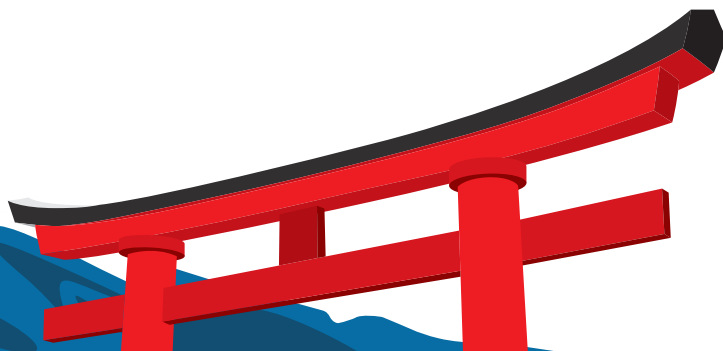




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 29 ISSUE 06 •

Board Member MESSAGE

The 2023 Japanese Community Graduation Banquet

By Heidi Kimiko Tolentino

This year was the 76th annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet. The banquet was held at the Monarch Hotel on April 30th and Emceed by Reverend Melissa Harkness, the senior minister at both Epworth United Methodist Church and Cherry Park United Methodist Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chip Larouche of Portland JACL and the words before and after the meal were given by Reverend Ikenaga of Nichiren Buddhist Temple. Consul General of Japan, Yuzo Yoshioka, offered the graduates congratulations on their accomplishments and inspiring words about their future.

This year's keynote speaker was Bishop Diana Akiyama who was accompanied by her husband, Michael Jackson. Bishop Akiyama grew up in the Japanese-American community in Hood River and was the first Japanese-American woman ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church in 1989. She holds a Ph.D. in Religion and Social Ethics from the University of Southern California, a M.Div. from Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Berkeley and a B. S. from the University of Oregon.

Bishop Akiyama said, "I am energized when hallmarks of my leadership help communities to shift assumptions, restore expectations, and imagine a new way forward. Listening with empathy, courage and openness allows me

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 5
World Environment Day

June 19
Juneteenth

June 18
Father's Day

July 5-9
**Minidoka and WWII Incarceration
Teacher Workshop**
Twin Falls, Idaho

July 6-9
Minidoka Pilgrimage

June is LGBTQ2IAA Pride Month

to walk with individuals and communities to connect their deepest yearnings with God's call." She also talked about her experiences growing up in Hood River at a time that there was open hostility against the Japanese. She found safety and security within our community. Thank you to Bishop Akiyama for honoring the class of 2023 and our community with your presence and insight.

The 2023 graduates are an amazing group of students who are standouts amongst their peers. They have distinguished themselves both academically and extracurricularly, despite being deeply impacted by the pandemic. The donors can be proud of all of the winners of these scholarships.

Henjyogi Shingon Buddhist Temple Art Award

This award was established by the family of the late Rev. Kazuko Wako Henjyogi, in recognition of her lifetime of service strengthening cultural ties between the United States and Japan. She was devoted to education, teaching Japanese and Americans alike both the art of Japanese tea ceremony and the art of Ikebana, flower arranging. Mr. Dave Batchelor presented the scholarship. **The winner of the Henjyogi Shingon Buddhist Temple Art Award was Mimi Goldthwaite of the Arts and Communications Magnet High School.** Mimi has won two Scholastic Arts Awards and is an advanced dancer in the Academy of Ballet and Dance Arts (ABDA). She spends much of her time acting, dancing, and singing and hopes to major in Art and Education next year. **Congratulations, Mimi!**

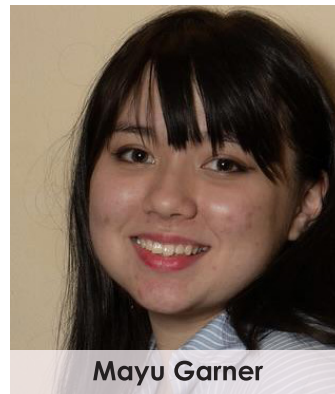
Mrs. Mark Sumida Awards and Alice Sumida Scholarships

