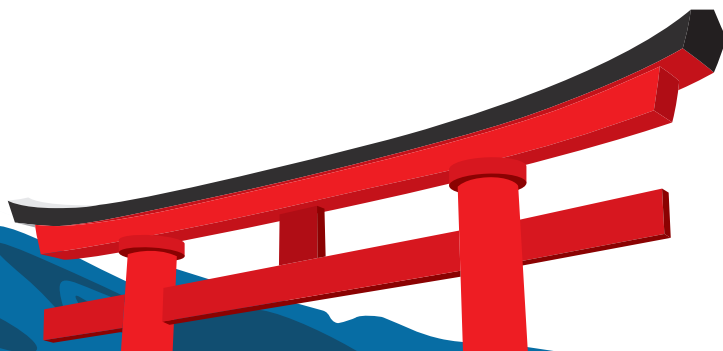




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• AUGUST 2024/VOLUME 30 ISSUE 08 •

Board Member MESSAGE

Minidoka Experience

By Alexander Jimenez

Going to Minidoka was an extremely sobering experience for our first pilgrimage. With all that we had learned previously of Japanese American's internment, seeing the grounds themselves and meeting the survivors who had been transferred to or where born in the camps and sharing stories about them was very healing. Seeing the barren landscape that had been turned fertile by the generations of hard work done by the incarcerated in Minidoka also opened the view on how even decades after these camps were shut down, there was still the lasting effects on the very land itself, and the Issei's strong belief of doing everything they could for their children's future. Being able to converse with and listen to various generations of Japanese Americans who had all different stories told to them or told by them about the camps was what the younger generation of today, being Gen Z, are able to still do, to spread their stories and their experiences. To educate those in the future and prevent repetitive acts done by our government that hinder minorities and slam down against them.

The pilgrimages healing tone was felt throughout the pilgrims, with varying emotions, but with similar messages. Having this experience helped me personally

Continued on Pg. 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 3

Obon Festival

Oregon Buddhist Temple

August 4

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

Free First Sunday - Sponsored by the Brian & Sera

Kimura Family

11am-4pm

August 6

End Nuclear Madness

Japanese American Historical Plaza | 6pm

August 18

Nikkei Community Picnic

Oaks Amusement Park Area 12-13 | 12pm-5pm

August 24

Obon and Taiko Festival

Lane Event Center (Eugene) | 12-8pm

September 2

Labor Day

September 7

Portland Taiko Farm Festival

West Linn | 4-7pm

Continued from Pg. 1

even better understand the hardships of the Japanese American community , but also the sheer will that said community has demonstrated again and again, being able to still persevere through all these disheartening scenarios. Me and members of UP were extremely honored to have been able to be a part of this pilgrimage, with hopes to join the many more to come. Hearing the voices of our survivors and descendents is task of the new generation, and action is the task of all of us.

Reflections on the Minidoka Pilgrimage

"I thought it was moving, surreal and healing." **-Lilly Wright**

"I thought it was interesting going back to the actual site. Hearing everyone's family stories and seeing Barrack 19. **-James Wright**

"I really enjoyed talking to the survivors. I remember hearing about the ice skating rink." **-Max Bareilles**

"Learning about the way the media framed the forced incarceration. Dehumanizing the Japanese and others. Relocation center rather than incarceration centers. Evacuation instead of forced removal."

-Gigi Bareilles

"I learned that the living conditions were much worse than I thought." **-Haruki Winner**

"Seeing, being and feeling the heat made it real." **-Jennifer Wright**

"I liked going to the Pilgrimage. I got to meet people who were incarcerated and shared stories." **-Ichiro Tanada**

"I thought it was really important for the younger generation so the history can be moved forward. I learned the communities

they developed in the camps. They grew gardens." **-Kiera Sato**

"I learned about my great uncle, Jimmy Kanaya. He was in the 442. He was a medic and got captured in France and was sent to Poland. I also got to meet people who knew my family." **-Zenith Yoshihara**

"I liked the stories. The kids would know who the good cooks were and go to their dining halls." **-Dylan Nakaji**

"it was amazing. I learned a lot about what my family went through." **-Malia Tolentino (Great granddaughter of Joe and Nellie Saito of Ontario)**

"We got to hear memories from Kay Endo and chat with each other in the car going through the dam and Shoshone train station. It was nice seeing familiar faces and meeting people from all over the country. I can see why Connie and Kay go back regularly.

