



# OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

AUTUMN 2016 | VOLUME 17  
ISSUE 2  
SEMIANNUAL



Below, left to right:  
Paving the Way Honoree, James Iwasaki, Iwasaki Bros., Inc.  
The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta  
Heart of the Community Honoree Jere Okada



## JOURNEYS 2016 ANNUAL BANQUET

The evening included a special memorial tribute to Nobuko Masuoka, who was one of our founding members and served on the Board until her recent passing at age 91.

Attendees answered the fundraising call and gave generously, participating in the Dessert Dash, Silent Auction and Paddle Raise. We wish to acknowledge the following sponsors for their tremendous support that helped to make the evening a wonderful success:

- Port of Portland
- Nobuko Masuoka
- Ohana Lunch Bunch/Ikoi no kai
- Portland JACL
- The Boeing Co.

The dynamic sounds of Portland Taiko welcomed everyone to dinner at Oregon Nikkei Endowment's 2016 Annual Banquet that was held on Thursday, September 8, 2016 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The event honored Iwasaki Bros., Inc. with the Paving the Way Award and Jere Okada with the Heart of the Community Award. We were honored to have the Honorable Norman Y. Mineta, former Secretary of Commerce and former Secretary of Transportation as the keynote speaker, who spoke about his own journey from "December 7 to H.R. 442."



Above, top to bottom:  
Rich Iwasaki, Linda Tamura, Jeff Selby  
Henry Sakamoto, Dr. Toshio Inahara  
May and Shig Oka  
Betty Jean Harry, Janet Kakishita  
Sara Yada, Janelle Jimerson

Photographs courtesy of Ikay Endo



**CHANGE**

A wise man once said there is nothing permanent except change.

People often

resist change because they focus on what they have to give up or lose, instead of what they have to gain. Oregon Nikkei Endowment experiences change in many forms and for many reasons, but we embrace it and strive to be a catalyst for change to move forward.

**Change by Choice.** First, you will see an exciting change at the Legacy Center itself. Respecting exhibit area, we have reconfigured space to expand and develop our Omiyage Museum Store. Our success with the annual Cherry Blossom Bazaar rummage sale and holiday pop-up shop along with market research proves that a

museum store can significantly address sustainability issues while supporting the mission and work of the organization. The weekend bazaar and the 6-week holiday shop mentioned, each generate more revenue than our

annual admission fees. So please come see our new look, expanded retail space and discover a place to do unique gift buying for you and others, and by doing so, support our mission and work.

**Change by Chance.** Change has also come to the organization with the hiring of a new Director of Collections and Exhibits, Lucy Capehart, who brings a unique combination of fine arts and curatorial talent with collections management expertise, as the former Registrar/Exhibitions Coordinator for the Montana Museum of Art and Culture. We are thrilled to welcome her to our team and are excited for the strength and vitality she brings to this position.

**Change by Circumstance.** Sometimes change without choice is caused by circumstances beyond our control. Inevitably, lives change through the passing of a life, such as the recent loss of longtime, founding member, Nobuko "Nobi" Masuoka, who passed away suddenly at the age of 91. Board member and cornerstone of our organization and community, Nobi energized every event, program, and exhibit with her presence and spirit and will be deeply missed. With every passing of a member of this generation, we continually face the question of who will

take up the torch, the flag, that role of being a driving force? Will you answer the call? **Will you choose to change from remembering their legacy to actively ensuring it endures for the future?**

We change by choice, by chance, by circumstance, and Oregon Nikkei Endowment strategically changes to grow and move forward. But one thing is for sure; **we cannot make changes or be advocates for change without your support.** Now more than ever before, given the uncertainty and discourse in our country today, your help is needed to be advocates for civil rights and to promote respect for diversity and justice for all.

Please assist by volunteering, through a subscription as a *Friend of O.N.E.* or by giving financial support. No matter what the amount or level of commitment, you are making a difference and furthering our efforts to promote change for a better and more equitable society.

In closing, we wish to express our deepest gratitude to our volunteers and supporters and wish you and your loved ones a healthy, blessed and joyful holiday season and Happy New Year!

—Lynn Fuchigami Longfellow

These are a few of the treasures you can find at our PopUp shop, Omiyage!



Support Oregon Nikkei Endowment  
and bring in the New Year with

# Osechi Ryori



Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy traditional Japanese New Year's foods (osechi ryori) prepared by Nikkei community cooks, beautifully displayed in a three tiered lacquer box (jubako).

