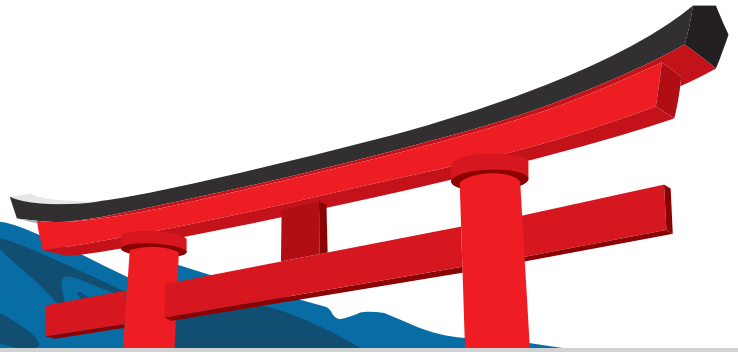




# PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• MARCH 2026 | VOLUME 32 ISSUE 03 •

## Board Member MESSAGE

### JACL Condemns Challenges to Our Civil Rights

By Seia Watanabe, VP Public Affairs |  
Matthew Weisbly, Education Programs/Comms Manager

The JACL is deeply alarmed and concerned by the Executive Orders issued by President Trump following his inauguration as our nation's 47th President. These executive orders threaten to destroy decades of advances in civil liberties and civil rights. The Japanese American Citizens League is especially concerned with Executive Orders calling for the end of birthright citizenship, an escalation of the border crisis including the invocation of the Alien Enemies Act, the overt discrimination towards LGBTQIA+ individuals, and the rollback of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility initiatives including the removal of key governmental programs meant to support marginalized communities and the perversion of Civil Rights laws to advance a white supremacist agenda.

Much of the language and rhetoric within these orders hearken back to numerous times in our nation's long-ago history, when our government openly discriminated against marginalized groups particularly our own Japanese American community, echoing all too eerily the months preceding and following Executive Order 9066. The declaration of a "national emergency"

*Continued on Pg. 2*

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 22 - June 14

**Minidoka on Our Minds**

Japanese American Museum of Oregon

March 1

**Registration Open for Minidoka Pilgrimage |  
Local Japanese American Scholarships due**

March 2

**Freshman Applications for National JACL  
Scholarships Due**

March 9

**Naomi Hirahara Speaking Event**

Ikoi No Kai | 11am

Powell's Books at Cedar Hills Crossing | 7pm

March 14

**Temporary Detention:**

**A Guide to the Forced Detention Centers  
Epworth United Methodist Church | 2pm**

March 15

**Nichiren Spring Fundraiser (Order by March 8th)**

Nichiren Buddhist Center | 1130am - 2pm

March 13-15

**DisOrient Film Festival (In-Person)**

Eugene

March 16-22

**DisOrient Film Festival (Virtual)**

**Continued from Pg. 1**

at our Southern border, with plans to use “detention centers” resulting in possibly “family separation” directly parallels the trumped-up threat of national security from Japanese Americans during WWII resulting in the mass incarceration of 125,000 people, who were never convicted of a crime or given due process protected under the law. Just as it was then, the invocation of the Alien Enemies Act is being used with the fear of an overstated national security threat to remove fundamental legal protections for immigrants.


During WWII, two-thirds of the 125,000 men, women, and children forcibly removed from the safety of their homes and incarcerated in American concentration camps were American citizens by birth under the 14th Amendment and affirmed by the Supreme Court Case *US v. Wong Kim Ark*. They gained this citizenship even as their parents were barred from naturalization due to the racist laws in place at the time. And while it may be a coincidence, the date on which this order would go into effect has even further meaning for Japanese Americans. The order states that it shall go into effect 30 days after its issuance, which falls on February 19th, 2025 — exactly 83 years to the day from the signing of Executive Order 9066 which paved the way for Japanese American incarceration.

Following the indignity of our community's incarceration, the JACL recognized the shared experience of discrimination and the need to work together as a nation to implement the instruments to overcome the impediments of structural racism. As we remember the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. this week, we recall the fight for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which remains the law of the land and continues to lift up the equal rights of protected communities. The administration's efforts to dismantle Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and

Accessibility programs place it in direct opposition to these laws that all government employees are sworn to uphold, including the President. Dismantling programs like the White House Initiative on Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders only cripples the ability of the government to work effectively in our communities.

We especially recognize the ugly hatred directed at the transgender community. Revoking the recognition of transgender people on their federally issued documents will not erase them and pitting transgender people against women and false fears for our children will not be a winning strategy. This strategy failed years ago when it was employed against the broader gay and lesbian communities and it will fail again this time.

