

2011

O.N.E. PRESIDENT CELEBRATES

As I have finally gotten used to writing 2011 on my checks, (most of my checks up to now have a really fat "1" on the end of the date), I find myself looking both back and forward. Oregon Nikkei Endowment is now 21 years old and we have come a long way from a weed choked plot of land by the Burnside Bridge and a remodeled strip club to an international award-winning memorial plaza and vibrant museum and learning center.

We've already been busy in 2011 with a wonderful dinner event with George Takei in conjunction with the Day of Remembrance, a book signing in March with Robert Dozono, and our exhibit *Taken: FBI* continues with exciting programming. And in June we will open the exhibit, *kip fulbeck: part asian, 100% hapa* addressing identity and what it means to be "Hapa." In addition we are hoping to add an education coordinator on staff to bring our story of the Japanese American experience to students and the public.

These accomplishments did not come easily—they are due in large part to the hard work and talent of our staff: Mari, Nicole, and Kiyo. But most importantly it is your morale and financial support that make all these things possible.

Please come and help me support the excellence of Oregon Nikkei Endowment by attending our annual fundraising banquet. At this year's banquet, on Saturday, June 18, 2011 at the Multnomah Athletic Club, we will honor Dr. and Mrs. Homer Yasui and Mr. Albert Abe for their vision, service and dedication to the community.

—Connie Masuoka



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

SPRING 2011 |

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UPCOMING PROGRAMMING FOR *Taken: FBI*

April 16: Attend a workshop led by National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) staff who will demonstrate how to research and retrieve records, including FBI files, from sources including NARA and footnote.com. Held at the University of Oregon in Portland.

April 22 & 23: Join Neil H. Simon, award-winning filmmaker and journalist, for a director's cut screening of his new film *Prisoners and Patriots: The Untold Story of Japanese Internment in Santa Fe, New Mexico*. April 22 at 6:30 PM, April 23 at 1:30 PM at the University of Oregon in Portland.

May 12: Book signing and reading by Dr. Priscilla Wegars from her book *Imprisoned in Paradise: Japanese Internee Road Workers at the World War II Kooskia Internment Camp*. 5 PM at Northwest Evaluation Association.

May 24: Join us in welcoming Dr. Greg Robinson who will lecture on how the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor proved a catastrophe for ethnic Japanese in the United States and Canada. Lecture at 5 PM at NWEA.

Additional details: call 503.224.1458 or visit www.oregonnikkei.org.



kip fulbeck: part asian, 100% hapa is an exhibition of portraits by artist Kip Fulbeck, who traveled the country photographing Hapa of all ages and walks of life. Fulbeck's work seeks to address in words and images the one question that Hapa are frequently asked: "What are you?" The exhibit is an artist's attempt to explore Hapa—who now number in the millions—and it offers a complex perspective on the changing reality of contemporary America.

This nationally acclaimed touring exhibit will be on display at ONLC from June 10, 2011 through the end of the year. Programming for the exhibit will feature Julie Keefe who will bring her Hello Neighbor workshop to the Legacy Center, a lecture by Hapa and Critical Mixed Race Studies scholars Emily Momohara, Laura Kina and Dmae Roberts and a diversity workshop by Linda Isako Angst.

Check our website, oregonnikkei.org, for program dates and times.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Oregon
Nikkei Endowment,



When we started to prepare this newsletter, my column emphasized Oregon Nikkei Endowment's program achievements the last few months with help from our wonderful donors. Then on March 11th, the

biggest earthquake and tsunamis in Japan's history hit Tohoku. Thus, the content of my column now reflects a much different topic.

An unimaginable 9.0 quake followed by devastating tsunamis hit with little warning. I was in Tokyo that day as part of the U.S.-Japan Council delegation sponsored by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We arrived on March 5 and had a meeting itinerary with high level government officials and business leaders. Friday, the day

of the earthquake, was our last full day of meetings, which was to include a meeting with Prime Minister Kan. Needless to say, our meeting was cancelled as northern Japan became a disaster zone starting at 2:46 p.m.

To be in Japan at this time was a surreal event. Concerned friends and family back home were urging us to get out as fast as we could. Although we were delayed in leaving due to problems with ground transportation, we were the fortunate ones—we were able to fly away to safety and watch the crisis unfolding in Japan from afar.

It is at times like this when we see the best of the human spirit emerge. Many people have e-mailed and called asking how they can help. I am proud that the Japanese American community responded so quickly by partnering with Mercy Corps to set up the Oregon Japan Relief Fund. 100% of the donations will go to Mercy Corps to help victims in Japan.

By the time this newsletter reaches you, I hope that the crisis in Japan will be contained and the rebuilding started. The Japanese people are our friends, our families, our fellow human beings. Please consider a gift today.
www.oregonjapanrelieffund.com

Thank you to those who have already given.

