Oregon Nikkei Endowment, in partnership with Portland Community College, presented Gamanfest: Reclaiming Identity Through Art & Activism. Inspired by the spirit of gaman (Japanese for perseverance or endurance) and those Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during WWII, this festival served as a venue to showcase the next generation of artists and activists within the Asian American community who use their heritage and culture as motivation for their work. Through song, spoken word, video performances, music, and visual art, attendees and invited guests came together and explored the intergenerational impact of racism, the power of heritage history, and how to ignite social change. Artists and activists led open discussions on community-fueled social change, cultural impacts to their identities, and what it means to be “othered” in today’s society.

Gamanfest opened Friday, May 11th with film shorts from Full Spectrum Features presented by Jason Matsumoto and Daryn Wakasa. The films showed the heartbreaking struggles of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during WWII and the intergenerational trauma of that experience. After an open discussion on the films, attendees enjoyed musical entertainment by Cay Horiuchi and food from NoHo’s Hawaiian Café at the offices of Unite Oregon.

Saturday opened with a performance by Chisao Hata and Ken Yoshikawa called Then:Now that showed the difficulties in discussing traumatic life experiences. Nobuko Miyamoto, lifelong dancer and activist, followed by sharing stories of immigrant and minority fights for equality through song and music. The morning concluded with a panel on that featured talented artist activists discussing how their heritage has influenced their work.

The afternoon featured community discussions on the Evolution of Culture & Identity, Artivism for Social Change, and Intergenerational Trauma. Violinist Joe Kye, spoken word artist Ryan Nakano, and activist Anna Vo provided musical and lyrical accompaniment to the discussions. On the main stage, The Slants performed some of their most popular songs including ‘Sakura, Sakura’ which was filmed at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

No-No Boy’s Erin Aoyama and Julian Saporiti performed songs that honored their Japanese heritage while shining light on immigrants who risked their lives to better themselves and those of their family. Their show was very relevant given what is happening today. The festival culminated outside with a performance by Portland Taiko with Nobuko Miyamoto inviting everyone to celebrate the day and join in the FandangObon which combined elements of the Japanese Obon dance with the Spanish fandango.

Gamanfest 2018 continued on page 3.
August 10th of this year marks the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act, legislation that issued a formal apology from the U.S. government and restitution to survivors of the unjust WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. It cited racial prejudice, war hysteria and lack of political leadership as the cause. It was an attempt to atone for what is considered one of the darkest chapters in our nation’s history.

More than the financial restitution, it was the apology that had the greatest meaning to survivors. Admission and recognition from the U.S. government that a grave error had been made and should never happen again. A statement showing this country was great enough to admit its mistakes, prove it did indeed have a conscience and moral compass, and was committed to not letting its darkest instincts define history. Yet here we are confronting a Muslim travel ban and “tender age” facilities for the very young and helpless who have been torn from their parents. It is unfathomable that this country that was founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all has resorted to such shameful action, again in the name of national security and best interests of the country.

Our country’s leadership failed once before and our community continues to suffer the intergenerational trauma from what happened. Generations beyond those that were in the camps bear the emotional and psychological scars of this experience. We can’t imagine the trauma that is being inflicted now on the most innocent and vulnerable, and the lasting effect it will have on them. The discussion to locate one of these “shelters” adjacent to one of the WWII incarceration sites (Rohwer, Arkansas) makes it even more unconscionable.

These sites, like our museum, the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and the Japanese American Historical Plaza (aka Bill of Rights Memorial), stand as a testament and reminder of the fragility of our freedom and democracy. They exist and are dedicated to share this American story to ensure that the mistakes of the past are never again repeated. While there are differences between what happened then and now, similarities in the rhetoric and motivation behind these actions are frighteningly similar and rooted in institutionalized racism.

Professor Julius Lester wrote, “History is not just facts and events. History is also a pain in the heart and we repeat history until we are able to make another’s pain in the heart our own.” The pain in the hearts of infants and young children and the anguish of separated families cannot be ignored. We are in this together and what happens to one of us, happens to all of us. We, the people have the true power, and we must exercise our power to stand up and speak out against what is taking place. We cannot stand by silently as people did during WWII as civil and human rights were violated. We must hold our leaders and ourselves accountable. We must exercise our power with every vote, every letter, every march, every rally, every town hall, every voice, every time, every day.

