



PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928

• AUGUST 2026 | VOLUME 32 ISSUE 08 •

Board Member MESSAGE

Tule Lake Pilgrimage

By Marleen Wallingford

I had the privilege of attending the Tule Lake Pilgrimage which is held every two years. It was an emotional and life changing experience. My grandparents, Hisaichiro and Kimino Hishikawa my mother, my uncle Shun and aunt Yoko had been incarcerated in 1942 at Tule Lake.

There were many activities that the Pilgrimage Committee arranged but the most impactful were the Healing Circles. This provided an opportunity to share our reflections in a safe and private setting. Participants who had not talked about their or their family's experiences felt empowered to be vulnerable.

Tule Lake began as one of the ten incarceration centers that were developed by the War Relocation Authority to house the 125,000 people of Japanese Ancestry but by July 1943 it became the segregation center for the identified disloyal Americans. Tule Lake was the camp for people protesting their incarceration and they were being encouraged by the government to give up their citizenship.

So how did the federal government decide who was a loyal American or not? Every person who was 17 years of age or older had to answer the so called Loyalty Questionnaire. It was created by the War Department and the War Relocation Authority to determine who would be eligible for military service or leaving camp for work or school (away from the west coast) and identify

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

August 1 Obonfest

Oregon Buddhist Temple | 2-9pm

August 6

From Awareness to Action
"Creating a Nuclear Weapon Free World"
Japanese American Historical Plaza | 6-7pm

August 16

Nikkei Community Picnic
Oaks Park | 12-5pm

people who were considered "dangerous" to the US.

Two questions determined your loyalty:

- Question 27: Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?
- Question 28: Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any and all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance to the Japanese Emperor or any other foreign government, power, or organization?

The word "forswear" was confusing since it implied that you once had loyalty to a foreign government so you are admitting that you were

disloyal to the United States.

We can see the repercussions of this false definition of what a loyal American is today. The Issei and Nisei who answered, "No-No," were exercising their constitutional right to protest their unjust separation and imprisonment. Many of our community saw them as undermining the message perpetrated and supported by the JACL that we were 200% Americans. So in order to be equal, we had to be better.

This community division has been harmful to our community and distracted us from the true perpetrator of the harm that was done, the federal government. The power of government imprisoned innocent people without due process.

This brings us to today. We are seeing the same federal government policies and rhetoric that are scapegoating and villainising another vulnerable group of people, immigrants. We are hearing words like criminal, illegal, and welfare and voting fraud. People are being deported without due process. Families are being separated. People are fearful of leaving their houses.

People are carrying their passports. This is not the America we want.

We believe in the stirring words of the constitution: **"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."**

This is the promise of America. It is our responsibility as citizens and as Japanese Americans with our history of removal and incarceration to stand in solidarity with immigrants who are not being given their constitutional rights. Families are being traumatized like we were and we are still feeling the hurt 80 years later.

Part of our healing is for the JACL to admit its history of cooperating with the federal government and supporting hurtful policies that created Tule Lake Segregation Center for those who answered "No-No." We cannot afford to be a divided community.

Nikkei Community Picnic 2026

Sunday, August 16th, 2026
Oaks Park - Dance Pavilion
(White Building Inside the Main Entry)
12pm - 5pm

RSVP and Reserve Ride Bracelets Online at pdxjacl.org by August 10th. Or Call Connie at (971) 940-8520.



A Message of Love and Resistance from Tule Lake



On July 4th, during the Tule Lake Pilgrimage, survivors and descendants stood together outside of the jail at Tule Lake Segregation Center, and shared a message of love and resistance with the world:

"We are survivors and descendants of Tule Lake segregation center, the largest concentration camp in US history

**We are those who were forced from our homes
Unconstitutionally detained
Labeled disloyal
Segregated from our communities
Separated from our families
Forced to renounce our citizenship
and deported to a place we had never known as home**

We are also those who resisted. The history of noncooperation lives in our bones.

**We went on strike in the fields
We went on strike in the stockade
We spoke our ancestral language
We held ceremony for those who we lost
We risked our citizenship, our safety, our family ties
To say, "NO-NO!"**

On the 250th anniversary of this country, we call

oneveryonetorise and resist

**Finding courage in the face of fear.
Rooted in our legacy.
Reaching for one another to find our way with resolution.**

The greatest risk of all, is to do nothing.

**We must all choose to act now:
For the sake of our ancestors
For the sake of our families
For the sake of our children**

**Kodomo no tame ni
They're our children set them free"**

Drawing upon the courage of our elders and ancestors, who said "No-No," we once again stood in solidarity in front of Castle Rock, just as they did 84 years ago. We called upon the world to take action and resist—to abolish ICE and free our families, friends, and neighbors.

We cannot celebrate 250 years of independence because we know that nobody is free until everybody is free. But we know that a way forward is possible, as the history of noncooperation lives in our bones. Join us! Find out more info here: <https://tinyurl.com/tsuruforsolidarity>.



Photo Corner

The Minidoka Swing Band just returned from a historic tour commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Minidoka National Historic Site (MNHS) becoming part of the National Park Service. We returned to our roots by performing in the original Mess Hall of Block 22 of MNHS. In all, we played for 3 venues in and around Twin Falls, ID for the 2026 Minidoka Pilgrimage and played at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, OR.



