



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

BEYOND LEGACY

Celebrating 25 Years of
Oregon Nikkei Endowment

FALL/WINTER 2014 | VOLUME 15
ISSUE 2
SEMIANNUAL

Lively music from the Minidoka Swing Band set the tone for Oregon Nikkei Endowment's joyful 25th Anniversary Celebration that was held on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The evening honored interviewees of the Minidoka Oral History Project and Oregon Nikkei Endowment's Visual History Collection with the Paving the Way Award. Alton Chung entertained all and kept the evening lively as the Master of Ceremonies. Attendees were moved by a film clip from *Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain* and the keynote address by its Emmy-award winning producer David Ono who, when not making critically acclaimed documentaries, is a news anchor for ABC7 in Los Angeles.

It was a memorable evening with 170 supporters of O.N.E. on hand to celebrate. Everyone gave generously to the Dessert Dash, Paddle Raise, Silent Auction and Wine Pull. We wish to express our deep gratitude to our guests, donors and the following sponsors for their tremendous support:

The Boeing Company
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Grand Ronde
Micki Naito
Pekins Coie LLP and
Darren Nakata
Homer and Miyuki Yasui



A MESSAGE FROM O.N.E.'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A REFLECTION



We've had a tremendous year celebrating our 25th Anniversary! Looking back to reflect on how we've grown and what we've

accomplished makes us only realize how much more we have to do and how many opportunities are still out there to share our work and mission.

As part of our mission to preserve, honor and share the history of the Japanese Americans in the Pacific Northwest, we have been advocating for preserving the integrity of the neighborhood here in Old Town and the New Chinatown/ Japantown National Historic District. The large and vibrant *Nihonmachi* (Japantown) that existed before WWII, disappeared instantly in 1942 with Executive Order 9066 and the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans—sadly it never returned to what it once was.

As the City of Portland focuses on development for the next 20 years (*2035 Comprehensive Plan*), we want to ensure that the character of the neighborhood where many of Portland's immigrant communities got their start, is respected and highlighted through thoughtful revitalization of the area as a premier cultural and historic

district that our city can be proud of. **To that effort, we have joined with the Portland Chinatown History and Museum Foundation to create the Old Town Heritage Group.** Together we are committed to the preservation of the historical significance and economic and cultural transformation of the district. Our group envisions a multicultural, mixed-use development with museums, meeting and community space. Stay tuned as we explore the exciting future for O.N.E. and the neighborhood!

As we speak to the significance of this history, we'd like to pay homage at the closing of one of the local Japanese community's greatest and oldest institutions, Anzen. The store, which recently closed its doors after 109 years of business, first opened in 1905 on the corner of NW 3rd and Davis as the Teikoku Company. Not only was this located in the heart of Japantown, but the store and Matsushima family were at the heart of the Japanese community for over a century and we wish to thank them for how they served so many, in so many ways.

Before we bring our 25th anniversary year to a close, we still have a few exciting events to look forward to. Don't miss our *Omiyage* Pop-Up Shop (November 13–December 24) where you can shop to find something for everyone, including yourself! Located at 11 NW 5th Avenue, *Omiyage* offers an array of Asian inspired gifts and crafts created by local artisans, designers and authors.

On Sunday, November 30th at 2:00pm at the Hollywood Theatre, we will be presenting a traditional Japanese arts program with the Portland premiere of the documentary *Hidden Legacy* along with performances by master koto player Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto-Wong and the Sahomi Tachibana Dancers. And on December 13th, the new exhibit *Before Memories Fade: Uncovering the Story of the Kida Family of White Salmon* opens at the Legacy Center. Exciting details about these events can be found in related articles in this newsletter.

Looking forward into 2015, our programs and exhibits will draw inspiration from the 70th Anniversary of the end of WWII. Soldiers came home from war, camps closed and people returned home to rebuild their lives or find new homes to start over. Their stories of courage, fortitude and resiliency continue to inspire our mission and are the cornerstone for educational efforts to teach respect for diversity and the multicultural society we live in.

In closing, we wish to extend our heartfelt thanks for your tremendous support throughout the year and from all of us at O.N.E., we wish you a joyful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

—Lynn Fuchigami Longfellow

A crowd gathered at Mt. Hood last month for a day of matsutake hunting. The basket contents confirms success!



