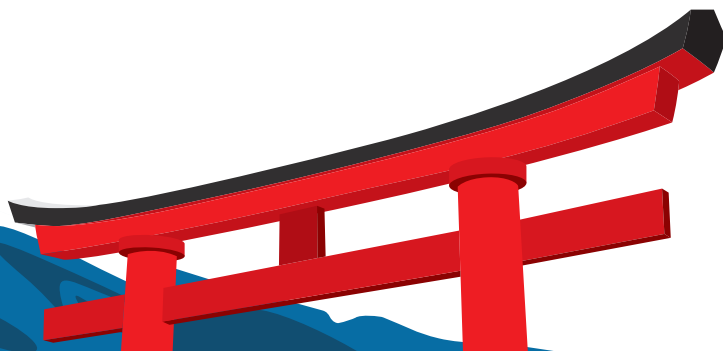




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• FEBRUARY 2026 | VOLUME 32 ISSUE 02 •

Board Member MESSAGE

Volunteering

By Chip Larouche, Board Treasurer

Like most community organizations, we rely on volunteers to do most of the work we do. Many of the volunteers in Portland JACL work tirelessly almost every day to make things happen. I thought I'd highlight a few names you may or may not know to tell you some of the things they do or have done to make Portland JACL work.

Let's start off with our outgoing President, Jeff Matsumoto. After spending four years as the Chapter President, he "volunteered" to spend another couple of years as the Co-President to help Spencer Uemura learn the facets as to what it takes to be the President of JACL's largest Chapter. Jeff teaches first graders in Forrest Grove when he's not donating his time to running the Chapter. Spencer on the other hand is a mental health therapist in the community, and I know he'll do a great job as Co-President. We have a new Vice-President this year by the name of Tiffany Koyama Lane, who coincidentally has been serving as the Council Vice-President for the City of Portland. Imagine how difficult it is to carve out time from such a position, but Tiffany manages to do that for us, be a mother to her two boys but I'm sure she'll do a great job with all the challenges that come along in the Chapter. Heidi Tolentino has been our Chapter Secretary for several years and just got re-elected for

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February
African History Month

February 16
President's Day

Film screening of Farewell of Manzanar
Winningstad Theater | 2pm and 6pm

February 17
Chinese New Year

February 19
Executive Order 9066 Signed

Book Club is Wine Club:
Discuss Farewell to Manzanar
Oregon Historical Society | 6pm

February 21-June 14
Minidoka on Our Mind Exhibition
Japanese American Museum of Oregon

February 22
Rally to Resist ICE
Elizabeth Caruther's Park | 2pm

Continued from Pg. 1

another two years. I can assure you that as a high school counselor and a mom too she's a busy lady, but I can vouch that she takes meticulous minutes of all the Chapter meetings, and she is indispensable as a interviewer on the scholarship committee. I mentioned that Portland JACL was the largest JACL chapter. A lot of that is due to Setsy Sadamoto Larouche who has been the membership chair for over 25 years. In case you like numbers, when Setsy started, the membership was hovering around 225, and now it's over 450. Most of you reading this also know super volunteer Dr. Connie Masuoka. You might know her from the more than 30 years of managing the Nikkei Community Picnic. She's also been leading the chapter effort to get the youth involved in the community, and she sponsors a scholarship in memory of her dad every year at the annual Graduation Banquet. We have Erika Jennings on the Board who works for Columbia Bank who has been also participating on the Finance Committee and working to bring in sponsors to our chapter efforts. Then there's Justin Sato who has roots in Hawaii, but he cooks on Thursday and Friday's at Ikoï No Kai, and he has lent his cooking skills to start up a Furusato effort to bring hometown Japan food to the community. Marleen Ikeda Wallingford has proven herself as a "Jill of all Trades" who manages most civil rights events for the Chapter, manages the Holiday Issue of the Pacific Citizen input for the Chapter, as well as managing the Chapter newsletter, the last monthly newsletter of any Chapter in JACL. Ken Nitta is also a returning board member. He was a key member of the Advocacy Committee that directly handles lots of civil rights issues that have been too numerous (unfortunately) as of late. Ken is a retired physician who also volunteers at the Free Clinic of SW Washington. To make a point, you don't have to be a board member to volunteer to do a Chapter Project. Case

