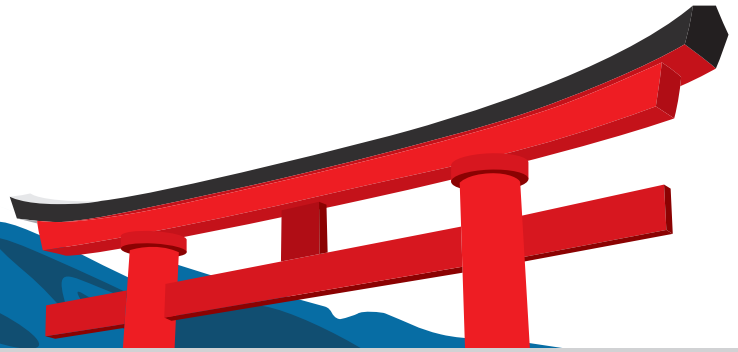




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• FEBRUARY 2025 | VOLUME 31 ISSUE 2 •

Board Member MESSAGE

The History of Day of Remembrance

By Connie Masuoka

Eighty-three years ago on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 which authorized the Secretary of War to prescribe certain areas as military zones, leading to the forced removal and incarceration of approximately 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens. The signing of EO 9066 drastically changed the trajectory of the Japanese American community. Families were uprooted from their homes, businesses were closed or sold at a loss, and individuals were transported to concentration camps in remote areas under harsh conditions. This period of incarceration lasted until the end of the war, and many incarcerated lost everything they had worked for, experiencing long-term economic, social, and psychological impacts.

After the war incarcerated went on to rebuild their lives and publicly did not speak of their experience but the injustice of incarceration was not ignored various citizens groups lobbied the United States government to secure compensation for those incarcerated. In 1948, there was passage of the Japanese American Evacuation Claims Act which provided some compensation for property loss but only a small number of claims were processed and just a small fraction of the total loss was settled. With the rise of the Civil Rights Movement in the 60's and 70's there was an effort by leaders of the

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February
Black History Month

February 2
Free First Sunday
Japanese American Museum of Oregon

February 8
Interview with curator of "Taken"
220 SW Main, 1 pm

February 21
Unite People Meeting
Epworth United Methodist Church | 630pm

February 22
Day of Remembrance
"Omoiyari"
Clinton Street Theater | 2pm

March 1
Deadline for Min Yasui Student Contest

March 3
Applications due for JACL National
Nikkei Community Scholarships and
Henjyji Art Awards

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Japanese American community to seek justice for wartime incarceration which resulted in a campaign that led to the repeal of Title II of the Internal Security Act (the federal law that authorized mass detention of suspected subversives without trial) and the rescinding of Executive Order 9066 by President Gerald Ford in 1976. The rescinding of EO 9066 gave fuel to a political movement to seek redress and reparations for incarcerated.

Thirty-six years after the signing of Executive order 9066 on November 25, 1978, the first Day of Remembrance event was organized in Seattle in support of the Redress movement. The second Day of Remembrance was organized a few months later in Portland at the Portland Expo Center (site of the Portland Assembly Center) on February 17, 1979 the date was chosen to mark the anniversary of EO 9066 at which they honored the resilience of those who suffered and ensure that the lessons of history remain relevant in our ongoing pursuit of a more just society. The idea took hold and now there are Day of

Remembrance events throughout the country.

February 2025 marks the 83rd anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, a historical event with profound implications for civil liberties and human rights in the United States. This commemoration is not just a remembrance of past injustices, but also a critical reflection on contemporary issues of freedom, equality, and justice. This year's Day of Remembrance Portland JACL and JAMO invite you to join us in a viewing of and conversation about; "Omoyari: A songfilm by Kishi Bashi" on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at 2pm at the Clinton Street Theatre. Admission is \$10 and there is a special discount for Portland JACL members. Please contact marleen@pdxjacl.org for information.

Another opportunity to gain more insight about the Japanese American experience during WWII is to visit JAMO and see "Taken from Their Families: Japanese American Incarceration on Angel Island during WWII." Running from January 18-April 6.

We need you.

Omoiara Has Some Local Connections



Kishi Bashi performed at Revolution Hall in November 2023.

Kishi Bashi is a Japanese American musician who was born in Seattle and raised on the east coast. His parents had immigrated from Japan. He married

a woman from Japan and became a parent. He began to reflect upon his experiences growing up.

As an artist, he realized he could use his art to explore his Asian American identity. He immersed himself in studying about Japanese American history which served as his inspiration for his album, "Omoiara."

Portland audiences will appreciate that interviews with local Japanese Americans are used to describe our history: Hank Sakamoto, Mabel Shoji Boggs, and Massie Hinatsu. You can also glimpse famous faces like Norman Mineta as well as our Executive Director of JAMO Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong.

Talk back with Chris Lee, Lauren Terry and members of Unite People following film.



KISHI BASHI
MUSIC FROM THE SONG FILM
OMOIYARI
おもいやり

2pm, February 22, 2025
Clinton Street Theater
2522 SE Clinton St

Violinist and songwriter Kaoru Ishibashi travels on a musical journey to understand WWII era Japanese incarceration, assimilation, and what it means to be a minority in America today.

Purchase tickets at the Clinton Street Theater website or <https://tinyurl.com/omoiyarifilm>

(Portland JACL members should contact marleen@pdxjacl.org to receive a free attendance code.)

