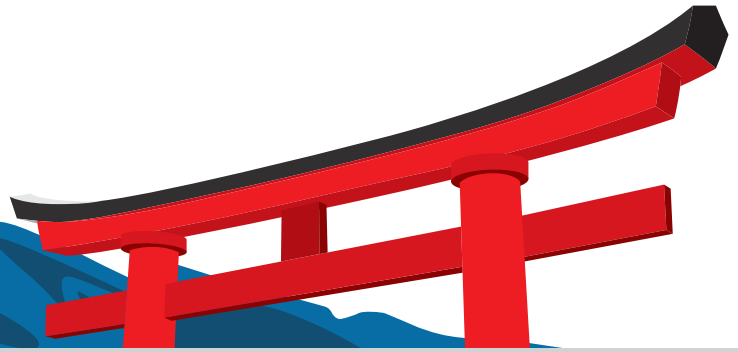




PORTLAND JACL NEWSLETTER

Portland JACL - Supporting Civil Rights Since 1928



• MARCH 2025 | VOLUME 31 ISSUE 2 •

Board Member MESSAGE

Minoru Yasui's Legacy & Portland JACL honored with Activism Award

By Jillian Toda-Currie

Oregon's first and only Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, Minoru Yasui, has a deep legacy of activism that is exactly what we need to follow in today's landscape. Min is best known for his courageous stance against the discriminatory curfew imposed upon all persons of Japanese ancestry in 1942. He purposely defied the curfew so he could challenge its constitutionality. We remember this act of resistance by Min on every March 28, Oregon's Minoru Yasui Day.

After this initial act, Min didn't stop. He led a life of activism, advocating for justice for all. From his advocacy for Japanese American redress to his day-to-day leadership of cross-racial civil rights organizations, Min never gave up. Min's unwavering belief and action in uplifting all marginalized communities is his legacy.

That legacy is carried on by the next generation. Organized by the Minoru Yasui Legacy Project (and the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, the Minoru Yasui Student Contest offers students the opportunity to explore societal topics in connection with the legacy of Min. This year's contest theme is Human Rights Activism that Inspires. The prompt for the student art contest asks:

Continued on Pg. 2

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 1

Deadline for Min Yasui Student Contest

March 5

**Going Away Reception for
Consul General of Japan**

Cedar Tree Hotel Hillsboro | 4-6pm

"A Song in Movement"

Reed College Performing Arts Building | 7pm

March 7-9

DisOrient Film Festival Art House Theater, Eugene

March 8

Ikoi no Kai's Konbini Pop-up

March 9

**Portland Sapporo Sister City Association Film
Fundraiser (tinyurl.com/film-fundraiser-ticket-info)**

1000 SW Broadway T-100 | 2-5 PM

March 15

Prefecture Culture Club

Epworth United Methodist Church | 12-2 pm

March 18

Ikoi No Kai Senior Care 11am

March 21

Unite People Meeting

Epworth United Methodist Church | 630pm

March 28

Min Yasui Day

Continued from Pg. 1

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?

I'd encourage us all to reflect on this prompt and explore how we can carry these examples of human rights activism forward into the rest of 2025.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of Min Yasui receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and local commitment to this legacy is being recognized. The Minoru Yasui Legacy Project will be hosting the annual Minoru Yasui Day event on April 5. In honor of this tenth anniversary, a selection of organizations will be recognized with a new award. **Portland JACL is honored to be one of the recipient organizations to receive the 2025 Minoru Yasui**

Activism Award.

The Minoru Yasui Activism Award recognizes organizations that embody the principles of justice, civil rights, and advocacy for marginalized communities, following in Min's footsteps. The 2025 award honors organizations that continue to make meaningful contributions to society by confronting inequality, challenging discrimination, and striving to build a more inclusive and just world for all.

Please join us in celebrating the work we as members of Portland JACL have carried out to uplift and amplify marginalized voices and challenge injustices. All are welcome at the upcoming Minoru Yasui Day program. We hope to see you there!

The Minoru Yasui Day event in Portland, OR will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the University of Oregon's downtown Portland campus (70 NW Couch St) from 2-4pm. To learn more this year's student contest for youth in grades 5th-12th, visit the Minoru Yasui Student Contest webpage (www.minoruyasuilegacy.org/student-contest).



