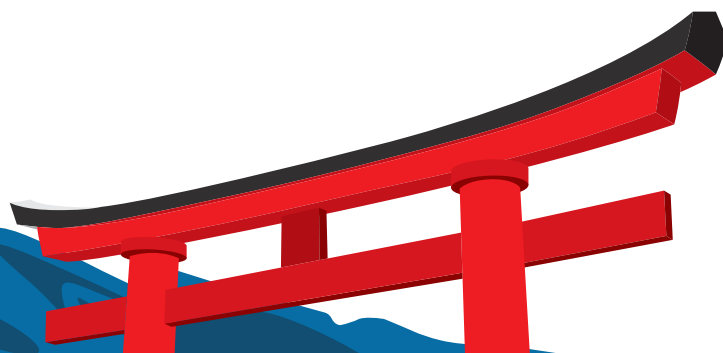




# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• MAY 2021 | VOLUME 27 ISSUE 5 •

## Board Member MESSAGE

By Connie Masuoka

It has been a year, literally and figuratively since I last took my turn at the front page of the newsletter with the board member's message. At the time we were well into the COVID Pandemic and I shared in my message my feelings of fear of the unknown and loss of personal contact. And because I am a healthcare provider (my go to message is always about prevention) I also mentioned techniques on how to prevent getting sick and ways to cope and maintain mental wellness in such dark and scary times.

Now, a year later my spirit has been lifted because I did not get sick, and I am now fully vaccinated. I have visited some of my older friends/family who also been vaccinated. I feel that the cloud of COVID19 has lifted for me but sadly the cloud of Anti-Asian/AAPI hate has persisted fueled by the pejorative rhetoric of past President Trump, government officials and the far-right media which has resulted in a 150% increase in reported hate crimes against Asian/AAPI across the nation.

Anti-Asian/AAPI hate is nothing new I have lived with it all my life. At times I don't feel it as much, but I always know it is present. It is a part of our collective history; even with all the efforts of those who came before it has been impossible to totally eradicate the hate. Mostly because anti-Asian/AAPI hate is just a flavor of hate (discrimination/prejudice).

**Continued on Pg. 2**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Cemetery Clean-up

May 1-2, 15-16, 29-30  
Sat 9-11am / Sun 12-2pm

### Scholarships and awards will be given but Graduation Banquet is cancelled.

May 2

### Grand opening of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon (Virtual)

May 6 - 5pm

### Stand Up Against Hate

May 8 - 11am

### Facing the Mountain Book Launch (Virtual)

May 11 - 5pm

### Memorial Day Service at Japanese American Cemetery at Rose City Cemetery

May 31 - 1pm

### Portland JACL General Meeting Screening of

### Shikata Ga Nai: An Inconvenient American. (Virtual)

June 13 - 2pm

### Local Unveiling - "Go For Broke, JA Soldiers of WWII Forever Stamp" at Oregon Historical Society (Virtual)

June 14 - 530pm

**Continued from Pg. 1**

Hate extends to all people of color and anyone deemed as "other" whether by gender, national origin, physical disability, religious belief, sexual orientation, or status.

Right now, these acts of hate against Asian/ AAPI feel overwhelming and paralyzing but there is something you can do to push back against the hate; report any incidents of bias or hate crimes. By reporting your experience (or helping someone to report) you provide information so that it can inform for better protection, educational resources and policies that would ultimately end hate.

Maybe you are thinking what can I report?

**Reports fall into two categories:**

- 1) incidents of bias and
- 2) hate crimes. Incidents of bias can be verbal, physical, or visual and are language, actions or acts that contribute or create and unsafe or unwelcoming environment.

**This could include:**

- Name calling; racial, ethnic or other slurs to identify someone.
- Creating racist or derogatory images.
- Physically mocking someone with a disability or imitating someone's cultural norm or practice. Hate crimes are described by Oregon law as crimes motivated by bias against another person's race, color, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**This could include:**

- Assaulting, injuring or even touching someone in an offensive manner because of their perceived protected class.
- Creating racist or derogatory graffiti on someone else's property based on their perceived protected class.
- Threatening to physically harm a person, their family, or their property based on

their perceived protected class (Oregon Department of Justice - [doj.state.or.us](http://doj.state.or.us)).

