



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• MARCH 2021 | VOLUME 27 ISSUE 3 •

Board Member MESSAGE

25 Years Later The Spirit of Mochitsuki Lives On

By Christopher Lee

As long as I can remember Mochitsuki has always been on the last Sunday in January. And like many things that have changed during the pandemic, we had to do things a little bit differently this year. Last August as the Mochitsuki Planning Committee gathered to start planning for the 25th Anniversary of our New Year's festival, we made the bold decision to hold the event virtually. At the time, cases were still low, but in hindsight there is no doubt we made the right decision.

For me and perhaps for many of you, celebrating the New Year would not be the same without Mochitsuki. It is the one time of year we get such a large group of Japanese and Japanese American organizations together under the same roof.

So, how would we do that virtually?

Frankly, we did not even know where to start. Where else can you watch a taiko or dance performance, have some delicious Japanese food, buy hand-made crafts, and fit in calligraphy, ikebana, or tea ceremony in one

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**National JACL Scholarship applications due
For entering freshman**
March 1

**Local Nikkei Japanese American and Nichiren
Buddhist Temple Art applications are due**
March 5

Nichiren Buddhist Temple Bazaar
March 14
(Cancelled due to Covid restrictions)

DisOrient Film Festival
March 19 to 28

Min Yasui Day (Virtual)
March 27
1-3pm

Nichiren Buddhist Temple Supports Murata
March 28
2-3pm

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

Edited by Chong Sim
(simc0186@gmail.com)

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Continued from Pg. 1

day; let alone one place? Not to mention, seeing friends, family, and all the mochi!

It would be impossible to fit all of that into a one-hour zoom. So, we didn't. The committee reached out to our contacts and asked them to help. In the true spirit of Mochitsuki, our community responded more emphatically than we could have ever imagined. Even those that didn't know how to record a video were willing to give it a shot and persevered through the many challenges that technology presented.

At first, we only expected to have a couple of videos per week in January. However, in the end we worked with almost 50 different groups and had more content than there were days in the month. We released at least one new video every day to kick off 2021. It certainly was not the same event we have had in-person, but still a chance to share some of the Mochitsuki activities you love.

Thanks to funding from the JACL Legacy Fund Grants Program, our chapter was able to play a large role in the virtual event by taking the lead on the grand finale. I am admittedly quite biased, but if you only watch one video from Mochitsuki, make it this one.

The finale was a live-streamed program that included: a mini-documentary looking back at the 25-Year History of Mochitsuki, a very moving tribute to Valerie Otani, lively performances from Elena Moon Park, and a panel discussion led by Portland JACL board member, Sachi Kaneko. The panel also included violinist, Joe Kye; visual artist/activist, Ameya Okamoto; and performer, Elena Moon Park.

Although Mochitsuki was different this year, some things haven't changed since the first

event in 1996. We celebrated the New Year by coming together as a community and trying something a little bit different. A once in a lifetime effort for what I hope is a once in a lifetime pandemic. My sincere thank you and gratitude to the planning committee, all of our community partners, sponsors, vendors and every individual that helped us make Mochitsuki a reality in 2021. おつかれさまでした!

The great thing about virtual is that it isn't too late to watch all the videos that our community has created. So far, we have had over 300 people watch the finale and over 3,000 video views total. That is about the same as our attendance last year, so we'll count that as an accomplishment. Visit 2021.mochipdx.org to view the full Mochitsuki schedule. A recording of the live-stream finale is here:

2021.mochipdx.org/jan31

The best part is that you can do it at your leisure and while still in your pajamas or sweatpants. We plan to make all the videos accessible through the end of the year and are planning to be back in-person for 2022.

