



# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• MAY 2025 | VOLUME 31 ISSUE 5 •

## Board Member MESSAGE

### Mitsuye Endo Tsutsumi Presidential Citizen Award

By Kenneth Nitta

In early January of 2025, President Biden awarded the Presidential Citizen's Award posthumously to Mitsuye Endo Tsutsumi. This is the second highest civilian honor that a President can bestow. I had not heard much about Endo in the past but learned she was one of four Japanese Americans whose case challenging the legality of Japanese Incarceration were argued before the Supreme Court. Of the more well known plaintiffs, Gordon Hirabayashi, Min Yasui and Fred Korematsu she was the only woman and the only one who successfully challenged Executive Order 9066 in the Supreme Court during WW II.

Mitsuye Endo was born in Sacramento in 1920. At the start of the war she was a secretary for the California State Department of Transportation. After Pearl Harbor she and about 400 other Japanese Americans were fired by the state because of their ancestry. With backing of the Japanese American Citizen League and represented by attorney James Purcell she joined the others in a lawsuit against the State of California. Their lawsuit was derailed when she and the other JA plaintiffs were sent to incarceration camps. Endo and her family were sent to the Tule Lake incarceration camp.

**Continued on Pg. 2**

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**May 3**

### **Prefecture Club, Kanagawa Region**

Epworth United Methodist Church | 12pm-2pm

### **Oregon Rises Above Hate**

Lan Su Garden | 11am-4pm

### **Pacific NW JACL Meeting**

Nichiren Buddhist Temple

**May 4**

### **Japanese American Graduation Banquet**

Riverside Golf and Country Club | 1pm

**May 10**

### **Japanese American Cemetery Clean-up** 9am-12pm

### **Satsuki Ina Will Discuss Her Book**

Oregon Buddhist Temple | 2pm

**May 11**

### **Mother's Day**

**May 18**

### **Japanese American Cemetery Clean-up w/ Shokookai**

10am-12pm

**May 25**

### **Japanese American Cemetery Clean-up** 9am-12pm

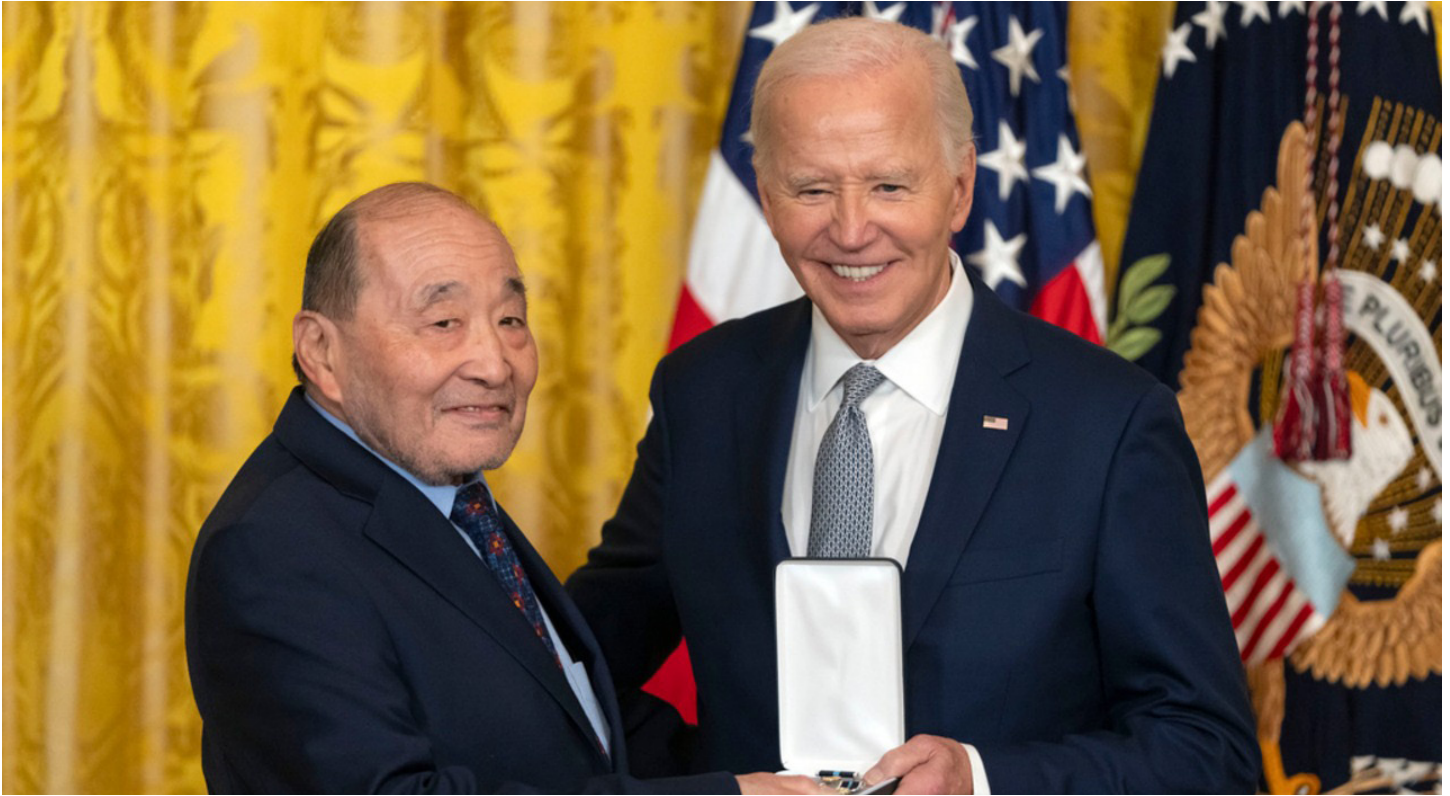
**May 26**

### **Memorial Day Service**

Japanese American Cemetery | 1pm

**May 28**

### **AAPI Night with the Timbers** 730pm



***Continued from Pg. 1***

James Purcell also filed a writ of habeas corpus against the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. Mitsuye Endo was chosen as the test case because she attended Sacramento public schools, was Christian, and did not speak or read Japanese. She also had never been to Japan and had a brother in the U.S. Army. Many of the other plaintiffs in the case against California went to Japanese language schools and were practicing Buddhists. Years later she said she was initially reluctant to be a plaintiff but agreed "because they said it's for the good of everybody, and so I said, well if that's it, I'll go ahead and do it." Her habeas corpus petition was filed by Purcell in July 1942 in the federal district court in San Francisco. It eventually went to the Supreme Court which found unanimously in her favor in December 1944. Before the decision the government offered her the opportunity to leave camp early which would have made her lawsuit moot. She decided to remain in camp. Her lawsuit led to the closing of the incarceration camps and the return of

