



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• FEBRUARY 2022 | VOLUME 28 ISSUE 02 •

Board Member MESSAGE

A Legacy Lives On

By Jillian Toda-Currie

This time last year, I was writing about the relevancy of Minoru Yasui and his lifelong fight for justice for all. Carrying on Min's legacy continues to be hugely important today as more people are seeing (and getting fed up with) the injustices of our society. Min's legacy went beyond standing up against discrimination to Japanese Americans. It was his collaboration with others. It was his leadership in community-building. It was his taking a stand against many forms of oppression, those that impacted him as well as those that did not. All these actions combine to form Min's legacy.

And this legacy lives on.

I was only about a year out of school when I was introduced to a group of community members passionate about sharing and amplifying the work of Min Yasui, which is now the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project. It was then that I met Min's daughter, Holly Yasui, who was as dedicated to her own fight for social justice as she was about promoting her father's fight. Holly's legacy was carrying on Min's legacy, and she did this as an expert storyteller and visionary.

Holly's passing at the end of October struck the entire community. On my birthday, which I share with Holly, I was looking at a gift she had sent me for my wedding a few years ago and reflected

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 1
Lunar New Year

February 12
Birth of Abraham Lincoln

February 14
Valentine's Day

February 15
Nirvana Day
Death of Buddha

February 19
EO 9066

February 21
President's Day

February 22
Birth of George Washington

February 26
Portland JACL Day of Remembrance
Kennedy School
130 pm

"We hope all of you are enjoying your 2022 JACL calendars! Regretfully, there was a misprint in the calendar. Yom Kippur was listed twice. Please cross out Yom Kippur on September 14th. It is actually from October 4th to 5th which is accurately listed in the month of October.

Thank you for your understanding!"

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Continued from Pg. 1

on the kindness she had showed me, as well as her immense passion. She had so many ideas of how to memorialize Min's story. It drives me to continue the legacy.

One of Holly's ideas to honor her father's legacy was to build a student contest. She co-founded the Minoru Yasui Student Contest, which is now in its fifth year. The Student Contest encourages youth to learn about Min's legacy and connect it with themes about today. Not only does the contest spread the story of Min's life but also allows students to explore themes of social justice that opens opportunities for society's future leaders. The contest "passes the torch" to the next generation to take up Min's legacy.

It has been an honor to see this in action. 2021 Student Contest finalist, Fiona Larsen-Teskey from Min's hometown of Hood River, is now a member of the Minoru Yasui Student Contest Committee. Fiona participated in the contest and has now been part of creating and running the contest, all while in her senior year of high school. Alan Zhou and Kyler Wang, also high school seniors, have been part of the committee for two years after producing a first place documentary about Min's story for National History Day. These young leaders are picking up the torch and it's why I believe the Minoru Yasui Student Contest is so important.

Min and Holly live on – it is our legacy to carry on their work.

About the Minoru Yasui Student Contest

Please share the contest information with students and educators you know!

Organized by the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, the Minoru Yasui Student Contest is open to high school and middle school students and offers them the timely opportunity to explore how people can stand up to racism and discrimination.

In the process, they will learn about the life and legacy of Minoru Yasui, the only Oregonian to have been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Submission deadline is March 1, 2022. This year, we are pleased to offer a \$1000 grand prize for the Senior Division and a \$500 grand prize for the Junior Division.

For the full criteria, requirements, resources, and awards, please visit the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project's Student Contest website.



**"WHAT IS DONE TO THE LEAST OF US CAN BE DONE TO ALL OF US.
I KNEW WE HAD TOO PROTEST IT."**

- MINORU YASUI



MINORU YASUI LEGACY PROJECT

2022 Minoru Yasui Student Contest

Prompt: What are the duties, responsibilities, and/or obligations of an individual or group in US society in taking a stand against racism and discrimination?

