



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

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

DECEMBER 2019 • VOLUME 25, ISSUE 5

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Dec 16 - Dec 24**  
Kakehashi Trip to Japan

**January 26, 2020**  
Mochitsuki PSU  
Viking Center  
Noon - 4 p.m.

**Saturday Feb 1, 2020**  
Installation of Officers  
Luncheon at Noon  
Holladay Park Plaza  
1300 NE 16th Ave.  
Portland, Oregon

Please send your community  
calendar items to  
[jeff@aivcreative.com](mailto:jeff@aivcreative.com)  
by the 16th of  
each month!

## FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE 100TH BATTALION AND THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM: EUROPEAN DISCOVERY TOUR

*by Setsy Larouche, Board Member*

Recently, I had the privilege of participating in the very special 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Bruyeres and Biffontaine (both in France) by our Nisei soldiers during WWII. This European tour was organized by Rie Taki from the Keiro Northwest/Nikkei Horizons and guided by Philippe Theriault who spoke several languages to include Italian and French and of course English.

During the Autumn of 1943, the 442nd RCT arrived in the Monte Cassino area (Southern Italy) and the 100th BN became known as the "Purple Heart Battalion" because of the high number of

casualties taken by the battalion during the first several months in Italy from September 1943 to early 1944. The 100th BN was officially attached to the 442nd RCT in June 1944 near Rome and fought together for the duration of the War. On May 18, 1944, Monte Cassino is finally taken by Allied Forces after 4.5 months of fierce battles. Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino was completely destroyed, but rebuilt by 1960. In May, the forces started the offensive drive to Rome from Anzio. By June Rome was under the Allied Forces. The 442nd was in around Pisa from July-September, 1944. Camp Darby,



*Vosges Mountains on October 20, 2019  
(L to R) Ron Iwasaki, Sigifredo Hinojosa, Diane Hinojosa, Sabrina Hinojosa, Susan Leeham, Chip Larouche, Lynn Fuchigami Parks, Setsy Larouche, Linda Iwasaki, Chris Leedham, Nick Yamamuro.*

(continued on Page 2)

## EUROPEAN DISCOVERY TOUR *(continued from Page 1)*

a tiny U.S Army post just outside of Pisa has its central square dedicated to Private Masato "Curly" Nakae, who earned the Medal of Honor near Pisa on Aug 19, 1944. The Allies tried to use pin point bombings to spare historic buildings in Florence and Pisa. Fortunately, the Leaning Tower was spared and the Germans saved the Ponte Vecchio over the Arno River but destroyed all other bridges. The 442nd spearheaded the assault on the western section of the Gothic Line with the 92nd Infantry Division, the only African American infantry division to see combat in Europe.

Our bus took us on an all-day trip through Switzerland for arrival in the Vosges Mountains of France. The Mayors Denis Henry (Biffontaine) and Yves Bonjean (Bruyeres) along with the "Association du Chemin de la Paix et Jumelage Bruyeres Honolulu" officially invited Keiro Northwest to participate in the 75th anniversary of their liberation of their villages from the Germans. Our tour group went to Biffontaine first to meet their Mayor who presented us with their Medal of their city. We then went to Bruyeres for their parade in their city square. Many wreaths were presented at the flagpole. Then onto the actual site in the Vosges mountains were the Nisei men fought bravely against the Germans. Even after much fighting they were tasked to rescue the "Lost Battalion". A total of 863 Nisei soldiers were either killed or wounded to save 211 Texan soldiers. A very moving ceremony took place in the cold/wet mountains, with the Mayor Kirk Caldwell, dedicated an anniversary plaque from the citizens of

Honolulu, a maple tree was planted, and Nicole Holbrook, Ms. Hawaii

danced the hula. The Army Color Guard from Ft. Shafter (Honolulu) presented the colors. Reverend Jay Shinseki, from Watsonville, CA, conducted the Buddhist chant. Wreaths were presented and the children presented an origami of thousand cranes from Hiroshima, Japan. Hundreds of people were in attendance at a remote site to honor our men who liberated the villages of Bruyeres and Biffontaine. Afterwards we went back to the village of Bruyeres to hear more speeches from Congressman Ed Case from Hawaii, and many other dignitaries. Then we were invited to a late lunch at a community center where Ms. Hawaii danced and sang for us. Several American groups attended this historical event. Some were from the Northwest, as well as a group from California and of course a large contingent from Hawaii. It was a very emotional day for all. We also visited two American cemeteries during this trip to give thanks for those who made the ultimate sacrifices.