❖ We Remember Sahomi Tachibana ❖



April 1924-October 2024

Beloved traditional dance teacher Sahomi Tachibana left us at 100 years old. After a professional career in New York, she moved to Portland to be closer to her daughter, Elaine Werner. She continued to teach dance until she was 95.

(Photo) Sahomi Tachibana is celebrating her 100th birthday with two of her students, Wynn Kiyama and Chisao Hata.

❖ February Free First Sunday ❖

Join the Japanese American Museum of Oregon for this Free First Sunday, sponsored by Bob Yokoyama.

Admission is free all day, 11am-4pm, and includes access to JAMO's current exhibition, Taken From Their Families: Japanese American Incarceration on Angel Island During World War II.

February 2 is National Ukulele Day! Though the ukulele's origins are Portuguese, it has become synonymous with Hawai'ian music. Many Japanese American families arrived in the mainland US via Hawai'i where cultural exchange resulted in the instrument's popularity in the community.

We will have craft supplies available in the library for visitors to make their own mini rubber band ukulele to take home. Visitors will also be able to try playing a real ukulele.

All ages welcome!

The 2025 Free First Sunday program is generously supported by the Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation.

JAPANESE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF OREGON
AT NAITO CENTER

FREE FIRST SUNDAY
FEBRUARY SPONSORED BY BOB YOKOYAMA

Sunday, February 2
11am-4pm

Try playing a real ukelele and then make your own using common household materials.

Free admission | **Generously supported by**

411 NW Flanders St
Portland, OR 97209

503-224-1458
jamo.org

UMPQUA BANK
Charitable Foundation

MINORU YASUI STUDENT CONTEST

2025 THEME:

Human Rights Activism that Inspires

In the legacy and spirit of Minoru Yasui's lifelong fight for justice and equality, what is an example of human rights activism that inspires you? Is there an individual, collective, organization, and/or community that has acted bravely and courageously? What human rights problem did they speak out about, or situation did they correct? And in doing so, how did they bring about positive change or give voice to their community?

Submission Deadline:

March 1 • 11:59 p.m. PT

Open to youth in 5th - 12th grades

The deadline for the 2025 Minoru Yasui Student Contest is fast approaching! Help us spread the word to students, parents, educators, community organizations, and others as we invite young voices — our future leaders — to honor his legacy.

Visit our website for all 2025 Student Contest details and resources, including our themebook, judging rubric, educational resources, and submission form (minoruyasuilegacy.org/student-contest).

Taken From Their Families: A Conversation with Curator Grant Din



Saturday, February 8, 1pm
220 Building
220 NW 2nd Ave, 1st Floor

Join us for this talk with Grant Din, curator of Taken From Their Families: Japanese American Incarceration on Angel Island During World War II. As the former Executive Director of the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation, Grant has a deep knowledge of the immigration hub, as well as many years experience as a genealogy researcher. He will be giving us an in-depth guide to the Japanese American experience at Angel Island and its role during World War II.

Scholarship Applications are Due Soon



Graduating high school seniors are eligible to apply for three different scholarships in

the community. There is the National JACL Scholarship which is available with an on-line application Freshman scholarships are due March 3. Applications are open to any JACL member in the nation.

Students who live in the Portland Metro area (Multnomah, Washington, Clackamas and Clark counties) can apply for our local Nikkei Community Scholarships. Applications are due March 3. The application form is a pdf which must be downloaded, printed, filled in and mailed.

High school students who have artistic talent in a traditional Japanese art form are encouraged to submit an application for the Henryoji Traditional Japanese Art Award. The application must be downloaded, printed, filled out and mailed by March 3.



Iko no Kai - FEBRUARY 2025

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

| MON | TUES | | THURS | FRI |
|---|--|----------|---|---|
| 3 Kakiage Don w/ Shrimp エビかき揚げ丼 11:30am Chair Yoga 12:30pm Mahjong | 4 * Chicken w/ Ume Sauce 梅ダレ焼き鳥 12:45pm Sing-along | X | 6 * Vegetable Korokke Vegetable Croquette 野菜コロッケ 11:30am Taichi | 7 Poke Bowl ポキ丼 |
| 10 Oden Fish Cake Stew おでん 12:30pm Mahjong | 11 Stuffed Lotus Root 蓮根のはさみ揚げ 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along | X | 13 Steamed Salmon w/ Mushrooms 鮭ときのこの蒸し煮 10:30am Ukulele 11am Blood Pressure | 14 Tonkatsu とんかつ 【 Iko no Kai's 46th Anniversary! 】 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo |
| 17 Chinjao Rosu Beef and Pepper Stir Fry 青椒肉絲 12:30pm Mahjong | 18 Curry Udon w/ Pork 豚カレーうどん 12:45pm Sing-along | X | 20 Agedashi Dofu w/ Vegetable Tempura 揚げ出し豆腐 と野菜天ぷら 11:30am Taichi | 21 Hawaiian Fried Rice Omelette ハワイ風 オムライス |
| 24 Menchi Katsu Minced Meat Cutlet メンチカツ 12:30pm Mahjong | 25 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required (suggested donation \$12) 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along | X | 27 Rafuté Okinawan Braised Pork Belly ラフテー 沖縄風豚の角煮 11am Blood Pressure 10:30am Ukulele | 28 Miso Garlic Crispy Chicken にんにく味噌の カリカリチキン 10-11:30am Shigin |

Chefs: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Justin Sato-Th/F

Suggested Lunch Donation: \$9 for seniors 65+ / \$11 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



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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)