JACL opposes these executive orders and the attempts to dismantle generations of civil rights law. In a single day, our nation has once again regressed to a bygone era that engenders fear of communities of color, immigrants, and all those who don't conform to some people's view of what it means to be an American. These are not the true threats to our democracy and to our nation that these executive orders would lead us to believe. Our ancestors fought to bring an end to our discriminatory past, to ensure that future generations had a better chance in this nation. We must recognize that there is still much work to be done, that discrimination remains a part of our society, and that now is not the time to roll back our efforts to ensure equal opportunity for all Americans.

The Portland JACL joined with Tsuru for Solidarity to Rally Against ICE at Elizabeth Caruthers Park on February 22. We will not be silent or stand by when immigrant rights are being violated because of a narrative that only criminals are being deported. 

## 2026 JACL National Scholarship

### 2026 JACL National Scholarship Applications Available Now!

The JACL has been helping students achieve their educational dreams with the National Scholarship and Awards Program since 1946. The program currently offers over 30 awards, with an annual total of over \$70,000 in scholarships to qualified students nationwide.

The National Scholarship and Awards Program offers scholarships to students who are entering freshmen, undergraduate, graduate, law, in the creative & performing arts, and those with financial need. All scholarships are one-time awards. Please note: In addition to the National

JACL Scholarship Program, many JACL chapters administer their own local scholarship programs. To find out if your chapter offers additional scholarships or if you'd like to ask questions and receive insight for National Scholarships, please see the list here! If your chapter's scholarship contact is not listed, please find your chapter's website and contact information at the JACL website.

Learn More and Apply Here: <https://jacl.org/scholarships?eType=EmailBlastContent&id=e05a8714-9780-465a-9ed1-79501dc053e9>

## Farewell to Manzanar

By Marleen Wallingford

The film "Farewell to Manzanar" the first major film adaptation to portray the wartime incarceration camps. Based on the memoir of Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston's, the film depicted the experience of 125,000 Japanese Americans who were placed in incarceration camps during World War II solely because they looked like the enemy. The film represented the first time their families' experiences were shared with mainstream America.

The film has historic implications for the Redress Movement. The film's widespread television broadcast educated millions of Americans about the constitutional violations of the incarceration and helping create the political and social climate that made the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 possible. This landmark legislation provided formal apologies and monetary reparations to surviving Japanese American incarcerated. The film was instrumental at humanizing our experience for American audiences.

The panel discussion that followed the film included Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong of the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, co-wrote the film about, her own family. Panelist Frank Abe, a writer and actor was in the film and has spoken extensively about the Japanese American incarceration experience. One of the other panelists, Carole Hayashino, told of how she helped in having the internment camp in Hawaii gain its designation as the Honouliuli National Historic Site. The other panelist, Mike Honda, was a California state representative who now lives in Oregon.



## Photo Corner



Hanako Wakatsukie-Chong moderated the panelists at the annual Day of Remembrance at the Winningstad Theatre. The panelists discussed the showing of the Farewell to Manzanar after being released 40 years ago. Panelists consisted of Frank Abe, Carole Hayashino, and former Congressman Mike Honda. *Photo by: Setsy Larouche*



Community members at Iko No Kai fold tsuru and frogs for the Day of Remembrance action at Portland's ICE facility on the south waterfront.



L to R: Ken Nitta, Lauren Sadataki, Setsy Sadamoto Larouche, Sharon Kuroda, Chip Larouche, are manning tables on February 16, 2026, for the annual Day of Remembrance at the Winningstad Theatre.

February 19, 2026

# INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY

As survivors and descendants of the mass removals, detention, deportation, and family separation targeting our community during WWII, we refuse to stand idly by while our friends and neighbors are violently disappeared, forcibly removed, mass incarcerated, and separated from family members.

We decry the murders of community members and at least 37 people in ICE custody and enforcement in 2025.

We reject false narratives that state violence is "unavoidable," a "justifiable military action," necessary for "national security" — the same arguments used as they forced our parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles into U.S. concentration camps in 1942.

On this Day of Remembrance, we call on Japanese Americans, and all people who believe in "Never Again," to demand justice for those we have lost — on the streets and hidden away in ICE detention centers. To break this cycle of state violence. To rise up and resist, together.

We bravely commit to being the allies our families needed during WWII.

## STOP REPEATING HISTORY.

#TsuruForSolidarity #FreeFamilies #FreeThemAll

03.28.2026 MINORU YASUI DAY

# WHAT WOULD MIN DO?

"WHAT IS DONE TO THE LEAST OF US CAN BE DONE TO ALL OF US."

