



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL · Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928

• DECEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 26 ISSUE 12 •

## Board Member MESSAGE

By Marleen Wallingford

2020 is drawing to a close and it is time for the Portland JACL to reflect upon our community, civic and voter engagement efforts this year.

We partnered with APANO to encourage our members to fill out the once in a decade census. It is critical that we have an accurate count of the people who live in our community. This not only affects the amount of federal funding we might be eligible for in education, health, transportation and housing, it also affects our legislative representation in Congress. Unfortunately COVID-19 affected the ability of the census to send out enumerators into the community. Often it is communities of color and immigrant communities who need more assistance in getting the census filled out. In Oregon, 69.2% of our population self-responded.

COVID-19 originated in China which led the president to routinely call the disease the Chinese Virus or Kung Flu. This resulted in the biggest increase in hate crimes targeted at Asian Americans as compared to other minority groups. The Portland JACL partners with the Coalition Against Hate Crimes which supports non-violent solutions to the problem of hate and hate crimes in Oregon.

**Continued on Pg. 2**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Japanese Confinement Sites

#### Grant Advocacy Day

#### Join Portland JACL's Advocacy Committee

#### Meeting at 6:30 pm

(Contact [Amanda@pdxjacl.org](mailto:Amanda@pdxjacl.org))

December 1

### Car Caravan to support Black Lives Matter

(Meet at the PCC Cascade Campus parking lot)

December 12

2pm

### Articles due for the January 2021 newsletter

December 16

### Portland JACL Board Meeting

December 17

630pm

### Christmas Day

December 25

### JACL National End of Year Party

With remarks by Executive Director David Inoue

December 29

### Mochitsuki

Activities throughout the month of January

Editor: Chong Sim ([simc0186@gmail.com](mailto:simc0186@gmail.com))

**Continued from Pg. 1**

This year was also a presidential election year and we worked to get out the vote and to inform our community about ballot measures that affected us. APANO and the Portland JACL partnered with a national organization APIAVote, Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote to turn out the vote. Nationally we have seen a tremendous increase in early voting from 4 million this year as compared to 1.25 million in 2016.

The APIA community has not traditionally reached out to by political campaigns. We are a growing part of the electorate beyond the west coast and Hawaii, in states like Nevada, Arizona, Virginia, Illinois, Texas and Georgia. Our vote can be critical in close elections.

The videotaped murder of George Floyd has galvanized the Black community to stand up against disproportionate police brutality

against its Black citizens. It has also caused other communities of color to think about their role in supporting racism. Earlier this year, we organized a conversation among several community members: Rev. Kosho Finch, Chisao Hata, Vicki Nakashima and Sara Onitsuki led by moderator, Jeff Selby to talk about anti-Blackness and Japanese Americans. Our JACL partners to the north, Seattle, is sponsoring a five part webinar, Uprooting Anti-Blackness in the Japanese American Community (see flyer on back page)

We were horrified when the administration began to implement a "zero tolerance" policy at the Mexican border which resulted in thousands of children being separated from their parents. Our community was galvanized when former Japanese American incarceration sites like Fort Sill were used to house these separated children. It brought back painful memories when our families were separated. We felt it was our duty to

**Current  
Board Members**

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Lynn Fuchigami Parks  
Connie Masuoka  
Marleen Wallingford  
Jenny Yamada

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

speak out against this abuse of government power. We supported Tsuru for Solidarity which is a nonviolent, direct action project working to end detention sites and support immigrant and refugee communities. We helped fold well over 125,000 cranes to represent all of the ethnic Japanese incarcerated during World War II and had planned to march in June in Washington, D.C.

We are fighting now to continue the funding for the JACS (Japanese American Confinement Sites) grants which had been routinely zeroed out in previous presidential budgets. It is very powerful when ordinary citizens can write, email or call their representatives to let them know what we want.

We also continue to support Japanese American community activities. We were able to have our largest Mochitsuki event last year at Portland State University's Viking

Pavilion where thousands were able to enjoy Japanese cultural activities, food and martial arts before COVID-19 restrictions. This year we have had to reimagine Mochitsuki and will have a host of virtual activities to celebrate our 25th year.

We were unable to have our annual Nikkei Picnic at Oaks Park or our annual holiday party and the Graduation Banquet but still were able to award scholarships to deserving Nikkei students along with our community partner organizations.

