



OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

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OREGON NIKKEI LEGACY CENTER HONORED BY CITY OF PORTLAND

Oregon Nikkei Endowment's Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center was honored by Mayor Charlie Hales when he proclaimed March 5th **Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center Day** at the Portland City Council meeting. The day honored the Endowment's 25th Anniversary opening season with its exhibit *Capturing A Generation through the Eye of a Lens: The Photographs of Frank C. Hirahara—1948–54* and named the exhibit a sanctioned event of the Portland Rose Festival.

The event also honored the Portland film debut of *Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain* at the Hollywood Theatre by co-producers David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre,

Oregon Nikkei Endowment would like to express its deep appreciation to Patti Hirahara and her mother, Mary Hirahara, for their tremendous gift of resources, time and energy that made this all possible. We would also like to thank David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre for taking time out of their busy schedules to travel to Portland and be a part of the events. They are true *Friends of O.N.E.* and their film is a gift to the viewer and moving tribute to the incarceration story.

Celebrating the event at Portland City Hall are (Left to Right) Oregon Nikkei Endowment Executive Director Lynn Longfellow, Portland Commissioner Amanda Fritz, Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa, Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, ABC7 Los Angeles TV News Anchor David Ono, Content Media Group's owner Jeff MacIntyre, Frank C. Hirahara's daughter Patti Hirahara, Portland Commissioner Nick Fish, Portland Commissioner Dan Saltzman, Frank Chinn, President Elect of the Portland Rose Festival, and Cheri Stuller, Chair of the Sanctioned Events Program of the Portland Rose Festival.

**Photo by Curtis Suyematsu
Reflections Photography**

WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL
TO THESE VISIONARIES FOR
THE TREASURES THEY HAVE
LEFT IN OUR HANDS.

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

WE ARE 25



Twenty-five years ago, an extraordinary group of community leaders had the vision to create an organization dedicated to preserving and

honoring the history of the Japanese Americans in the Pacific Northwest. That vision created the award-winning **Japanese American Historical Plaza** and the **Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center**, a Japanese American history museum. We are forever grateful to these visionaries for the treasures that they have left in our hands.

Okage sama de, which loosely translated means "I am what I am because of you," embodies the idea that no one person can accomplish anything without the help of others. In this case, it is the Issei and Nisei, first and second generation Japanese Americans, that paved the way—their stories and values of life well and honorably lived, lie at the heart of our mission. They lifted others up on their shoulders to help **define futures, shape lives and create opportunities to realize dreams**. We owe them a debt of gratitude and as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary, we hope to honor them throughout the year with exhibits, events and programs that highlight and pay tribute to their legacy which inspires the work we

do and will inspire generations to come.

Fast forwarding to 2014, we are embarking on one of our **most exciting years ever**, beginning with Mayor Charlie Hales officially proclaiming March 5th **Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center Day** and asking all Portland citizens to observe the occasion. The day honored our 25th year and opening of our exhibit, *Capturing a Generation through the Eye of a Lens: The Photographs of Frank C. Hirahara, 1948–1954*, the Portland debut of *Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain* at the Hollywood Theatre with co-producers David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre and Frank's daughter Patti Hirahara, and the exhibit becoming a sanctioned event of the **2014 Portland Rose Festival**. The exhibit is not to be missed and the documentary is a **must see!**

This exciting start translates to fun as we continue the celebration on April 13th with a bowling event at the Hollywood Bowl to recall the heyday of the Nisei bowling leagues and our **Strawberry Golf Tournament** on May 30th at Langdon Farms Golf Club. Please check our Upcoming Events for more details and programs.

Moving forward, we aspire to define futures and help shape lives with new curricula and educational offerings that inspire and engage both students and educators. Our exhibits and programs are being recognized both locally and nationally and we are proud to announce that

we have been awarded an \$11,000 grant from the **Oregon Heritage Commission** for the upcoming exhibit *Before Memories Fade: Uncovering the Story of the Kida Family of White Salmon*, which will open this fall.

We are proud of what Oregon Nikkei Endowment has accomplished these past 25 years and are passionate about all that is yet to be done—we know we have just begun to scratch the surface of what is possible.