Continued on Pg. 2

in point, Lauren Sadataki has graciously volunteered to do the 2027 calendar for the Chapter, a benefit of Portland JACL membership that many members appreciate. Lauren is on the JAMO staff as the Philanthropy Manager, and we appreciate her willingness to do this very important project for the Chapter.

I'd be remiss if I didn't give a shout out to Jillian Toda-Curry who was our Treasurer for six years. Taking care of the budget and the day-to-day disbursements of Portland JACL is almost a full-time job by itself, and I can personally attest how great a transition job she has done to make sure that there are no gaps in coverage. And our outgoing webmistress, Jenny Yamada has left the Board but not before doing years of work to keep our website and email contacting software in great shape. Like Jillian, she leaves some very big shoes to fill, and we are grateful for all she has done for us.

I'm also excited to welcome the new members of the governing board. Connor Wakayama is a Yonsei from Honolulu. Stevie Dunbar-Matsufuru is also from Hawaii and is a social media expert who has already been helping the Chapter in this arena. Linda Ueki Absher was born in Fukuoka, Japan and has a master's in library and information science. Sharon Kuroda is a long-time member of Portland JACL who is a retired elementary teacher and a library media specialist, and Sean Egusa is a fourth generation Nikkei whose father was born behind barbed wire at Gila River, Arizona. Sean has served on the JAMO and Oya no Kai boards amongst many others, and I'm sure he and all our new board members will be a great addition to our board.

All these new board members have decided to "volunteer" to help with the Civil Rights and Cultural Preservation missions of Portland JACL. The Chapter will be celebrating 100 years of community support in 2028. **Please consider helping us as we approach that special birthday!**



Day of Remembrance

By Connie Masuoka

In recognizing this year's Day of Remembrance, Portland JACL, JAMO and Tsuru for Solidarity have created events for you to remember, reflect, and respond to that pivotal time in history. Unfortunately, more than 80 years later, the racism, and hate has resurfaced, not directly against the JA community but against those who live in situations not unlike that of the Issei and Nisei.

- **Day of Remembrance with Portland JACL and JAMO**
Farewell to Manzanar Film Screening and Panel
- **Book Club is Wine Club: Farewell to Manzanar**
Thursday, February 19, Doors: 5:30 | Event: 6pm
Oregon Historical Society (1200 SW Park Ave)
21+ only event; Free

Please join the Japanese American Museum of Oregon and the Oregon Historical Society for this special book club and discussion with JAMO Executive Director Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong.

- **Minidoka on Our Minds exhibition**
Opens February 21, runs through June 14.
Japanese American Museum of Oregon
(411 NW Flanders St)

Minidoka on Our Minds celebrates 25 years of preservation at this site where Nikkei were incarcerated during World War II. Artwork by survivors, descendants, and Japanese American youth explore the park's history and its importance as a site of memory.

- **DOR Rally to Resist ICE**
Sunday, February 22, 2026, 2pm
Elizabeth Caruthers Park (3508 S. Moody Street)

Please join Oregon Tsuru for Solidarity and Portland Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) for a Day of Remembrance rally to resist ICE. As Japanese Americans, we know too well the immigrant detention system that separates families and wrecks our communities. Right now, as ICE terrorizes our

immigrant neighbors, it is more important than ever that we speak up and speak out. We will gather at Elizabeth Caruthers Park at 2:00 pm for a rally featuring Portland Taiko, a candlelight ceremony, and community leaders, and then we will have a procession to the ICE facility, where we will hold a vigil. All are welcome as we stand together in solidarity.

