

• FEBRUARY 2021 | VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2 •



Minoru Yasui's Legacy in 2021

By Jillian Toda-Currie, Board Member

I was catching up with a friend recently who grew up in Hood River. When I mentioned the name "Minoru Yasui" she said, "I've heard of that family. They have a long history in Hood River." My friend's only knowledge of that history, however, was of the family's farming and general store. I was not surprised. I also grew up in that area – even as part of the Japanese American community – and still only learned Min Yasui's story in the last decade. The pride I felt in learning about Min's life-long civil rights activism was balanced by shame and anger that I hadn't known this already.

Raising awareness about Min's life is important so that we can understand his legacy, which was working across communities to advocate justice for all. Min knew that we are all connected and that standing up for the rights of one group will ultimately help us all in fighting for liberation.

We all play a part in upholding Min's legacy. You can take the fist step by learning about Min's life and reflecting on how it intersects with issues currently happening. The 2021 Minoru Yasui Day virtual event will be centered around immigrant and refugee

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

President's Day February 15

President Roosevelt signed EO 9066 in 1942 February 19

Redress to Reparations: Yesterday and Today Virtual Meeting February 20

2 pm

Entering freshman national scholarship applications due March 1

Local Nikkei scholarship applications due March 5

> Nichiren Buddhist Temple Bazaar March 14 (Cancelled)

National scholarship applications due for undergraduate, graduate, law, art and performing arts and financial aid due April 1

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)

Continued on Pg. 2

PORTLAND JACL

Continued from Pg. 1

experiences. This topic is also what students participating in the annual Minoru Yasui Student Contest will write about, ensuring that Min's legacy will live on with the next generation.

While this year's event and student contest cannot be held in person, there is a silver lining. A virtual setting means that communities outside of Oregon will be reached, sharing Min's legacy with those who would not have otherwise been able to learn this history or participate in this critical conversation. We will be able to bring even more people together in pursuit of justice, which is what Min would have wanted.

••• Save the Date!

2021 Minoru Yasui Day: Immigrants and Refugees and The Path to Justice

Saturday, March 27, 2021 12:45pm (check-in) and ending at 3pm PST

Senator Mazie Hirono (invited keynote speaker) with other regional and local speakers

Min Yasui's legacy demonstrates a strong commitment to and taking action for democracy and social justice. One specific area that needs our attention is immigrant and refugee rights. Immigrants—like ourselves, parents, grandparents, and other generations—have made the U.S. a vibrant country, socially, economically and globally. U.S. policies regarding immigrants and refugees, however, have been broken for decades with the Executive Order on the "Muslim Ban," children separated from their parents at the border and the DREAMers, to name a few examples. Anti-immigrant sentiment continues to be on the uptick and our broken system has been exploited by those in anti-immigrant and white supremacist sectors of society.

Minoru Yasui Day 2021 will focus on immigrants and refugees. Please join us to:

- Learn the connection between immigrants and the history and legacy of Minoru Yasui while also celebrating his life through an award-winning video from local high school students Alan Zhou and Kyler Wang, along with the announcement of our 2021 Min Yasui Student Contest winners.
- Understand the national, regional, and local social justice issues for immigrants and refugees from leaders in the field.
- Identify action plans so that each of us can be part of the solution for more humane and just immigration policies AND so we step up and speak out as Min Yasui would have done.

Minoru Yasui Day is a collaboration between the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO).



2

The 2021 Minoru Yasui Student Contest

Refugee and Immigrant Experiences

Contest Theme: Refugee and Immigrant Experiences

Reflect on the experiences of refugees and immigrants coming to the US: the challenges they have faced, support they have received, and the contributions they have made. How have they made an impact on your life, and how should we view these experiences through the lens of Minoru Yasui's life work and his legacy?

Student Contest Eligibility and Guidelines

Awards for the 2021 Minoru Yasui Student Contest include both junior and senior divisions. Please go to **www.minoruyasuilegacy.org/studentcontest** for more information and contest resources.

Submissions due March 12, 2021.



2021 Minoru Yasui Student Contest Prizes

Junior Division

First Place:	\$200
Second Place:	\$75
Finalists (3):	\$20

Senior Division

First Place:	\$500
Second Place:	\$250
Finalists (3):	\$25

To learn more about Min Yasui, his life, and his legacy, visit

www.minoruyasuilegacy.org

PORTLAND JACL



National JACL Scholarships • Accepting Applications Now •

Freshman Scholarships due March 1 Undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/ performing arts and financial aid due April 1

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) announced that the 2021 National Scholarship and Awards Program is now underway. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law and the creative/ performing arts. There are also financial aid scholarships for those demonstrating a need for financial assistance.

