

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Oregon Nikkei Endowment
Annual Banquet**
Saturday, July 18, 5 pm
Hilton Portland and Executive Tower
921 SW 6th Avenue, Portland
Special remarks: Governor Kate Brown
Fundraiser for O.N.E. \$125/person

**Yosegaki Hinomaru:
Souvenir, Heirloom or Art?**
July 25–September 27, 2015
An exhibit on the Yosegaki
Hinomaru or Good Luck Flags of
Japan which were brought to the
United States by returning veterans
from the battlefield of the Pacific
Theatre during World War II.

**25th Anniversary of the Japanese
American Historical Plaza and
Bill of Rights Memorial**
Sunday, August 2, 2015, 4–5 pm
Japanese American Historical Plaza
Keynote Speaker: George Takei,
actor and activist
Music by the Minidoka Swing Band

Portland Spirit Celebratory Cruise
with George Takei
Board: 5:30, Cruise: 6–8:30 pm

**Gambatte! Legacy of an
Enduring Spirit**
October 17, 2015–January 17, 2016
In this all new traveling exhibit,
historic images shot in 1942 by War
Relocation Authority staff photogra-
phers Dorothea Lange, Tom Parker,
and others are juxtaposed with
contemporary images taken by *The
Sacramento Bee* photojournalist
Paul Kitagaki, Jr.

Nihonmachi: The Place to Be
Monday, November 9, 7 pm
Portland Center Stage
128 NW 11th Avenue, Portland
A musical journey about a
Japanese American family and life
in their mochi shop through three
generations of trials and triumphs.
*Tickets \$40 (\$35 if purchased
before October 25)*



OREGON
NIKKEI
ENDOWMENT

SUMMER 2015 |

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AUGMENTED REALITY IN THE OREGON NIKKEI LEGACY CENTER

—By guest author Professor Shawn Daley, Concordia University

Students from Concordia University's undergraduate and graduate programs in education have been working steadily at the Oregon Nikkei Endowment this year to "augment" the permanent exhibit with some 21st century technology. Working alongside Director of Collections and Exhibits Todd Mayberry and Education Manager Kim Blair, students have been adding a digital layer of content to the exhibit. Visitors can soon access this digital content by downloading a mobile app to their smartphone or tablet.

Since late September, these students have scoured both the local archive at O.N.E. as well as the Densho digital archive in order to find content that they could, through a program called Aurasma, connect to placards, photos, and artifacts in the exhibit. In this fashion, visitors to O.N.E. can go even deeper into the historical record, listening to oral histories of the incarceration, viewing documentaries about the Japanese in Hood River, and even taking an authentic loyalty quiz that Japanese American soldiers were made to take before enlisting to fight in World War II. This technology, referred to as "augmented reality," is employed by many international companies and has also been integrated into museums in Britain and France.

The Concordia project is in its final phase, which is essentially a quality control process. Students have been visiting the Legacy Center in May and June to hone the digital materials, which have been arranged into separate tours of the exhibits. This process will also be detailed in an article in the summer edition of *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, and should be online and ready for visitors by mid-summer.

For more information, contact Professor Shawn Daley at sdaley@cu-portland.edu





This year we celebrate yet another milestone in the history of Oregon Nikkei Endowment,

the **25th Anniversary of the Japanese American Historical Plaza**. Dedicated in August of 1990, this award winning memorial pays tribute and recalls through artistic and poetic gesture the history of the Japanese American experience and the importance of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, hence its other name, the **Bill of Rights Memorial**.

On Sunday, August 2nd, we will celebrate this milestone with an event at the Plaza featuring a special guest, actor and activist George Takei, followed by a cruise on the Portland Spirit. Mark your calendars so you don't miss the boat!

Robert Murase, the landscape architect whose dream and design was brought to life with civic leader and city visionary Bill Naito, shared a poem in the epilogue of our beautiful book about the Plaza, *Touching the Stones*. The words by poet K.O. Lee capture the essence of the Plaza, *The Plaza visits and revisits me*. This beautiful plaza and its stones stand as a reminder of the fragility of our freedom and civil rights in the face of panic and fear. We must constantly visit and revisit

how easily it can be taken away. We continue our work and mission to share history not just as something set in stone in the past, but as echoing lessons and reminders that lead us on a path to a better tomorrow.

