



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

OCTOBER 2019 • VOLUME 25, ISSUE 3

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 6

Sukiyaki Bazaar
Oregon Buddhist Temple
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

October 19

Ikebana International
Exhibition
Portland Japanese Garden

November 2 and 3

PDX Taiko 25th Anniversary
Concert at PSU Lincoln Hall

November 9

PNWDC (district) Meeting
9:30 a.m. Fife, WA
Hosted by Puyallup Chapter

November 11

Veteran's Day

November 16

JACL National Board
Meeting
San Francisco, HQ

November 30

Craft Fair
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Oregon Buddhist Temple

Please send your community
calendar items to
jeff@aiwcreative.com
by the 16th of
each month!

POWER OF WORDS, REVISITED

by Jean Yamamoto, Board Member

Lately I've been thinking about language and the power of words and how words can uplift and unite or denigrate and divide people. We saw a coarsening of language in the last major election cycle which only worsened and escalated to racist speech today.

By the time you read this article it'll be October and a full two months since the El Paso and Dayton mass shootings. Perhaps our attention and news feeds have moved on, but the hatred driven by white nationalist speech continues to foment until the next explosion of violence.

Which community will be devastated next? Should we as Japanese Americans feel safe in our model minority cocoon knowing that we proved our loyalty in World War II?

As people of color, we are all in jeopardy as the nativists have made clear that a great America is a white America. We are facing an ugly truth that it is becoming acceptable to voice the sentiment that America was better when all the "other" people knew their place.

Those individuals in the public arena have a special responsibility to be mindful of what they say as their words and thoughts are amplified through their visibility and positions of power. It can be exhausting and even easier to tune it out but it is our responsibility to hold them accountable for their failures and dangerous rhetoric.



Power of Words Handbook

*A Guide to Language
about Japanese Americans
in World War II*

Understanding Euphemisms
and Preferred Terminology

NATIONAL JACL
POWER OF WORDS II COMMITTEE
APRIL 27, 2013

Back in 2012, JACL took on the task of changing the language around the Japanese American World War II experience. It called out the euphemisms such as "evacuation/relocation, assembly center, relocation center, and internment" and changed them to "forced removal, temporary detention facility, American concentration camp, and incarceration." It was important then and important now to accurately describe what happened and connect the dots to what is going on in America today.

(continued on Page 2)

POWER OF WORDS *(continued from Page 1)*

The government used those euphemisms to mask what was happening to make it more acceptable to the American public. One odd term used was non-alien which appeared in the forced removal posters that ordered “All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area...” Non-alien referred to the Nisei, born in America and therefore citizens under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, or birthright citizenship.

The current administration is seriously considering ending birthright citizenship. Before we dismiss this latest outrageous pronouncement as just one more idle threat, I worry that there may be some people who think this is a good idea. Maybe they’ll dust off the non-alien term and apply it to certain types of people born in the US. Could this be possible? The

first step is to start with using language to describe that class and normalize it.

A quote in the “Power of Words Handbook” says, “Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about” (Benjamin Lee Whorf, American Linguist, 1897-1941), sums it up. Another charge in the Handbook was to clarify the language of the incarceration experience so that it would never happen again.

So how will history judge us for how we speak about new immigrants and asylum seekers, women, reproductive freedom, mass murders with assault weapons, bias and hate crimes? We start by returning to civil and respectful words and demanding better from our elected leaders.

MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Jillian Toda-Currie, a Yonsei, was born and raised in The Dalles, Oregon. She studied rhetoric and media studies at Willamette University,

and earned an MBA through a dual-degree program. She currently does marketing research at Provider Solutions + Development, a healthcare company under Providence Health & Services.

Jillian has volunteered with social justice and community building organizations including APANO, Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Institute, and the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project. She serves on the Ambassador Board for Impact NW.

When she’s not working or volunteering, Jillian enjoys cooking and re-reading Harry Potter.



Amanda Shannahan is Yonsei and grew up in Vancouver, Washington. In 2009, she taught English in Japan as a participant in the JET Programme. Upon returning to the Pacific Northwest, Amanda studied at Portland State University where she earned a Master’s in Public Administration.