This rally commemorates the 84th anniversary of the Executive Order that incarcerated 120,000 immigrants and citizens of Japanese descent during WWII. This event is organized by the Portland JACL and Oregon Tsuru for Solidarity, a national coalition of Japanese Americans and allies working to end detention sites and support front-line immigrant communities.

Support Independent Film Makers



Silenced

Type: Documentary Feature
Genre: Documentary

Silenced tells the story of survivors in the U.S. and Japan confronting the aftermath of WWII. Postwar Japan and America showed similarities and differences. The artists are exploring the lives of a Japanese American and a Japanese woman. Find out more about the film [here](#) and donate to help these young artists produce this story.

Day of Remembrance



WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
Presidio of San Francisco, California
April 1, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

Living in the Following Area:

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worcester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence via Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon Thursday, April 2, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Present Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, loading, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residences, as specified below.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 a. m. and 1:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 10:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

2. Examine most carry with them on departure for the Reception Center, the following property:

- (a) Bedding and linens (see mattress) for each member of the family;
- (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
- (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
- (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
- (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions received at the Civil Control Station.

The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

No contained items as described in paragraph 6, Public Proclamation No. 3, Headquarters, Western Defense Command and Fourth Army, dated March 23, 1942, will be carried.

3. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage at the sole risk of the owner of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking stoves and other small items will be arranged if carried, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used for a given family.

4. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Reception Center. Private means of transportation will not be utilized. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station at 1701 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California, between 8:00 a. m. and 3:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a. m. and 3:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942, to receive further instructions.

J. L. DWYTT
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army
Commanding

Save the date

Farewell to Manzanar was released 40 years ago. This was the first time our story was put on the big screen.

Afterwards we will have a discussion about how this film contributed to the Redress Movement.

Tickets are available at **Portland Five**. They will be available on-line and at the theater.

Contact Marleen for the discount code: marleen@pdxjacl.org.

When: February 16, 2026

**Where: Winningstad Theater,
1111 SW Broadway**

Time: 2 pm and 6 pm





JACL SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION COMMITTEE

SJAC ACTION ADVISORY REPORT

DEC 2025 | VOL 1 ISSUE 4



Alien Enemy Act

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg begins taking testimony from Trump administration officials involved in the mid-March 2025 AEA deportations. D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals agreed that Boasberg has the authority to resume the [contempt proceedings](#). Boasberg had found [probable cause](#) for contempt of court in April after the Trump administration defied his emergency order to stop the AEA deportations of Venezuelan nationals and turn back any planes en route to El Salvador. The DoJ had until Dec. 5 to [submit declarations](#) from all the officials involved in the March decision.

While ACLU awaits the en banc rehearing scheduled for Jan 22, 2026, challenging the use of the AEA to deport Venezuelan immigrants proceeds in the 5th Circuit court of appeals, we are still seeking eligible amici curiae signers. You must be a descendant of someone detained under the Alien Enemies Act during WWII. This does not include individuals who were detained solely under E.O. 9066. It does include all Japanese Latin Americans (JLA) who were taken from Latin America and then held in the U.S. as enemy aliens under the AEA. If interested, please complete the [sign-on form](#). We have 182 descendants who have signed on to the brief so far and extend appreciation to the growing team of descendants and the Crystal City Pilgrimage team for their hard work in recruiting signers.



Alien Land Law

Last month, in a [2-1 decision](#), the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit allowed a Florida law that imposes discriminatory housing restrictions to remain in effect while litigation continues. [SB 264](#), a discriminatory housing law in Florida bans many immigrants from China and six other countries from purchasing homes in the state. The [court concluded](#) that none of the plaintiffs had “standing” to challenge SB 264’s restrictions on property purchases.



