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.

In Shadows, local artists Anna Daedalus and Kerry Davis display body-length photograms, all captured through a custom-designed camera-less booth called the Shadow Box, that evoke the silhouettes left by victims who were vaporized by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On Sunday, May 12, as part of a free public event at the University of Oregon’s White Box gallery, participants were able to step into the Shadow Box to have their image captured. Thanks to funding from the Regional Arts & Culture Council, a selection of these anonymous outlines will be turned into life-size prints and exhibited at the Legacy Center.

Opening at the Legacy Center on Thursday, June 6, we are excited to debut two exhibitions by ground-breaking local contemporary artists which will run through August 11, 2013. Yukiyo Kawano’s Black Rain: Memories, Histories, Places, Bodies and Anna Daedalus and Kerry Davis’s Shadows uniquely, in their own way, address the use of atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As we move through the run of these two shows we look forward to announcing public programs leading into the 68th anniversary commemorating this unforgettable tragedy.

With Black Rain, Yukiyo Kawano, a Hiroshima native and a third generation hibakusha (nuclear bomb survivor), represents a new wave of Japanese conceptual artists. Inspired by her grandmother’s maiden kimono from the late 1930s, Kawano worked with bolts of kimono silk and cotton, bamboo, ash, ink, dye and her own hair to make life size and to-scale representations of the atomic weapons used in World War II. Little Boy, the uranium bomb that dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and Fat Man, the implosion-type plutonium bomb that fell three days later on Nagasaki, will be on display with the artist’s journal and sketches illustrating the process of their construction.

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A MESSAGE FROM O.N.E.'s EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring came early this year as we hit the ground running and haven’t slowed back yet! It’s an exciting time for the organization as good things are happening and wonderful people are joining in to be a part of it all.

With the hiring of Kim Blair, our Education Manager, our team is complete and running on all cylinders. Kim brings 27 years of teaching into the position and a passion for developing and creating curriculum. Her first week on the job, she attracted a visit from Portland Public Schools Equity Specialists who were unfamiliar with O.N.E. and the Legacy Center. Her love of teaching and learning is evident in her ability to engage educators, students and the general public and we are thrilled to have her join our team!

Todd Mayberry, Director of Collections and Exhibits, has cultivated an amazing group of volunteers for the Collections, Acquisitions and Exhibits Committees. A new work station has been set up to accommodate and support the outstanding work they are doing and the upcoming exhibits, Black Rain: Memories, Histories, Places, Bodies and Shadows, feature powerful, groundbreaking works that are not to be missed.

Speaking of exhibits, we were recently awarded an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award, recognizing individuals, organizations and projects that make outstanding contributions to preserving Oregon heritage. Our exhibit, Coming Home: Voices of Return and Resettlement, 1945-1965, won for being an exceptional example of an innovative and community-based approach to exhibition development. Our deep appreciation to community-curator Jackie Peterson Loomis and nine community narrators for being the heart and soul that led to this honor. We were very proud to be one of eight honorees recognized from throughout the state. “The award recipients represent the diversity of efforts to preserve Oregon’s heritage,” said Kyle Jarson, commissioner for the Oregon Heritage Commission. “They also serve as models for others for how to make the most out of available resources.”

In addition to this wonderful honor, we are proud to announce that we have been awarded the following grants:

- Spirit Mountain Community Fund: $25,000 for American Heroes: WWII Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal, an exhibit we are bringing to Portland in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute, National Veterans Network, and Oregon Historical Society. Portland is one of only seven cities in the United States to host this historic tour.
- Meyer Memorial Trust: $40,000 matching grant for the Minidoka Oral History Project with the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grant to process existing oral histories, making them available online for global access, and to capture new oral histories before they are lost forever.
- Oregon Community Foundation: $25,000 to support the Education Manager’s position.

We are extremely grateful to these funders for their tremendous support, but we know we must continue to seek more funding to support our work.

As part of our goal to strengthen the organization, increase visibility and reach new audiences, we implemented a new annual fundraiser, the Cherry Blossom Bazaar rummage sale. Not only did it prove to be a successful fundraiser, but we acquired additions to our collections and resource library, new Friends of O.N.E., new volunteers, and new audiences not familiar with O.N.E. and our mission. Our deep appreciation to co-chairs, Jere Okada, Marilyn Sholian and Cherie Yakota and all the volunteers who stepped up to make the event a huge success!

