APRIL 2025 | VOLUME 31 ISSUE 4 •



Practicing Omoiyari in Times of Chaos

By Jenny Yamada

For Day of Remembrance in February, Portland JACL along with the Japanese American Museum of Oregon hosted a film screening of Omoiyari: A Song Film by Kishi Bashi. The film follows the musician Kishi Bashi as he reflects on his upbringing in America as a second generation shin-nisei and how it can be difficult to maintain his multicultural identity in this country. To learn more about his place in the US, he begins with the history of Japanese people in America. He sets off to visit Japanese American incarceration sites where he takes inspiration from the stories of incarcerees and the surrounding landscapes to compose music. The basis of the film is the concept and its namesake Omoiyari (思いやる).

Omoiyari (思いやる) loosely translates to empathy. "Omoi" means thought and "yari" comes from the verb "yaru," to send or give, so it has an action. It is understanding someone else's needs without their expression of them, then doing something to help them.

Since the screening, I've been reflecting more on this term and the film. With the news notifications on my phone spiking my heart rate and the weight of the world

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 12 Japanese American Cemetery Clean-up 9am-12pm

April 18
Unite People Meeting

Epworth United Methodist Church | 630pm

April 19 Old Town Clean-up

Japanese American Museum of Oregon | 9am-12pm

April 22 Earth Day

April 26 Japanese American Cemetery Clean-up 9am-12pm

May 4

Japanese American Graduation Banquet

Riverside Golf and Country Club (8105 NE 33rd Dr) 1pm

Continued on Pg. 2

Continued from Pg. 1

compounding, there's a noticeable lack of compassion, empathy, foresight and omoiyari going around in the world. It's hard not to feel sad and weary by all of the cruelty the government has enacted in the past few months. But as defeated as I feel, I can't let myself give up. Viewing Omoiyari ultimately left me with a sense of hope, which is what I needed most in this moment.

Though the film was shot during Trump's first term, we see a lot of the same things happening now with increased deportations, detentions and family separations. Kishi Bashi attends a rally outside an ICE detention center and hears from members of Tsuru for Solidarity. Tsuru, a group of Japanese American and Japanese Latin American WWII concentration camp survivors and descendants, work to end American concentration camps and all racial and

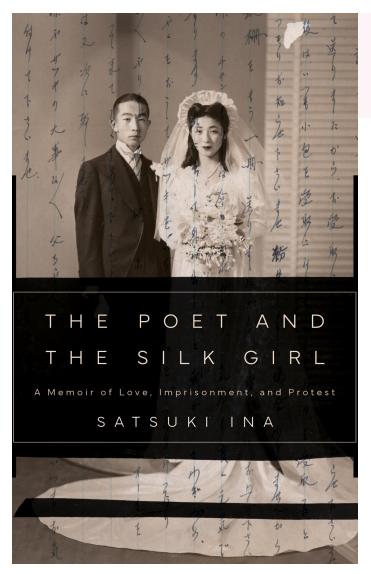
state violence. They plead for us to stop repeating history. Throughout the film we see these positive actions and Kishi Bashi using his tool of music as an expression of empathy and hope.

As the film concluded, I felt uplifted and inspired. It renewed my commitment to keep up the fight and take my own actions. Fighting for the rights of others who've been scapegoated by our President is a good start. Because our struggles are interconnected. Because as Japanese Americans we know first hand how brutal government policies can be to families, communities, and future generations. We need to be the ally we never had. We need to practice omoiyari.

Watch Here: www.paramountplus. com/movies/video/CU_Lh470qvyFc1_ pqxlamna8u5C_zFA8/



Satsuki Ina Book Talk



Writer, activist and psychotherapist, Satsuki Ina has spent her professional career seeking to understand the long-term impact of collective and historic trauma. She was born in the Tule Lake Segregation, a maximum-security American concentration camp during World War II. She is professor emeritus at California State University, Sacramento. She currently provides consultation to organizations and communities addressing collective and intergenerational trauma. She is co-organizer of Tsuru for Solidarity, a grassroots coalition formed to protest current policies that echo and reverberate the racism and hate so resonant of the historical Japanese American incarceration. She has produced two

The Poet and The Silk Girl

Saturday, May 10th, 2025 2pm | Oregon Buddhist Temple

documentary films, "Children of the Camps" and "From A Silk Cocoon".

In 2019, Tsuru for Solidarity organized a pilgrimage of Japanese American incarceration camp survivors to Texas to protest the incarceration camps being used to imprison children separated from their parents—asylum seekers crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. Since then Tsuru for Solidarity is working to end detention sites and support immigrant and refugee communities. The goal of Tsuru for Solidarity is: to educate, advocate and protest to close incarceration camps; to build solidarity with other communities of color that have experienced forced removal, detention, deportation, separation of families and other forms of racial and state violence; and to coordinate intergenerational, crosscommunity healing circles addressing the trauma of our shared histories.

Ms. Ina has said of her early life: "When I was a year old, my father was taken from us and held in a separate prison in North Dakota. Finally reunited after four-and-a-half years of prison life, we were leaving the Crystal City, Texas, Family Internment Camp by train on July 9, 1946. Our destination held an uncertain promise. I had only known life surrounded by guard towers and barbed wire fences."



About Dr. Satsuki Ina

For more information, please check out Dr.lna's website at **www.satsukiina.com**

Erasing DEI History

The Military is Given Massive Task of Removing Photos and Mention on their Websites of DEI

The Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth has ordered the military service to eliminate any on-line photos and articles about women and minorities. Targeted words include mention of : culture, racism, justice, diversity and dignity. Secretary Hegseth has declared that DEI is dead.

