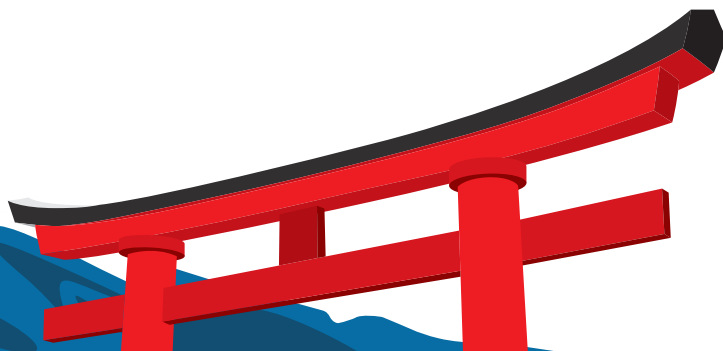




# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• NOVEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 29 ISSUE 11 •

## Board Member MESSAGE

### Dr. Homer Yasui Obituary

(December 28, 1924 – July 25, 2023 (98 years old))

by Setsy Sadamoto Larouche

We knew Homer was ill so we had lunch together at a Japanese restaurant in June 2023 where he was alert, cheerful and we had a lovely visit in Seattle area. Even though we knew he was under Hospice care, we were surprised he went downhill so quickly. Homer did so much for our Portland Chapter by being President twice and also the Pacific Northwest Governor. He and his wife Miki worked diligently with the National JACL for the Redress to be successful. Thank you for being our friend and thank you for the volunteer work over the years. May you rest in peace. The following is his obituary that appeared in the September issue of the Seattle Nisei Veterans Newsletter:

Homer Yasui was born on December 28, 1924, in Hood River, Oregon, and died of lung cancer on July 25, 2023, in Seattle. He was the eighth of nine children of Masuo and Shidzuyo Yasui, who were immigrants from Japan. He attended the Hood River public schools and graduated in 1942 — by way of a mailed diploma — because by May 1942, he was imprisoned in the Pinedale Assembly Center near Fresno, California. Later, he and his family were incarcerated at Tule Lake prison camp in Northern California as one of the estimated 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry in the U.S. to be imprisoned due to Executive Order 9066, issued by President Franklin

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**November 1**

**Day of the Dead**

**November 6**

**Kishi Bashi**

Revolution Hall | 730pm

**November 7**

**Election Day**

**November 11**

**Portland Taiko Indoor Concert**

The Reser | 7pm

**November 11**

**Veteran's Day**

**November 16**

**Portland JACL Board Meeting**

Virtual | 630pm

**November 23**

**Thanksgiving**

**November 24**

**Buy Nothing Day**

**December 2**

**Portland JACL Holiday Party with a Japanese Santa**

5pm

**Continued on Pg. 2**

### ***Continued from Pg. 1***

D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. In September 1942, Homer left Tule Lake by bus to attend the University of Denver. In September 1945, Homer enrolled at the Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia, and graduated in 1949. After an internship in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he married the love of his life, Miyuki "Miki" Yabe, in 1950 in New York City. In August 1954 — after completing a general surgery residency — Selective Service informed Homer that it intended to draft him into the Army Medical Corps unless he selected another branch of the service. So, he chose to serve in the Navy. After a couple of months of training, Homer chose to serve at the U.S. Naval Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan, where the family spent 18 happy months, traveling to Kyoto, Hiroshima, and many other historic and beautiful places. After Homer's release from active duty in October 1956, the family moved to Portland, Oregon. Homer entered the surgical residency program at St. Vincent's Hospital in Portland before beginning his solo general surgical practice in 1958 in Milwaukie, Oregon. He practiced surgery for 29 years and retired in 1987. Homer joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in 1958 and spent 12 years with a Marine Corps Reserve engineer battalion, retiring from the Naval Reserve with the rank of Captain in 1984. After retirement, Homer and Miki became involved with the Japanese American community of Portland, including with the Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. Homer was president of the Portland Chapter JACL in 1973; co-president with Miki in 1980 and 1981, and the District Governor of the Pacific Northwest District Council JACL around 1982-83. Homer was an outspoken advocate for passing Japanese American redress, overturning the decision in his brother Minoru Yasui's Supreme Court case, and supporting the Muslim community after 9/11. In 2003, Miki and Homer moved to the Cherrywood Retirement Village in Portland. In 2015, they moved to The Lakeshore in Seattle to be closer to their two daughters. A lifelong history buff and storyteller, Homer's last mission in life was to sort, scan, and annotate the hundreds of documents

and photographs in the Yasui Family papers, some of which date back as far as 1903. He lived long enough to see the enormous collection begin to be translated and digitized for future generations, thanks to a grant that OHS was awarded in 2022. Homer was preceded in death by his wife Miyuki Yabe Yasui, parents Masuo and Shidzuyo Yasui, eight siblings, and son Allen Masuo Yasui. He leaves behind three surviving children -- Barbara, Meredith, and John -- plus eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, dozens of nieces, nephews, and other extended family. Donations in Homer's memory may be made to Portland JACL, the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Densho, or the Oregon Historical Society. A memorial service will be held at a later date.



