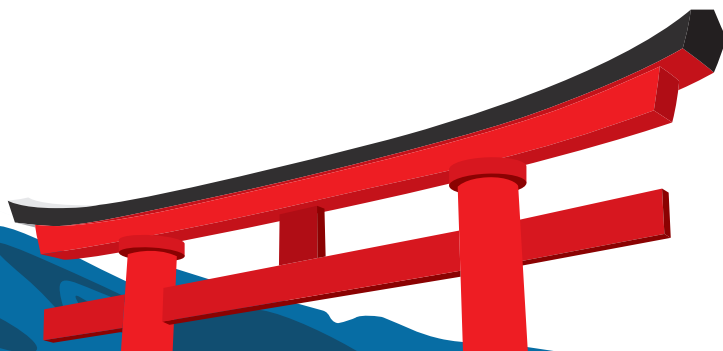




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• FEBRUARY 2024 | VOLUME 30 ISSUE 02 •

Member MESSAGE

Following Min Yasui's Legacy: Advancing Democracy

By Jillian Toda-Currie

Minoru Yasui is best known for standing up against the military-ordered curfew placed on all persons of Japanese ancestry as a young man in Portland, OR. His legacy extends far beyond that moment, and beyond Oregon. Min was instrumental in bridging diverse communities throughout his adult life spent in Denver, CO. He is memorialized in Denver's Sakura Square at 19th & Larimer. He is honored each Minoru Yasui Day on March 28th in Oregon.

And his legacy is reaching small pockets across the country, thanks to the Minoru Yasui Student Contest.

I've had the opportunity to serve on the contest committee for several years. It is always inspiring to see the work of students. We've had contestants from Oregon, but also Hawaii, Georgia and Delaware, among others. Each year, I'm excited to see where else this contest will reach. This was the vision of Holly Yasui, Min's daughter, and the founder of the Student Contest. Holly wished to engage youth everywhere in social justice to ensure that the next generation would carry on her father's legacy. Holly was also an artist, which is why we transitioned to an art contest last year (formerly an essay contest).

This year's contest asks youth to create an art piece and statement addressing the prompt:

Continued on Pg. 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 1 & 15 (1st and 3rd Thursdays)

MOVE ON Creative Movement Class

Epworth United Methodist Church | 1045-1130am

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

Unite People

Epworth United Methodist Church | 630pm

February 17

Threads of Remembrance

Lincoln Recital Hall, PSU | 2-4pm

February 19

Removed by Force Film Screening

McMenamins Kennedy School Theater | 7pm

February 24

Culture and Identity Collage Workshop

InterACT! Expressive Arts Series

JAMO Annex (Meet in the museum lobby)

February 19

President's Day

February 19

Signing of EO 9066

Continued from Pg. 1

What does an ideal democracy look like to you? What is a challenge (or challenges) to achieving your vision for democracy, and what can be done to overcome it?

This year's theme of "advancing democracy" is relevant to Min's lifelong work in civil rights leadership as well as today's political landscape. What could our democracy look like compared to what is happening in reality? How can we collectively achieve that ideal democracy? These are big questions for our youth to answer, however, I'm confident that we'll get some insightful answers. We always do.

I'd like to see contestants from new places we haven't seen before. Will you help make this happen by sharing our contest information? Please share widely with anyone who may be interested. I'm looking forward to the legacy of Min Yasui reaching many more of our future leaders!

We hope you'll join us at the Minoru Yasui Day event in Portland, OR on April 6, 2024. There will be a panel of esteemed speakers, and the winners of this year's contest will be announced. Details to

come soon.

About the Minoru Yasui Student Contest

Organized by the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, the Minoru Yasui Student Contest offers students the opportunity to explore societal topics in connection with the legacy of Minoru Yasui, the only Oregonian to have been awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

This year's contest theme is advancing democracy and prompts students to think about what democracy looks like, barriers to achieving democracy, and how to overcome them. The contest has a Junior Division (5th-8th grade) offering a \$500 grand prize and Senior Division (9th-12th grade) offering a \$1,000 grand prize. New in 2024 is the Educator Engagement Award that will gift \$500 to the school that has the most contestants.

To view the full details of the contest, visit the Minoru Yasui Student Contest webpage: **minoruyasuilegacy.org/student-contest**

Submissions must be completed and uploaded by 11:59pm PT on Friday, March 1, 2024.



"If we believe in America, if we believe in equity and democracy, if we believe in law and justice, then each of us, when we see or believe that errors are being made, has an obligation to make every effort to correct them."

—Minoru Yasui (1916 - 1986)

Threads of Remembrance

A History of Activism, Community and Reparations

By Marleen Wallingford

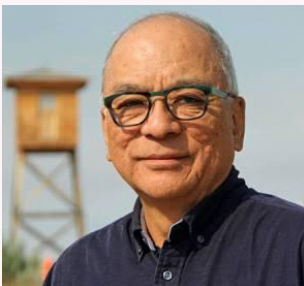
The Portland JACL and Japanese American Museum of Oregon are teaming up for this year's Day of Remembrance program at Portland State University's Lincoln Hall on Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, from 2 to 4 p.m. The annual event memorializes and honors the 125,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in the United States during World War II as well as the activist movement for redress from the U.S. government and public education. This year's event, Threads of Remembrance: A History of Activism, Community and Reparations will feature performances from Portland Taiko, Tsubaki Buyo Doukou Kai, and Joe Kye, as well as panel discussion among redress activists and historians Frank Abe, Chisao Hata, Peggy Nagae, and Mira Shimabukuro.