As we look forward to our 25th Anniversary in 2014, we will continue to build on this momentum and positive energy. Please join us for our Annual Banquet on June 30th and the exhibit American Heroes: WWII Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal and the related events and programs for this summer and early fall.

In closing, we want to remind you of the important role you play—YOU are critical to our future. We count on your ongoing support to support our work and keep our mission alive. Whether through in kind or financial contributions, volunteering, or attending our programs and events, your support helps sustain us into the future. Thank you for your generosity and we look forward to seeing you at the Legacy Center and upcoming events and programs! — Lynn Fuchigami Longfellow
A DONOR HIGHLIGHT

Last fall, Kathy Portner Wilkes donated documents and historical records of the Kida family consisting primarily of correspondence written between the family and their friends from 1942 to 1945. When the evacuation order was issued in April, 1942, Kenjiro and Kay Kida, along with their son George, were farming seven hundred acres of land, raising cattle, dairying and growing fruit on the ranch they owned outside of White Salmon, WA. As part of Oregon Nikkei Endowment’s greater partnership with Densho, a Seattle nonprofit dedicated to documenting the histories of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II, our goal is to fully process this family collection and share it with the public through Densho’s online digital archive. Thanks to the dedication and effort of our collections intern, Erin Enos, over the coming months the materials that make up the Kida family collection will be catalogued, digitized, and rehoused in archival-safe folders and photo enclosures for long-term preservation.

To provide some further insight, we contacted the donor, Kathy Portner Wilkes, and asked her to tell us more about this one of a kind, irreplaceable collection and the family behind it.

How did these items come into your possession and why did you then choose to donate this incredible collection to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center?

This donation was the direct result of my doing research for the exhibit “Remem-bering the Kidas” which I volunteered to curate for the Gorge Heritage Museum in Bingen, WA. As part of my acceptance, I assured the owner that I would donate it to a museum. I chose O.N.E. to receive the [Kida family collection] because of your specific focus as a Japanese American heritage museum. Simply put, I am confident that the story of the Kidas will not get lost in the Legacy Center.

Can you share with us some personal memories of the Kida family and why they hold a special place in your and your family’s heart?

I remember sewing, birthday dinners, special occasions, life lessons, just visiting and other, even to this day. When Kay Kida passed away in 1982, she had been part of my life for 36 years since I was about 15. My Dad brought her to me for my college graduation in 1965, and I had her seated beside him at my wedding. When I named my daughter Tamara Kay after her, Mrs. Kida became Grandma Kay to our family.

Of the materials that were donated, can you tell us if there is a particular photograph, document, or letter that you feel uniquely speaks to the Kida family’s experiences?

The one document that speaks uniquely of the Kida family’s experiences is the petition asking that the Kidas be exempt from evacuation. As I read through the list of signers, I recognized many names. They included “pioneer families” who had homesteaded in the area, adult siblings who had moved into the area as children, neighbors, friends and acquaintances of my parents, parents and grandparents of my schoolmates, and other community members.

To find out more about this amazing family, be sure to visit Kathy’s “Remembering the Kidas” as the exhibit which will be on display until the end of September 2013, at the Gorge Heritage Museum in Bingen, WA.

Kanjiro and Kay Kida
Gift of Kathy Portner Wilkes

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

It ain’t what they call you; it’s what you answer to. —W.C. Fields

That is currently the question at O.N.E./ONLC. What should we answer to? Our name Oregon Nikkei Endowment and Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center is our great joy and our great burden as the different compo- nents in our name has lead to many confused assumptions by our community and the general public. Many people see or hear “Nikkei” and have no idea what it means. Some assume we are somehow associated with Nike … which would be great if we were an athletic foundation or funded by them. Nikkei means people of Japanese descent (ancestry) and in our case it specifically means Japanese Americans. Other people’s eyes focus on the word “Endowment” and think we are a philanthropic organization. I wish we could be that, and I am trying to do my part by trying to win the lottery, but so far no luck. And yet others latch on to “Legacy” and think we are somehow associated with the Legacy hospital association.

