



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• APRIL 2022 | VOLUME 28 ISSUE 04 •

Board Member MESSAGE

Remembering and Repairing

By Jenny Yamada

Portland JACL hosted Day of Remembrance 2022 in-person at Kennedy School on February 26. The focus of the event was around a screening of Jon Osaki's documentary film *Reparations*, which explores the present-day struggle for redress for Black Americans and the role that solidarity between communities has in breaking down systemic racism.

After the screening, Jon joined us as a panelist along with artist, organizer and member of Nikkei Progressives, traci kato-kiriyama (tkk). Nathan Soltz, Sen. Frederick's Chief of Staff, joined in place of the senator. Ed Washington moderated the discussion.

Our panelists stressed the importance of studying the past, paying attention to state and city politics, and keeping pressure on our representatives. The topic of reparations has been part of JACL National's focus for several years. As the push to pass H.R. 40 continues, it's important to recognize what is happening locally too.

One of my takeaways from our DOR is that I need to pay more attention to and "study, study, study!" (as tkk put it during the panel) history. Part of this is educating myself more on racialized displacement in Portland and the history of Central Albina in particular. Portland prides itself in being progressive and equitable, but it doesn't take much studying to see the cracks in that perception.

One of the efforts in Portland around restitution for its Black residents involves a newly released report by students from Portland State University's Urban...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 8
Hanamatsuri

April 9
Rose City Cemetery Clean-up
9-11am

April 11
Easter

April 22
Earth Day

April 29
Rose City Cemetery Clean-up
9-11am

May 1
Japanese American Graduation Banquet
Honoring high school seniors from
2020, 2021 and 2022.
Monarch Hotel (\$40 each, Free Parking)
1pm

May 7
Japanese American Memorial Clean-up
8am-12pm



Reclamation Towards the Futurity of Central Albina: Dreamworld Urbanism was written in collaboration with the Emanuel Displaced Persons Association 2 (EDPA2), a group of residents and their descendents forcibly displaced from the Albina neighborhood with the expansion of Emanuel Hospital in the 1970s. It reinforces the decades-long effort from Portland's Black community to get restitution for these families whose homes were demolished for the expansion project that was never built. We were fortunate to have Byrd from EDPA2 join us for DOR to give an overview of the history and the findings.

The report goes through demographic data from Central Albina over decades uncovering how urban renewal projects prevented Black residents from building wealth there. It includes a detailed impact analysis of quantifiable losses of about 300 homes and businesses demolished and makes a recommendation for payment using public data.

The report also describes what it calls "incurable loss," acknowledging that there are spiritual and cultural impacts from the displacement that are harder to quantify. As Japanese Americans, we know this type of loss is difficult to account for and easy for those responsible to disregard. It also recognizes the community-enriching spaces lost forever to demolition like a public garden and a free health clinic, which sat

on land that has been an empty lot for 50 years.

Holding up Japanese American redress as an example, the report stresses that restitution for racialized harm is feasible. It calls on the city of Portland, Prosper Portland and Legacy Emanuel to acknowledge their role and answer for what was lost. Other cities have done it and it can be done here too. It's more than possible and long overdue.

The report concludes, "the hard work—the critical work—is not in saying we won't do it again, it is in looking earnestly into the eyes of those harmed, acknowledging, apologizing, and doing what it takes to make it right."

As a local chapter, we hosted this event as a way to not only continue the conversations around reparations for Black Americans, but to bring people together in the community to make important face-to-face connections. It inspired me to recommit to learning more, listening more and showing up in support and solidarity.