❖ A Song in Movement ❖

Documentary director Quyên Nguyen-Le and Co-Director Tadashi Nakamura have created a documentary/biopic about Asian American activist, singer, and elder Nobuko Miyamoto who became the “voice” of the Asian American movement. In her memoir, “Not Yo Butterfly” she shares her “song of relocation, race, love, and revolution”. Through her music and book Nobuko shares her life journey as an artist and activist.

Three Oregon cities Portland, Salem and Eugene have a rare opportunity to view the film, “A Song in Movement” the first week of March. Nobuko Miyamoto musician Derek Nakamoto and Quyên Nguyen-Le one of the films directors will also be available talk about the making of the documentary.

Join us!

Portland

Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

7pm - 9pm

Reed College Performance Lab

Performing Arts Building

(3017 Se Woodstock Blvd Portland, OR 97202)

The program includes:

- Showing “A SONG IN MOVEMENT.” a documentary/biopic by Quyên Nguyen-Le and Co-Director Tadashi Nakamura
- Live Performance with NOBUKO MIYAMOTO AND DEREK NAKAMOTO
- Q AND A WITH Quyên Nguyen-Le, Nobuko and Derek
- Book Signing

Salem

Thursday, March 6th

7pm

Ford Hall 122, Willamette University

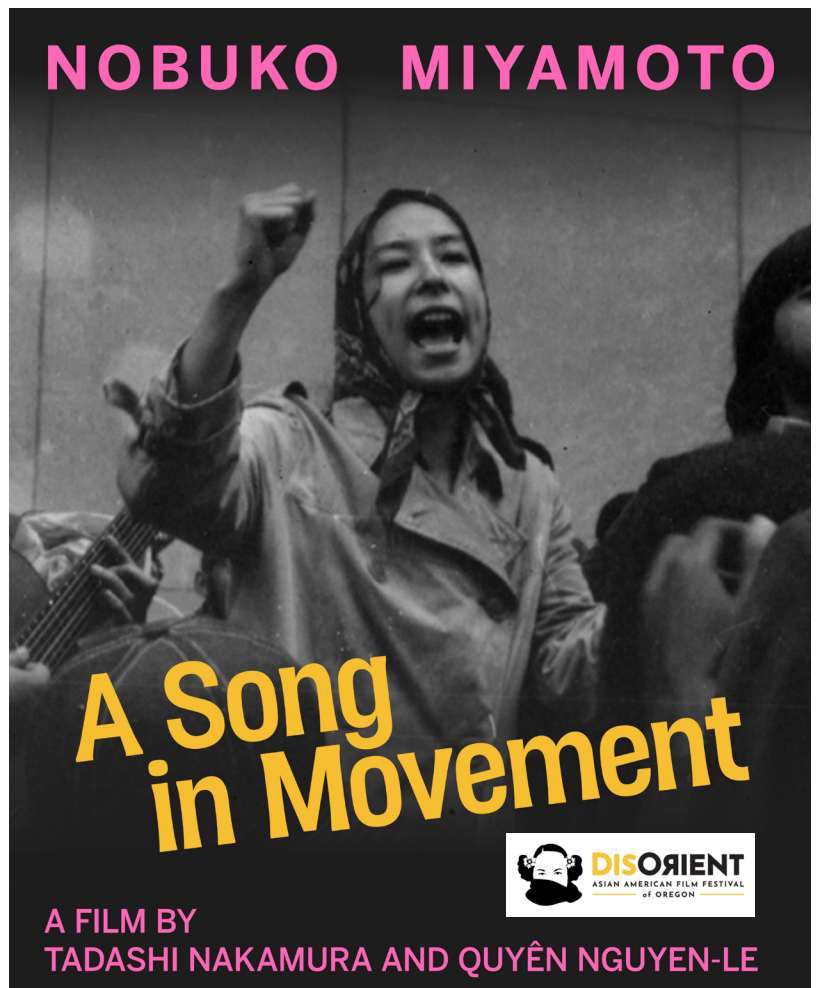
- Film Showing And Meet And Greet

Students

- Q And A With Nobuko Miyamoto, Musician Derek Nakamoto And Director Quyên Nguyen-Le

