



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL · Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928

• FEBRUARY 2020 | VOLUME 26 ISSUE 2 •

BOARD MEMBER MESSAGE

How We Must Honor Minoru Yasui's Legacy

Jillian Toda-Currie

As the annual Minoru Yasui Day comes up next month, I've been reflecting on his legacy, and why it's so important today. What was it about the life of Minoru "Min" Yasui that we admire or want to honor and preserve through the generations?

The legacy of Min Yasui is more than him being the first Japanese American lawyer in the state of Oregon. Min's legacy is more than his courageous act of defying a curfew created by wartime hysteria and racial discrimination. Min's legacy is even more than his strong advocacy for Japanese American redress in the 1970s and 80s.

Min Yasui's legacy is working each day to improve our world for all. He was not only an outstanding leader in Oregon's Japanese American community, but also a visionary for how solidarity across communities would benefit all of society.

After WWII, Min moved to Colorado and led a life of activism, leading the local Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) chapter, advocating for immigrant rights, helping to

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 1, 12 pm

Portland JACL General Meeting
Installation of Officers Luncheon
Holiday Park Plaza

February 9, 1942

Japanese Ancestral Society Meeting
and Installation of Officers
Sayler's Country Kitchen

February 19, 1942

Signing of Executive Order 9066

February 23, 2 pm

Day of Remembrance
Screening of Alternative Facts:
the Lies of Executive Order 9066
Performing Art Center, PCC Sylvania

February 17, 7 pm

Nichiren Buddhist Temple
Japanese American Graduation Banquet
committee meeting

February 25-March 6

Kakehashi Program for young adults

March 6

Japanese American Scholarship
Applications Due

March 21 - 22nd

JACL National Board Meeting in San
Francisco

March 28

Min Yasui Day

Editor: Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)

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found the Urban League of Denver, acting as Scoutmaster to a multiracial Boy Scout troop, assisting in organizing a Latino research and advocacy organization, as well as a Native American center. Min also advocated for people with disabilities, youth, and elders.

His work truly touched all communities. His understanding of our connectedness was what many say was “ahead of his time”.

As I look around today, this legacy of perseverance toward equity and solidarity is exactly what is needed. As different communities are targeted and unjustly incarcerated, Min would say that we all have an obligation to stand up for what’s right because “what is done to the least of us can be done to all of us.”

I’m reminded of Min’s legacy today in different ways: the JACL’s denouncement of the increased screening procedures for

Iranian Americans at our borders; APANO’s efforts to work across communities in Oregon for 2020 Census outreach; Tsuru for Solidarity organizing support for other communities who have experienced forced removal, detention, deportation and separation of families.

History is repeating itself today, but I feel grateful to have had American heroes like Min Yasui set an example for how we can work together in solidarity to make our society more equitable. This legacy lives on.

Minoru Yasui Day is celebrated in Oregon every March 28 to honor the day when Min courageously defied the military-ordered curfew for all people of Japanese ancestry in 1942.

To learn more about Min Yasui, visit minoruyasuilegacy.org or minoruyasuifilm.org



“If we believe in America, if we believe in equality and democracy, if we believe in law and justice, then each of us - when we see or believe errors are being made - has an obligation to make every effort to correct them.”

-Minoru Yasui

FEBRUARY IS THE HEART MONTH

Sharon Takahashi, Cemetery Committee
Japanese Ancestral Society

I am always reminding people that we have 24 hours in each day, whether we are rich or poor, and what we do with those hours can make a great impression on those with whom we deal. When my granddaughter asks what we (her elderly grandparents) are doing, being so lazy and sedentary, we always say "Juicing up our old batteries." Gets her thinking that we have outlets we need to be plugged in to—and makes us feel pretty clever.

The Japanese Ancestral Society is the recipient of many kind gestures from the community. It is always our intention to say thank you to our benefactors immediately, but trivial tasks get in the way. But this is a new year and we vow to do better.