The Mrs. Mark Sumida Awards and Alice Sumida Scholarships are presented in memory of Alice Sumida. Alice Sumida was a long-time supporter of the Japanese American community and a generous donor to the graduation banquet. Alice Sumida passed away in August of 2018 at the age of 104. Mrs. Sumida wanted to award students in the community so that they would know their community was proud of them. This

year, the awards were presented by Mr. Mike Iriyaga of the Japanese Ancestral Society. This year's recipients were Uruwa Abe of Ridgefield High School who will attend the University of Washington, Aiden MacClanathan of Clackamas High School who will attend a local community college, Jayden Onchi of Adrienne Nelson High School who will attend Oregon State University and Kohei Shimomura of Westview High School who is undecided about next year, but may attend college in Japan. **Congratulations Uruwa, Aiden, Jayden and Kohei!**

Japanese Ancestral Society (JAS): Minamoto Family Scholarship, Hide Naito Scholarship, Mary K. Naito Scholarship

The Japanese Ancestral Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the Nikkei community and promoting education and fellowship among the members of the community. JAS awards three scholarships each year. Mr. Mike Iriyaga presented the scholarships for JAS.

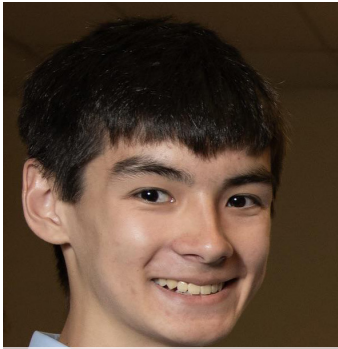


Mayu Garner

Tsuya and Kumaichi Minamoto emigrated from Japan in the early 1900's and endured being incarcerated during WWII. Their daughter, Mary, created this scholarship in their honor. **The winner of the Minamoto Family Scholarship**

was Mayu Garner of Beaverton Magnet School. Mayu has been a member of the National Honor Society for all four years of high school, as well as a member of the National Arts Honors Society for her last three. She is a member of Portland JACL's Unite People, and she is an omnipresent volunteer at the Oregon Buddhist Temple, the Blanchet House and Tsuru for Solidarity. She has been accepted at several colleges and plans to major in Animation and Art. **Congratulations, Mayu!**

Hide Naito was a Portland entrepreneur who



Kogen Brown

started his first of several businesses in 1921 which diversified during his lifetime into retail operations, importing and real-estate development. Sam Naito is the annual donor for this scholarship. He just turned 100 last year

and we thank him for his generosity. **This year's winner of the Hide Naito scholarship was Kogen Brown of West Linn High School.** In addition to being the team captain of his school's Cross-Country team, Kogen plays in the West Linn High School Symphony as the first-chair cellist. He was selected for the Stanford University Reischauer Scholars' Program and he served on the City of West Linn's Youth Advisory Council. He will attend Stanford University, majoring in Symbolic Systems Technology. Kogen was selected to give the Graduate Response. **Congratulations, Kogen!**



Rena Yamazaki

Mary K. Naito was a homemaker, community volunteer, businesswoman and high school Valedictorian. Verne Naito represented the donor family at the banquet. **The winner of the Mary K. Naito Scholarship was Rena**

Yamazaki of Mountain View High School. Rena is a planning committee member for Students Advocating for Equity. She's been a member of the High School Band for all four years. She has volunteered at the Book Nook, with Partners in Careers, raised funds in the Red Cross Club, and was a member of the National Honor Society in her senior year. Rena will be attending the University of Washington where she will major in Nursing. **Congratulations, Rena!**

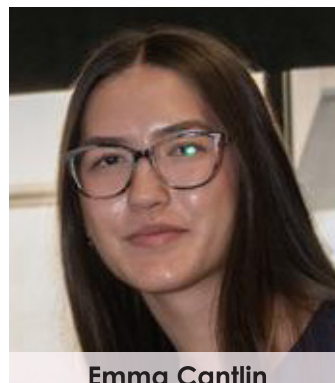
Gresham-Troutdale JACL (GT JACL): Gresham-Troutdale JACL Scholarship



Mateo Maehara

The Gresham-Troutdale JACL is part of the oldest national civil rights organization in America. It serves to protect the rights of not only Asians, but all minorities, and nurtures the cultural heritage of Japanese Americans. Mr. Terry Nishikawa,

President of GT JACL, presented the scholarship. **The winner of the Gresham-Troutdale JACL Scholarship was Mateo Maehara of Clackamas High School.** Mateo has mentored youth players in both Baseball and Football camp for his last two years of high school. He has volunteered at SOLVE and the Oregon Food Bank and was the Captain of the Clackamas High School Football team. Mateo will attend Lewis and Clark College and plans to major in Biology. **Congratulations, Mateo!**