HIDDEN LEGACY: JAPANESE TRADITIONAL ARTS IN THE WORLD WAR II INTERNMENT CAMPS

2:00pm, Sunday, November 30 | Hollywood Theatre | 4122 NE Sandy Blvd, Portland
\$22 (general admission) | \$18 (seniors and students) | \$15 (*Friends of O.N.E.*)

Oregon Nikkei Endowment is proud to present the Pacific Northwest debut of *Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Arts in the World War II Internment Camps* at the historic Hollywood Theatre. This new, critically acclaimed documentary film is the first ever major presentation of traditional music, dance, and drama in the WW II internment camps. Through historical footage and interviews with the artists, *Hidden Legacy* tells the story of how the cultural arts were maintained by the remarkable teachers during their internment.

This special, one-time-only event will include a short musical concert led by master koto player Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto-Wong from Oakland, California, along with Japanese classical and folk dance performances by the Portland-based Sahomi Tachibana Dancers. Following the screening and performances, attendees will have an opportunity to be part of a panel discussion with *Hidden Legacy* Creative Director and Executive Producer Muramoto-Wong and Sahomi Tachibana who is featured in the film.

Come help us honor the legacy of our arts and cultural heroes and celebrate the amazing career of Sahomi Tachibana who turned 90 years old this year! Tickets may be purchased online or through the box office at the Hollywood Theatre.

This event is co-sponsored by Productions by Hirahara.



Creative director and executive producer of *Hidden Legacy* and master koto player Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto-Wong.

Photograph Courtesy of Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto-Wong



Sahomi Tachibana Dancers at Oregon Buddhist Temple dance recital, June 2014.

Photograph Courtesy of Sahomi Tachibana



Sahomi Tachibana and students onstage at Tule Lake internment camp, 1943. Stage backdrop of Castle Rock and Mt. Shasta painted by Enjiro Kodani.

Photograph Courtesy of Sahomi Tachibana

Sahomi Tachibana and her students at Topaz internment camp, 1944.

Photograph Courtesy of Sahomi Tachibana



UPCOMING EVENT

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS

MARCH 1, 2014 TO
OCTOBER 15, 2014

In memory of Alan Kasubuchi

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& Seitaro Shimojima
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In memory of George Katagiri

Michiko Kornhauser

In honor of Connie Masuoka receiving the Gladys McCoy Award

Albert Abe
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In honor of Harue Ninomiya's 95th birthday

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In honor of Nobi Masuoka

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In honor of the wedding of Sam & Marsha Naito

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In honor of 25th anniversary of Oregon Nikkei Endowment

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In honor of Jane Sugihara's 92nd birthday, Taka Mizote, & Aya Fujii

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In honor of Michiko Kornhauser

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In honor of Loen Dozono

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and kids meeting on the corner to play the games kids do growing up in any neighborhood.

A walk through the beautiful stones and emotionally moving words of the Japanese American Historical Plaza engages visitors in conversations about civil rights, Japanese history and culture, along with the importance of public art in our community. Engaging the community is also a part of the education mission. Our speakers participate in conversations about civil rights with local lawyers, civic groups, universities and retired teacher organizations, just to name a few. Education students from University of Portland and Concordia University, along with their professors, work collaboratively with O.N.E. on many projects that enhance our exhibits.

When new exhibits open, education is a partner in helping to shape the experience of visitors both young and old so that visitors leave wanting to return again to learn even more.

You may not always see it happening, but education is alive and thriving at Oregon Nikkei Endowment.

—Kim Blair

Seth Auerbach, Concordia University student, working on a group project that enhances the exhibits at Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.



EDUCATION NEWS

Oregon Nikkei Endowment continues to be a strong supporter of education for all. This support is reflected in the O.N.E. Education Mission Statement, "To inspire discovery, dialogue, critical thinking and an appreciation of Japanese American history, while fostering an understanding of civil rights and a multicultural society through the study of historical primary sources and traditional and contemporary Japanese American cultural practices."

Dialogue and discovery are experienced by students and teachers each time one of our dedicated volunteer speakers or docents visit a school or lead a

tour through the O.N.E. Legacy Center. For many, this may be the first time that they've heard about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Questions around fairness and "can this happen again," frequently surface leading to critical thinking opportunities and deeper conversations.