Amanda’s experience growing up as a multiracial woman of color and her connection to her family’s experience of incarceration at Tule Lake have led her to seek out opportunities to advocate for and with the Japanese American community and other marginalized communities to achieve social justice.

Amanda works at United Way of the Columbia-Willamette in research and evaluation, where she leads and supports projects focused on promoting equity in our educational systems and improving outcomes among students of color. Prior to arriving at United Way, she worked at Washington State University Vancouver in the Student Diversity Center. There she created programming centered around social justice, leadership development, and increasing access to higher education.

Beyond work, Amanda enjoys hiking, playing taiko, and spending time with her family. She also volunteers with APANO, which is how she developed a passion for civic engagement and political advocacy. In addition, Amanda has been an active member of Utsukikai since 2010, providing entertaining and educational mochi-pounding demonstrations each year at Mochitsuki.

PORTLAND TAIKO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

by Wynn Kiyama

Portland Taiko will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a gala concert featuring special guests Kenny Endo (Hawaii), Tiffany Tamaribuchi (Sacramento), Kalabharathi Dancers (Portland), and charter members of Portland Taiko.

The concert will include new compositions and favorite repertoire from its 25-year history. Special features will include a performance with Kenny Endo of *Wind, Water, Wood*, originally commissioned for the American Composer Forum's Continental Harmony project, and a reprise of *Resonance*, a demanding work for three odaiko (large drums) with Tiffany Tamaribuchi. The Kalabharathi Dancers will present new choreography to a Portland Taiko classic work, *Ha!*, and past members of Portland Taiko will return to the stage for surprise performances. The concert will be the last major initiative in Portland Taiko's anniversary year.

Earlier this year, Portland Taiko produced the free multicultural

event, *People of the Drum*, with drumming groups representing Native American, Mexican-Aztec, and West African traditions. In July, Portland Taiko's museum exhibit, *Making Waves*, opened at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, and in August, Portland Taiko co-hosted the biennial North American Taiko Conference, welcoming over 500 taiko drummers from North America, Hawaii, and Japan to the PSU campus. Through these initiatives, Portland Taiko upheld its mission to "affirm Asian American pride, inspire audiences, build community, and educate about its heritage and culture."

The concert will take place at Portland State University's Lincoln Performance Hall on Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are general admission, priced from \$12.00 to \$22.00 with fees, and available via www.portlandtaiko.org and www.eventbrite.com.

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PORTLAND TAIKO 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

PSU Lincoln Performance Hall
Sat. Nov. 2 at 7:00 p.m.
Sun. Nov. 3 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: www.portlandtaiko.org
Featuring Special Guests



EVERYBODY COUNTS *by Marleen Wallingford*

One of the most important government functions will occur next year—the U.S. Census. Conducted every 10 years since 1790, the count determines how many congressional seats are awarded to each state, how congressional districts are drawn, and how many Electoral College votes each state gets in presidential elections, beginning in 2024.

The federal government distributes around \$900 billion annually for roads, schools, hospitals, health care and more based on the census. This also helps guide billions more in spending by business and nonprofits.

In 2017, when Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced that the U.S. Census would include a question about citizenship, we were immediately concerned. The last time that question was included was the 1950 census. The purpose of the census is to count everyone in the country; citizen or not. The government said that the inclusion of this question was needed in order to help enforce the Voting

Rights Act, although there has been no credible evidence of voter fraud by immigrants. Even the Census office argued that adding that question would result in a significant undercount of immigrants. The question would penalize states with large populations of immigrants as they would lose political representation and federal resources because of an undercount. Opponents believed that this was a strategy by the administration to suppress the vote.

A study conducted in 2015 showed that adding the question would be very advantageous to the Republicans and non-Hispanic whites. In addition, Republicans also have announced they want to pursue citizen-only congressional districts. However, the Constitution says that representatives are elected to represent all of the people in their district, not just citizens.

The ACLU filed a lawsuit to stop the citizenship question. The lawsuit went to trial, and resulted in a ruling that favored the plaintiffs. The federal government admitted the question might



reduce the response rate. A judge issued an injunction to keep the citizenship question off the 2020 census. It was appealed then to the U.S. Supreme Court. Finally on July 11, President Trump announced he was giving up his request to add the citizenship question to the census.