The names Oregon Nikkei Endowment and Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center have served us well for nearly twenty-five years. We have received many grants and awards with these names, but we also spend a lot of time and energy explaining who and what we are. So, like many 25 year olds, we are looking for a name that defines us and gives us what marketers call a brand.

Oregon Nikkei Endowment is considering a change in its name. There are several reasons.

The word “endowment” implies that funds are available to be given to an institution or person. The opposite is the operational fact. O.N.E. applies for, and depends on, grants issued by charitable organizations for specific projects and exhibits. O.N.E. also relies on donations received from subscribers and friends.

The word “Nikes” refers to people of Japanese ancestry living outside of Japan. This includes Isset, Nisei, Sansei, Sensei, etc. in the United States. This is not understood by many, and could be confusing to some who think it is a reference to “Nike.”

It has been suggested that the new name for our organization could include “Japanese American” because our original purpose included preserving our ethnic and cultural identity.

Since our historical and collections center is recognized as the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, it seems appropriate to continue retaining “legacy” in our organization’s name.

Therefore, one possibility is to rename our organization the Japanese American Legacy Society. Please give us your ideas on this matter.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Shadows and Black Rain: Memories, Histories, Places, Bodies
June 6–August 11, 2013
New exhibitions at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center featuring the groundbreaking artwork of contemporary local artists that addresses the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Ode to the Paving the Way Award; special recognition for Kajiwara with the Heart of the Community Award
June 4, 4–7pm, Tuesday, June 4, 4–7pm, followed by an Annual Banquet opening on June 4, 6–7pm.

Our Humble Heroes: Stories of Service and Sacrifice during WWII
August 24, 2013–January 5, 2014
An upcoming exhibition at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center highlighting the WWII experiences and stories of Japanese American veterans of the Pacific Northwest.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day of Remembrance, Special Event
Tuesday, August 6, 2013, 7pm
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Avenue.

American Heroes: World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal
August 24–September 29, 2013
Oregon History Museum, 1200 SW Park Avenue.

Annual Banquet
Sunday, June 30, 2013, Noon
Multhomah Athletic Club, 1849 SW Salmon Street.

Memorial & Tribute Ceremony for Sachi Onchi
Saturday, July 13, 2013
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

Cherry Blossom Bazaar
A huge Success

DENSHO WORKSHOP

On February 2, 2013, Tom Ikeda, founding Executive Director of Densho, led an oral history interviewer workshop for eleven eager participants. Densho, a nonprofit organization with “the initial goal of documenting oral histories from Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II,” is our partner for the National Parks Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grant-funded Minidoka Oral History Project.

This important project takes our existing oral histories and makes them available online for global access and provides training to capture new oral histories of those whose lives were forever changed because of the Minidoka experience. The workshop led participants through two actual pre-interviews with Lily Soga and Yoichi Cannon Kiyama. The pre-interview is a strategy used to begin collecting the “nuggets” of ideas for the stories that will unfold during the taped oral interview at a later date. Each of the narrators left us wanting to learn more about their lives and stories. O.N.E. is excited about continuing to build the pool of trained oral history interviewers and is thrilled to be working closely with Densho in archiving these important and vital stories before they are lost forever.

Committee Co-Chairs Marilyn Sholian, Jere Oliveira, and Yoko Hayashi were key to its success, working tirelessly and giving their time, energy and amazing talent to organize this inaugural event. Assisting them on the committee, we also owe a debt of gratitude to Linda Yagi and Betty Jean Harry. The generous donation of the beautiful space in the Blagen Block by John Beardsley and Tom Caro of Beardsley Building Management also contributed to a successful event.

Special thanks to Obukai Judo who graciously provided their presence and support for the event. Designing the beautiful design of the bazaar’s postcard and poster, Barbara Uyesugi and Michiko Klamhauer for advice on pricing for special categories, SaleOne for providing the sake tasting for the Friday night audience preview and an amazing community of donors and dedicated volunteers acknowledged on the donos page in this newsletter.
ROCK THE BOAT

On March 1, close to 500 students from six local schools watched Portland Taiko perform Rock the Boat at the World Trade Center. The performance had students moving in their seats as they learned about Japanese American history and culture through the music and storytelling of the Taiko drums.