## ❖ Time to Renew the Paper Newsletter ❖

Please let us know if you would like to continue receiving the paper copy of the newsletter instead of reading the issue on-line. We are asking for a suggested donation of \$25 for those that can afford it for 2024. Please fill out the form below if you would like to continue receiving

the newsletter by postal mail. By changing to mostly on-line newsletters we have been able to save a significant amount of our costs. We have gotten feedback that many of you feel that our newsletter is a valuable service for our community. **Thank you for your support.**

Name of JACL Member		Preferred Phone	
		Circle One: ( Home / Cell )	
<b>Current Address</b>			
Street Address			
Street Address (Line 2)			
City	State	Zip Code	
<b>New Address (if changing)</b>			
Street Address			
Street Address (Line 2)			
City	State	Zip Code	

Please return this form to Portland Chapter JACL, PO Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286  
A suggested donation of \$25 per year will help us cover costs.

## Japanese American National Museum In Los Angeles



If you have not visited the national museum, you should go this year as they have extended the Ireichō exhibit through

next December 1, 2024.

The Ireichō is a sacred book that records the names of over 125,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly imprisoned in US Army, Department of Justice, and War Relocation Authority camps during World War II.

Irei: National Monument for the WWII Japanese

American Incarceration is a multi-faceted project to address the erasure of the identities of individuals of Japanese ancestry who experienced wartime incarceration and to expand the concept of what monument is through three distinct, interlinking elements: a sacred book of names as a monument (Ireichō), a website as a monument (Ireizō), and light sculptures as monuments (Ireih).

The project is funded by the Mellon Foundation and led by Duncan Ryukun Williams, professor of American Studies & Ethnicity and Religion at USC and director of the USC Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture, and Project Creative Director, Sunyoung Lee.

The Ireizō lists those names online at [ireizo.com](http://ireizo.com). Visitors can search for the person's name by name, birth year, or camp.

## ❖ Candidates for the Portland JACL Board ❖



**President**  
Jeff Matsumoto

Jeff Matsumoto is a Yonsei born and raised in Lodi, CA. He has worked as an elementary school teacher in Forest Grove since moving to Oregon in 2000 and has been on the Portland JACL Board since 2019. He looks forward to the continuing efforts to serve and support JACL members through his involvement on the Portland JACL Board.



**Secretary**  
Heidi Tolentino

Heidi Tolentino is a bi-racial Yonsei who has been on the board for many years and is the current secretary of the chapter. She works as a high school counselor at Cleveland High School in Portland and was a high school English teacher prior to becoming a counselor. Heidi and her husband, Patrick, have a daughter, Malia, who is part of the Portland Public School's Japanese Immersion Program.



**Treasurer**  
Jillian Toda-Currie

Jillian Toda-Currie is a fourth-generation Japanese American who grew up in The Dalles, near where her grandparents had a farm and cherry orchard. Jillian currently does marketing research in the healthcare industry. She has volunteered with various organizations in the Portland area including APANO, Minoru Yasui Student Contest, and Impact NW. She is the current Treasurer for the Portland JACL board.



**Membership Chair**  
Setsy Sadamoto  
Larouche

I would be honored to be your Membership Chair again as Portland has continued to be the largest Chapter in the Nation to include the one Chapter in Tokyo. I'm a product of Nisei Kibei parents from Hiroshima, Japan and we moved back to PDX when I was a child. My bachelor's degree is in education and my master's is in logistics. As a retired US Army Quartermaster Officer, I would like to continue my volunteer service to our community.





**Board Member**  
Erika Jennings

As a third generation Portlander, Erika grew up involved in JA culture via family events as well

as attending Oregon Buddhist Temple and Nichiren Buddhist Temple with grandparents and great aunts and uncles. She enjoys being part of the JACL board so she can serve the community through social justice projects and interact with others of similar backgrounds. Her career has been primarily in the financial industry, currently working for Umpqua Bank as a product manager. Her family consists of 2 grown daughters, her husband of 33 years as well as a dog and cat. She enjoys watercolor painting, camping, and kayaking among other hobbies.



**Board Member**  
Ken Nitta

Ken Nitta is a sansei who became aware of Portland JACL during the Congressional Gold

Medal event in Washington DC since his father served in the 442nd and in the Military Intelligence Service. He has been on the Advocacy Committee representing Portland JACL on Nikkei Progressives and the National Nikkei Reparations Coalition. He is a retired physician and volunteers at the Free Clinic of SW Washington as well as with Family Promise helping unhoused families. He lives in Vancouver, Washington with his wife. They have two sons and the oldest is expecting their first child in April 2024.