Eugene, Oregon

- DisOrient Film Festival Opening Night
- Film showing of Nobuko Miyamoto: A Song In Movement Directed by Quyên Nguyen-Le, and Co-Director Tadashi Nakamura
- Art House Theater Friday, March 7, 2025 6:00 PM PST
- Opening Night Performance Musical performance by Nobuko Miyamoto and Derek Nakamoto at the 20th Annual DisOrient Opening Night Reception at The Shedd Institute. Introduction of filmmakers in attendance. March 7th, 9 pm - 1



The Minidoka Swing Band Concert

The Minidoka Swing Band began in 2007 by Robbie Tsuboi, who wanted to create a youth band to teach her Jr. JACL group Unite People about the internment of Japanese Americans through the music of the World War 2 era. The band was led by former Cleveland High School band director Larry Nobori. Their goal was to attend and entertain at the Minidoka Camp Pilgrimage in July, 2008. The band has stayed active under the leadership of Larry Nobori and Laura Baxter, who began managing the band after the untimely passing of Robbie Tsuboi in 2010. During those years, the band traveled to Japan to perform in 2015, performed at the 2012 National JACL Conference in Seattle, played at the Northwest Buddhist Convention held in Portland in 2014, and toured Northern California in 2019. They have recorded two CD's and were featured on the front page of the Wall Street Journal in 2010.

Since 2012, the Minidoka Swing Band has practiced in the basement of Oregon Buddhist Temple. They have been very active playing around the Portland Metro area, and as far as Eugene to Hillsboro to Woodland, WA, to Gresham. They continue to entertain and educate the public about the Japanese American Internment of World War 2. Under the directorship of Al Kato, former Jesuit High School band

director, and management of Elaine and Todd Yuzuriha, the band continued to flourish in 2024. Sadly, Al passed away much too soon last September, after having played with the band as our soloing trumpet since 2016. This has been a tremendous blow to the band.

The Band has a full lineup of performances happening this year in 2025! One special performance that is open to the public will be on April 4th, 2025 in Hillsboro, OR. This is a ticketed event and will be held inside the beautiful Walter's Cultural Arts Center, 527 E Main St, Hillsboro, OR 97123, Friday evening from 7:30 to 9:30pm. This performance is supported by a City of Hillsboro Performance Series Grant and directly supports the Minidoka Swing Band with a portion of the proceeds benefiting The Immigrant Story. MSB will team up with Unite People, led by Dr. Connie Masuoka, to tell the story of WWII Japanese Americans who were taken from their homes and businesses on the West Coast in 1942 and interned behind barbed wire in assembly centers, 10 concentration camps, and military prisons. The band will tell this story through music and testimonials. Come support MSB and remember. For ticket information, please visit: <https://cityofhillsboro.ticketspice.com/minidoka-swing-band-2025>

Letter to the Editor

Day of Remembrance

February 19, 1942 a date that is seared into the heart of every Japanese American person who was forcibly relocated to the interior of the country because of military necessity. Military intelligence found no evidence of sabotage which was kept hidden from the American public and not disclosed until the 1980's.

This resulted in over 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry being forcibly removed from the west coast and incarcerated in isolated places like Manzanar, Heart Mountain and Minidoka.

If there's anything our community learned from the horrors of our WWII experience it's that we can't remain silent when we witness injustice inflicted upon our neighbors. Another

group of immigrants are being targeted and vilified. The current presidential administration has invoked the Alien Enemy Act of 1798, which was mentioned in the inaugural address, as a justification for arresting and incarcerating immigrants across the country.

The law permits the president to target these immigrants without a hearing and based only on their country of birth or citizenship. Although the law was enacted to prevent foreign espionage and sabotage in wartime, it can be — and has been — wielded against immigrants.

Now is the time to remember our history. Now is the time to show compassion. Now is the time to stand up for what is just. Never Again is Now!

