



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• JUNE 2021 | VOLUME 27 ISSUE 6 •

Board Member MESSAGE

The 2021 Japanese Community Scholarship Recipients

By Heidi Kimiko Tolentino

The members of the Class of 2021 have accomplished remarkable feats despite the pandemic and we are humbled by their determination and resilience. It has been a long year of missed events for them, but they have continued to push through academically, athletically and extracurricularly. Though we were not able to honor them at our yearly Graduation Banquet, we were able to award them with community scholarships. These are the Scholarship Recipients of the Outstanding Class of 2021.

Oregon Nisei Veterans: Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship

The Oregon Nisei Veterans began in 1948 with the purpose of raising money to build a monument to honor the Nisei soldiers killed in action during WW II. The Oregon Nisei Veterans awards the Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship each year.

Art Iwasaki was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat team during WWII and a founding member of Oregon Nisei Vets. Art was a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal and this scholarship is given in memory of his loving wife, Teri. Second Lieutenant Roger Okamoto was killed in Vietnam in 1966 at the age of 23.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Go for Broke Stamp Dedication ceremony (Virtual)

June 3
8am

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

APAICS Kakehashi Cultural Exchange Program for Youth June 15

5pm - 7pm (PST)

Juneteenth

June 19

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)

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Jubei Uzunoe

Lieutenant Okamoto graduated from Benson High School and earned an engineering degree from the University of Washington. **The winner of the Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship was Jubei Uzunoe of Grant High School.**

Jubei was on the

Wrestling and Baseball teams and competed in Obukan Judo. He was also a kitchen lead and volunteer at Konko Church. In the fall, he will be attending Iowa State University and will be part of their ROTC program. **Congratulations Jubei!**

Japanese Ancestral Society: Tsuya and Kumaichi Minamoto/Mary Yamaguchi Fund Scholarship, Hide Naito Scholarship, Mary K. Naito Scholarship

The Japanese Ancestral Society (JAS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the Nikkei community and promoting education and fellowship among the members of the community. JAS awards three scholarships each year.

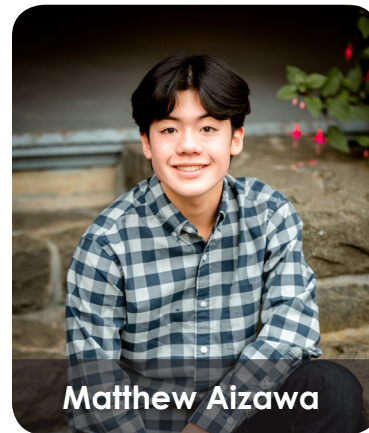
Tsuya and Kumaichi Minamoto emigrated from Japan in the early 1900's and endured being incarcerated during WWII. Their daughter, Mary, created this scholarship in their honor. This year, the Minamoto scholarship was combined



Anna Yotsuuye

with a scholarship from the Mary Yamaguchi Fund from the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. The Mary Yamaguchi Fund was founded in memory of Mary Yamaguchi, a long-time member of the

Nikkei community in Portland. Mary supported scholarships in memory of her parents, Shizuo and Ujitsuto Yamaguchi. She was also a member of multiple Nikkei organizations and a volunteer of Iko no Kai. **The winner of the Minamoto/Mary Yamaguchi Fund Scholarship was Anna Yotsuuye of Central Catholic High School.** Anna was on the Swim Team, part of Girls Who Code and was an Academic Achievement Award winner. Anna will be attending Fresno Pacific University next year. **Congratulations, Anna!**



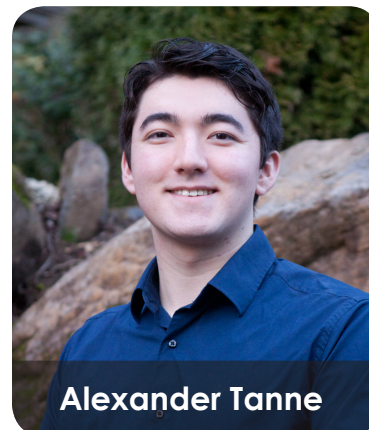
Matthew Aizawa

Matthew Aizawa of La Salle High School.