For others, there is excitement when discovering a part of Portland's history that they never knew existed when they learn about Nihonmachi, or Japantown. Docents are able to paint a picture for visitors of a once thriving neighborhood with businesses, restaurants, schools,

EXHIBITS

What an exciting year this has been celebrating Oregon Nikkei Endowment's 25th anniversary! We've been thrilled to bring critically acclaimed exhibits to the Legacy Center such as *Capturing a Generation through the Eye of a Lens* and *Art Behind Barbed Wire*. Through the irreplaceable photographs and family treasures on display, we continue a legacy of sharing the history and culture of Japanese Americans in the Pacific Northwest with an ever growing audience.

At the same time, we've been able to develop and deepen our relationships with such wonderful people as the Hirahara family of Anaheim, California, and the staff and volunteers of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington. Through the power of community-based exhibit making, countless Nisei have helped us document and preserve their stories, while lenders throughout Portland and the Puget Sound have welcomed us into their homes and hearts.

Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated volunteers and interns, news about our exhibits and associated programs have gone out across the radio waves of Oregon Public Broadcasting and have been featured within the pages of magazines, newspapers, and newsletters up and down the West Coast. Ever since the doors of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center first opened, we honor the great opportunity given to us to educate the public about the Japanese American experience during World War II, and to

advocate for the protection of civil rights for all Americans.

Our next exhibit which will open at the Legacy Center on December 13th is called *Before Memories Fade: Uncovering the Story of the Kida Family of White Salmon*.

Both heartbreaking and inspirational, *Before Memories Fade* gives voice to a family's story that was at risk of being lost forever. Using family letters and community recollections, our all-volunteer exhibit committee has been able to walk in the footsteps of the Kidas tracing their journey from White Salmon to their incarceration at the Portland Assembly Center, from their volunteering to harvest sugar beets in the fields of Eastern Oregon and to their eventual return back home.

This hands-on, multimedia exhibit will analyze photographs, oral histories, newspaper articles, and other primary resources. As history detectives, our audience of youth and adults alike will be encouraged to discover history for themselves! Visitors will be able to watch videos and view photos of our exhibit committee visiting historic sites, interviewing friends and neighbors of the Kidas, and uncovering clues that tells us more about not just one Japanese American family but the Nikkei experience itself. This exhibition is made possible in part through a grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission and the ongoing support of *Friends of O.N.E.*

—Todd Mayberry



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. The all-volunteer exhibit committee meets at the Legacy Center to develop themes and big ideas around our upcoming *Before Memories Fade* exhibit.

2. Some members of the exhibit committee pose at the former site of the Kida's ranch outside of White Salmon, WA. We were thrilled to find a country road named in honor of them!

3. A big part of our process has been visiting with friends and neighbors to hear memories around and share stories about the Kida family.

4. Family and friends joined us at the historic site of the Nyssa tent camp where, in the summer and fall of 1942, the Kidas lived as they labored in the sugar beet fields of Eastern Oregon.

All Photographs Courtesy of Rich Iwasaki.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS MARCH 1, 2014 TO OCTOBER 15, 2014

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OMIYAGE POP-UP SHOP

SHOP AND SUPPORT O.N.E.
AT OUR HOLIDAY POP-UP
SHOP—OMIYAGE!

November 13th-December 24th

Oregon Nikkei Endowment is excited to have been selected to participate in the Portland Business Alliance and Portland Development Commission's PDX Pop-Up shop project. The project turns Portland's vacant retail space into temporary shops that showcase local talent and encourage downtown shoppers to seek out unique gift offerings during the holiday season.

Come celebrate the tradition of gift giving and choose from Asian inspired gifts and crafts created by local artisans, designers and authors. Omiyage will feature jewelry, fashion and home accessories, cards, origami ornaments, art objects, Anime inspired merchandise, books by local authors and a selection of curated vintage items.

Conveniently located on the MAX light rail and bus transit mall at 11 NW 5th Avenue, Omiyage will share space with two emerging retail entrepreneurs. Draplin Design/Field Notes offers an array of merchandise including coin purses, key chains, writing utensils, hats, t-shirts and a spirited memo book line. North Street Bags will showcase simple, sleek, waterproof convertible backpack/panniers and travel packs for the urban and touring cyclist as well as a curated selection of bicycle-related gifts and accessories.

Proceeds from Omiyage sales will support our local vendors and our programs, exhibits and the mission of Oregon Nikkei Endowment. Hope to see you there!