ARRT

Since the second Trump administration took power in January, it’s engaged in a direct attack on Black Americans, and its impacts are piling up, according to a sprawling new report. The new [Blackout Report](#) by the nonprofit [Onyx Impact](#) details “15,723 distinct impact points—each one an instance in which Black opportunities, lives, or histories have been directly attacked” its authors asserted. [MassLive](#) reports, “The harm is concrete and undeniable. Black businesses and entrepreneurs are being pushed out of jobs and contracts ... [and] students are learning warped and incomplete history,” the report’s authors wrote.



Birthright Citizenship

The [Supreme Court](#) will hear oral arguments on [Barbara v Trump](#) early next year in the challenge to President Donald Trump’s Jan. 20 [executive order](#) seeking to end birthright citizenship – the guarantee of citizenship to almost everyone born in the United States. Under the order, which has never gone into effect, people born in the United States would not be automatically entitled to citizenship if their parents are in this country either illegally or temporarily. JACL is scheduled to sign on to the Korematsu Institute’s [amicus brief](#).



Trending News

The [Korematsu Center](#) has filed an [amicus brief](#) in Talbott v. USA. JACL joins the brief supporting the Plaintiffs-Appellees who obtained a nationwide preliminary injunction halting enforcement of the Trump administration’s ban on transgender military service. The brief draws from history to show what the nation loses when it excludes people, based on their identities, from serving in our nation’s military. Amici detail the nation’s history of banning Black people from service as early as the Revolutionary War, the exclusion of Japanese Americans from enlisting during WWII, the historic and recent efforts to exclude women from combat, and bans on open service by LGB service members.

Rachel Maddow’s [Burn Order Podcast Series](#) explores JA incarceration history and the ‘burn order’ meant to erase the evidence, drawing parallels to the current Trump administration’s agenda.

[Human Rights Watch Report](#) on the conditions the Venezuelan immigrants experienced when deported to CECOT under the AEA and other authorities, concluded that the U.S. had sent immigrants to face torture per se and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

[F/U report on JACL V Musk \(DOGE\)](#) pending recent report of disbanding of [DOGE](#)



Resources

- [ICNL](#) reports [new DHS rules](#) affecting protests near federal property.
- AEA [Talking points](#) [Send a message to your congressional member](#)
- Find your congressional [representative](#)
- Know your rights [ACLU](#)



DONATE

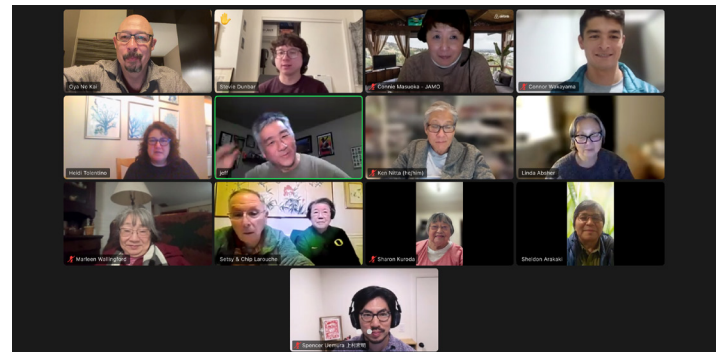
SJAC Committee members: Naoko Fujii JD (Chair), Daniel Mayeda JD, Natsu Saito JD, Peggy Nagae JD, Carol Kawase. Questions? Contact us via [email](#).
Advisory Committee members: Larry Oda, Mike Honda, Ken Massey JD, Gary Nakamura, Seia Watanabe, JACL DC Policy staff.