Emma Cantlin

Epworth United Methodist Church Scholarship

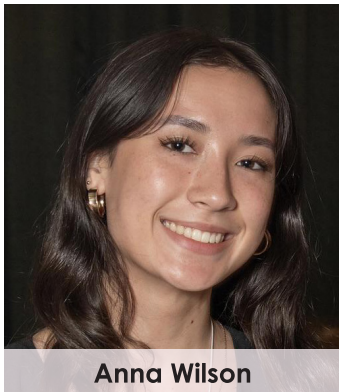
Epworth has evolved to become a reconciling congregation that welcomes people of all backgrounds and identities, and practices with an inclusive vision and

in alignment with these values. The Epworth scholarship is provided to support the promotion of compassion, justice, and community building in our youth. Mr. Sho Dozono presented the scholarship. **The winner of the Epworth United Methodist Church Scholarship was Emma Cantlin of Tigard High School.** Emma has made the honor roll throughout high school and has taken leadership roles in environmental and social justice issues. She has volunteered at the Blanchet House and the Ronald McDonald House and has been a participant in several SOLVE cleanups. Emma will attend Oregon State University and major in Public Health.

Congratulations, Emma!

Oregon Nisei Veterans: Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship

The Oregon Nisei Veterans began in 1948 with the purpose of raising money to build a monument to honor the Nisei soldiers killed in action during WW II. The Oregon Nisei Veterans awards the Iwasaki/Okamoto Scholarship each year. The scholarship was presented by Commander Ron Iwasaki.



Anna Wilson

Art Iwasaki was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat team during WWII and a founding member of Oregon Nisei Vets. Art was a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal and this scholarship is given in memory of his loving

wife, Teri. Second Lieutenant Roger Okamoto was killed in Vietnam in 1966 at the age of 23. Lieutenant Okamoto graduated from Benson High School and earned an engineering degree from the University of Washington. Ms. Janice Okamoto and her son, Mr. Gary Okamoto, represented the family at the banquet. **The winner of the Oregon Nisei Veterans' Iwasaki-Okamoto Scholarship was Anna Wilson of Grant High School.** Anna is President of her National Honors Society, the Apple Club and the Treasurer of the Asian Pacific Islander Alliance. She is a Key Club volunteer and she has been on the JV and Varsity volleyball teams throughout high school. She has scrubbed headstones and planted flowers at the Japanese Cemetery and has provided testimony and presentations at the Portland Youth Climate Council. Anna will attend Pitzer College and plans to major in Environmental Studies. ***Congratulations, Anna!***

Portland Shokookai: Shokookai of Portland Scholarship

Portland Shokookai was founded in 1966 by a small group of Japanese companies. They facilitate business operations for Japanese



Will Mayer

companies in Oregon and SW Washington and run the Japanese Language School. Mr. Takashi Yanase, the President of Shookokai, presented the scholarship. **This year's Shokookai of Portland Scholarship winner was Will Mayer of Westview**

High School. Will is the Captain of both the Cross-Country team and the Track and Field team. He has been a member of the National Honor Society for the last two years and is a member of the school newspaper, writing monthly articles. Will plans to attend the University of California, Irvine and will major in History. ***Congratulations, Will!***



Kelsey Nitta

Portland JACL: Kiyoko Yumibe Scholarship, Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship, Matt Masuoka Scholarship

Portland JACL was established in 1928 with an ongoing mission to fight social injustice and to preserve the cultural heritage

and values of Japanese Americans. Portland JACL awarded three scholarships this year. The scholarships were presented by Mr. Jeff Matsumoto, the President of Portland JACL.

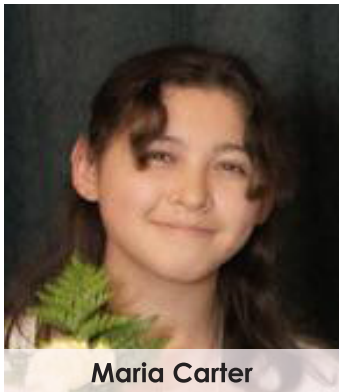
Kiyoko Yumibe was a hard-working Nisei who was incarcerated during WWII. She established a fund, through Portland JACL, to help support youth seeking higher education. Representing the donors at the banquet were Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Diane Onchi. **The winner of the Yumibe Scholarship was Kelsey Nitta of Lincoln High School.** Kelsey was the Sophomore and Junior Class President and the Captain of the Lincoln Basketball team. She's the President of Girls on Wheels, a club that empowers girls to learn skateboarding. Kelsey also plays the guitar in a

Jazz Combo. She plans to attend the University of Washington and major in Life Sciences.