Inscribed on a stone at the Japanese American Historical Plaza is a beautiful poem by founding Board member Hisako Saito, that translated says:

Breathe the fragrance
Of America and Japan
In the city of roses.

Footprints of 100 years
Trace the history
of Japanese Americans

Here I stand
Gladly, holding
My grandson's hand.

We toast those who paved the way and have gone before us, we toast all of you that support us and believe in what we do, and we toast those future generations that will take up the torch to carry our mission into the future.

Please join us throughout the year as we celebrate 25 years of Oregon Nikkei Endowment!

—Lynn Fuchigami Longfellow

UPCOMING EVENTS

Through June 15

Capturing a Generation through the Eye of a Lens: The Photographs of Frank C. Hirahara, 1948–1954

Oregon Nikkei
Legacy Center

An officially
sanctioned
2014 Rose

Festival Event; exhibit features an extraordinary collection of post-war photographs providing a revealing glimpse into the lives of the community.



April 13, 1:00 pm

Hit the Lanes at Hollywood Bowl

4030 NE Halsey Street, Portland
Recall the heyday of the Nisei Bowling League and bowl these historic lanes for the last time before they meet the wrecking ball; bring friends and family. \$10 includes shoes, pizza and pop. Nisei and Silver Circle members bowl free!

May 30

**3rd Annual Strawberry
Golf Tournament**

Langdon Farms Golf Club, Aurora

Gather your friends, family and co-workers—join us for a fun day of golf to support Oregon Nikkei Endowment; registration begins at 12:00 noon, shotgun start at 1:45pm, \$125 per player; dinner, raffle and prizes following.

July 5–September 28

Art Behind Barbed Wire

Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

A travelling exhibition from the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington's Northwest Nikkei Museum featuring arts and crafts from the Pacific Northwest community created by Japanese Americans in World War II incarceration camps.

Summer, Annual Banquet

**Celebrate 25 years of Oregon
Nikkei Endowment**

Details coming soon!

September 6, 4pm–7pm

**Twenty-five Twenty! Celebrating
25 years of Oregon Nikkei
Endowment and 20 years of
Portland Taiko**

SakeOne, Forest Grove

Join us for a joint anniversary celebration with food, taiko and revelry!

WITH WELCOME AND THANKS TO OUR NEW SILVER CIRCLE MEMBERS

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In honor of our 25th Anniversary, we have created the *Silver Circle*, a special level of giving at \$25 a month (\$300 a year). Benefits include exclusive invitations to special events and receptions with guest speakers, artists and dignitaries, plus free admission to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. Levels of giving above \$300 automatically qualify you for the *Silver Circle*. Please give today so that our mission will continue to be fulfilled for another 25 years!

25 OREGON
YEARS NIKKEI
ENDOWMENT

A Legacy of Giving | Yes, I would like to help share the story of the Nikkei for another 25 Years!

☐ \$2,500

☐ \$1,000

☐ \$500

☐ \$300 *Silver Circle*

☐ \$100

☐ \$50

☐ \$25

☐ \$

Name please print _____

Address _____ City | State | Zip _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

☐ Check Enclosed please make payable to Oregon Nikkei Endowment

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Enjoy the ease of automatic periodic payments, credit card only (e-mail required).

I would like to pay: ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly

COLLECTIONS UP CLOSE

ORAL HISTORIES

Thanks to a **National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grant**, Oregon Nikkei Endowment is currently videotaping thirty new interviews with Nisei as part of our **Minidoka Oral History Project**. Working closely with partners including the Minidoka National Historic Site, Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project, and NW Documentary, we have made incredible progress in documenting the Japanese American experience for research, education, and historical preservation.

By gathering and sharing the memories of our interviewees or narrators, the Minidoka Oral History Project helps preserve and pass along the story of the Nikkei in the Pacific Northwest for current and future generations to come. Taking a life-history approach embraced by Densho, each interview captures the life story of our narrators. Starting with family roots, interviews span childhood, attending school, experiences in camp, return and rebuilding a community, and living flourishing lives.

Our group of volunteers who are diligently researching, reaching out to narrators, and conducting interviews include Alton Chung, Betty Jean Harry, George Hoashi, Mike Irinaga, Valerie Otani, Marleen Wallingford, Janet Kakishita, and Kaeti Namba. Their work has been closely assisted by Micah Merryman, Erin Enos, Ann Matsushima Chiu, Jere Okada, and Cherie Yokota.