NEW EDUCATION MANAGER JOINS O.N.E. STAFF

As the newest member of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment team, Kim Blair is thrilled to be the new Education Manager. Kim brings to the job her love of teaching students plus her extensive experiences working with teachers developing curriculum and supporting instruction.

Kim began her teaching career in Portland Public Schools 27 years ago as a second grade teacher at Marysville Elementary. While teaching at Marysville, Kim taught the same group of students for three years impressing upon her the importance of developing and nurturing relationships. Now these same students are grown and have school age children of their own. She was also lucky to work with a supportive principal who encouraged her to continue her own professional growth and learning which lead her to continue her education at Portland State University and earn a Master’s Degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Following her classroom experiences, Kim moved into supporting teachers in Portland Public Schools as an Elementary Math and Science Teacher on Special Assignment. This is where her love for developing and creating curriculum blossomed. “I’ve always been a voracious reader even as a child and I always want to learn more about a subject,” states Kim Blair. “Working as the Education Manager for O.N.E. allows me to pursue my love of teaching and learning. I believe that the story of the history and culture of Japanese Americans and the violation of their civil rights in our community is a story that needs to be shared with children beginning in elementary school so that it doesn’t happen again.”

Oregon Nikkei Endowment was a partner with Portland Taiko in receiving a grant from Nordstrom to help fund this collaborative arts program. Rock the Boat is designed for elementary and middle school students emphasizing pride in who they are, respect for cultural differences and giving them tools to increase communication so that students gain a new respect and understanding of others that may be different than themselves.

O.N.E. volunteers, Lynn Giannan, Cynthia Bayse, Aynyn and Lance Tsuchiyu, Jackie Peterson Loomis, June Schumann and Jo Ann Burch, led student groups in an activity that utilized the photos from the Museum in a Suitcase. Museum in a Suitcase contains artifacts, such as photos and documents, which can be used in classrooms to teach students about Japanese immigration to our community, life in Portland’s Japantown and the internment story.

The lesson was designed so that students at any age were able to access and deepen their understanding from a historical perspective of the Japanese American experience living in our community. Looking at the photos through the lenses of “communication,” “patriotism,” and “respect” students further analyzed the photos to find evidence of these character traits.

Student learning was reflected through their comments such as, “Thank you for teaching us a lesson. I learned about a lot of different things. But some pictures were sad like the one with the family waving goodbye with tags on the jackets because they were part of something. I really really enjoyed learning about the old days. Thank you!”

Another student commented, “Thank you for teaching us about treating people all equally.” I learned that we shouldn’t judge people by their cover because they will be nice to you if you’re nice to them. I wonder if people treat Japanese people differently now days.”

We wish to express our appreciation to Portland General Electric, The World Trade Center, Portland, Autzen Foundation, Black United Front, Japanese American Museum Foundation, and Young Audiences of Oregon and SW Washington for helping to make this program possible. We hope to partner with Portland Taiko again to make Rock the Boat an annual event.

Almost seven decades after the beginning of WWII, the U.S. Army’s 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service were collectively awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, our nation’s highest civilian award, for their extraordinary accomplishments in the war. These units, comprised almost entirely of Japanese American men, served with honor and valor, even while their families were held in internment camps by the very country for which they fought.

Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the Oregon Historical Society have partnered with the National Veterans Network, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program to share their inspiring story in an exclusive seven-city tour. The tour launched in New Orleans at the National WWI Museum and will come to Portland to the Oregon Historical Society, August 24–September 29th. The actual Congressional Gold Medal, accompanied by an educational app and interactive social learning website (cgm.si.edu) will highlight the stories of these honored American heroes.

