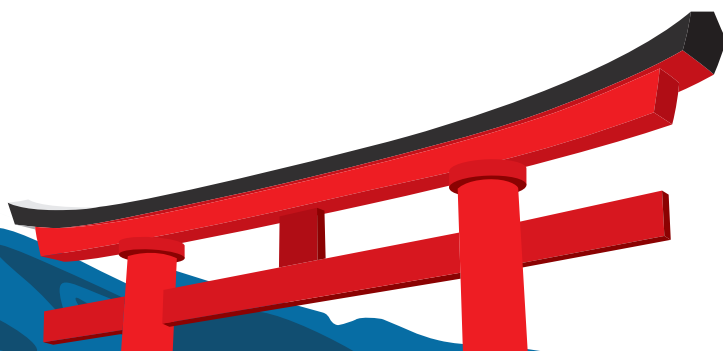




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• APRIL 2023 | VOLUME 29 ISSUE 04 •

Board Member MESSAGE

The Personal Value of Connecting to the Past

By Jenny Yamada

Last Spring, I joined my dad on a tour of Gresham Pioneer Cemetery. Most of the graves there were of notable families who have streets named after them. Nestled in a cemetery once reserved for Europeans is the resting place of the first known Japanese settler in Oregon, Miyo Iwakoshi. As the partner of a Scottish man, her grave was unmarked until 1988. Her story represents an important piece of our region's Nikkei history. I grew up in Oregon and only learned about her a few years ago. This is disappointing. Actually, I'm a little mad about it. Especially considering she and her family may be the reason many Issei, including my great-grandfather, decided to settle here.

In school, the lives of Native peoples and non-European settlers were at best side notes to the Oregon history curriculum. Multicultural perspectives were lacking. How we ended up at the cemetery that day is thanks to my dad who had found a card addressed to his grandparents from Miyo's daughter, Jewel Nitobe. Ever curious, he discovered her mother's historical significance and final resting place.

I think about myself as a child growing up in the 80s and 90s, and how meaningful Miyo Iwakoshi's story would have been to

Continued on Pg. 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 8
Hanamatsuri

April 9
Easter

April 17
Yom HaShoah
Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 22
Earth Day

April 30
Graduation Banquet
Monarch Hotel | 1 pm

Continued from Pg. 1

me then. I'm a mixed yonsei, raised in a predominantly white community. I never saw representations of Nikkei Oregonians. Having something to connect to in the past helps us better understand our experience of the world and form our ideas of self. It would have been validating to learn about her as a child. All children should have an opportunity to link to their history.

After this year's Day of Remembrance where we showed the film *No No Girl*, the panel was asked and grappled with some tough questions from the audience. How do we keep the past alive as we near the 100th anniversary of Executive Order 9066? What happens as the younger generations become more diverse? Will we forget? Will history keep repeating? I share these anxieties. It's in part why I started volunteering at JAMO and Portland JACL—to help preserve memories of our families and friends for the generations to come, to have some small hand in keeping the past alive. Sometimes the act of remembrance may feel repetitive, like the dominant culture doesn't care. But I think of my younger self and feel what is at stake personally if we were to stop. I don't want us to forget. As I shouldn't have learned about the first Japanese Oregonian for the first time in my middle age.

Involvement in this community is an important part of this. We are fortunate to have many active members in Portland. Thank you for supporting us and showing up to DOR, the Nikkei picnic, Historic Plaza clean-ups, mochi-making, Unite People (Portland JACL's youth group). All of this is valuable! I'm also grateful to those in the JA organizations who came together to dedicate Miyo Iwakoshi's headstone. Without those pushing for her remembrance 35 years ago, half a century after her death, I'm not sure I would have learned about her.

Learn more about Miyo Iwakoshi and her family. (oregonmetro.gov/news/miyo-iwakoshi-first-japanese-immigrant-oregon)

Visit her grave at the Gresham Pioneer Cemetery (100 SW Walters Dr, Gresham, OR).



Miyo Iwakoshi, left, with her grandchildren and daughter, Jewel Nitobe. (Photo from the Oregon Historical Society archives.)



Gravestone of first Japanese woman in Oregon, Miyo Iwakoshi at Gresham Pioneer Cemetery. (Photo by Jenny Yamada.)

❖ The Annual Graduation Banquet ❖

Sunday, April 30, 2023 @1pm
Monarch Hotel & Conference Center
 (12566 SE 93rd Ave., Clackamas, OR).

Attend the annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet, an event celebrating the achievements of the Japanese-American high school class of 2023 who reside in the Portland metropolitan area and Clark County, Washington. This year's keynote speaker will be Rt. Rev. Diane Akiyama. She was born in Wheeler, Oregon and grew up in a Japanese-American community in Hood River. She was the first Japanese-American woman ordained to the priesthood in The Episcopal Church.

The scholarships are sponsored by Portland area businesses, organizations, and individuals. Tickets can be purchased from Graduation Banquet Committee Members.

They are \$45 for a banquet luncheon, graduates are free. The community is invited! Please join us!

The chair of the committee this year is is Albert Kasahara of Epworth United Methodist Church.



Rt. Rev.
 Diane Akiyama
Keynote Speaker



Portland JACL and JAMO Old Town Clean-up

Saturday, April 29 from 8am - noon

Meet-up at Japanese American Museum of Oregon
 411 NW Flanders St.

