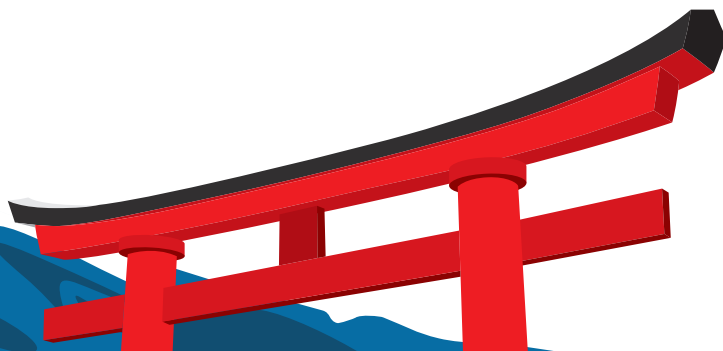




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL – Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• OCTOBER 2026 | VOLUME 32 ISSUE 10 •

Board Member MESSAGE

By Sharon Kuroda

Harassment! A young Muslim student at a Portland high school heard someone shout, “Hey! What’s in your backpack—a terrorist bomb?”

I sat stunned when I heard about this. It aches to think that youth are forced to endure racist and provocative criticisms like these. We learned about these during panel discussions entitled, “Muslim: Overcoming Othering, Building Belonging,” held at the Muslim Educational Trust. This was on September 10, the day before the 25th Anniversary of 9/11. A group of us from the Portland JACL were there. Connie Masuoka was a panelist that night.

It echoed the thoughts and comments I have heard our Nisei ancestors faced during World War II. The words were painfully familiar. These Muslim students were born after 9/11; they are innocent and learned about the attack only as they grew up. Nisei students were innocent, too; they had nothing to do with the attack on Pearl Harbor. Yet all were othered and made to feel they did not belong in the country where they were born: the United States of America. Sadly, many Sansei, Yonsei, and Gosei have also felt—and still feel—this kind of othering.

There is hope for Japanese Americans. Organizations like the Japanese American Citizens League and other Japanese American community groups play an invaluable role in celebrating our culture. The Minidoka Swing

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 4

Portland Taiko

Oregon Symphony Prelude

Arlene Schnitzer Plaza | 130pm

October 4

Japanese American Draft Resisters

Mission Theater | 2pm

October 10

Centannarian Lunch

DoubleTree by Hilton | 1pm

October 10-11

**75th Anniversary Shingon Henjyoji Temple
(Various Times and Events)**

October 12

Indigenous People’s Day

Band, for instance, is uplifting. These gatherings remember past struggles, learn from them, and move forward. Earlier this summer there were bright smiles and squeals of delight when at the Oregon Buddhist Temple, toddlers, teenagers, young adults, gray haired seniors alike, some dressed in kimono, many of Japanese ancestry, danced around the ring to the sounds of Pokeman Ondo and Tanko Bushi. Just a couple weeks later Japanese American families flocked to Oaks Park and enjoyed the sushi, chicken, tsukemono, watermelon, shave ice, prizes, ride tickets and Portland Taiko at the Annual Nikkei Community Picnic. These events were successful, drawing hundreds of joyful people. Gathering in community to honor Japanese traditions and our ancestors' legacy helps pass on our culture and strengthens our sense of belonging.

Thankfully many of us learn. We strengthen our resolve. We move forward. We honor those who have struggled and have gone before us. There are the Minidoka and Tule Lake Internment Camp Pilgrimages. There is JAMO, the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, bringing the past to life. The museum exhibits and programs educate both us and the community at large by making us think and reflect. They instill pride in us. Ikoi No Kai, with its tasty lunches, programs,

and warm atmosphere, provides a secure and wonderfully essential meeting place to be in community.

An impactful, life altering experience I had was at this summer's Tule Lake Pilgrimage. There were about 400 of us Pilgrims from all over the country. We shared our grief when each internee name was read at the Memorial Service, when names were stamped in the Ireicho. But what especially shook me to my very core was to sit next to a grown man, probably in his 60's, breaking down and crying as he thought of his family members who had suffered so at Tule Lake. The suffering endured at Tule Lake was worse than I had imagined. Intergenerational trauma is very real. Clearly, this man was not even born during the war, yet it colors his life. We must remember. We must learn from the past. We cannot let this go on.

Members and supporters of Tsuru for Solidarity reflected on today's infringements of human rights. Satsuki Ina, together with young and old supporters chanted, "Kodomo no tame ni! For the sake of our children!" "Stop the War on Human Rights." "Save our children. Set them free." "No ICE, No walls! No camps! No! No!" We must never forget. We must correct wrongs and move forward.



Polo Catalani, moderator introduces the panel, "Creation of a Beloved Community" at the 9/11 memorial at the Muslim Educational Trust. Panelists included left to right: Connie Masuoka, Ned Rosch and Mollie Reavis.

❖ Oregon Pilgrimage to Free Families Recap ❖

By Kelly Ann Chee

On Sunday, August 16, about two dozen Peace Pilgrimage walkers and support crew gathered in the morning chill at the Portland Expo Center, where nearly 3,700 Japanese Americans, including 1,200 children and their families, were detained in the summer of 1942 at this temporary detention center. The pilgrimage was held as part of **The National Coalition to End Family and Child Detention's Free Families Summer of Action**. Family history sharing, guided reflection moments, collective art practice, and connective conversations anchored the six-mile pilgrimage, honoring family histories, providing healing of intergenerational trauma, and calling for an end to immigration detention.

