



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 28 ISSUE 08 •

## Board Member MESSAGE

### “What can I do?”

by Christopher Lee

During my time on Portland JACL's board I have always thought a lot about the question, “what can I do?” I originally joined our board so I could give back to the community. I'd like to say it was a well thought out and deliberate effort, but honestly it was on a bit of a whim. Growing up in Portland, there were tons of events in the Japanese American community that I attended and enjoyed. Events like Day of Remembrance, Obon, the community picnic, Mochitsuki, bazaars at Epworth, and I'm sure many more. As a multiracial Asian American, having events like these gave me a sense of worth and belonging. I could walk around white Portland and every once in a while, take a break to let my guard down, be at ease, and just exist. So for me, joining our board was a first answer to the question, “what can I do?”

Although I knew about JACL's mission and advocacy, the importance didn't truly hit until I saw all of the work that our board does. There were lots of people answering this question in their own way and working together to do it. I think what amazed me the most was that more than just our board, there is a whole network of people, organizations and committees all answering this question. Just within JACL, there is our national organization, plus the regional districts and chapters throughout the country that are doing things for their members. Locally,...

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Sept 5**  
**Labor Day**

**Sept 10**  
**Mid Autumn Harvest Moon Festival**

**Sept 16**  
**Mexican Independence Day**  
Liberated from Spain in 1810

**Sept 18**  
**Fugitive Slave Act passed in 1850**  
Compelled citizens to assist in the  
Capture of fugitive slaves

**Sept 22**  
**Autumn Equinox**

**Sept 25**  
**Nine African Americans enroll at  
Little Rock High School in 1957**

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...our board has many ties within the Japanese and Japanese American communities as well as with other communities and organizations. It seems like we've needed them more than ever these past few years.

Lately, one way Portland JACL has been active is working in response to the July 2nd attack on Dr. Abe and his family at the Eastbank Esplanade. Originally the emphasis was just to get coverage of this event before shifting to prevent or better handle this type of violence in the future. Thanks to a small group that includes John Kodachi, Chisao Hata, Peggy Nagae, Erica Naito Campbell, Duncan Hwang, and our own Jeff Matsumoto and Amanda Shannahan, we have continued to act and object to hate. We have come together and responded.

On August 12th, Portland JACL in solidarity with 15 other Asian American organizations, submitted a letter to the Oregon Chief Justice's Criminal Justice Advisory Committee urging them to begin discussions on the inclusion of bias crimes in the hold until arraignment category. This has resulted in a new recommendation that Bias Crime in the first degree will be moved into the "hold until arraignment" category and there will be further discussion by the committee on moving bias crime in the second degree to that category as well.

While this may not be large sweeping reform of our country's justice system, it is a small step in the right direction. As I've learned during my time on our board, these small steps are what civil rights and social justice work looks like. As we continue to see an increase in hate crimes and bias incidents in Oregon and Nationwide, I'll admit that it is easy to feel helpless and lose hope. However, I want to remind you that there are lots of people that continue to answer the question with advocacy for Asian Americans and our communities. We deserve to feel safe.

In addition to the fun things that Portland

JACL does, like award scholarships, show film screenings, hold community events like the picnic, there is other work that makes a difference too. Recently that has included helping with the Oregon Nisei Veterans World War II Memorial Highway, supporting Minidoka to preserve the site from a wind farm project, working with Metro and the Expo center to provide input on developing what was once referred to as the Portland Assembly Center. We've responded to racist license plates and held a few clean ups too. Not everything we do makes it into the newsletter or gets much coverage, but is equally important and helps our board answer the question, "what can we do?"

Let's continue to take up space and support community events and organizations. Attending the Tiger Tiger event in July was a great reminder for me of how important it is to get out, connect, and find places to be yourself. Looking ahead to the fall, there will be opportunities to engage and be active related to the mid-term and local elections. Particularly a ballot measure that would make changes to Portland's form of city government. This could have a big impact on how our city is run. Of course, our newsletter and social are great ways to find events that are happening. I'll simply close by asking you to join me in taking a moment to reflect and think about "what can I do?"

**Resources/Links:**

- If you're the victim of a hate or bias crime please report it to the Oregon DOJ's Bias Hotline by calling 1-844-924-2427. It is important to record incidents so that it can be counted and justify more resources.
- If you would like to contribute to the GoFundMe and support Dr. Abe's family, here's the link to do so: <https://gofund.me/f8f8f669>.

## ❖ The JA Community needs to give Metro feedback ❖



We have a unique opportunity to make a once in a generation decision about this 53-acre site and I am committed to developing a public-private partnership that serves our community for generations to come.

Lynn Peterson  
Metro President

Find out and give input on the future of Expo Center. Metro is in the process of planning for the site that originally was the Portland Livestock Exhibition Center, became the Portland Assembly Center during WWII and is now part of Expo Center. Survey is at [expo.future.org](https://expo.future.org). After you complete the survey, you will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. Surveys are due by September 21.

This is the last remaining intact temporary housing for the Japanese prior to being transported to the permanent American Concentration Camps in the interior.

### Dear Expo Future / Expo DOS Stakeholders,

You're receiving this email update because of your current/past involvement in the Expo DOS project. Please visit the website for information about the RFEI and Expo site background and the following updates/info on the project:

### INTERESTED PARTNERS

#### How can I learn more about the RFEI process and how to get involved?

If you are considering forming a team or want help finding a team to join, please reach out to me directly at [ayano@cascadia-partners.com](mailto:ayano@cascadia-partners.com) and we can schedule a meeting to get your questions answered.