Unfortunately this has created a climate of fear within the immigrant community. It is up to us to demand confidentiality and security of the data. Federal law states that census data cannot be shared with law enforcement agencies. However we have discovered only within the last ten years that addresses were shared by the census bureau with the Secret Service during WWII.

We continue to need to be vigilant and hold our officials accountable for upholding the law. Everybody counts!

The 2020 Census at a Glance *Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place.*

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency. We are dedicated to providing current facts and figures about America's people, places, and economy. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects.

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade we take a count—or a census—of America's population.

The census provides vital information for you and your community.

- It determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Redistricting counts are sent to the states by March 31, 2021.
- Communities rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services.
- Businesses use census data to determine where to open places to shop.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on Census Bureau data.

In 2020, we will implement new technology to make it easier than ever to respond to the census. For the first time, you will be able to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail.



2019 NIKKEI COMMUNITY PICNIC *by Connie Masuoka, Board Member*



Photos: Curtis Suyematsu, Reflections Photography

As summer has come to a close, and we are now looking to the colors of Fall, I would like to take a few moments to report on the Annual Nikkei Community Picnic. Sunday, August 18 was a picture-perfect day for the picnic—not too hot, not too cold; it was just right. On a perfect picnic day under the big tent at Oaks Park, 15 organizations and churches hosted what is likely the largest Nikkei Picnic west of the Rockies with an estimated 500 people in attendance.

There was lots of terrific food and I would like to credit Unite People for their great effort in making hijiki salad (black seaweed salad), Shirae (vegetables with miso and tofu dressing), and their all-time favorite chocolate mochi brownies. Oaks Park Special fried chicken was said to be “finger licking good” and there was a huge array of (many looked to be homemade) salads, rice, noodles, and vegetables. This year, we had a wonderful lineup of entertainment starting with the gentle music of the Ikoi no kai House Band who kept the crowd happy while waiting in line for lunch. This was followed by a vibrant judo demonstration by Obukan, which was followed by a rousing performance by Portland Taiko, and then topped off by a reprise of Don Don Dons

performing an Obon dance song where everyone was invited to dance.

We rounded out the afternoon with ice cold organic watermelon and artisan shave ice made to order by Mayu and Mimi. As always, there was bingo which was led this year by Enshane Nomoto and a fabulous raffle called by Chip Larouche. The kids were given ride bracelets to enjoy the carnival rides on the midway.

With Gratitude

Ron Ikata, Hannah Honma, Bill and Ida Sugahiro, Mae Hirata, Terry Kawamoto, Mariko Locke, Gordon Osaka, Dr. Ray Onchi, Kurtis Inouye, Michelle Sugahiro, Janie Matsushima, Chip and Setsy Larouche, Dr. Aimee Fujioka and Alexander Scribner, Wendy and Mark Schuares, Ron Iwasaki, Dr. Dale Ogata, Yoji and Martha Matsushima, Rich Iwasaki, Koida Nursery, Iwasaki Bros, Inc, True World Foods, Oyatsupan, JFC International, Wisemattac, Uwajimaya and all those who purchased raffle tickets; thank you so much for supporting the 2019 Annual Nikkei Community Picnic with your cash and item donations. It is the support of these individuals and companies that make it possible to have the extras that make the picnic outstanding.

And the Picnic would not be possible or as long-lived without the support and leadership of our churches and organizations: Portland JACL, Gresham-Troutdale JACL, Oregon Buddhist Temple, Johrei Fellowship, Epworth Methodist Church, Nikkei Fujin Kai, Japanese Ancestral Society, Oregon Nisei Veterans, Inc., Oregon Hiroshima Club, Veleda Club, Nichiren Buddhist Temple, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Portland Taiko, Ikoi no Kai Lunch Program, and Obukan Dojo; they make the Nikkei Community Picnic the event of the summer. It is their support and belief in building community that allows us to produce this event annually. It is great to see that the Nikkei community is robust, healthy, and growing and willing to participate and support a bonding event where they can meet old friends, make new friends, and create great memories for children and grandchildren.