Our Japanese Cemetery at Rose City Cemetery on Fremont Avenue in Portland is looking very beautiful due to the many who come out on clean up days; this has allowed family visitors to look around and see what is blooming, growing or changing in our private place of honor. We are tickled when we hear from family visitors who say we are being good caretakers of their loved ones' resting place. It was Thornton Wilder who said, **"The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude."** All of the workers and volunteers who toil with us always express in words and deeds their gratitude for the lessons taught by their forebears.

We gratefully acknowledge the monetary contributions of the following folk for 2019:

Jessie and Betty Jean Harry
Richard Nishimoto
Cherie Yokota

Chip and Setsy Larouche
Ron and Linda Iwasaki
Frances Sumida Palk
Lew and Jean Tomita
Rose and Ronald Ikata
Dan Hinatsu
Douglas Handa
Russell Imai

Wayne and Sharon Takahashi
Eisaku & Alice Hiromura
The Saito Family (in memory of Fumi Saito)
Peter Nakamura
Mark and Janet Kakishita
Robert and Susan Kurimoto
Ann Terumoto

As a tribute to Susan Okada who single handedly planted more than 400 flower bulks on the old roadway and broke up all those asphalt clumps, we share another quote;

"Gardening requires lots of water, most in the form of perspiration."

-Louise Erickson

We look forward to having more acts of gratitude in 2020 and more volunteers to assist Susan. Sprucing up our cemetery will begin in March when the weather warms. Until then, a huge thank you goes out to all who inspired and perspired with the corps of community volunteers.



Letter from the Co-Presidents

Greetings Portland JACL!

We are both excited to be the incoming co-Presidents for Portland JACL. We care deeply about the Nikkei community and are looking forward to serving Portland JACL's membership in 2020-2021. Included in this letter are some of the things that will be on our minds for the next two years as your co-Presidents. For those that we haven't met yet, we have included short bios at the end so you can get to know us better. Of course, we hope to see you in person this year!

To begin with, we would like to extend our gratitude to Marleen Wallingford for serving as President of the Portland JACL board for the last four years, and long-time board members Susan Leedham, Jean Yamamoto, Margaret Leider and Verne Naito who are stepping off of our board. This is a big change for us. We are losing a lot of experience, but have a number of talented and committed new board members joining the team.

Looking forward, we will continue to work diligently to promote civil and human rights for all. From the 2020 Census to the election, there's a lot at stake this year and we are committed to taking action to ensure our voices are heard and that our communities are visible. We are also partnering with Tsuru for Solidarity to mobilize our local community to stand against attacks on immigrants and refugees, and to demand an end to U.S. concentration camps. We believe that we

must be the allies today that our community needed during WWII.

In addition, we also have some organizational challenges to address immediately, which will mean some changes to how we do things. For example, we are facing the hard reality that our current newsletter is no longer sustainable due to increases in distribution costs and budget constraints. This means we will likely be forced to transition from paper to a digital newsletter at some point this year. On the bright side, this creates the opportunity to provide more responsive content to our membership and to expand our reach to younger members of our community.

Of course, none of the work ahead of us will be possible alone and we will be exploring new ways of building our volunteer base and engaging our members. We ask for your continued support and, more importantly, for your active involvement as a part of our community. We also encourage you to reach out to us with your ideas, questions, concerns, and/or if you are interested in learning more about how to get involved.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity. We look forward to connecting with you soon!

Sincerely,
Amanda Shannahan & Christopher Lee
Portland JACL Co-Presidents



AMANDA SHANNAHAN
CO-PRESIDENT

I grew up in Vancouver, Washington. Aside from my family, I was very disconnected from the Nikkei community and, as a multiracial girl growing up in a predominantly white suburb, struggled to feel like I belonged. In 2010, after returning from Japan as a participant in the JET Programme, I began seeking out opportunities to become more involved. In 2011, I joined Utsukikai, which is where I met Chris, and started taking taiko classes through Portland Taiko. For me, these experiences were transformative and affirming- I found strength and groundedness in my JA identity and the sense of community I had been longing for. As our community becomes increasingly diverse, I know that my story is not unique and I look forward to creating spaces for strengthening our connections to each other.