Japanese Americans to the West Coast.

After the war she went to Chicago to live close to family. She married Kenneth Tsutsumi who she met in the camps and they had three children. She was a very private person and rarely agreed to interviews. Her son Wayne Tsutsumi accepted the award of her behalf on January 2, 2025. The President's statement:

In a shameful chapter in our Nation's history, Mitsuye Endo was incarcerated alongside more than 120,000 Japanese Americans. Undaunted, she challenged the injustice and reached the Supreme Court. Her resolve allowed thousands of Japanese Americans to return home and rebuild their lives, reminding us that we are a Nation that stands for freedom for all."

Her case along with the legal cases of Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Min Yasui led to the U.S.'s formal apology and redress action in 1988.

She died of cancer in 2006 at age 85.



## Remembering Our Heroes

By Marleen Wallingford



Memorial Day is coming up and I wanted to take the opportunity to tell the story of one of my dad's great friends Lt Colonel Mineo Inuzuka. Like many Nisei they met and developed a lifelong friendship from Minidoka.

They did not see each other often since Mineo was traveling the world. There was always a great deal of excitement in the house when Mineo returned to Portland to visit his family which included his siblings Grant Inuzuka, Ise Azumano, Kazuko Husted, and Yoneko Hara.

Mineo served with the legendary 442 Regimental Combat Team. He has been recognized as one of the most decorated Korean War Veterans and also served in Vietnam. He was a recipient of the Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart and

received a battlefield commission.

He showed tremendous courage in Korea in May 1951. The then Lieutenant Inuzuka's unit was assigned the mission of attacking and securing a commanding terrain feature from a well-entrenched and determined enemy force. He was directly responsible for the successful beating off of the numerous fierce counterattacks hurled at his platoon by the enemy and securing the position.

He was inducted into the Gallery of Heroes at the Hawaii Army Museum and the Oregon Military Museum Hall of Valor. After he retired from the Army, he built his own boat and sailed around the world solo on his sailboat, "Go for Broke" despite never having sailed before. When he finally sailed into Honolulu his wife did not recognize him since he lost weight and hadn't cut his hair or shaved for months.

We need to remember our local heroes. Thank you Mineo for your service and you will not be forgotten.

The Japanese American Graduation Banquet Committee has been busy planning our celebration of the high school graduating class of 2025. We have a big group of graduates this year.

**Meet us at the  
Riverside Golf and  
Country Club at 1 pm  
on May 4.**



RESONANCE ENSEMBLE and VANPORT MOSAIC present

# WE ARE STILL HERE

JUNE 1, 2025 | 3:00 PM

PORTLAND EXPO CENTER — HALL A

For more information: [resonancechoral.org](https://resonancechoral.org)

*Reclaiming and healing  
the original site of the  
"Portland Assembly Center"  
—now the EXPO Center —  
where nearly 4,000  
Japanese Americans  
were unjustly incarcerated.*