Please consider making a donation to Mochitsuki this year. Although costs were lower, we did not have any ticket sales and will be losing money to bring you this virtual event. You may donate online at:

donorbox.org/portland-mochitsuki-2021

or by mailing a check to:

**Portland JACL, PO Box 86310,
Portland, OR 97286**

Celebrating the 25th Annual
MOCHITSUKI
2021 Japanese American New Year



❖ Letter to the Editor ❖

Sent to the Oregonian by our Co-President Amanda Shannahan

As a Japanese American, I am familiar with the concept of reparations. After my grandmother passed, I inherited the framed letter of apology acknowledging the injustices done to her and 120,000 others of Japanese ancestry during World War II. She also received \$20,000 as a survivor of the Tule Lake concentration camp. While in no way did this money make up for the trauma and loss of dignity she experienced, it was still a meaningful step toward healing for her, our family and our community. Black Americans, however, still have not received any form of reparations for 250 years of slavery and continuing systemic racism. It is past due for meaningful action to address the generations of oppression experienced by Black people in the U.S.

Recently, the Japanese American

community reaffirmed our support for House Resolution 40 (congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/40), which would create a commission to study the effects of slavery and make recommendations to Congress for reparations. Our community is familiar with a similar body, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which was established in 1980 and facilitated Japanese Americans achieving redress and reparations. As a nation, we cannot truly begin to heal until we have reckoned with our past and provided compensation for people affected by injustices. The apology and financial compensation received by Japanese Americans like my grandmother was just a first step. Now is the time to support the call for reparations for Black Americans and for our country to continue down the path toward reconciliation.

❖ The 1619 Project ❖



Nikole Hannah-Jones is a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter covering racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine and creator of the landmark 1619 Project.

The New York Times's 1619 Project commemorates the 400th anniversary of the beginning of slavery in what would become the United States by examining slavery's modern legacy and reframing the way we understand this history and the contributions of Black Americans to the nation. Nikole's lead essay, "Our Democracy's founding

ideals were false when they were written. Black Americans have fought to make them true," was awarded the 2020 Pulitzer Prize.

Nikole also has written extensively about school resegregation across the country and chronicled the decades-long failure of the federal government to enforce the landmark 1968 Fair Housing Act.

In 2016, Nikole Hannah-Jones co-founded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, a training and mentorship organization dedicated to increasing the ranks of investigative reporters of color. Please contact Marleen@pdxjacl.org if you are interested in getting the link for the event.

❖ 2021 Virtual Liberty Dinner ❖

With Keynote Speaker Nikole Hannah-Jones

March 12, 2021
5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

This year's "dinner" will be an all virtual event. It will bring together leaders from social justice partners, members of the legal field, and supporters to explore the structural reforms needed to dismantle the deep-seated racism and inequity that permeates our institutions under the theme Justice is Indivisible.

Join our presenting sponsor, Nectar Markets, and others as we come together to celebrate the work we have done and the work ahead. We hope you will choose to stand with us at this critical time.


The keynote portion of this event can only be viewed live and will not be recorded for replay.

To access the keynote, you will need to RSVP in advance. Attendance to the virtual event is free, but an RSVP will be required to watch the keynote address.


RSVP Here: avstream.me/aclu

Liberty Dinner presented by Nectar Markets
Keynote presented by Don Powell / Powell Phones LLC

Current Board Members



Co-President
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 Parks
Connie Masuoka
Marleen Wallingford
Jenny Yamada



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

Let's Support Our Local Japanese Restaurants!

In participation with our other community partners,
Nichiren Buddhist Temple of Portland invites you to help one of our local
restaurants by placing an order below for bentos **by Monday, March 22, 2021.**

All proceeds go to Murata Restaurant

MURATA Japanese Restaurant

200 SW Market Street - Portland, Oregon 97201

Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021
Pick-up Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Pick-up location: 200 SW Market Street (Curbside pickup)
 Portland, Oregon

(Special)	Price	Quantity	Amount
Makunouchi Bento (Karaage Chicken, Shrimp fry, Salmon, rice, veggies, & more)	\$25	_____	_____

Name: _____ Address: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Nichiren Buddhist Temple** (specify "Bento Meal")
 _____ Check Enclosed 2025 SE Yamhill, Portland, OR 97214

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021

Questions? Contact: Ida: 503-655-3768
 Mae: 503-777-2824 (maeopi@gmail.com)
 Linda: 503-504-4838

Thank you for your order and for supporting one of the restaurants in our area during this pandemic. Special thanks to Oregon Buddhist Temple for initiating this project.