Someone who devoted his life and work to ensure the future and the guarantee of civil liberties and social justice was Minoru Yasui (see article p. 5). We are honored to be the fiscal agent for the Min Yasui Tribute Project and a part of the Min Yasui Tribute Committee that worked to submit his nomination for the Presidential Medal of Freedom earlier this year. The committee is hard at work now planning a traveling exhibit, symposium, and debut of his documentary, *Never Give Up, The Story of Minoru Yasui*, all culminating next year in 2016 when Min would have turned 100 years old. We are inspired by his ideals and accomplishments and are dedicated to continue his work for civil rights and the protection of our civil liberties.

The Plaza visits and revisits me.

And so we continue carving this legacy in new and exciting ways. The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center will be the first museum in the state to feature augmented reality in our exhibit gallery. New technology will enable our visitors to experience the visual collision of the real and the virtual, where surrounding spaces will become the stage for additional layers of information to enhance the visitor experience.

Our next exhibit, *Yosegaki Hinomaru: Souvenir, Heirloom or Art?*, opens July 25, 2015. This powerful exhibit shares Good Luck Flags, considered "battlefield souvenirs" that were brought to the United States by American soldiers during

World War II. These flags contain the signatures and messages from parents, relatives, wives and loved ones and were carried into battle by Japanese soldiers. This exhibit will help share the story of healing and reconciliation for both veterans and families as these meaningful artifacts are being returned to Japanese families.

On November 9th, O.N.E. will be presenting Grateful Crane Ensemble's musical production of *Nihonmachi: The Place to Be* at the Gerding Theater. In partnership with the Consulate General of Japan, Portland, Partners in Diversity, Portland Center Stage and title sponsor, Portland JACL, this musical journey shares the Japanese American story in a powerful, yet entertaining way.

The Plaza visits and revisits me.

And so we continue carving this legacy into the future, visiting and revisiting the ideals and foundation upon which the organization was built. Please pay special attention to our donors whose names are listed in the center of our newsletter. We owe a debt of gratitude to all of these people for being pillars for our organization. They lift us up and enable us to do the work that we do.

In closing, we hope that you will join us on this journey. We invite you to visit Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and Japanese American Historical Plaza—come touch the stones and help us reach the future!

—Lynn Fuchigami Longfellow

I've noticed an exciting trend happening at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Student groups continue to visit us during the school year, but recently we've begun to see groups from the greater community requesting tours and speakers.

Airbnb, www.airbnb.com, an online marketplace to book or list unique accommodations around the world, contacted us with an interest in learning more about the history of the Old Town neighborhood which they now call home. Henry Sakamoto agreed to share his personal story and the greater story of the Japanese Americans at a Fireside Chat with over 200 employees at Airbnb in March. They were so moved by the story that they awarded us their very first grant of \$1,000!

Lynn Grannan and I participated in a video chat with University of Oregon students. We discussed the book *Treadmill*, making connections for the U of O students with the history of the Japanese Americans in our community. This book is now out of print, but it's a unique book as it was written during the time of incarceration when the events were fresh in the author's mind. We enjoyed the book so much that we added it to the Legacy Center library. Willamette University made a special trip to the Legacy Center on a Sunday in April to learn more about public discourse and history with Valerie Otani.

Japanese speaking visitors have come to the Legacy Center through Azumano Travel, Mt. Hood Community College, Portland Community College, Portland State University and Grant High School. I know that I can always call on Michiko Kornhauser,

Hiroko Stacey and Sachiko Nishikido to lead these travelers through the Legacy Center in their native Japanese language. For many of them, this is the first time they hear the story of incarceration.

From the greater community, senior citizens from Lake Oswego Community Center and Laurel Parc hopped on buses to visit the Legacy Center, ably guided by Lynn Grannan and Amy Peterson. John Nakada shared his story with 20 visitors to the Sherwood Public Library. Etsu Osaki was invited into the home of a member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization to speak, and Jean Matsumoto had a lunch time chat with the Multnomah County Employees of Color.