**Board Member**  
Weston Koyama

Descended from Japanese immigrants, Weston Koyama is a fourth-generation Japanese American.

Weston maintains a passion for Japanese culture, speaks Japanese fluently, and strives to foster connections with Japan. He seeks to help the JACL continue its tradition of social justice advocacy as a voice for the Japanese American community. Weston is an Oregon lawyer and a graduate of the U.O. Law School. His hobbies include languages, piano, and currently studies Cantonese.



**Board Member**  
Tiffany Koyama Lane

Tiffany Koyama Lane (she/her) is a community organizer, Japanese American (Yonsei), activist, mother of 2 and

educator. She has taught K-5 elementary school in NYC and Portland. In addition to centering justice work in her classroom, she is a community organizer for child- and family-centered anti-racist events, engaged in the local AAPI community, and an active leader in the Portland Association of Teachers. She has served on the Teacher Advisory Councils at the Portland Art Museum and JAMO. She's participated in powerful landmark programs at JANM and the Wing Luke Museum. During her free time, you can find her biking, dancing, and adventuring in the PNW with her two children and partner.



**Board Member**  
Connie Masuoka

I am a Portland born sansei with over 40 years invested in the Portland JACL. You might say I was

born in to JACL, as my parents were both active JACL members. My avocation is being the Oregon group leader to the annual Minidoka Pilgrimage and my regular job is being a general dentist in Portland.



**Board Member**  
Justin Sato

Justin is a Hawaii-born gosei striving to keep the Japanese culture thriving through sharing culinary

arts, music, and other cultural practices. He has spoken Japanese growing up with his family and continues to perpetuate the language with his kids. (The eldest is attending UTokyo!) Justin is retired from leading a semiconductor R&D division and now teaches ukulele and spends most days cooking and volunteering.



**Board Member**  
Spencer Uemura

I am a Yonsei/Shin-Nisei from the Los Angeles area, but I've been in Portland for six years. By

profession, I'm a mental health therapist, drawn into this work by a passion for stories and connection. One of my hobbies has been documenting my family's history and requesting and translating koseki (family registry documents) from Japan. I have cherished the opportunity to give back to the Nikkei community during my first term, so I'm honored to be considered again for the JACL board.



**Board Member**  
Marleen Wallingford

I am a Sansei who was born and raised in Portland, Oregon..I graduated from the

University of Oregon with a master's degree in speech and language pathology and worked for almost 30 years for Portland Public Schools. As a retired educator, I became active with the Portland JACL, volunteer at the Japanese American Museum of Oregon and am active with OEA-Retired. In honor of my parents, I am committed to supporting our Japanese American community.



**Board Member**  
Jenny Yamada

As a fourth-generation Japanese American who grew up in Corvallis, I wasn't able to be part of the JA community outside of family gatherings. Inspired to make more connections, I joined the Portland JACL Board in 2020. During my first term, I updated the website, helped implement the email newsletter, worked on our calendar and participated in the Newsletter and Advocacy Committees. Besides serving on the board, I volunteer at JAMO as a docent and work at a local marketing agency.

## ❖ Voting Ballot ❖

Here is the proposed slate of Board Members for the 2024-25 term. The following have been submitted for consideration by the Portland JACL Nominating Committee:

### Portland JACL Officers

- President: Jeff Matsumoto
- Vice President: Vacant
- Secretary: Heidi Tolentino
- Treasurer: Jillian Toda-Currie
- Membership: Setsy Sadamoto Larouche
- **Elected Members – At Large**
  - Erika Jennings
  - Kenneth Nitta
  - Weston Koyama
  - Tiffany Koyama Lane
  - Connie Masuoka
  - Justin Sato
  - Spencer Uemura
  - Marleen Wallingford
  - Jenny Yamada
- **Vote to accept the Portland JACL Slate as presented.**

•    ≤        Yes        ≤        No

•

- If NOT accepting of the slate, please write-in the member names AND the position you wish to elect them. Officer positions are President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Chair. Up to 10 at Large Board Positions.

•

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- Send completed ballots to [jacl@pdxjacl.org](mailto:jacl@pdxjacl.org) or mail to PO Box 86310, Portland, OR 97286
- You may also vote online at: <https://www.pdxjacl.org/election-2023>.





## ❖ 25 For 25 ❖

**Celebrating 25 years of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon with a look at 25 objects that define the collection.**

2023 marks the 25th anniversary of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon. The first object accepted into the museum's collection was the hand-painted kimono Fumi (Marumoto) Sakano wore as the Japanese Community queen in the 1931 Rose Festival Parade. Since then, the collection has grown into one of the nation's foremost repositories of artifacts, documents, and photographs that tell the story of Japanese Americans in the Northwest, starting with their arrival as immigrants in the late 1800s and encompassing the World War II experience, post-war

resettlement, and the present day community.