The JACL has learned that the story of the Nisei soldiers, the 442 442 Regimental Combat Team has been taken down from military sites. The JACL has demanded that the photos and stories be returned to the website.

Not only our stories have been removed. The story of the Enola Gay which was the military craft that dropped the second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. was removed presumably because of the use of the word, Gay. We have also lost the stories of the Buffalo Soldiers and the first women who join the army. The military has been ordered to take down over 26,000 images from their websites.

This is an important part of our history. It is also American history and should not be forgotten.

We have learned recently that some of the photos and stories have been returned.



Two Color guards and color bearers of the Japanese-American 442nd Combat Team, stand at attention while their citations are read. They are standing on ground, in the Bruyeres Area, France, where many of their comrades fell. 12 November 1944. Photo courtesy of Densho from the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee Collection. Photos like these have been removed.

🕻 Photo Corner 🦫



The Oregon Hiroshima Club held their Shinnenkai luncheon at the Super King buffet on March 1, 2025. Consul General Yoshioka also attended. *Photo by Justin Sato*.



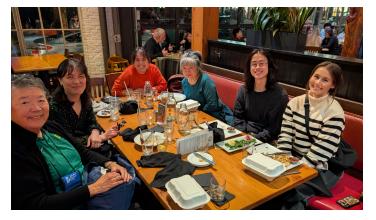
Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong and Tiffany Koyama Lane are at the celebration of the Emperor of Japan's birthday.



A community farewell for Consul General Yoshioka was held on March 5, 2025 at the Cedar Tree Hotel. **Photos by Chip Larouche**

usul General Yoshioka





Portland JACL youths hosted the National Youth Student Council the weekend of March 7th thru 9th. A dinner gathering was held at the Deschutes Brewery on March 7th. **Photos by Setsy Larouche**

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP



Help us spruce up the cemetery this spring

Sat 4/12: 9 am - 12 noon Sat 4/26: 9 am - 12 noon Sat 5/10: 9 am - 12 noon

Sun 5/18: Joint cleaning with Shokookai volunteers, 10 am to noon

Sun 5/25: Touchup and prep for service, 9 am - 12 noon

Mon 5/26: Memorial Day Service, time TBD

Sat 6/7: Flower pickup, 9 am - 12 noon

Drop by anytime during the time shown. Most hand tools are available at the cemetery. However it will help if you can bring your own weeding tools such as trowels, etc.



Ikoi no Kai - APRIL 2025 1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
	1		3	4 Meat Jun
	Chicken w/		Mentaiko	Marinated
	Mushroom Sauce	X	Spaghetti	Pan Fried Beef
	鶏のきのこあんかけ		明太スパゲティ	ハワイの韓国風
	10.15			豚バラ炒め
	12:45pm Sing-along			10-11:30am Shigin
7	8 Davis Katan		10 * Vegetable	11
Agedashi Tofu	Pork Katsu		Ten Zaru Soba	Kimchi Pork
and Eggplant	Curry 豚カツカレー	X	Tempura Cold Soba 野菜天ざる	豚キムチ
なす&揚げ出し豆腐	がカフカレー		野来人であ Reiki	
11:30am Chair Yoga	11am Blood Pressure		10:30am Ukulele	10-11:30am Shigin
12:30pm Mahjong	12:45pm Sing-along		11am Blood Pressure	10-11.30am Singin 12:30pm Bingo
	, , ,			
14 Sweet and Sour	15 Shrimp Fried		17 Kaki Furai	18 Beef Noodle
	·	v		
Chicken 甘酢チキン	Rice エビ炒飯	X	Fried Oysters 牡蠣フライ	Soup 牛肉麺
H HI /	11:30am Tai Chi			1 r 100
12:30pm Mahjong	12:45pm Sing-along		11am Haiku	10-11:30am Shigin
21	22		24 * Ganmodoki	25
Seafood	Beef Chap Chae		Tofu Fritters	Cold Ginger
Yakisoba	豚チャプチェ	X	がんもどき	Chicken
海鮮焼きそば			11am Haiku	冷やし生姜チキン
	11am Blood Pressure		11am Blood Pressure	
12:30pm Mahjong	12:45pm Sing-along		10:30am Ukulele	10-11:30am Shigin
28	29			
Birthday Sushi	Panko Fried Cod			
お誕生日寿司	鱈フライ			
*Reservations required				
(suggested donation \$12)				
12:30pm Mahjong	12:45pm Sing-along			

Chefs: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Justin Sato -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:

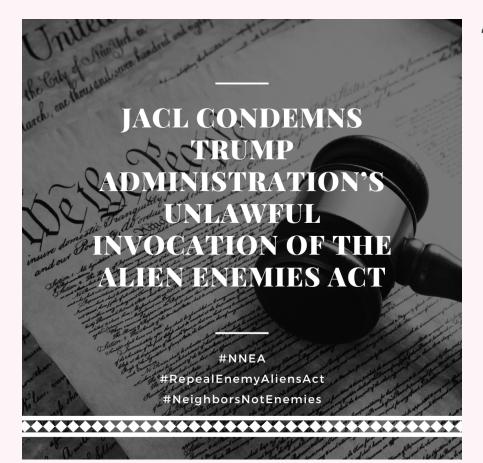
(ph) 503-238-0775 (email) ikoinokai7@gmail.com

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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"We call for the administration to comply fully with the temporary restraining order and halt any deportations under the proposed authority of the Alien Enemies Act. The alleged blatant disregard for Judge Boasberg's orders to turn the plane carrying deportees around cannot be tolerated in a nation of laws."