We've had a hiking group, a book club, and the Curiosity Club, visiting both the Legacy Center and the Japanese American Historical Plaza, many of them for the first time.

This is an exciting time for Oregon Nikkei Endowment and I can't wait to meet our future visitors!

—Kim Blair



Photograph Courtesy of Raynette Yoshida



team from Uwajimaya: **Warren Huch**, **Tyson Okazaki** and **David Onishi**. Sadly, no one sank a hole-in-one to win the brand new Honda CRV provided by Dick's Auto Group, our Hole-In-One-Sponsor.

A big thank you to our tournament sponsor, **Union Bank**. Thanks also to additional sponsors including **Holst Architecture**, **Portland Roasting Coffee**, and **Henry Mishima, DMD**.

Special thanks to our wonderful volunteers who helped make this such a great event. *Start practicing your swing for next year's Strawberry Golf Tournament!*

4TH ANNUAL STRAWBERRY GOLF TOURNAMENT

The weather was beautiful once again for our annual Strawberry Golf Tournament at Langdon Farms on May 14. Golfers, including our first women's team, had fun competing for the opportunity to have their team name engraved on the Oregon Nikkei Endowment golf trophy. It was a close competition, with first place going to the

What better way to kick off the 25th anniversary of the Japanese American Historical Plaza and Bill of Rights Memorial than to celebrate the cherry-blossom or *sakura* trees that surround it. As part of Motoya Nakamura's exhibition ***Sakura Sakura***, a stunning series of photographic prints showed how these blossoming gifts from Japan bring Portland's Tom McCall Waterfront Park



Photographs Courtesy of Motoya Nakamura

alive each year. With the changing of the seasons, these photos finely captured the natural beauty and awakened the cultural wonder that these trees hold. Patiently training his camera lens through the day and night, Nakamura allowed us to truly see *sakura* in a way never seen before.

Having closed on June 14, this exhibition and related programs wouldn't have been possible without the support of the

Regional Arts & Culture Council. A partnership with the Portland Photographic Society and Portland Community College allowed students to join Nakamura on a fun-filled photo-taking scavenger hunt through the neighboring streets of Old Town/Chinatown as part of our free Family Day on May 9. While an Artist Talk event held on June 6 brought Nakamura and visiting University of San Francisco professor Brian Komei Dempster together to showcase the power of poetry, writing, and visual art to express complex issues of identity and the legacy of Japanese Americans.

An ever growing audience has been welcomed at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center thanks to the word spreading through the pages of *The Oregonian* and across the website and airwaves of Oregon Public Broadcasting. Looking into the future, we can't wait to open our doors to our next mini-blockbuster, ***Yosegaki Hinomaru: Souvenir, Heirloom or Art?***, which debuts at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center on July 25 and runs through September 27. This exhibition is curated by Rex and Keiko Ziak of OBON 2015, a nonprofit affiliate of Astoria Visual Arts, whose work has been most recently featured on Oregon Public Broadcasting's *Think Out Loud* program.

The *Yosegaki Hinomaru* or Good Luck Flag was a national flag of Japan signed by parents, friends, wives, and loved ones and carried through the Pacific Theatre by Japanese soldiers during World War II. Taken as souvenirs from battlefields over 70 years ago, families of U.S. veterans are discovering these artifacts in closets and attics across America today. In many cases, these personal items are the only remaining trace in existence of that person who is still listed as

"missing in action." This leads to a perfectly valid question, "What are these items?" Are they a legitimate souvenir? Are they precious family heirlooms? Or are these hand-made and beautifully adorned items a form of Japanese art?

We're also pleased to announce the opening of ***Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit*** on October 17. Traveling from the Bay Area, this National Park Service funded exhibition features historical images taken by War Relocation Authority photographers of Japanese Americans headed to the Tanforan Assembly Center in San Bruno, California. Sixty years later and counting, photojournalist Paul Kitagaki, Jr., has tracked down and re-photographed the same individuals and families documented in 1942 by Dorothea Lange, Tom Parker, and others. Speaking with the authenticity of a life lived, *Gambatte!* is a visual exploration of the strength that allowed a generation to persevere.