Hours: 11am–7pm Tuesday–Saturday
Noon–5pm Sunday, closed Monday

Oregon College of Oriental Medicine
Oregon Culinary Institute
Oregon Historical Society
Erin Palmer, The Wine Cellar
Portland Pedicabs
Portland Saturday Market
Tom Richards, The Faux Museum
River's Edge Spa
Curtis Suyematsu,
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Raynette Yoshida, Mario's

Note: We make every effort to keep accurate records. Please help us correct any errors by calling 503.224.1458.

With the closing of the doors of Anzen Hiroshi's, we worked closely with Hiroshi and Janie Matsushima to make sure the stories around this true community treasure are preserved forever. Many irreplaceable artifacts related to the rich history of Portland's oldest grocery and gift shop, including this design proposal by the Oregon Sign & Neon Company from 1968, have been added to our permanent collection at the Legacy Center.

*Gift of Hiroshi and
Janie Matsushima*



COLLECTIONS UP CLOSE

A DIGITAL PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

I was first introduced to Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the critical mission it serves while I was conducting research for my undergraduate thesis *Japanese in Salem: The History of the Nikkei Community in Marion County*, a copy of which I'm proud to say is available in the Legacy Center's research library.

Through an Oregon Heritage Commission museum grant, O.N.E. was able to temporarily fund a part-time collections specialist position to catalog, digitize, and re-house five significant commu-

I clearly recognize that the community collections I'm working with speak to the Japanese American experience in the Pacific Northwest and provide new insight into Nikkei history.

- **The Frank C. Hirahara Collection** documents the Nikkei community in Portland between 1948 and 1954. This collection was used to create *Capturing a Generation through the Eye of a Lens: The Photographs of Frank C. Hirahara, 1948–54* that was on exhibit last winter at the Legacy Center.

- **The Shiuko Sakai Collection** is filled with photographs and artwork made during her time at Minidoka and in post-war Japan while she worked overseas. Some of this collection has been exhib-

ited as part of last year's exhibit *Our Humble Heroes* and is currently on display as part of *Art Behind Barbed Wire*.

- **The Kida Family Collection** tells the story of a single Nikkei family's experience in the Pacific Northwest. This collection is the inspiration for our next exhibit *Before Memories Fade* opening on December 13th.

- **The George and Yoneko Hara Collection** consist of priceless photographs for Portland's pre-war Nihonmachi which we were fortunate to have been able to work with George Hara to initially begin cataloging.

- **The Linda Tamura Collection** includes the oral histories that she conducted between 1986 and 2006 for her two seminal books *The Hood River Issei and Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence: Coming Home to Hood River*.

Along with the Japanese American National Museum and three other Japanese American organizations, we have partnered with Densho to make our community collections available online to the public through a new digital archive.

I'm excited to help preserve these collections and allow for their future study, research, and exhibiting. I'm inspired by the amazing individuals and families that donated these irreplaceable materials to the permanent collections of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Every time I scan a photo, letter, or document, I know that I'm contributing to saving irreplaceable Nikkei stories that might have been at risk of having been lost forever.

—Micah Merryman



nity collections. Having first started as a volunteer last year, I'm excited to step into this position at the Legacy Center. I'm deeply honored to be able to help preserve and share the important stories these materials tell.

Micah Merryman undergoing Densho Digital Repository training with Densho's Photo & Document Collection Manager Caitlin Oiye.



3RD ANNUAL STRAWBERRY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The sun was beaming down again on our golfers at this year's Strawberry Golf Tournament held at Langdon Farms Golf Club on Friday, May 30, 2014. Although no one had a hole-in-one to win the Honda Pilot provided by tournament sponsor **Dick's Auto Group**, players enjoyed fun games, tasty treats and great raffle prizes!

We would like to express our deep appreciation to our tournament sponsors:

Dick's Auto Group
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Special thanks to Deloitte for providing golf balls for all our golfers and thank you to our volunteers that worked so hard to make the event a wonderful success!



Osechi Ryori

Japanese New Year's Food



Order at www.oregonnikkei.org
or return this form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ boxes at \$130 each

_____ boxes at \$100 each (provide your own jubako)

Check: Make payable to Oregon Nikkei Endowment

Credit card: ☐ MC ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Credit Card # _____

Expiration date _____ Security code _____

Signature _____

Today's date _____

Support the Oregon Nikkei Endowment and enjoy traditional Japanese New Year's foods (osechi ryori) prepared by Nikkei community cooks, displayed in a three-tiered lacquer box (jubako). Drop off your jubako marked with your name at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland by Friday, December 12.

