



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL · Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928

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The 2020 Japanese Community Scholarship Recipients

By Heidi Kimiko Tolentino

The COVID 19 pandemic has kept our community from so many of our yearly events and this year's Japanese Community Graduation Banquet was amongst them. Despite the banquet being cancelled, we were still able to award the community scholarships to an exceptional group of seniors. Though we could not celebrate with them in person, we want to honor them for their hard-work, dedication and outstanding accomplishments.

Oregon Nisei Veterans: Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship

The Oregon Nisei Veterans began in 1948 with the purpose of raising money to build a monument to honor the Nisei soldiers killed in action during WW II. The Oregon Nisei Veterans awards the Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship each year.

Art Iwasaki was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat team during WWII and a founding member of Oregon Nisei Vets. Art was a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal and this scholarship is given in memory of his loving wife, Teri. Second Lieutenant Roger Okamoto was killed in Vietnam in 1966 at the age of 23. Lieutenant Okamoto graduated from Benson High School and earned an engineering degree

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JACL National Convention in Las Vegas

June 24-28th has been cancelled

JACL National Virtual Board Meeting

August 15th

Father's Day

June 21th

Independence Day

July 4th

Nikkei Community Picnic

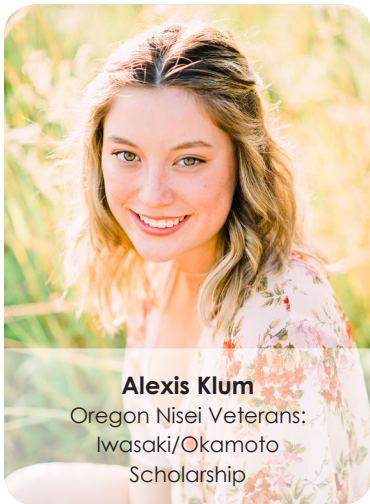
August 16

TBD

(Multnomah County is not ready to re-open non-essential businesses and activities)

Editor: Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)

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Alexis Klum
Oregon Nisei Veterans:
Iwasaki/Okamoto
Scholarship

from the University of Washington. The winner of the Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship was Alexis Klum of Tigard High School. Alexis was a 4-year softball player, Junior Class President, and a member of the National Honor Society. In the fall, she will be attending the Oregon Institute of Technology. **Congratulations Alexis!**

Japanese Ancestral Society (JAS): Tsuya and Kumaichi Minamoto Scholarship, Hide Naito Scholarship, Mary K. Naito Scholarship

The Japanese Ancestral Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the Nikkei community and to promoting education and fellowship among the members of the Nikkei community. JAS awards three scholarships each year.

Tsuya and Kumaichi Minamoto emigrated from Japan in the early 1900's and endured being incarcerated during WWII. Their daughter, Mary, created this scholarship in their honor. The winner of the Minamoto Scholarship was Nicholas Shibata of Sunset High School. Nicholas was a member of the Japanese National Honor Society, participated in the Epworth Mission Trip to Arizona, and was involved with Boy Scouts all four years of high school. Nicholas will be attending Portland Community College next year. **Congratulations, Nicholas!**

Hide Naito was a Portland entrepreneur who started his first of several businesses in 1921 which diversified during his lifetime into



Irei Tei
Japanese Ancestral Society
(JAS): Hide Naito Scholarship

retail operations, importing and real-estate development. This year's winner of the Hide Naito scholarship was Irei Tei of Sunset High School. Irei will also graduate from the Portland Japanese School where she attends every Saturday. She

was President of Sunset's Asian American Alliance Club, a Varsity Raquetball Team member and twice finished the New York Marathon during high school. Irei will be attending the University of Oregon next year. **Congratulations, Irei!**



Asahi Irene Nagasaka
Japanese Ancestral
Society (JAS): Mary K. Naito
Scholarship

The Mary K. Naito Scholarship is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Verne Naito. Mary K. Naito was a homemaker, community volunteer, businesswoman and high school Valedictorian. The winner of the Mary K. Naito Scholarship was Asahi Irene

Nagasaka of Westview High School. Asahi will also graduate from the Portland Japanese School, which she attends every Saturday. Asahi was a four-year varsity athlete in both Cross Country and Track and Field, on the National Honor Society and did service work at her school as a member of the Link Crew. Asahi will be attending Santa Clara University next year. **Congratulations, Asahi!**



