



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME 29 ISSUE 02 •

## Board Member MESSAGE

### Reflections on Community, Tradition

by Jillian Toda-Currie

The first month of 2023 flew by and I'm already looking back at the holiday time with nostalgia. Snow and ice delayed me from visiting my parents in the Gorge, so this was the first year that I spent the Christmas holiday without them. It made me reflect on how lucky I've been to be surrounded by my family – and to have a supportive family who I'd choose to surround myself with in the first place. I know not everyone has that.

My gratitude for having this support system was amplified once I did make it out to my hometown. My cousins hosted mochitsuki for the first time since the pandemic started. It was a celebration of tradition but also of the triumph of just being together. We were missing some folks but had a couple new faces as well. There was a feeling of community, not just because we're relatives and friends, but also because making mochi is a communal act. We all help make mochi for everyone to take home; it takes a village.

This reflection on community and tradition is what I'm holding in my heart as we get ready for Portland JACL's New Year's Celebration. At the time of writing this, the event hasn't happened yet but I'm looking forward to once again being in community with everyone. The hope for this celebration

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### February

#### African American History Month

February 12, 1809

Birth of Abraham Lincoln

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

President's Day

February 19, 1942

Signing of EO 9066

February 19

Day of Remembrance

Lincoln Recital Hall, PSU | 1:30 pm

February 22, 1732

Birth of George Washington

March 3

Local Japanese American

Community scholarship applications due

March 6

National JACL Entering college freshman  
applications due

March 16

Everybody Reads 2023: Ruth Ozeki

Keller Auditorium | 7:30 - 9 pm

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**Continued from Pg. 1**

is to bring our community partners and members together to enjoy each other's company and be part of tradition.

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I've also recently been reflecting on the balance of tradition and evolution. In particular, this has come up with the Minoru Yasui Student Contest. I've been part of the organizing committee for several years and it has been rewarding to see it grow as the essay contest that it has been since the beginning. For 2023's contest, however, we've decided to take it in a different direction and do an art contest.

To be honest, there have been times when I question whether this is a good idea. This

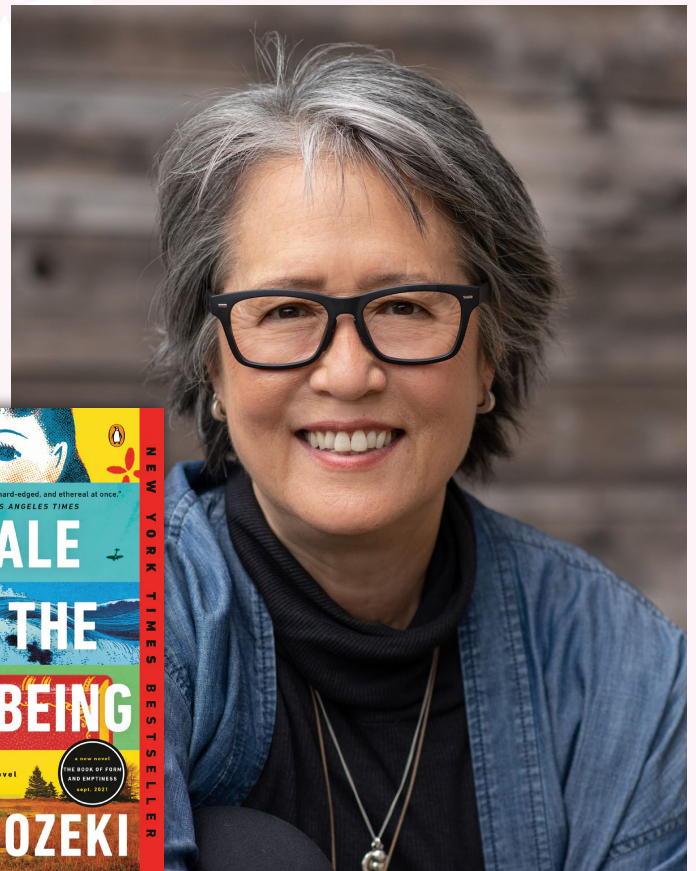
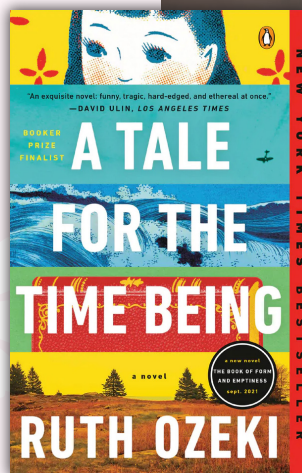
is a new endeavor and it's causing the timeline to be pushed out because we need to work out the details for the new format. But then I think about where we were during the pandemic when many were questioning how to go virtual for Minoru Yasui Day and the contest. Everything could have been canceled but instead a group of dedicated volunteers worked very hard to make it happen. Instead of forgoing the event because we couldn't do it the way it had traditionally been done, it evolved into something new that is now its own type of tradition.

I have come to realize that it's not the act of doing the exact same things year after year that make traditions special – it's the intention and legacy behind those acts being passed down which leaves room for traditions to evolve.

## Everybody Reads 2023: Ruth Ozeki

In partnership with Multnomah County Library and The Library Foundation, Literary Arts is proud to present a lecture by bestselling author Ruth Ozeki as the culminating event of Everybody Reads 2023. Everybody Reads is an annual community-wide project that promotes shared reading and discussion around a single book.

**March 16**  
**7:30 to 9 pm**  
**Keller Auditorium**  
**222 SW Clay**





## What One Daily Lunch Program Means to Portland's Japanese Community



For more than 40 years, Japanese Portlanders have gathered at Ikoi no Kai to cook and eat together. Today, it remains a respite among the community at large.