To recognize those who fought in WWI, we visited Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Aisne, France. We also visited the Epinal American Cemetery and Memorial dedicated to those who fought in WWII. It is located in Epinal, (Vosges), France. The tour ended in Paris, the city of lights. Afterwards, some members of the group went onto Normandy, and we flew to Frankfurt, Germany to make a nostalgic visit to see the city where we were stationed for three years in the 3rd Armored Division some forty years ago.

As we honored our veterans on November 11th, I like to borrow a quote from the Golden Anniversary Go for Broke booklet 1943-1993, 442nd RCT. "The



*Friendship monuments were built by the citizens of Bruyeres and Biffontaine and one is located in the Monte Cassino region and the other one in the Vosges Mountain region. Standing next to the monument is Chris Eng from the Seattle area.*

*Photo: Setsy Larouche*

French people worry that after the 100th/442nd veterans are all gone, the Vosges Mountain region- especially the town of Bruyeres and the village of Biffontaine - will be forgotten by the descendants of the veterans.

Asked whether the descendants in Bruyeres and Biffontaine would remember the 100th/442nd soldiers, the inhabitants emphatically answer, "Yes, forever!"

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



*June Schumann, Marleen Wallingford, and Sho Dozono joined the Muslim Education Trust and the law enforcement community in their fourth annual "Building Bridges of Understanding" conference on October 24, 2019.*



*Oregon Nikkei Endowment hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Lunch at Mizumi Buffet on November 11, 2019. Photo: Kurt Ikeda*



*The Oregon delegation in front of the monument dedicated to the Nisei soldiers who rescued the Texas "Lost Battalion." October 20, 2019 (L to R) Christian DeVille (Association of Road to Peace, Bruyeres), (member of the Association), Doug Parks, (member of the Association), Linda Iwasaki, Setsy Larouche, Susan Leedham, Lynn Fuchigami Parks, Diane Hinojosa (sister of Susan Leedham), Sabrina Hinojosa (daughter of Diane & Sigi), Chip Larouche, Ron Iwasaki, Sigifredo Hinojosa, Chris Leedham, Nick Yamamuro (brother of Linda Iwasaki).*

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## THANK YOU FROM PORTLAND JACL!

Portland JACL would like to thank everyone listed below for their generous donations during the past year (through November 16, 2019) to our programs which include the Nikkei Community Picnic, our ongoing programs for civil rights advocacy, our youth program and scholarships, the Minidoka Swing Band, the Nikkei Community Directory, our annual calendar, the monthly newsletter, and the Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue advertising. Domo Arigato Gozaimashita!

Please note that all donations of \$100 dollars or more are acknowledged by return mail. All others are acknowledged in our newsletter unless the donor requests a mailed acknowledgement which we are very pleased to provide.

Amazon Donation	Miyuki Irinaga	Jeff Matsumoto	Michelle Sugahiro
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Linda Guerber	Utako Kimura	Hatsumi Park	Wallingford
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Doug and Joyce Handa	Tami Koida	Lynn Fuchigami Parks	Alice Watanabe
John & Geraldine Handa	Gordon Kondo	Paypal Charitable donation	Dale Watanabe
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Florence Harada	Edna & Richard Koyama	Portland Opera	Skip Yamamoto
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Donald Hayashi	Chip & Setsy Larouche	Russellville Park	Homer Yasui
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Dan Hinatsu	Chris & Susan Leedham	Mark and Wendy Schaures	Sumiyo Yoshida
Mae Hirata	National JACL Legacy Fund	Imee and Alexander	Makoto & Sumiyo Yoshida
Hiro's Table film attendees	Margaret Lieder	Scribner	Anne Yoshitomi
Gary Hongo	David Lin	Jeff Selby	Yumibe Memorial Trust
Hyakudokai	Mariko Locke	Amanda Shannahan	Joy Yuzuriha
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Year of the Rat

# 2020 MOCHITSUKI

24th Annual  
Japanese American  
New Year Celebration



*Live Stage Performances!*

*Demonstrations &  
Hands-on Activities!*

*Japanese Food Vendors!*

Interested in volunteering?  
Please visit  
[mochipdx.ivolunteer.com](http://mochipdx.ivolunteer.com)

Join us for a family-friendly festival filled with exciting cultural experiences, tastes and entertainment to ring in the New Year!