Akane Shiota
Portland Shokookai:
Shokookai of Portland
Scholarship

Portland Shokookai: Shokookai of Portland Scholarship

Portland Shokookai was founded in 1966 by a small group of Japanese companies. They facilitate business operations for Japanese companies in Oregon and

SW Washington and run the Japanese Language School. This year's Shokookai of Portland Scholarship winner was Akane Shiota of Liberty High School. Akane was a four-year member of Liberty's Robotics Team that were finalists at the World competition, maintained a 4.0 G.P.A., and volunteered her time at OBT's yearly Obon Festival. Akane will be attending Oregon State University next year. ***Congratulations Akane!***

The Veleda Club and Portland Nikkei Fujinkai: Veleda Club/Nikkei Fujinkai Scholarship



Emily Jackson
The Veleda Club & Portland
Nikkei Fujinkai: Veleda Club
& Nikkei Fujinkai Scholarship

The Veleda Club is Portland's oldest Nikkei women's service organization that is active in the community today. Portland Nikkei Fujinkai is a Japanese Ancestral Women's Association that was established in 1935. They support community

activities and cultural education. This year, the Veleda Club and Nikkei Fujinkai gave a joint scholarship and the winner was Emily Jackson of Grant High School. Emily was a member of the Japanese Magnet Program

(JMP) of Portland Public Schools, a four-year member of Grant's Tennis team, and a member of the National Honor Society. Emily will be attending Portland State University next year. ***Congratulations, Emily!***

Gresham-Troutdale JACL: Gresham-Troutdale JACL Scholarship



Kayla Asakawa
Gresham-Troutdale JACL:
Gresham-Troutdale JACL
Scholarship

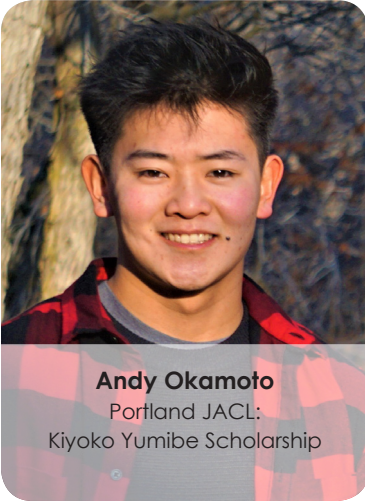
The Gresham-Troutdale JACL is part of the oldest national civil rights organization in America. It serves to protect the rights of not only Asians, but all minorities, and nurtures the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans. The winner of the

Gresham-Troutdale JACL Scholarship was Kayla Asakawa of Mountainside High School. Kayla was a member of the Japanese National Honor Society, the Model United Nations and won an IB Student of the Year Award. Kayla will be attending Oregon State University next year. ***Congratulations, Kayla!***

Portland JACL: Kiyoko Yumibe Scholarship, Matt Masuoka/State Farm Scholarship, Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship

Portland JACL was established in 1928 with an ongoing mission to fight social injustice and to preserve the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans. Portland JACL awarded three scholarships this year.

Kiyoko Yumibe was a hard-working Nisei who was incarcerated during WWII. She established a fund, through Portland JACL, to help support youth seeking higher education. The winner of the Yumibe Scholarship was Andy Okamoto of Cottonwood High School



Andy Okamoto

Portland JACL:
Kiyoko Yumibe Scholarship

in Cottonwood, Utah. Andy was a four-year Varsity Baseball player who won the state championship twice, a youth representative for both the Mount Olympus and Portland JACL chapters and an academic tutor for immigrant students

and academically struggling students. Andy has not committed to a college yet, but will be playing baseball wherever he attends. **Congratulations, Andy!**



Ayu Kashiwa

Portland JACL:
Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship

Yoshiko Kennedy used her talents as a seamstress and master of Ikebana to ensure her children would receive an education. The Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship was created in her memory. The winner of the Yoshiko Kennedy

Scholarship was Ayu Kashiwa of Mountainside High School. Ayu will also graduate from the Portland Japanese School this year where she attends every Saturday. She was a member of three bands in her high school, in the National Honor Society, and won Mountainside Subject awards in both Science and World Language. Ayu will attend Sophia University next year. **Congratulations, Ayu!**

The 2020 Japanese Community Scholarship Recipients are a talented, accomplished and academically outstanding group of students. We are impressed by what they have already achieved and see great things in their future. Class of 2020, our community is so proud of you and wish you well in your future endeavors.