Please help us to maintain this great tradition of our community by marking your calendars and joining us **Sunday, August 16, 2020** for the best Nikkei Community Picnic in the West.

AROUND THE COMMUNITY



The Oregon delegation attends the National Convention Sayonara Banquet on August 3.
(L to R): Kurt Ikeda, Chip Larouche, Marleen Wallingford, Setsy Larouche, Janice Okamoto, Lynn Park, Jim Azumano, Lois Azumano, Gary Okamoto.



On September 8, 2019, a luncheon was held in Seattle to honor Nisei Veterans. The U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, Japan Ground Self Defense Force, 25th Infantry Regiment, and others were recognized at this 7th annual event. Photo by: Setsy Larouche



Jean Yamamoto engages with visitors to Portland JACL's table at APANO's Jade Night Market on August 24.



Volunteers Jillian Toda-Currie and Gary Terusaki talk with festival participants and Natsu Matsuri at Uwajimaya on July 27.



Michiko Kornhauser was the keynote speaker at the 74th anniversary of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki service held on August 6th at the Japanese American Historical Plaza. Photo by: Setsy Larouche

The Japanese American Museum of Oregon (formerly Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center) was unveiled on September 14. There will be a completely redesigned exhibit with an anticipated grand opening in May 2020.
(L to R) Chisao Hata, Amanda Shannahan, Jillian Toda-Currie, Marleen Wallingford, Lynn Fuchigami-Parks, Connie Masuoka and Heidi Tolentino.





IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Ginger miso chicken	2 X	3 Qi Gong: 11:30 Seafood chow mein Mah jong: 12:30-2	4 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Veggie filled pork rolls
7 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Fried catfish w/ daikon sauce Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	8 Fujinkai Board: 10:30 Blood pressure: 11:15 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Chicken tofu tsukune (balls)	9 X	10 No Qi Gong Pot au feu (pork stew) Mah jong: 12:30-2	11 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Hiru Gohan Gurupu: 11:45 Bibimbap (Korean ground Beef bowl)
14 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Hamburger patty w/gobo (burdock) Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	Sage Circle: 10 Ki Development: 11:30 Warm tofu w/ gngr pork sauce	16 X	17 No Qi Gong Kim chi gyoza (pork & kim chi filled) Mah jong: 12:30-2	18 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Kinoko soba (noodle soup w/mushrooms)
21 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Ohana Lunch Bunch Grilled chicken/ onion sauce Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	22 Blood pressure: 11:15 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Tonjiru udon (pork stew w/ udon)	23 X	24 Qi Gong: 11 Sing Along: 11:30 Sukiyaki-don (sukiyaki bowl) Mah jong: 12:30-2	25 Nisei Day: 11:30 Oden (Trad. Fish cake stew)
28 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Chicken dumpling Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2	29 Chair Exercises: 11:30 Birthday sushi	30	31 Qi Gong: 11:30 Kabocha korokke (Squash croquettes) V Mah jong: 12:30-2	

Cooks: N Molstrom-M/Tu exc. Oct. 1&29; K Adcock Oct 1&29; R Shimada-ThFr

Oct 11: Hiru Gohan Gurupu: 11:45-Rick, John, Mary, Ellen & Hiroshi perform

Oct 15: Sage Circle-Japanese language study group on herbs-10:30

Oct 18: Kathryn Work on piano-noon

Oct 21: Ohana Lunch Bunch-11:30-Sansei gather for lunch

Oct 24: Sing Along with Rie & Jerry--11:30

Oct 25: Nisei Day- N 0000k

Oct 31: Halloween!- "dress up" and get a treat!

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

Th: Qi Gong w/ Kathleen Kuba: 11:30 (see menu for exceptions)

Blood Pressure: Oct 8-Jane Kawashima, Oct 22-Ellen Iwasaki



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AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Hiru Gohan Group entertains monthly at Ikoi No Kai (senior hot lunch program). Photo by: Setsy Larouche



David Inoue, Marleen Wallingford, Chip Larouche, Jeff Moy, and Setsy Larouche attend the Legacy Awards Luncheon at the JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City.

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.