Related Links (or view on from our website pdxjacl.org/dor-2022)

- You can read Reclamation Towards the Futurity of Central Albina: Dreamworld Urbanism (https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1182&context=usp_murp) on the PSU website.
- Help EDPA2 by contributing to EDPA2's GoFundMe (gofund.me/fb8542e6) to buy a historically significant Black-owned home in the Albina neighborhood to use as a center for their work.
- traci kato-kiriyama (traciakemi.com)
- Jon Osaki's Reparations (stoprepeatinghistory.org/reparations)

Mental Health Care

By Spencer Uemura

Hello everyone, I'm Spencer Uemura. I'm a new Board member and Advocacy Committee member, and I'm also a mental health therapist. Over the next few months, I'll be writing a few short pieces to get us all thinking about mental health and well-being in our community. These are not intended to be professional advice, but my hope is that they might spark some conversations or further the ways you have already been thinking. Feel free to direct any questions or suggestions to me at **Spencer@pdxjacl.org**

What's the point in talking about our well-being?

While the past few years have not been easy for anyone, there is a particular impact on the Japanese American community. We have seen an increase in anti-Asian hate crimes and scapegoating, on top of added pressure from the COVID pandemic. Racial uprising has revealed the ways that Asian Americans, while affected by racism, have been historically placed into a position as a "model minority" which can discourage drawing attention to ourselves or standing up for our own rights and the rights of others. And finally, on February 19, 2022, we observed 80 years after President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of about 120,000 Japanese Americans. Whether or not your ancestors were in the camps, the legacy of that trauma can have impacts on us all.

There is no better time to start thinking or talking to others about our well-being, as individuals and as a community. The COVID pandemic has disrupted beloved community events and our social lives may look more narrow (and virtual) than they did two years ago. To the reader, I offer my admiration and compassion. We have weathered months and months of new and scary challenges this far, and hope can be hard to find. And yet, through it all we have found new ways to connect, to "be with" each other, and

continue moving forward. Be well.

Some questions for musing alone and/or with others:

- How has life changed for you in the past two years?
- How have you given and received support through the pandemic?
- How have you adapted to the new challenges?
- Where you could still use some support?

Help guide our work!

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!



❖ What's happening with the Charter Review Commission? ❖

By Marleen Wallingford

Portland used to pride itself on the city that works. One only has to drive or walk downtown Portland to see the crisis we are facing with houseless people tenting it on city streets and neighborhoods. It is disheartening to see all of the trash that has accumulated on our freeways. This is not the city we want.

Portland's city charter invests nearly all powers in the four commissioners and the mayor, who assigns commissioners to oversee city bureaus. That means each elected official has legislative, executive, administrative and quasi-judicial powers all at once.

The government Portlanders need, in a report commissioned by the Portland City Club, is one where the mayor and city council have fewer powers, and where bureaus are overseen by a professional city manager who answers back to the mayor and council. Right now city bureaucracy makes it difficult to accomplish tasks quickly.

At least once every 10 years the City Council appoints 20 Portlanders to the Charter Commission to review the Charter and recommend amendments.

The Charter Commission is an independent body that sets its own scope of work. The City Council may request that the Charter Commission review specific sections of the Charter, but ultimately it is up to the Commission to decide what to address.

Phase I of the charter commission's work, the group has focused on two topics: form of government and city council elections.

The Form of Government Subcommittee developed recommendations about reforming

the commission form of government, revising the roles of Mayor and City Council, changing how bureaus are managed, and deciding whether Portland needs a professional city manager to manage the city bureaus.

In February 2022, Charter Commission February 2022 presented a progress report. In March 2022, the Commission released a second progress report. The two reports lay out several key reforms Commissioners have come to agreement on:

To shift the constituency of City Council from all at-large seats and to increase the size of City Council

To shift from the commission form of government to a form of government in which City Councilors do not directly manage bureaus

It is also recommended to shift to a form of voting that allows a decision in one election, eliminates the primary, and adopts a voting method that captures people's preferences.

In May 2022, the charter commission will release a draft of their report followed by public hearings. It is planned that their recommendations will come to Portland voters in the November election.

It is time Portlanders take a close look at our city government. Be prepared to study and ask questions about the recommendations of the charter commission. We want to be proud of our beautiful city which is looking like its facing hard times right now.



MANZANAR, DIVERTED

APRIL 16TH | 2PM

The Whitsell Auditorium

Please register at
<https://tinyurl.com/manzanardivertedpdx>
or through the QR code provided

Following the screening we will
be hosting a panel discussion
with the director. Please join us!