**Locally you can report incidents of bias(hate) to the Department of Justice through:**

Victims Hotline for Bias Crime

1-844-924-BIAS (2427)

or online at:

[justice.oregon.gov/CrimeReporting/BiasCrime](http://justice.oregon.gov/CrimeReporting/BiasCrime)

**Nationally you can report to a nonprofit called:**

Stop AAPI Hate

[www.stopapihate.org](http://www.stopapihate.org)

The Portland JACL board members are currently working on coalition building, public education and advocacy on civil rights and against anti-Asian hate, developing programs for community building and safety. We would love to have your help. If you have the interest to do more, please contact us at:

**President@pdxjacl.org or (877) 843-6914.**

**STOP  
AAPI  
HATE**

## ❖ *Shikata Ga Nai: An Inconvenient American* ❖

Portland JACL General Meeting (Virtual)

June 13, 2pm



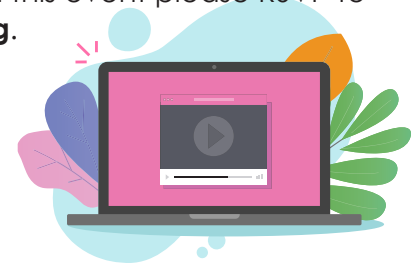
**Shikata Ga Nai: An Inconvenient American** (<https://youtu.be/8w3N8ijCiaQ>) is Lauren Yanase's exploration of her family's history. It follows the story of the Kato family during World War II

as Japanese Americans along the West Coast were being forcefully removed into incarceration camps.

Lauren attends Bennington College. She graduated high school from St. Mary's Academy in Portland and has previously written creative

fiction and nonfiction accounts of Japanese American internment and has been recognized regionally and nationally for her writing. In 2019, she earned the Girl Scout Gold Award for her documentary about the Japanese American internment. This is a prestigious honor, with fewer than six percent of Girl Scouts worldwide earning this award.

If you're interested in this event please RSVP to [Marleen@pdxjacl.org](mailto:Marleen@pdxjacl.org).



## ❖ *Memorial Day Service* ❖

May 31st, 1PM

Rose City Cemetery

Everyone is cordially invited to our annual Memorial Day Service. The Buddhist Henjyoji Temple is in charge of the event. Due to COVID-19, everyone must wear their masks. A tent will be erected and some chairs will be

available but social distancing will be practiced. The Service will be continued at the Lone Fir Cemetery located at SE 26th and Stark St. Entrance is on SE 26th, halfway between Stark and Morrison Street.



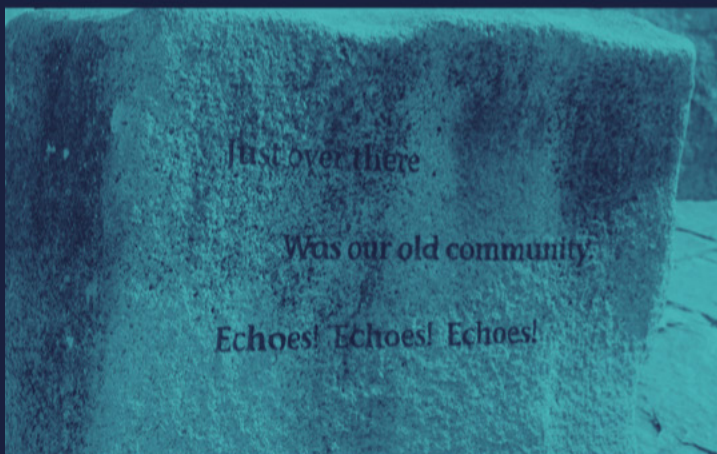
# Memorial Day

REMEMBER AND HONOR





# VIRTUAL GRAND OPENING



Register at [GRANDOPENING.JAMO.ORG](https://grandopening.jamo.org)



## ROOTED IN COMMUNITY, HISTORY, AND JUSTICE

Celebrate *Something Grand*, the opening of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon at Naito Center.

## MAY 6, 2021

May 6, 1942 life changed forever when Japantown disappeared...

Today we welcome you to our permanent home. Today we remember and celebrate our presence in the heart of Portland.



## ❖ Asian Food Pantry for Low-Income Elders ❖

With the pandemic of COVID-19, many of the most vulnerable lost their access to food pantries. This is particularly true for people of color—including low-income Asian elders living in Downtown Portland, Oregon.