—Todd Mayberry



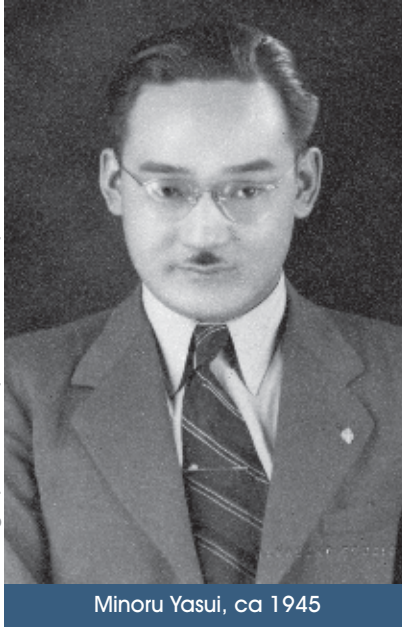
Photographs Courtesy of Obon 2015

On May 7, 2015, the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) announced the "Minoru Yasui Voices of Change Award," which recognizes leaders who have promoted civil liberties for all Americans through courageous leadership, activism, and advocacy. Minoru Yasui, who passed away in 1986, was the inaugural recipient, and the award was accepted by his brother Homer Yasui. June Schumann and Jillian Toda, members of Minoru Yasui Tribute (MYT) Committee, and other volunteers worked with Dr. Phyllis Lee and APANO Executive Director Reverend Joseph Santos-Lyons to make this happen.

Minoru Yasui, the first Japanese American attorney in Oregon, was most well-known for his courageous stand against military orders that resulted in the forced removal and imprisonment of over 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II, but his entire life was committed to the defense of human and civil rights, and justice for all. As Executive Director of the Denver Commission on Community Relations, he worked tirelessly on behalf of countless marginalized groups including ethnic and religious minorities, children and youth, the aged, and the economically disadvantaged. A lifelong member of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), he was Chair of the National Redress Committee and devoted the last years of his life, heart and soul, to that movement.

At the annual "Voices of Change" Asian American Heritage Month Celebration, Lee said, "There is no question that [Minoru Yasui] has been, and continues to exemplify, a great leader, civil rights advocate and most importantly, a great American hero...to honor the man undeterred in his life's mission to create the changes that improved the life opportunities for our communities and our nation."

Photograph Courtesy of Yasui Family Collection



Minoru Yasui, ca 1945

MINORU YASUI AND THE MINORU YASUI TRIBUTE COMMITTEE

Earlier this year, the Minoru Yasui Tribute (MYT) Committee worked with U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono (Hawaii) to nominate Yasui for a 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom. The submission to the President included endorsements from over 115 elected officials, national, state and regional organizations, and notable individuals—including two members of the President's cabinet; nine U.S. Senators and 26 U.S. Representatives from 11 states; governors, attorneys general, mayors, and state legislators; leading national civil rights organizations, including the National Urban League, ACLU, NAACP, National Council of La Raza, JACL, American Friends Service Committee, the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, and American Jewish Committee; and 46 regional and state organizations and individuals.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is generally awarded in the fall of each year. If awarded to Minoru Yasui, the President would complete the recognition of all three plaintiffs in the Japanese American internment cases. Fred

Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi were awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998 and 2012, respectively. The three landmark cases were reopened in 1983 under a Writ of Coram Nobis when researchers discovered evidence that the government knowingly presented false information to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Coram Nobis cases were a critical component of the Japanese American Redress movement.

Other activities planned by the MYT Committee include a reading and discussion of excerpts from Holly Yasui's play "Citizen Min" on July 29th in Portland. Chisao Hata, MYT Committee member, is spearheading this effort, and the reading will be held at the Jade/APANO Multicultural Space from 6:00-7:30 p.m. The play will also be read, in full, in Denver, Colorado on August 9.

