Board Member
MESSAGE

By Jeff Matsumato

As of this writing, there have been over 100 days of protest in the streets of Portland, over six months of Covid-19 and a presidential election is just a month and half away. All overshadowed by Oregon forest fires the likes we have never seen before. Their eerie orange sky capturing this moment forever in my mind. A moment which people will write about to put in our history books and mark time with. I believe we have all talked about these events with someone and their impacts to our lives.

As a board member, I have talked to a few of our members during the “shelter in place orders,” to see what needs they may have had and what Portland JACL could do to meet those needs. As a board, we have taken this moment to begin to educate ourselves, create opportunities for dialogue and understanding, and find ways to take action and support the Black Lives Matter movement. I hope you would join me in standing up and speaking out; calling and demanding for an end to the systematic racist institutions that exist in these United States of America. And now, we as the board are calling upon you to VOTE!

Oregon has been voting by mail since the early 1990’s. We were the first state to conduct an all vote-by-mail election for a

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federal office in 1996 when Ron Wyden was tapped to fill our vacated seat in the Senate. Yet, now is not the time to take our vote for granted. Make a plan for your vote. This moment has shown us the importance of having a plan. The following are important dates to help plan for the 2020 Presidential Election, November 3, 2020.

**October 13:** Last Day to Register to Vote. (register or update your registration by visiting Oregon’s Secretary of State website - sos. oregon.gov)

**October 14 - 20:** County Election Offices last day to mail ballots. If you have not received your ballot by 10/22 contact your county elections office.

**October 27:** This is the suggested date in which you could safely mail your SIGNED ballot. This is one week prior to Election Day, Tuesday’s Nov. 3.

November 3: Election Day! This is the last day to cast your ballot. **DO NOT mail your ballot.** You Must drop off your ballot into an official elections drop box by 8pm

**The free and fair elections and the power of the vote are the cornerstones of democracy.** Our vote is our voice to bring about the change we seek. And Portland JACL not only wants you to vote, we want you to be an informed voter. We invite you to join us and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance as we co-host a virtual ballot information session through the League of Women Voters, at 4pm, October 10.

Register here by October 8 ([tinyurl.com/y33g3wkr](http://tinyurl.com/y33g3wkr)).

I hope you will look for the opportunities to engage others at this moment in our great American Experiment.

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**PDX JACL**

wants to know how you quarantine!

Send in your pictures to Sachi@pdxjacl.org for a chance to be in the annual calendar.
Photo Section

The Portland JACL presented a virtual Nikkei Conversation About Black Lives Matter on September 19th.

Pictured are moderator Jeff Selby (upper right) and panelists: Chisao Hata, Rev. Kosho Finch, Vicki Nakashima, Sara Onitsuka and one of our ASL interpreters, Claire.

Jeff Matsumoto and Amanda Shannaham at the Convention Center standing by the statue of MLK showing solidarity with a worker and a child. Hidden behind Dr. King is a figure of a woman who represents immigrants. They participated in the March in Portland on the 57th anniversary of the March in Washington, D.C. where Dr. King gave his famous “I Have a Dream,” speech.
Help Our Neighbors!

Now is the time to support our immigrant and refugee neighbors who have been not only adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic but many have lost everything in the fires that have raged in Oregon. As wildfires grow more frequent, so do concerns for field workers who are facing conditions that jeopardize their health, wages and housing.

Here is a list of some of our local organizations that need your help:

- Adelante Mujeres
  www.adelantemujeres.org

- Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice
  imirj.org

- Latino Network
  www.latnet.org

- PCUN - Oregon Farmworker’s Union
  pcun.org

Asian American Voters

Asian Americans are the fastest-growing segment of eligible voters out of the major racial and ethnic groups in the United States. More than 11 million will be able to vote this year, making up nearly 5% of the nation’s eligible voters. They are also the only major racial or ethnic group in which naturalized citizens make up a majority of eligible voters. This data has been gathered by the Pew Research Center analysis of Census Bureau data. From 2000 to 2020, the number of Asian American eligible voters more than doubled, growing by 139%.

In Oregon, according to the Oregon State Fact Sheet, 4% of eligible voters identify as Asian. AAPI youth (18 to 29) make up 28% of the AAPI population. Multnomah County has 7% of its residents who are AAPI. Washington County has the highest percentage in the state with 10%. Washington State has double the Asian American population with 8%.

Our numbers have grown exponentially since 1965 as immigration law changed. The law abolished the National Origins Formula which had been the basis of U.S. immigration policy since the 1920s. The act removed de facto discrimination against Southern and Eastern Europeans, Asians, and other non-Northwestern European ethnic groups. Congress did away with preferential treatment to northern Europeans which has resulted in a dramatic change in our electorate. It is projected that the United States will become “minority white” in 2045 when less than half of the electorate will be caucasian.
Be an informed Voter
Learn about the upcoming election
October 10, 2020, 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Join C.A.C.A. and the Portland JACL for an afternoon of non-partisan discussion on the Oregon ballot measures followed by a question and answer session.

RSVP by October 8 to Marleen Wallingford at www.pdxjacl.org/ballot or 503-927-2766. Participants are eligible for an Asian grocery store gift card drawing.

A ballot measure is a piece of proposed legislation to be approved or rejected by eligible voters.
**GAMBARIMASHO!**
"Together, let's do our best"  
**DATE CHANGE!**

**Sunday, October 25**  
**11:30 - 2:00**

Epworth United Methodist Church  
1333 SE 28th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

**BAKED GOODS**

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>6 pack cranberry orange oatmeal cookies</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 pack raspberry bars</td>
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<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 pack butter mochi</td>
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**CARDS**

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<td>4 pack sympathy cards</td>
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<td>4 pack birthday cards</td>
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<td>4 pack thinking of you cards</td>
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**PRODUCE**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kabocha squash</td>
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<td>$5.00</td>
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* Other cards, produce, and plants available for browsers who park their cars (gloves provided).

**TOTAL AMOUNT:**

Donations are welcome.
'Get out the Vote' Letter-writing Party

Join the Portland JACL Advocacy Team on Saturday, October 17th at 1:30 PM for a virtual “Get Out The Vote” letter writing event. Portland JACL will be joining the nationwide effort to get more underrepresented voters to cast a ballot in the upcoming election.

You can join the effort by establishing an online account on votefwd.org. Even if you can’t join us for the virtual event October 17th, you can still participate by signing up for a ‘social campaign’ at votefwd.org.

Questions?
Contact us at contact@pdxjacl.org. If you need stamps and to RSVP, please complete the event sign-up form at https://tinyurl.com/JACLGOTVParty

To participate, you will need:
- Online account with votefwd.org
- Envelopes
- Stamps
- Printed letters from Vote Forward (more instructions will be provided prior to the event)
- A pen

Optional, but strongly encouraged:
- Snacks!
- Drinks!

Current Board Members

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Chris Lee

Co-President
Amanda Shannahan

Vice President
Jeff Matsumoto

Treasurer
Jillian Toda-Currie

Secretary
Heidi Tolentino

Membership Chair
Setsy Larouche

Board Members:
Sachi Kaneko
Lynn Fuchigami Park
Connie Masuoka
Marleen Wallingford
Jenny Yamada

If you would like to contact the Board, their email address is First Name@pdxjacl.org
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PORTLAND JACL

We appreciate all of the contributors who generously donated to help support the programs we provide for our community. Here I am with my mom, Sumi Ikeda 70 years ago.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MARLEEN