The year has passed by so quickly. In a few days, 2023 will close with our annual community Holiday Dinner and visit from Santa. Looking back I think of all the people I have met in our reemerging Nihonmachi. From tabling at Oregon Rise’s Above Hate, sprucing up our beloved Japanese American Historical Plaza or sponsoring a SOLVE clean-up in Old Town and being the chief sponsor in bringing the transformative hapa. me by Kip Fulbeck to the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, we may have lost a landmark (Yamaguchi Hotel - koin.com/news/civic-affairs/old-towns-historic-yamaguchi-hotel-set-for-demolition-on-monday) but our community bond is strong.

Time and time again, I witnessed this bond at the Graduation Banquet, the Annual Community Picnic, our Day of Remembrance screening of No No Girl and most recently a memorable luncheon honoring our communities centenarians.

I have seen you at Thorns’ matches cheering on Hina Sugita, Tiger Tiger, Min Yasui Day, and events honoring our veterans. In this ever changing world, now more than ever, I find solace in who we are and the commitment we have to one another. Thank You.

May we all find Peace in our Hearts.
Seattle JACL Condemns the Alarming Increase of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, Calls for an Immediate Ceasefire

Our nation and our local area have seen an alarming increase in hate and bias incidents involving the Jewish and Muslim communities. In Seattle, in an instance of anti-Semitic intimidation, several synagogues have been targeted by mailings of unidentified and potentially hazardous white powders. Violent threats have been made to members of the Jewish community on campuses and neighborhoods across the country. We are also witness to anti-Muslim attacks, such as the murder of six-year-old Wadea Al-Fayoume and assault of his mother in Illinois, and the injuries sustained by a Muslim Stanford University student who was hit by a car while the driver shouted anti-Islamic epithets.

JACL has long condemned and opposed anti-Islamic racism, especially since 9/11. We similarly stand in solidarity with local Jewish community organizations as both anti-Semitic and anti-Asian hate incidents have surged in the past several years. We join with Muslim Americans and Jewish Americans to forthrightly state: hate and bias have no place in our society. We urge all who support justice to unite in defense of those subjected to attacks based on race, ethnicity, and religion.

We also must acknowledge that world events have a huge impact on the treatment of communities here in the United States. We know this all too well as the history of racist incarceration and xenophobia targeting our own Japanese American communities was a direct result of the conflict between the U.S. and Japan in World War II.

The horrific attacks by Hamas on October 7 and the Israeli military’s ongoing relentless siege of Gaza have deeply affected us all. We are appalled by the immense loss of human life in the region, and condemn the targeting and killing of civilians, whether Israeli or Palestinian. We are outraged at the kidnappings and murder of over 1,200 Israeli civilians including children and the elderly that occurred on October 7, 2023. And we decry the ongoing mass killings, indiscriminate bombing, and forced displacement of civilians in Gaza that have resulted in over 11,000 deaths, nearly half of them children. The Israeli government’s disproportionate use of force and harming of innocent civilians violates basic tenets of morality, human decency, and international
For November and December, the Japanese American Museum of Oregon’s gift store transforms into the Omiyage Holiday Shop, with even more treasures than usual. Come by Thursday-Sunday, 11am-3pm to shop all the unique handcrafted, local, and Japanese-inspired goodies we’ll have in stock only for the holiday season. Omiyage runs November 24 through December 23 this year. Read more at jamo.org/omiyage-holiday-store/

**Omiyage Holiday Shop**
At the Japanese American Museum of Oregon

411 NW Flanders St STE 100
Portland, OR 97209
Thurs-Sun, 11am-3pm
(Open through December 23)
In 2015, the community joined together to host a Nisei appreciation luncheon for community Members who were seen as treasures, helping build our strong Japanese American community. Portland is a great example of organizations, small and large, coming together to accomplish missions, sometimes deemed impossible. October 28 at the Airport Embassy Suites was a crowning event which moved an idea from the back burner to “must do” status.