To bring further resonance to their valor, loyalty and sacrifice, O.N.E. will present events and programs that include the following:

August 24, 10:30 am Opening Ceremony at the Oregon Historical Society, featuring free admission to both museums and special programs.
August 24, 10:30 am Film Screening of Searchlight Serenade: Big Bands in the WWII Japanese American Incarceration Camps with artist Amy Uyeki, followed by music, dessert and dance with the Minidoka Swing Band at the Hilton Portland Hotel.
September 7, 2 pm Screening of Valor with Honor, with filmmakers Burt Takeuchi at the NH Film Center
Thank you to our donors November 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013

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Mae Hada
Scott Guptill
Paula Funatake
Kay Fujita
Becki Fujii
Margo Erickson
Sho & Loen Dozono
Lynn Cyert
Susan Parke & Geoffrey Bruce

Facilities update from Board member Brian Kimura
It is with great enthusiasm that we announce that the vandalism damage that occurred over the past year and a half at the Japanese American Historical Plaza has been repaired. The damaged signs have been replaced at the north and west sides of the Plaza with new text. The text on doors that were damaged by vandalism, graffiti, and skateboard grinds have been repaired. We extend a huge thank you to the members of the Facilities Committee, Scott Murase, Peter Andrusko, Lynn Langtellow, Mari Watanabe, and Nicole Nathan for all their hard work to restore the Plaza.

PLAZA CLEAN UP

A beautiful spring morning in March along with the lure of coffee and donuts brought volunteers out once again to pull weeds, pick up debris and clean stones at the Japanese American Historical Plaza. The cherry trees which are in spectacular full bloom helped soothe the aches and pains of volunteers as they engaged in the backbreaking, knee wrenching and hand cramping work. Special thanks to Rich Iwasaki, Lynn Granenn, Brian Kimura, Judy Murase, Scott Murase and Wei Murase, Doug Parks, and Lynn Langtellow who armed themselves with yard tools, brooms, buckets and wooden chopsticks to help keep the Plaza looking to its very best. Thanks also to Portland Parks and Recreation for setting up a water hose, providing garbage vectors and hauling off debris.

Regular work parties are held throughout the year to maintain the plaza. Please contact O.H.E. of info@oregonskies.org if you are interested in volunteering.

Board Members Rich Iwasaki (plaque) and Brian Kimura (below) working hard under the beautiful cherry blossoms.

Note: We make every effort to keep accurate records. Please help us correct any errors by calling 503.224.1458.
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS  NOVEMBER 1, 2012 TO APRIL 30, 2013

FACILITIES UPDATE FROM BOARD MEMBER BRIAN KIMURA

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- **September 7, 2 pm** Screening of Valor with Honor, with filmmakers Butt Takeuchi at the NW Film Center and Portland Congressional Gold Medal Honoree Larry Nakatsu and son Larry Nakatsu at the American Heroes exhibit launch in New Orleans.

In conjunction with the tour of the Congressional Gold Medal, O.N.E.’s own exhibit, Our Humble Heroes: Stories of Service and Sacrifice during WWII, will open at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center on August 24, 2013. Mark your calendars for a Friends of O.N.E. Preview and Special Reception on August 22.

For more information, visit www.oregonnikkei.org
UPCOMING EVENTS

Shadows and Black Rain: Memories, Histories, Places, Bodies
June 6–August 11, 2013
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Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day of Remembrance, Special Event
Tuesday, August 6, 2013, 7pm
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW 2nd Avenue
Special reception and evening showing of Shadows and Black Rain: Memories, Histories, Places, Bodies featuring Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility’s Day of Remembrance at the Japanese American Historical Plaza.

American Heroes: World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal
August 24–September 29, 2013, Oregon History Museum, 1200 SW Park Avenue
Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the Oregon Historical Society have partnered with the National Veterans Network, Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (STES), Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History and the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Program to share the inspiring story of the Japanese American WWII veterans that were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in an exclusive seven-city tour. The accompanying educational app and interactive social learning website (cgm.si.edu) highlight the stories of these honored American heroes. (See article on page 5 for related programs and events.)

Our Humble Heroes: Stories of Service and Sacrifice during WWII
August 24, 2013–January 5, 2014
An upcoming exhibition at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center highlighting the WWII experiences of American Nikkei veterans of the Pacific Northwest. Friends of O.N.E. Preview and Special Reception to be held on August 22.

EVENING EVENTS

Cherry Blossom Bazaar
A Huge Success
People were lined up excitedly waiting for the doors to open to an Oregon Nikkei Endowment’s First Annual Cherry Blossom Bazaar fundraiser which was held the weekend of April 5–7. Within minutes of opening, the space was filled with shoppers hunting for treasure from the amazing array of donated kitchen and household items, kimonos and yukatas, ikebana vases and supplies, and dolls and collectibles—there was something for everyone at every price! A special preview evening kicked off the sale the night before with many people purchasing tickets for the sneak peek and early shopping privileges, plus the chance to eat delicious hors d’oeuvres and participate in sake tasting by SakeOne.