The Minidoka Swing Band on stage of the Main Auditorium, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls.



The Minidoka Swing Band returned to internment camp band roots--at the Block 22 Mess Hall of the Minidoka National Historic Site



One of the few buildings still standing at Tule Lake is the jail within the jail (shown in the background on the right). Pilgrimage attendees are standing in solidarity with immigrants who are being targeted now like we were targeted in 1942. Different words but same message.



These are the former residents of the Tule Lake Segregation Center.



Sharon Kurada, Ken Nomiya, bus supervisor and Marleen Wallingford returning to Portland from the Pilgrimage at Tule Lake.



Friends of JAMO Reception was held on June 26, 2026 for introducing a new exhibit entitled—"Sanding for Justice: The Japanese American Shaping Oregon."

L to R: Chip & Setsy Larouche, Annie Migaki, CG Ken Todoriki, Gerry Migaki.

2026 Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance Event

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

CREATING A NUCLEAR
WEAPONS FREE WORLD



AUGUST 6, 2026

6:00 - 7:00 PM

Japanese American Historical Plaza
Portland, Oregon

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Robert "Bo" Jacobs

Host

Dr. Vincent Intondi

Musical Performances

*Shakuhachi
Portland Taiko*

Poetry Reading

Pat Hoover

Dance Performance

Tsubaki Buyo Doukoukai



To Donate: www.tinyurl.com/HN2026

Oregon Buddhist Temple

Obon Fest 2026

Saturday, August 1, 2026 2-9pm

Attendance is FREE
All are Welcome!

A vibrant illustration depicting the Obon Fest celebration. In the center, a large, orange, lion-like creature (Dance Dragon) is being pulled by a group of children. Other children are shown dancing, playing, and interacting with the creature. The background features stylized clouds and a bright blue sky. The overall scene is festive and family-oriented.

Obon Dance
Food and Beverages
Kids Activities
Entertainment
and so much more!

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Ave, Portland, OR 97202
www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com

  



We are looking for ObonFest volunteers!
Please sign up on [Signup Genius](#) or contact Jayne Ichikawa



Iko no Kai - AUGUST 2026

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

ikoinokai.org

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
3 Chicken Katsu Curry チキンカツカレー 12:30pm Mahjong	4 Miso Pork 豚肉の味噌焼き 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	6 * Kimbap キンパ	7 BBQ Shrimp Kushiyaki Shrimp Skewers エビのBBQ串焼き 10-11:30am Shigin
10 * Fresh Spring Rolls 生春巻き 11:30am ChairYoga 12:30pm Mahjong	11 Shrimp Fried Rice エビ炒飯 12:45pm Sing-along	X	13 * Beef Sukiyaki すき焼き 9:30am / 10:30am Ukulele 11am Haiku	14 Crispy Ginger Chicken 鶏のかりかり生姜焼き 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
17 Mapo Tofu 麻婆豆腐 11:30am Soroban	18 Shiso Karaage しそ唐揚げ 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	20 Paneer Sliders w/ Chicken & Rice インド式チキン炒飯 & ミニチーズバーガー 11am Blood Pressure Guest Chef: Raaga M.	21 Salmon Mixed Rice 鮭の混ぜご飯 10-11:30am Shigin
24 Rockfish Tatsuta-Age Fried Rockfish 根魚の竜田揚げ 12:30pm Mahjong	25 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required (suggested donation \$12) 12:45pm Sing-along	X	27 Teriyaki Chicken 照り焼きチキン Card-making 9:30am / 10:30am Ukulele 11am Haiku	28 Pork Katsu w/ Miso Sauce 味噌ダレ豚カツ 10-11:30am Shigin
31 Roast Beef Rice Bowl ローストビーフ丼 11:30am Soroban 12:30pm Mahjong				

Chefs: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu

Justin Sato, Andrea Hoyt, Keika Ruttan and Raaga Mandala-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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❖ “Honoring Our Elders 95 and Older” ❖

It has been said that the generation that had lived through the depression and the Second World War was the greatest generation. It could not be more true for the Niseis. Again this year Portland Centenarian Committee will be celebrating and honoring some of those Niseis of our community. These Elders are those who are 95 years old and older. This will be the fourth annual event. Please and support in honoring them. They may be your friend, neighbor or relative. They have served all of us in the community by their gallant lives that they lead. Every year we are losing one or more from the community. Let us honor them while they are alive and not just attending afterwards. Please let us know who they are. We are planning the event in October, but the exact date and location has not been decided. At this point we are letting the community know of the Upcoming event and that we need your help to identify who the Honorees are and if they will be able to attend. “Honoring our Elders who are 95 and older”

For Honored guests 95 and over including the driver or caregiver, the lunch is complimentary.

If you know someone who are 95 and older please let us know.

Please contact people below by email or by phone:

- **Terry Nishikawa:**
terry4900@gmail.com | 971-263-2230
- **Sharon Takahashi:**
stakahashi509@gmail.com | 503-330-1935
- **Connie Masuoka:**
cmasuoka@comcast.net | 503-318-5839
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