### RFEI SUBMISSIONS

#### Can we submit a video as part of our proposal?

Yes, a video of less than 5 minutes can be submitted as part of your proposal materials. However, it is not a requirement.

### ENGAGE YOUR NETWORKS

#### Metro wants to understand the priorities of the broader community.

Engage your community in the future of the Portland Expo Center through a short survey at: [expofuture.org](https://expofuture.org). Now is the time to share your experiences and ideas as Metro listens to the community and its desires for the 53-acre site.

If you have general process questions or want to be kept up to date on the process, please reach out to: [Expo.Future@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:Expo.Future@oregonmetro.gov).

## JACL Portland Community Survey

The Portland JACL is looking ahead and planning the future of our events and communications. Please scan this code to your phone and take the time to answer questions about what is important to you. People who complete responses will be entered into a gift drawing. **Thank you very much for your help!**





## Photo Corner



Riders return from the Nisei Highway dedication at Wy'east Middle School on August 13. Highway 35 between Hood River and Mt. Hood will now carry signs that honor our Nisei veterans.



Pacific Northwest District votes at the JACL National Convention in Las Vegas from Aug 3rd through Aug 7th.



Jeff Matsumoto, President of PDX JACL, accepted the two Legacy Grants from National JACL at the convention in Las Vegas.





Meet Ikoi No Kai's Assistant Site Manager, Chika Saeki. She comes from Chicago and has two sons that are attending the Japanese Magnet Program. It's so great to see new faces at our beloved seniors and more lunch program.



Chip Larouche gives the acceptance speech for the Ruby Pin Award from National JACL for his 23 years of volunteer work for the organization from the local Chapter level to the National level. The pin was presented at the Sayonara Banquet on Aug 6, 2022.



JACL Board member, Heidi Tolentino is pointing to her grandfather's name, Joe Saito on the list of all Oregon Nisei who served during WWII. Mr Saito was from Ontario and was a medic in the 442.



# Nisei Highway Dedication



On June 1st this year, Governor Brown signed a bill that was unanimously supported by the Oregon Senate and House that dedicated Highway 35 between Hood River and Mt. Hood in honor of the Nisei Veterans who served during WWII. The Memorial Highway Advisory group who worked so hard to bring this honor to fruition planned a beautiful event at Wy-east Middle School Performing Art Center on August 13. The school is nestled between the lovely fruit orchards the region is so well known for. Unfortunately it is in this beautiful setting that many of our Nisei heroes did not receive a heroes welcome

when they returned from the battlefields of the Pacific and Europe. We heard stories about our local soldiers: Frank Hachiya (who died by "friendly fire"), Harold Okimoto, Art Iwasaki, and George Akiyama. Oregon had almost 500 men and women who served in the military during WWII.

**Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who researched and found all of the Oregon Japanese Americans who served.**



## Ikoi no Kai - SEPTEMBER 2022

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
			<b>1</b>  <b>Shrimp &amp; Calamari Fry</b> <i>10:30am Move On Class</i> <i>12:30pm Bridge/ Hanafuda</i>	<b>2</b>  <i>Thai</i> <b>Basil Pork</b>
<b>5</b>  <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>Chicken &amp; Eggplant</b> <i>w/ Miso Sesame Sauce</i>  <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>8</b>  <b>Happosai</b> <i>Combination Stir Fry</i>  <i>11:15am Aikido Stress</i> <i>12:30pm Bridge/ Hanafuda</i>	<b>9</b>  <b>Teriyaki Chicken</b>  <i>Bingo</i>
<b>12</b>  <b>Razor Clams</b> <i>(+\$1 for special meal)</i>  <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	<b>13</b>  <i>Korean</i> <b>Beef Chap Chae</b> <i>Glass Noodle Stir Fry</i> <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>15</b>  <i>Mexican</i> <b>Taco Rice</b>  <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>12:30pm Bridge/ Hanafuda</i>	<b>16</b>  <i>Fried</i> <b>Spring Rolls</b> <i>&amp; Gyoza</i>  <i>Ohana Lunch</i>
<b>19</b>  <i>Japanese</i> <b>Hiyashi Chuka</b> <i>Cold Ramen Salad</i> <i>11:15am Chair Yoga</i> <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	<b>20</b>  <b>Sweet &amp; Sour Pork Meatballs</b>  <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>22</b>  <b>Pork &amp; Tofu Katsu</b> <i>11:15am Aikido Stress</i> <i>Reduction with Dwight</i> <i>12:30pm Bridge/ Hanafuda</i>	<b>23</b>  <b>Penne Pasta w/ Meat Sauce</b>
<b>26</b>  <b>Birthday Sushi</b>  <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	<b>27</b>  <b>Shrimp Singapore Noodles</b> <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>		<b>29</b>  <i>Japanese</i> <b>Tonjiru</b> <i>Pork Soup &amp; Mixed Rice</i> <i>10:30am Move On Class</i> <i>11am Blood Pressure</i>	<b>30</b>  <b>Korean Fried Chicken</b>

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

**New Lunch Prices: \$8 for seniors 65+ / \$10 for adults 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**



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**Board Members at Large**

## **Current Board Members**

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

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)