Nisei who have sat down with us to participate in the Minidoka Oral History Project have been Mary

Iwasaki, Etsuko Ichikawa Osaki, Jim Tsugawa, Masuko Oyama, Dr. Albert A. Oyama, Yoji J. Matsushima, and Dan Hinatsu. Interviews have taken place at Holladay Park Plaza, Oregon Buddhist Temple, and in the homes of narrators with videographer extraordinaire Ian McCluskey of NW Documentary behind the camera.

Assisted by Thomas Coulter of Frame by Frame Productions and Joshin Yamada, Linda Tamura has also been conducting interviews with Nisei living in Hood River, outside Vancouver, and in the Portland area. Those that have been interviewed include Sab Akiyama, Shig Imai, Dorothy Sato, George Tsugawa, Jessie Akiyama Okazaki Harry, and Taylor Tomita.

The interview process began in April 2013 when Densho's Tom Ikeda interviewed Yoichi "Cannon" Kitayama and Lilly Kobayashi Irinaga. Since then, each interview has carefully been processed by Densho's Dana Hoshide, who works closely with each narrator to get the interviews just right before sharing with the public online through their digital archive. One-by-one, these interviews are added to our growing Oregon Nikkei Endowment Visual History Collection which now consists of over fifty oral histories gathered since 2003 of Issei, Shin-Issei, Nisei, and Kibei.

The Minidoka Oral History Project wouldn't have been possible without additional funding provided by the Oregon Heritage Commission, Jackson Foundation, Meyer Memorial Trust, and generous donations from friends of O.N.E. Thanks to their support, three educational DVDs drawing from these rich and irreplaceable

oral histories are being produced by Marsha Matthews and NW Documentary which will be used in K-12 classrooms, at the Minidoka National Historic Site, and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

—Todd Mayberry



Marleen Wallingford, Yoji Matsushima, and Valerie Otani posing together after Yoji's taped interview. November 2013.

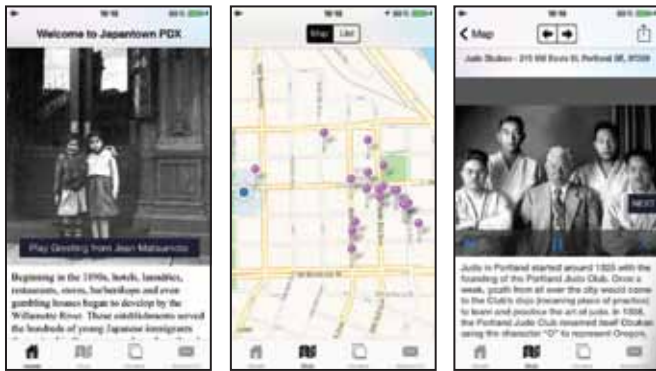


Ian McCluskey, Linda Tamura, and Jessie Harry in the Mabel Boggs Memorial Room at the Oregon Buddhist Temple. February 2014.



Ian McCluskey, Dr. Albert Oyama, and Janet Kakishita in the living room of the Oyama family home in Lake Oswego. November 2013.

JAPANTOWN PDX



Ever since our first exhibition on Portland's Japantown, it has been the ongoing goal of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment to share the story behind this historic neighborhood with as wide of an audience as possible. Adapting our walking tour of Japantown in 1940, this innovative app guides users beyond the walls of our museum, the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, and into the heart of Portland's pre- and post-war Japanese American community.

In addition to telling the story of Portland's Japantown, the app explores the remarkably diverse Old Town neighborhood in four stops that honor its African American, Chinese American, and LGBT roots.

Japantown PDX was designed by history educator, Peter Pappas and his students at the University of Portland while content was developed by O.N.E. The iPhone walking tour is powered by GammaPoint— Apps for wearable devices, sensors, and connected cars.

Japantown PDX is now available for FREE online at the Apple iPhone App Store.



Alice Ando points to a historical photograph of herself taken outside of Hung Far Low in 1953 on the Japantown PDX app.