Holly Yasui and Will Doolittle are working on a short documentary film, "Never Give Up! The Story of Minoru Yasui" which will include historical photos, documents, audio and video, and narration by George Takei. The fiscal sponsor of the MYT project, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, is working on a school curriculum with Hood River Middle School teacher Sarah Segal; and a memorial exhibit to be inaugurated at the Portland Minoru Yasui Centennial Celebration in 2016.

For more information please see the MYT website: minoruyasuitribute.org or contact June Schumann, MYT Committee administrator at myasuitribute.info@gmail.com; Peggy Nagae, MYT project co-founder and chair at peggy.nagae@gmail.com; or Holly Yasui, MYT project co-founder miniyasuitribute@gmail.com.

Tax-deductible donations can be made through the Oregon Nikkei Endowment.

—Peggy Nagae and Holly Yasui



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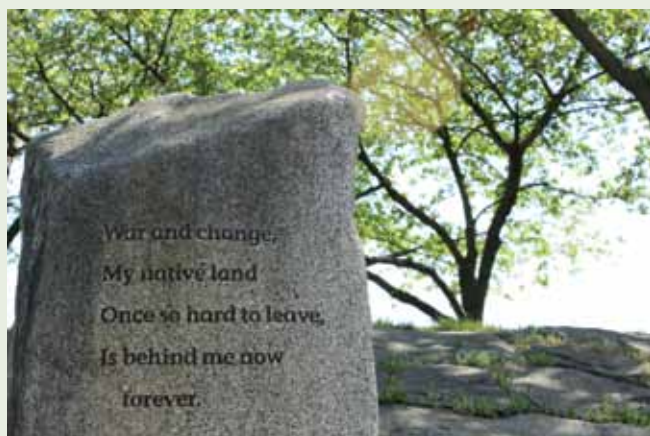
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FREE FAMILY DAY



During the month of May, **Portland Community College** photography students took dozens of pictures of our Old Town/Chinatown neighborhood, which was once the heart of Portland's historic Japantown. Inspired by his exhibit *Sakura Sakura*, they were guided through these streets around the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center by their class instructor, Motoya Nakamura.

On May 9, Motoya and the PCC students were joined by kids that were taking part in our free Family Day. Thanks to a partnership with the **Portland Photographic Society**,



Clockwise from upper left:
Carsen Meriweher, James Hoduffer,
Lucas Liquori, and Rian Holtten

kids were provided with disposable cameras and paired up with members of the Society to go on a photo scavenger hunt.

The Portland Photographic Society later juried the kids' and students' work and selected their very best photos for display at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Here are just a handful of the absolutely amazing photographs that were exhibited in our window front.

Be sure to check our calendar for the next free Family Day at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center so that you don't miss out on the fun! You never know what adventure you might find!

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THE KOYAMA LETTERS

Weston Koyama, a recent graduate of Portland State University, began volunteering at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center earlier this year. In an effort to better understand his legacy and heritage, Weston is helping us catalog an amazing collection of family letters from World War II which he donated

to the permanent collection at the museum. Taking a moment from his dedicated work, Weston was able to sit down and share the following thoughts with us.

Can you tell us about your family's collection?

This donation consists of correspondences between my great-grandfather Keizaburo (Kei) Koyama and his family and his friends during the period from December 1941 to the end of 1943. There are certainly more letters that we have not yet been able to find in our house. Most of the letters in this collection are written by Teru Koyama, the wife of Kei Koyama, as well as friends of the family from other internment camps, non-Japanese friends at Portland residences, and friends from Minidoka where most of the Koyama family was

held. After he was arrested by the F.B.I. immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, they were sent to Kei Koyama at various Department of Justice detention facilities in places like Montana, Louisiana, and New Mexico.

Can you speak to the significance of these letters?

Despite the limited time period and certain gaps in the correspondence, this collection of letters holds extraordinary significance in providing an authentic, contemporaneous voice concerning aspects of life such as the conditions of the Minidoka Camp and the heartbreak of losing one's father due to unjust circumstances. [They also contain a] frank discussion of the construction of one's identity as a Japanese American, the pull of Christianity over Buddhism, and the strong feeling of betrayal by the actions of the Japanese government – rather than resentment for the actions of the U.S. government.

