



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

AUGUST 2019 • VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 6

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day
6:00 p.m.
Japanese American
Historical Plaza

August 9-11

NW Taiko Conference
PSU

August 18

Noon
Nikkei Community Picnic
Oaks Park

August 24

11:00 a.m.
Celebration of Life for
Miyuki Yasui
Mt. Tabor Methodist Church

September 29

2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Viewing of Hiro's Table
Clinton St. Theatre

Please send your community calendar items to Jeff Selby at:
jeff@aiwcreative.com
no later than the 16th of each month!

THE DEATH OF DEMOCRACY?

by Susan Leedham, Board Member

Does anyone else feel tired and defeated? It seems every day there is a new tweet and a news story that tells us about a new low in human interaction. The Supreme Court has ruled that extreme partisan gerrymandering is okay. We're separating families and putting them in cages. Not to mention the disproportionate incarceration of Blacks and Latinos by our justice departments and the shooting of black men by the police, and then there are the mass shootings. So many guns.

As I'm writing this I'm preparing for a visit by my nephew, his wife and their adorable one-and-a-half-year-old son, Jackson. I worry about the world he will inherit. Will we be seriously addressing climate change or still debating whether it even exists? Will we have enough jobs as automation and self-driving technology take away more jobs?

JACL has been a voice, albeit a small one, using our history to speak out against prejudice against the Muslims, LGBTQ, Latinos, Blacks and others, and I guess that's all we can do, but it seems like throwing a rock in a raging river.

I'm appalled by the number of people that think Trump is doing a good job as he's dismantling our alliances with Europe and cozying up with Putin. Where is the outcry about his secret one-on-one

meetings with Putin? Why is it okay to be a white supremacist and use racial epithets? Yeah, I know, there are good people on both sides.

I keep waiting for everyone to see the emperor has no clothes, but I'm probably missing the point that they don't care.

I'm retiring after 42 years of being a freelance court reporter, and I'm hoping that getting rid of that large workload will give me more energy to get politically involved again. I used to volunteer to phone bank for candidates and show up for marches, but now I'm not seeing the point.

Oregon made national news with the Republican walkout on the carbon tax bill. And let's not even talk about our national congress with House Democrats fighting amongst themselves, and Mitch McConnell acting as a roadblock to anything the House does manage to pass.

I heard a quote recently by philosopher Robert M. Hutchins:

"The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment."

Is that what is happening now? I hope not, for Jackson's sake.

MINIDOKA SWING BAND PERFORMS IN CALIFORNIA

by Laura Baxter, Band Manager

The Minidoka Swing Band (MSB) was recently invited by the San Francisco Presidio to perform as part of the "Then They Came For Me" interactive exhibit. The band's educational performance was held on Friday, May 16, 2019 at the Building Without Violence auditorium. This special exhibit was on display from January, 2019 through May, 2019, and has just recently been extended through September, 2019 by popular demand. The exhibit and its special guests have featured many well know personalities and artists and MSB was especially honored to be invited to perform. The San Francisco JACL hosted this event along with Sake sampling, hors d'oeuvres and sushi.

MSB's program for all four special venues included two important sets of music. Our first 55-minute set was an educational presentation consisting of live music, special narration by Steve Okamoto, President of the San Mateo JACL, photos of internment and of Portland, and a special showing of band director Larry Nobori's family home videos of his family's imprisonment in Jerome, Arkansas.

Set 1 featured our signature song which was written especially for the Minidoka Swing Band entitled "The Minidoka Swing Band Song," sung by Andy Streich. It tells the story of Janice Okamoto, a Portland resident's, father and uncle, Henry and Roy Matsunaga. They were two young musicians who were interned and played music at the Minidoka Internment Camp near Twin Falls, Idaho. The song was written by Portland musician Richard March and arranged by former

MSB member, Kokichi Tagawa.

Set 2 included popular big band music for the listening and dancing pleasure of the attendees featuring vocalists Nola Sugai Bogle and her son, Andy Streich. Three of the presentations in the Bay area. The SF Presidio, San Mateo and Mountain View, were fund raisers for the National JACL Educational Fund and to help with making a documentary about Japanese American incarceration.

now a National Park and also has wonderful views of the SF Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz Island!

The Minidoka Swing band's second performance was held in San Mateo on Saturday, May 17th at the Beresford Recreation Center sponsored by the San Mateo JACL. Along with special hors d'oeuvres, San Mateo offered swing dance lessons for the attendees during the break



Minidoka Swing Band with special guest, Jun Daiko.