Our Annual Banquet on August 10th commemorates the anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act and we invite you to join us in person or in solidarity to support what it stands for today and always. Dedicate your efforts to hold our country accountable to the promises it makes.

Never again is now.

—Lynn Fuchigami Parks
The Minoru Yasui Tribute Committee and the Oregon Nikkei Endowment presented the second Minoru Yasui Day March for Justice on March 28th, 2018. Participants walked from the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to Portland Center Stage at the Armory where the four winners of the first annual Minoru Yasui Essay Contest read excerpts from their essays inspired by the legacy of Minoru Yasui. First prize for middle school students went to Melanie Glatter while honorable mention went to Katelyn Rashleigh. For high school students, first prize was awarded to Rosalynn Rashleigh and honorable mention went to her brother, Emmett Rashleigh. After the award ceremony, a screening of Holly Yasui’s documentary Never Give Up! based on her father’s lifelong fight for equality and justice was shown. The day concluded with an intimate question and answering session with Holly Yasui and Min’s lawyer, Peggy Nagae. An announcement for next year’s speech topic for middle and high school students will be released later this year.

Gamanfest 2018 Continued…
We wish to extend our deep appreciation to Portland Community College for hosting the event on their Cascade Campus, the Portland JACL, and the Japanese Ancestral Society for their tremendous support. A very special thank you to the organizing committee and the many volunteers and guests who made this memorable event possible. Gamanfest would not have been possible without the generous support from Oregon Humanities and the Oregon Arts Commission. This program was made possible in part by the Oregon Arts Commission, a state agency funded by the State of Oregon and the National Endowment of the Arts.

Gamanfest events, top to bottom:
• A community circle discussion on the Evolution of Culture and Identity.
• Nobuko Miyamoto (far center) and Chris Dart (near center) demonstrate the moves of the FandangObon.
• Erin Aoyama and Julian Saporti of No-No Boy perform on a darkened stage of the Moriarty Auditorium.
JOIN O.N.E.’S ANNUAL DINNER

On Friday, August 10th, 2018, Oregon Nikkei Endowment will hold its Annual Banquet at the Multnomah Athletic Club. This year we commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act which was signed on that day thirty years ago. This legislation issued a formal apology from the U.S. government, restitution to survivors of the incarceration, and was an attempt to atone for what is considered one of the darkest chapters in our country’s history.

We are excited to have John Tateishi, who was the National Redress Director of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), as our keynote speaker. We will also take this time to honor and recognize individuals for their support and outstanding efforts to further the mission and work of our organization. This year we will be honoring Kay Endo with the Heart of the Community Award and Bob Shimabukuro with the Paving the Way Award.

At this time, we ask if you would please consider making a donation to our raffle drawing. All proceeds go to support our mission, museum, educational and cultural programs, and to maintain the projects mentioned above. All of our donors are recognized in print materials, event program, and on our website at oregonnikkei.org.

$125/person—$50 tax deductible
RSVPs due by August 3rd
Cocktail Reception 5:30 pm
Dinner 6:30 pm
Business attire please

CHERRY BLOSSOM BAZAAR 2018

This year’s Cherry Blossom Bazaar was held just a few doors down from the Legacy Center. The space was generously donated by Templeton Property Management. It was held over March 17th & 18th and marks the sixth year the Oregon Nikkei Endowment has held this popular event. Kokeishi, tanuki, ikebana items, and geta filled the aisles for the two day fundraiser. Extra clothing racks were even purchased to hold all the beautiful yukata and kimonos that were donated.

This is one of O.N.E.’s most popular fundraisers, so thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, or shopped. We would like to extend a very special thank you to the Bazaar’s Co-Chairs Jere Okada, Marilyn Sholian, and Cherie Yokota for their tremendous hard work in organizing, pricing, and setting up the bazaar. We are so close to raising over $10,000, and we can do so with your support. Let us know if you would like to help out or have gently used Japanese items to donate. Whether it’s a single item or a carload, your donation helps the museum in so many positive ways.