—Mari Watanabe

ONE BANQUET TO HONOR DR. AND MRS. HOMER YASUI AND MR. ALBERT ABE

Mark your calendars for the Oregon Nikkei Endowment annual fund raising banquet on June 18, 2011 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The annual banquet has been moved to June to accommodate the Congressional Gold Medal festivities taking place in Washington, D.C. later in 2011.

For further information about either event, visit oregonnikkei.org.

AN INTIMATE DINNER WITH GEORGE TAKEI



Photograph: © Rich Iwasaki

On February 19, a lucky audience heard the life story of our special guest, George Takei, through a conversation with Elisa Dozono. He spoke about his life in U.S.

incarceration camps during World War II where he spent most of his childhood, first at Rohwer and later at Tule Lake. This experience spurred his interest in advocating for civil rights for internees as well as for the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community. George married his long-time partner, Brad Altman, in California in 2008.

Our special thanks to those who made the George Takei event happen: Sho Dozono for coordinating George and Brad's trip to Portland—we could not have done this without his help. Erica Naito-Campbell for taking on the event coordinator role. Laury Girt for coordinating our outreach.

For making it a great evening: The Minidoka Swing Band, Koida Greenhouses, Tanasacres Nursery, Yoshitomi Brothers, Brownie Me, Cupcake Jones, and Java Mama Coffee

For their help during the event: Elisa Dozono, Connie Masuoka, Bill and Linda Tanaka, Jana Iwasaki, Ron Iwasaki, Kira Iwasaki, Valerie Otani, Doug Katagiri, Grant Yoshihara, Sam Naito, Janet Takayama, Anne Naito-Campbell, Matt Innes, Kiyo Endecott, Yoshio Oda, Anita Yap, Yoko Nakamura, Marleen Wallingford, and Julie Hirai.



CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL UPDATE

Plans for the festivities celebrating the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal, Public Law 111-254, the nation's highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress, are in full swing in Washington, D.C. The medal will go to the World War II veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) for their valiant and dedicated service during World War II. These men are being recognized for their steadfast belief in this country and uncommon courage as they faced a double battle of fascism abroad and discrimination at home.



Photograph: © Rich Iwasaki

The National Veterans Network (NVN), a coalition of 22 Japanese American veterans and civic organizations nationwide, has been working with the Speaker of the House on the ceremony details for this fall. A date will be announced soon.

If you are interested in attending this two-day event please register at www.nationalveteransnetwork.com. The Oregon Nisei Veterans is raising funds to help veterans cover the costs of the replica medal and travel expenses to attend the

ceremony in Washington, D.C. Contact Setsy Larouche for more information if you would like to help: larouche@msn.com or 503.698.4656.

Enjoy a Timbers soccer game with friends!

Join Oregon Nikkei Endowment on Wednesday, September 21 at Jeld-Wen Field for the game. Proceeds benefit O.N.E. For information: 503.224.1458 or www.oregonnikkei.org.

I have been volunteering at Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center for about six months, but I feel the same sense of wonder as I did when I first walked through the door. The quality of care and attention to detail that goes into the exhibitions is evident.



I'm in a Master's program in library and information management at Emporia State University, Portland, specializing in archives. The opportunity to practice theoretical knowledge is simply invaluable. I've deepened my understanding of the archival field and developed fundamental skills as a result of working at the Legacy Center.

It's a pleasure to work with the staff at O.N.E. and a privilege to contribute towards preserving Japanese American history and cultural heritage.

—Katalina Thakur

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August 16, 2010–
February 28, 2011

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taken by the FBI

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We are all here on this earth momentarily, but we leave our footprints in our community in one way or another. These footprints are very precious to gather and store so that our descendants can visit the past and learn what kind of footprints we are leaving behind.

By doing so, they can learn about their heritage and feel proud of who they are.

Everybody can contribute in different ways, so that we will have diversified collections of our footprints for the sake of our future generations.

—Michiko Kornhauser
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to new and renewing Friends of Oregon Nikkei Endowment
August 16, 2010 to February 28, 2011

All subscribers receive free admission all year long, a 10% discount on all ONLC gift shop purchases, a subscription to the newsletter, a personalized membership card, and special invitations to event openings and programs. Contributions are tax-deductible, and there is sure to be a category just right for you. For more details call 503.224.1458.

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MISSION

The mission of Oregon Nikkei Endowment is to preserve and honor the history and culture of the Japanese American 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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Page 1: Kip Fulbeck, from exhibit *kip fulbeck: part asian, 100% hapa*
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Alice Sumida, Lynn Grannan and Connie Masuoka attend the Intimate Dinner with George Takei event, February 19.