Why should they be held at a museum?

These documents need to be preserved digitally to give us more time and space to intensely parse the meaning and investigate this history. Digitizing these letters gives



us that time to carefully piece together the history of the Koyama family. Understanding fully the psyche of people under oppression can better help us contextualize current issues of racism and discrimination today and will be a valuable resource for the Japanese American community and for all Americans seeking to effect positive change in society.

On June 16, Weston used these letters to speak about his family's legacy at his Portland State University graduation ceremony. By early 2016, the Keizaburo Koyama Family Collection will be available online through a free, web-based digital repository developed by our project partner Densho.



SUCCESS WITH OMIYAGE AND CHERRY BLOSSOM BAZAAR

Walk through the doors of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and you'll find a vibrant array of gift items (*omiyage*) including jewelry, books, cards, crafts of local artisans as well as vintage collectibles from our Cherry Blossom Bazaar.

The success of our Omiyage holiday pop-up shop and our annual spring Cherry Blossom Bazaar has led to the expansion of dedicated retail space within the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

Participation in **Portland Development Commission's** holiday pop-up shop program was successful in generating newfound revenue as well as providing exposure to a new audience. Support from PDC and donated space from **John Beardsley** and **Fountain Village Development** on 5th Avenue made it possible to fundraise and "friendraise" as new *Friends of O.N.E.* and volunteers were a result of this successful endeavor.

People lined up bright and early for the 3rd Annual Cherry Blossom Bazaar. The opening day of the rummage sale of all-things-Japanese was like Black Friday as people rushed in to fill their boxes with treasures. We wish to thank **Central City Concern** for making the event possible with the donation of space and we want to thank the amazing team of Jere Okada, Marilyn Sholian, Cherie Yokota, and Diane Sayrizi who returned to organize this popular fundraiser. You couldn't miss our wonderful volunteers in their bright pink and white Cherry Blossom Bazaar t-shirts!

If you are looking for more of this great merchandise, you can now find Omiyage within the Legacy Center! Stop by and shop!

Board Treasurer Hank Mishima, Board Member Nobu Masuoka, and Ted Takamura added to the fun of this year's O.N.E. Western themed Strawberry Golf Tournament. Thanks goes out to Raynette Yoshida for taking great shots of the players and volunteers in their best cowboy/cowgirl wear!



MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS

OCTOBER 16, 2014
TO MAY 15, 2015

In memory of Dr. Albert A. Oyama

John Chow & Misa Lee
Kay Endo
Daisy Franzini
Dale & Gayle Hachiya
David & Lori Hachiya
Wayne & Yvonne Hachiya
Robert Handa
Yone Hara
Betty Jean Harry
Jessie Harry
Raymond & Janis Harry
Toy Hirata
Erin, Lori, & Saiyan Hollenbach
Yosh & Heidi Inahara
Lilly Irinaga
Mary Iwasaki
Rich Iwasaki
Hisa Iwata
Yoko B. Iwata
Mark & Janet Kakishita
Ryuko Kakishita
Mits & Michiko Kawaguchi
Alice A. Kida
Ami Kinoshita
William & Nami Koida
Mary Komachi
Michiko Kornhauser

Patrick Lee
Regan Look
Don Matsuda
Jean Matsumoto
Misao Minagi
Samuel Naito
Tamaye Nomi
Oregon Pathologists Association
Margaret Richardson
Fumi Saito
Loree & Ken Sakai
Hank Sakamoto
Edwin & Katherine Sasaki
June Schumann
Frances Sono Gale
Lew & Jean Tomita
Jim & Amy Tsugawa
Tatsu & Ruth Watanabe
Homer & Miyuki Yasui

In memory of Harold Onishi

Elsie Onishi and the
Onishi & Bay Families
Kay Fujita
Joan Kimoto
Janice Okamoto
Etsu & Herb Osaki
Homer & Miyuki Yasui