I have a Masters degree in Public Administration and have been engaged in racial justice work for the past 5 years. I currently work at United Way of the Columbia-Willamette in research and evaluation, where I lead and support projects focused on promoting equity in our educational systems and improving outcomes among students of color. I recently joined the Portland JACL board in 2019.



CHRIS LEE
CO-PRESIDENT

I have fond memories of attending Epworth church and being a part of the Japanese Magnet Program at Richmond and Mt. Tabor as a child. In 1995, I started playing taiko and was a founding member of Tanuki Taiko (the Portland Taiko youth group), as well as the founder of Kalamazoo Taiko where I went to college. Lately I've been doing mochi pounding with Utsukikai and have been on the Mochitsuki planning committee since 2010.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Asian Studies, a Masters degree in International Management, and have been working in the energy industry for the last 9 years. I've been a Portland JACL board member since 2014 and look forward to continuing to work for our local JA community.

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CHANGES TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Dear Portland JACL members and newsletter recipients,

I want to thank the Onchi family, Chris, Harvey, and Jossi, for mailing our newsletter for many years. They provided their time and service at a very minimal cost to Portland JACL. I also want to acknowledge Documart for printing the newsletter at a very favorable rate. The generosity of the Onchi's and Documart have allowed Portland JACL to provide a low-cost monthly newsletter for as long as I can remember. The Onchi's are no longer able to provide mailing services and our cost to edit, print, and mail a paper newsletter has increased exponentially.

Therefore Portland JACL will be exploring new ways to provide important information to you. We know that this newsletter has been a mainstay in the greater Portland community and is our primary form of communication with our members, boosters, community partners, and key stakeholders. We are not taking this lightly and have not made any decisions on next steps as we are still taking stock of the situation.

At this point we are still formulating how we will move forward. Our 2020 budget was built anticipating some losses; however, our chapter may not be able to sustain the long-term expense of providing a paper newsletter at its full cost or even at

a discount. Our board had already been in discussion of adding email distribution and will accelerate those plans as quickly as we can. We still need to do some testing and sort out some of the details to make it happen, but hope to get this going soon.

For the next few months, we will continue providing the same newsletter we've been producing. This will give us time to gather input and come up with a more detailed plan on how to keep our costs manageable and provide newsletter service. We know that some members may not use email regularly or may prefer to read printed pieces. We will explore what options are available and what cost may be involved to maintain circulation of a physical newsletter.

As a board we find ourselves in a difficult situation and I am sorry to have to share this news. There will be another update in next month's newsletter and I hope to share more at that time.

Christopher Lee





"ALTERNATIVE FACTS: The Lies of Executive Order 9066" is an award-winning documentary which examines the fabricated evidence of espionage by Japanese Americans. This led to their forced removal and incarceration during World War II. Interviews illuminate the racism, xenophobia and backhanded political maneuvering that occurred.

The film also examines the parallels to the current climate of fear, the targeting of other vulnerable immigrant and religious communities, and the role media has played in vilifying people of color.

Tickets
Free and open to the public
Limited seating

The film screening will be followed by a discussion with Jon Osaki, director and producer and Peggy Nagae, lead attorney for Min Yasui who challenged Executive Order 9066.

