On a beautiful afternoon on Sunday, August 2nd, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment was proud to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its Japanese American Historical Plaza and Bill of Rights Memorial in Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Since 1990, the Plaza has stood as a permanent memorial to the lives of Oregon Nikkei and their determined pursuit of liberty, equality, and justice as American citizens.

At this landmark event, O.N.E. was able to honor all those who were instrumental in creating and maintaining the Japanese American Historical Plaza. Over 300 attendees were on hand to hear keynote speaker, actor, and activist George Takei, draw from his family’s experience of being incarcerated. The Master of Ceremonies was local KOIN 6 News Anchor Ken Boddie and music was provided by the Minidoka Swing Band.

After an invocation made by Imam Muhammad Najieb, other guest speakers included Wajdi Said of the Muslim Educational Trust, U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams, Sho Dozono, and Anne Naito-Campbell. Portland Commissioner Nick Fish presented a city proclamation recognizing the anniversary of the Plaza while Former Portland Mayor Bud Clark provided moving reflections.

Following the event, almost 300 guests joined us on a celebratory cruise down the Willamette River on the Portland Spirit. With George Takai onboard, we all danced the evening away with music provided by Thomas Lauderdale of Pink Martini.

A special thanks goes out to all those that have made this celebration possible, including our sponsors: The Boeing Company, Holst Architecture, Portland JACL/Unite People, Portland Japanese Garden, Saito Family, Nathan Sasaki/Apex Real Estate Partners, Perkins Coie, The Benson Hotel, and Uwajimaya. Thanks to those that hosted a community table and all of our individual donors.
On Saturday, October 17th, we held another wonderful Family Day at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Kids and the young-at-heart were able to join in the fun as Lori Tsugawa Whaley performed Japanese folk tales with puppets. For the older crowd that day, Lori shared insights from her latest inspirational and historical book *The Courage of a Samurai: Seven Sword-Sharp Principle for Success*.

Be sure to join us for our next Family Day at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center on Sunday, January 10, 2016. The day will feature poet and author Lawrence “Larry” Matsuda reading from his latest works which includes the cool graphic novel *Fighting for America: Nisei Soldiers*. 

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**Gambatte!**

Do your best…stick with it…try harder…persevere…triumph over adversity.

Someone who embodied this spirit most was Minoru (Min) Yasui who has been selected by President Obama to receive a posthumous 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the nation. In 1942, Min violated racially discriminatory military orders to initiate a test case of the constitutionality of the curfew imposed upon Americans of Japanese ancestry that led to their forced removal from the West Coast and unjust incarceration during WWII. He continued to dedicate his life to defending civil and human rights for all people. Oregon Nikkei Endowment has been proud and honored to serve as the fiscal sponsor for the committee and Minoru Yasui Tribute Project that worked tirelessly for his nomination and is planning a series of exciting events in 2016 to honor Min and his legacy.

Our current exhibit, *Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit* is photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr.’s visual exploration of this Japanese concept and enables the viewer to discover the ways in which generations of Japanese Americans persevered through their incarceration during WWII.

This spirit of *gambatte* inspires us every day and energizes us throughout the year as we realize our mission is more relevant today than ever before. We share the past to ensure the future and as you enjoy the photos and articles in this newsletter, know that dedicated staff, amazing volunteers and you, our devoted supporters, made it all happen and we owe everyone a debt of gratitude.

Someone who inspired and energized us every week was Lily Kajiwara. We are deeply saddened by her recent passing, but continue with *gambatte* in honor of her enduring spirit. Starting with a large collection of donated books, Lily established our library at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, creating its own catalogue system and came in every Friday to maintain it with another one of our most treasured volunteers, Shiuko Sakai. Our newsletter featured them in our Volunteer Spotlight, and Lily received the Heart of the Community Award at our 2013 Annual Banquet. We will be forever grateful to her—she was a dear member of our team, cherished friend, mentor, and teacher and will be missed beyond words.