Staff and volunteers were amazed at the quality and range of items that were dropped off during the collection period which took place two weeks prior to the sale. It was a win-win situation many times over as those donating either expressed thanks for giving them the motivation to tackle some spring cleaning, or providing them with a good cause to contribute to. In some cases, donations became treasured for O.N.E. to the delight of Director of Collections and Exhibits, Todd Mayon, who searched every donation, setting aside irrepressible cultural materials for our museum and research library.

The event proved to be a wonderful success not just in terms of fundraising, but it also resulted in new Friends of O.N.E., engaged new visibility to audiences who were unfamiliar with our organization and its mission. A list has already started of those waiting for next year’s bazaar.

Committee Co-Chairs Marilyn Shukan, Jere Okamoto, and Yoko Ikeda were key to its success, working tirelessly and giving their time, energy and amazing talent to organize this inaugural event. Assisting them on the committee, we also owe a debt of gratitude to Linda Yagi and Betty Jean Harry. The generous donation of the beautiful space in the Blagen Block building by John Beardsley and Tom Carole’s of Beardsley Building Management also contributed to a successful event.

Special thanks to Obukai Judo who graciously provided their presence and security for the evening. Donna’s provided a beautiful design of the bazaar’s postcard and poster, Barbara Uyesugi and Michiko Klamhouser for advice on pricing for special categories, SakeOne for providing the sake tasting for the Friday night special sneak preview and an amazing community of donors and dedicated volunteers acknowledged on the donors page in this newsletter.

DENSHO WORKSHOP

On February 2, 2013, Tom Ikeda, founding Executive Director of Densho, led an oral history interviewer workshop for eleven eager participants. Densho, a nonprofit organization with “the initial goal of documenting oral histories from Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II,” is our partner for the National Parks Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grant-funded Minidoka Oral History Project.

This important project takes our existing oral histories and makes them available online for global access and provides training to capture new oral histories of those whose lives were forever changed because of the Minidoka experience.

The workshop led participants through two actual pre-interviews with Lilly Saimoto and Yoichi Cannon Kitayama. The pre-interview is a strategy used to begin collecting the “nuggets” of ideas for the stories that will unfold during the taped oral interview at a later date. Each of the narrators left us wanting to learn more about their lives and stories.

O.N.E. is excited about continuing to build the pool of trained oral history interviewers and is thrilled to be working closely with Densho in archiving these important and vital stories before they are lost forever.
Kanjiro and Kay Kida
Gift of Kathy Portner Wilkes

A DONOR HIGHLIGHT

Last fall, Kathy Portner Wilkes donated documents and historical records of the Kida family consisting primarily of correspondence written between the family and their friends from 1942 to 1945. When the evacuation order was issued in April, 1942, Kenjiro and Miyuki “Kay” Kida, along with their son George, were farming seven hundred acres of land, raising cattle, dairying and growing fruit on the ranch they owned outside of White Salmon, WA. As part of Oregon Nikkei Endowment’s greater partnership with Densho, a Seattle nonprofit dedicated to documenting the histories of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II, our goal is to fully process this family collection and share it with the public through Densho’s online digital archive. Thanks to the dedication and effort of our collections intern, Erin Enos, over the coming months the materials that make up the Kida family collection will be cataloged, digitized, and rehoused in archival-safe folders and photo enclosures for long-term preservation.

To provide some further insight, we contacted the donor, Kathy Portner Wilkes, and asked her to tell us more about this one of a kind, irreplaceable collection and the family behind it.

How did these items come into your possession and why did you then choose to donate this incredible collection to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center?

This donation was the direct result of my doing research for the exhibit "Remem-bering the Kidas," which I volunteered to curate for the Gorge Heritage Museum in Bingen, WA. As part of my acceptance, I assured the owner that I would donate it to a museum. I chose O.N.E. to receive [the Kida family collection] because of your specific focus as a Japanese American heritage museum. Simply put, I am confident that the story of the Kidas will not get lost in the Legacy Center.