While at The Presidio, the band members visited the Presidio Officers Club. There was a special wall at the club that featured close to 120,000 names of WWII Japanese Americans that were imprisoned. Elaine and Todd Yuzuriha found many names of their relatives on the wall. Other names on the wall were our very own band members, Nola Sugai (Bogle) and Lawrence (Larry) Nobori. What a special treat that was to get to see all those names. If you are planning a trip this summer down to San Francisco, be sure to make a special stop to The Presidio to view these exhibits. The Presidio is

between the two sets of music. So after the first set of the WWII Japanese American educational presentation, the second half of the program included much swing dancing to the Minidoka Swing Band's Big Band music.

MSB's third performance was held Sunday, May 18th, at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, sponsored by the San Jose JACL. It included a special, joint collaboration performance during the second set with Jun Daiko, Mountain View's resident Taiko group. It was an extremely, exciting collaboration featuring MSB and Jun Daiko on the tunes

continued on page 4

CELEBRATION OF LIFE
- FOR -
MIYUKI YASUI

(Past Portland JACL President)

Saturday, August 24 at 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Tabor Methodist Church • 6166 SE Stark St. Portland
All are welcome.

日系コミュニティ・ピクニック
NIKKEI COMMUNITY PICNIC

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019
OAKS PARK
(SOUTH PARK AREA - UNDER THE LARGE STRIPED TENT)
NOON TO 5PM

Food, Fun, Rides for the Kids; Prizes and Performance by Portland Taiko

Join us for an afternoon of food and fun! The picnic is sponsored by organizations of the Nikkei community to celebrate our ethnic heritage.

We will provide at no cost:

- Main dish: Fried Chicken
- Beverages: hot tea, soda, and beer
- Eating utensils: plates and napkins
- Watermelons
- Games and prizes and ride bracelets for kids high school and younger
- Parking

Please bring a side dish to share. In order to ensure a variety we suggest that you bring a side dish that corresponds to the alphabetical groupings listed below:

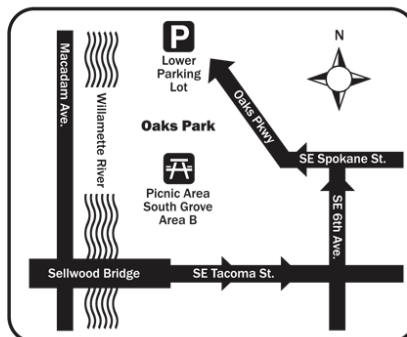
A-Ki Rice or a noodle dish
Kl-Sa Salad or Vegetable dish
Sc-Z Dessert or Bread

主催方からの供給

焼き鳥
お茶、ソーダ、ビール
西瓜
遊芸と遊技の賞品
駐車場

持ち合わせ品

A-Ki サラダ
Kl-Sa ごはん
Sc-Z デザート



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

Jeff Matsumoto
jeffm@pdxjacl.org

Connie Masuoka
connie@pdxjacl.org

Ryan Nakano
ryan@pdxjacl.org

Verne Naito
verne@pdxjacl.org

Amanda Shanahan
amanda@pdxjacl.org

ADVISORY MEMBER

Rich Iwasaki
rich@pdxjacl.org

NEWSLETTER (non-Board)

Jeff Selby
jeff@aivcreative.com

Please RSVP by August 8: Connie Masuoka at 503-243-3291

MINIDOKA SWING BAND *continued from Page 2*

"Clarity," "Tatsumaki," and "Tokyo Boogie Woogie." And to make it even more special, Elaine & Todd Yuzuriha's son, Ken Yuzuriha, daughter-in-law, Alison Yuzuriha and son-in-law, Christopher Fijardo were soloist members of Jun Daiko.

The fourth Minidoka performance included an added trip to Sacramento, California on Monday, May 20th, to play at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento before an

audience of 250 excited concert goers. This location proved very memorable for Minidoka band members Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha, as that was there place of their marriage 35 years ago. We also had the pleasure of Elaine's brother, Rod Nishikawa, to narrate the educational set of our program. We also had special guests, the Sacramento Betsuin Choir collaborate with the Minidoka Swing Band on "Chattanooga Choo Choo." The

Betsuin choir also had special permission to sing "Gaman," from George Takei's musical 'Allegiance.'

Videos and pictures of MSB's memorable California Tour can be viewed on their website, www.minidokaswingband.com and on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MinidokaBand

HIRO'S TABLE

2:30 p.m., Sept 29, 2019

Clinton Street Theater

2522 SE Clinton

Tickets: \$10 or \$8 JACL members

Contact marleen@pdxjacl.org for
promo code

A film portrait of master chef Hiroji Obayashi and his wife Yasuyo tending to both their family and their restaurant, Hirozen's Gourmet over a 16 year period. It's a story of immigration, following your dream, cooking and all of the joys and sorrows that life entails. In Hiro's words. "Food is not just cooking. Food is heart."