Scholarship Program guidelines, instructions, and applications have been posted on the JACL website, **www.jacl.org**, and can be accessed by clicking the "Youth" tab on the menu bar. You may also click the button below "To Learn More or Apply Click Here."

Starting this year, the application forms for the scholarship program will be completely online. Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than March 1, 2021, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

Applications for the non-freshman scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and financial aid) are also to be sent directly by the applicant to National JACL through the online form no later than April 1, 2021, 11:59 p.m. Hawaiian Standard Time (HST).

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Scholarship Program Manager Matthew Weisbly at **scholarships@jacl.org**.

Current Board Members Vice President Jeff Matsumoto

Treasurer Jillian Toda-Currie

Secretary Heidi Tolentino

Membership Chair Setsy Larouche

Board Members: Sachi Kaneko 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**



Co-President Amanda Shannahan



×

Response to January 6

By Marleen Wallingford

We Americans have been proud of having free and honest elections as well as a peaceful transfer of power. It was shocking to see those so called patriots storming the US Capital with spears, guns and lead pipes. Our beautiful symbol of democracy was vandalized by an angry crowd of mostly white people who thought they had been cheated.

This lie has been propagated and amplified, not by a fringe political group, but by our own president of the United States, Donald Trump. Ever since the election results were announced and Joe Biden was declared the winner. He has told the American public that he is the true winner and that the election had been "rigged." He did not complain about having fair election in 2016. He is not complaining about the fairness of the election process of states that supported his candidacy. He is only questioning those states in which he lost. He is also not auestioning the wins that some of those states had for Republican candidates. If the election was rigged, why did it only affect the presidential race? The Democrats lost representatives in the House and the results in the Senate were uncertain until just recently.

Donald Trump came out on January 6 and told his supporters that he would join them walking down the mall to Congress. (He did not). He repeated the message that he has been telling the public that "this egregious assault on our democracy...We are going to cheer on our brave senators and congressmen and women, and we are probably not going to be cheering so much for some of them — because you will never take back our country with weakness." He berated his vice president, Michael Pence because he would not challenge the electoral vote counts which resulted in his supporters shouting "Hang Mike Pence," as they marched down the mall.

These protesters were clearly trying to stop the democratic process in Congress. Business as usual was stopped for six hours with the vice president, representatives and senators being hustled to safety or hiding behind chairs or in their offices. The crowd of who chanted, "Stop the steal," ran over an unprepared security staff, battered down the doors of Congress and vandalized the building. It was a riot. This was an attempted coup.

The strength of our democracy is based on our trust in our election process. We should be proud that in the midst of a global pandemic we had the largest turnout in our history. We should be proud that our states were able to give the opportunity for people to vote by absentee ballot. Election security specialists have proudly stated that this was a secure and safe election. Instead of celebrating our election, we need to defend the whole process.

Numerous court challenges have found absolutely no evidence of election fraud. There were no massive amount of dumped ballots, dead people who voted or voting machines that switched votes. The lies that have been told about election fraud have given his supporters the fuel to justify their insurrection and has damaged our democracy since it has undermined their trust in our process. This is unacceptable and we as a nation need to stand up against mob rule. We need to stand up for our democratic process. If you want change, it comes at the ballot box.

PORTLAND JACL

Portland JACL Partners with Vancouver NAACP for Day of Remembrance 2021

Each February, communities across the country hold events and organize actions in honor of Day of Remembrance (DOR). DOR commemorates the individuals and families impacted by the signing of Executive Order 9066, which took place on February 19, 1942 and led to the forced removal and incarceration of more than 110,000 citizens and immigrants of Japanese descent.

This year, the Portland JACL is excited to be partnering with the Vancouver NAACP to host a special DOR program "Redress and Reparations: Yesterday and Today". The program will include a presentation by Peggy Nagae on the Japanese American fight for redress, and a panel of local leaders in the Black community who will be sharing their perspectives on the current struggle for reparations for Black Americans.

Panelists will include Bridgette Fahnbulleh, Chair of the Vancouver NAACP ACT-SO Committee; Cameron Whitten, Founder and CEO of Brown Hope and co-founder of the Black Resilience Fund; and Malia Forney, a student at Portland State University and an active member of the Black Community of Portland.

