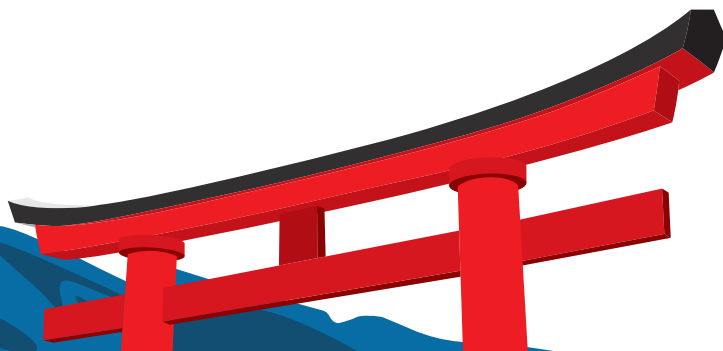




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• JULY 2025 | VOLUME 31 ISSUE 07 •

Board Member MESSAGE

Funding and the Portland JACL

By Erika Jennings

As you know, the Portland JACL does the work of advocacy, community, and cultural preservation for individuals of Japanese descent and beyond in the local area. But have you ever thought about how we do it, where the funds come from and how we can continue this important work? Assisting us in our fundraising efforts is not only a way to contribute to our valuable work but also an opportunity to bolster cultural understanding, foster equity, and support justice initiatives. You may have not thought much about how we put on the programs and events that bring the community together, but here is a little behind the scenes of our income streams that fund things like the community picnic, annual calendar and Day of Remembrance.

- **Annual Membership Dues:** Membership dues go not to the local chapter but to the National JACL. While this money provides benefits to members at the national level, your membership dues don't contribute as much to the local activities that you likely participate in. Only the premium memberships contribute a portion of their total to the local chapter income.
- **Individual donations:** These are donations we receive from local members via mail, in-person events and via our Venmo account. Please use this QR code to donate now.



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

June 13 - September 6

Yasui Family: An American Story

Oregon Historical Society

July 4

Independence Day

July 6

Free Museum Sunday

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

July 10-13

Minidoka Pilgrimage

July 17-20

JACL National Convention

Albuquerque, New Mexico

August 2

Obon Fest

Oregon Buddhist Temple

August 3

Japanese American Historical Plaza Clean-up

8am - 12pm

August 6

80th Anniversary Remember Hiroshima/Nagasaki

Japanese American Historical Plaza | 6pm

August 17

Nikkei Community Picnic

Oaks Park | 12pm - 4pm

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- **Company and Community Grants:** Some local businesses believe in our mission and want to help fund our programming enough to contribute to our budget. These could be businesses with a tie to the Japanese community, social justice causes or just those wanting to be good community partners.

You may have heard about all the cuts to community organization funding from the Federal and local levels, this affects us too. Supporting the Portland JACL's fundraising efforts is a meaningful way to contribute to the community and promote social justice. Here are several ways you can get involved:

- **Corporate Donations:** If your company offers corporate donations, grants or sponsorships we'd love to know about them. Please let us know about these opportunities as early as possible and we can help you fill out any forms to apply for these corporate monies. We can help you tell the story of the mission and impact of Portland JACL and can highlight the positive public relations benefits of your company's involvement.
- **Make an Individual Donation:** Contributions of any size, whether one-time or recurring, go a long way in supporting the organization's initiatives. We have always received wonderful support from the local community and even been the recipient of monies from the estates

of those who have passed.

- **Volunteer:** Offer your time and skills to help organize fundraising events or assist in the JACL's various programs.
- **Company Matching Programs:** Do you work for a business that matches your non-profit donations? If so, please consider donating to Portland JACL and having your company match your donation. This way your dollars do double duty! You can often find programs like this listed in your company benefits guide. Many large businesses, both local and national, offer program like this to encourage employee engagement
- **Spread the Word:** Share information about the JACL and its fundraising campaigns with your network to amplify its reach.

Fundraising for the Portland Japanese American Citizens League is not just about collecting donations—it is an opportunity to strengthen community ties, raise awareness, and advocate for justice and equity. More than ever we see all around us these rights being challenged, and this trend seems to be continuing. With your help we can ensure that your efforts make a meaningful difference in the lives of all people. Whether through cultural events, crowdfunding, or corporate partnerships, every contribution supports the invaluable work of the Portland JACL in preserving heritage and championing civil rights.