Matthew has a black belt in Shorinji Kempo, played Soccer and Tennis and earned multiple Scholar Athlete awards. Matthew will be attending Pepperdine University next year. **Congratulations, Matthew!**

Hide Naito was a Portland entrepreneur who started his first of several businesses in 1921 which diversified during his lifetime into retail operations, importing and real-estate development. **This year's winner of the Hide Naito scholarship was**

The Mary K. Naito Scholarship is sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Verne Naito. Mary K. Naito was a homemaker, community volunteer, businesswoman and high school Valedictorian.



Alexander Tanne

The winner of the Mary K. Naito Scholarship was Alexander Tanne of Mountain View High School. Alexander will graduate from the Portland Japanese School this year where he has attended every Saturday for twelve

years. Alexander was on the Swim, Baseball and Tennis teams and was a Scholar Athlete. Alexander will be attending either the University of Washington's Engineering School or Columbia University next year. ***Congratulations, Alexander!***



Kai Kiyokawa

**Portland Shokookai:
Shokookai of Portland
Scholarship**

Portland Shokookai was founded in 1966 by a small group of Japanese companies. They facilitate business operations for Japanese companies in Oregon and SW

Washington and run the Japanese Language School. **This year's Shokookai of Portland Scholarship winner was Kai Kiyokawa of Grant High School.** Kai was a member of the Japanese Magnet Program (JMP), a volunteer at Nichiren Buddhist Temple, and played both Football and Baseball. Kai will be attending Clark College next year. ***Congratulations, Kai!***



Shinji Tanaka

**The Veleda Club
and Portland Nikkei
Fujinkai: Veleda
Club/Nikkei Fujinkai
Scholarship**

The Veleda Club is Portland's oldest Nikkei women's service organization that is active in the community today. Portland Nikkei

Fujinkai is a Japanese Ancestral Women's Association that was established in 1935. They support community activities and cultural education. **This year's winner of the Veleda Club/Nikkei Fujinkai scholarship was Shinji Tanaka of Southridge High School.** Shinji was a member of his school's marching band which played for Ikoi no Kai. He also ran both Cross Country and Track

and was a Japanese Language tutor. Shinji will attend Oregon State University next year.

Congratulations, Shinji!



Carson Nitta

**Gresham-Troutdale
JACL: Gresham-
Troutdale JACL
Scholarship**

The Gresham-Troutdale JACL is part of the oldest national civil rights organization in America. It serves to protect the rights of not only Asians, but

all minorities, and nurtures the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans. This year the Gresham-Troutdale JACL scholarship was combined with a scholarship from the Mary Yamaguchi Fund from the Community Foundation for Southwest Washington. **The winner of the Gresham-Troutdale JACL/Mary Yamaguchi Fund Scholarship was Carson Nitta of Lincoln High School.** Carson was a member of the Cross Country and Track teams, as well as the Jazz Ensemble. He also volunteered with Epworth United Methodist Church and Ikoi no Kai. Carson will be attending Oregon State University next year. ***Congratulations, Carson!***

**Portland JACL: Kiyoko Yumibe Scholarship,
Matt Masuoka Scholarship, Yoshiko Kennedy
Scholarship, Mabel Shoji Boggs Scholarship**

Portland JACL was established in 1928 with an ongoing mission to fight social injustice and to preserve the cultural heritage and values of Japanese Americans. Portland JACL awarded four scholarships this year.

Kiyoko Yumibe was a hard-working Nisei who was incarcerated during WWII. She established a fund, through Portland JACL, to help support youth seeking higher education. **The winner of the Yumibe Scholarship was Alisa Carter of Westview High School.** Alisa will graduate from

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Alisa Carter

the Portland Japanese School this year where she has attended every Saturday for thirteen years. Alisa has also played with both the school bands and marching band, she volunteered with the Japanese International

Baptist Church and was a member of the National Honor Society. Alisa will be attending the University of British Columbia next year.

Congratulations, Alisa!



Owen Strid

Matthew Masuoka was a Nisei dentist who was a past President of Portland JACL and a Pacific NW District Governor. This award is given in his honor by his daughter, Dr. Connie Masuoka. **The winner of the Matt Masuoka Scholarship was**

Owen Strid of Century High School. Owen will graduate from the Portland Japanese School this year where he has attended every Saturday for thirteen years. He has also been a member of the Key Club, played Soccer and ran Track and was a member of the National Honor Society. Owen will be attending Oregon State University next year. ***Congratulations, Owen!***

Yoshiko Kennedy used her talents as a seamstress and master of Ikebana to ensure her children would receive an education. The Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship was created in her memory.