This projection is a collaboration among St. Stephen's (Clay Street Table), The Giving Tree, and Asian Health and Services Center—who was seeking resources for food for low-income seniors living in Downtown Portland. Clay Street Table already had a walk-up pantry before the pandemic and worked with the Giving Tree to quickly convert to home deliveries to safeguard these vulnerable residents, especially since the closest Asian grocery stores are at least 30 min away by public transit. These elders could not get to items like tofu, bean curds, fish sauce, and Asian vegetables like bok choy, napa cabbage, etc.

In April (early in the pandemic), Clay Street Table—as a partner of Oregon Food Bank—received a grant to subsidize the first Asian Pantry! We used the \$4000 to initiate a culturally-specific Asian food pantry delivery to the elderly. They were so grateful and delighted to receive food which brought them comfort and reminders of their heritage, ingredients with which they are familiar and can easily cook. The grant was also supplemented by the Chinese American Citizens Alliance with its members donating over \$1000. On average, with the coordination from Asian Health and Service Center, we are serving 160+ Asian household, 250 elderly residents of Chinese and Korean heritage with 320+ bags of grocery each month, which costs about \$6000 to \$7000 per month.

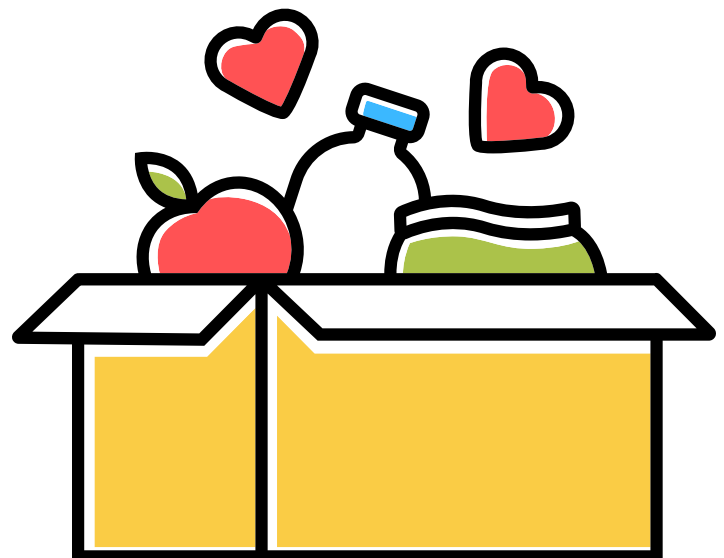
Because we are solely dependent on food sourced from the Oregon Food Bank, it is unlikely that any authentic Asian food, especially fruits and vegetables, will ever be available. While OFB is able to provide majority of the items like rice,

cooking oil, tuna, etc, we are asking for your help so we can provide Asian-specific items, which will cost approximately \$4500 per month. This will allow us to purchase Chinese and Korean ethnic items, much of them produce and fruit. That is only \$26.47 per Asian household served per month!

With the resurgence of COVID-19 positive cases in the Portland metro area and the high likelihood of the pandemic continuing well into the fall, we need your help to bring some comfort and joy to the low-income Asian elders. Please help with your monetary donation, share this on your social media platforms, and volunteer your time to pack and deliver the groceries. We will get through this together!

### **GoFundme Link:**

[charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/asian-food-pantry-for-low-income-elders](https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/asian-food-pantry-for-low-income-elders)



## Photo Corner

Clean up at the JA Historical Plaza on Sunday, March 28, 2021



Minnie Young, a community volunteer helps with the cleanup of the JA Historical Plaza.



Jenny Yamada Board member of PDXJACL helps clean up the JA Historical Plaza.



Jo & Mike Shannahan help with the cleanup of the JA Historical Plaza



The Kobayashi family help with the cleanup of the JA Historical Plaza.