**KENJI BUNCH**  
Composer/Violist



**SHOHEI KOBAYASHI**  
Conductor



**CHISAO HATA**  
Portland Assembly Center Project



AN AFTERNOON OF  
MUSIC, THEATRE,  
DANCE, AND  
RECLAMATION



**RESONANCE**  
ENSEMBLE

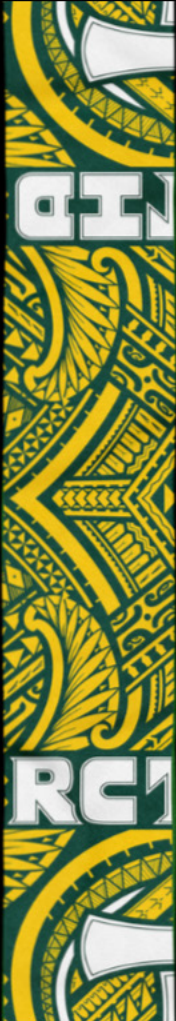


**VANPORT  
MOSAIC  
FESTIVAL  
2025**





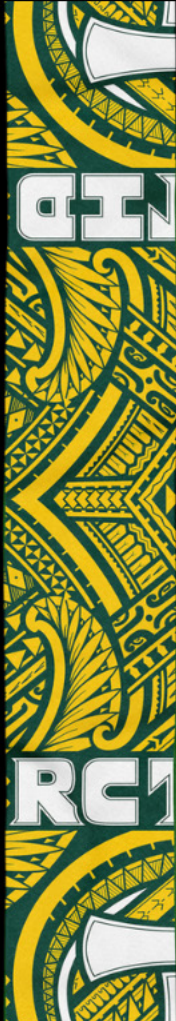
CHEEEHOOOOOOO!!!



Join the Timbers for AAPI Night!  
On Wednesday, May 28th, they take  
on the Colorado Rapids at 7:30pm.

For each ticket purchased through  
this discounted offer, you  
will receive a unique scarf.  
(while supplies last)

Celebrations will be taking place  
all across Providence Park!  
Portland Taiko will drum,  
Teva Oriata to do the  
Haka pregame, and  
a special halftime performance!



CHEEEHOOOOOOO!!!







**Prefecture Club**  
**12-2 pm, May 3**  
**Epworth United Methodist**  
**Church**  
Register at [JACLPDX@Gmail.com](mailto:JACLPDX@Gmail.com)  
**Kanegawa Prefecture**

# **RISE** **ABOVE** **HATE**

Saturday, May 3, 11am-4pm

**Oregon Rises Above Hate**  
**Block 24 in Old Town**  
NW 3rd Ave between Glisan and Flanders  
(Next to Lan Su Chinese Garden)

Community organizations, local food vendors,  
performances and more! Feel **FREE** to join us!



## Iko no Kai - MAY 2025

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
		X	1 <b>Kanikama Donburi</b> Krab Rice Bowl カニカマ丼	2 <b>Gyoza</b> 餃子  10-11:30am Shigin
5 <b>Kids' Lunch</b> Mini Hambagu Ebi Fry and Pasta お子様ランチ 【Children's Day】 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	6 <b>Chicken w/ Ume Sauce</b> 鶏肉の梅ダレ 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	8 <b>Kalua Pork &amp; Lomi Salmon</b> カルアピッグ & ロミロミサーモン 10:30am Ukulele 11am Blood Pressure	9 <b>Tteokpokki</b> Rice Cake Stew w/ Fresh Mochi トッポギ 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
12 <b>Gyudon</b> Beef Bowl 牛丼 12:30pm Mahjong	13 <b>Pad Thai</b> パッタイ 12:45pm Sing-along	X	15 <b>Tofu Thai Curry</b> タイ風豆腐カレー 11am Haiku	16 <b>Hawaiian Shortrib Soup</b> ハワイ風 ショートリブスープ 10-11:30am Shigin
19 <b>Shoga Yaki</b> Ginger Pork 豚の生姜焼き 11:30am Tai Chi 12:30pm Mahjong	20 <b>Kimchi Don</b> Kimchi Rice Bowl キムチ丼 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	22 <b>Oden</b> Fishcake Stew おでん 10:30am Ukulele 11am Blood Pressure	23 <b>Pork Curry</b> ポークカレー 10-11:30am Shigin
26 <b>Memorial Day</b> CLOSED	27 <b>Birthday Sushi</b> お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required (suggested donation \$12) 12:45pm Sing-along		29 <b>Yakisoba</b> 焼きそば 11am Haiku	30 <b>Chicken Katsu</b> チキンカツ 10-11:30am Shigin

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



**PORTLAND JACL**  
PO BOX 86310  
PORTLAND, OR 97286

NON PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND, OR  
PERMIT #579

## Current Board Members

Jeff Matsumoto  
**President**

Heidi Tolentino  
**Secretary**

Jillian Toda-Currie  
**Treasurer**

Setsy Larouche  
**Membership Chair**

Erika Jennings  
Weston Koyama  
Tiffany Koyama-Lane  
Connie Masuoka  
Kenneth Nitta  
Spencer Uemura  
Justin Sato  
Marleen Ikeda Wallingford  
Jenny Yamada  
**Board Members at Large**

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

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)