Employment Opportunity

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR JOB

DESCRIPTION

Title: Membership Coordinator

Reports to: Program Director for Membership and Fund Development

FLSA: Non-Exempt

Status: Regular Full-time

Location: San Francisco, CA

2021 UPDATE

JACL is looking for a Membership Coordinator with great people skills and who is good with numbers. Membership revenue accounts for approximately 30% of JACL's annual budget. The membership coordinator will support volunteers, produce content, and coordinate membership campaigns. Candidates must display teamwork, an organized work style, and an interest in JACL's mission. Candidates with fundraising or marketing experience are preferred but not required.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits with our headquarter office in the heart of SF Japantown with the option to occasionally work from home. During Covid-19, employees are able to work from home though this role requires occasional time in the office.

GENERAL SUMMARY

Under the general supervision of the Program Director for Membership/Fund Development, the Membership Coordinator will be responsible for developing and maintaining members and member services on a national level. Some work during evenings and weekends and travel required.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Duties may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Manage JACL's system of membership tracking to ensure timely and accurate information for fundraising as well as membership purposes.

- Provide timely assistance to JACL Chapters and Districts about their membership concerns.
- Organize, develop and document membership policies and procedures.
- Work with the Vice President of 1000 Club, Membership and Services and membership committee members.
- Ensure the timely scheduling of member and non-member mailings, including membership renewal notices, member cards, letters of acknowledgment, and more.
- Develop and maintain a periodic system of membership reporting for Chapters, Districts, and the Board of Directors.
- Develop and implement an annual program for chapters to retain lapsed members, acquire new members, and upgrade current members.
- Develop enticing membership content including handbooks, brochures, landing pages, email blasts, letters, etc.

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Serve as staff liaison for the National Youth/Student Council.
- Support Program Director for Membership/Fund Development on fundraising projects.
- Support the JACL National Convention team by administering chapter credentials.
- Performs other duties and handles other responsibilities as directed by the immediate supervisor or the Executive Director.

REQUIRED EDUCATION, TRAINING, EXPERIENCE

- Associate's degree in a related field, or equivalency, plus two years of related

experience or Bachelor's degree in a field of study which may include but is not limited to, nonprofit management, business, marketing, sociology, social work, Asian American studies.

- Experience working with database or CRM software such as Salsa Labs or Raiser's Edge.
- Proficient with manipulating spreadsheet-based software, such as Microsoft Excel or Google Sheets.

ADDITIONAL SPECIFICATIONS

- Two years of work experience, especially at a similar non-profit.
- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills.
- Attention to detail.
- Computer programming and graphic design skills are a plus.
- Successful completion of the probationary period.
- Be physically able to perform job duties including some lifting (up to 50 pounds) and bending.
- Some work after routine work hours and weekends may be required.
- Strong interest in JACL's mission.

The qualifications listed above are guidelines for selection purposes. Other combinations of education and experience which could provide the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to perform the job may be considered.

Competitive salary commensurate with experience and excellent fringe benefit package.

Email resume and cover letter to pozaki@jacl.org. For questions, contact Phillip Ozaki at pozaki@jacl.org or 773-816-1318.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Japanese American Citizens League ("JACL") is committed to providing qualified individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to perform the essential functions of their jobs. Additionally, if you (or another applicant of whom you are aware) require assistance accessing or reading this

job posting or otherwise seek assistance in the application process, please contact the business manager at busmgr@jacl.org.

JACL provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment and prohibits discrimination and harassment of any type without regard to sex, sex stereotyping, pregnancy (including pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy, childbirth, or breastfeeding), race, color, religion, ancestry or national origin, age, disability status, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, transgender status, protected military or veteran status, citizenship status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local laws. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, including recruiting, hiring, placement, promotion, termination, layoff, recall, transfer, leaves of absence, compensation and training.

Nothing in this job posting or description should be construed as an offer or guarantee of employment.

We're Hiring!

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR



**Make an impact in social justice & the
Japanese American community!**

www.jacl.org/jobs

❖ Scheduling for COVID vaccines ❖

This is the contact information to make an appointment for your COVID vaccine. **You must have an appointment to get a vaccination.** In addition, private pharmacies will be able to administer vaccinations when they get supplies. This includes Fred Meyer, Safeway, Albertson's and Costco. You must be eligible for the vaccination in order to schedule an appointment.