"The history of the Japanese American Redress Movement is incredibly important and empowering for our community. Growing up, I knew that my grandparents had received a letter of apology and money from the government, but I never heard about all of the organizing and work that led up to that moment," shared Amanda Shannhanan, Co-President of the Portland JACL. "It's also important for us, as Nikkei, to learn more about the current fight for reparations for Black Americans and to understand how our experiences have intersected so that we can show up in solidarity."

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Redress and Reparations: Yesterday and Today

Join us for Day of Remembrance 2021 as we honor and reflect on the Japanese American Redress Movement and hear perspectives from local leaders on the present-day struggle for reparations for Black Americans.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20 2-3:30PM | VIRTUAL EVENT

Special presentation on the Japanese American Redress Movement, followed by a panel discussion and Q&A.

PRESENTATION BY:

Peggy Nagae, attorney and consultant

PANELISTS:

Bridgette Fahnbulleh, Chair of the Vancouver NAACP ACT-SO Committee

Cameron Whitten, Founder and CEO of Brown Hope & Co-Founder of the Black Resilience Fund

Malia Forney, Student and active member of the Black Community of Portland



Registration is required to receive the link for the Zoom event. RSVP by Thursday, Feb. 18 at tinyuri.com/PDXDOR2021 American Sign Language Interpretation will be available.

Despite continued efforts by Black leaders and allies, Black Americans still have not received any form of reparations to address 250 years of slavery and persisting systemic racism. Many argue that it is past due for the discourse around reparations for the Black community to gain traction among lawmakers and the public, and for meaningful action to be taken to address the generations of oppression experienced by Black people in the United States.

The Day of Remembrance 2021 program will take place virtually on Saturday, February 20 from 2-3:30 pm. To receive the Zoom link, you can RSVP by Thursday, Feb 18 at https:// tinyurl.com/PDXDOR2021



Dear Readers,

Portland JACL is reducing our newsletter distribution. If you have not already submitted a form this will be your last paper issue. Return the following form as soon as possible to continue receiving this monthly publication in the mail. Suggested but not required donation is \$25. Please make checks payable to the Portland JACL.

Portland Chapter JACL

PO Box 86310 Portland, OR 97286

1.877.843.6914 Toll Free Number (voice mail)

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



- Nichiren Buddhist Temple has cancelled its March Spring Bazaar due to Covid-19
 restrictions
- The January newsletter included a list of donors but the timeframe was left out. The donors listed were from January 1 December 8, 2020. Thank you to all of our generous donors!



PORTLAND JACL PO BOX 86310 PORTLAND, OR 97268 NON PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PORTLAND, OR PERMIT #579



🔹 Atsuhiko Tateuchi Memorial Scholarship 🐤

\$5,000, renewable

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1. This scholarship is offered to the following types of students:
 - Graduating High School Seniors planning to attend an accredited vocational school, college or university (2-year or 4-year degrees).
 - Students returning to school or currently enrolled in an accredited vocational school, college or university seeking support to continue your certificate or degree.
 - Students entering or enrolled in graduate or professional degree programs (MA, PhD, MD, JD, etc.).
- 2. Preference will be given to students of Japanese ancestry or other Asian ancestry.
- 3. Applicants must demonstrate financial need.
- 4. GPA of 3.0 or greater. This scholarship is renewable for up to 4 years, provided the student continues to meet the criteria of a 3.0 GPA each year.
- 5. Students must be a resident of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, or Washington State.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Apply here: https://seattlefoundation.smapply.org/ prog/2021_tateuchi_scholarship/

KEY APPLICATION COMPONENTS INCLUDE

- Essays. A 500 word max essay on the most interesting book you have read, and a 250 word max essay on your Asian heritage and how this has influenced your life.
- Test Scores. Graduating high school students must provide SAT and/or ACT scores. Graduate students must provide a graduate level exam test score (e.g. LSAT, GRE, MCAT, etc.).
- Two letters of reference. These letters should be from people who know you through your academic or employment experience or your community leadership and participation. (Do not include relatives as references.)
- Transcript(s). Please include a copy of your transcript(s) for every applicable level of education and/or all schools you attended from high school through present. An unofficial transcript is acceptable for application. Scholarship recipients will be required to submit an official transcript to Seattle Foundation by July 15; funds will not be released to your school until we receive it.

DEADLINE

Applications for scholarships must be submitted by March 1st, 2021. For more information, please contact scholarships@seattlefoundation.org.