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS

OCTOBER 15, 2013
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Leaders of Portland's Japanese community welcome Consul-General of Japan Yosuke Matsuoka on his way from New York to Tokyo. This photo was taken on June 20, 1916, possibly at the residence of the Portland Consul-General. Gift of Judy Murakami.

EDUCATION

In my role as Education Manager at O.N.E., I have the privilege of working closely with the many wonderful volunteers who travel to local schools and community centers to tell the story of the Nikkei, share artifacts from the Museum in a Suitcase with students, or offer tours to the many visitors, both locally and from abroad, that walk through the doors of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

On a daily basis, these tireless and exceptional volunteers:

- lead tours in English and Japanese
- have a deep understanding and passion for history
- share stories that leave guests wanting to know more
- greet visitors and make them feel welcome and invited into the museum space
- lead students through the Legacy Center and the Japanese American Plaza without losing a single one of them
- pose open-ended questions such as "What motive is there?" "Who will gain and who will lose?" that inspire visitors to look beyond just facts
- know that no question is a "dumb" question
- answer the phone, smile, make copies, smile, serve on multiple committees, smile, smile, smile
- and they do it all for free!

For Oregon Nikkei Endowment to continue to be vibrant and alive, we want to encourage you to join O.N.E and our amazing volunteers who are excited to share their love of history, enthusiasm for learning and their commitment to being part of a larger community.

Please consider becoming a member of our fantastic volunteer group! We'd love to have you join us.

—Kim Blair

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THE LATEST NEWS FROM

—Todd Mayberry

At the beginning of February we opened a new exhibition at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center titled ***Capturing a Generation through the Eye of a Lens: The Photographs of Frank C. Hirahara, 1948–54***. Between those years, Frank, a serious amateur photographer who worked for Bonneville Power Administration, captured hundreds of photographs depicting community picnics, beach outings to the Oregon Coast, teen socials and dances, wedding receptions, and life in the heart of Portland's Japantowns.

As a member of the Photographic Society of America, Portland

Photographic Society, and the Oregon Camera Club, where he served on the Board of Directors, Frank also took photographs of aspiring local models, Portland's Rose Festival Parade, and was an award winning photographer here. A native of Yakima, Washington, Frank honed his skills as a young photographer and photo editor of the Heart Mountain High School *Tempo Annual* while incarcerated during World War II with his family at the Heart Mountain concentration camp in Wyoming.

This multimedia exhibition features photographs on loan from the Oregon Historical Society and the City of Anaheim Public Library

along with a short documentary film, ***Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain***, produced by Los Angeles ABC Channel 7 News Anchor David Ono and nine time Emmy Award winner Jeff MacIntyre. The exhibit also shares historic photographs and artifacts from the Washington State University George and Frank C. Hirahara Collection of Heart Mountain which is considered to be the largest private collection of photos taken in the camp from 1943–45.

Special thanks go out to our dedicated team of volunteers, interns, and staff who helped put this fantastic exhibition together. Rolling up our sleeves, over a

Marcus Lee, Miki and Homer Yasui, Nobu Masuoka, Jessie Harry and countless others help us discover more about the young man behind the camera and the stories his photos have to tell.

Eddie Greenly of the Portland Photographic Society looks through the eye of Frank's camera lens on a visit to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center before the opening of the show.



Photograph Courtesy of Rich Iwasaki

Photograph Courtesy of Portland Photographic Society

EXHIBITS

matter of months we were able to put a call out to the Portland community to help us identify the people, places, and faces captured in Frank's photographs. With pencils and magnifying glasses in hand, over twenty Nisei gathered together at Ikoi no Kai held at Epworth United Methodist Church, Oregon Buddhist Temple, and here at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to pour over Frank's photos. We were even visited by the Portland Photographic Society and officials from the Portland Rose Festival.

This exhibition and its programming were made possible through gifts from the Frank C. Hirahara Family,

Portland Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese Ancestral Society of Portland, and Friends of O.N.E. Thanks to this support we were able to bring David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre to the Hollywood Theatre on March 5 for the Portland debut of their now feature length documentary *Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain*. Joined by Frank's amazing daughter Patti Hirahara— we can't think of a better way to kick off our 25th Anniversary Year Celebration!