And speaking of our team, we are thrilled to welcome Cynthia Basye as the new Education Manager. Cynthia served on our Board of Directors and was a member of our Teachers Advisory Council. Many of you will recognize her as she has volunteered for several of our events and fundraisers. She currently serves on the Board of the Oregon Council for the Social Studies and her knowledge and experience will surely enhance our educational offerings.

Finally and most important, we wish to express our deep appreciation to those listed on our volunteer and donors page. Please never underestimate the power and importance of your giving, whether in time, in-kind or financially. We would not be able to keep the doors open to the Legacy Center nor present the exhibits, programs and events we do without your support.

In closing, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season & a healthy and blessed New Year!

—Lynn Fuchigami Longfellow
At this year’s annual banquet, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment celebrated 25 years of the Japanese American Historical Plaza and honored all those who helped us reach this important milestone. This joyful event was held at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower on Saturday, July 18th.

With Jeff Selby as Master of Ceremonies, the highlight of this lively evening included special remarks by our esteemed Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa, Azumano International Inc. President Sho Dozono, and retired Oregon Supreme Court Associate Justice W. Michael Gillette.

Entertainment included a sneak preview of Grateful Crane Ensemble’s musical production of Nihonmachi: The Place to Be.

The night was made even more memorable by recognizing Yoshio and Sawako Oda with our Heart of the Community Award and honoring Jean Matsumoto with our Paving the Way Award.

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 sponsors, Nobuko Masuoka and Delta Air Lines, for their tremendous support.

Cynthia Basye joined the Oregon Nikkei Endowment staff in October. Cynthia’s teaching career began in Albuquerque, NM. She taught in early childhood centers, kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms, and finally in teacher education programs at the University of New Mexico (UNM). While working at UNM, she was invited to join the New Mexico team of the Japanese American National Museum’s Enduring Communities Project. The team developed curriculum about the Japanese American experience in New Mexico during World War II. After moving to Oregon in 2007, Cynthia came to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center archives to learn more about the Issei men who were interned at the Department of Justice Camp in Santa Fe, NM. She eventually began volunteering at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, helping with activities and working with student groups. In the spring of 2015 she joined the O.N.E. board. She is excited to now be a part of the staff.

As Education Manager, Cynthia is looking forward to working with students, teachers, and the O.N.E. staff and volunteers. She is committed to helping students make connections and learn a fuller history of Portland and the Northwest. She continues to appreciate the multiple ways in which the Oregon Nikkei Endowment addresses its mission. The history and culture of Japanese Americans are preserved and honored, and a bridge is built to advocacy and protection of civil rights for all Americans.
Continuing an exciting year, this fall has brought an all-new traveling exhibit from the San Francisco Bay Area featuring historic images taken in 1942 by War Relocation Authority staff photographers including Dorothea Lange juxtaposed with contemporary images by artist and photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr. Spanning seven decades, Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit chronicles multi-generations of Japanese Americans united by the defining experience of their incarceration during World War II. A visual exploration of the Japanese concept of gambatte, together these past and present images add light to a dark chapter of U.S. history and speak with the authenticity of a life lived.

Be sure to visit the Legacy Center before Gambatte! closes on January 17, 2016. And mark your calendars for our next blockbuster, the nationally traveling exhibit Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps during World War II which will be on view from February 11 through June 19, 2016.

—Todd Mayberry
Join us for a free and open to the public presentation at the Oregon Buddhist Temple. Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center volunteers Taylor Ishida and Weston Nakamura-Koyama will share the moving stories they uncovered from correspondence written by and sent to two Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II. Come trace one young girl’s journey from the Portland Assembly Center to Minidoka through stirring letters written to classmates back home at Portland’s Parkrose High School. Hear how, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, an innocent dentist in Portland’s Japantown was arrested by the FBI and transferred to various Department of Justice prisons across the United States.

Learn about the extraordinary significance these letters hold. Discover how artifacts can give voice to family heartbreak and loss, speak to the power of friendships, and inspire a new generation to carry them on.

NIHONMACHI: THE PLACE TO BE
Premieres in Portland!

