



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• MARCH 2024 | VOLUME 30 ISSUE 03 •

Board Member MESSAGE

By Spencer Uemura

In mid-January, I had a taste of what I call “Japanese American heaven”. Traveling along with about 70 young adult Nikkei from across the country, I had the unique privilege of supervising 24 of them as we developed and strengthened connections to Japanese culture and between ourselves as Japanese Americans. This was the Kakehashi program, coordinated and funded by the Japan International Cooperation Center, and facilitated by JACL National. For one very full week, our itinerary was as jam-packed with learning opportunities as our suitcases would be filled with souvenirs at the end of the trip.

Our first days were in Tokyo, where we visited the Tokyo National Museum and had a few brief meetings with government officials. Our next few days were spent in Yamaguchi prefecture on the island of Suo-Oshima, known as the Hawaii of the Seto Inland Sea. Not surprisingly, Suo-Oshima also has close ties to Hawaii through the large proportion of residents who immigrated there around the turn of the 20th century. Our group visited the local Museum of Japanese Immigration to Hawaii and kind volunteers pored through records to help many of us learn new information about our ancestors who immigrated to Hawaii. Of course, a major highlight for the participants was a short homestay experience on Suo-Oshima which involved cooking (and eating!) local foods, sightseeing, and talking about Japanese and Japanese American culture. After leaving Yamaguchi prefecture, we had a short visit to Hiroshima to visit the Hiroshima Peace Museum before spending our final days in Tokyo.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 17-April 14

**Craft, Community, and Care:
The Art and Legacy of Bob Shimabukuro**

March 1

**Scholarship applications are due for
Nikkei Community Scholarships**

March 13

***Portland's Audacious Champion: How Bill Naito
Overcame Anti-Japanese Hate and Became a
Community Leader* by Erika Naito-Campbell**
Oregon Historical Society | 6 - 8pm

March 16

Unite People
Epworth United Methodist Church | 630pm

March 17

***From Thorns to Blossoms: A Japanese American
Family to War and Peace* by Mitzi Asai Loftus**
Powell's City of Books | 3pm

March 17

Nichiren Buddhist Temple Bazaar

March 27 & 29

Preview of “Yohen”
(Performances March 29 through April 21)

March 28

Min Yasui Day

April 1

National JACL scholarship applications due



Spencer's group after giving their final presentations on the last day of the trip.

While the places we visited and the things we did were impactful on their own, for me the power of the trip was in the people I traveled with. Multiple times a day, I'd take a look around and marvel at the rare experience of being in Japan with dozens of other Nikkei. This was indeed my "Japanese American heaven", being in our heritage country, having conversations about cultural and personal identity, and making connections with every kind of Nikkei across the tapestry that is the diverse experience of being Japanese American. We represented different regional JA experiences in the US, multiethnic and monoethnic, across all levels of language knowledge, those with dual citizenship as well as first-time travelers to Japan, and with a diversity in gender, sex, and ability.

Through years of my own personal healing journey and the invaluable guidance of wise Japanese American mentors, I've come to embrace the belief that there is no wrong way to be Nikkei. Contrary to the shame many of us may feel for "not being Japanese enough", each individual in our community brings a unique perspective and contribution to our shared heritage. We all belong. All of our experiences, our identities, our aspirations paint a picture of the long history that we have in America and the resilience required to make a place for ourselves in the past and into the future. And if the folks in my group were any indication, our community is in good hands moving forward.

It's difficult to describe the incredible impression these young adults had on me. In our group, there was so much evidence of thoughtfulness, determination,

community investment, curiosity, kindness, and humor. Within a short period of time, we had gone from strangers to a small community of friends, a microcosm of the support and care that thrives in many Japanese American spaces.

One repeated theme that arose in conversations about JA community involvement were the barriers to leadership, the organizational hierarchies that have dampened their voices. There were stories of unacknowledged feedback even when it had been requested, and a feeling of dismissal from some of the groups that aim to represent them. Sometimes in the veneration of age and experience, we may miss the wisdom coming from all around. And that is a loss for all.

A few weeks ago, I watched "What the Constitution Means to Me" at the Portland Center Stage. Through anecdotes, personal stories, and historical context, the play explored how young people engage with and interpret the Constitution, as well as their role in shaping the future of the country. The main character offers an admonishment toward the end of the play, as paraphrased below. May it serve as a reminder to keep our ears open, to listen to the younger voices. May we take heed especially as they draw necessary attention to things like climate change, gun violence prevention, and the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"Young people are not waiting for us to pave the way for them. They are out there, shining a light on the issues that matter, and it's up to us to follow their lead and support them in creating a better future for all."

The Portland-Sapporo Sister City Association Presents

A Fundraiser Film Day

Dad's Lunch Box

パパのお弁当は世界一



©2017 "DAD'S LUNCH BOX" Film Partners

Directed by Masakazu Fukatsu

Shown in Japanese, with English subtitles

This heartwarming story follows Japanese highschool student Midori who receives a homemade bento box from her father every day. Based on a viral tweet that was shared 80,000 times and liked by more than 260,000.

plus

Side-by-Side: A Beer Collaboration

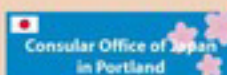
By Elijah Sprints

March 10, 2024 2:00pm

The Judy

1000 SW Broadway T-100, Portland, OR 97205

Tickets are \$5



<https://portland-sapporo.org/>



SAVE THE DATE MINORU YASUI DAY • 2024

PLEASE JOIN US ONLINE OR IN-PERSON!