The keynote was Maggie Takuda-Hall who spoke about impacts of book bans, library defunding and censorship. She talked about her struggle with Scholastic trying to censor her book of any mention of racism, the fact that the local library in Twin Falls would soon be adults only and the genocide currently going on in Gaza with there only being a couple children's books published about the Palestinian experience. It moved me to tears and reinvigorated my stance on ending book bans." **-Jenny Yamada (Portland JACL Board Member)**

Click on this link for the local news coverage of the Minidoka Pilgrimage:

www.kmvt.com/video/2024/07/08/hundreds-attend-Minidoka-pilgrimage-closing-ceremony/

❖ Road to Minidoka ❖

Voices of Gresham: A New Podcast

Gresham Historical Society is putting out local history podcasts and Russell and Jenny Yamada were part of it. Episodes 1-5 are going to be about the Japanese experience in Oregon/East County.

<https://greshamhistorical.org/voices-of-gresham-podcast>

On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. As war broke out, so did feelings of suspicion towards Japanese Americans, ultimately culminating in President Roosevelt's internment order. Gresham's Japanese families sold most of what they owned, left behind their farms, and boarded buses headed towards an unknown future. Those who didn't opt to farm beets arrived at the Portland Assembly Center, where they found livestock stalls that they were temporarily forced to call home. Join us as we travel with them on the first leg of their journey.

Internment and Memory

Internment is a difficult subject to write about. For far too long, it was an unspoken tragedy in our shared history. Older generations of Japanese Americans often struggled to talk about it, and many passed on without fully vocalizing what they experienced. In history books, it was often a small blurb, if included at all. Yet it was a monumental experience for those who lived it.

Leaving Home

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, families were forced to sell most of what they owned, leave behind their homes and farms, and board buses headed towards an unknown future. In Gresham, those who didn't opt to farm beets arrived at the Portland Assembly Center, where they were incarcerated in livestock stalls. After, many headed to a camp called Minidoka, deep in the dusty Idaho desert. There, Japanese Americans tried to make the best of the war years by cultivating gardens, participating in sports and hobbies, and documenting the time in their newspaper and yearbook.

An Uncertain Future

The experience was a difficult one. Many dealt with the confusion of being American citizens yet being targeted by the country they were proud to call home. The days dragged on, and no one knew how



long internment would last. Many wondered what life would be like after. Would they be able to get back to their farms? Would their communities accept them? Or would they have to start over somewhere else? When the war finally ended, many Japanese Americans indeed faced hostility upon their return. But many also saw an opportunity for justice and community-building.

Voices from Minidoka

In this special two-episode story, we'll follow locals through these difficult years and the decades that followed. We'll hear the voices of families lived through them and hear their thoughts about how they shaped our shared history. Internment is just one story in the Japanese American experience, but it's an important one. We hope that you'll join us for it.

Coming Home

Chisao Hata is part of the National Cultural Week of Action

About National Cultural Week of Action

Race Forward and Americans for the Arts are excited to announce a new initiative, the Cultural Week of Action on Race and Democracy. This annual initiative, hosted in partnership with local communities, brings people of all identities and backgrounds together to spark action towards creating a just, multiracial democracy. The inaugural week of action will be held Friday, September 27 through Saturday, October 5, 2024, in towns, cities, counties, and states across the country.

Together with local arts and culture institutions and community-based organizations, these projects and activities will spark conversations that touch on history, how it shapes our present, and how everyday people are organizing to build an equitable and racially just future. Local events will also inspire action that community members can take together to create a truly, just, multiracial democracy—starting in their own neighborhoods.