On November 9th, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment was proud to present the Grateful Crane Ensemble’s musical production of Nihonmachi: The Place to Be. Having first debuted in Los Angeles, the play made its Portland premiere at the Portland Center Stage’s Gerding Theater at the Armory.

Through the use of nostalgic and classical songs, the play focuses on a family and their Japantown mochi (Japanese sweet cake) shop through three generations of trials and triumphs. An additional special matinee performance for school groups, including free tickets for underserved youth, introduced this history to our younger generation.

Collections Up Close: Letters from Beyond the Fence
Sunday, December 6, 3:30–5:00 PM
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue, Portland, OR 97202

This program is presented in partnership with the Oregon Buddhist Archives and Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all those that made the event possible including the following sponsors:
Portland JACL
Sam Naito
Alice E. Sumida
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Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland
PGE Foundation
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Delta Airlines
& many others!

Additional support was provided, in part, by the Regional Arts & Culture Council and the Oregon Cultural Trust.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS  MAY 16, 2015 TO OCTOBER 31, 2015

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Judy Elliott  
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Brandon Higa  
Sally Hinaatsu  
Julie Hirai  
Dr. Toshio Inahara  
Nobuo & Takako Ishida  
Shouki & Grace Ishikawa  
Rich Iwasaki  

TIMOTHY WILSON & CHRISTI IWASAKI  
JOHN KODACHI, KODACHI LAW  
SHEIKI & SHUKO KOMMA  
Yoshio Kuroki  
Wanda Manning  
Lisa Minikami & Matthew Kerflesz  
Steven Murota  
Peggy Nagae  
Neil Nakadate  
Frank Nakata  
Patty Namba  
Richard Nishimoto  
Yoshio O'Brien, Shokokai of Portland  
Janice Okamoto  
David & Sylvia Otani  
Valerie Otsu  
Frances Sumida Pal  
Peter Pope  
Carolyn Saiget  
Stephanie Sakaye  
Dorothy Sato  
Martha Schechel  
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Note: We make every effort to keep accurate records. Please help us correct any errors by calling 503.224.1458.
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.

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The traditional foods will include: nishime, kimpira gobo, kazunoko, makizushi, sekihan, and more…

COST:
$130 include the jubako box & foods
Or $100 if you provide your own jubako box. ($60 is tax deductible)

DEADLINE TO ORDER:
Friday, December 18, 2015

MORE INFORMATION:
503-224-1458 or info@oregonnikkei.org

MAIL FORM TO:
Oregon Nikkei Endowment, 121 NW 2nd Avenue, Portland, OR 97209

OR ORDER ONLINE:
www.oregonnikkei.org

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ORDER PICK-UP:
Thursday, December 31, 2015, from 2:30 to 3:30 PM, at the Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Ave, Portland

Omiyage returns!

Shop and support Oregon Nikkei Endowment at our holiday pop-up shop, Omiyage, from November 10th to December 24th.

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

Celebrate the tradition of gift giving and choose from Asian inspired gifts and crafts created by local artisan, designers and authors. Omiyage will feature unique jewelry, fashion and home accessories, cards, origami ornaments, art objects, Anime inspired merchandise, books by local authors and a selection of curated vintage items from our Cherry Blossom Bazaar.

This year’s store is conveniently located on the MAX light rail and bus transit mall at 341 NW 5th Avenue. Proceeds from Omiyage sales will support local vendors and our programs, exhibits and the mission of Oregon Nikkei Endowment. Hope to see you there!

Hours: 11:00am-6pm Wednesday-Friday
Noon-5:00pm Saturday and Sunday
and my son Randy met in college and they agreed to raise their son to be fluent in both languages. Well, the last time he was here I thought I would test him by introducing him to my neighbor, Fude Kagawa. She thought his Japanese was excellent. Then she said, “You know, when I was your age I was interned.” Coby thought that was great – so young and already a job as an “intern.” It was at this point that Fude explained the grim reality of Minidoka and the conversation became serious.