We suffered many losses since 2020, but the biggest was the theft of “gathering” that the villain Covid put us through. Bazaars, golf tournaments, church gatherings, typical funerals where we hug and say goodbye and comfort families, graduation banquets with families beaming with pride—we missed them all. So, we felt liberated as “normal” started returning. The most fragile group that Covid attacked in many ways were the seniors. Their names were on our tongues often and we wondered how they were all doing.

So, two months ago, under Terry Nishikawa’s cheerleading, we started planning the Greater Portland Centenarian Luncheon to identify, recognize and thank the elders who built our community with their participation. We have missed some, I know, but Terry’s hope is to grow this event into one which is repeated, but not with an 8 year gap.

We had over 100 attendees, with 18 honorees in that group. Representing the Consular Office of Japan in Portland, Consul Yuzo Yoshioka presented certificates to the centenarians and also, to those achieving the 95 year milestone. Our eldest honorees were 104 year olds Teruko Arima, Rose Kasahara and Misao Minagi. Misao went matsutake hunting to Zigzag on Sunday. The youngest was Henry Ueno, who will turn 95 on December 28, 2023.

Two “almost there” seniors, Janet Kakishita and Sharon Takahashi, worked with June Schumann and James Rogers, Japanese American Museum of Oregon stalwarts, on getting pictures, honoree data, and personal comments to put in a short (was it ever!) slideshow. It could have lasted a few hours as the 40 plus referrals had many highlights in their century (+ or – a few years). Three offspring, Verne Naito, Heidi Nishida and Becky Fujii captured the honorees’ spirit in three minute slots. They were awesome!

Honorees were easy to spot as they wore leis made by JAMO volunteers taught by Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong, JAMO’s executive director. They were Lynn Fuchigami Parks, Connie Masuoka and Val Itamura. Lincoln Hirata, Grant High School senior, was the designated wheelchair and walker aide.

A proclamation was read by Evyn Mitchell of Mayor Ted Wheeler’s staff, declaring October 28 to be honored seniors day in Portland.

We had partners/sponsors whom we would like to recognize: Gresham Troutdale JACL (financial guarantor), Portland Japanese Ancestral Society, Portland JACL, Veleda Club, Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Kern Park Floral (centerpiece creation and support), Nikkei Fujinkai (head table flowers), Mayor Ted Wheeler and staff, Reverend Eisei Ikenaga of Nichiren Buddhist Temple, Rich Iwasaki (for chronicling the event) and some special financial donors.


We look forward to hearing from all, helping us find future honorees, giving us encouragement for the next event and suggestions on how to make it better. (A pat on the back is more appreciated than a kick in the pants, but they both get your attention.—Mom’s wisdom.) Together, we can create another successful event.
Sahomi Tachibana was able to attend with her daughter, Elaine Werner.

Jeanne Shioshi and Fumi Itami enjoyed the festivities. Can you believe these ladies are over 100?

Yoshio Tokiwa is a 442 military veteran.

Sam Naito still going strong at 102 is greeted by a guest.

Henry and Atami Ueno are greeted by Tom Fujii whose 95th birthday is next year.

A Group photo from the Centenarian Luncheon.
Thank You from Portland JACL!

Portland JACL would like to thank everyone listed below for their generous donations during the past year (November 9, 2022 to November 8, 2023) to our programs which include Day of Remembrance, the Nikkei Community Picnic, our ongoing efforts for civil rights advocacy, Unite People (youth program), scholarships, monthly newsletters, annual calendar, the Minidoka Swing Band, and the Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue advertising. Domo Arigato Gozaimashita! Please note that all donations of $100 dollars or more are acknowledged by receipt. All others are acknowledged here in our newsletter, in alphabetical order.
### Ikoi no Kai - DECEMBER 2023

**1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775**

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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 JACL
PO BOX 86310
PORTLAND, OR 97286

Join the Portland JACL for our Holiday Party
December 2nd, 5pm
Oregon Buddhist Temple

Pot luck or if you don’t have time, a donation would be appreciated.

Oregon Buddhist Temple Mochitsuki
December 17th
(Mochi pick-up will be between 3 - 4:30pm at Oregon Buddhist Temple)

Please use forms below for the orders.
Deadline: Tuesday, December 12th.

Online Form:
https://forms.gle/84u8KKshY6u1VxjMA