Marleen Wallingford

MINORU YASUI DAY ■ 2025

Activists Inspiring Action
Igniting Justice



FREE EVENT

ONLINE OR IN PERSON
Saturday, April 5, 2025
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

 University of Oregon
NE Portland Campus
Campus Center, #212
2800 NE Liberty St
Portland, OR 97211



SCAN ME TO LEARN MORE



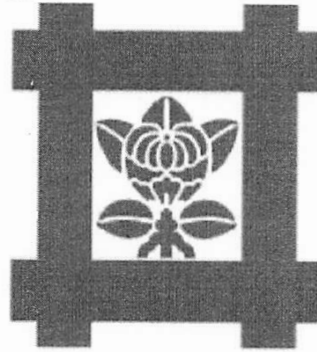
Save the date for our annual Minoru Yasui Day program!

In 2025, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of Minoru Yasui being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, posthumously, by President Barack Obama. We also celebrate the 2025 Minoru Yasui Student Contest winners and 10 organizations whose work advances civil rights, social justice, and democracy.

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 **University of Oregon School of Law**.

SAVE THE DATE
■ **APRIL 5, 2025**

NICHIREN BUDDHIST TEMPLE Spring Fundraiser



31st Annual Take-Out Bento
Sunday, March 16, 2025 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Pre-Order Form

of orders \$ amount

Special Bento \$20.00

Chow Mein, Chicken, Yasaimono

Chow Mein \$10.00

(Quantities are limited)

(Orders accepted in order received)

Total Amount (enclosed):

Please return this pre-order form with your check by **March 9, 2025**

Make checks payable to:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple

All proceeds benefit:
Portland Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2025 SE Yamhill Street
Portland, Oregon 97214
503-235-8292

Rev. Ikenaga: 971-413-0398

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Delicious **BAKED GOODS** for Sale

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Your order will be ready for you at the "Will-Call" line



Iko no Kai - MARCH 2025

1333 SE 28th Ave / 503-238-0775

MON	TUES		THURS	FRI
3 Karaage Fried Chicken 鶏の唐揚げ <i>【Hinamatsuri Day】</i> 12:30pm Mahjong	4 Singapore Noodles w/ Shrimp シンガポール風 海老ビーフン 12:45pm Sing-along	5 X	6 Tofu in Lobster Sauce お豆腐の ロブスター餡かけ 11am Haiku	7 Tonkatsu とんかつ 10-11:30am Shigin 11:30am Taichi
10 Shumai 焼売 12:30pm Mahjong	11 Chicken in Miso Ginger Sauce 味噌生姜チキン 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	12 X	13 Yosenabe Japanese Hot Pot 寄せ鍋 10:30am Ukulele 11am Blood Pressure	14 Chinese BBQ Pork w/ Bao Bun チャーシュー (割包付き) 10-11:30am Shigin 12:30pm Bingo
17 Corned Beef コンビーフ <i>【St. Patrick's Day】</i> 12:30pm Mahjong	18 Mapo Tofu 麻婆豆腐 11:30 Senior Care Info Pres. 12:45pm Sing-along	19 X	20 Shrimp Katsu 海老カツ 11am Haiku	21 Birthday Sushi お誕生日寿司 *Reservations required (suggested donation \$12) 10-11:30am Shigin
24 Croquette w/ Meat & Potato コロッケ 12:30pm Mahjong	25 Japanese Hamburg Steak ハンバーグ 11am Blood Pressure 12:45pm Sing-along	26 X	27 Steamed Salmon 鮭の蒸し煮 11am Blood Pressure 10:30am Ukulele	28 Chicken Adobo アドボチキン 10-11:30am Shigin
31 Seafood Stew 海鮮シチュー 11:30am Taichi 12:30pm Mahjong				

Chefs: Naomi Molstrom-M Kyoko Adcock-Tu Justin Sato/ Andrea Hoyt -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



PORTLAND JA CL
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PORTLAND, OR 97286

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Prefecture Culture Club Meeting!



When: 12-2PM Saturday, March 15th

Where: Epworth United Methodist Church, 1333 SE
28th Ave, Portland, OR 97214

This month, we are focusing on learning about the culture and food of Hiroshima Prefecture (広島県)! An RSVP is required to participate. If interested, please email jaclpdxyt@gmail.com by Monday, March 10th.