WHEN WATER BECOMES DUST

INTERSECTION FILMS PRESENTS
"MANZANAR, DIVERTED: WHEN WATER BECOMES DUST"

EDITED BY ANN KANEKO & SUSAN METZGER
MUSIC BY LORI GOLDSTON, STEVE FISK, ALEXANDER MIRANDA
SOUND DESIGN & MIX BY BEN HUFF
CINEMATOGRAPHY BY ANN KANEKO
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARIAH DAVID, JESSE ARCHER
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TRACY RECTOR, STEPHEN GONG,
FRANCENE J. BLYTHE-LEWIS, SHIRLEY K. SNEVE
PRODUCED BY JIN YOO-KIM
DIRECTED & PRODUCED BY ANN KANEKO

Due to COVID-19 precautions attendees must be
fully vaccinated and/or show proof of a negative
COVID test. Face masks will be required.



INTERSECTION FILMS



Just Films
FORD FOUNDATION



REDFORD CENTER
GRANTS



zAvada

❖ Photo Corner ❖



Photos by Setsy Larouche (Vice Commander, ONV)

A planning meeting for the Nisei Veterans Memorial Highway was held on March 12, 2022 at the residence of Barbara & John Chun in Washougal, Washington. The Oregon Senate Bill 1509 was recently passed in Salem. Linda Tamura, who is spearheading this project has assembled a very energetic committee to plan the installation/dedication of the memorial signs scheduled for August 2022.

Those in attendance from L to R: Gary Akiyama (Oregon Nisei Hwy – Development), Chip Larouche (Treasurer, Oregon Nisei Veterans), Ron Iwasaki (Commander, Oregon Nisei Veterans), Jeff Matsumoto, (President, Portland JACL), June Arima Schumann (Chair, Minoru Yasui Legacy Steering Committee), Janet Hamada (Director, The Next Door; Oregon Nisei Hwy – Dedication Site/Reception), Mark Takiguch, (Interim Director, JAMO; Oregon Nisei Hwy – Curriculum for Teachers/Students), Anna Goodwin, (Executive Director, The History Museum of Hood River County), Eric Ballinger, Oregon Nisei Hwy-Co-collaborator), Linda Tamura (Chair, Project)



Photos by Rich Iwasaki

The Portland JACL Board members take a group photo with our panelists.



Photos by Rich Iwasaki

Nathan Soltz, traci kato-kiriyama and Jon Osaki were our panelists for Day of Remembrance at Kennedy School.



Ikoi no Kai - APRIL 2022

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
				1 Miso Katsu Pork Cutlet with Miso
4 Salmon with Miso Butter 11:15am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	5 Chicken with Black Bean Sauce 12:30pm Sing a Long	X	7 French Style Cod 11:15am Aikido Stress Reduction	8 Khao Man Gai Thai Chicken and Rice
11 Mapo Tofu 12:30pm Mahjong	12 Tempura 11am Blood Pressure 12:30pm Sing a Long	X	14 Okonomiyaki 11am Blood Pressure	15 Subuta Sweet and Sour Pork Ohana Lunch Bunch
18 Chicken Katsu 12:30pm Mahjong	19 Pork Meatballs 12:30pm Sing a Long	X	21 Bibimbap Korean Beef Bowl 11:15am Aikido Stress Reduction	22 Shrimp and Egg Omelette in Chili Sauce
25 Birthday Sushi 12:30pm Mahjong	26 Gyoza 11am Blood Pressure 12:30pm Sing a Long	X	28 Happosai Stir Fry 10am Calligraphy 11am Blood Pressure	29 Pork Cutlet

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 / 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**



PORTLAND JACL
PO BOX 86310
PORTLAND, OR 97286

NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT #579



The Japanese American Museum held the Cherry Blossom Bazaar on March 12-13 at the former museum site after a two year hiatus. As you can see, there were plenty of donations to sell.