Portland Premiere

Date: Sunday, February 23

Time: 2:00 pm

Location: Performing Art Center

PCC Sylvania Campus

12000 SW 49th Ave, Portland, OR

Handicapped parking by PCC bookstore

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED PORTLAND JACL BOARD

Vice President

Jeff Matsumoto

Treasurer

Jillian Toda-Currie (Appointed)

Secretary

Heidi Tolentino

Membership Chair

Setsy Larouche

Board Members:

Sachi Kaneko

Lynn Fuchigami Park

Connie Masuoka

Ryan Nakano

Marleen Wallingford

Jenny Yamada

Many thanks for your service

To our outgoing Board Members:

Susan Leedham

Margaret Leider

Verne Naito

Jean Yamamoto.

If you would like to contact the Board, their
email address is **First Name@pdxjacl.org**

NICHIREN

BUDDHIST TEMPLE



28th Annual Spring Bazaar

Sunday, March 15, 2020 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 10, 2020**

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

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Phone: _____ email: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

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

PHOTO CORNER

CHERRYWOOD RETIREMENT CENTER HOLIDAY PARTY



PHOTOS BY: SETSY LAROUCHE

COMMITTEE MEETING FOR THE JAPANESE AMERICAN GRADUATION BANQUET



PHOTOS BY: MARLEEN WALLINGFORD



Jenny Lee, Advocacy Director at APANO begins conversations with the Asian American community at the Advocacy Summit held on January 11th. APANO's advocacy work is guided by conversations about what our communities want and need to make systemic change to achieve equity.

Iko no Kai, February 2020

1333 SE 28th, 503-238-0775

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Fried Fish w/ daikon sauce <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	4 Blood Pressure: 11:15 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Grilled chicken w/ mushroom sauce	5 X	6 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Omuyaki soba (Yakisoba wrapped in egg crepe) <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	7 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Shoga yaki (Ginger pork)
10 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Nikujaga Beef w/potatoes <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	11 <i>Fujinkai Board: 10:30</i> <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Shrimp kakiage Udon	12 X	13 <i>Qi Gong: 11:30</i> Gan-modoki (Fried tofu stuffed w/ mini shrimp) <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	14 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Hiru Gohan Gurupu: 12 Valentine's Day! Miso salmon**
17 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Grilled chicken w/curry shio koji <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	18 Blood Pressure: 11:15 Ki Development: 11:30 Mabo Tofu	19 X	20 <i>Qi Gong: 11:00</i> Kathryn Work -- noon Okonomiyaki (Japanese pancake) <i>Mah jong: 12:30-2</i>	21 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Tonkatsu (Breaded pork cutlets)
24 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Stir fried pork belly & hakusai <i>Hanafuda & Bridge: 12:30-2</i>	25 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> Birthday Sushi	26 X	27 <i>Qi Gong: 11:00</i> Sweet & sour pork/sweet potatoes <i>Mah jong 12:30-2</i>	28 <i>Chair Exercises: 11:30</i> NISEI DAY Teriyaki chicken

Cooks: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Rieko Shimada-Th/F
Feb 11 : Fujinkai Board -10:30
Feb 13: Sing Along with Rie & Jerry: 11:30, (Qi Gong at 11)
Feb 14: Valentine's Day: Salmon Lunch: + \$1, Reservations required, please**
Feb 14: Hiru Gohan Gurupu--Rick, John, Mary, Ellen & Hiroshi at noon
Feb 18: Ki Development with Dwight Onchi: 11:30
Feb 20: 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: Feb 4 with Ellen Iwasaki, Feb 18 with Jane Kawashima



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Oregon Children's Theater
The Journal of Ben Uchida: Citizen 13359
by Naomi Iizuka



This is a story about war, but it's not about soldiers or battles or fighter planes or warships. It's about people like my sister and my mother. It's about people like my father. It's about neighbors and strangers.

Originally commissioned by the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, this play details a dark chapter in this country's history. It tells a story that is relevant, moving, and one that cannot be forgotten.

Recommended for Ages 10 and up
Content Advisory

Purchase tickets at

<https://www.octc.org/journal-of-ben-uchida>

Oregon Children's Theater

Location: Winningstad Theater
1111 SW Broadway

Feb. 29–March 22, 2020