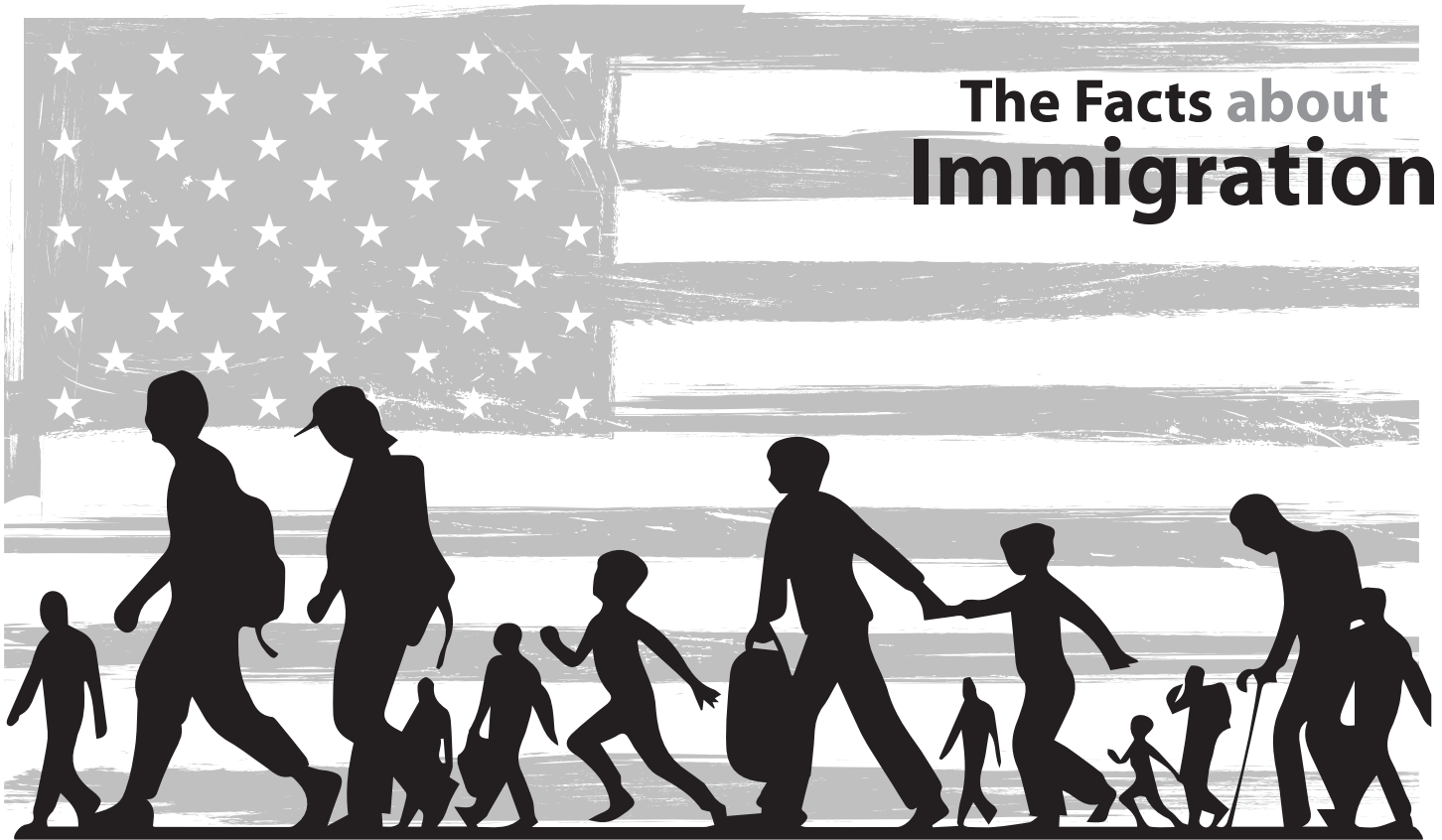
Mariko Tanada

Portland JACL: Matt
Masuoka/State Farm
Scholarship

Matthew Masuoka was a Nisei dentist who was a past President of Portland JACL and a Pacific NW District Governor. This award is given in his honor by his daughter, Dr. Connie Masuoka. State Farm also donates to this scholarship through

the generosity of Mariko Locke, a local State Farm Agent. The winner of the Matt Masuoka/State Farm Scholarship was Mariko Tanada of Central Catholic High School. Mariko was a four-year member of the Japan

Congratulations!