**Cost:** \$140 includes the jubako box and food or \$110 if you provide your own box; drop off your jubako marked with your name at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (\$60 is tax deductible)

**Info** or to **order:** [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org) or (503) 224-1458

**Deadline** to order: Thursday, December 22, 2016.

Order **pick-up** is Saturday, December 31, 2016 from 1:30-2:00 pm at the Oregon Buddhist Temple, 3720 SE 34th Avenue

## SAVE THE DATES

**December 30-31, 2016**

New Year's  
Osechi Ryori Fundraiser  
Oregon Buddhist Temple  
3720 SE 34th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97202

**Sunday, January 15, 2017**  
**Noon to 3pm**

Family Day at the Oregon  
Nikkei Legacy Center

**Sunday, January 29, 2017**  
**11am-4pm**

Mochitsuki 2017  
Year of the Rooster  
Portland State University  
Smith Memorial Student Union  
1825 SW Broadway  
Portland, OR 97201

**February 7-July 17, 2017**

Yellow Terror Exhibit  
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

**May 6, 2017**

75th Anniversary of  
Executive Order 9066  
Portland Expo Center,  
former site of the Portland  
Assembly Center

WELCOME TO THE

# Omiyage

MUSEUM STORE!

*Oregon Nikkei Endowment's holiday pop-up shop has now been integrated into reconfigured space at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to create the Omiyage Museum Store!*

*Now you can celebrate the tradition of gift giving year-round. The Omiyage Museum Store features Asian-inspired gifts and crafts, many created by local artisans, designers and authors. Choose from a unique selection of jewelry, fashion and home accessories, books, cards, origami creations, kokeshi, art objects and a selection of curated vintage items from our ever popular Cherry Blossom Bazaar. (See Omiyage photos on page 2.)*

*All the proceeds from the Omiyage Museum Store support our museum, programs, exhibits and educational offerings, so come do your holiday shopping and gift buying year-round while supporting the mission of Oregon Nikkei Endowment.*

**Holiday Hours:** 11am-6pm Tuesday-Saturday  
Noon-5pm Sunday  
Closed Monday



# VISION & VIGILANCE

## MINORU YASUI, AN OREGON CIVIL RIGHTS HERO



Photographs by Curtis Suyematsu Reflections Photography

Vision & Vigilance, a three-city program featuring excerpted readings from Holly Yasui's play, *Citizen Min*, facilitated roundtable discussions and an exhibit on the life of Minoru Yasui, concluded in Hood River (Min's birthplace) on the eve of what would have been his 100th birthday.

The program was presented in Ontario (June 18) at the Four Rivers Cultural Center, Portland (October 9) at Portland Center Stage at The Armory, and Hood River (October 18) at the Columbia Arts Center. Chisao Hata, program manager for the project, did a tremendous job finding local community members in the cities to participate along with professional actors for the excerpted readings. The cast varied from city to city, with exception of one actor, Heath Hyun Houghton, who did an outstanding job portraying Minoru Yasui for all three readings.

Local community leaders as well as elected officials participated in the programs, including Sena-

tor Ted Ferrioli and Representative Mark Johnson, who were both instrumental in the passage of the Minoru Yasui Day Bill. Recognized leaders representing the Japanese American, Latino, Native American, African American, and Basque communities, facilitated roundtable discussions to answer the following questions:

- How do the actions that Minoru Yasui took affect your work?
- How does the history and presence of racism and discrimination impact our cultural landscape?
- What are some actions/ideas you as an individual or a community can take to affect change?

At the conclusion, each facilitator shared with attendees the Minoru Yasui inspired actions each group came up with to effect change.

The exhibit for Vision & Vigilance, co-curated by Todd Mayberry and James Rodgers, has also travelled to Ashland, Denver and was on display at The Armory to complement the production of

*Hold These Truths* that shared the story of Gordon Hirabayashi.

Powerful, memorable and thought provoking, people left Vision & Vigilance wanting to continue the conversations, strengthen collaborations, and expand interactions amongst the diverse communities and individuals in attendance. One might conclude that there could be no greater centennial birthday gift to Min than this.

Vision & Vigilance was made possible in part by a grant from Oregon Humanities, the Snake River JACL, Portland Center Stage at The Armory and Maija and Yuka Yasui. Additional thanks to Matt Stringer and Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, the City of Portland's Office of Equity and Human Rights, and the Columbia Arts Center in Hood River. In addition, we wish to recognize and express our deep appreciation to Chisao Hata, the program's manager, whose energy, spirit and hard work were the driving force behind its success.