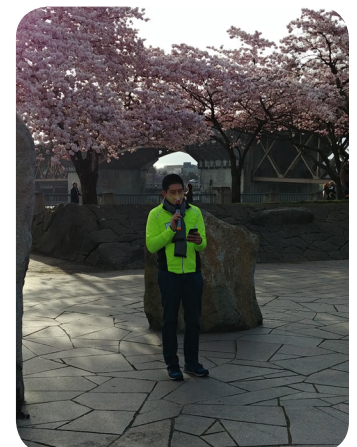
Amanda Shanahan  
JACL Co-President



Reverend Anna  
Epworth Methodist Church



Lynn Parks  
ED of JAMO



Chris Lee  
JACL Co-President



# STAND UP AGAINST HATE

*A Call to Action in support of  
Asian and Pacific Islander Oregonians*

**Saturday,  
May 8, 2021**

**11:00 AM, Remarks at 11:30 AM**

**Come join in solidarity with friends to listen to  
messages of hope and action from Asian Americans  
in our community and elected officials**

**JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL PLAZA**

**TOM MCCALL WATERFRONT PARK**

*Please show respect, wear a mask, and socially distance.  
If possible, use mass transit and carpool to the event.*



# Liberation in Practice

Anti-Racism Workshops For API Heritage Month

MAY 2021



Liberation in Practice  
Schedule & Tickets

[www.apano.org/liberationinpractice/](http://www.apano.org/liberationinpractice/)

This May, the BIPOC community is invited to join APANO to dive deep with leading social justice experts and community-based organizations to expand our knowledge of anti-racism in theory, work, and practice.

**Wednesday, 5/5/21 (5 – 7 PM) | Reconciling History & Social Locations**

*What is race? What is racism? How do we embody racism? How do we confront racism in ourselves, in our communities, in society?* [Yaejoon Kwon, PhD](#) | [Michelle Lee, M.Ed.](#) | BIPOC only event

**Wednesday, 5/12/21 (5 – 7 PM) | Radical Self-Awareness**

*What is the model minority myth? How has it been weaponized? How can we disrupt the weaponization and create a model minority mutiny?* [Marie Lo, PhD](#) | [JACL](#) | BIPOC only event

**Friday, 5/14/21 (Noon - 1:30 PM) | Celebrating Asian & Pacific Islander Resilience & Solidarity**

*All audiences are welcome to learn about and celebrate Asian & Pacific Islander Resilience & Solidarity.* [Yaejoon Kwon, PhD](#) | [Rep. Khanh Pham \(D\) District 46, Portland](#) | [Manumalo Ala'ilima, UTOPIA PDX](#) | [Cynthia Choi, Chinese for Affirmative Action / Stop AAPI Hate](#)

**Tuesday, 5/18/21 (5 - 6:30 PM) | Unlearning Anti-Blackness in Non-Black Communities**

*The racial landscape of the United States includes dynamic challenges, conflicts, and alliances, but the oppression of Black people is fundamental to how we understand all other races in America. In this session, we will challenge our personal practices, build skills for discussing anti-Blackness with our communities, and commit to de-centering ourselves in order to center Black livelihood.* [Kim Tran, PhD](#) | BIPOC only event

**Wednesday, 5/19/21 (5 – 6:30 PM) | Relational Social Power**

*Old and new members of Asian 4 Black Lives will give a presentation on their experiences: how A4BL structures challenges and disrupts anti-blackness + white supremacy within ourselves, our organization, and beyond.* [PDX Asians 4 Black Lives](#) | BIPOC only event

**Friday, 5/21/2021 (5 – 6:30 PM) | The History of Asian & Pacific Islanders in Oregon**

*What are the journeys and experiences of API communities in the past? How does this shape our livelihoods currently? What can we do to (re)align ourselves with the community and land?* [ALLY \(Asian Leaders for the Liberation of Youth\)](#) | [YOIT \(Youth Organizers In-Training\)](#) | BIPOC only event

**Wednesday, 5/26/21 (5 - 7 PM) | Revolutions & Revelations**

*What is racial healing? How can we engage in racial healing within ourselves, our communities, and in society?* [Maria Beebe, PhD](#) | [Eddy Zheng](#) | BIPOC only event

**Thursday, 5/27/21 (3 - 4:30 PM) | The History of Orchards of 82**

*What is the history of the building that is now called Orchards of 82? How does community based development happen? How does an organization identify community needs and then build something to address those needs?* [Todd Strubble](#) | BIPOC only event

**Friday, 5/28/21 (3 - 5 PM) | Healing & Care for Asian & Pacific Islander Communities**

*Why is mental health care important for Asian and Pacific Islander communities? How can we access mental health care services? How do we hold space for ourselves and each other to grieve and heal?* [Dr. Gordon C. Nagayama Hall](#) | TBD | BIPOC only event





**PORTLAND JACL**  
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PORTLAND, OR 97268

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Portland JACL supported a rally against Asian hate on March 20th.