The Facts about Immigration

By Marleen Wallingford

Immigration continues to be the hot button issue of the current administration and the COVID-19 crisis has been used to further limit people coming into this country. On March 21, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention imposed a 30-day restriction on all nonessential travel into the United States from Mexico and Canada, and immediately returning immigrants who crossed the border illegally to Mexico or their home countries. Since then, only two migrants have been permitted to remain in the United States to pursue asylum. The order — which was extended for another 30 days on April 20 — was part of a broad effort, to aggressively use public health laws to reduce immigration as the government battles the virus. A new order under review by several government agencies is intended to extend the restrictions indefinitely.

In the past the administration had instituted

a travel ban from several Muslim majority countries and there have been insistent calls to build a wall which would cost taxpayers more than \$45 billion dollars and likely not be an effective deterrent.

There have also been calls for policy changes. The Department of Homeland Security would like to expand the definition of “public charge,” so that green card and other visa applicants could be denied not for being “primarily dependent on the government for subsistence” (the current standard) but instead for being “more likely than not” to use certain public benefits at any point in the future. This would make it more difficult for immigrants to get their Green Card which is the first step on the path to US citizenship.

Another policy was presented to the public as a “zero tolerance” approach intended to

deter illegal immigration and to encourage tougher legislation. Under the policy, federal authorities separated children from parents or guardians with whom they had entered the US. The adults were prosecuted and held in federal jails, and the children placed under the supervision of the US Department of Health and Human Services. It emerged that the policy did not include measures to reunite the families that it had separated. This created a child migration crisis. Since June 2018, despite the official end of the separation policy, hundreds of additional children have been separated from their parents. Federal officials said there were no plans to attempt to reunite these children because "it would destabilize the permanency of their existing home environment, and could be traumatic to the children." These children have already been traumatized by this zero tolerance policy. It is estimated that over 5000 children had been separated from their parents or guardians.

This anti-immigrant rhetoric has had a profound impact around the national discourse around who is able and who should be eligible to immigrate. Immigrants and refugees have been referred to as "an invasion" and taking resources away from Americans.

Anti-immigrant groups and activists have used social media to demonize immigrants. This kind of language has become normalized by the media and the internet provides a platform for this anti-immigration rhetoric.

The truth is that immigrants are less likely to commit serious crimes or be behind bars than native-born people are, and high rates of immigration are associated with lower rates of violent crime and property crime.

Immigrants are accused of using public money for services and not paying taxes.

Immigrants who are undocumented pay taxes every time they buy taxable goods. They also contribute to property taxes when they buy or rent a house or apartment. Undocumented immigrants pay an estimated \$11.74 billion in state and local taxes a year. The U.S. Social Security Administration estimated that in 2010 undocumented immigrants and their employers paid \$13 billion in payroll taxes alone for benefits they will never get. Under the 1996 welfare law, most government programs require proof of documentation, and even immigrants with documents cannot receive these benefits until they have been in the United States for more than five years.

The other myth is that our immigrant population is increasing. From 1890 to 1910, the foreign-born population of the United States fluctuated between 13.6 and nearly 15 percent. In 2010, about 13 percent of the population was foreign-born. Since the start of the recession in 2008, the number of immigrants without documentation coming into the country has fallen each year and, in more recent years, the number has stabilized.

This anti-immigration rhetoric is fueled by stereotypes about immigrants, white supremacy and fear and distracts the public from the very real issues that everyday people face: healthcare, housing, education and public safety. Negative stereotypes about immigration are being perpetuated and policies are supported that cause harm to targeted communities. We cannot stand by and say we did not know.

HANG IN THERE!

WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER



STAY HOME
SAVE LIVES

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We want to hear from
YOU!

Submit your stories at:
Marleen@pdxjacl.org

- Do you have an interest or hobby you would like to share with our Japanese American Community?
- How have you coped with social distancing?
- Have you read a good book lately?
- Have you been volunteering?
- Do you have some photographs of previous community activities or something interesting to share?

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