This is what the Cultural Week of Action on Race and Democracy is about. It's about bringing people together through arts, culture, and creativity, in order to:

- Learn about our history and how it shapes our present;
- Listen to the people most impacted by injustice in this country about how we advance a vision of a just, multiracial democracy;

- Elevate the work of local arts and culture institutions, particularly in communities of color, that can resonate this vision through truth-telling and creativity;
- Spark collective action to advance racial justice, so that we can make our vision into a reality.

Coming Home

The Vanport Mosaic was one of fourteen organizations nation-wide selected to anchor the **Cultural Week Of Action On Race And Democracy**, a new initiative by Race Forward and Americans for the Arts designed to uplift the stories, histories and actions in communities across America. This selection is not only an honor, but a timely opportunity to activate connections, history, and memories of Portland's Historic Old Town. It is our hope that our local event, **Coming Home**, will support the necessary work of our cultural institutions still located in an area eroded by social challenges and lack of government actions,

Directed by Chisao Hata, community activist, artist, and Vanport's Community Weaver, **Coming Home** will feature a series of activations in Old Town from September 25th to October 5th, 2024. We will curate pop-up exhibits, performances, story circles, and engagement activities to seed conversations, revisit forgotten histories, and activate artists and cultural workers to reimagine how our work of equity and justice can impact the historic Old Town area of Portland.

**CULTURAL WEEK
OF ACTION ON RACE
AND DEMOCRACY '24**



Sept. 27 - Oct. 5

#CWA24

Nikkei Community Picnic Oaks Park

Sunday, August 18: Noon to 4 pm



The picnic is sponsored by local Nikkei organizations and businesses

We provide at no cost:

Main dish: fried chicken and vegetarian
entree

Water

Eating utensils, plates and napkins

Watermelon

Shaved ice

Games and prizes

Ride bracelets for kids high school and
younger. Call of email to reserve them before
August 12, otherwise they can be purchased
for \$30 day of the picnic

Oaks Park, Area 12-13

\$5 fee for parking payable on site

Bring your favorite dish to share or
monetary donation to defray the costs.

We need volunteers to help set-up, serve
food and clean-up.

RSVP and reserve ride bracelets at
youth@pdxjacl.org or call Connie at
971-940-8520

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

Trans Allyship: Learn, Grow, Act

Saturday, September 28th, 10am-3:30pm PST

Through guest speakers, workshops, and discussion groups, we hope to educate and inform allies about the transgender community to help them make better-informed and more inclusive social, community, and civic choices that support transgender individuals.

Organized by Okaeri, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and PFLAG SGV API.



REGISTRATION COMING SOON

Through guest speakers, workshops, and discussion groups, we hope to educate and inform allies about the transgender community to help them make better-informed and more inclusive social, community, and civic choices that support transgender individuals. This effort grew from the realization that the transgender community and its Japanese American and API members are largely invisible and misunderstood both in LGBTQ+ spaces and especially among allies.

Through this symposium we aim to address this gap by (1) facilitating a basic understanding of the trans community and (2) emphasizing touchpoints of Head, Heart and Home to connect, educate and encourage attendees to take action in their

own communities. In doing so, we hope to educate and inform allies about the transgender community to help them make better-informed and more inclusive social, community and civic choices.

Organized by Okaeri, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), and PFLAG SGV API.

- Okaeri
- A Nikkei LGBTQ+ Community -
- National
- JACL
- Through
- Pflag
- San Gabriel Valley
- Asian Pacific

"Save the Date"

Greater Portland Centenarian Luncheon

Date:

October 26, 2024

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Location:

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Portland

1000 NE Multnomah St.

Portland, Oregon 97232

Let us Honor our Elder who are 95 and older

Cost: \$50 per person, Check payable to GT-JACL

Honored guests 95 and over and including

the drivers, the lunch is covered

Consul General Yuzo Yoshioka special words



63RD ANNUAL

JASO GOLF TOURNAMENT

PRESENTED BY **DELTA**

NEW!

