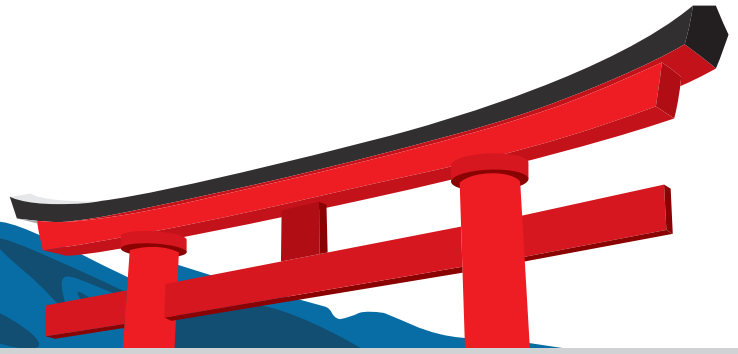




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• APRIL 2024 | VOLUME 30 ISSUE 03 •

Board Member MESSAGE

Profile of a Board Member: Heidi Tolentino

By Jenny Yamada



Heidi Tolentino has been on the Portland JACL board since 2010 and is the current secretary of the chapter. She works as a high school counselor at Cleveland High School.

How long have you been a board member and what made you decide to

become a member of the JACL board?

My grandparents, Joe and Nellie Saito, were involved in JACL for most of their lives. My grandfather was President of the Three Rivers Chapter in Ontario in the 1960's. After college, I spent a lot of time traveling with my grandparents to events in the Japanese American community and many of them were JACL related. As we traveled together, my grandparents would open up about their experiences in camp, in the 442nd and how connected they were to Japanese Americans across the country and how it shaped their lives. I promised my grandfather that I would stay involved in the community and give back in any way that I could. With that in mind, I joined the board in 2010.

What has your experience been like as a board member? How has it shaped you personally?

When I started on the board, I had absolutely no idea what I was doing. So, I spent a lot of time listening and learning from the Sansei on the board. I was the youngest member at that time and there was so

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 5

Taiko Benefit Banquet

Excellent Cuisine (formerly Wong's Seafood) |
6:30

April 6

Min Yasui Day

April 21

Japanese American Graduation Banquet

Monarch Hotel | 1pm

March 29-April 21

Yohen

Brunish Theater

April 28

Japantown Clean-up

8am

May 11

Minidoka Swing Band Band

"I Am an American Live"

Patricia Reser Center for the Arts | 7pm

much to learn about the work of the JACL, but also about our local JA community in Portland. I grew up in mostly white communities and, as a bi-racial person, I missed the community connection that my mom had grown up with and what I experienced when I was with my grandparents. For me, being on the board has connected me to the amazingly diverse JA community in Portland and to people whose stories inspire and motivate me to keep the stories of our community alive. The social justice work that we do is challenging, but worthwhile. Being on the board has also given my 14-year-old daughter a community like my grandparents gave me.

What challenges has the board faced during your time on it?

We have grappled with so many things during my years on the board. We do not always agree on how to address social justice issues and often spend much of our time debating and discussing issues impacting our local community and the broader community. Issues around Immigration, Anti-Asian Hate, Voting Rights, Anti-Blackness, Black Reparations and the war between Hamas and Israel stick out in my mind as some key issues we have tackled in the last few years.

What are you most proud of during your tenure?

The work we have done during the past few years around addressing Anti-Black Racism in our community stands out to me. Our work to find ways to actively be part of the Black Lives Matter movement and the movement for Black Reparations has been important. This work is not easy and it comes with hurdles we could not foresee, but we worked hard as a completely volunteer board to put in the time and effort to educate ourselves, debate the issues, and work to volunteer with Black organizations who are doing the grass roots work. We are continuing this work and I think it's a crucial part of what we are doing.

Who would you encourage to consider getting involved with Portland JACL?

Anyone who wants to be more involved in the Japanese American community in Portland and cares about Social Justice issues. No past experience necessary! Most of us started without having done this work before and found our way with the help of the

other board members. A great way to start is to come to a board meeting and hear about what we are working on and how we go about making decisions. Come join us and ask questions. We love to have people come and learn about what we're doing!

What are you excited about for your upcoming term?

My daughter is part of our Youth Group, Unite People, and the President of the group, Lincoln Hirata, is going to join our board as a Advisory Board Member. As a high school counselor, I love to see our high school students bringing their voices into social justice work. I'm really excited about how Lincoln's input will give us a new perspective and insight on our work.

Call for Volunteers

As a small, all volunteer run organization, Portland JACL is always looking for more help. Why volunteer? Make new connections with the community. You can meet some amazing folks within our org and beyond. Your terms, your time. Whether you have an hour a month or a few a year, everyone brings something to contribute.

One person can have an impact. Because we're a local chapter, one person can shape our organization and have an influence on our board's direction.

Here are some examples of volunteer opportunities:

- Join us at a Nihonmachi/JA Historical Plaza Clean-Up. Next one is April 28!
- Contribute content to our newsletter (photos, articles, art piece, event promotion)
- Table at events
- Help plan or volunteer at our Day of Remembrance and Nikkei Picnic
- Attend a finance or an advocacy committee meeting
- Make social/website updates
- Help coordinate the annual printed calendar

Plus, we're always looking for people to help with development, scholarships, and to join our board.

Volunteering with Portland JACL is a great way to give back or to get engaged with the local Nikkei community. Email us at contact@pdxjacl.org or fill out our volunteer interest form. **ありがとう** Thank you!