Congratulations, Kelsey!

Yoshiko Kennedy used her talents as a seamstress and master of Ikebana to ensure her children would receive an education. The Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship was created in her memory. Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Laila Kennedy, Yoshiko's son and daughter-in-law, represented the donor family at the banquet. **The winner of the Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship was Mimi Goldthwaite from Arts and Communications Magnet High School.**

Mimi is a member of the International Thespian Society and enjoys acting, music and dancing. She was an instructor at a ballet dance camp, teaching students ages 3 to 8. She has attended the Portland Japanese School on Saturdays for over twelve years. Mimi will attend the University of Oregon next year and major in Art and Education. ***Congratulations, Mimi!***



Maria Carter

Matt Masuoka Scholarship

This scholarship honors Matthew Masuoka, a Nisei dentist, who was past president of Portland JACL in 1952, and Pacific Northwest District Governor in 1953-55. This scholarship is given in his honor by

his daughter, Dr. Connie Masuoka, who helps organize the Graduation Banquet every year. **The winner of the Matt Masuoka Scholarship was Maria Carter of Oregon Youth Challenge High School.** Maria was a member of the marching band as a percussionist. Maria volunteered for over 100 hours of community service assuming many leadership positions. She was awarded a top five cadet honor, a star student award and an academic excellence award. Maria will attend Portland Community College in pursuit of an Associate's Degree. ***Congratulations, Maria!***

**The Velea Club and Portland Nikkei Fujinkai:
Velea Club/Nikkei Fujinkai Scholarship**

The Velea Club is Portland's oldest Nikkei women's service organization that is active in the community today. Ms. Sharon Takahashi, President of the Velea Club, presented the scholarship.

Portland Nikkei Fujinkai is a Japanese Ancestral Women's Association that was established in 1935. They support community activities and cultural education. Reverend Michie Uzunoe, President of Nikkei Funjinkai, presented the scholarship.



Lillian Wright

This year's winner of the Velea Club/Nikkei Fujinkai scholarship was Lillian Wright of Tualatin High School.

Lillian has been a member of the Key Club for all four years of high school. She has volunteered with the City of Tualatin

Library, the Nichiren Buddhist Temple and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon. Lillian plans to be an elementary school teacher and will attend Oregon State University with a major in Human Development and Family Sciences.

Congratulations, Lillian!

Congratulations to the graduates of the class of 2023!

You have endured four years of constant change and uncertainty and you have done so with resilience and remarkable success. You bring distinction and honor to our community and we are so proud of what you have accomplished. Good luck with the next steps of your academic career and we look forward to hearing about your future endeavors.

(Photos from the graduation banquet on next page.)



Michael Jackson attended our banquet with his wife, Bishop Diane Akiyama.



Misao Minagi posing with her grand niece, Lillian Wright.



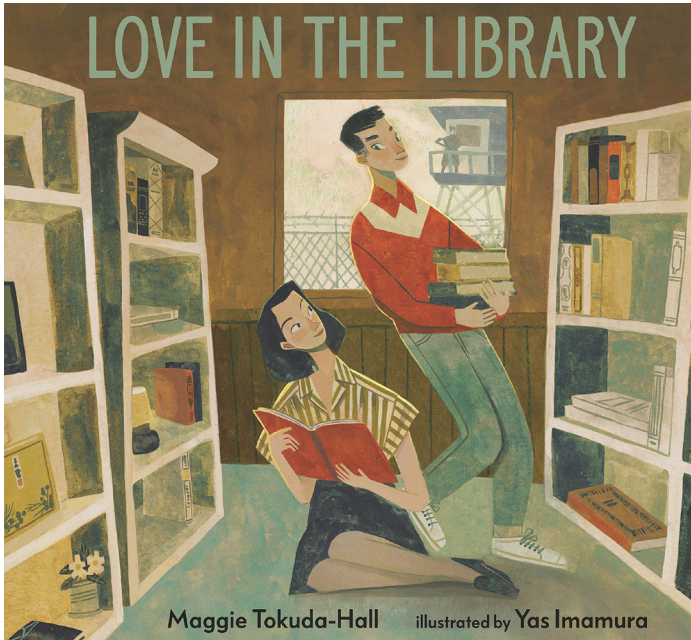
Class of 2023. (L to R) Back row: Maria Carter, Emma Caitlin, Lillian Wright, Will Mayer, Kogen Brown, Mateo Maehara, and Aiden McClanathan. Front row: Rena Yamazaki, Uruwa Abe, Mayu Garner, Anna Wilson, Kohei Shimomura, Jayden Onchi and Kelsey Nitta.