ADVANCING DEMOCRACY IN THE FACE OF CURRENT THREATS



FREE EVENT
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024
1:00PM-3:00PM PDT
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
WHITE STAG BUILDING
70 NW COUCH STREET
PORTLAND, OR 97209



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Sharon Maeda
STUDENT CONTEST WINNERS	Jillian Toda-Currie
TRIBUTE TO HOMER YASUI	Barbara Yasui
PANEL DISCUSSION	Sharon Maeda, Moderator Panelist to discuss their activism in <i>Advancing Democracy in the Face of Current Threats</i> and provide a call to action.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER	Rep. Khanh Pham
COLLECTIVE CALL TO ACTION	Share your Voice & Closing
RECEPTION	Join us at the Japanese American Museum of Oregon for a reception following the event.

HOSTED BY:

The Minoru Yasui Legacy Project in collaboration with the Japanese American Museum of Oregon



REGISTER HERE

bit.ly/minoru-yasui-day-2024





PassinArt: A Theatre Company presents **“Yohen,”** a two-person play by veteran playwright Philip Kan Gotanda. **“Yohen”** is an intimate story of the marriage and life of an interracial couple in their 60s. Set in 1987, the husband is a Black retired serviceman and the wife is a Japanese military wife. The couple has come to a crossroads in their 30-year marriage. Filled with laughter and dramatic memories, the couple work to find a pathway back to their love. Gotanda says the inspiration for writing the play “comes from the idea that yohen pertains to coloring, and appropriate to this American play where we live in a highly racialized world. And where the tradition is to focus on color.” JACL members can receive a 20 percent discount to see the play. The playwright will be in Portland April 5th for the 730pm show and will be part of a post-show discussion after the play.

Previews—March 27 & 28 at 7:30pm

Regular Performances from March 29 through April 21

Thursday and Friday performances at 7:30pm

Saturday and Sunday performances at 2:00pm

All shows at Portland5 / Brunish Theatre
1111 SW Broadway, Portland - 4th Floor

To order tickets with the discount code “JACL” visit: PassinArt.org

NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE Spring Fundraiser



30th Annual Take-Out Bento
Sunday, March 17, 2024 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Pre-Order Form

of orders \$ amount

Special Bento \$20.00

Chow Mein, Chicken,
Yasaimono

(Quantities are limited)
(Orders accepted in order received)

Total

Please return this pre-order form with
your check by **March 10, 2024**

Make checks payable to:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

All proceeds benefit:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2025 SE Yamhill Street
Portland, Oregon 97214

503-235-8292; 971-413-0398

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Your order will be ready for you at the Will-Call line.



Iko no Kai - MARCH 2024

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
		X		1 Fried Chicken w/ Tartar Sauce Chicken Nanban チキン南蛮 Knife Sharpening 11am Blood Pressure
4 Loco Moco ロコモコ 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	5 Chicken Katsu Curry チキンカツカレー 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	7 Salmon Renkon Fritters 蓮根サーモンの もっちり揚げ 10:30 Move On Class	8 Grilled Beef Yakiniku 焼き肉 Bingo
11 Oatmeal Pork Shumai オートミール ポーク焼売 12:30pm Mahjong	12 Chicken with Mushroom Sauce 鶏のきのこ餡 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	14 Gluten-Free Okonomiyaki 米粉お好み焼き 10:30am Ukelele 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief	15 Shiokoji Pork 豚の塩麴炒め 11am Blood Pressure
18 Grilled Chicken w/ Scallion Sauce ねぎダレ焼き鳥 Reiki 12:30pm Mahjong	19 Sweet & Sour Pork Meatballs 豚肉の甘酢団子 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	21 Soy-Braised Tuna Steak & Daikon まぐろステーキ & 大根の煮物 10:30 Move On Class	22 Pork Katsu w/ Sauce over Rice Ankake Tonkatsu-don 餡かけ豚カツ丼
25 * Bibimbap ビビンバ 12:30pm Mahjong	26 Pork Stew w/ Udon Tonjiru Udon 豚汁うどん 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	28 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required 10:30am Ukelele 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief	29 Daikon Oroshi Pork Rolls 大根おろしの 豚肉巻き

Chefs: 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



PORTLAND JACL
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PORTLAND, OR 97286

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❖ Portland JACL testifies at Portland City Council ❖

by Marleen Wallingford

The Portland JACL has been working with a group of community organizers to monitor Portland Police Bureau's cooperation with the Joint Terrorism Task Force. There is a report given annually by the Portland Police to review with the mayor and city commissioners what kinds of cases that were shared.

Our concern has been that local law enforcement is not allowed to engage in surveillance without probable cause. That is not the case with the FBI since they were given more powers in the aftermath of 9/11. In 2001, Congress quickly passed the Patriot Act which gave new powers to the FBI to conduct searches and surveillance in terrorism organizations and allowed more information sharing among law enforcement agencies.

The report was very short and there were only three instances of the two agencies working together. The mayor and city council members appeared to be satisfied with the current agreement which allow for limited cooperation.

Fellow organizers include: Oregon ACLU, Brandon Mayfield (falsely accused of a bombing in Madrid), Portland Copwatch, Jewish Voice for Peace and the Oregon League of Women Voters.