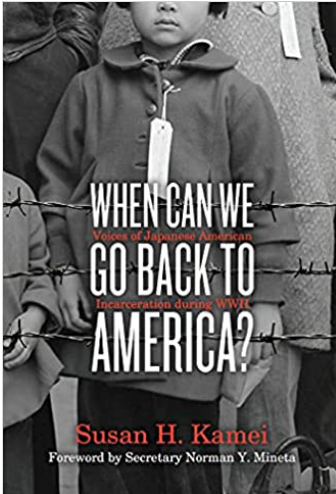
OPEN TO MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

OVER \$2000 IN PRIZES!

www.minoruyasuilegacy.org/student-contest



❖ When Can We Go Back to America? ❖



SUSAN H. KAMEI is the granddaughter of Japanese immigrants. Her family was incarcerated at the Santa Anita Assembly Center in California and at the War Relocation Authority camp in Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Her father and his family were detained at the WRA

camp known as Poston II. Her family's experience motivated her to complete her law degree and work with the legislative strategy team of

JACL to obtain redress for the unjust treatment of Japanese Americans during WWII. She now teaches at the University of Southern California about the Japanese American experience.

Ms. Kamei tells the story of the incarceration, military, resettlement and redress experience through the voices of 130 people who lived through that experience. The title of the book comes from the story of a young girl who looked around her surroundings in camp and because there were so many Japanese people around thought her family had moved back to Japan. The book touches on issues that resonate today: immigration, racial identity, citizenship and what it means to be an American.

❖ Call for Feedback! ❖

Your very own PDX JACL Advocacy Committee has a goal to address Asian American Safety and Visibility as one of its priorities for the new year. Under this topic are the important mental health needs of the Japanese American community. We know that we cannot do this work for our community without receiving feedback from the community, so we would love to hear from you!

Sample questions:

- How have your JA family/friends engaged with topics like wellbeing and mental health?
- What are some phrases you have heard in the JA community response to hardship?
(i.e. "Shikata ga nai", "It can't be helped", "It'll be fine")

- What has your overall wellness and mental health been like during the COVID pandemic?
- What are the needs that you see around you, related to mental health?

You may complete this anonymous Google Form (link here: <https://bit.ly/PDXJACLMH>, or use the QR code below) or contact Spencer@pdxjacl.org to arrange a one-to-one conversation. Thank you in advance for your collaboration!



Time to Review the Portland City Charter

Every ten years the city of Portland undertakes a review of their charter or the way that city government is set-up and how we vote for our leaders. It is time for that process to begin again. A Charter Commission is currently reviewing our charter to recommend changes that will impact everyone who lives in the city of Portland. This process will culminate with proposals approved by the Commission to be voted on in the November 2022 election.

Currently Portland has a commission style of government. The following chart shows the three styles of government found in the United States.

Commission Government

Mayor, City Commissioners, Auditor

- Mayor and City Commissioners share powers and run bureaus

Pros and Cons

Mayor provides strong political leadership

- Too much power in one person

Mayor-Council Government

Mayor, City Council

- *Strong*
Mayor can over-ride City Council Council decisions
- or
- *Weak*
Mayor and City Council share equal powers

Pros and Cons

Mayor and City Council share powers

- Larger cities need more support to run bureaus

Council-Manager Government

City Council, City Manager, Mayor

- City Council passes laws, the City Manager runs the bureaus and the Mayor has no special powers

Pros and Cons

City Council can focus on policy.

- City Manager is not elected.

Portland is the only major city in the United States that has a commission form of government. Our neighbor to the north and south Seattle and San Francisco uses the Mayor-Council form of government. The Council-Manager form of government is the most common found in the United States with approximately 59 percent of cities following this model. Political scientists and policy analysts have stated that the prevalence of the Council-Manager form of government was indicative of a trend toward professionalization in municipal administration, and that state laws and transparency and accountability organizations were the catalysts of this trend. The cities of Phoenix, San Diego, Dallas, Cincinnati, San Antonio and Kansas City are some of the examples of places that use that form.

It is time for the citizens of the City of Portland to reconsider how our city is government is run. The issues with police oversight, houseless people, lack of mental health and addiction service and garbage throughout the city have shown us that government needs to work better. It starts with re-thinking government. We will have the opportunity to choose this November.