Congratulations!

Thank you to Curtis Suyematsu of Reflections Photography for our beautiful graduate and banquet pictures.

Culture Wars Impact:

Telling Our Story



"Love in the Library" published in 2022 by Maggie Tokuda-Hall tells the touching love story of her grandparents who met and fell in love in the library at Minidoka. Her grandmother, Tama volunteered in the library, which is visited daily by George, a voracious reader. This relationship blossoms into love, marriage, and the birth of their first child in an American Concentration Camp. The author was so excited when she was contacted by Scholastic Books to be licensed and sold by the book giant.

Then she read Scholastic's suggested revisions to her book, included in the same email as the offer news.

The publisher's suggested an elimination of part of the author's note that describes the background of the story which includes references to the role that white supremacy has played in our history.

Scholastic gave its reasons for the suggested change in an email to the author and her original publisher citing a "politically sensitive" moment for its market and a worry that the section "goes

beyond what some teachers are willing to cover with the kids in their elementary classrooms."

The shocked Tokuda-Hall immediately refused Scholastic's offer. She did not consider this book a simple love story but a way to highlight the violation of civil rights her grandparents and all other Japanese Americans endured. Scholastic has apologized for its editing suggestions but it is still not known if Tokuda-Hall will accept the contract.



Maggie Tokuda-Hall



Yas Imamura

Photo Corner



On Sunday, May 7, 2023, over 40 volunteers from Shokookai came to the Japanese Cemetery to clean and spruce up the grounds. Ten others from JAS also came to help. We are now ready for the Memorial Day service scheduled for Monday, May 29th at 1pm. All are welcome.

Photos by Chip LaRoche



Photos from the Asian American Pacific Islander event at the Riverdale Grade School on Friday, May 12, 2023.



Amanda, Setsy and Abby at the Asian American Pacific Islander event.



Marleen Wallingford and Connie Masuoko speak with guest at ORAH.



Amanda Shannahan and Ken Nitta greet visitors.



First picture; Back Row, Left to Right: Jenny Yamada, Chip Larouhe, Setsy Larouche, Russell Yamada, (Front Row): Jean Yamamoto, Susan Leedham, Marleen Wallingford, Chris Lee, Debbie Hamada and Jeff Matsumoto



SOLV (April 29) clean up of NW Portland.

2023 Henjyoji Shingon Temple Cultural Art Award Winner

by Brian Hochhalter



We are pleased to announce the 2023 winner of the Henjyoji Shingon Temple Cultural Art Award. This year's winner is Mimi Goldthwaite.

Mimi is a National Art Honor Society and Honor student at the Arts & Communications Magnet Academy

(ACMA) in Beaverton, Oregon. Besides her academic achievements, Mimi is very involved

with traditional Japanese singing and dancing. We applaud her efforts to keep the traditional Japanese arts alive!

The award to Mimi was presented by Dave Bachelor at the annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet which was held April 30th.

We plan to offer the art award next year so please make sure that you let your relatives and/or friends know they can apply. It is normally posted each November. For details go to www.shingonpdx.org and choose "Art Award" from menu.

Congratulations Mimi!



Ikoi no Kai - JUNE 2023

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
		X	1 Kanitama (Crab Omelette) <i>10:45am Move On Class</i>	2 Bibimbap ** Vegetarian Option available upon request
5 Ginger Pork & Eggplant <i>11:15am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong</i>	6 Sesame Chicken <i>Knife Sharpening 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	X	8 Mochi Okonomiyaki <i>Japanese Pancake 11am Blood Pressure 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief</i>	9 Hiyashi Chuka <i>Cold Noodle Salad Bingo</i>
12 Loco Moco <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	13 Wonton Soup <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	X	15 Seafood Pad Thai <i>10:45am Move On Class</i>	16 Chicken Karaage <i>Ohana Lunch</i>
19 Cold Udon w/ Tempura <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	20 Chicken Meatballs w/ Miso Sauce <i>11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	X	22 Sukiyaki <i>11am Blood Pressure 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief</i>	23 Curry Udon
26 Shumai <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	27 Birthday Sushi *Reservations required <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	X	29 Pork and Tofu Fry	30 Salmon Marinade

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



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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)