:30

Apr 15: Ohana Lunch Bunch: sansei gathering: 11:30

Apr 16: Sage Circle: Japanese study of herbs, healthy living: 10

Apr 19: Hiru Gohan Gurupu: Rick, John & Mary perform the hit "Hey Ikoi no Kai"

Apr 25: Sing Along with Reiko & Jerry

Apr 26: Kathryn Work on piano: noon

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

Thursdays: Qi Gong with Kathleen Kuba: 11:30

Blood Pressure readings: April 9 & 23 with Ellen Iwasaki



PORTLAND JACL
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PORTLAND, OR 97286

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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.