# Captain Hardy and the Black Ship Scroll



This rare treasure, a depiction of the 1853 Perry Expedition to Japan, was donated to ONLC.

Work on this exhibit started quietly 3 years ago. It began with the simple desire to showcase one family's donated artifacts to ONLC. As the artifacts were reviewed one by one, a treasure was found. That treasure, a Black Ship Scroll, is one of the few depictions of the 1853 Perry Expedition to Japan as seen through the eyes of someone living in the 1850s in Japan. It was given to Captain Hardy during his travels back to Japan in 1917-1918. *Captain Hardy and the Black*

*Ship Scroll* exhibit shares how Commodore Perry's diplomatic mission opened this long-secluded country to the outside world. The exhibit also recounts the adventures of the scroll's owner, the eccentric Captain William H. Hardy, a friend of Portland's Japanese American community and who with other members of the Portland community traveled back to Japan in 1917-1918 to visit where Perry landed in 1853 and 1854. Captain Hardy was well known in Portland as one

of the last survivors of the Perry Expedition. He could be seen marching through the streets at every parade. Captain Hardy loved telling others of his travels throughout his colorful life.

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This exhibit runs through January 15, 2017. This project is funded, in part, by a grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission.

—Cathy Erickson,  
O.N.E. Exhibits Committee



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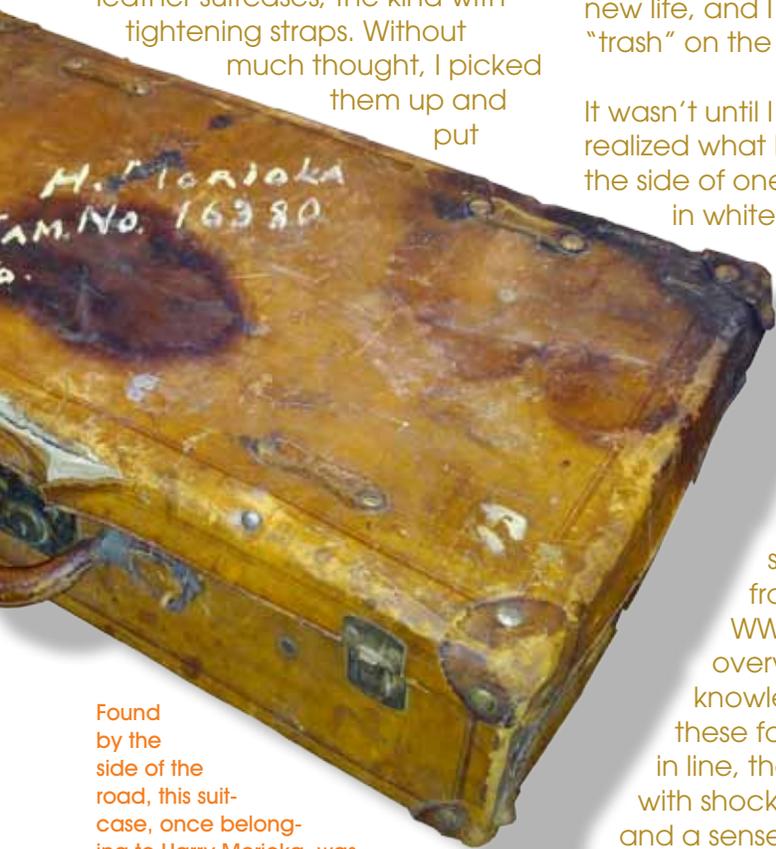
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Note: We make every effort to keep accurate records. Please help us correct any errors by calling 503.224.1458.



# A LONG JOURNEY

I was driving in north Portland with one eye to the side of the road, when I spotted two old leather suitcases, the kind with tightening straps. Without much thought, I picked them up and put



Found by the side of the road, this suitcase, once belonging to Harry Morioka, was united with one of his descendants with the help of O.N.E.

them in my trunk. You see, I am part of a nonprofit environmental arts organization that runs a retail store called ReClaimIt! We salvage thrown away items from the “dump” and give them a new life, and I often find great “trash” on the curbside.

It wasn't until I got home that I realized what I had found. On the side of one suitcase, printed in white paint, was “H. Morioka/Fam. No. 16380.” These were suitcases of Japanese American citizens who had been interned some place far from home during WWII! I was emotionally overwhelmed by that knowledge, as I pictured these families, standing in line, their suitcases filled with shock, sorrow, confusion and a sense of deep betrayal, being ripped from their lives for incomprehensible reasons.