Saturday, March 28, 2026  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Oregon Historical Society  
1200 SW Park Ave, 97205

FREE EVENT ONLINE  
OR IN PERSON

## PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2026 MINORU YASUI DAY.

The year 2026 marks two significant milestones: the 10th anniversary of Oregon's designation in perpetuity of March 28 as Minoru Yasui Day, honoring the day Minoru Yasui courageously stood against unjust government orders and the legacy of Oregon's only Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient; and the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, rooted in the principle of no kings and the belief that power belongs to the people.

Together, we will honor these anniversaries and explore contested narratives in history, education, and politics — standing with the voices of the past and present as we recommit to preserving democracy, freedom, civil rights, civil liberties, and justice for all.

**Free Admission to OHS:** 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to all exhibits, including *"The Yasui Family: An American Story"* in honor of Minoru's legacy and Oregon's Minoru Yasui Day.

Presented by the **Minoru Yasui Legacy Project** in collaboration with the **Japanese American Museum of Oregon**, this event honors Min's lifelong fight for equity. Special thanks to our hosting sponsor, the **Oregon Historical Society**.

EVENT DETAILS



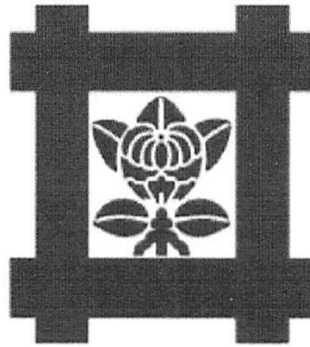
Minoru Yasui  
LEGACY PROJECT

JAPANESE AMERICAN  
MUSEUM OF OREGON



THE OREGON  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
FOUNDED 1898

# NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE Spring Fundraiser



**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Take-Out Food Bazaar**  
**Sunday, March 15, 2026      11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

<u>Pre-Order Form</u>	# of orders	\$ amount	Please return this pre-order form with your check by <b>March 8, 2026</b>  Make checks payable to: <b>Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple</b>  All proceeds benefit: Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple 2025 SE Yamhill Street Portland, Oregon 97214 503-235-8292 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:nichiren.buddhist.temple.pdx@gmail.com">nichiren.buddhist.temple.pdx@gmail.com</a>
<b>Chow Mein    \$12.00</b>	_____	_____	
<b>Chicken        \$12.00</b> (only)	_____	_____	
(Quantities are limited) (Orders accepted in order received)			
Total Amount (enclosed):		_____	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER      Your order will be ready for you at the "Will-Call" line



## Iko no Kai - MARCH 2026

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
<b>2 Agedashi Tofu Takikomi Gohan</b> 揚げ出し豆腐と炊き込みご飯 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	<b>3 Hinamatsuri Lunch</b> Girls' Day Lunch お雛祭りランチ 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	<b>5 Mapo Tofu</b> 麻婆豆腐 11am Haiku 11am Blood Pressure	<b>6 Char Siu</b> Chinese BBQ Pork チャーシュー 11:30am Tai Chi 10-11:30am Shigin
<b>9 Gyudon w/ Soft Boiled Egg</b> 牛丼 (ゆで卵付き) 11am Naomi Hirahara 12:30pm Mahjong	<b>10 Pork Curry Udon</b> 豚カレーうどん 11:30am Aikido Stress Relief 12:45pm Sing-along	X	<b>12 Shirasu Donburi</b> しらす丼 10:30am Ukulele	<b>13 Crispy Garlic Chicken</b> 鶏肉のカリカリにんにく炒め 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
<b>16 Pork Chop</b> ポークチャップ 11:30am Tai Chi 12:30pm Mahjong	<b>17 Singapore Noodles w/Shrimp</b> シンガポール風エビ麺 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing a Long	X	<b>19 * Chicken &amp; Tofu Hekka</b> 鶏とお豆腐のハワイ風すき焼き 11am Haiku 11am Blood Pressure	<b>20 Teriyaki Pork</b> 豚肉の照り焼き 10-11:30am Shigin
<b>23 Grilled Saba</b> 鯖の塩焼き 12:30pm Mahjong	<b>24 Ganmodoki</b> Tofu/Shrimp Fritter がんもどき 12:45pm Sing-along	X	<b>26 Birthday Sushi</b> お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required (suggested donation \$12) 10:30am Ukulele	<b>27 Sichuan Boiled Fish</b> 四川風水煮魚 10-11:30am Shigin
<b>30 Chicken Karaage</b> 唐揚げ 12:30pm Mahjong	<b>31 Tenshin Don</b> Crab Omelet Rice Bowl 天津丼 12:45pm Sing-along			

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



**PORTLAND JACL**  
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PORTLAND, OR 97286

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