77th Annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet

Sunday, April 21st, 2024 | 1 pm
Monarch Hotel & Conference Center
 (12566 SE 93rd Ave, Clackamas, OR)

Attend the annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet, an event celebrating the achievements of the Japanese-American high school class of 2024 who reside in the Portland metropolitan area and Clark County, Washington. This year's keynote speaker will be Tiffany Tamaribuchi, the new Artistic Director of Portland Taiko. Japanese

American community scholarships are sponsored by Portland area businesses, organizations, and individuals and will be awarded at the banquet. All Japanese-American High School graduates are honored at the banquet. Tickets are \$50 for the banquet luncheon, graduates are complementary. The public is invited. Please support the Japanese-American community.

For info or to buy tickets, email Bill at isugar@comcast.net.



Eat! Celebrate! Support!



Friday, April 5th

5:45 - 6:30 p.m. No Host Bar

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Dinner & Program

Excellent Cuisine

8733 SE Division St

Portland, OR 97266

2024 Portland Taiko Benefit Banquet

7-Course Chinese Dinner • Live Auction • Taiko Performance

❖ Photo Corner ❖



The Oregon Hiroshima Club held their annual Shinnenkai celebration on March 2, 2024 at the Dragon Palace restaurant. The ice/snow storm in January delayed the celebration.

❖ Clean-up Nihonmachi with SOLV ❖

Meet at the Japanese American Museum of Oregon between 8 am and noon on April 28



Yohen

Brunish Theater | March 29-April 21

(Use JACL for discount code for General Admission)

PassinArt, Oregon's longest producing Black Theatre Company, is celebrating its 41st season, highlighting Black culture and turning the spotlight on critical issues that impact the community.

This spring they perform "Yohen" which is the Japanese word which refers to pottery that has undergone a transformation during the firing process. So when yohen is created, you need to ponder whether to save it or to throw it away. This question confronts Sumi and James as they grapple with the cracks in their marriage fueled by divisions in their families about their inter-racial relationship.



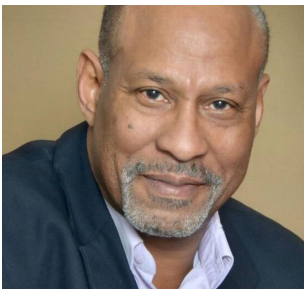
She plays the role of Sumi. In Portland, she was most recently seen in Gambatte (Grandmother) at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center.



Dmae Lo Roberts, director is a two-time Peabody award-winning biracial Taiwanese-American writer, director, theatre and media artist. Roberts directed *The Journal of Ben Uchida* and *Where The Mountain Meets The Moon* at Oregon Children's Theatre.

She will be directing the touring production of *Shizue: An American Story*, in which she wrote the libretto, at Portland Opera.

Philip Gotunda, the playwright will discuss his play after the performance on April 5th.



William (Bill) Earl Ray is playing James and is celebrating his 46th year as an actor/director

Kathy Hsieh (she/her) is an award-winning actor, writer and director from Seattle.

Music and Stories of Exclusion and Belonging

I AM AN AMERICAN

SAT., MAY 11, 7 P.M.
PATRICIA RESER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
12625 SW Crescent St., Beaverton, OR 97005

live

Get ready to jitterbug and jive with Minidoka Swing Band!



Wafa Almqaktari



Thao Thi Nguyen



Soulayvanh Beisel



Naw Abikaila Ki



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



Minoru Yasui
LEGACY PROJECT

**JAPANESE AMERICAN
MUSEUM OF OREGON**

AT NAITO CENTER

REGISTER HERE

bit.ly/minoru-yasui-day-2024





Iko no Kai - APRIL 2024

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
1 Chow Mein Ankake Yakisoba あんかけ焼きそば 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	2 Wonton Soup ワンタンスープ Knife Sharpening 12:45pm Sing-a-long	X	4 Potato-Coated Fried Shrimp Ebi Fry Croquette 海老フライコロケ 10:30 Move On Class	5 Roast Pork Rice Bowl Buta Donburi 豚丼ぶり
8 Beef Rice Bowl Gyudon 牛丼 12:30pm Mahjong	9 Miso Ginger Pork 味噌生姜焼き 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-a-long	X	11 Salmon Teriyaki 鮭の照り焼き 10:30am Ukelele 11am Blood Pressure 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief	12 Chicken Meatballs Tori Tsukune 鶏つくね 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
15 Grilled Mackerel Saba Shioyaki 鯖の塩焼き 12:30pm Mahjong	16 * Singapore Noodles w/ Shrimp シンガポール風 海老の焼きビーフン 12:45pm Sing-a-long	X	18 Beef & Potato Stew Nikujyaga 肉じゃが 10:30 Move On Class	19 Soy-Braised Chicken Tori Nimono 鶏の煮物
22 Minced Meat Cutlet Menchi Katsu メンチカツ 12:30pm Mahjong	23 Orange Chicken オレンジチキン 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-a-long	X	25 Seafood Bibimbap 海鮮ビビンバ 10:30am Ukelele 11am Blood Pressure 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief	26 Dry Curry ドライカレー 10-11:30am Shigin
29 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required 12:30pm Mahjong	30 Pork Kimchi Rice Bowl 豚キムチ丼 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-a-long	X		

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 JAACL
PO BOX 86310
PORTLAND, OR 97286

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PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT #579

Japanese American Museum of Oregon
Free First Sundays

April Sponsor: In Memory of Homer Yasui

**HISTORY DETECTIVES CHALLENGE 1:
ARTIFACT ANALYZER**



Free admission
**Kids can become
History Detectives!**
Collect 3 stamps in
2024 to earn an
official badge