Hands-on activities, food demos, mochi pounding, free mochi samples and delicious flavors from our food vendors featuring traditional and contemporary Japanese Cuisine.

Enjoy stage performances featuring Taiko Drumming, Koto, Japanese Dance, Storytelling, J-Pop, and much more!

**Sunday  
January 26, 2020  
11 A.M. to 4 P.M.**

**Portland State University  
Viking Pavilion at the  
Peter W. Scott Center  
930 SW Hall Street  
Portland, OR 97207**

Visit our website for  
more information at  
[mochipdx.org](http://mochipdx.org)

Advanced Ticket Sales:  
\$10 Adults  
\$7 Students/ Seniors (62+)  
\$4 Child (ages 4-12)

Tickets at the Door:  
\$12 Adults  
\$9 Students/ Seniors (62+)  
\$5 Child (ages 4-12)

*Free Admission for Children 3 and under and Honored Citizens (88+)*  
Purchase tickets online at: [www.brownpapertickets.com/4419381](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/4419381)

## PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS

Portland JACL  
Oregon Nikkei Endowment

Konko Church

Portland Taiko  
PSU Institute for Asian Studies

## OREGON NISEI VETERANS' MEMORIAL SERMON AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK, BEAVERTON *By Rev. Eisei Ikenaga*

Growing up in Hawaii, I have had the opportunity to hear quite a few first-hand stories of the brave nisei Japanese-Americans who went overseas to battle Hitler's army in Italy. Your invitation to conduct this memorial service today has motivated me to do some reading about the 100th Infantry Battalion and the young Japanese American men from Hawaii.

The United States had reinstituted the draft in October of 1940. With this, several thousand men became members of the 298th and 299th Regiments of the Hawaii National Guard. About a half of the regiment consisted of Americans of Japanese descent. The population of the Japanese community in Hawaii at the time was approximately 160,000. So, it would not be surprising that almost half of the 298th and 299th Regiments were comprised of Japanese-American soldiers.

When Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941, the 289th and 299th were federalized, and were directed to defend the islands from further invasion. Almost immediately, the issue of whether Japanese American soldiers could be trusted was brought up. On Jan. 5, 1942, the War Department issued a directive that classified all Japanese Americans as aliens ineligible for the draft. The Hawaii Territorial Guard was also cleaned out of Japanese Americans by General Delos Emmons. Then on Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. Now, what was to be done with the 1400 Japanese American soldiers who were awaiting their orders at Schofield Barracks? Generals Emmons and George Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, determined that the Japanese American soldiers were a potential security problem in the event of a Japanese invasion. They, along with their white officers were secretly shipped to San Francisco on June 5. The 298th and 299th were now designated as the 100th Infantry Battalion [Separate]. The word, "separate" indicated that they had no home and would be an orphan unit. This would be so until they reached North Africa in 1943. The 1400 men were transported to Camp McCoy, Wisconsin for basic training. Their commanding officer was Lieutenant Colonel Farrant Turner, who had led the 298th while they were in Hawaii. He picked as his executive officer, Captain James Lovell, who had been a teacher at McKinley High School in Honolulu since 1930. Turner also picked sixteen Japanese-Americans to be his officers. Turner and Lovell were revered by their men. It is said that Turner and his white

officers challenged situations of racism directed to their troops. They also endured being called "Jap-lovers." The troops also trained at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. While in the South, the Japanese Americans found themselves in complex situations. This was still in times when Jim Crow rules were in effect. The officers told the Japanese-Americans that they were considered, "white." They were told to use the white drinking fountains, white bathrooms, and to sit in the front of the bus. Some of them were very conflicted by this. Until now, the Japanese Americans had been singled out as being different, and unpatriotic. Some could not accept that they would now be positioned above African Americans.