Threads of Remembrance will commemorate

the first Day of Remembrance that took place in Portland 45 years ago on Feb. 17, 1979. The event will recognize the Issei, Nisei and Sansei who have worked to provide this opportunity for the Japanese American community to reflect upon their shared experiences. This will never again happen to Japanese Americans, but there continues to be a culture of fear and prejudice against those seen as "the other" in the U.S., including Muslims and immigrants at the border today. As Frank Chin wrote in a 1979 editorial in The Oregonian, "'Remember the Camps' is...significant to our understanding of the American nature. 'Remember the Camps' warns against the dark inside of America's idealistic hearts."

More information about Threads of Remembrance can be found at <https://www.pdxjacl.org>.

Panelists for Day of Remembrance 2024



Frank Abe helped produce the first-ever "Day of Remembrance" in 1978 with Frank Chin.

He has won an American Book Award for "JOHN OKADA: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of No-No Boy" Frank has recently published a graphic novel, "WE HEREBY REFUSE: Japanese American Resistance to Wartime Incarceration."



Chisao Hata is a dancer, artist and community activist. She was one of the man behind the scenes Portland's first Day of Remembrance event.



Peggy Nagae was the co-chair for the Day of Remembrance in 1979.



Mira Shimabukuro is a professor at the University of Washington and the daughter of Robert Shimabukuro the former president of the Portland JACL 7.

❖ Photo Corner ❖



Governor Sheldon Arakaki presents Jeff Matsumoto with his President's Pin.



Portland JACL Board is sworn in by Governor Sheldon Arakaki. Members present (L to R) Tiffany Koyama-Lane, Justin Sato, Connie Masuoka, Ken Nitta, Setsy Sadamoto Larouche, Governor Arakaki, Jeff Matsumoto, Heidi Tolentino, Jenny Yamada, Jillian Toda-Currie and Marleen Ikeda Wallingford. Board members unable to attend the ceremony were Erika Jennings, Weston Koyama, and Spencer Uemura.



Unite People is Portland JACL's youth group. They meet the third Friday of the month in the basement of Epworth United Methodist Church. Connie Masuoka helps organize the activities that almost always includes something yummy to eat. We fondly remember their founder, Robbie Tsuboi who was our inspiration,

In December, the group made cookies for the Portland JACL Holiday Party and went ice skating at the Loyd Center Ice rink. In years past, they have gone on the Minidoka Pilgrimage in Idaho. This is a great opportunity for young people to connect with other members of the community for fun and fellowship.

To all persons of JAPANESE ancestry and FRIENDS

**The Memory of
One hundred twenty thousand, three hundred and thirteen
Issei, Nisei, Sansei and others of Japanese ancestry**

**requests the honor of your company
for**

THREADS OF REMEMBRANCE

A History of Activism, Community and Reparations

**Free and open to the public
2 pm, Saturday, February 17
Lincoln Recital Hall, PSU, 1620 SW Park Ave
enter on Broadway**

Portland Taiko, Tsubaki Buyo Doukou Kai, Joe Kye, and panel discussion with Frank Abe, Chisao Hata, Peggy Nagae, and Mira Shimabukuro. Emcee Lauren Terry
RSVP Marleen at 503-927-2766 or marleen@pdxiacj.org



This logo was created by Frank Fuji for the first Day of Remembrance event in Seattle in 1978 and used in 1979 in Portland. It is now used as the logo for the Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee. The symbols in the middle stand for the Issei, Nisei and Sansei who were incarcerated during World War II.



PORTLAND JACL
SUPPORTING CIVIL RIGHTS SINCE 1928

**JAPANESE AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF OREGON**



Iko no Kai - FEBRUARY 2024

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
		X	1 Chicken Meatball Stew Tori Dango Oden 10:45 Move On Class	2 Pork & Vegetable Stir Fry w/ Noodles Ankake Ramen 11am Blood Pressure
5 Fried Spring Rolls* Harumaki 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	6 Chicken w/ Ume Sauce* Knife Sharpening 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	8 Cream Stew & Rice Omelette Kurimushichu & Omurice 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief	9 Fried Tofu Fritters* Ganmodoki Bingo
12 Mapo Tofu 12:30pm Mahjong	13 Fried Shrimp Ebi Fry 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	15 Meatball Curry 10:45 Move On Class	16 Chicken Stew & Veg Stir Fry Tori Nikomi & Yakiyasai 11am Blood Pressure Ohana Lunch
19 Potato Fritters Croquette Reiki 12:30pm Mahjong	23 Omelette on Rice Tenshin Don 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	25 Seafood Stir Fry Happosai 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief	26 Pork Miso Soup & Mixed Rice Tonjiru & Takikomi Gohan
26 Karaage Fried Chicken 12:30pm Mahjong	27 Birthday Sushi *Reservations required 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing a Long		29 Mackerel Saba	

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

*** vegetarian option available on that day - please reserve two days in advance**



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Connie Masuoka
Kenneth Nitta
Spencer Uemura
Justin Sato
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)