In memory of Kiyo Nagae

Sho & Loen Dozono
Mary Komachi
Kazuko Sunamoto
Cheryl & Barry Uchida

In memory of Hiroshi Yamauchi

Ed & Aya Fujii
Dan Hinatsu
Michiko Kornhauser
Taka Mizote
Judy Yamauchi

In memory of Tak Fujino

Hisa Iwata
Jean Matsumoto

In memory of Sue Fujino

Hisa Iwata
Tatsu & Ruth Watanabe

In memory of Minoru Yasui

Pamela & Clifton Canaday
Yuka Fujikura
Homer & Miyuki Yasui

In memory of Richard & Smitty Maeda

Sharon Maeda
Diane Sugimura

In memory of Rainie Sasaki

Gordon & Joanne Sasaki

In memory of George & Tomiko Iwasaki

Marcia Iwasaki

In memory of Rose Niguma

Robert & Noriko Dozono

In memory of Jack & Yoshiko Yasutome

Kenneth Yasutome

In memory of Jim Mizote

Taka Mizote

In memory of Carl Yoshida and in memory of George & Mary Yamamuro

Ronald & Linda Iwasaki

In memory of John & Esther Doi

Joi Doi

In memory of Fred Irinaga

Jim & Amy Tsugawa

In memory of Lucy Imano

Anne Morin

In memory of Mary Okita

Richard Nishimoto

In memory of Tom Uyesugi

Tatsu & Ruth Watanabe

In memory of Meno & Kazuko Hara

Debra Giltz

In memory of Paul Kimura

Robert Kimura

In memory of Robbie Tsuboi

Henry Sakamoto

In memory of Sho & Aya Endow and Sho & Tei Endow

Shirley Cree

In memory of Yachiyo Okubo Uehara

Andrea Uehara

In memory of Yoshisuki & Masue Oba

Calvin H. Oba

In honor of Homer & Miyuki Yasui

Anonymous

In honor of Gary Yasutake, Aki Yasutake, & Nani Yahiro

Allegra Herdclotz-Yasutake

In honor of Mary Matsuda Gruenewald

Mary Francillon

In honor of Tatsuro & Masako Yada

Jere Okada



TAYLOR ISHIDA

You're one of our newest volunteers at Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. What inspired you to become involved?



For the March issue of my high school's news publication, Grant Magazine, I wrote an article featuring two alumni, Shirley Kanada and Joni Kimoto, who were victims of the Japanese incarceration over 70 years ago. My grandma and grandpa were also interned, which was what sparked my interest in the topic. My research began by interviewing Kanada and Kimoto, to learn about their own personal experi-

ences in camp, but I found that I needed more solidified details and information about the events of World War II to make the article stronger. That was when I headed over to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and spoke with Todd Mayberry who walked me

through what the Japanese experienced in the 1940s. Writing this article provided me with an opportunity to speak to and learn from individuals I might not have met otherwise, and after that experience I knew I wanted to continue to learn about the history

of Japanese Americans, which was something I knew I could do by volunteering at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am currently a junior at Grant High School where I'm a reporter/photographer for Grant Magazine, a member of the Constitution team and National Honors Society, and an eager learner of physics. Outside of school and volunteering, I enjoy playing soccer and the ukulele.

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

The highlight of my involvement with O.N.E. has been cataloging old artifacts. Recently, I had the opportunity to read two letters written by a young girl, who was interned, for her classmates at Parkrose High School. Some parts of the letter were difficult to decipher as it is written in very intricate cursive, but the message is clear: she missed her classmates and learning, and didn't understand what was happening. It was amazing to hold the letters and know that I was holding a piece of history.

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

Volunteering is an opportunity to broaden your understanding of other people. By volunteering at O.N.E., you get to surround yourself with history, and learn about how the events that occurred so many years ago affect us today. My advice to other people thinking about volunteering at O.N.E. is to definitely come down and visit the exhibits at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, and then talk to Todd Mayberry who can help you figure out a way for you to assist in the preservation of history.

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 you can volunteer.

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.

- | | | |
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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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O.N.E. Speakers Bureau volunteer John Nakada shared this incredible tri-fold which was made by his granddaughter Nicole Flenbaugh. Nicole interviewed John for her 8th grade class project. She did such a great job that we displayed it for a few weeks in the permanent exhibit at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center!