Can you share with us some personal memories of the Kida family and why they hold a special place in your and your family’s heart?

I remember sewing, birthday dinners, special occasions, life lessons, just visiting and other special times. When Kay Kida passed away in 1982, she had been part of my life for 36 years since I was about 15. My Dad brought her to my college graduation in 1965, and I had her seated beside him at my wedding. When I named my daughter Tamara Kay after her, Mrs. Kida became Grandma Kay to my family.

Of the materials that were donated, can you tell us if there is a particular photograph, document, or letter that you feel uniquely speaks to the Kida family’s experiences?

The one document that speaks uniquely of the Kida family’s experiences is the petition asking that the Kidas be exempt from internment. As I read through the list of signers, I recognized many names. They included “pioneer families” who had homesteaded in the area, adult siblings who had moved into the area as children, neighbors, friends and acquaintances of my parents, parents and grandparents of my schoolmates, and other community members.

To find out more about this amazing family, be sure to visit Kathy’s "Remem-bering the Kidas" exhibit which will be on display until the end of September 2013, at the Gorge Heritage Museum in Bingen, WA.

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

It ain’t what they call you; it’s what you answer to. —W-C. Fields

That is currently the question at O.N.E./ONLC. What should we answer to? Our name Oregon Nikkei Endowment and Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center is our great joy and our great burden as the different components in our name has lead to many confused assumptions by our community and the general public. Many people see or hear “Nikkei” and have no idea what it means. Some assume we are somehow associated with Nike … which would be great if we were an athletic foundation or funded by them. Nikkei means people of Japanese descent (ancestry) and in our case it specifically means Japanese Americans. Other people’s eyes focus on the word “Endowment” and think we are a philanthropic organization. I wish we could be, and I am trying to do my part by trying to win the lottery, but so far no luck. And yet others latch on to “Legacy” and think we are somehow associated with the Legacy hospital association.

The names Oregon Nikkei Endowment and Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center have served us well for nearly twenty-five years. We have received many grants and awards with these names, but also spend a lot of time and energy explaining who and what we are. So, like many 25 year olds, we are looking for a name that defines us and gives us what marketers call a brand. At 25, many give up their childhood nicknames, shorten their given names, and possibly add acronyms, i.e. CPA, CEO, MD.

In an attempt to be clearly recognizable and better defined to the general public we are looking for a name(s) that clearly reflects our organization. To that end, we would like to institute a contest to help us find that name. The contest rules will be announced at the upcoming banquet on June 30. To get these creative juices flowing, please see Harry Sakamoto’s letter below.

Please come and help me support the excellence of O.N.E. by attending our annual fundraising banquet on June 30, 2013 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. We will be having a luncheon which will be the prelude to our upcoming silver anniversary year.

Connie Masuoka

**A LETTER FROM HENRY “SHIG” SAKAMOTO**

Co-founder, former board member and current advisory board member

Oregon Nikkei Endowment is considering a change in its name. There are several reasons.

The word “endowment” implies that funds are available to be given to an institution or person. The opposite is the operational fact. O.N.E. relies on donations received from subscribers and friends.

Therefore, one possibility is to rename our organization the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Society. Please give us your ideas on this matter.

Photo: Courtesy of Richard Wilhelm
Spring came early this year as we hit the ground running and hadn’t looked back! It’s an exciting time for the organization as good things are happening and wonderful people are joining in to be a part of it all.

With the hiring of Kim Blair, our Education Manager, our team is continuing to run on all cylinders. Kim brings 27 years of teaching to the position and a passion for developing and creating curricula. Her first week on the job, she attracted a visit from Portland Public Schools Equity Specialists who were unfamiliar with O.N.E. and the Legacy Center. Her love of teaching and learning is evident in her ability to engage educators, students and the general public and we are thrilled to have her join our team!

Todd Mayberry, Director of Collections and Exhibits, has cultivated an amazing group of volunteers for the Collections, Volunteers and Haven Committees. The JAPAN 1945-1965, won for being an exceptional example of an innovative and community-based approach to exhibition development. Our deep appreciation to community-curator Jackie Peterman Loomis and nine community narrators for being the heart and soul that led to this honor. We were very proud to be one of eight honorees recognized from throughout the state. “The award recipients represent the diversity of efforts to preserve Oregon’s heritage,” said Kyle Jaroson, commissioner for the Oregon Heritage Commission. “They also serve as models for others how to make the most out of available resources.”