Knowing these were “treasures,” I called the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, and left these historic suitcases in their hands, in hopes they could locate a relative of the Morioka family. Within days, thanks to their extensive data base, they had located Eric Ballinger, a relative of Harry Morioka, who was thrilled to learn the news. He expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude, saying that “the preservation of his family history has made an amazing impact on me individually and my family as a whole.”

As a writer, I was deeply honored to have held these valued pieces of history in my hands, and to have helped save them from an ignominious future. Their journey had taken them first, away from home, and now was bringing them full circle back to home. I can only hope that they can serve as a reminder to all who see them, that we are ALL Americans. We must be in this together, never bending to those who preach fear and hatred.

—Jane Comerford

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## A NOTE FROM BETTY JEAN HARRY

O.N.E. Board Secretary,  
Collections Committee Chair

Our thanks to local author Jane Comerford for sharing a roadside find with us. Not everyone would realize the significance of finding a Japanese surname and a number on old suitcases. Jane knew that these suitcases had a story to tell, that they were undoubtedly among some family's “only what we could carry” possessions as they were sent off to camp.

Through our research, we learned that the family was incarcerated at Minidoka and were recently able to return the suitcases to family descendants.

This is just one example of what the Director of Collections and Exhibits and volunteers and interns do. We conduct research into the objects, photographs, and documents that are brought to our attention; we delve into the stories behind those items because they teach us our history, American history. We take our responsibility to care for and

preserve items donated to our museum collection very seriously. They are featured in exhibits at the Legacy Center or are loaned to other museums for temporary display; members of our Speakers Bureau take a few items to schools.

Please help us continue our mission to preserve history, educate the public, and advocate for the protection of civil rights for all by contacting the Legacy Center any time you have items to donate or have questions about their historical significance.

## Portland State University International Special Programs and Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center doesn't just educate the local community about Japanese-American history, they are also reaching international students. Portland State University's International Special Programs (ISP) developed a relationship with the museum by helping international students see a side of American history that is often overlooked. The director of ISP, Jeff Barro, along with Program Managers, Masumi Lint and Paul Braun, have worked with Portland's

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center for the past several years.

Every summer and winter, when international Japanese students come to PSU for their study abroad, they get a taste of local Japanese American history. Students coming from different university programs all over Japan visit the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to get a tour of the museum and the Japanese American Historic Plaza, also known as the Bill of Rights Plaza, on the Portland waterfront. Many of the students from Japan never studied American history in such a personal manner and there-

fore make meaningful connections with the history of Japanese Americans. They walk away with a sense of awe and go back to Japan with a new perspective, along with an appreciation of American culture. ISP is thankful for this relationship and will continue to work together with the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

—*Ethelyn Tumulad*  
Portland State University  
graduate student in English  
and Education and a member  
of the O.N.E. Teacher  
Advisory Committee



Portland State University Program assistant, Masayuki Tadokoro, and O.N.E. Education Manager, Cynthia Basye, walk with PSU students to the Historic Plaza.

## WE'RE EDUCATING EDUCATORS

Over the course of 2016, the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center has hosted eighteen groups of students and teachers who are participating in some form of study abroad. In addition to Portland State University's International Special Programs, groups come to the Legacy Center from Lewis & Clark College, Portland Community College, and through US-JConnect.

It is exciting to have these students and teachers visit the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center Museum and Japanese American Historic Plaza, known also as the Bill of Rights Plaza. Most are very surprised to learn the history of Nikkei immigrants, pioneers,

and community builders. They are saddened and shocked to learn how Japanese Americans were removed and incarcerated during World War II.

Our visitors' questions and comments remind us how important it is to share our history and to learn from others. With each visit, we gain new insights and we make new friends.

We are fortunate to have wonderful Japanese speaking guides who make many of these visits possible. A special thanks to Michiko Kornhauser, Sachiko Nishikido, and Hiroko Stacey.