❖ The Yasui Family: An American Story ❖

Opens June 13 at the Oregon Historical Society



Members of the Yasui family with friends, circa 1925. OHS Research Library, Yasui Family papers, Coll 949, box 40, folder 2.

This original exhibition on one Oregon family examines questions of citizenship and belonging in America.

Portland, OR Opening Friday, June 13 at the Oregon Historical Society, the original exhibition *The Yasui Family: An American Story* examines relevant questions about citizenship, immigration, and belonging through the lens of one Oregon family.

"The history of the Yasui family is both unique and similar to the experiences of other immigrants to the United States, and it truly reflects the complexity of the American story. All of us at OHS are very grateful that the Yasui family has entrusted us with their compelling collection of family history, thereby allowing us to share an incredibly timely story of the rights and responsibilities of American citizenship," said OHS Boyle Family Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk.



The Importance of Remembrance

Remarks by Reverend Kosho Finch at the Memorial Day Service

Like many of you, we have family members who served this country's military.

Maybe we served ourselves.

Many of us know someone who lost their lives in service.

And it is that sacrifice that we memorialize, that we remember, today.

We don't talk enough about why we remember. And perhaps, why it is that remembrance is under siege.

The war today is one on Diversity. Everywhere it is under attack, and the victims include our memories. Somewhere, someone is deciding that our memories aren't worth remembering. Or that our memories are inconvenient.

This year we have seen the removal of websites honoring the 442nd Regimental Combat Team from Pentagon websites.

Japanese American soldiers who volunteered to serve their country, being removed from history. Soldiers willing to put their bodies in the way of harm, even when their bodies, their families' bodies, marked them as less than full citizens in the country they fought for. As we all know they fought with distinction, with honor, and in the case of the 442nd, became the most decorated unit in WWII military history.

Histories and pages honoring the 100th Battalion, removed. Erased.

Histories of other groups are also erased, removed, hidden... faces, lives, sacrifice, and service, that someone determined was inconvenient.

My Grandfather served in WWII, in a segregated unit of course. There is no mention of his army unit's valor fighting in Guadalcanal. But mention of segregated ranks...also being erased.

But we know the strength of this service. For my family it meant a type of humanizing of the other. Soldiers serving with one another, relying on one another for their lives lead

this country to realize that by working together and relying on one another we are stronger.

Divided we fall, right?

We must remember.

We must remember that war is the most senseless act of human activity.

We must remember so that we don't repeat it.

We must remember, because without such memories, we will be doomed to repeat the mistakes, and again dehumanize a group, to justify some agenda, some fear, some push to divide.

But it is easy to forget. Forgetting is common.

Forgetting is easy. It doesn't take work to forget.

Once the erasure starts, once the memory and history are uprooted, we must work even harder to replant the legacies.

Spiritual practice takes... PRACTICE. That is what makes it a challenge.

Remembrance is a practice. There are far more of us NOT here today, than HERE.

Far more Americans observe this day with sales and rejoicing that they aren't at work.

But, remembering takes WORK, and remembering honors LIFE.

War involves killing. Each death is an erasure. From a Buddhist perspective, each act of killing plants a seed, that perpetuates more killing. That seed is planted in the most powerful of tools humans have, their minds. Similarly, erasure, is a kind of killing.

A killing of the memory of sacrifice.

A killing of the honor of service.

A killing of the injustice's minority soldier endured.

A killing of the realization this country had that those which it did not fully value, served, sacrificed, and honored this country with their valor.

When we kill that memory, when open space for more killing, more brutality, more dehumanization.

Remembrance is the practice to help us avoid killing.

From our Buddhist perspective, killing, plants a seed.

Understood through the lens of karma: cause and effect; that idea that actions have an effect; the act of killing wants a retribution. Killing leads to more killing. To stop killing, we must remember that original seed.

The battlefield isn't where the war starts.

The war starts when someone's humanity is erased.

The war starts when someone picks up the message that one person or group's life, is more important than another.

The war starts when one group's story is elevated over others.