In addition to this wonderful honor, we are proud to announce that we have been awarded the following grants:
- Spirit Mountain Community Fund: $25,000 for American Heroes: WWII Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal, an exhibit we are bringing to Portland in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute, National Veterans Network, and Oregon Historical Society, Portland is one of only seven cities in the United States to host this historic tour.
- Meyer Memorial Trust $40,000 matching grant for the Minidoka Oral History Project with the National Park Service Japanese American Confluence Sites grant to process existing oral histories, making them available online for global access, and to capture new oral histories before they are lost forever.
- Oregon Community Foundation $20,000 to support the Education Manager’s position.

We are extremely grateful to these funders for their tremendous support, but we know we must continue to find ways to assure the sustainability and growth of O.N.E.

As part of our goal to strengthen the organization, increase visibility and reach new audiences, we implemented a new annual fundraiser, the Cherry Blossom Bazaar rummage sale. Not only did it prove to be a successful fundraiser, but we acquired additions to our collections and resource library, new Friends of O.N.E., new volunteers, and new audiences not familiar with O.N.E. and our mission. Our deep appreciation to co-chairs, Jere Okada, Marilyn Sholan and Cherie Yokota and all the volunteers who stepped up to make the event a huge success!

As we look toward our 25th Anniversary in 2014, we will continue to build on this momentum and positive energy. Please join us for our Annual Banquet on June 30th and the exhibit American Heroes: WWII Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal and the related events and programs for this summer and early fall.

In closing, we want to remind you of the important role you play—YOU are critical to our future. We count on your annual support to support our work and keep our mission alive. Whether through in-kind or financial contributions, volunteering, or attending our programs and events, your support helps sustain us into the future. Thank you for your generosity and we look forward to seeing you at the Legacy Center and upcoming events and programs!

— Lynn Fuchigami Longfellow
In Shadows, local artists Anna Daedalus and Kerry Davis display body-length photograms, all captured through a custom-designed camera-less booth called the Shadow Box, that evoke the silhouettes left by victims who were vaporized by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On Sunday, May 12, as part of a free public event at the University of Oregon’s White Box gallery, participants were able to step into the Shadow Box to have their image captured. Thanks to funding from the Regional Arts & Culture Council, a selection of these anonymous outlines will be turned into life-size prints and exhibited at the Legacy Center.

At the same time, our Exhibits Committee, assisted by undergraduate and graduate school interns, is busy developing Our Humble Heroes: Stories of Service and Sacrifice during WWII. In conjunction with the tour of the Congressional Gold Medal, this exhibition at the Legacy Center is scheduled to open to the public on August 24 and run through the remainder of the calendar year.

Little Boy, made in 2011, a sculpture in the form of the A-Bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Courtesy of Yukiyo Kawano

A photograph from Shadows. Courtesy of Anna Daedalus and Kerry Davis

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.

EXHIBIT NEWS
Opening at the Legacy Center on Thursday, June 6, we are excited to debut two exhibitions by ground-breaking local contemporary artists which will run through August 11, 2013. Yukiyo Kawano’s Black Rain: Memories, Histories, Places, Bodies and Anna Daedalus and Kerry Davis’s Shadows uniquely, in their own way, address the use of atomic weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As we move through the run of these two shows we look forward to announcing public programs leading into the 68th anniversary commemorating this unforgettable tragedy.

With Black Rain, Yukiyo Kawano, a Hiroshima native and a third generation hibakusha (nuclear bomb survivor), represents a new wave of Japanese conceptual artists. Inspired by her grandmother’s maiden kimono from the late 1930s, Kawano worked with bolts of kimono silk and cotton, bamboo, ash, ink, dye and her own hair to make life size and to-scale representations of the atomic weapons used in World War II. Little Boy, the uranium bomb that dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and Fat Man, the implosion-type plutonium bomb that fell three days later on Nagasaki, will be on display with the artist’s journal and sketches illustrating the process of their construction.

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