The 100th underwent four separate basic training sessions, and were sent out on August 21, 1943 to join a convoy headed for North Africa. Although they were first scheduled to stay in Algeria to guard German POWs, Colonel Turner complained, and demanded that his troops be allowed to engage the enemy. On September 22, the 100th landed on the beaches of Salerno, Italy. Needless to say, the 100th fought fiercely and selflessly. When they hit the beaches of Selerno, there were 1300 men. By the time they overtook the heavily mined and defended bunkers of Monte Cassino, only 600 men were capable of combat. They took on the name, "Purple Heart Battalion." They were so battered and diminished that the 100th would eventually be incorporated into the ranks of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd would become the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

The bravery and sacrifices of the 100th Infantry Battalion as well as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team has been well-documented, and there is no need for me to reiterate it here. I just wanted to bring up a few episodes of the 100th today to remind everyone that the Nisei Japanese soldiers fought hard, not just on the battlefield, but on several fronts, often at home and on a daily basis.

We today are the benefactors of their sacrifice almost eighty years ago. They fought because they had to prove that they were indeed Americans. They fought because they were despised for being of an ethnic minority. They fought for all who were marginalized. Please remember their great unselfish service to make this country a better one.



# IKOI NO KAI AT EPWORTH SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>2</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Panko fried cat-fish/kabocha</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>3</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <i>Blood pressure: 11:15</i> <b>Basil chicken/pad Thai noodles</b>	<b>4</b> <b>X</b>	<b>5</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> <b>Fall platter</b> <i>featuring nasu, tofu, daikon and chicken</i> <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	<b>6</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Sweet &amp; sour pork</b>
<b>9</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Pork shoyu ramen</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>10</b> <i>Fujinkai Board: 10:30</i> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Holiday Meal**</b> <b>Res. Req.</b>	<b>11</b> <b>X</b>	<b>12</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> <i>Kathryn Work on piano</i> <b>Fish taco &amp; chili bean soup</b> <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	<b>13</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <i>Hiru Gohan Gurupu: 11:45</i> <b>Panang curry</b> <i>(chicken)</i>
<b>16</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <i>Lunch Bunch: 11:30</i> <b>Pumpkin soup/teriyaki chicken</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>17</b> <i>Sage Circle: 10:30</i> <i>Blood pressure: 11:15</i> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Shrimp Singapore noodles</b>	<b>18</b> <b>X</b>	<b>19</b> <i>Qi Gong: 11:00</i> <i>Sing Aong: 11:30</i> <b>Mabo dofu</b> <i>(pork)</i> <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> <b>Shrimp won ton soup</b>
<b>23</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>24</b> <b>FOR</b>	<b>25</b> <b>X</b>	<b>26</b> <b>HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>27</b> <b>X</b>
<b>30</b> <b>X</b> <i>Hanafuda &amp; Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	<b>31</b> <b>X</b>			

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

Dec 10: Fujinkai Board-10:30

Dec 10: HOLIDAY MEAL featuring Huber's turkey--Reservations Required, \$9

Dec 12: Kathryn Work on piano

Dec 13: Hiru Gohan Gurupu--Rick, John, Mary, Ellen & Hiroshi perform

Dec 16: Ohana Lunch Bunch: Sansei gather--11:30

Dec 19: Sing Along with Rie and Jerry-11:30

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: Dec 3 with Ellen Iwasaki, Dec 17 with Jane Kawashima



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## OMIYAGE MUSEUM GIFT STORE

OMIYAGE MUSEUM GIFT STORE WITH SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS

NOVEMBER 15 - DECEMBER 22, 2019

TUESDAY - FRIDAY 11:00AM-6:00PM, SATURDAY 11:00AM-5:00PM

SUNDAY 12:00-4:00PM. CLOSED MONDAY.

OREGON NIKKEI LEGACY CENTER

121 NW 2ND AVENUE

JANUARY 1, 2020, OUR NAME WILL CHANGE TO  
JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF OREGON

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MUSEUM  
AND PROGRAMMING.



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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.