That was a turning point for me. Fude suggested that I visit the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and discover the history of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II. I took her advice and found a rich resource. I met Todd Mayberry, the director of collections and exhibits, and explained that I was a retired professor interested in doing research on the teachers who taught at Hunt High School. Perhaps I could write something that would explain the Minidoka concentration camp to kids like Coby so that they would understand what it was like to attend school behind barbed wire.

With the help of the ONLC staff and volunteers, I have found two teachers who made a big difference at Hunt High School. Both of them are now deceased, but I hope to tell their unique story. At ONLC, I met Shiuko Sakai who actually worked with one of the teachers I’m researching. She gave me valuable information for follow-up phone interviews with faculty children who lived and went to school in the camp. The story of the teachers who came and taught democracy behind barbed wire should be remembered and passed on to future generations.

Dr. Eugene H. Freund is a retired professor emeritus from the University of Nebraska Omaha’s Department of Education Sociology/Anthropology. Over the past couple of months, Dr. Freund, or “Gene” as he asks us to call him, has been conducting extensive research utilizing the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center library and archives. We asked to Gene to share a little bit about his work and what brought him to the Legacy Center.

To fourteen-year-old Coby Freund of West Des Moines, Iowa, I am just Grandpa Gene and he thinks I’m “awesome!” Part of his pride in me is that for years we have been travel buddies, exploring this country while riding Amtrak. My youngest grandchild and I have traveled thousands of miles together on the California Zephyr and the Coast Starlight. We have seen the Rockies, the Columbia River Gorge, and Glacier National Park while eating lunch in the dining car. But his favorite destination is visiting me in Portland Oregon.

My grandson is half Japanese. His mom Emiko, who is from Japan, and my son Randy met in college and they agreed to raise their son to be fluent in both languages. Well, the last time he was here I thought I would test him by introducing him to my neighbor, Fude Kagawa. She thought his Japanese was excellent. Then she said, “You know, when I was your age I was interned.” Coby thought that was great – so young and already a job as an “intern.” It was at this point that Fude explained the grim reality of Minidoka and the conversation became serious.

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MATSUTAKE!

A great group of current and new Friends of O.N.E. gathered matsutake mushrooms on the Oregon Coast. Thanks to the rainy weather, this year’s harvest was abundant!

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS MAY 16, 2015 TO OCTOBER 31, 2015

In memory of Lily Kajiwara
Albert Abe
Susan Endecott
Kay Endo
Lynn Grannan
Rose Ikata
Minnie (Kakishita) Young & Dana Kakishita
George & Amy Kanegae
William & Nami Koida
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Ted & Akico Taniguchi

In memory of Joyce Maeda
Barbara & Jerry Bousock
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K. Daniels
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Wanda Manring
Karen Schell
Charlotte & Isaac Tevet
Cheryl & Barry Luchko
Marcia Locke & Marisa Vamplew
Shirley Yazazina
Cherie Yokota

In memory of Arlene Hashizume
Sato Hashizume & the Hashizume Family
Michiko Kornhauser
D. O. Meiners
Hanako Mizota
Carrie Saito
Dorothy Sato
Rose Senda
Frances Sono Gable
Ruth Watashibe

In memory of James Tsujimura
Thomas Takeoka
Nancy Soga & Reid Rice

In memory of Harue Ninomiya
Debra & Randy Giltz

In memory of Morgie Ogawa
Julie Ogawa
Richard Yamamoto

In memory of Richard Iwata
Mary Komachi

In memory of Frank Nakanishi
Michael & Jo Shinnahara

In memory of Haruko Murphy
James & Nancy Iwaseki

In memory of Mary Naito
David J. Pollock

In memory of Haruo Ninomiya
Debra & Randy Giltz

In memory of Mary Sakiola
Jenna Yokoyama

In memory of Mitsue Namba
Patty Namba

In memory of Nisets
Tyo Fujikura

In memory of Robert Sumoge
Theresa Sumoge

In honor of Dr. Toshio Inahara
Anonymous
Kay Endo
Julie Hirai
Art Iwaseki
Timothy Wilson & Christi Iwaseki
Rose Kasahara
Grace & Ed Kawa
Kawa
Jane Kawashima
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In memory of Haruko Murphy
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In memory of Mary Sakiola
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Patty Namba