Register at solveoregon.org

Questions Contact: president@pdxjacl.org

Ruth Ozeki Speaks to an Adoring Crowd at Keller Auditorium Banquet

By Edward Ash-Milby
Member of Literary Arts Book Festival Committee



On Thursday, March 16th, Ruth Ozeki walked on stage to a thunderous ovation in the 2023 Everybody Reads lecture series hosted by Literary Arts in partnership with Multnomah County Library and The Library Foundation. Everybody Reads is a marvelous city-wide event that builds community and encourages reading through the discussion of a single book. In the season's final event, Ruth Ozeki spoke about her 2013 novel, *A Tale for the Time Being*, which was a finalist for the Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Copies of *A Tale for the Time Being* were available for free at all Multnomah County Library branches leading up to this lecture with generous support from The Library Foundation.

In her trademark good humor, Ozeki recounted the plot which featured characters named Ruth and Oliver. Her real-life husband, Oliver, encouraged Ruth to insert herself into the novel and so she did. *A Tale for the Time Being* was nearly complete when the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan in 2011. Ozeki immediately felt the horror and sadness and basically rewrote half

of the book. In fact, much of the book compares to true moments in Ozeki's life which makes the story all the more powerful and personal. And, of course, there's a strong current of Zen teachings throughout, especially as it applies to time which ebbs and flows from past, present and future in the novel. There are so many themes to discuss and elements of mystery which can make it challenging to read. But it's this humble writer's opinion that it's one of her best works. After her wonderful lecture, we were treated to a fun ask-Ruth Ozeki-questions-using-index-cards moment for the final 15 minutes. The questions ran the gamut and were posed directly by the director of Literary Arts, Andrew Proctor, who joined her on stage in comfy chairs. The evening came to a close after the short Q&A, but two things were very clear: Portland loves Ruth Ozeki and Ruth Ozeki really loves Portland!





Iko no Kai - APRIL 2023

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
3 Tonkatsu <i>Knife Sharpening</i> <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	4 Chicken w/ Mushroom Sauce <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	X	6 Croquette <i>10:45am Move On Class</i> <i>12:45 pm Needle Crafts</i>	7 Seafood Chowmein
10 Yakiniku <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	11 Mapo Tofu <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	X	13 Happosai <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>11:30am Aikido Stress Relief</i>	14 Teriyaki Chicken <i>Bingo</i>
17 Oyakodon <i>11:15am Chair Yoga</i> <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	18 Pork Meatballs w/ Sweet & Sour Sauce <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	X	20 Grilled Eggplant & Tonjiru <i>10:45am Move On Class</i> <i>12:45 pm Needle Crafts</i>	21 Korean Fried Chicken <i>Ohana Lunch</i>
24 Birthday Sushi <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	25 Orange Chicken <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	X	27 Salmon Miso Soup <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>11:30am Aikido Stress Relief</i>	28 Niku Maki

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

Suggested Lunch Donation: \$9 for seniors 65+ / \$11 for adults under 65 / \$ 6 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**

Photo Corner



Photo by Setsy Larouche

On March 4, 2023, Commander of Post 22, American Legion of Hood River, Carl Casey and Vice Commander, Dennis Leonard receives certificates from Anna Goodwin, ED of the History Museum of Hood River at the Moving Forward from Community Secrets ceremony at the original NW Gas Bldg. Portland, Oregon.



Photo by Setsy Larouche

Professor Linda Tamura gave a moving speech at the "Moving Forward from Community Secrets" on March 4, 2023. This was part of A Long Road to Travel, The Service of Japanese Americans During WWII. The exhibit will be on display at JAMO thru May 7, 2023.



Photo by Setsy Larouche

Tom Fujii and Kay Endo attend the event held at the original NW Gas Building on March 4, 2023. This was part of A Long Road to Travel, the Service of Japanese Americans During WWII. The Stamp was dedicated in 2021 after 15 year effort. (Sales of the stamp will end this year.)



Photo by Jesse Gasper, Membership Chair of PSR

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) was represented by Kelly Campbell and Kamil Khan, (new Executive Director of PSR), at the Lava Ridge Open House on March 1, 2023.



Photo by Setsy Larouche

Consul General Masaki Shiga gave a "Special" award to Wynn Kiyama at the celebration of the Emperor's Birthday on Feb 23, 2023 at the Hilton Hotel, Downtown.



Photo by Setsy Larouche

Mrs. Hiroe Shiga wearing a beautiful kimono hosted with her husband the 63rd Birthday of Emperor of Japan on Feb 23, 2023 at the Hilton Hotel Downtown.

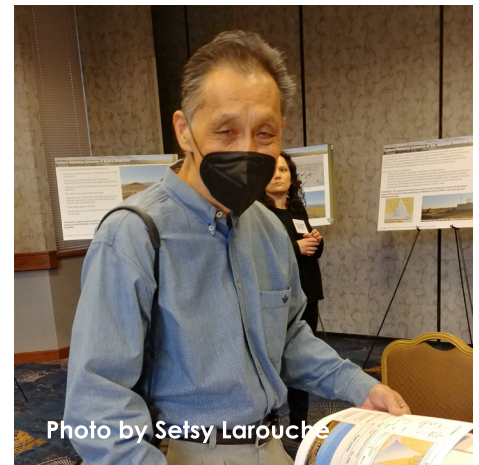


Photo by Setsy Larouche

Rich Iwasaki attends the Lava Ridge Wind Project Open House held on March 1, 2023, at the Double Tree Hotel by Hilton, sponsored by the Bureau of Land Management. Many others came to support preserving Minidoka Camp.



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

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)