Community members celebrated the Peace Pilgrimage kickoff at the Japanese American Historical Plaza, where those detained at the ten WWII concentration camps were honored. Speakers from Tsuru for Solidarity, Portland Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Together Lab, Voz Portland - Voz Workers' Rights Education Project, and City Councilor Tiffany Koyama Lane reflected on how history

continues to repeat itself and reminded us how powerful our voices are in community. An affirming heartbeat from Portland Taiko guided the Peace Pilgrimage walkers from the plaza to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facility—today's equivalent of the Portland Expo Center temporary detention center. At the ICE facility, we honored families who are being traumatized and torn apart today, and held a press conference to share the Japanese American community's history with mass incarceration, ties to current day policies and practices, and raise our voices for change. Pilgrimage walkers completed the journey at the annual Nikkei Picnic at Oaks Park, where we were greeted with tsuru garlands to wear and the sounds of community; children playing games, long-time friends catching up, and JOY. This is what the walk was for! To permanently end immigration detention and family separation so all communities can thrive. This walk is one leg of a long journey towards justice, and all of us can contribute: one tsuru folded, one letter in support of legislation, one onigiri for a grieving family, or one song of hope at a time.



Greater Portland Centenarian Luncheon

***at Double Tree by Hilton
(Pacific Northwest Ballroom)
1000 NE Multnomah Street
on Saturday, October 10
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.***



***Please join us to honor the Elders
in our community who are 95 years and older.
(Cost: \$50 per person, checks payable to GT-JACL)***

Sponsored by JAS * GT-JACL * Portland JACL * Veleda * JAMO

Please RSVP to Connie Masuoka at cmasuoka@comcast.net, Linda Guerber at naninotton@hotmail.com, or Sharon Takahashi at stakahashi509@gmail.com

The Nisei Paradox: Japanese American Draft Resisters During World War II

A Multimedia Stage Reading

Sunday, October 4 (Doors: 1:30pm, Program: 2:00pm)

Mission Theater (1624 NW Glisan St)

\$15 General Admission | \$10 Seniors/Students

During WWII, young Japanese Americans (Nisei) incarcerated at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Southeast Idaho, faced a paradox: fight for a country that had stripped them of their civil liberties, taken away their freedom and placed them and their families behind barbed wire, not because they were the enemy but because they looked like the enemy; or, resist the draft because they and their families had been unconstitutionally and unfairly incarcerated. The Nisei Paradox, a theatrical, multi-media stage

reading created, produced and performed by a group of judges and attorneys, tells the story of 42 young Japanese Americans who chose to resist the draft and fight injustice through civil disobedience. These young men chose a different type of courage than the many Nisei incarcerated who went to war—they chose to resist, to oppose unfair treatment, to stand up to a stacked legal system, only to lose their freedom for a period longer than the 2-year conscription period, longer than the incarceration camps were open, and longer than the war itself.

This program is sponsored by the Oregon Law Foundation and the Oregon Asian Pacific American Bar Association.



Photo Corner



Photo by Rich Iwasaki



Photo by Rich Iwasaki



Photo by Rich Iwasaki



On September 6, 2026, a Multiculture Festival was held in Ridgefield, Washington. The rain stayed away but the crowd was smaller this year. PDX JACL and JAMO tabled their information. Photo L to R: Setsy Sadamoto Larouche, Chip Larouche, Dr. Connie Masuoka, Jeff Matsumoto, Marleen Ikeda Wallingford.

2026 JACL GET OUT THE VOTE!



JACL is partnering with our friends at APIA Vote to reach AANHPI voters ahead of the 2026 Midterm Elections, and we are looking for members who want to help in getting the AANHPI communities out to vote!



We are looking for people to:

- ✓ Phone Banking with APIAVote
- ✓ Staffing APIAVote's voter hotline
- ✓ Local Voter Registration Drives

If you're interested,
sign up via the QR
Code or visit:

bit.ly/jacl-gotv-26



NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE NEEDED! JUST A WANT TO BE CIVICALLY ENGAGED!

This work is non-partisan. JACL does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.



Iko no Kai - October 2026

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

ikoinokai.org

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
			1 Chicken Chowmein チキン炒麺 11am Blood Pressure	2 Beef Tomato 牛肉のトマト煮込み 10-11:30am Shigin
5 Nikujaga Beef Stew 肉じゃが 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong	6 Chicken w/ Mushroom Sauce 鶏肉のきのこ餡かけ 12:45pm Sing-along	X	8 Crab Curry 蟹カレー 10:00am Ukulele	9 Sweet & Sour Pork 酢豚 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
12 Ginger Pork 生姜焼き 12:30pm Mahjong	13 Grilled Shio Koji Garlic Chicken 鶏のにんにく塩麴焼き 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	15 Fall Vegetable Tempura 秋野菜天ぷら 11am Blood Pressure	16 Bibimbap ビビンバ 10-11:30am Shigin
19 Fried Tofu w/ Mushroom Sauce & Takikomi Gohan 揚げ豆腐のきのこ餡かけ & 炊き込みご飯 11:30am Soroban 12:30pm Mahjong	20 Saikyo Miso Salmon 鮭の西京焼き 12:45pm Sing-along	X	22 Mapo Tofu 麻婆豆腐 10:00am Ukulele	23 Crispy Ginger Chicken 生姜のカリカリ唐揚げ 10-11:30am Shigin
26 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required (suggested donation \$12) 12:30pm Mahjong	27 Kabocha Soup and Meatloaf 南瓜スープ & ミートローフ 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	X	29 Chicken Hekka Chicken Stew ハワイ式 鶏すき焼き 10:30am-2pm Reiki 11am Blood Pressure	30 Halloween Omurice Rice Omelet ちよっとハロウィンなオムライス 10-11:30am Shigin

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

Edited by Chong Sim (simc0186@gmail.com)