HaParenting
By Justin Sato

When I was young, my Hawaiian language Kumu (the Hawaiian word for sensei), taught us that being hapa (Hawaiian transliteration of the English word “half”) represented being the best of two or more worlds. At the time, I was a little envious of my friends who held a heritage-resume that resembled a ‘round the world tour. After joining JACL and learning about the struggles kids growing up on the continent have being mixed race, I wanted to make sure that my kids understood just how normal and awesome it is to be hapa.

One of the best mixed-race experiences we had as a family was attending the Hapa exhibit at JAMO last year. Through their stories, I felt like I learnt a lot about the difference between growing up in Hawai’i and the continent. After we left, my kids could not stop talking about how great the program was and that it was amazing to hear about the stories of others like themselves. I wasn’t fully aware of their experience growing up in Oregon and that is when we started getting more involved with the Japanese community.

I joined JACL and my kids started attending the Unite People youth program at Epworth. The UP group is a valuable asset to the community. My kids were finally surrounded
Continued from Pg. 1

by people that shared a similar story and could relate with them on so many levels. It is a comfortable and safe place for everyone to relax as they work on cultural and social issues. I just wish we found these amazing opportunities to celebrate our Japanese and hapa backgrounds sooner.

Mixed-race does not mean dilution of your heritage. You are 100% of all your parts. Back in Hawai‘i, it grants you entry into all the cultural events, innate rights to each respective language, and a sense of pride and individuality. Perhaps one of the best benefits is at family parties where so many different foods show up in unison... and you know all of them by name! As a non-hapa, I don’t get to experience all the cool and unique experiences of being more than one heritage. —I guess I’m still a little jealous...

A Big Thank You

The Japanese Ancestral Society is very appreciative of all of our helpers who weeded, cleaned and tidied up the Japanese American Cemetery this spring in preparation for our Memorial Day Service.

Special thanks goes out to our regular helpers: Susan Okada (pictured) and Jay Yoshihara. The Cemetery never looked better. Thank you to our Clean-Up organizer, Kenji Yamasaki who put together our schedule and made sure we had all of the materials we needed.
Letter to Biden

Individual Signatures needed to halt the Lava Ridge Wind Project near Minidoka National Historic Site

Sign on Letter to President Biden to Protect Minidoka NHS

We need your help to protect the solemn and reflective immersive experience at Minidoka National Historic Site from a massive commercial development on public lands. A project like this sets a dangerous precedent for other JA and BIPOC sites of commemoration and healing.

Review and sign onto the letter at minidoka.org/sign-on-letter-to-president-biden

Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee, Friends of Minidoka and JACL National request individual signatures for a letter going directly to President Biden. Please circulate widely to family, friends and community groups. Deadline to sign is July 10, 2024.

For more information visit minidokapilgrimage.org/about-3
The Portland Assembly Center Project explores the lives of Japanese Americans who were subjected to the consequences of Executive Order 9066, including historic, economic loss, forced imprisonment, and cultural reckonings. Through this examination, the Project exposes the racial dynamics that continue to govern how we share the lands we call Portland, Oregon.

Featuring Senryu Poetry from They Never Asked, by Shelley Baker-Gard, Michael Feiling, and Satsuki Takikawa. Written during the war by twenty two writers at the Portland Assembly Center, the poems were recently discovered by Duane Watari who found his grandfather’s journals from that time.

Portland Taiko performing at the Vanport Mosaic.
What: Nikkei Community Picnic
We need helpers to cover the picnic tables, put out food, take empty plates and trays away, hand out prizes, call out numbers for Bingo, help clean up, and much more

When: noon to 4 pm, August 18
Where: Oaks Park
Who: Contact Portland JACL
877-843-6914 (message goes to Connie Masuoka)
Connie@pdxjacl.org
OBON Fest 2024
Saturday, August 3, 2024
2:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Attendance is FREE!
All are Welcome!

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave.
Portland, Oregon
www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com
Find us on Facebook and Instagram

Japanese Obon Dancing, Performances,
Displays, Food and Beverage,
Youth and Children’s Activities,
and so much more!
<table>
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Chefs: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Justin Sato/ Naomi Molstrom-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
Current Board Members

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

Edited by Chong Sim (simm0186@gmail.com)