Now an official Rose Festival Sanctioned Event, the exhibition has received local and national coverage in the pages of the

Asian Reporter, Portland Tribune, North American Post, Rafu Shimpo, Nikkei West, Pacific Citizen, and U.S. Frontline News. There was also a radio interview on Oregon Public Broadcasting's "State of Wonder" program with Patti Hirahara and Todd Mayberry.

If you haven't had a chance, please check out this truly community-based exhibition before it closes on June 15th. And **mark your calendars for our next exceptional exhibition, *Art Behind Barbed Wire***, which will be travelling down from Seattle this summer from the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington.

A special reception brought May and Shig Oka, Alice Ando, Jean Matsumoto, Kay Endo and other friends and supporters including Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa to the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center on March 4.

The screening of *Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain* at the Hollywood Theatre on March 5 was followed by a Q&A with Jeff MacIntyre, David Ono and Patti Hirahara.



Photograph Courtesy of Rich Iwasaki



Photograph Courtesy of Rich Iwasaki

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT ON JERE OKADA

What inspired you to become involved with Oregon Nikkei Endowment?

Growing up in Salem with no other Japanese kids around, I didn't even know I was Japanese. Aside from the once-a-year mochitsuki my grandparents would host, the family fishing and clamming trips where we would pack our bento lunches and hot tea in a thermos, I was unaware of anything Japanese. It wasn't until I attended Oregon State that I met other Japanese students and realized there was some kind of "Japanese connection." In the 1980's my father's family planned a reunion and several of our family from Japan attended. Fortunately for me, several of them could speak English since my great-grandparents were educated and farmed in the Portland, Salem, and Scholls areas. One of the uncles brought the family genealogy record. Seeing the names of people from so long ago who were related to me, really ignited my curiosity! Eventually, my family and I went to Japan. My father's uncle took us to the old family home, built by my great-grandfather, in Okayama. We trudged up to the foothills to visit the family "ohaka" where I could see and touch the grave-stones of my ancestors, an amazing, moving, and memorable experience! I really felt Japanese and "connected" to my roots. Soon after that, I decided to get involved in preserving the very important histories of the Nikkei who came to the U.S. Many of us had great-grand- parents and grandparents who came to the U.S. with very little or sometimes nothing, yet they made a good, new life for themselves. They all contributed to their communities in different ways, and we need to hear how they lived, worked, struggled and survived, and share

the stories with those unaware of our Nikkei history.

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I'm retired after 34 years of elementary teaching in the North Clackamas School District. I'm having the time of my life meeting new and old friends with whom I connect because of my "Japaneseness", through organizations like O.N.E. and Ikoi-No-Kai. I enjoy travelling and have been to several countries but my favorite is still Japan! My husband, Roy, and I have two daughters, Leslie and Lauren, who also enjoy travelling a lot. We'll all be going to Japan for 21 days soon!

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

One of the best things about being involved with O.N.E. is making connections with new and interesting people, from visitors to the Legacy Center who know very little about our Nikkei history to community leaders involved in all sorts of Nikkei activities. I love working with the staff and volunteers at the Legacy Center. They are hard-working, dedicated, passionate, knowledgeable people who spend hours and hours on preserving our history. I didn't realize how much work goes in to preservation until I started volunteering at O.N.E. Items sitting in my house for years collecting dust on shelves become treasures when donated to the Legacy Center. They are handled so

respectfully with gloves and placed carefully into archival sleeves or containers and preserved for years to come. Every item is documented, catalogued, described in detail, and significance noted. Hours and hours are spent taking care of the many things that have so often been neglected in our homes. I love seeing all the "treasures" that come in to O.N.E.!

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

Volunteering at O.N.E. is one of the most rewarding, fun, interesting, worthwhile things one can do to help preserve our Nikkei history. There are so many different ways to contribute, such as docenting, collections work, exhibit set-up, library maintenance, etc. It's an experience that makes me proud to be Japanese!

Jere Okada with her husband Roy and daughters Leslie and Lauren at Asakusa in Tokyo, 2009.



WELCOME TO NEW AND RENEWING FRIENDS OF OREGON NIKKEI ENDOWMENT

OCTOBER 15, 2013 to February 28, 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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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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WE'VE GONE
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See story on page 5.