JACL is the Nation’s oldest and largest Asian American Pacific Islander Civil Rights Organization since 1929

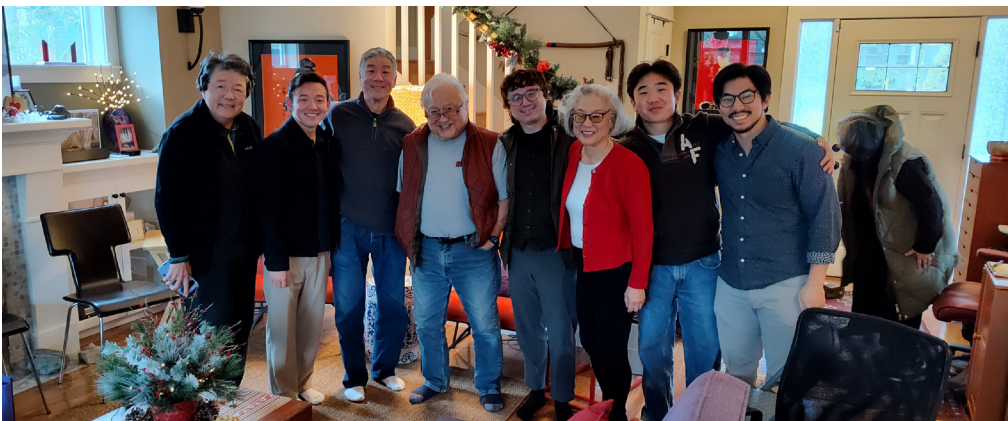
Photo Corner



The Portland JACL, Chinese American Citizens Alliance and Tsuru for Solidarity gave a Know Your Rights training on January 10 at the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Thank you for the support of the members of the Temple and APANO. We learned about what we should do if we are confronted by immigration enforcement. In the past year, their policies have changed and this agency is much more aggressive about detaining and deporting immigrants. Unfortunately many of those who have been deported have no criminal record. *Photos by Rich Iwasaki.*



The Portland JACL Board meets once a month to review and plan our activities.



On December 23rd, Peggy Nagae hosted a meeting to discuss the Alien Enemies Act 5th Circuit Court of Appeals Amicus Brief. Some of the attendees were: L to R: Setsy Larouche, Lincoln Hirata, Jeff Matsumoto, Mike Honda, Stevie Dunbar, Naoko Fujii, Austin Fujii, Spencer Uemura.

Photo by: Chip Larouche



Iko no Kai - FEBRUARY 2026

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
2 * Harumaki Spring Roll Fried Spring Rolls 春巻き 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	3 Hearty Pork & Vegetable Soup けんちん汁 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	5 * Ginger Scallion Mushroom Tofu お豆腐ときのこの ネギ生姜炒め 11am Haiku 11am Blood Pressure	6 Pork Curry ポークカレー 10-11:30am Shigin
9 Japanese Stuffed Cabbage Rolls ロールキャベツ 12:30pm Mahjong	10 Mapo Tofu 麻婆豆腐 12:45pm Sing-along	X	12 Kanikama Donburi Krab Rice Bowl カニカマ丼 10:30am Ukulele	13 * Ten-Zaru Soba Tempura w/ Noodles 天ざる蕎麦 [INK 47th Anniversary] 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
16 Beef Croquette 牛肉コロッケ [INK Family Day] 12:30pm Mahjong	17 Creamy Lemon Chicken 鶏肉の レモンクリーム煮 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	19 Saba Mackerel 鯖 11am Haiku 11am Blood Pressure	20 Nikujaga Meat & Potato Stew 肉じゃが 10-11:30am Shigin
23 Fried Chicken w/ Green Onion Sauce 唐揚げのネギだれ 12:30pm Mahjong	24 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required (suggested donation \$12) 12:45pm Sing-along	X	26 Panko-fried Fish 白身魚の パン粉揚げ 10:30am Ukulele	27 Hambaagu ハンバーグ 10-11:30am Shigin

Chefs: Naomi Molstrom-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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PORTLAND, OR 97286

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Co-President

Spencer Uremura
Co-President

Tiffany Koyama Lane
Vice President

Heidi Tolentino
Secretary

Chip Larouche
Treasurer

Setsy Larouche
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Linda Abser
Sean Egusa
Erika Jennings
Sharon Kuroda
Connie Masuoka
Ken Nitta
Justin Sato
Connor Wakayama
Marleen Wallingford
Board Members

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

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)