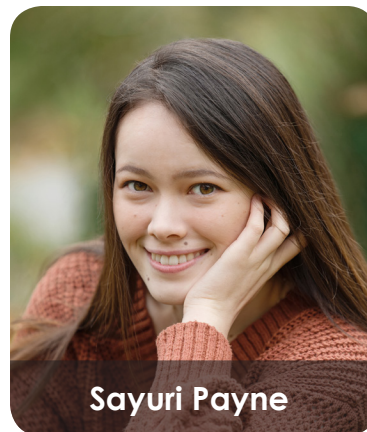


Kandai Shimada

The winner of the Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship was Kandai Shimada of Camas High School.

Kandai was on the Track and Field team, the Mock Trial Team and he volunteered at the Japanese Gardens and at Mochitsuki. Kandai

will attend the University of Washington next year. ***Congratulations, Kandai!***



Sayuri Payne

Portland JACL administers a scholarship in the name of Mabel Shoji Boggs. Her generosity to high school students, Portland Taiko and the Minidoka Swing Band has benefited the Nikkei community in many ways. **The**

winner of the Mabel Shoji Boggs Scholarship was Sayuri Payne of Mountainside High School.

Sayuri wrote about founding the Japan-Oregon Cultural Exchange in the January 2021 edition of the Portland JACL newsletter. She also played in her school's Jazz and Marching Bands and volunteered with the Minidoka Swing band. Sayuri will be attending the University of Oregon's Clark Honors College next year. ***Congratulations Sayuri!***

Class of 2021 Japanese Community Scholarship Recipients, you make our community proud! Your accomplishments are truly impressive and we know that you will continue to excel in your future endeavors. Congratulations and thank you for your contributions to the Nikkei community!

Congratulations!

PORTLAND JACL GENERAL MEETING



June 13 at 2 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

RSVP :
Marleen @pdxjacl.org
for the link

SHIKATA GA NAI: AN INCONVENIENT AMERICAN A FILM BY LAUREN YANASE

My documentary, *Shikata Ga Nai: An Inconvenient American*, started out as a hint of an idea in the back of my mind almost four years ago. Since first grade, I have been a Girl Scout and had always wanted to get my Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can receive. Most Scouts who earn this award do so with very hands-on, tangible service projects, refurbishing a church, founding a STEM robotics club for girls, etc. I figured I, too, would do something of a similar nature. However, in my junior year of high school, I was faced with an uncomfortable reality. What I took for granted--an innate knowledge of the horrors my Japanese American family faced during World War II--others (intelligent, empathetic people) were ignorant to or didn't appreciate the full consequence. So began the most ambitious, emotionally grueling project I had ever attempted: making a documentary.

❖ Photo Corner ❖



Members of the Portland JACL participated in the cemetery clean-up. L to R: Marleen Wallingford, Rev. Dean Yamamoto and Chris Lee



Fran Sumida Palk and Suan Okada are the organizers and regular helpers for the cemetery clean-up.



Connie Masuoka, Lynn Fuchigami Park, Chris Lee and Amanda Shannahan participated in an Anti-Asian Hate Rally on May 8 at the Lan Su Garden. Many of Oregon's leaders like Sen. Ron Wyden, Mayor Ted Wheeler, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and County Commissioner Lori Stegmann participated.

Oregon Japanese American World War II Veterans' Stamp Dedication



Courtesy of USPS

A Virtual Event

▶ vimeo.com/543729988

🕒 June 14th @ 5:30 pm

Our dedication will unveil the US Postal Service stamp that honors Nisei veterans of World War II. The program will include former Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski as Honorary Chair. Tributes will include four generations of Japanese Americans and feature vignettes of Oregon Nisei military service portrayed by Oregon Asian Americans.



OREGON NISEI VETERANS, INC.

Mary Yamaguchi Fund

At the Southwest Community Foundation of Washington



THE OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1898



JAPANESE AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF OREGON



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The Portland JACL partnered with APANO to give a workshop on how to dismantle the model minority myth on May 12. (Center) Marie Lo talked about the history of the myth. We described our advocacy efforts and our work creating coalitions with other communities to create a model minority mutiny.