The traditional foods will include: nishime, kimpira gozo, kazunoko, makizushi, sekiban, and more...

Cost: \$130.00 include the jubako box and foods
OR \$100.00 if you provide your own jubako box.
(\$60 is tax deductible).

DEADLINE to order: Friday, December 12, 2014

For more information: 503-224-1458 or
info@oregonnikkei.org

Mail order form to: Oregon Nikkei Endowment,
121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97209

Or order online: www.oregonnikkei.org

ORDER PICK-UP: available on Wednesday,
December 31, 2014, from 2:30-3:30 PM, at the
Oregon Buddhist Temple (3720 SE 34th Ave,
Portland)

Jubako box style
and food content
may vary



IN SUPPORT OF
OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON LILY KAJIWARA AND SHIUKO SAKAI

We are always happy to see both of you on Fridays volunteering at O.N.E. What inspired each of you to become involved?

Lily—When the Legacy Center was being put together, Massie Hinatsu called to say many people were donating books and they needed to be organized. This was the beginning of a wonderful 20 years with the library at O.N.E.

Shiuko—While living in Virginia, I volunteered at the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. When I moved to Portland I wanted to get involved with something more than gardening. I heard about O.N.E. and came to a meeting and signed up initially as a docent. Since there was a backlog of material for research files and my interest was in research, I volunteered to come in on Fridays and work with the research files.

Tell us a little bit about yourselves.

Lily—I grew up in Corbett, Oregon and spent 3 years at Minidoka. I met my husband George while living in New York City. I worked for many years at the Portland State University library. I am third generation with my grandfather coming to Portland in 1899. My mother was born here in 1905.

Shiuko—I was born in Seattle, Washington. Because of the outbreak of World War II and Executive Order 9066, I did not have a graduation from high school. Instead, I was mailed my graduation certificate. I went to the Puyallup Assembly Center and Minidoka. From there I relocated to New York City then went to Japan with the Occupation Forces. Upon returning to the U.S., I worked in the Pentagon.

What has been a highlight about your involvement with O.N.E.?

Lily—Meeting many dedicated staff and volunteers interested in telling the Japanese American story and history. This is a unique museum for the community

which was lost in internment.

Shiuko—Working with the material for the research files has really broadened my knowledge about the lives of the Japanese Americans living in Portland and the unfriendly atmosphere which surrounded them. I also enjoy meeting many Japanese Americans from this area. The staff at the Legacy Center is great and I really appreciate their friendship.

How would you encourage others to become involved with O.N.E. and other organizations? What advice would you give others that are thinking about volunteering?

Lily—Volunteering has added a new dimension to my life. Doing things to help the community is very enjoyable. Meeting people with common interests and finding and participating in activities which were not possible during the working years. Volunteering at the Legacy Center has been important to not only myself, but to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment. Without volunteers, many organizations wouldn't be able to continue their work.



Lily Kajiwara and Shiuko Sakai outside Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center before another day of volunteering.

Shiuko—This is a great organization. It's a great place to meet people and it's more interesting than gardening.

WELCOME TO NEW AND RENEWING FRIENDS OF OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

March 1, 2014 to October 15, 2014

All Friends of O.N.E. receive free admission to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center all year long, a 10% discount on gift shop purchases, a subscription to the newsletter, and special invitations to event openings and programs. There is sure to be a category just right for you! *For more details call 503.224.1458*

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YES, I WANT TO JOIN!

My support will help ensure that the history, art and culture of the Nikkei are preserved and shared with the community for generations to come.

Have you considered putting Oregon Nikkei Endowment into your will?

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MISSION

The mission of Oregon Nikkei Endowment is to preserve and honor the history and culture of the Japanese Americans in the Northwest, to educate the public about the Japanese American experience during World War II, and to advocate for the protection of civil rights for all.

The Oregon Nikkei Endowment newsletter is published to inform the Japanese American community, its friends, supporters, and the general public of its ongoing work in promoting an appreciation of the culture and historic legacy passed on to us by our immigrant forebears.

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On April 13, Oregon Nikkei Endowment rolled the lanes at the Hollywood Bowl one last time before this beloved Portland landmark, once the hangout of the Nisei Bowling League, closed its doors for good.

Photograph Courtesy of Rich Iwasaki