Q and A with the director and producer Lynn Hamrick and Hiroji and Yasuyo Obayashi who now make Portland their home.

Hiro's Table won Best New Mexico Documentary at the Santa Fe Independent Film Festival 2018, a Taste Award and the Audience Award at the Golden State Film Festival in Los Angeles (2019) and Best Documentary at the American Asian Latino Film Festival in NYC 2019.



AROUND THE COMMUNITY



At the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Minidoka Incarceration Site Visitor's Center, Jim Azumano (pictured far right) board member of the Friends of Minidoka and past Director of the Office of Rural Policy for the State of Oregon, delivered a touching keynote address. Photo by Setsy Larouche.



The Portland delegation to the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage was led by Dr. Connie Masuoka. Over 320 people attended, the largest ever. Highlights included the opening of the new Visitor's Center and intergenerational workshops where incarcerated described their experiences from 1942.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



On June 22, community members gathered at the Japanese American Historical Plaza for Oregon Nikkei Endowment's Portland Rally in Solidarity with the Protest at Fort Sill. Pictured: Jeff Selby and Lynn Fuchigami Parks.



Portland JACL and Oregon Nikkei Endowment co-sponsored the Lights of Liberty Vigil on July 12, standing up for the voiceless and vulnerable. (Left to right): A'Misa Chiu, Amanda Shannahan, Chris Lee, Marleen Wallingford, and Kurt Ikeda.



NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE 2019 Fall Take-out Bazaar

Combination Bento

Chow Mein, Chicken	Quantity	\$ Amount
& Sushi	\$17.00	
Please pre-order	Total	\$

Thank you for your order

Sunday, September 15, 2019. Pick-up: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Please return this pre-order form with your check by September 8, 2019.

Please make checks payable to: **Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple**

All proceeds benefit:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2025 SE Yamhill Portland, OR 97214
(503) 235-8292



IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Qi Gong: 11:30 Fish Meuniere baked fish	2 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Yakiniku-bulgogi Korean marinated beef
5 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Steamed Pork balls Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	6 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Korean beef noodles	7 X	8 Qi Gong: 11:30 Shrimp gyoza Mah jong: 12:30-2	9 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Rosemary chicken
12 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Spring rolls Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	13 Blood pressure: 11:15 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Cold ramen w/ miso pork & vggi	14 X	15 Qi Gong: 11:30 Banban chicken/ nira tofu Japanese chicken salad Mah jong: 12:30-2	16 Card Making: 10-2 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Hiru Gohan Gurupu Pork don pork bowl
19 Chigiri-E Demo;LnchBnch Chair Exercises: 11:30 Panko eggplnt w/shiso&gr pork Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	20 Sage Circle: 10 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Orange chicken	21 X	22 Qi Gong: 11 Katsu don Chicken cutlet bowl Mah jong: 12:30-2	23 Nisei Day Chair Exercises: 11:30 Beef curry w/ summer veggies
26 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Birthday sushi Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	27 Blood pressure: 11:15 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Pork lettuce wrap	28 X	29 Qi Gong: 11 Sing Along: 11:30 Marinated fish	30 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Kathryn Work on piano:12 Tandoori chicken

Cooks:Naomi Molstrom-M excpt Aug12, Kyoko Adcock-Tu+Aug 12, Rieko Shimada-Th/F

Aug 16: Card making: 10-2; Hiru Gohan Group--our residence house band:11:45

Aug 19:Chigiri-E Demonstration:10:Japanese art of paper-tearing with Akiko Takeshige

Aug 19: Ohana Lunch Bunch: 11:30 (Sansei gathering)

Aug 20: Sage Circle: 10

Aug 23: Nisei Day:11:30 with Bingo following at 12:30

Aug 29: Sing Along with Reiko, Jerry & friends: 11:30

Aug 30: Kathryn Work on piano: noon

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

Thursdays: Qi Gong with Kathleen Kuba: 11:30, except 11 on Sing Along day

Blood Pressure: August 13-Jane Kawashima, August 27-Ellen Iwasaki



PORTLAND JACL
PO BOX 86310
PORTLAND, OR 97286

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

THE UNEQUAL IMPACTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI MEMORIAL 2019

AN EXPLORATION OF THE IMPACTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES, AND COMMUNITIES OF COLOR



TUESDAY, AUGUST 6TH, 6-7 PM
JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL PLAZA
PORTLAND WATERFRONT @ NW NAITO PARKWAY & COUCH STREET



Sponsored by: Oregon PSR, Multnomah Meeting of Friends, Oregon Hiroshima Club, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Peace and Justice Works, Iraq Affinity Group, Portland JACL, Veterans for Peace Chapter 72, and others (more sponsors coming soon)

LEARN MORE AT WWW.OREGONPSR.ORG

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.