Volunteers at Ikoi No Kai make and package lunches for homebound seniors once a month. Ikoi No Kai serves lunches four days

a week in the basement of Epworth United Methodist Church. Ikoi No Kai caught the attention of food writer, Katrina Yentch.

Read her article about her visit:  
[pdx.eater.com/2022/7/18/23219518/ikoi-no-kai-japanese-portland-lunch-program](https://pdx.eater.com/2022/7/18/23219518/ikoi-no-kai-japanese-portland-lunch-program)

## ❖ Portland JACL Screening: **No No Girl** ❖

The Portland JACL is very excited to be showing Paul Goodman's film, "No No Girl," as our Day of Remembrance Activity.

Eighty-one years ago on February 19, 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which gave the commander of the Western Defense, the power to remove people from the west coast who were determined to pose a military threat. The order did not specify those with Japanese heritage but that was how the order was implemented. We all know that even though 120,000 lives were disrupted not one ethnic Japanese person was ever found guilty of espionage or sabotage.

"No No Girl" was written by Paul Goodman thinking about the experiences of his own family. His Nisei grandfather was incarcerated in Arkansas but joined the highly decorated 442 Regiment Combat Team. The entire government action based on stereotyping and racism had generational

affects on his family as well as the entire Japanese American community.

"No No Girl" is about a Yonsei young woman who even though she did not experience the forced removal and incarceration is trying to understand the impact that it had on her family. It has not been unusual for the Nisei generation to rarely talk about their camp experience. Most of the ones that are still alive were children so saw the experience from a child's perspective.

Not only did this experience pull our community together, it also tore us apart and that reverberates to this day. "No No Girl" is being shown at 1:30 p.m. on February 19th at the Lincoln Recital Hall, Portland State University. Enter the building on the Broadway entrance.

### RSVP

Email: [Marleen@pdxjacl.org](mailto:Marleen@pdxjacl.org)  
Call or Text: 503-927-2766



**2023 JACL NATIONAL  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM**  
Applications Open Now!

[jacl.org/scholarships](http://jacl.org/scholarships)

## 2023 JACL National Scholarships Available Now!

The JACL has been helping students achieve their educational dreams with the National Scholarship and Awards Program since 1946. The program currently offers over 30 awards, with an annual total of over \$70,000 in scholarships to qualified students nationwide.

Apply Here:  
[jacl.org/scholarships](http://jacl.org/scholarships)



# NO NO GIRL



PORTLAND JACL SCREENING

## ABOUT THE FILM

Before being uprooted and forcibly removed, many Japanese American families resorted to burying belongings in their backyards thinking- **one day they'd be back.**

**No No Girl** is a generational, Japanese American story that intersects ideas of identity, family, duty and the traumas of war and relocation. Almost a century removed from WWII and the incarceration of her ancestors, one young daughter will take it upon herself to shine a light on their past and uncover the mysteries that have been haunting their family.

February 19, 2023 | 1:30 pm  
Lincoln Recital Hall @ PSU

Free and open to the public  
To reserve, RSVP [Marleen@pdxjacl.org](mailto:Marleen@pdxjacl.org)





## Photo Corner



Tomodachi-kai celebrated the new year of the rabbit at the Nichiren Buddhist Temple on January 13, 2023. Musical entertainment was provided by Consul General Masaki Shiga on the violin and Ms. Masumi Timson on the koto.

Photo by: Setsy Larouche



The Oregon Hiroshima Club held their Shinnenkai after a two year hiatus due to the pandemic. They held their luncheon at the Good World Restaurant on January 14, 2023. Photo by: Chip Larouche.



## Iko no Kai - FEBRUARY 2023

1333 SE 28th Ave

| MON  | TUES   |   | THURS  | FRI   |
|--|--|---|--|---|
|  |  | X | 2<br><b>Fish and Chips</b><br><i>11am Blood Pressure<br/>10:45am Move On Class<br/>12:45 pm Needle Crafts</i>    | 3<br><b>Teriyaki Chicken</b>                                    |
| 6<br><b>Steamed Fish</b><br><i>w/ Vegetables and Ponzu<br/>Knife Sharpening<br/>11:15am Chair Yoga<br/>12:30pm Mahjong + Movie</i> | 7<br><b>Mar Far Chicken</b><br><i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>                                      | X | 9<br><b>Beef Curry</b><br><i>11:15am Aikido Stress Relief</i>  | 10<br><b>Kakuni Donburi</b><br><i>Bingo</i>                     |
| 13<br><b>Chicken &amp; Burdock Soup</b><br><i>12:30pm Mahjong + Movie</i>  | 14<br><b>Miso Ginger Pork</b><br><i>11am Blood Pressure<br/>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>            | X | 16<br><b>Seafood Chowmein</b><br><i>11am Blood Pressure<br/>10:45am Move On Class<br/>12:45 pm Needle Crafts</i> | 17<br><b>Karaage w/ Green Onion Sauce</b><br><i>Ohana Lunch</i> |
| 20<br><b>Tofu Hambagu</b><br><i>w/ Daikon Oroshi<br/>12:30pm Mahjong + Movie</i>   | 21<br><b>Bibimbap</b><br><i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>  | X | 23<br><b>Birthday Sushi</b><br><i>11:15am Aikido Stress Relief</i>   | 24<br><b>Calamari and Shrimp Fry</b>                            |
| 27<br><b>Chicken Karaage</b><br><i>12:30pm Mahjong + Movie</i>   | 28<br><b>Singapore Noodles w/ Shrimp</b><br><i>11am Blood Pressure<br/>12:45pm Sing a Long</i> | X |  |   |

**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**



**PORTLAND JAACL**  
PO BOX 86310  
PORTLAND, OR 97286

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## **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)