See you next year!
A SOLDIER’S STORY

Through August 5, 2018, as part of the Collections Up Close series, Oregon Nikkei Endowment presents artifacts belonging to Yukimori Harold Okimoto, a sergeant in the Japanese American 522nd Field Artillery Battalion of the 442nd. In 2017, Okimoto’s daughter, Debra Whitecotton, donated this collection to O.N.E. in honor of her father. The highlight of the collection is an album kept by Okimoto of photos taken while he was stationed in Europe during WWII. This is a rare opportunity to see snapshots of soldiers in the field and traveling around war torn Europe.
Thank you to our Donors

AUGUST 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

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Joyce Kikkawa was a small girl of three when her parents (Emiko and Kazuo Kikkawa) learned they and all persons of Japanese ancestry would be evacuated from their homes and forced to relocate to the Portland Assembly Center by 12 o’clock noon, Tuesday, May 5th, 1942. The evacuees were told they could only take with them what they could carry. In preparation for the evacuation, Joyce’s parents put what they could in storage in a barn on their property and made arrangements for the neighbors to watch their home. They burned everything connected to Japan - books, records, and photographs of relatives. Joyce’s mother told her she could only take one toy with her. She chose a small stuffed elephant that never left her side during the three months she was at the Portland Assembly Center and the years in Minidoka.

On a visit to Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center in 2017, Joyce mentioned this well-loved toy that was her constant source of comfort during the uncertain times of incarceration. Surprisingly, the now tattered and mended toy was still around. Her mother had saved it for over seventy-six years. This humble, but precious object is now part of O.N.E.’s permanent collection.

Joyce and her family have also donated the trunk they took with them to Minidoka and a stunning collection of Japanese dolls.

A well-loved elephant doll that accompanied Joyce Kikkawa to the Portland Assembly Center and later to Minidoka.

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Note: We make every effort to keep accurate records. Please help us to correct any errors by calling 503.224.1458.
Throughout the year, the staff at Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center are contacted by students, teachers, film makers, writers, and family engaged in projects and research. Our library, archives, and volunteers become a valuable source of information. This fall, setting out on a research project and looking for a photograph of a business in the Nihonmachi file, I happened upon a picture of a serious young man, Daiichi Takeoka, seated at a desk. The short description said that he had immigrated to Portland in 1900, graduated from the University of Oregon Law School in 1912, and had advised Issei on legal matters throughout his life. Mr. Takeoka’s notable contribution was “his role on the legal team that challenged the Alien Land Law,” resulting in its repeal.

After confirming his 1912 graduation from the UO Law school, I searched the Oregonian archives and found Mr. Takeoka’s obituary which said that he “had been recognized as one of the outstanding leaders of the Japanese community in Portland.” My search led me back to files in the ONLC library. At least a decade ago, Homer and Miki Yasui recommended that ONLC contact the family of Daiichi Takeoka, noting that he was a prominent Issei in Oregon and Washington. In response to an inquiry from ONLC, Tom Takeoka wrote a letter about his father. He described his father’s arrest by the FBI on December 7, 1941. Like many other Oregon Issei arrested at that time, Mr. Takeoka was interned at the detention center in Santa Fe, NM. Upon release, he returned to Portland in 1945. A scrapbook from Santa Fe was donated to ONLC by his family and is now in the collections room. ONLC intern, Narumi Iwasaki, has translated some of the pages. On one page, names of fellow internees surround the words, “Minidoka—Former Internees—Last dinner party—1945.5.13.” A photograph of the Oregon Issei at Santa Fe and a list of internees provided by Homer Yasui are in the archives.