Scheduling Opportunities

The two mass vaccination sites offering vaccine appointments in the metro area are the All4Oregon Mass Vaccination Site at the Oregon Convention Center and the PDX Airport drive-through site. New appointments are released on Mondays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. **It's important to note that typically online appointments fill up within hours of release.**

To Schedule an Appointment

1. Oregon Convention Center – All4Oregon Mass Vaccination Site: Indoor clinic

- Go to: covidvaccine.oregon.gov
- Appointments open to:
 - o People in Phase 1A
 - o Educators in 1B
 - o Seniors 80+ open Feb. 8
 - o Seniors 75+ open Feb. 15
 - o Seniors 70+ open Feb. 22
 - o Seniors 65+ open March 1

More information and what to expect at this indoor clinic: all4oregon.org

Phone support for making appointments:
971-268-8718

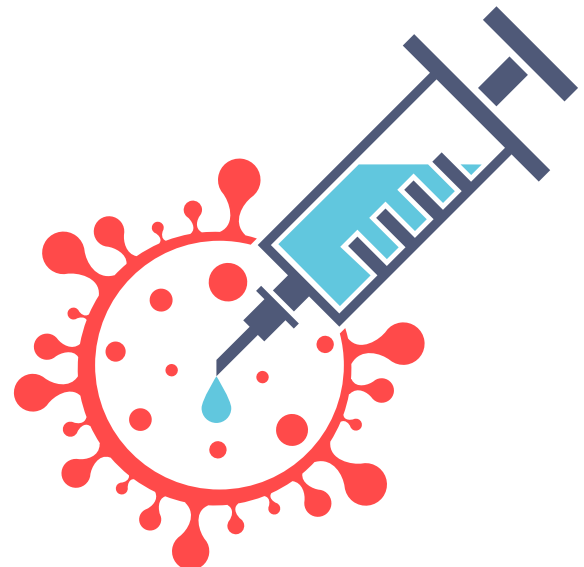
2. PDX Airport: Drive-through clinic

- Go to: ohsu.edu/health/covid-19-vaccines-information-and-appointments
- Priority given to:
 - o Paid and unpaid caregivers (including family members or foster parents) of medically fragile children or adults who live at home.
 - o Adults and age-eligible children who have a medical condition or disability who receive services at home.
 - o Age-eligible groups with mobility challenges.

What to expect at the drive through clinic: (video + map) ohsu.edu/health/covid-19-vaccines-information-and-appointments#section-1319786

Phone support for making appointments:
833-647-8222

Here is the state's priority list for eligible groups (sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/1e3527A.pdf).



❖ Photo Corner ❖



Two plaques which were installed on January 29, 2021 at the Japanese Cemetery located inside the Rose City Cemetery.

Photo by: Mike Irinaga



JAS Cemetery Committee at the installation of plaques at the Japanese Cemetery on January 29, 2021.

L to R: Susan Okada, Mike Irinaga, Fran Palk, Chip Larouche, Rich Iwasaki, Sharon Takahashi, Roger Iwasaki.

Photo by: Setsy Larouche



Roger Iwasaki and Rich Iwasaki were instrumental in getting the two plaques installed at the entrance of the Japanese Cemetery on January 29, 2021.

Photo by: Setsy Larouche

❖ Minoru Yasui Day 2021 ❖

Dear Friends, Allies, and Fellow Travelers for Justice,

The Minoru Yasui Legacy Project, in partnership with the Japanese American Museum of Oregon (JAMO), is proud to announce Oregon's 2021 Minoru Yasui Day event, **Immigrants and Refugees: The Path to Justice**. Join us to understand the social justice issues related to immigrants and refugees from invited speaker Senator Mazie Hirono and local leaders in the field. Find out the actions you can take and learn about Min Yasui's legacy and its connection to today.

Please join our virtual program on Saturday, March 27 from 1 to 3p. The event is free, but you will need to register. Please read the Save the Date (attached), send it to

your networks, and put March 27th on your calendar! Come celebrate and honor Min's courageous leadership for social justice with your voice and action towards more humane immigration policies and practices.