In celebration of this milestone, we have created 25 for 25, a digital exhibition that will eventually contain 25 pieces. Throughout the year we will be adding objects from our collection that particularly highlight our history, the Japanese American story in Oregon, and the people who have worked tirelessly to make this museum into an institution our community takes pride in.



### Portland Taiko Presents **Issho Rhythm Connection**

**WHEN:**  
November 11, 2023  
7:00pm

**WHERE:**  
The Reser

**FOR TICKETS, VISIT:**  
[thereser.org/event/isscho-rhythm-connection](https://thereser.org/event/isscho-rhythm-connection)





## Photo Corner



Photos by Julie Hirai



Epworth United Methodist Church held their Cultural Fair on October 6.



Photo by: Chip Larouche



Photo by: Chip Larouche

On September 16, 2023 Children's Choirs of Three Nations provided a free concert at the First Congregational Church. Consul General Yuzo Yoshioka welcomed all the children from the Chinese, Japanese and Korean communities who delighted the audience with their performances. This is the eighth year of the "Three Nations" events, which are designed to foster cooperation and friendship between the three nations. The participating schools include the Portland Mandarin Children's Choir, an after-school learning program; the Nozomi Music School, a private school opened in 2019; and the Oregon Korean School, a community language school serving over 200 students.

## Unite People's Holiday Wreath Sale

Get ready for the Holidays and reduce your stress by pre-ordering winter greenery to decorate your home or office.

This is a fundraiser activity for Unite People, a youth driven community and social justice group. The proceeds will help fund projects to educate youth and community projects.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

<b>Mixed wreaths with berries</b>	<b>Qty</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Total</b>
12 inch		\$20.00	
16 inch		\$26.00	
20 inch		\$40.00	
24 inch		\$50.00	
<b>Candy Cane Style</b>		\$20.00	
<b>15 foot Garland</b>		\$20.00	
<b>Red Bow</b>		\$ 6.00	
<b>Poinsettas 6 inch pots</b>		\$12.00	
<b>Total</b>			

**Deadline to order is November 18, 2023**

Pick-up date:  
Sunday, December 3, 2023  
from 11-2pm  
at Epworth United Methodist

Mail this form to:  
Unite People  
6305 E Burnside  
Portland, OR 97215  
or Order on line at  
[pdxjacl.org/wreath-sale](http://pdxjacl.org/wreath-sale)

**Please make checks payable to UNITE PEOPLE**



## Iko no Kai - NOVEMBER 2023

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
			<b>2</b>  <b>Oyakodon</b> Chicken & Egg Rice Bowl  <i>10:45 Move On Class</i>	<b>3</b>  <b>Subuta</b> Sweet & Sour Pork
<b>6</b>  <b>Kenchin Udon</b> *vegetarian <i>11:30am Chair Yoga</i> <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	<b>7</b>  <b>Chicken Meatball Nabe/ Stew</b> <i>Kinfe Sharpening</i> <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>Croquette</b>  <i>11:30am Aikido Stress Relief</i>	<b>10</b>  <b>Thai Chicken &amp; Rice</b>  <i>Bingo</i>
<b>13</b>  <b>Sukiyaki</b> *Reservations required <i>Veteran's Day Lunch</i> <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	<b>14</b>  <b>Pork &amp; Shrimp Wonton Soup</b>  <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>Seafood Curry</b>  <i>10:45 Move On Class</i>	<b>17</b>  <b>Foil Wrapped Salmon</b>  <i>Ohana Lunch</i>
<b>20</b>  <b>Omurice</b> Rice in Omelette  <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	<b>21</b>  <b>Pork Ramen</b>  <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>CLOSED</b>
<b>27</b>  <b>Tonjiru</b> Pork & Vegetable Miso Soup <i>12:30pm Mahjong</i>	<b>28</b>  <b>Karaage</b> Fried Chicken <i>11am Blood Pressure</i> <i>12:45pm Sing a Long</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Birthday Sushi</b> *Reservations required <i>11am Blood Pressure</i>	

**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**





**PORTLAND JA CL**  
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PORTLAND, OR 97286

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## Current Board Members

Jeff Matsumoto  
**President**

Christopher Lee  
**Vice President**

Heidi Tolentino  
**Secretary**

Jillian Toda-Currie  
**Treasurer**

Setsy Larouche  
**Membership Chair**

Erika Jennings  
Weston Koyama  
Tiffany Koyama-Lane  
Connie Masuoka  
Kenneth Nitta  
Amanda Shannahan  
Spencer Uemura  
Marleen Ikeda Wallingford  
Jenny Yamada  
**Board Members at Large**

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

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)