In memory of Nisets
Tyo Fujikura

In memory of Robert Sumoge
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In honor of Dr. Toshio Inahara
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Kay Endo
Julie Hirai
Art Iwaseki
Timothy Wilson & Christi Iwaseki
Rose Kasahara
Grace & Ed Kawa
Kawa
Jane Kawashima
Mitsuko Kodama
Shizuko & Shoka Kanno
Nobuko Matsuo
Dan Miyata
Frank Nakata
Yuki Ogawa
Fumi Sato
Stephanie Sakuye
William Sugahiro

Sharon Takahashi
Lewis & Jean Tomita

In honor of Jean Matsumoto
Kay Bristow
Wako Henjoji
Julie Hirai
Lilly Kodama
Mary Komachi
Frances Sumida Pak
Carolyn Saget
Cathy Yamada

In honor of Dr. Ron Naito
David J. Pollock

In honor of Aya & Ed Fujii’s 65th wedding anniversary, Aya Fujii’s 88th birthday, Ben & Joyce Nakamura’s 50th wedding anniversary and Terrie Natsuhara’s 85th birthday

Jana Iwasaki

In honor of Miyoko Takushi
Yuki Johnston

In honor of Toshikatsu Noguwa
Brandon Higa

Thank You
Valerie, Amy, Hank, Rick, Joe, and Marty for organizing this event!
Before moving to Portland, James Rodgers received his M.A. in Museum Studies from New York University in 2013 and had several years of experience working in the cultural sector. James had previously volunteered at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, NY, and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Boca Raton, FL. His skill sets and professional training have been critical to a variety of exhibits, collections projects, and special programs here at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

You’ve been a well-loved volunteer here at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center since you first came through our doors in October, 2013. What inspired you to become involved?

I’ve been drawn to the stories and experiences of the internees at the American camps since I first heard about them years ago. There is a strength and resilience there that I find very admirable - not only in their cultural identity as Japanese, but also in their national identities as Americans. They fought very hard for what they believed in and were ultimately rewarded for their diligence and sacrifices.

Tell us a bit about yourself and the volunteer work you’ve been doing here.

I lived in Japan for three years and it taught me so much about Japanese history and culture and it really instilled in me a desire to further U.S./Japan relations. Currently, I help Todd Mayberry, director of collections and exhibits, with installing/de-installing exhibits, research, and cataloging of the museum’s vast and ever growing collections. Sometimes I get chills when I look at the items or ephemera stored away in their boxes. There is so much history and life within the walls of the museum.

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

That will have to be a toss-up between the dinner cruise with George Takei and the opening of the Yosegaki Hinomaru exhibit. So many stories left untold.

How would you encourage others to become involved with O.N.E.?

Look at your work and educational experiences and ask how they can best be used to help the museum. It takes individuals of all backgrounds and talents.

There are many ways to volunteer at Oregon Nikkei Endowment. We are always looking for docents, tour guides, and front office help, along with volunteers for special projects and events. Contact us at info@oregonnikkei.org or call us for ways that you can volunteer.

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS
THANK YOU!

RICK AIZAWA
TERRY ARIMA
BRONSON BARNETT
ALI BASHIR
GAYLE BROOKS
JO ANN BURCH
CHIZ CHAMBERS
EDDIE C2UBA
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RAYNETTE YOSHIDA
Welcome to New and Renewing Friends of Oregon Nikkei Endowment

May 16, 2015 to October 31, 2015

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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Samuel & Marsha Noito
David James Pollock
June & Stan Shiigi

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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 May 16, we were thrilled to host a party at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center for the release of Dr. Toshio Inahara’s autobiography A Nisei, Right Place, Right Time. The day featured a book signing and riveting talk by the esteemed author who, among many other prominent accomplishments, was the first vascular surgeon in Oregon.