—*Cynthia Basye*



**In memory of Nobi Masuoka**

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Ishihara Family & Furuhashi Family  
Grace & Ed Kawasaki  
Chris & Chika Koida  
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Naomi Strauss  
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**In memory of Samuel Watanabe**

Jana Iwasaki  
**In memory of**

**Frances Soejima**  
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**In memory of Akira "Ike" & Mary Iwasaki**  
Roger, Rich & Ellen Iwasaki

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Susan Endecott  
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Lilly Irinaga  
Thomas Nakata  
Carrie Saito

**In honor of Iwasaki Bros.**

Kay Endo  
Lilly Irinaga  
Sanaye Maekawa  
Carrie Saito

**In honor of Jean Matsumoto**  
Kay Bristow

**In honor of Jennie Creighton**  
Beth Creighton

# YELLOW TERROR: THE COLLECTIONS AND PAINTINGS OF ROGER SHIMOMURA

February 7 through July 17, 2017

Mr. Shimomura was a child during World War II and was incarcerated with his family at Minidoka. Much of his art deals with the experiences of Japanese Americans in concentration camps. The exhibit's title "Yellow Terror" draws upon a historic image of Asians as a threat or menace. Mr. Shimomura's work and collection are provocative and challenge the viewers' notions of history, ethnic images, popular culture, and American ideals.

This exhibit will feature paintings of Roger Shimomura's which are inspired by historical images and by his own personal experience. The exhibit will also include items from his collection of World War II era propaganda and memorabilia.

*This exhibit is made possible in part by a grant from the Collins Foundation.*





O.N.E. volunteer, Hiroko Stacey, on a recent visit to Japan.

## HIROKO STACEY

**We often see you greeting visitors to the Legacy Center, leading groups on a tour, or volunteering at an event. What inspired you to become involved?**

A friend brought me to the Legacy Center in 2010 for a workshop on how to show visitors the exhibits. It was a fun project. Four years ago, I start doing tours. Some of the tours are with the Japanese students who are visiting or studying here. I am Japanese, and I have learned to look at things from different sides. Japanese students who visit here have a chance to learn history from different perspectives.

**Tell us a bit about yourself and the volunteer work you've been doing.**

I was born in Japan and came to the United States about thirty-five years

ago. I first came as a tourist and met my husband here. We were married in Japan. I worked in Los Angeles for fifteen years as a sculptor, making characters at a theme park. I worked at Disneyland and in Santa Cruz. I also worked as a sculptor at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in North Carolina. This fall I went to Japan to visit my family. My daughter joined me on the trip. I enjoyed traveling with her.

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

I have enjoyed meeting so many people and talking about their family's experiences. People have different perspectives on their family's or their own experience during World War II. Some people blame Japan, some blame the U.S., and some don't blame anyone. It's interesting how they digest the experience and how it affects their children. I always admire the Japanese people who survived a very different experience. I have learned a lot.

Working at Osechi has also been fun. I have done it five or six years. There are so many people doing something together. I usually make the datemaki, the egg roll.

**What advice would you give to others who are thinking about volunteering?**

When I was young, I joined a church and learned how to be involved in groups and the community. Young people now have a different perspective from their parents. For all of us, being involved and thinking about history and the future is very important. I am still learning. I am so glad to be part of ONLC.

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](mailto:info@oregonnikkei.org) or call us for ways you can volunteer.



# WELCOME TO NEW AND RENEWING FRIENDS OF OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT JUNE 16, 2016 TO OCTOBER 31, 2016

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



## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS VISIT ONLC

Oregon Nikkei Endowment Board member Brian Kimura and Executive Director Lynn Longfellow welcome Japan's former Ambassador to the U.S., Ichiro Fujisaki, and Consul General, Kojiro Uchiyama, to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center during their visit for the "Walk in US, talk on Japan" program.

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>BENEFACTOR</b><br>Joji Kappes<br>Kevin & Karen Oyama<br>Masuko Oyama<br>June & Stan Shiigi<br>Glen Ulmer<br>Robert Wolf<br>& Michael Evans  | Valerie Otani<br>Amy Peterson<br>Ed Sakai<br>Shiuko Sakai<br>Robert & Ellen Sasamoto<br>Marilyn & Jeff Sholian<br>Kenji Spielman<br>Paul & Laura Tamura<br>Beti ann Wantroba<br>Russell & Sylvia Yamada<br>Cherie Yokota<br>Jenna Yokoyama<br>Jay Yoshihara<br>Teresa Zimmerman | Kane & Rose Senda<br>Sahomi Tachibana<br>& Frank Hrubant  | Shawn Hirabayashi<br>Rich Iwasaki<br>Robert Katsuno<br>Connie Masuoka<br>Julie Nakao<br>Cathy Shikatani  |
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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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Photograph courtesy of Kay Endo



O.N.E. volunteers enjoyed a Hawaiian buffet and selecting door prizes in the Tiki Room of Bamboo Grove Hawaiian Grille at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

*A heartfelt show of appreciation for all they do. We would not exist without our volunteers!*