Further research in our library resulted in a rich picture of Mr. Takeoka. Though he was not able to practice law in Oregon, he used his knowledge to help Issei with legal issues, especially those concerning Oregon’s Alien Land Laws. When the Alien Land Law of 1923 prohibited Issei from owning property, Mr. Takeoka advised and helped them buy property in the name of their Nisei children. Oregon’s Alien Land Law of 1945 denied Issei the right to live and work on farmlands. In 1946, Nikkei leaders formed the Committee for Oregon Land Law Test Case and chose Mr. Takeoka as chair-person. In 1949, the Oregon Supreme Court ruled that the alien land laws violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment and were declared unconstitutional. In his 2003 interview, now part of the O.N.E. Collection at Densho, Ted Hachiya said, “A lot of our people in our community don’t realize how important this man was.” Mr. Takeoka became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1952. He passed away in 1954 at the age of 72.

—Cynthia Basye
**Oshu Nippo**

In December 2017, the Oregon Nikkei Endowment received an Oregon Heritage Grant to digitize, translate, and make available online two of its most unique and illuminating collections: 160 FBI documents from the Koyama Family and ten special issues of the Oshu Nippo (Oregon Daily News), a Japanese newspaper printed in Portland’s Japantown from 1906 to 1951.

Professional translators from the Portland law firm Lane Powell, volunteers from Portland, and over ninety volunteers from Sapporo, Portland’s Sister City in Japan, are assisting in the Oshu Nippo project. Work includes transcribing original scans into Word, rewriting old Japanese characters into modern Japanese, and then finally translating into English.

The Oshu Nippo translation project will be on view from August 10th–November 4th, 2018. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

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**Cover of the January 1st, 1918 Special Edition issue of the Oshu Nippo. Digital scan donated by David Conklin.**
It’s wonderful seeing you at the Legacy Center leading tour groups and volunteering at an event. What inspired you to become involved with O.N.E.?

Before moving to Portland, I found the Oregon Nikkei Endowment website. The Legacy Center was so close to my new home and I was excited to be involved with a resource in my neighborhood. I especially wanted to be involved with the education work. In the past few years I have worked on the Annual Banquet, the Omiyage Holiday Store, docenting, and the Return and Remembrance event last year at the Expo Center. Being involved has been a good way to know other volunteers.

You have worked with various groups, from elementary to college students. How do you prepare for these different groups?

I try to be aware of the information that I want to discuss and also the visitor’s background. I gear the discussion so that it is appropriate to their experience. If they have been reading a particular historical novel, I will read it so that I can help them make connections. For example, this past year a class I spoke to was reading When the Emperor was Divine, by Julie Otsuka. The experiences in the book were so similar to what my mother had talked about and I shared my family’s history when it was appropriate.

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

Being new to Portland was a challenge. Meeting people and getting a sense of community through participation has been wonderful. I continue to learn about Oregon’s history and people.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

My father was raised in Portland as was my husband’s mother. My parents and their families were incarcerated at the camp in Rohwer, Arkansas during WWII. My husband was an antiques collector and started an antique store in downtown Portland. He passed away recently. I have two stepdaughters and four grandchildren, aged thirteen to eighteen. Before I moved to Portland, I worked in the Los Angeles Unified School District. I have a Master’s Degree in Dance from UCLA. I taught in a Performing Arts Magnet school. I left the classroom to be an arts advisor, then District Secondary Dance Expert. I have taught students from first grade through community college. I enjoy learning. This spring I started a jazz class.

What advice would you give to others who are thinking about volunteering at O.N.E.?

I would encourage others to just dive in. It’s an opportunity to meet some wonderful volunteers, staff, students, and visitors. Volunteering at O.N.E. is so rewarding and there are many opportunities to be in the community with a positive purpose.

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
AUGUST 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

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

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.

- Individual $35  (Students and Seniors $20)
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- Family $60  Two Adults and Children in the Household
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- Patron $100  All Privileges Listed Above Plus Two One-Time Complimentary Guest Passes
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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.

2018 Minidoka Pilgrimage
The Portland pilgrims gather together to bid farewell to Minidoka following the closing ceremony.

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121 NW 2nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97209

Contact:
Telephone: 503.224.1458
E-mail: info@oregonnikkei.org
Website: oregonnikkei.org