We are looking forward to the coming year and will continue to work to keep our community engaged. We want to make sure that future generations of Nikkei honor and remember our history but it is vital that we continue to work towards making America keep its promise of justice and liberty for all.

## Newsletter Form

(Make checks payable to the Portland JACL)

Name of JACL Member		Preferred Phone	
		Circle One: ( Home / Cell )	
<b>Current Address</b>			
Street Address			
Street Address (Line 2)			
City	State	Zip Code	
<b>New Address (if changing)</b>			
Street Address			
Street Address (Line 2)			
City	State	Zip Code	

Please return this form to Portland Chapter JACL, PO Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286  
A suggested donation of \$25 per year will help us cover costs.



## TUESDAYS IN DECEMBER

ANY JACLER  
ANYWHERE  
can take ACTION  
to GIVE BACK!



# GIVING TUESDAY Series

CONTACT:  
PHILLIP OZAKI  
SAKI MORI  
JEFFREY MOY

PLAYBOOK FOR  
JACL

Celebrating the 25th Annual

# MOCHITSUKI

2021 Japanese American New Year



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** Lisa Uzunoe, Event Coordinator ([coordinator@mochipdx.org](mailto:coordinator@mochipdx.org))

**Japanese New Year Festival "Mochitsuki" will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary virtually in 2021!**

After discussion about possibly taking a gap year, the planning committee strongly felt it needed to continue supporting the community, especially now. Therefore, they have been busy working to make it possible and an event for all individuals and families to enjoy.

**Mochitsuki will be celebrating throughout the entire month of January!**

Beginning with the first shrine/temple visit on January 1st, various videos and photos including cultural performances, demonstrations, New Year trivia segments (with prizes), and much more will be released daily on our social media platforms (YouTube, Facebook, Instagram) which viewers will also be able to find on the official Mochitsuki website. Fresh mochi will be available at the Uwajimaya store in Beaverton every Saturday in January and participants can also order crafts from vendors and food from participating Japanese restaurants through featured links on Mochitsuki's website. All of these festivities will conclude on January 31st from 1pm-2:30pm with a historical recap of Mochitsuki and a livestream Q&A with headlining artist, Elena Moon Park.

Elena Moon Park is a musician, educator, and producer living in Brooklyn, NY., specializing in contemporary classical and family music. She is also the co-Artistic Director of the Brooklyn-based arts organization, Found Sound Nation, which uses collaborative music creation to connect people across cultural divides. Elena will present special New Year's and Japanese songs for this year's Mochitsuki celebration.

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. But there is also so much to be grateful for. We are grateful to have a community that cares for and supports one another. We hope we can all make Mochitsuki 2021 a wonderful celebration and start of a new and prosperous year!

Presented by Portland Chapter Japanese American Citizens League. Co-produced by Portland Taiko, Konko Church, Japanese American Museum of Oregon, and PSU Institute for Asian Studies. Sponsored by the Consular Office of Japan in Portland and the Japanese Ancestral Society.

**Find out more: [mochipdx.org](http://mochipdx.org)**





Celebrating the 25th Annual

# MOCHITSUKI

2021 Japanese American New Year



**Join Us Here!**

-  [mochipdx.org](http://mochipdx.org)
-  [@Mochitsuki Portland](https://www.youtube.com/MochitsukiPortland)
-  [@mochitsukipdx](https://www.instagram.com/mochitsukipdx)
-  [@Mochitsuki Portland](https://www.facebook.com/MochitsukiPortland)



Donate Now

**Mochitsuki is going virtual!**

Join us daily in January as we virtually celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Mochitsuki! This family-friendly event will showcase cultural festivities on Mochitsuki's website and social media. The festivities will conclude on January 31st from 1pm-2:30pm with a historical recap of Mochitsuki and a livestream Q&A with headlining artist, Elena Moon Park.

SUNDAY 日	MONDAY 月	TUESDAY 火	WEDNESDAY 水	THURSDAY 木	FRIDAY 金	SATURDAY 土
Family Activities	Food Demos	Crafts & Games	Educational Trivia	Cultural Demos	Cultural Demos	Performances

For more information, visit [mochipdx.org](http://mochipdx.org)

Presented by Portland Chapter Japanese American Citizens League, Portland Taiko, Konko Church, Japanese American Museum of Oregon, and PSU Institute for Asian Studies. Sponsored by the Consular Office of Japan in Portland and the Japanese Ancestral Society.