CAMAS MEADOWS GOLF CLUB
CAMAS, WA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
9AM SHOTGUN START

SOMETHING FOR EVERY
LEVEL OF GOLFER TO ENJOY!

WITH USA VS JAPAN **FRIENDSHIP CUP** PRESENTED BY **Asahi**
辛口



THE JAPANESE ANCESTRAL SOCIETY IS LOOKING FOR GOLFERS TO JOIN US AT THE JASO GOLF TOURNAMENT. THIS IS A LOT OF FUN, THERE IS PLENTY OF FOOD AND THE PRIZES THAT ARE GREAT. CONTACT NANCY KAJITSU AT NKAJITSU@GMAIL.COM

Japanese American Museum of Oregon Free First Sundays

August Sponsored by the Brian & Sera Kimura Family



**Sunday,
August 4**

**Free admission
11am-4pm**

**Decorate your
own uchiwa fan**

*Stay cool in August with
your custom-designed fan!
This activity is for **all ages**.*

End Nuclear Madness Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki 2024



Tuesday, August 6, 2024, 6:00 PM
Japanese American Historical Plaza
Portland Waterfront
NW Naito Parkway & Couch Street

If you were wondering why we use sunflower imagery: Sunflowers can take up high concentrations of radioactive isotopes and sequester them in stems and leaves, so they have been employed to clean up contaminated sites following nuclear disasters.

Thank you to all the organizations who helped put this event together, including the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, Japanese American Citizens League, Portland Japanese Garden/Oregon Hiroshima Club, Veterans for Peace, Peace and Justice Works, Multnomah Friends Meeting, and more!

Confirmed Speakers and Performers:

MC: Jeff Selby
Invocation: Melissa Harkness
Performer: Portland Taiko
Performer: Tsubaki Kai Dancers
Speaker: Michiko Kornhauser
...and more to come!

WHEN

August 06, 2024 at 6:00pm -

WHERE

Japanese American Historical Plaza, Portland Waterfront, NW Naito Parkway and Couch Street

CONTACT

Samantha Paladini - info@oregonpsr.org

Photo Corner



Photos from Minidoka



Iko no Kai - AUGUST 2024

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
		X	1 Agedashi Tofu & Makizushi 揚げ出し豆腐 & 巻き寿司	2 Tenzaru Soba Shrimp & Veg Tempura 天ざる蕎麦
5 Grilled Ume Shiso Chicken 梅じそダレ焼き鳥 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	6 Pork Kimchi Rice Bowl 豚キムチ丼 12:45pm Sing-along	X	8 Misoyaki Fish 魚の味噌焼き 10:30am Ukulele/ Chair Hula 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief	9 Chicken Katsu Curry チキンカツカレー 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
12 Gyoza 餃子 12:30pm Mahjong	13 Shiso Chicken Tempura しそとり天ぷら 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	15 Mentaiko Spaghetti 明太子スパゲティ 11am Blood Pressure	16 Braised Shortribs 牛肉ショートリブ
19 Shrimp Ankake Shrimp Stir Fry えび八宝菜 12:30pm Mahjong	20 Jia Jiang Mien Fried Sauce Noodles じゃじゃ麺 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief 12:45pm Sing-along	X	22 Crispy Garlic Chicken カリカリ ガーリックチキン 10:30am Ukulele/ Chair Hula	23 *Cold Somen Salad w/ BBQ Pork 素麺サラダ 10-11:30am Shigin
26 Tonkatsu Pork Cutlet とんかつ 12:30pm Mahjong	27 *Salad Rolls 生春巻き 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	29 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required 11am Blood Pressure	30 Fried Saimin Noodles かた焼き細麺

Chefs: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Justin Sato/ Andrea Hoyt -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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If you would like to contact the Board, their email address is *First Name@pdxjacl.org*

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