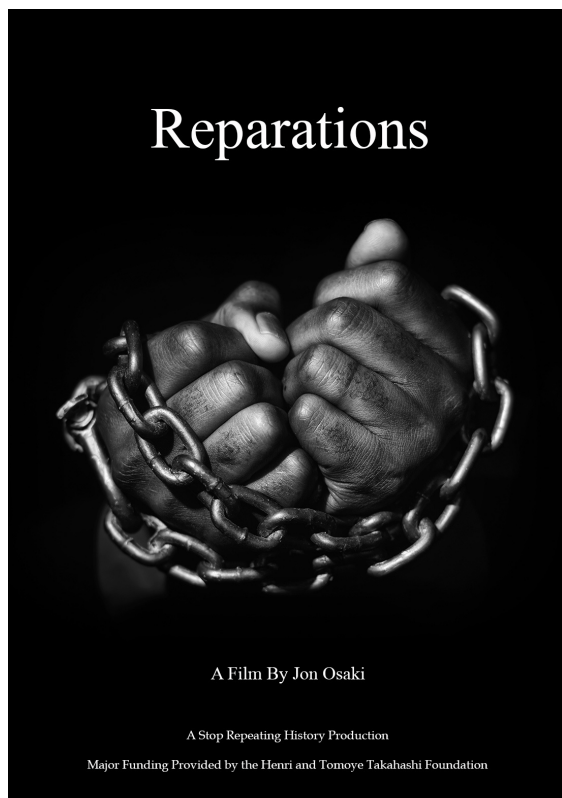


DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2022

ORGANIZING IN SOLIDARITY: CONTINUING THE FIGHT FOR REPARATIONS

**SATURDAY, FEB 26 FROM 1:30-3:30 PM
MCMENAMINS KENNEDY SCHOOL**

**JOIN US FOR DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2022 AS WE EXPLORE THE PRESENT-DAY
STRUGGLE FOR REPARATIONS FOR BLACK AMERICANS AND THE CRITICAL ROLE
THAT SOLIDARITY BETWEEN COMMUNITIES HAS IN ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC
RACISM.**



FILM SCREENING OF 'REPARATIONS'
FOLLOWED BY A PANEL DISCUSSION

PANELISTS:

**SENATOR LEW FREDERICK, OREGON
SENATE DISTRICT 22**

**TRACI KATO-KIRIYAMA, MEMBER OF
NIKKEI PROGRESSIVES**

**JON OSAKI, DIRECTOR AND
PRODUCER FOR 'REPARATIONS'**

MODERATOR:

ED WASHINGTON

**JAPANESE AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF OREGON**



[HTTPS://WWW.MCMENAMINS.COM/KENNEDY-SCHOOL](https://www.mcmenamins.com/kennedy-school)

**SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER AT WWW.MCMENAMINS.COM
PROOF OF VACCINATION AND MASKS REQUIRED DAY OF EVENT.**



Ikoi no Kai - FEBRUARY 2022

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
	1 Niku Jaga Japanese Beef & Potato Stew	2 X	3 Niku Maki Sliced Pork	4 Croquettes
7 Grilled Mackerel	8 Oyakodon Chicken & Egg Bowl	9 X	10 Shrimp Gyoza	11 Subuta Sweet & Sour Pork
14 Oden Fish Cake Stew	15 Panko Fried Shrimp & Tofu	16 X	17 Kakiage Tempura	18 Dry Curry
21 Miso Ramen	22 Shumai	23 X	24 Birthday Sushi	25 Teriyaki Chicken
28 Tonkatsu				

Cooks: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Rieko Shimada-Th/F

New Lunch Prices: \$8 for seniors 65+ / \$9 for under 65 / \$ 5 kids

Reservations preferred / Walk-ins welcome! / Indoor Dining Limited

* For reservations please call and leave a message or email:

(ph) 503-238-0775 (email) ikoinokai7@gmail.com

Seating at 11:30 am with lunch served promptly at noon

** vaccination card and signed COVID waiver will be required in order to dine indoors

Ikoi No Kai has been closed. We are optimistic about reopening at the beginning of February but please check our website www.japaneseancestralsociety.org/ikoi-no-kai/ and our instagram www.instagram.com/ikoinokai/ for the latest updates on our reopening schedule.



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Marleen Ikeda Wallingford
Jenny Yamada

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

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