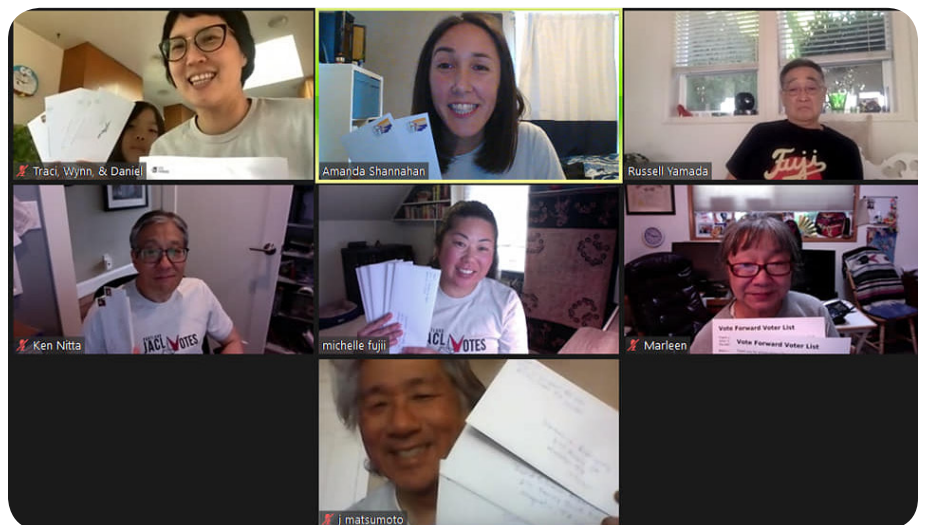
# Thank You for Helpin

Over the past months, we mobilized our community to vote in the November 2020 election. Together, we helped achieve the highest voter turnout in the United States in more than a century. We knew there was a lot at stake at both a national and local level and, as a community, we showed up! Here are some highlights:

- Nearly 50 people turned out for our Ballot Info session to learn more about local ballot measures. This event was a collaboration with the Chinese American

Citizens Alliance and the Oregon League of Women Voters.

- In October, we joined Vote Forward to write letters to underrepresented voters in key battleground states, like Georgia and Pennsylvania. Twelve JACL members came together to write and send 835 letters encouraging folks to vote.
- We endorsed and supported the Measure 26-217: Yes for Real Police Accountability campaign by making phone calls, text-





# g to Get Out the Vote!

banking, and distributing literature to our neighbors. Measure 26-217 passed with 82% support from voters and will establish a new community-led police oversight board for Portland!

- And, the week before the election, we made more than 100 phone calls to JACL members reminding you to vote.

equitable communities and elect leaders who represent our values. But our work is not over. As a community, we must continue to hold our elected leaders accountable and to keep pushing for the change we want to see. Take time to celebrate and take care of yourself, and we hope to engage with you in this work again soon.

If you were able, thank you for voting!  
When we exercise our right to vote, we can help build stronger, healthier, more



## Photo Corner



The Hiru Gohan Group played at the final Qigong class at Colonel Summers Park. Since Ikoi No Kai had to close due to COVID-19, many members enjoyed the exercise and the singing after the workout.

Nancy Clayton gives a thank you lei to Kathleen Kuba who taught the Ikoi No Kai members Qigong during the summer months at the Colonel Summer's Park.





**PORTLAND JACL**  
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## Uprooting anti-Blackness in the Japanese American community

Join the Seattle JACL in a series of free digital workshops for Nikkei young people  
—and others who wish to attend—to build awareness and take responsibility for our own  
implicit bias of anti-Blackness through education, community-building, and dialogue.

*Jack*  
SEATTLE CHAPTER

**part 4:**  
Advancing anti-racism in the JA  
community, past and present  
(date coming soon)

Your questions will inform our journey.  
Help us define **part 5** onward!

**part 2:**  
Modern anti-Blackness and white privilege  
Sat., Dec. 5, 2-3:30 pm (PT)

**part 3:**  
Weaponization of the "model minority" myth  
(date coming soon)

**part 1:**  
Origins of racism and anti-Blackness  
Sat., Nov. 21, 2-3:30 pm (PT)

Register at:  
[tinyurl.com/seattlejaci](https://tinyurl.com/seattlejaci)

 ROBERT CHINN  
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