We look forward to seeing you on March 27th for Minoru Yasui Day. Don't miss it!!

In Pursuit of Justice, The Minoru Yasui Legacy Project

June Schumann (Chair)

Chris Ling

Gerhard Letzing

Jessica Asai

Kimberly McCullough

Lynn Fuchigami Parks

Maija Yasui

Peggy Nagae

❖ Renaming Portland Public Schools ❖

by June Schumann

As you've undoubtedly heard, some Portland Public School buildings are being renamed to more accurately reflect the diverse and inclusive ideals of today and to discontinue honoring those whose past behaviors are no longer acceptable. Wilson High School in SW Portland has become Ida B Wells-Barnett HS. Ms Wells-Barnett was a journalist & publisher in the late 1800s & early 1900s and helped found civil rights & women's suffrage groups.

Madison High School in NE Portland (where Harue Ninomiya served as bookkeeper, Herb Osaki was a science teacher & coach and Betty Jean Harry was a teacher & counselor) will be renamed soon. One of the names under consideration is **MIN YASUI HIGH SCHOOL!** Many Sansei have been graduates of Madison High School.

As part of their due diligence, the renaming committee contacted the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project for information.

Below is a link to a survey seeking community input which includes the final list of potential names (and information about each) for Madison HS was requested by February 15.

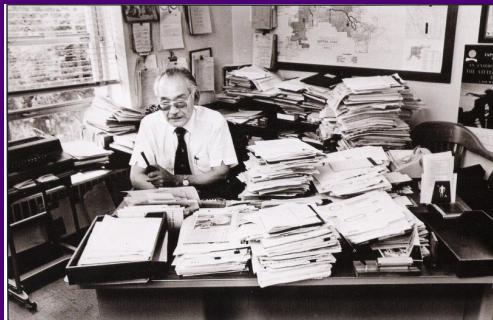
Here is the link to the survey: bit.ly/3jkquKQ which includes other names under consideration.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact naming@pps.net

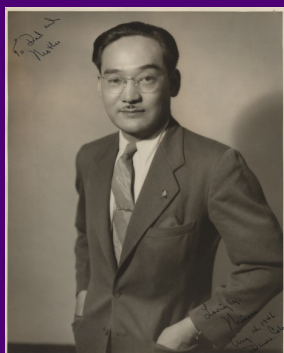
Save the Date: Minoru Yasui Day, March 27, 2021

1 – 3 PM (virtual attendance by Zoom)

In Oregon, March 28 is designated Minoru Yasui Day to honor Min's tireless fight for equality, humanity, and civil rights. This year our program is scheduled for Saturday, March 27th.



Immigrants and Refugees: The Path to Justice is our theme this year.



We are in conversation with **U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii)** for a fireside chat on the social justice issues and challenges that impact immigrants and refugees as well as current national legislation. Sen. Hirono, herself, emigrated from Japan to the U.S.

And, you won't want to miss a short, locally-produced, national award-winning film about Min's legacy and the winners of the Minoru Yasui Student Contest.

More is planned, so please mark your calendars and watch your email for additional details.

This event is free but registration is required.

For sponsorship opportunities and other inquiries:
minyasuilegacyproject@gmail.com

Hosted by:
Minoru Yasui Legacy Project



www.minoruyasuilegacy.org

in collaboration with the
Japanese American
Museum of Oregon (JAMO).



Thank you to our generous
sponsors (partial list):

Pillars of Justice

ACLU Foundation of Oregon
Blaine & Precioso Tamaki
Foundation

Minoru Yasui Stalwarts

APANO Communities United Fund
Markam Group of Spokane
(Mark Kamitomo)
Northwest Health Foundation
Portland JACL
Sugerman Law Office

Minoru Yasui Legacy Booster

Japanese Ancestral Society
of Portland
Jess Jacobs
MRG Foundation
Muslim Educational Trust

Friends of Minoru Yasui Day

Peggy Nagae

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Behind the scenes look at the zoom photo of people working on the Mochitsuki headliner event on January 31st. Even though we were not able to meet in person, we still were able to celebrate.