The mind is like a garden. All its tools of imagination, language, and creativity, are fertile ground for growing whatever we plant, tend, and nurture.

If we plant the seeds of hate, distrust, and division, we will harvest the fruit of the willingness to see the other as less than human; an "other" who we can point to, blame, push away, treat unjustly, imprison, deport, or kill.

Erasing memory takes away our greatest strength, the combination of our differenced. Diversity of thought, ideas, backgrounds, language, customs, experience, that's what creates strength.

So we have another tool: Remembrance.

We come together to remember.

To reaffirm our memories, and help others remember...

To share our experience, our stories, our family legacies, so that the hardships of the past are not forgotten.

By not forgetting we equip one another, and our nation, with a powerful tool for defense.

By not forgetting we do more than honor the memory of those who gave their lives. We honor the value of human life by working to avoid taking life.

We avoid forgetting that our neighbors are our neighbors, not some "other" to be rounded up.

We avoid the errors of the past of doubting the loyalty of certain citizens.

We avoid the pitfall of thinking only certain groups contributed to building this country.

We avoid the fiction that only certain people built this nation.

We remember the pain, hardship, and crimes that we've experienced in the past, so that we don't repeat those. So, our family, friends, neighbors, nation, don't have to experience that war inside ourselves again.

Erasing, deleting, and hiding history doesn't diminish the truth.

But it does help people to forget. Forgetting assists someone's agenda.

Forgetting never helps.

So join me in resisting the trap of forgetting: today, and every day, by remembering.

By holding the memory of those who sacrificed in your heart, so that we never have to ask young people to give their lives in services of anyone's agenda of erasure and dehumanization.

By lifting our voices, our minds, and ourselves to the task of remembrance for the sake of this nation, the world, and all life. Thank you.

Photo Corner



1. A brief Memorial Day Service was conducted by Rev Finch at the Lone Fir Cemetery on May 26, 2025. (Photo by Chip Larouche)
2. Taps played by Todd Yuzuriha.
3. Ken Garner conducted a brief ceremony on May 26, 2025 at the Rose City Cemetery. (Photo by Rich Iwasaki)



Kenji Bunch performing original music to Chisao Hata's poem. (Photo by Rich Iwasaki)



The final performance of the Vanport Mosaic was held at the Portland Expo Center. The Community Ensemble depicts the Japanese Americans leaving their homes for an uncertain future.



Ikoi no Kai - JULY 2025

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
	1 Panko Fried Shrimp エビのパン粉焼き 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	3 *Agedashi Tofu 揚げ出し豆腐 11am Blood Pressure	4 CLOSED
7 Chicken w/ Ume Sauce チキンの梅ダレ 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	8 Shrimp Ganmodoki エビがんも 12:45pm Sing-along	X	10 Kasuzuke Salmon 鮭の粕漬け 11am Haiku 10:30am Ukulele	11 Yaki Onigiri 焼きおにぎり 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
14 Beef Bibimbap 牛肉ビビンバ 12:30pm Mahjong	15 Miso Pork Yaki Udon 豚肉の味噌焼きうどん 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	17 Kanikama Donburi カニカマ丼 11am Blood Pressure 11:30am Tai Chi	18 Crispy Pork Belly 豚のカリカリ角煮 10-11:30am Shigin
21 Spring Rolls 春巻き 12:30pm Mahjong	22 *Salad Rolls レタス巻き 11:30am Tai Chi 12:45pm Sing-along	X	24 Tuna Cream Croquette ツナクリームコロッケ 11am Reiki & Haiku 10:30am Ukulele	25 Short Rib Soup ショートリブのスープ 10-11:30am Shigin
28 Somen Salad 素麺サラダ 12:30pm Mahjong	29 Chicken Karaage チキン唐揚げ 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	31 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required (suggested donation \$12) 11am Blood Pressure	

Chefs: Naomi Molstrom/ Keiko Azuma- M Kyoko Adcock- Tu Justin Sato/ Andrea Hoyt- Th/F

Suggested Lunch Donation: \$9 for seniors 65+ / \$12 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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Nikkei Community Picnic

Oaks Park
August 17 12pm - 5pm

RSVP Ride Bracelets
If you can volunteer at youth@pdxjacl.org
or Connie at 971-940-8520